

QUETTA VOICE

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Another police vehicle targeted in Quetta, 4 personnel injured



Balochistan professors symbolically start charity for salaries

4 killed when blast targets police vehicle in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah
QUETTA: At least four people were killed when a blast targeted a police vehicle in Quetta's Kandahari Bazar on Monday evening. Waseem Baig, the Spokesman of civil hospital Quetta said four dead bodies were from the hospital. Baig stated that nine people were injured as a result of the blast.
The blast also damaged several vehicles parked outside shops in the area. The blast was heard far and wide causing panic in the area. Police were quick at the spot and the injured in the blast were rushed to the civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment. An emergency was declared in the trauma center civil hospital to provide medical treatment to the injured by the blast.



directed the police to arrest the terrorists involved in the attack. In a statement issued after the blast, Mr. Bizenjo expressed grief and sorrow over the incident and directed the hospital administration to provide better health facilities to the injured by the blast.
Home Minister Balochistan, Mir Ziaullah Langove strongly condemned the attack and termed it a conspiracy against the traditional peace of the province.
This incident has come a day after the armed accused opened fire and killed two policemen in Quetta's Kuchlak area. One attacker was also killed in the attack.

High explosives used in the attack: Mandokhail

Rafo Jan Mandokhail, an officer of the civil defense Quetta said the bomb was planted in a motorcycle parked near the police vehicle. "High explosives were used in the attack," Mr. Mandokhail said.
The blast also smashed the glass of nearby shops and shopping malls in the area. The bomb went off in the commercial hub of Quetta, Pakistan's Southwestern city.

CM Balochistan condemns the attack
Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo strongly condemned the blast and

PM condemns blast, seeks report from relevant authorities

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the blast in Balochistan's capital city with prayers for the martyrs and offered condolences to their families.

The premier has also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the explosion directing relevant authorities to ensure all possible medical aid for them.

He also sought a report from the authorities concerned on the terror attack, sharing the state's resolve to crush the ill intentions of terrorists.

For the past few months, Pakistan has been gripped by a spate of terror attacks with even the country's biggest urban centres such as Karachi and Peshawar under the radar of militants targeting security forces with the aim to deteriorate peace.

Meanwhile, security forces have been conducting operations against terrorists with the determination to eliminate terrorism from the country and resolve to strengthen the sacrifices of its soldiers.

Parliament's joint sitting adopts resolution for simultaneous elections of all assemblies

The parliament's joint sitting Monday adopted a resolution stressing the holding of general elections of the national and the provincial assemblies simultaneously to "strengthen the federation".

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi and Senator Kamran Murtaza moved two identical resolutions aimed to promote political stability and foster unity among the provinces.

The resolutions argued that organising general elections of all the assemblies simultaneously, the resolutions emphasised the significance of appointing neutral caretaker set-ups to ensure impartiality and fairness during the elections.

The resolutions also argued that holding separate elections in Punjab, the largest federating unit with over 50% of the National Assembly seats, would inevitably impact the outcome of general elections to the National Assembly seats in Punjab.
Therefore, it could potentially margin-



alise the smaller provinces' role in the federation, the resolutions noted.

Amid the session, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senators staged a token walkout from the house to register their protest. "Hold elections and save the country," the PTI senators chanted.

The development comes after a three-member bench of the Supreme Court unanimously declared the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) order to delay the election in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa "unconstitutional".

The three-member bench — led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, and Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan — also ordered the electoral body to hold elections in the province on May 14 and asked the government to provide funds to the ECP for holding the polls. The ECP postponed the date of the election in Punjab to October 8 — initially scheduled to take place on April 30

— citing a resurgence of terror attacks, a shortage of security personnel and an unprecedented economic crisis.

PM Shehbaz, Sharif has rejected PTI's demand to stage early polls

The coalition government has rejected the top court's decision and has already tabled a bill in both houses of the parliament — National Assembly and Senate — pertaining to funds for general elections.

The PTI has slammed the government's move and declared the decision to reject the apex court's decision "baseless", claiming that the parliament did not have the authority to dismiss a court order.

Balochistan professors symbolically start charity for salaries

Syed Ali Shah
QUETTA: Professors of Balochistan University symbolically launched a charity campaign for the salaries of the faculty members and employees of the university on Monday evening. A large number of university professors, lecturers, assistant professors, and employees of the university gathered outside Balochistan University and staged a protest demonstration.

