

# QUETTA VOICE

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**Commerce ministry terms rumours of Pak-Israel trade 'sheer propaganda'**



**LHC to take up Imran's plea seeking dismissal of 121 cases Today**

## CM Bizenjo takes notice of illegal hunting of cranes in Zhob

Staff Reporter

QUETTA Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo took notice of the illegal hunting of cranes and other migratory Siberian birds in the Zhob district of the province.

The CM has directed the forest department and the district administration to take action against the elements involved in the illegal hunting of cranes and other migratory birds in the Qamruddin Karez area of Zhob district.

Mr. Bizenjo directed the wildlife department to immediately dismantle the camps set up for the illegal hunting of cranes and take legal action against the accused involved immediately bringing them to book.

**It is the government's responsibility to protect migratory birds: CM Bizenjo**

The Chief Minister said that forests and wildlife should deploy additional staff in the area to arrest the accused.

It is the responsibility of the government to protect the cranes, which is a rare bird that migrates from Siberia and come to the area



of Zhob and Qamruddin Karez. Every case should be accounted for and the safety of this rare bird should be ensured in every case, the CM concluded.

**The ashar movement calls for action against the illegal hunting of cranes in the area**

CM's notice has come hours after the Ashar movement demanded the provincial high-ups to take notice of the rampant illegal hunting of cranes and other migratory birds in the Qamruddin Karez, and Musakhail areas of Balochistan.

The movement specifically working on the conservation of nature has expressed concerned voice over the illegal hunting of cranes in the area and pointed out names of some influential people engaged in this act.

The district administration moved towards the Qamruddin Karez after the CM took serious notice of the illegal hunting in the area. Migratory birds from Russian Siberia come to Qamruddin Karez, Musakhail and other parts of Balochistan during every winter.

## Shahzaib Rind from Pakistan won Karate combat in America

Monitoring Desk

Shahzaib Rind, a player belonging to Pakistan's Balochistan province won the Karate combat in America. Shahzaib Rind won the Karate combat after a tough battle in the



immense pleasure for all of us", Babar Yousafzai, the Spokesman for the Chief Minister Balochistan said. Mr. Yousafzai spoke to Shahzaib on the telephone and congratulated him for his success in Karate combat. He con-

veyed the message of the Chief Minister and assured full cooperation to Shahzaib Rind in promoting sports in Balochistan. The photo and video of Shahzaib Rind battling his rival in Karate combat went viral on social media. People belonging to all walks of life congratulated Shahzaib and appreciated his struggle

"This is a matter of United States (US). He was the only young man from Balochistan Pakistan to participate in this league. He was the only young man participate from Balochistan in this league"

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# Gender budgeting - a tool for gender removing inequalities

Editor Asim Khan

## Slow pace of development projects in Quetta

The pace of the development projects currently underway in Quetta is slow. Various suburbs of this provincial capital paints a bleak picture when it comes to development projects and the availability of basic facilities including water, education, health, road network, and sanitation.

Billions are pumped by the federal and provincial governments to bring this city at par with other developed parts of the country, but with no tangible results. For instance, the duration of the Sabzal Road, Sarab Road is yet to be completed in spite of passing three years.

Sabzal Road is yet to be constructed. Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan inaugurated a portion of the Sabzal Road, which was really a good addition to the development and beauty of Quetta. However, a major portion of Sabzal Road is yet to be completed. Dirty water on the surface of the road and piles of garbage made people's lives miserable.

Residents of the area have made repeated appeals for immediate construction of the road. Chief Minister Mir Qudus Bizenjo has also visited the road and directed an early construction. Despite this, the road is yet to be constructed. This actually exposes the bad governance in Balochistan.

Action should match the directives of the high-ups. Sarab Road and other ongoing development projects are also underway at a slow pace. Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili visited various development projects in Quetta with the media and people. This will improve transparency and accountability.

A viable master plan needs to be evolved to address the city's problems including an influx of people, new settlements, traffic, water, education and health problems.



Mehfooz Ali Khan

for governments that can be used for reaching the goal of Gender Equality. Gender Responsive, Gender Sensitive and Gender Aware budgeting in a country, region, or a province can create a conducive environment for bridging equality? The fundamental objective of gender budgeting refers to refining budget and related policies with a view to promoting gender equality as an integral part of the national development. Gender budgeting makes the gender-specific effects of budgets visible and raises awareness about their frequently implicit dimensions of discrimination against women.

