

# QUETTA VOICE

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**Naila Kiani becomes first Pakistani woman to summit Nepal's Annapurna I**



**Imran Khan fears another 'operation' at Zaman Park during Eid holidays**



## Judicial encroachment causes delay in execution of Govt affairs: CM Bizenjo

**Syed Ali Shah**  
QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo on

development crisis because of court's decisions", CM Bizenjo said in a statement released to the press. He stated "if

"Unnecessary interference by courts in government affairs", CM Balochistan

with regard to repeated stay orders issued by courts, the CM was quoted in the official statement. Chief Secretary



Monday said judicial encroachment continues to cause delay in the execution of government affairs. "Administrative and

courts are trying to issue stay orders in every case, then, the courts should have control of the government as well".

There has been an unnecessary interference of courts in the government affairs, the CM stated. The CM has convened an important meeting

Balochistan, Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Advocate General and Prosecutor General would participate in the meeting today (April 17).

## 30 coordinators report submitted in Balochistan High Court

**Staff Reporter**  
QUETTA: Balochistan government on Monday submitted a report about 30 coordinators and two spokesmen in the Balochistan High Court (BHC).



Advocate General Balochistan, Muhammad Asif Reki Advocate submitted the report at a division bench comprising Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Mr. Justice Muhammad Amir Rana. The division bench of the high court resumed the hearing on Monday.

Muhammad Sadiq Khilji, a lawyer has challenged the appointment of 30 coordinators and 2 spokespersons to the Chief Minister Balochistan. Mr. Khilji pleaded that CM Balochistan has appointed 30 coordinators despite the financial crisis. Although, the government has repeatedly stated that the coordinators were recruited on an honorary basis. The hearing of the case was adjourned till April 28.

### Four lawyers appeared before the court

Almost four lawyers of the coordinators to the Chief Minister Balochistan also appeared before the court and pleaded that they would reply to the notice.

The government has submitted its response to the court through the Advocate General, and there is no need for everyone to individually submit the reply, Chief Justice, Mr. Naeem

**The petitioner says the government has no legal power**

## Small vehicle owners block Pak Iran route in Dabandin

**Riaz Baloch**  
Owners of small vehicles blocked the main Pak-Iran route in the Dalbandin area of Balochistan on Monday. The small vehicle owners were protesting against raids against small traders by customs and other law enforcement agencies. According to the sources, forces have started a crackdown to stop the smuggling of sugar, flour, Iranian petrol, and diesel, due to which hundreds of small car owners have shut down the Pak-Iran road in protest. Long queues of vehicles were witnessed on the route



There were queues of small and big vehicles because of the blockade of the route. The passengers of the coaches spent hours stuck in Dalbandin. The owners of small vehicles told Daily Quetta Voice that there is no factory etc and the people were dependent on border trade. Protesters however oppose sugar smuggling to Afghanistan

**Iran and Afghanistan Borders**  
In the entire Chagai including Dalbandin, most of the people are unemployed and the borders of Iran and Afghanistan are connected with the Pakistan border the border trade is the main source of income for the people, they mentioned. He said that people should be allowed to trade Iranian petrol and diesel so that people can have two meals a day. We are not in favor of sugar-flour smuggling into Afghanistan, as protesters said. Commodities should not be smuggled to Afghanistan, the traders demanded.

**Naila Kiani becomes first Pakistani woman to summit Nepal's Annapurna I**

NEPAL: Mountaineer Naila Kiani on Monday successfully scaled the Annapurna I in Nepal, making her the first Pakistani woman to achieve this milestone. According to a tweet by Everest Today, Kiani achieved this feat earlier this morning. In August last year, Kiani became the first Pakistani woman to summit three peaks above 8,000 metres. She reached the top of Gasherbrum-1 – the 11th highest mountain in the world – at 7:45am today, despite extreme weather conditions between the C2 and C3 points. The Dubai-based banker summited K2, the second-highest



peak in the world in July 2022. Prior to that, Kiani had ascended the world's 13th-highest mountain, Gasherbrum-II in 2021. She is a daughter, a wife and a mother and has no background in mountaineering. In her very first attempt at climbing K2, Naila became one of the first two women to climb one of the most dangerous peaks in the world. In 2022, Pakistan also celebrated Samina Baig becoming the first woman from the country to summit K2. The 31-year-old had reached the top of the 8,611-metre (28,251-foot) peak as part of a seven-member local team and was followed hours later by Kiani. Web Desk

**Imran Khan fears another 'operation' at Zaman Park during Eid holidays**

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan informed the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday that he fears the government may launch a fresh 'operation' during the Eid ul-Fitr holidays at his Zaman Park residence in a bid to arrest him. The PTI chief informed the court about his concerns during a hearing on cases registered against him across the country. During the hearing, Salman's counsel Barrister Khan Saeed told the



Zile Shah case where the police were the complainant. "If your stance is courts are wrong, then shouldn't remain an issue," Justice Tariq Saleem. Sheikh remarked. However, Saifdar told the bench that in all cases terrorism charges were included, adding that the court cannot remain silent over the misuse of authority. "We have to fight on all fronts. Coming to take bail every day is not the solution," said Saifdar. He added that in the cases registered, so far Web Desk