"We have symbolically launched this charity collection campaign to sensitise our rulers," Nazher Ahmed Lehari, one of the protesters told Daily Quetta Voice. The protesters were chanting full-throated slogans against the university administration and the Balochistan government for their failure to solve the financial issues of the university. Women faculty members were also part of the protest.
Women faculty members were also



part of the protest demonstration outside the Balochistan Assembly, Balochistan University and the University Law College remain closed for more than a week because of the financial crisis.
"Our faculty members and employees are deprived of their salaries for the last three months", Professor Fareed Achakzai, another

Another police vehicle targeted in Quetta, 4 personnel injured

Manan Mandokhail

At least four policemen were injured when an unknown accused hurled a hand grenade at a police mobile van in the Sariab Road area of Quetta. Police sources said SHO Sariab was inside the vehicle. However, the SHO was unhurt in the attack.
The injured policemen were shifted to the Trauma Center



Civil Hospital Quetta for medical treatment. Waseem Baig, the Spokesman of the Civil Hospital described the condition of the injured as out of danger.

This attack has come almost three hours after a blast killed four people including two policemen in the Kandahari Bazar area of Quetta. Panic prevailed in the city in the aftermath of repeated attacks on police.

ECP seeks amendments to Elections Act, authority to announce poll dates unilaterally

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has sought amendments to the Elections Act, 2017 that will empower the electoral watchdog to announce poll dates unilaterally, without it having to consult the president. The request for amendments was made in letters written by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and ECP Secretary Omar Hamid Khan to Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Dr Syed Tahir Hussain Shah, Parliamentary Affairs Secretary Muhammad Shakeel Malik, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday.

The letters, copies of which are available with Dawn.com, referred to the "controversy" regarding elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies. ECP officials particularly cited two Supreme Court (SC) judgements in this connection, issued on March 1 and April 4.

In its March 1 verdict, the SC had ruled that elections in KP and Punjab — both of which have been under caretaker governments since the provincial assemblies were dissolved in January — should be held within 90 days.
However, after the ECP announced in March that elections in Punjab



would be deferred till October, the SC issued another ruling on April 4, declaring the commission's decision "unconstitutional" and fixing May 14 as the date for polls in the province. In their letters today, the ECP officials maintained that according to the Constitution, the commission was the "sole arbiter" to decide whether the circumstances existed to conduct elections or not and this mandate was "not subordinate to any authority". The SC's March 1 and April 4 judgements, on the other hand, "have divested the commission of its constitutional powers to determine as to whether conducive environment in facts and circumstances exists for the conduct of elections in a given time to meet the standards mentioned in Article 218 (3)" of the Constitution, the letters said. They further stated that under Article 218 (3), the ECP was obligated to "organise and conduct elections and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with the law and that corrupt practices are guarded against". The ECP officials also lamented that while the institution had "consistently strived to uphold the writ of law, fair play and merit in letter and spirit", these "exemplary efforts" were not supplemented and rather its Web Desk.

UN recognizes Pakistan's Indus delta for global convention

ISLAMABAD: The shrinking delta of the Mighty River Indus of Pakistan has emerged on the United Nations (UN) radar after it accepted to create a global convention on all deltas of the world to ensure its protection against rising climate change impacts casting serious impact on its nature and habitat.

The development occurred after a strong international civil society nexus of experts, academicians, policy-makers and stakeholders unanimously raised their voices for an international UN Convention for the Conservation River Delta (UN-CRRD) on the sequel of its UN Human Rights Declaration, UN Geneva Pact and many others to ensure that all the major deltas of the world were dying due to adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation namely sea intrusion, sea level rise, droughts, depleting water flows, shrinking creeks and others, the state news agency reported.

The African Centre for Climate Actions and Rural Development Initiative (ACCARD) in collaboration with Nigeria's Bayelsa State Government, the Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security at the University of Vermont, the Capacity Building for Colorado, Transboundary Water Information Cooperation Network (TWIN), Water Environment Forum-Pakistan, Center for the Advancement of Public

Action (CAPA) Bennington College, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam and Center for Environment and Sustainable Livelihood Projects (CESLP), among others hosted a side event at the UN Water conference titled "Integrative Highland to Ocean (H2O) Action for Disappearing Deltas: Towards a UN Convention on Conserving River Deltas."

The UN Secretary-General's special representative for information and broadcasting and Chairman World Environment Forum, a civil society organization working to protect water resources and the environment participated virtually to represent Pakistan in the sideline event whereas Freeman Elohlor Oluowo of ACCARD and Professor Dr Asim Zia, Director, Institute for Environmental Diplomacy, Vermont physically participated in the session.

The global convention would be achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030 namely SDG-6 demanding "Clean Water", SDG-13 "Climate Action", and SDG-14 "Conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources".