Gender impacts of budgets and policies. Gender budgeting thus identifies the gender-specific implications of public policies which is usually presented as gender-neutral and, in particular economic policies. Gender budgeting is therefore regarded as a core strategy for raising awareness and accountability of gender issues and the gender impacts of budgets and policies. When we talk in the context of Balochistan, the first question that arises is that, 'Is there any study ever conducted to find out the gender gaps? Did we undertake any post or pre-budget assessment of the annual budget on different segments of the society, especially women, who form almost 50% (48.76% of the population) of our national population? In Balochistan, this ratio stands at 47.47%. If our budget is not Gender Sensitive, almost half the population is left out. In our set up women empowerment starts and ends with the provision of Smart Machines, the opening of embroidery centers, of holding of fairs and cultural shows. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process, and restructuring, reviewing and monitoring is required in order to promote gender equality. It is mentioned above that female population in Balochistan is 47.47% and their needs are completely ignored at

all levels and they are hardly involved in the budgetary process. An analysis of PSDPs since 2013-14 till 2020-21 shows that there was not a single project in the years 2013-14 till 2020-21, as if women did not exist or they were not worthy of any consideration. Then from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there were only three projects and the total outlay ranged from 12% to 22%. It shows how much priority that 47.49% of the population gets in the province. Although the world over women are not categorized as a vulnerable group. In Balochistan, they are not only vulnerable but also marginalized. But the treatment they receive in Pakistan, especially in Balochistan, they are not only vulnerable but also marginalized. It is realized in the real sense of the world. A UN Report on Women said that compared to men, women have 26% fewer chances of employment, and around 70% of the world's informal sector works in unregulated sector of the economy. Why they are consid-

ered vulnerable because they are socially dependent on male counterparts both at home as well as at the workplace? Surprisingly, there are no separate Rest Rooms (Washrooms) for ladies in Secretariat and Directorates. For the entire female population, there is only one female park in Smugli Road and they have no recreational facilities whatsoever. Women's development department managed by male officers. There is a women's Department, mostly manned by male officers. Women who are supposed to work for the welfare of small workers. They lack the capacity to formulate and implement plans for female uplift. Conditions are not realized in the real sense of the world. A UN Report on Women said that compared to men, women have 26% fewer chances of employment, and around 70% of the world's informal sector works in unregulated sector of the economy. Why they are consid-

## What's going on in France? Governance failure and inflation

By Khalid Izbati

France is in the grip of mass protests and strikes that have erupted against the controversial pension reform plan. The Macron government wants to increase the retirement age from the current 62 years to 64 years from 2025 onwards. Workers will have to make social security contributions over 43 years rather than 42 years in order to draw a full pension. Some other controversial measures have also been included in the pension reform plan. The strikes and protests were mostly peaceful before March 16. But the police clashed with protesters after French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne announced the bill in the National Assembly, the lower house. The last vote by invoking Article 49.3 of the French constitution. The constitutional process grants the government executive privilege to pass a bill without a parliamentary vote. This gives the opposition the opportunity to respond with a no-confidence vote. The Borne government has received two no-confidence votes by a narrow majority of nine votes.

Recent polls have found that 82 percent of the French hold a negative view regarding the bill of Article 49.3 and 65 percent wish for demonstrations to persist, even after the passage of the law. The ongoing strikes and protests have become more violent as the police are trying to bring the government back to order through violence. The protesters are also responding with the same level of violence on themselves. Now the Macron-Borne governments are putting the blame of violence on the striking workers and protesting young people. The first round of strikes took place on January 19, 2023. From train drivers to airport workers, most people took to the streets to voice their demands. Workers in the health, education and other sectors are also organizing strikes. Tons of garbage are now piling up in the streets. Sanitation workers have also been on strike since March 7.