**As SC deadline looms, NA rejects motion seeking supplementary sum of Rs21bn for polls in Punjab**

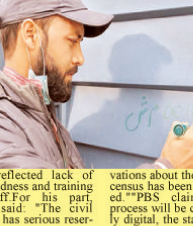
The fate of the Supreme Court's deadline to issue funds for polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa became more uncertain on Monday after the National Assembly rejected a motion seeking a supplementary sum of Rs21 billion for elections in Punjab. Last week, the apex court had directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to "allocate and release Rs21bn by April 17 (today) for elections in two provinces from the Federal Consolidated Fund (FCF) "lying under its control and management". It had also instructed the central bank to send an "appropriate communication" to this effect to the finance ministry in this regard. A meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee



had unanimously recommended the Finance Division that the matter of releasing funds be placed before the NA "in the form of a bill through the federal cabinet" in order to comply with the top court's orders. Later in the day, a meeting of the federal cabinet was held wherein the government decided that the summary sent by the finance ministry, based on the recommendations made by the NA, would be referred to back to Parliament. "The federal cabinet has referred a summary by the finance ministry, based on recommendations made by the NA Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue on providing the election commission with funds for elections in Punjab and KP/IN

**CSOs 'perturbed' at 'faltering' first digital population census**

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) and the Peoples Commission for Monitoring the Lahore High Court (PCMR) have expressed serious concerns about the manner of the ongoing census, which is being conducted digitally for the first time in the country's history. In a press conference Monday, former Punjab minister Ijaz Ali August, CSJ Executive Director Peter Jacob, and Reverend Dr. Majid Abel said that even though the date for the seventh census has been extended for his part, Jacob said: "The civil society has serious reservations about the way the census has been conducted." "PBS claimed the process will be completely digital, the staff would



be fully trained to use the devices, and no gaps will be left to ensure everyone is counted, the ground reality is beyond PBS's claims." He emphasised the importance of the census, its socio-political impact, social justice and future planning and mapping to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. CSJ's official further stated that during the past year, the organisation had repeatedly engaged with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) with recommendations to make the process credible, transparent and inclusive. Web Desk

# Withering Public Institutions

Asghar Harifal

## Why equipment non-functional in Balochistan hospitals?

In Balochistan's government-run hospitals, expensive equipment can always be found non-functional. In the province's largest government-run hospital, the Bolan Medical Complex Hospital (BMCCH), the angiography and angioplasty machines are out of order for the last two and half years.

This is nothing new in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. Now patients and their attendants are mentally prepared for this. Expensive machines including CT-Scan, MRI, angiography, etc can always be found out of order in BMCCH and civil hospitals. District headquarters hospitals, basic health units and rural health centres paint a bleak picture when it comes to health facilities and services.

**This daily's report about out of order machines fell on deaf ears**  
This daily recently reported a news item regarding the non-functional angiography and angioplasty machines. Nevertheless, the provincial high-ups including the Chief Secretary, Secretary of Health, and other concerned officials preferred not to take notice. The report rather fell on deaf ears.

It is crystal clear that deserving and poor patients and their attendants are the worst sufferers of the non-functional expensive machines. The doctors and the para-medics are the beneficiaries of this.

**Patients the worst sufferers of out order machines**  
If the machines are out of order, the patients have no option other than to conduct the tests and procedures in private hospitals and clinics. Balochistan Health Minister, Syed Ehsan Shah told this daily that there are reports that doctors and paramedics deliberately make these expensive machines out of order. Senior doctors reject the minister's claim and held the latter responsible for all the mess in the health department.

In this blame game between doctors and the minister, the common man is the worst sufferer. The provincial government in general and the health department in particular should make the machines functional since it is their core responsibility.



The beleaguered public offices have come under a new wave of shovels associated with broadening the turf war. The new rallying point is to assert the right for the coveted packages in wages given to the provincial secretariat. Guided by the tools provided by the attached department, the number of associations has multiplied and the pre-existing ones have coalesced into a broader alliance.

They have further asserted to arrogate the positions of head of attached departments claimed by provincial secretariats in the few days back Balochistan Secretariat Employees Association announced a strike to draw from a grand

alliance of other employees' associations. The alliance was formed to put pressure on the government for remedial measures shared, which included the rise in pay and allowances, and to address the discrepancies.

### A growing number of employees adding public grievances

The growing number of employee associations, the name of their welfare, underscores the growing utility of forming pressure groups of influence. Taking a cue from the past, the growing trend for remedial measures on the rail institutional framework adding to public grievances.

One of the phenomena, engendered by growing pressure groups, is written writ large that institutions have exponentially grown in size, while the same time these institutions with the aim to alleviate the issues of citizens, are adding to the public and have turned into a

bone of contention for members of the institutions. Speaking of personal experience of a department, with district and provincial level offices, it was noted that more than 90% of the correspondence made with the office was related to the personal affairs of the employees working in that department. It is the case with every public sector institution. Their raison d'être is service unto self.