The announcement came after the successful campaign of the above-mentioned coalition of non-governmental and civil society organizations who started the drive for a global convention of UN to protect deltas. INP



QUETTA: Relative crying in hospital after blast at Qandhari Bazar on Shahrah-e-Iqbal.

Govt to provide foolproof security to NZ cricket team

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Monday has approved foolproof security to the New Zealand cricket team during its visit to Pakistan.

The Federal Cabinet has approved the deployment of Army and Rangers for the security of Kiwis, played to provide foolproof security to the New Zealand cricket team during its visit to Pakistan.

Earlier Punjab, Sindh governments, and Islamabad administration had requested federal government for the deployment of security to guard the team who once cancelled its tour to Pakistan citing security reasons.

According to the board officials, the New Zealand cricket team is scheduled to tour Pakistan from April 11 to May 8.

Kiwis will play five ODIs and five T20 matches in Pakistan.

The matches between Pakistan and New Zealand will be played in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi. INP

Govt working to provide relief to poor people, Senate told

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri has said that the government is working to provide relief to the poor people.

Speaking in the Senate on Monday, she said the government has given four hundred and four billion rupees for Benazir Income Support Program.

Shazia Marri opposed the resolution on the Federal Ehsaas Rashan Riayat Program saying the previous government did not make any budgetary allocations for this program rather re-appropriated funds from the BISP for it. Earlier, the Senate passed three bills included: National Disaster Management Amendment Bill, 2022, Export Processing Zones Authority Amendment Bill and Pakistan Environmental Protection Amendment Bill.

The Anti-Rape Investigation and Trial Amendment Bill and the Criminal Laws Amendment Bill were laid before the House today. The chair referred the bill to the standing committees concerned.

At the outset, the House offered fatiha for the security personnel martyred in recent acts of terrorism in the country. INP

LHC allows Imran to become party in ban on airing Nawaz Sharif's speeches case

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Monday allowed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to become a party in the case of ban on airing Nawaz Sharif's speeches.

LHC judge Justice Shahid Karim held the miscellaneous petition of Imran Khan to become a party in the case.

The court also sought a response from Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pema) on the miscellaneous plea of Imran Khan.

"The case of ban on airing Nawaz Sharif's speeches is under-hearing in this court," [Bait] Nawaz Sharif's speeches are being broadcasted while those of Imran Khan are not being aired," it had been stated in the petition. INP

Pakistani rupee tumbles against US dollar in interbank trading

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar kept up its upward trajectory and gained 60 paise in its value against Pakistani rupee in the interbank trading on Monday.

According to data provided by the money dealers, the US dollar surged against the local unit which was depreciated by 60 paise during morning session, letting the greenback to be traded at Rs285.25.

On Friday, the last working day of the previous week, the Pakistani rupee tumbled by 23 paise and settled the week's trade at PKR 284.65 per US dollar.

The decision to lift less confidence in the local unit owing to political uncertainty, delay in the IMF programme, and dwindling foreign reserves.

The hopes of the market further dampened following the news that Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has cancelled his US visit to attend the spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

He initially planned to meet with the management of the International Monetary Fund during spring meetings to discuss and address obstacles hindering the progress of a staff-level agreement that would facilitate the resumption of a stalled bailout package.

Since January, the government has been in talks with the IMF to secure the release of \$1.1bn from a \$0.5bn bailout package agreed upon in 2019.

Pakistan's forex reserves are also drying up. The foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decreased by \$36.4 million to \$4.2 billion during the week ended on March 31, 2023, according to the data released by the central bank on Thursday. INP

Islamabad court extends interim bail to Shah Mehmood Qureshi until April 29

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad Monday extended interim bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi to two cases until April 29 next.

An interesting dialogue between the judge and the PTI leader occurred during the hearing of the bail plea.

"May be your soul had been there at the scene," ATC Judge Raja Javed Abbas remarked and extended the interim bail to Shah Mehmood Qureshi until April 29 next. INP

ECC declares all hajj applications under Regular Scheme successful

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has decided that all 72,869 applications received under Regular Hajj Scheme shall be declared successful without ballooning.

The decision to this effect was taken at the ECC meeting held in Islamabad today with Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in the chair.

The meeting also approved the modalities for this year's Hajj Scheme.

The ECC also accorded approval to the additional financial requirement of 163 million dollars of foreign exchange for Hajj this year. Earlier, the Ministry of Religious affairs and Interfaith Harmony presented details on the Hajj Policy-2023, number of applications received under Regular Hajj Scheme, unutilized quota under regular and sponsorship Hajj schemes and financial requirements in the meeting.