Nearly 3.5 million workers and young people took to the streets across France against the pension reforms announced by the Macron government on March 23. Nearly 800,000 people took to the streets in Paris. Hundreds of thousands of people in Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Nantes, Lyon and Grenoble strongly protested against the reforms. The French have been fighting against the pension reforms for the last two months. Mass protests and strikes took place in different parts of France in the last eight weeks. The neoliberal right-wing Macron government had hoped that protests and strikes would fade away soon. But the protest movement has swelled in recent weeks. As soon as the Macron government announced its plan to reform the pension system in France, trade unions strongly rejected it and called the reforms anti-workers. The police's heavy-handed tactics to intimidate the protesters have failed so far. The law enforcement agencies have arrested nearly 800 people and denied some tourists. Police intimidation, arrests and harassment on the streets are being used by the authorities. There have imposed a ban on street protests to control the situation in many cities. The Macron government is using all sorts of tactics and measures to break the strikes and control the street protests. But the workers have pushed back. In addition to general strikes, unions also organized two-tier system, with some workers receiving a lower pension than others. Unions also fear that the reforms will lead to an increase in inequality, with the wealthy receiving more benefits than those on lower incomes. The pension reforms

in France are so unpopular because they are seen as a direct attack on one of the most cherished social safety nets in the country: the retirement system. Many right-wing governments in the past tried to reform the pension system but they faced stiff resistance and mass opposition from trade unions, workers activists and people. Macron tried to pass the pension plan in his first tenure too but failed to do so due to fierce resistance from the workers. The reforms make it harder for people to retire early and reduce benefits for some of the lowest-earning retirees. They also raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 and reduce pension payments for those who work past the age of 62. To reform the pension system, the government also include a controversial increase in the number of years of contributions required for a pension. The French government wants to increase employment among the 65 to 69 age group. Nearly 33 percent of people in this age group work in France compared to 45 percent in Germany and 69 percent in Sweden. These changes have met widespread opposition from labour unions and other groups, who argue that these reforms are unfair and will lead to an increasing number of elderly people living in poverty.

He famed a American artist. The Notorious B.I.G. explained that "the more money we come across, the more problems we see". This also resonates with how the government has been managing the country's finances by perpetually borrowing more money. Successive governments and central bank governors have speculated wildly in taming inflation over the last three decades. Lack of coordination among monetary policy responses, coupled with the complete inability of the central bank to control inflation within target range has led to a scenario where inflation is out of control. Inflation for March 2023 clocked in at 35 percent which is amongst the highest in the world. The more vulnerable segments, inflation is close to 50 percent, as food and monetary inflation have taken a steep increase. A lazy excuse of politicians and economists is to blame a commodity price cycle for any price increase. They completely ignoring the catastrophic decisions that fueled inflation, some of which include an obsession with disrupting supply chains (thereby causing inflation) and by racking up debt to bridge fiscal deficits that are a function of bad gov-

ernance and inability to expand the taxation net. The tax authority celebrates some record growth in tax collection while that growth remains considerably lower than that of the tax collection net. This also resonates with how the government has been managing the country's finances by perpetually borrowing more money. Successive governments and central bank governors have speculated wildly in taming inflation over the last three decades. Lack of coordination among monetary policy responses, coupled with the complete inability of the central bank to control inflation within target range has led to a scenario where inflation is out of control. Inflation for March 2023 clocked in at 35 percent which is amongst the highest in the world. The more vulnerable segments, inflation is close to 50 percent, as food and monetary inflation have taken a steep increase. A lazy excuse of politicians and economists is to blame a commodity price cycle for any price increase. They completely ignoring the catastrophic decisions that fueled inflation, some of which include an obsession with disrupting supply chains (thereby causing inflation) and by racking up debt to bridge fiscal deficits that are a function of bad gov-

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## Time to unite the Rwandan economic and political divisions

By Dr Farrukh Saleem

Human history bears witness to the fact that countries thrive when their citizens work in harmony towards a common goal. Collaboration and solidarity are key ingredients to achieving success and prosperity. The Rwandan history, we have seen numerous examples of countries achieving great things through unity and cooperation. Here are a few notable instances:

At the time of independence, Pakistan faced extreme economic and social challenges. The new nation had no industries or infrastructure, and our agriculture sector was underdeveloped. But we were united. In the 1960s, the Green Revolution transformed Pakistan's agriculture. In the mid-1960s began the Decade of Industrialization. We had two cement plants in 1947, now we have 24. We had three textile mills in 1947, now we have 650. We did not have any cycle manufacturing plant in 1947, now we have Sohrah, PECC and Eagle. We did not have any car assembly in 1947, now we have Toyota, Honda, Suzuki, Renault, Nissan, Proton, Kia and Hyundai. Pakistan did not have any paper

Political conflicts have destroyed the infrastructure, disrupted trade, caused a significant decline in oil production plus skyrocketing inflation. Venezuela boasts some of the world's richest oil reserves. However, political polarization has led to a severe economic crisis marked by hyperinflation, widespread food shortages, and a significant reduction in oil production.

Yemen: Political divisions have led to food and fuel shortages, economic crisis, and widespread poverty. In the 80s, the citizens of Ghana launched the 'Ghana 2025' initiative to promote stability. Citizens came together to support economic growth through entrepreneurship, innovation and investment. Human history bears witness to the fact that when a country is divided it will face a range of challenges including social unrest and economic collapse.

Yugoslavia: The political divisions in Yugoslavia played a significant role in the country's economic decline. Syria: The political divisions in Syria have had a devastating impact on the country's economy. Lebanon: Lebanon has a rich array of natural, human, intellectual, cultural, technological and financial resources. With a history of past achievements, we have the potential to succeed. Rwanda: In the aftermath of the Rwandan Genocide, which some 500,000 died, the citizens of Rwanda came together to rebuild the country and reconcile with each other. Rwanda is now one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa with an average annual growth rate of around 8 percent.

## A chronic state of policy errors

By Dr Khanq Hassan Najeeb

Pakistan is living in an improving economic environment. It is by deliberate design that we promote unproductive investment in real estate, thereby giving real-estate amenities creating pressure on the investment in real estate lucrative by requiring less documentation, and eliminating capital gains tax on a five-year holding period. With such policies we have missed the opportunity to change course and move to progressive taxation.

Moreover, on the expenditure side the budget we continue with misguided policies of reliance on targeted subsidies, and a non-result-based framework of selective spending. We continue to err in making less policy choices. Successive governments promote a policy of creating growth through fiscal stimulus and borrow capital to fund large-scale capital expenditure, rather than focusing on reducing fuel consumption and pushing higher imports, entangling the country in a perpetual cycle of debt and payments crisis and taking Pakistan's economy to the doors of the IMF.

income or traders or the economy. Improving efficiencies and reducing quasi-fiscal losses. Pakistan since 2015 has undertaken a policy not to privatize. We continue to run sizeable fiscal deficits - almost as an intended decision. The period since FY08 is interesting to consider as it coincides with a democratic transition and a new environment with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) supported program. Pakistan's fiscal deficit averaged near 7.0 percent fiscal deficit on average barring the period when the country actively adhered to an IMF supported program. The deficit averaged near 5.0 percent. Sadly, within the fiscal framework, another consistent policy has been a reliance on targeted subsidies rather than increasing the share of direct taxes. Indirect taxes, whose incidence is higher on the poor and middle-income groups, account for 70 percent of our collection, once we include withholding taxes levied in the sales tax mode. It is regrettable that two-thirds of the tax collection in the last decade is in the form of indirect, regressive taxes. There is an amazing persistence in our policy and political decisions to favour the wealthy by taxing agriculture



# Saudi Arabia, Opec+ producers announce surprise oil output cuts

Saudi Arabia and other Opec+ oil producers on Sunday announced voluntary cuts to their production amounting to around 1.15 million barrels per day (bpd) in a surprise move that was aimed at supporting market stability.

The UAE said it would cut production by 140,000 bpd. Kuwait announced a cut of 128,000 bpd while Oman and Algeria said it would cut its output by 48,000 bpd. Kazakhstan will also cut output by 78,000 bpd. Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Web Desk



PESHAWAR: Shahi Bala leaders are demonstrating on Nasir Bagh Road in favor of their demands.

# Zhob National Highway closed due to landslide

PESHAWAR: The National Highway in Zhob, Balochistan, at the point of Dana Sar will remain completely closed for the next 24 hours due to landslide occurred as a result of recent torrential rains, authorities said on Sunday.