### Element of powers keep their opponents at bay

The element of powers among employees' associations also include larger size of the institution, the size, the more nuisance value to keep the opponent at bay. At the provincial secretariat with the aim to enlarge its own size decades-old clerical staff positions are expounded on the expanded leading to a one size fits all structure. Despite specialization in every unit, the public sector is stuck in an age-old management model. The information technology devel-

# Taboo on dismissals To the 24th and 25th amendment

By Parvez Rahim

When so many people are introduced into the industrial and commercial establishments, conduct and discipline are bound to arise. Similarly, management may have to deal with disciplinary matters as employees with different temperaments and backgrounds are engaged in the activities at these enterprises.

While the discipline issues of management staff are handled according to the terms of their employment, those of the non-management employees are dealt with under the law.

The provisions relating to handling of disciplinary matters are comprehensively covered in the Industrial and Employment (Standing Orders) Ordinance, 1968 and similar acts promulgated by the provinces. Legislators have quite wisely inducted the concept of progressive discipline under the law and acts and omissions committed by employees are classified into two categories of minor and major offences.

The minor offences (misdeemeanors) and major offences (misconduct) are listed in the ordinance. The misdeemeanors include breach of discipline, rudeness or orders making false or misleading statements and inefficient, dilatory, careless, or wasteful working etc. An employee found guilty of any of these misdeemeanors may either be issued a reprimand or

imposed a nominal fine and an employee's reputation of any of these acts are subject to a major offence.

Even the act of misdeemeanors is divided into two sets of offences. There are those which may lead to the dismissal of an employee from service even if any one of them is committed. On the other hand, it is provided in the domestic injury held for this purpose. These include: willful insubordination or disobedience to any lawful and reasonable order of a superior, theft, fraud, or dishonesty in connection with the employer's business, property, willful damage to or loss of employer's goods or property, and riotous or disorderly behaviour during working hours at the establishment.

The act of sexual harassment is also included under the act of misdeemeanors. However, it is covered separately under the Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010. Besides, there are five categories of acts and omissions, which constitute misconduct only if repeated. These are: habitual absence without leave or habitual breach of any law applicable to the establishment; habitual neglect or negligence or neglect of work; it implies that these five acts and omissions committed by an employee are subject to being habitual to become misconduct. Therefore, it is not the frequency of an act or omission that makes them habitual.

Section 13A of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 is a landmark judgment to this effect given by a two-judge bench of the High Court (SHC) in September 2012. Usually, companies do not take strict action against employees' habit of coming late to work. They try to improve their discipline by keeping through counselling or issuance of written reprimands. However, in this constitutional petition brought up by GlascoSmithline Pakistan Ltd, a charge man of the company had eleven years' history of coming late to work. He came late for 2231 January during the period 2007-2012. Despite receiving from the management 20 advisory letters, he failed to improve his time-keeping. The management's disciplinary action against him from his job was upheld by the SHC. In its judgment, the court held that the employee's act of late attendance was continuous, chronic and frequent. Hence it was 'habitual'. This case is unique as it required the employer to maintain a record to take action against employees' habit of coming late to work. No

specific period can be ascertained as to when such habit will depend upon the nature of allegations in each case.

Absent without leave for more than ten days constitutes misconduct under the law. An employee who indulges in excessive unauthorized absence for more than ten days every month for six months or more, makes him liable to disciplinary action by the management. Employees' chronic and regular absenteeism not only causes disruption in work processes but is also instrumental in increasing the cost of production incurred on replacements.

Section 48 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 imposes restriction on the management to dismiss workers. Similarly, companies can't undertake technological solutions unless they are engaged in any other job or business besides the one being undertaken. The provision of this rule constitutes violation of the labour law and acts and omissions committed by employees are classified into two categories of minor and major offences (misdeemeanors) and major offences (misconduct) are listed separately. The misdeemeanors include disregard or disobedience of orders, carelessness, false or misleading statements and inefficient, dilatory, careless, or wasteful working etc. An employee found guilty of any of these misdeemeanors may either be issued a reprimand or imposed a nominal fine and an employee's reputation of any of these acts and omissions, which constitute misconduct only if repeated. These are: habitual absence without leave or habitual breach of any law applicable to the establishment; habitual neglect or negligence or neglect of work; it implies that these five acts and omissions committed by an employee are subject to being habitual to become misconduct. Therefore, it is not the frequency of an act or omission that makes them habitual.

ment has turned the public sector structure into an obsolete entity. The manpower and the machine have found no compatibility. The only change in the last 75 years is that number of positions has increased from one service group to another. Mutual bargaining among the service groups is termed as 'bargaining' in the system. A third-party assessment guided only by the public interest is service unto self.

The resistance to change has not only left the public sector unworkable, the private sector has overtaken it in the market. When private sector services are required for the market, the public sector functionalities are found totally clueless about the treatment to be provided. Unfortunately, the public sector is uniformly characterized by sub-standard quality. The public sector still not parted from the rote, long performed by it but is now overtaken by the private sector with better performance. A role swap from a player to a r egulator has still not taken place. The public sector, which should have been taken by the public sector, is still in a disarray.

The author is a serving Secretary for Archives and Culture

**Dr Pr Naazir Mahmood**  
Heard that the government had made a decision before the preparations for the 2018 census. In 2011, the PPP was in power but constantly faced one challenge after another. The PPP took up the challenge.