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Punjab CM vows to improve efficiency of WASA, other institutions

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Monday that clean drinking water and an effective sewage system was the basic right of every citizen, adding that there was no room for negligence when it came to the installation of water supply lines, reservoirs and providing basic facilities to the citizens. He stated these remarks while chairing a meeting of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) held to review the matters relating to the rehabilitation of projects "WASA will become a true public institution under the caretaker government. In order to solve the problems of the citizens, WASA must follow its conventional methods and adopt INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

PM hails democracy on golden jubilee of 1973 Constitution

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Constitution of Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that today is the most important day for democracy as the constitution has kept united all federating units of the country.

The prime minister was speaking at National Assembly on Monday which was marking golden jubilee of the Constitution of Pakistan. He presented a special resolution in this regard.

PM Shehbaz said: "Today is the most important day for democracy. Our political veterans have established the supremacy of the constitution and rule of law and justice in the country."

He said despite facing onslaught by several despotic regimes in the past, our constitution is still intact.

The prime minister observed that the 1973 Constitution kept united all the federating units of the country.

Earlier, in his special message on the completion of 50 years of the Constitution of Pakistan, he congratulated the nation and paid homage to all leaders, parliamentarians who gave the gift of constitution.

He expressed his government's resolve to increase the strength and glory of the Constitution

Court extends Buzdar's interim bail till April 24 in corruption case

LAHORE: An accountability judge extended former Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar for failing to appear before the court in corruption case. The court has granted interim bail in assets based means case.

The judge said that the former chief minister was suffering from coronavirus and he also submitted a medical report to the court. Do not think that the court is deaf and dumb. Corona report has been accepted from Dera Ghazi Khan hospital. This is the same hospital which was used by the former premier Usman Buzdar himself," Judge Sheikh Sajjad remarked.

The counsel pleaded the court to grant one-day exemption to Buzdar from court appearance. Buzdar must appear at the next hearing, otherwise his bail will be cancelled, the judge ordered.

The court extended his interim bail till April 24. INP

Imran Khan decides against appearing before Islamabad police

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has decided not to appear at the Islamabad Police Lines Headquarters where he was summoned to appear before the court on April 11.

Imran Khan had summoned ex-PM in two cases on April 11 and in other seven cases on April 12. However, the party sources said that PTI chairman will not appear before the police on both sides. Meanwhile, the Islamabad additional sessions judge has summoned Imran Khan in person in the criminal proceedings in the Toshiakhana at the request of the election commission. INP

ECP confers magisterial powers on returning officers

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Monday conferred the powers of the Magistrate of the First Class on the district returning officers and the returning officers in Punjab.

The ECP also issued a notification in this regard, which will be effective from May 14, 2023 according to the schedule. INP

Golden Jubilee celebrations of 1973 Constitution formally starts

ISLAMABAD: A month-long celebrations in connection with Golden Jubilee of the 1973 constitution formally began on Monday.

The constitution of 1973 is a landmark document that laid the foundation of a democratic and progressive society in the country.

The Deputy Speaker of Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf inaugurated the celebrations by laying the foundation stone of the Constitution Monument at a site opposite Parliamentary Lodges at D-Chowk in Islamabad.

This will be followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial of the Unsung Heroes of Democracy in the Parliament House, paying homage to those who fought for democracy and constitutionalism in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, in their congratulatory messages Justice Section of golden jubilee of the 1973 Constitution, the

Govt challenges LHC orders to public Toshiakhana record

LAHORE: The federal government on Monday challenged the Lahore High Court (LHC) orders to make the complete record of Toshiakhana gifts received by public office holders from 1990 to 2001 public.

On March 22, a single bench of LHC ordered the government to make the complete record of Toshiakhana gifts from 1990 to 2001 public.

The federal government challenged the orders through the additional attorney general. A two-member bench of Justice Section of golden and Justice Raza Qureshi will hear the plea.

Established in 1974, the Toshiakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries.

On March 12, the federal government declared that Pakistan Toshiakhana records and uploaded the 466-page data from 2002 to 2023 on the Cabinet Division's website.

Those who acquired gifts from Toshiakhana include former presidents, prime ministers, ministers and government officers.

The names that appeared in the publicized Toshiakhana records included Pervez Musharraf, Shaikat Aziz, Yousaf Raza Gillani, Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan, Arif Alvi and Shehbaz Sharif. The Toshiakhana controversy caught media attention after former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was accused of hiding details of the gifts he received during his tenure in the government. INP



QUETTA: Police personal inspect the blast site at Qandhari Bazar on Shahrah-e-Iqbal.