A flood-like situation has arisen in the mountainous area of Sulaiman Range, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and border area of Balochistan following the heavy rain.

# Parent personalities impact children's life significantly

ISLAMABAD: A new scientific analysis has found that parent personalities have a significant impact on a child's life because parents have a special and important impact on their kids.

For example, the study found that kids tended to have better grades if they were extroverted, agreeable, open and conscientious, but they had worse grades if they were neurotic. Extroverted kids were more likely to smoke or drink, but being open, conscientious or agreeable had the opposite effect.

# AEDB to convert 3,000 govt buildings to solar power: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) has received a list of 3,000 public sector buildings across the country to be converted to solar power under the government's 10,000-megawatt solar power project.

Energy, which will carry out competitive bidding for the task on behalf of public sector entities. He said solarisation of public sector buildings will reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, and address the economic crisis caused by the circular debt to some extent.

with a 6%-8% growth annually. The situation calls for adoption of more sustainable and renewable energy sources, like solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass so that the dependence on imported fuel could be cut down.

# Pakistan one of leading countries to use RMB for international trade

BEIJING: Pakistan is one of the leading countries to use RMB for international trade, according to a report by the China Economic Net (CEN).

As more progress is yet to unfold, RMB-PKR de-dollarisation is expected to play a catalysing role in Pakistan's international trade.

international usage. In recent years, China has been ramping up support for RMB clearing and settlement in its foreign trade, especially with Belt and Road countries.

# Hyderabad: Sewerage and gutter water accumulated on the main Kobi Nor Chowk creating problems for commuters.



HYDERABAD: Sewerage and gutter water accumulated on the main Kobi Nor Chowk creating problems for commuters.

# Pakistan reports plunge in Covid infections

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has witnessed a sharp decline in Covid19 indicators as the country reported only 55 coronavirus cases with no fatality during the last 24 hours, showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Sunday morning.

According to the NIH data, the death toll in the country remained the same at 30,649 whereas the number of total infections now went to 1,579,750 after adding the fresh 55 cases, much lower than yesterday's 87.



QUETTA: People are busy purchasing different items for ifitari at last Road.

# Belgium appreciates Pakistan's efforts for peace, stability: Belgium Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Belgium Ambassador to Pakistan Charles Joseph M. Delonge here on Sunday said that Pakistan is an important country in the region and Belgium appreciated its efforts for bringing peace and stability.

He highlighted the two types of academic scholarships; ARES and VLIR-IOUS that can be acquired by the Higher Education and Ministry of Education directly with the counterparts in Brussels.

# 3 well-diggers crushed to death by mudslide in Maisi

MAISI: Three young labourers including a 10-year-old child were crushed to death by a mudslide while digging a well in Maisi.

The rescuers on Sunday pulled out the bodies of the labourers from the well with the help of local people. The bodies have been handed over to the heirs.

# AJK projects under CPEC to bring about energy revolution in Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The energy sector in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has got a boost from the CPEC because its hydropower potential contributes significantly to meeting Pakistan's energy demands.

Hydropower, with proper planning and management, is a catalyst for long-term improvement in the country's growth, Shahid said. He further said, "The integrated use of water and energy is a key component of long-term sustainability. Power generation in AJK directly helps Pakistan redress its energy deficit and contribute to its economic development.

# Roadblocks mar IT industry growth in Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's IT industry has been identified as a potential powerhouse for the economy but it faces significant roadblocks hindering its growth. Experts suggested that by tackling key challenges head-on, the industry can boost the country's export and investment, reports WealthPK.

They will be able to retain their investments in dollars. This will encourage more inflow to Pakistan startups and freelancers, as they will be able to cash in on the exchange rate that existed at that time. Additionally, it will make repatriation and international payments to vendors much easier.

Brings in more remittances, they should be eligible for rebates based on more incentives to foreign IT firms to set up their development centres. This has led to companies like Microsoft, Oracle, Google, Facebook, Cisco, IBM, and Amazon setting up their development centres there.

economic growth. "India has high IT exports because they provide more incentives to foreign IT firms to set up their development centres. This has led to companies like Microsoft, Oracle, Google, Facebook, Cisco, IBM, and Amazon setting up their development centres there."



KARACHI: A volunteer distributing free sweetened milk as time to break the fast approaches.