Other political parties also agreed to the Amendment in December 2017, allowing new seat allocations. From 2018, Balochistan increased its seats from 17 to 20; Punjab increased its seats from 43 to 48; Islamabad reduced its tally from 183 to 174; Sindh retained the same strength with 75 seats; and seats in Islamabad increased from three to three. The amendment provided that the allocation of seats in the National Assembly was specific for the 2018 elections. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) proposed to allocate the 2017 results of the National Assembly seats to each territorial unit of the country for the official results of the preceding census. The results of the 2017 census were controversial after nearly all provinces and even some cities raised their concerns about the reliability of data. There were stirring debates across Pakistan questioning the census methodology. The demographic Areas (FATA) merged with Punjab since the times of British Raj, tribal areas in FATA and Pakistan in each tribal agency, enjoying nearly

# Dignity for climate Punjab's suffrage

By Zile Huma

The theme for International Women's Day 2023 was 'DigitALL. Innovation and technology for gender equality'. Women's Day highlighted the gender gap in technological advancement, which creates many hurdles for the socio-economic prosperity of women.

The aim of the theme is to celebrate the achievements of women and girls making positive impacts on humanity through technology and innovation. There are many areas where technological solutions can help bridge the gender gap and empower women. Climate change is an area where the use of technology and innovative solutions can assist in reducing gender inequalities.

Women and girls all over the world are disproportionately impacted by the negative impacts of climate change. Technological solutions can help women and girls better adapt to climate-related catastrophes.

According to a report by the FAO, 72 per cent of women are associated with the agriculture sector out of the total women labour force in Pakistan. Floods and droughts in developing countries like Pakistan directly impact women financially. The provision of climate adaptive technologies and digital solutions can help them better deal with the impacts of climate change in the agriculture

encouraged to conduct their research and work on reducing the gender gap in climate change through technological solutions. Research institutions and universities can conduct workshops and seminars to spread awareness among people about the role of technological solutions in reducing gender inequality in climate change. Also, we need to create jobs for women IT experts in projects related to the use of technologies for mitigation and adaptation of climate change. Like early warning systems, geo-mapping, etc.

Similarly, many health and educational challenges arise after climate-related disasters like floods, droughts and smog. (GLOF) also destroy health infrastructure, training and educational institutions. Access to online education is also an easy and affordable means of knowledge sharing and can solve many issues of gender inequality in the education sector caused by climate change.

The destruction of health care facilities, communication networks after climate calamities leads to health crises making it worse for women to avoid health facilities. Moreover, there are cultural and traditional barriers for women when it comes to visiting hospitals and clinics. In such a situation, if women are well versed in climate technologies and online platforms, they can utilize telehealth services and get free advice on health challenges faced by them. The government should provide telehealth services for free consultations in rural emergencies for women. As a result of climate disasters, a large chunk of the population, especially women, is displaced. Many women are migrating to new places to find employment opportunities. As a consequence of displacement and demol-

Technical solutions for the reduction of women's gender gap better adapt to climate-related catastrophes. A report by the FAO, 72 per cent of women are associated with the agriculture sector out of the total women labour force in Pakistan. Floods and droughts in developing countries like Pakistan directly impact women financially. The provision of climate adaptive technologies to women can help them better deal with the impacts of climate change in the agriculture sector and reduce financial crisis after climate-related disasters like floods, droughts and smog. (GLOF) also destroy health infrastructure, training and educational institutions. Access to online education is also an easy and affordable means of knowledge sharing and can solve many issues of gender inequality in the education sector caused by climate change.

The use of innovative technologies and digital solutions can help bridge the gender gap in climate-related issues in an important aspect that we need to promote.

The aim of the theme is to celebrate the achievements of women and girls making positive impacts on humanity through technology and innovation. There are many areas where technological solutions can help bridge the gender gap and empower women. Climate change is an area where the use of technology and innovative solutions can help them better deal with the impacts of climate change in the agriculture sector out of the total women labour force in Pakistan. Floods and droughts in developing countries like Pakistan directly impact women financially. The provision of climate adaptive technologies to women can help them better deal with the impacts of climate change in the agriculture sector and reduce financial crisis after climate-related disasters like floods, droughts and smog. (GLOF) also destroy health infrastructure, training and educational institutions. Access to online education is also an easy and affordable means of knowledge sharing and can solve many issues of gender inequality in the education sector caused by climate change.

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NA body sends poll funds provision matter back to assembly

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance has sent the matter...

approves the provision of funds for the Assembly...

Friday ordered the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to release Rs21 billion to the Election Commission...



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabhani Khar calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Federal Capital.

Investment in human capital needed to boost garment exports: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The garment industry is a high-value-added sector...

(2022-23) was recorded at \$22.9 billion with exports at \$21.046 billion...

limited support for R&D, low technological adoption, and a limited focus on developing high-tech industries...

By investing in human capital through research and development (R&D), reducing the cost of doing business, diversifying product offerings, seeking out new trading partners...

He added that the textile industry, which is a major export industry in Pakistan, largely exports low-value-added products such as raw cotton...

Talking to media on Monday in Sahiwal, the son of former military ruler late General Ziaul Haq said that the PTI is on the cusp of its popularity...