# Increasing ratio of suicides in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah Analysis

In Balochistan, the ratio of suicides continues to increase especially among the women segment of society at an alarming level. Statistics shared by a little-known Paank, a non-governmental organization about the alarming increase in the number of suicide cases should be an eye-opener for policymakers.

The organization reports 56 suicide cases most of them women during the last three months in Balochistan. Last year, 80 suicide cases were reported across Balochistan. The cases must be higher than what is being quoted by the NGO since most of the cases go unnoticed in rural Balochistan because of social and tribal taboos.

**Mental stress, social-tribal taboos, unemployment and poverty main reasons behind the increasing suicides ratio**

Mental stress, social-tribal taboos, unemployment and poverty appeared to be the underlying reasons behind the increasing ratio of suicides. And this phenomenon is not confined to Balochistan rather it is an issue faced

by different parts of the globe. Especially, frequent cases of suicides have been reported on social media from Balochistan's Mekran division. A growing number of cases in Mekran, which is considered to be the intellectual capital of Balochistan are disturbing.

WHO defines mental health as a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stress of life. The World Health Organisation defines mental health as a state of men-

tal well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well, and contribute to the community. Mental health is a basic human right, but in the non-urban social setup in Balochistan, mental health issues that include mental disorders, psychosocial disabilities as well as the risk of self-harm, are generally ignored and not given the right level of importance.

In most cases, people commit suicide due to stress and depression to get rid of worldly issues. There have been no proper health institutions to provide counseling to mentally challenged people.

## Physiatry institutes should be established on the district level

The health department established a physiatry institute in the Bolan Medical Complex, Dr. Gulam Rasool. However, the institution needs more manpower and facilities to treat mentally ill people.

Such institutes need to be established on district levels to make sure timely mental treatment/counseling of mentally challenged people. It is ironic of fact that mental disorder/stress is hardly considered an illness in our society. People take it very lightly and easily and prefer to avoid medical treatment/counseling launched by the Balochistan government to create awareness among the people about mental disorders and other depression issues.



ABBOTTABAD: Police Personnel arrest fake Pak Army Major along with a tons of Hashish during raid against smugglers in City.

## Nawaz Sharif likely to spend last days of Ramadan in Saudi Arabia

LONDON: The former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz, (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif is expected to spend the last days of Ramadan in Saudi Arabia.

Former prime minister would leave for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah on an invitation of the Saudi ruler. Sharif would be the royal guest in the country, they added. According to media reports, the news of Sharif's planned visit to Saudi Arabia has led to speculation that he may use the opportunity to return to Pakistan. Sharif has been on his party about his plans to return to Pakistan. Sharif has been on his party about his plans to return to Pakistan. Sharif has been on his party about his plans to return to Pakistan.

## PML-N should pass on interior, finance portfolios if unable to handle issues: PPP MNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA Qadir Mandokhail has assailed the performance of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) ministers, saying that the party should hand over the finance and interior ministries to other coalition partners if it was unable to handle issues.

The lawmaker said, while speaking to a private TV channel, that the PML-N ministers had mishandled the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's arrest.

"The Punjab IG should also be punished for his failure to arrest Imran Khan," he added. He said that PML-N's Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz had said it was not her government even though her uncle was the prime minister of the country. "People cannot be fooled by such lies to add attacks compare. He also criticised Finance Minister Ishaq Dar over his statement about "not compromising on the country's nuclear programme" in the Senate.

## Significant decline in militant attacks in March 2023: PICSS

ISLAMABAD: A significant decline in militant attacks was observed during March 2023; however, resultant casualties remained almost the same as in February 2023.

The security forces foiled many attacks during the month by eliminating at least 38 militants, while arresting 35 others. According to statistics released by an Islamabad-based think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), March 2023 witnessed a 36 percent decline in militant attacks compared with February 2023. The think tank reported 37 militant attacks during March, in which 57 people were killed and 72 injured. February had witnessed 58 attacks, in which 59 people were killed and 134 wounded.

PICSS also recorded a decline in suicide attacks in March, as only one such attack was reported, while February witnessed three such attacks.

## Incumbent government 'violating' constitution: Ali Nawaz

SHAKARGARH: Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) secretary general, Ali Nawaz Gandapur on Sunday said that the incumbent government is "violating" the constitution.

Talking to journalists in Punjab's Shakargar, Ali Nawaz Gandapur alleged that parties united under the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) are safeguarding their personal interests over the national interest.

PAT will stand with the Constitution of Pakistan if anyone tries to violate it, he added. Gandapur said the country will bear a huge loss if fair and transparent elections are not held.

The PAT secretary general further said that the caretaker government will automatically

## Zhob DI Khan highway blocked after landslides in Koh e Suleman

Ali Khan Mandokhail

The Zhob Dera Ismail Khan highway was blocked after landslides in the Koh e Suleman mountains in the wee hours of Sunday. Several passengers were injured as a result of the landslides in the Dana Saik Koh e Suleman mountains, Hazrat Wali Kakar, Deputy Commissioner Sherani has urged the people to avoid traveling on the highway. Heavy rainfall in the area has caused landslides in the Zhob Koh e Suleman mountains. The



highway links Balochistan with Punjab province and Islamabad.

## CM directs to prepare design for building tower type modern jails

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has directed to prepare design for building tower type modern jails in the province.

During a special meeting in Lahore, he said new jails in Punjab will be equipped with the latest facilities and security equipment. He said sending up of IT Centers in Jails will also be considered to impart latest knowledge to prisoners.

Under the Chief Minister's direction, prisoners' meeting duration with relatives has been extended from 20 minutes to 30 minutes. Participants were informed that more than 20 thousand prisoners have already completed TEVTA technical courses. INP

## Imran Khan responsible for raft of crises': Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said it was high time to save the youth from "Fina (mischievous) of Imran Khan who was solely responsible for prevailing economic, political and constitutional crisis.

"We will save the country from Imran Khan, who is bent upon creating chaos and anarchy by misleading the youth," the minister said in a news statement while reacting to Imran Khan's remarks in an interaction with journalists.

She said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief had not only deceived the masses but also lied to them, but time had come for their emancipation from "evil like Imran Khan".

Marriyum said Imran Khan had promised to end corruption in 90 days and vowed to rectify the governance and economic situation within first 100 days of his government tenure. 10 million jobs and five million houses were also part of his promises to the nation before coming into power, she recalled, adding all proved to be word of his mouth, nothing substantial. He also claimed that he would not only bring 200 economic experts into the country from abroad, but also take initiatives to attract \$200 billion investment in Pakistan, but all of those promises were nothing but lies. "Time for Imran Khan's deception and fraud is over now," the minister said while lashing out at the PTI chief's "facilitators who has been abetting him in his crimes." "Whoever assisting Imran Khan in spreading chaos and anarchy is a criminal," Marriyum said, adding all those "terrorists" who threw petrol bombs on personnel of the Law Enforcement Agencies would be taken to the task. INP



RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Liaqat Ali Chatha talking to the media persons after visiting the Free Floor distribution Center at Municipal Corporation in City.

## Maryam to address lawyers' convention in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: PML-N Senior Vice-President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz Sharif will visit Rawalpindi on Tuesday (April 4) where she will address lawyers' convention.

According to sources, Maryam Nawaz will address the convention at Judicial Complex Rawalpindi. She will also discuss prevailing political situation and other issues with PML-N Rawalpindi leaders and workers. Maryam will also preside over a meeting to activate party's local media cell, youth and women wings and other organizations. INP

## Bodies of 5 Pakistanis who died in Iran cylinder blast arrive in Naudero

NAUDERO: Dead bodies of five Pakistanis who had died in a gas cylinder explosion in Iran reached their village in Sindh city of Naudero on Sunday.

Five Pakistani nationals including three children belonging to same family died in the mishap in Iran 22 days ago.

The deceased included 10-year-old Gulam Raza, 16-year-old Mahmam Ali while the children were identified as Umme Fara, Patham and Shireen. INP

## PDM launched direct attack on Pakistan's constitution: Fawad

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary of Information Fawad Chaudhry has said that the meetings and announcements of criminals who violate the constitution and orders hold no significance.