New PTI entrant Ijazul Haq says will try to create harmony among parties

SAHIWAL: Former minister Ijazul Haq has said that every party has its time, and it is Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's time...

He said that once the Pakistan Peoples Party became the most popular party and then the Pakistan Muslim League held sway among public...

The PTI showed some flexibility in holding dialogue with the government...

He lamented Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's remark about Malir Hassan Sardar revealed that two policemen and private persons were found involved in the abduction for ransom case...

He added that the garment industry, in particular, has the potential to be a high-value-added sector within the textile industry...

General (AIG) Karachi Javed Alam Odho's detailed report of crimes revealed that the Metropolitan has witnessed 140 street crime incidents within 24 hours including 36 incidents of mobile phones and cash snatching...

Muhammad Ali Kemal, Chief of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Support Unit at the Planning Commission, said...

He added that the garment industry, in particular, has the potential to be a high-value-added sector within the textile industry...

As per details of the family, the AVCC took action on the complaint of Arman's mother. The authorities booked five people including two policemen in the FIR...

Karachi: Sindh police constable found involved in snatching

KARACHI: A Sindh police constable was found involved in a snatching incident in Karachi, on Monday.

Earlier, Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Mair Hassan Sardar revealed that two policemen and private persons were found involved in the abduction for ransom case...

General (AIG) Karachi Javed Alam Odho's detailed report of crimes revealed that the Metropolitan has witnessed 140 street crime incidents within 24 hours including 36 incidents of mobile phones and cash snatching...

According to data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Pakistan's trade deficit for the July-March period of the current fiscal year...

Pakistan was ranked 87 in the Global Innovation Index, with China, India, and Bangladesh ranked 11, 40, and 102, respectively...

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Kidnapped youths recovered from police station

KARACHI: The Anti-Violent Crime Cell (AVCC) police, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, raided Shah Lateef police station and recovered two youngsters who were abducted for ransom.

The SSP Abdul Rahim of the Anti-Violent Crime Cell (AVCC) told media that he received a call for ransom from the parents of two cousins named Arman and Assad from the Shah Lateef police station...

General (AIG) Karachi Javed Alam Odho's detailed report of crimes revealed that the Metropolitan has witnessed 140 street crime incidents within 24 hours including 36 incidents of mobile phones and cash snatching...



ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters.

Around 30 percent of Punjab agriculture land was converted into housing societies in the last two decades, says PBF

LAHORE: The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has urged provincial governments to prohibit housing developments on agricultural land.

According to Jahana Wattoo, vice president of the PBF, between 25% and 30% of Punjab's fertile agricultural land has been turned into residential colonies and housing societies in the last two decades...

He pointed out that another challenge for Pakistan exporters has been the limited number of export destinations. According to the Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Pakistan's exports are concentrated in a few countries...

Consensus among political parties only solution to problems: Sirajul Haq

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Central Amir Sirajul Haq on Monday stressed that consensus among all political parties was the only solution to all problems being faced by the country.

Talking to a private news channel, the JI chief said that the political parties should give the nation a chance to decide who they support, adding, the nation had tried all three parties and now they want to run the country on the Islamic system.

General (AIG) Karachi Javed Alam Odho's detailed report of crimes revealed that the Metropolitan has witnessed 140 street crime incidents within 24 hours including 36 incidents of mobile phones and cash snatching...

She said at a press conference on Monday that housing societies and industrial units have taken over 70 percent of the farmland in Lahore and the capital of Punjab, and that the remaining farmland is safe from such activities only because it is close to the Indian border.

Jahanara requested a severe prohibition on transformation of the rural land into lodging projects in the urban domains and presenting vertical lodging in the urban communities, while moving the modern units to non-cultivable regions like that desert.

According to a report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pakistan has the highest rate of urbanization in South Asia. With a 5% population growth rate, it also demonstrated an existing strain on the increasing housing infrastructure.

Investment in human capital needed to boost garment exports: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The garment industry is a high-value-added sector within the broader textile industry that exports low-value-added products such as raw cotton, limiting the potential for higher export earnings...

He added that the garment industry, in particular, has the potential to be a high-value-added sector within the textile industry and increase revenue.

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R&D in mining sector need of time: geologist

ISLAMABAD: "Research and development (R&D) in the mining sector acts as the backbone to extract its true potential. It makes mining more sustainable," said Muhammad Yaqoob Shah a geologist.

The most prominent factor of R&D concerning mining is research and planning to start the mining operation and decide on the mining levels. R&D helps avoid damage to the mining environment, there are different strategies to explore a mineral deposit, i.e., identification, laboratory testing, economic evaluation, and reserve calculation.

He pointed out that in Pakistan, cherry pickers mostly do damage to any metal site by leaving the underneath surface unexplored that leads to the waste. In this way, a great national asset is wasted and no one cares to develop the capacity and training of the mining staff, i.e., mining labour, said firer, and other related staff.

Yasir Shaheen Khalil, an Assistant Director at the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) said, "R&D in the mining sector is very important. The provincial departments play an active role in this regard. They not only provide R&D training to an extent but also conduct mineral shows and hold investor conferences. But still, there is a need to modernize the official training centres in order to make the mining force more productive."