Reacting to the statements made at the meetings of the PDM parties, former federal minister said, it was hoped that the group responsible for spreading chaos and incitement in Pakistan will apologize for the deaths of two dozen citizens who died while standing in queues for flour. However, instead of expressing remorse, they have launched a direct attack on Pakistan's constitution while continuing their history of brutality.

PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry further stated that this same fascist group is responsible for the most severe economic and political crisis in Pakistan. During the last 11 months, they have disrupted the base of economy and government's policies. The only solution to the political and economic crises in the country is transparent elections, in which they foresee their political death.

He stated that Article 224 of the constitution gives a clear and unequivocal mandate for elections within 90 days after the dissolution of assemblies. This issue is not about nine, seven, five, or three-member bench, it is a matter of a constitutional deadline of 90 days for the elections. PDM wants to entangle the nation in confusion about judges and benches to escape from the elections, supposed to be held within 90 days.

He said that through audio leaks, this criminal minded group wants to target the judges and keep the Supreme Court away from protecting the constitution, while also trying to keep the benches busy in protests against its formation. The Supreme Court should be allowed to protect the constitution and not let legal action against the perpetrators. INP

## Chaudhry Sarwar advises CJP to put his own house in order

ISLAMABAD: Former Punjab governor and Pakistan Muslim League-Quetta (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Sarwar reacted to "cracks" in the Supreme Court of Pakistan ranks on the issue of the delay of elections in Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, urged the top court judge to put his own house in order. In an interview with private news channel, Chaudhry Sarwar backed the ruling coalition's stance on elections, saying this should be held across the country at once as current political and economic turmoil harms the country's national interests. Mr Sarwar, speaking at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan, took that during his tenure. INP



QUETTA: A man is busy purchasing different items for iftari during the holy fasting month of Ramadan at kasi Road.

## PMD forecast another spell of rainfall in upper parts of country

ISLAMABAD: Another westerly wave is likely to enter western parts of the country from 02nd April (Sunday) evening or night and likely to intensify in upper parts of country. Met Office predicted.

Under its influence, rain with wind or thunderstorm and isolated heavy falls and hailstorm is expected in Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Peshawar and other districts of KP, Islamabad, Murree, Gallyvat, Potshar region, Lahore and several districts of central Punjab from today (Sunday) to 04th April.

Isolated rain with wind or thunderstorm is expected in northeast Balochistan and south Punjab from Sunday evening to Monday, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said.

Strong wind and hailstorm may cause damage to lose infrastructure and standing crops particularly wheat crop in the country, PMD cautioned.

Heavy Rains may cause Flash Floods in Swabi, Mardan, Peshawar, Marsyabot, Abbottabad, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Nowshera, Waziristan, Bajur, Kurram, Kashmir on Monday and Tuesday during the forecast period.

Landslides may occur in hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Murree and Gallyvat during the forecast period. Tourists have been advised to remain more cautious during the period. INP

## Market share of Chinese-brand passenger vehicles increase to 49.9 pct

ISLAMABAD: Market share of Chinese-brand passenger vehicles surged to 49.9 percent in 2022, up 5.4 percentage points, according to official data.

The cumulative sales volume of Chinese-brand passenger vehicles reached 11.766 million units in 2022, up 22.8 percent year-on-year.

China's energy density of a single mass production power battery has reached 300 watt-hours/kg, which is at the international leading level. The monthly market share of Chinese-brand passenger cars has climbed steadily since reaching 50 percent in September 2022, reaching 56.8 percent in December.

As product quality and service improve, the country's automobile export made new progress. Data indicates that China exported 2.529 million passenger cars in 2022, up 56.7 percent year-on-year. The annual sales of new energy vehicles reached 6.887 million last year in China, with a year-on-year growth of 92.4 percent, and the market share increasing to 25.6 percent, 12.1 percentage points higher than the previous year. Among them, the Chinese brand new energy vehicle market share was as high as 79.9 percent. This is due to continuous breakthroughs in core technologies, improvement in design and manufacturing quality, and accelerated innovation in intelligent networking and manufacturing technologies and business models. China's energy density of a single mass production power battery has reached 300 watt-hours/kg, which is at the international leading level. The monthly market share of Chinese-brand passenger cars has climbed steadily since reaching 50 percent in September 2022, reaching 56.8 percent in December.