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General (AIG) Karachi Javed Alam Odho's detailed report of crimes revealed that the Metropolitan has witnessed 140 street crime incidents within 24 hours including 36 incidents of mobile phones and cash snatching...

Zardari wants to bring his dearest one to power after Shehbaz disqualification: Rasheed

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rasheed has viewed that PPP head Asif Ali Zardari is doing better than Shehbaz Sharif and wants to bring his dearest one to power by sending Shehbaz Sharif packing. He made it clear that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan will be voted back into power if any uncertainty does not occur in the country.

Addressing the participants during the Iftar dinner, Mr Rasheed said that he will extend support to those who will be awarded tickets by the PTI. Seeing the situation in the country as much more intense, Mr Rasheed said, "It will be decided on June 15 whether to go with the constitution and law war and controversy". Mr Rasheed took a swipe at the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), saying it was the "first inept government" which was clashing with the judiciary.

He claimed, "Asif Ali Zardari is doing big politics. Zardari wants to bring his dearest one to power by sending Shehbaz Sharif packing. He also expressed his reservations over the price of petrol, saying, "Even one price of petrol has been increased by Rs10 per litre". Vowing to stand with the constitution and judiciary, Mr Rasheed said, "Nine out of 15 judges are standing on one side".

Parliament has authority to reject any unconstitutional decision of apex court: Raja

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has the authority to reject any unconstitutional decision of the apex court, he said.

In an interview with the Voice of America, Ashraf, who belongs to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), firmly stated that if the SC does not recognize the parliament's right to legislate, then the entire concept of elections will become a farce. He also urged the parliament to abandon any stubbornness and engage in meaningful INP.

TENDER NOTICE
The Divisional Forest Officer Duki invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedules rates 2018 on Percentage Rates
Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and bid security 2% TSE-222304298993

Heatstroke kills 11 at awards event

MUMBAI: Eleven people died of heatstroke in India after an estimated one million spectators waited for hours in the sun at a government-sponsored awards ceremony, officials said on Monday. Around 20 people were hospitalised and 300 fell ill at the event near the western city of Mumbai on Sunday, when temperatures hit close to 38 degrees Celsius (100 Fahrenheit) with high levels of humidity, local media reported.

Senior government officials attended the ceremony, including Interior Minister Amit Shah, who praised the crowd for waiting so long in the sun.

The office of Maharashtra state Chief Minister Eknath Shinde described it as a "sad and disturbing incident" and promised compensation for the victims' relatives.

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party said around a million people attended the event, the Indian Express newspaper reported.

The opposition Congress party accused the government of negligence and said it should face criminal charges. Heatwaves have killed more than 6,500 people in India since 2010, and last year saw record temperatures in several cities across the country.

The hot spells are becoming harsher and more frequent across South Asia, spurred by climate change, according to scientists.

In the eastern state of West Bengal announced a week-long shutdown of all schools, colleges and universities from Monday due to the heat, local media reported.

Last year, India suffered coal shortages, the main source of electricity in the nation of 1.4 billion people, as electricity demand peaked in the heat.

Many parts of India rely on trains to supply water during the summer.

Scientists also believe the annual monsoon rainy season is becoming more erratic and powerful, causing greater flooding.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offer condolences on the death of Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Mufti Abdul Shakour during his visits the residence of President Jamiat e Ulama e Islam, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman.

Parliament must be respected as mother of all institutions: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has stated that Constitution of Pakistan is the sacred document that binds 230 million people together.

Addressing the final round of speaking competition organized in connection with the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Constitution of Pakistan, in Islamabad on Monday, the Speaker stressed to protect the constitution. He said the Parliament is mother of all institutions and it should be respected.

The Speaker also paid rich tributes to the framers of the constitution praising former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto INP.

Matter of provision of funds for polls will be taken to NA: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar has said the National Assembly's Standing Committee at its meeting in Islamabad has directed to take matter of provision of funds for elections in Punjab to the National Assembly after approval from the federal cabinet.

Talking to the media persons at the parliament house in Islamabad on Monday, he was confident of a positive outcome.

Minister of State for Finance Aisha Ghous Pasha said we respect the order of the Supreme Court which has also stated to move forward as per law and constitution.

She said the matter of election funds will be taken up in the federal cabinet meeting on Monday and later in the National Assembly. She said the parliament is ultimate authority to spend fund from the Federal Consolidated Fund INP.

Zartaj Gul summoned by Punjab ACE

LAHORE: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE), Punjab has again summoned Zartaj Gul, former IAS leader and former state minister Zartaj Gul over corruption charges.

Gul was again summoned her on April 19 at 10 in the morning. Zartaj Gul is accused of giving contracts for various developmental projects to her firm.

Zartaj Gul and her husband Humayun Akhund used to take ten percent commission for providing funds for development schemes in her constituency, the notice claimed. The couple is also accused of revising the development schemes that cost heavily losses to the national kitty, the Punjab ACE said. It may be noted that former Punjab Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Pervaiz Elahi, former Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, former ANP Usman Dar and others are facing charges of corruption INP.

Imran alleges another police operation planned in Zaman Park on Eid

LAHORE: Former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday alleged before the Lahore High Court that he had information of another operation being planned on his Zaman Park residence on Eid. There is risk of bloodshed, he claimed. Usman Dar, a member of the high court recommended that Imran Khan's petition be placed before a larger bench against the registration of similar cases and disciplinary proceedings against him.

The bench comprising Justice Tariq Saleem, Sheikh Al-Jedidi and Justice Farooq Haider sent the file to the Lahore High Court chief justice INP.

Zero waste initiatives to help address triple planetary crisis: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: "Rather than handling this garbage haphazardly, we need to take meaningful steps to track, separate, and then treat it sustainably," said Arif Golioev, Principal Scientist, Officer, Global Change Impact Studies, Ministry of Climate Change.

"Waste contributes greatly to the triple planetary crisis - climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Humans generate 2.24 billion tons of municipal solid waste a year, but only 55% of it is managed in controlled facilities. Every year, around 21 million tons of food is lost or wasted and up to 14 million tons of plastic waste enters aquatic ecosystems," he said.

"With zero waste initiatives, we can minimise and prevent waste, help address the triple planetary crisis, protect the environment, enhance food security, and improve our health," he added.

Zero waste is a philosophy and set of practices that aims to eliminate waste by redesigning resource use and management.

"As the population grows, billions of tons of waste is produced every year. Only 15% of this garbage, worth billions, gets recycled, the rest ends up in landfills or open dumps. Besides wasting finite resources, it also causes other problems," he pointed out.

Arif said that due to the lack of proper waste management systems and general civic illiteracy, Pakistan's excessive garbage generation poses an even greater challenge. He said zero waste, which is defined as "producing little or no waste," is one of the potential solutions.

"The lack of waste management infrastructure in Pakistan, like in other developing countries, does not have any organised waste collection services INP.

Orakzai Jashan-e-Baharan festival to be held in May

ORAKZAI: The Tourism Authority of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) announced that Jashan-e-Baharan festival will be held in the first week of May in Orakzai district.

KPK Tourism Authority Spokesman Muhammad Saad said that the aim of this festival is to promote tourism in the province, especially in merged districts.

He added that new tourist spots have been introduced in Orakzai that will promote tourism more in province.

Saad said that there are many beautiful and touristic places in Orakzai district, adding the Authority will give full attention to promote it and provide facilities to tourists. He said that Kalaya, Samana, Golestan Qila, Feroz Khel, Zera and Landok, Nanwar Ghar, Khlawat, Tui Khula Waterfall and Spinaki are most tourist attractions places in district Orakzai.

He said that camping pods would be installed for tourists in Samana area by June 2023.

Plantation campaign with the support of Pakistan Army and Forest Department would be started soon in these areas, said Saad.

KPK Tourism Authority said that various tour operators and travel agents were given a visit of Orakzai "Tour-guide training workshop will also be held for local youth and a guide map related to Orakzai tourist spots has been prepared and various tourist signboards have also been displayed for tourists." An information desk for tourists has also been installed in Orakzai INP.

NA's standing committee on finance sends polls funds issue back to parliament

ISLAMABAD: The fate of the Supreme Court's deadline to issue Rs21 billion for elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa became more uncertain on Monday after National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue sent the poll funds issue back to the parliament.

Last week, the apex court had directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to allocate and release Rs21 billion by April 17 (today) for elections in two provinces from the Federal Consolidated Fund (FCF) "lying under its control and management". It had also instructed the central bank to send an "appropriate communication" to this effect to the finance ministry in this regard.

Subsequently, a meeting of the NA Finance and Revenue Committee was called on Monday to discuss the SC order regarding the disbursement of funds. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Commerce Minister Naveed Qamar, Auditor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ajmal Gondal and Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Awan were also invited.

In a brief conversation with reporters after the NA committee meeting wrapped, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghous Pasha said that neither the SBP nor the Finance Division had the authority to allocate funds from the FCF.

She explained that the process of the allocation required approval from the parliament. "Without the approval of the parliament, no bill or budget has any legal authenticity." Hence, we leave the entire matter on the parliament now. The parliament is supreme for us because this is what is written in the Constitution," Pasha said INP.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

China's 3-day iftar reception gets underway in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: In the sacred month of Ramadan, a three-day Iftar reception is being organized for hundreds of local common people of Gwadar by the Chinese embassy in collaboration with China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) and local NGO "Helping Hand Foundation Gwadar".

Iftar reception started on Sunday. It will continue on Monday and Tuesday. The Chinese Embassy wished the local people of Gwadar a very blissful fasting days in the month of Ramadan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

More than 200 people of Gwadar belonging to the lower strata of society are being served at Iftar time daily for three days.

Elaborate Iftar will include fresh water, drinks, traditional delights (sweet and salty), meals, and local dishes.

A COPHC official said that under the CSR framework, COPHC is arranging the special Iftar receptions for Muslim residents of Gwadar, considering them brothers.

China's 3-Day Iftar Program has commenced with enthusiasm leaving a lasting imprint of philanthropy, humanity and a people-to-people bond between China and the indigenous community of impoverished people in Gwadar.

Helping Hand Foundation official said "the sort of assistance we received from the esteemed Embassy is unprecedented."

"This kind gesture serves affinity. Apart from helping the poor have enough to eat, it boosts the morale of local youth that the Chinese brothers stand by us through thick and thin," he added.

Another official of Helping Hand Foundation, praised the auspicious efforts by COPHC and Chinese authorities, saying such contributions by the Chinese brothers for a specifically religious event reflect their vision of inclusivity and coexistence.

Local Iftar reception is being organized for hundreds of local common people of Gwadar by the Chinese embassy in collaboration with China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), and local NGO "Helping Hand Foundation Gwadar".

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Soldiers martyred in South Waziristan IBO laid to rest

RAWALPINDI: Prayers were held for the soldiers martyred in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in South Waziristan. A large number of IBO were offered in Wana initially, and later in their hometowns. The IBO was reported on Monday.

According to the Inter-Security Public Relations (ISPR), a large number of military officers, soldiers, chief officials, public and relatives of the martyred attended the funeral prayers. "Armed Forces of Pakistan stand determined to eliminate the scourge of terrorism at any cost. Such sacrifices only strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said in its statement.

The martyred soldiers 25-year-old Lance Naik Shoab Ali Shaeed, resident of Panaching in District Kurram, and 22-year-old Sepoy Rafullah Shaheed, resident of Waksalharwat embraced martyrdom in an IBO in the Zardiman area of district Orakzai. During the operation, an "intense exchange of fire took place" between the security forces and terrorists. At least eight terrorists were reported to have been killed in the operation INP.

Rana's remarks regarding polls order defiance of apex court's orders: Rasheed

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed has stated that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's remarks that elections in Punjab would not be held on May 14 was an open defiance of the apex court's orders.

He said the ruling coalition was running away from elections.

While addressing a ceremony a day earlier (Sunday), Mr Sanaullah had said that snap polls would not be conducted on May 14, adding that elections for national and provincial assemblies would be held simultaneously across the country.

Reacting to it, the former interior minister in a series of tweets, said the statement was an open defiance of the apex court's orders. He said the ruling coalition was running away from elections.

He said he would be decided today whether funds were issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for elections or not. INP

LHC seeks 1947-2001 Toshakhana record

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday ordered the government to present the Toshakhana record from 1947 to 2001 before the court.

As per details, a two-member bench of LHC headed by Justice Shahid Bilal Hasan heard the government's plea against the decision of making the Toshakhana record public.

The deputy attorney general told the court that there is no record of Toshakhana from 1947 to 2001. How is it possible that there is no record with the government's court remnant established in 1974, the Toshi-khana is a department under the administrative control from the cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by 14 other governments and states and foreign dignitaries INP.

The state's benefit are not passed.

He ordered to present of the Toshakhana record before the court as it is a matter for the young generation's future sake.

If the record is not submitted then the court will summon all the officers from 1947 till today even if they are retired.

Earlier, the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the government to make a complete record of Toshakhana gifts received by public office holders from 1947 to 2001 public established in 1974, the Toshi-khana is a department under the administrative control from the cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by 14 other governments and states and foreign dignitaries INP.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi being briefed about the initiatives of UNICEF in Pakistan's health and education sectors, at Awan-e-Sadr.

Dubai govt to support citizens with limited income in home construction

DUBAI: The Supreme Committee for Development and Citizen Affairs, Dubai has announced the launch of the "Bayti" social initiative, which aims to support citizens of Dubai with limited income who have funded housing grants and require additional funds for the construction or completion and furnishing of their homes, thereby alleviating their financial burden.

This announcement came during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Dubai Police General Command, the Department of Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities in Dubai, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Housing Establishment, the Community Development Authority, and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian Relief Foundation.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Lieutenant General Abdullah Khalifa Bin Murr, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, and other high-ranking officials.

Ahmad Hassan Textile Mills revenue, profits dip in 1HFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Ahmad Hassan Textile Mills Limited's revenue decreased 15% to Rs2.3 billion in the first half (July-December) of the ongoing fiscal year 2022-23 from Rs2.7 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The company's gross profit declined 1% to Rs247 million in 1HFY23 from Rs249 million in the corresponding period of 1HFY22.

The profit-before-taxation also dropped to Rs136 million in 1HFY23 from Rs157 million in 1HFY22, registering a negative growth of 22% year-on-year. Similarly, the profit-after-taxation decreased 39% to Rs88 million in 1HFY23 from Rs145 million in 1HFY22, reports WealthPK.

Overall, the decrease in revenue and profits for Ahmad Hassan Textile Mills Limited is a cause for concern, and it was important for the company to take proactive steps to address this trend in the coming months. The company may need to adjust its operations or develop new strategies to maintain profitability and ensure its long-term success in a challenging market.

The management of the company has commissioned a solar system of 2018 kW capacity to increase its capacity to 1MW. Despite increasing raw material prices, the company intends to improve sales, reduce costs, and ensure maintain operational stability towards expanding renewable energy capabilities is commendable, as it supports the sustainability and may reduce long-term costs. However, the company should carefully consider and manage its financial risks and ensure that expansion. The company's gross profit margin increased steadily from 6.32% in 2019 to 8.04% in 2021, indicating that the company was able to manage its production costs efficiently. However, in 2022, the gross profit margin decreased to 6.1%, indicating that the company may have experienced a decrease in sales revenue INP.