

# QUETTA VOICE

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### Sudan: struggle for power kills 180 in 4 days



### SBP, ECP submit reports in SC pertaining to release of funds for polls in KP, Punjab

## Closure of Balochistan University enters third week

### COAS made 'tremendous efforts' to secure financial pledges for IMF deal: PM

#### Education Desk

QUETTA: The closure of the University of Balochistan entered the third week on Tuesday. Faculty members and employees of the province's oldest university have been protesting against the non-payment of salaries. "We have not been paid salaries for the last three months" Professor Kaleemullah Bareech, the central leader of the academic staff association said.



### UoB employees stage a protest demonstration

The faculty members and employees of the UoB staged a protest demonstration and demanded of the government to make sure an immediate payment of salaries. The protesting employees and faculty members have locked all departments including the administrative block to mount pressure on the government to ensure the payment of salaries to the employees.

**"Rulers playing with the future of students also", Nazeer Lehri**

"This is strange that the government is merely talking notices and not paying funds to the university," Nazeer Ahmed Lehri, another leader of the academic staff association said. He said the government was least bothered about the state of education and the future of thousands of students.

Universities in Balochistan including the UoB, Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS), and University Law College have been facing serious financial crises for the last few months.

### Teaching staff and employees of universities on roads

The teaching staff and employees of the universities are on the roads and demanding salaries. "Our rulers are playing with the future of students", Nazeer Lehri said. Niamatullah Kakar, another office-bearer of the employees association lamented that all political parties were also least concerned about the plight of employees and students.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that Chief of



reserves falling to critical levels, hovering around \$4bn and barely able to cover a month of imports, the IMF tranche is critical for the country to avert a default on its obligations. Last month, PM Shehbaz said the Fund wanted external financing commitments fulfilled by friendly countries before it released bailout funds and since then, several countries such as Saudi Arabia, China and the United Arab Emirates, have made commitments to help Pakistan fund its balance of payments. During today's meeting, PM Shehbaz particularly lauded Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari for their tireless efforts to meet the IMF's conditions and secure financial assurances from friendly nations. He then went on to appreciate "COAS Mumin, saying, "At this moment Web Desk

## Customs Balochistan foils sugar smuggling bid, seized dozens trucks

QUETTA: Customs Balochistan launched a crackdown against sugar and fertilizers smugglers after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took a notice of the artificial rise in the prices of sugar. Customs Balochistan claimed to have seized sugar worth Rs 25 crores in different raids conducted near Pak-Iran and Afghan borders.



### Chief Collector Customs Balochistan, Muhammad Saleem addressing a press conference

"We have tightened nose around the sugar smugglers," Chief Collector Customs Balochistan, Muhammad Saleem told a news conference on Tuesday at his office. "Nose tightened around sugar smugglers: Collector Customs Balochistan" The videos of trucks loaded with sugar and urea fertilizers in Balochistan's Kharan

district prompted the federal government to order a crackdown against sugar smugglers. In a video widely shared on social media, a long queue of trucks loaded with sugar is seen.

in full cooperation with other law enforcement agencies on the border, Muhammad Saleem mentioned. Under this, a series of joint operations, joint check posts and joint patrols were adopted, he added. As a result of which the largest operation in the history of the province in the last few days, the customs, FC, and levies have been conducted for four days. Saleem stated that professional smug-

glers adopted various tactics against the customs. Cars were stuck in the sand and law enforcers faced difficulties, he informed.

### FC extends full support to Customs: Saleem

In this regard, the operation was started

Despite odds, customs managed to seize trucks

But despite this, customs and other

institutions took all the goods and vehicles to a safe place with great difficulty. The said 37200 parcels of sugar and fertilizer which were loaded in 45 trucks were recovered. Sugar worth Rs 90 lakh and fertilizer worth Rs 30 lakh were exported. Apart from this, 59 cases of sugar and 3 cases of fertilizer were registered during the two weeks of April. The collector vowed that crackdown against sugar and fertilizers smugglers would continue.



## Sudan: struggle for power kills 180 in 4 days

#### Syed Muhammad Qaseem

According to United Nations report at least 180 people have been killed and nearly 2000 have been injured in Sudan as a result of war between Abdul Fatah El-Burhan, the Army Chief of Sudan and his Deputy Mohamed Hamdan on struggle for power. The war broke out after tensions between the two leaders on Saturday last week. The war started between the Sudan Army and largest para military Force, Rapid Support Force (RSF) over the disagreement on RSF's integration into the Army. Each of the rival groups are continuously claiming that they have occupied and taken control of the key places such as airports. The is gaining more intensity as fighter Jets, tanks and artillery weapons are being used. Both of the leaders accuse each other of starting the war and refusing to negotiate. It is the 4th consecutive day of infighting between the Army and RSF in

Sudan has left every sector of life paralyzed. People are faced with scarcity of water and shortage of food as no one can go outside their homes as a result of the war. Fighter Jets are being witnessed surrounding Khartoum the capital city of Sudan, that is the most affected by the dispute.

### War can lead to a humanitarian catastrophe

The war has led to significant humanitarian concerns, with the reports of civilian casualties and violations of human rights. Many hospitals, schools, and residential buildings have been damaged. The medical staff in the Khartoum city claim that they are facing difficulties even in moving their ambulances. The United Nations (UN) has called for an end to the war as Sudan is already facing humanitarian crisis. Most of its population is faced with food shortage and have no source of livelihood. The World Food Program (WFP) has halted its activities as the war broke out in the country.



## Bail for elites not for common political workers: Maulana Hidayat

GWADAR: Chief of Haq Do Tehrik (HDT), Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman on Tuesday claimed only elites and powerful people were getting bail in the country. "No bail for a common political worker here", the Maulana said outside the session court in the country's port city. A large number of HDT workers and supporters were also present on the occasion. Police arrested Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman earlier in January this year for inflicting damages to private and public properties. The charges were vehemently denied by Maulana and other leaders of the HDT.



### HDT announces protest demonstrations on the eve of Eid ul Fitar

"My struggle for the rights of people would continue despite all odds", the HDT Chief stated. He however reiterated that he would not seek any apology from the rulers. "I will spend more Eids inside the jail but would not seek any forgiveness", he stated. Police produced the Maulana before a local court in Gwadar with regard to the registration of the case against him. The HDT has also announced to a stage of protest demonstrations for the release of Maulana and recovery of all missing persons on the eve of Eid ul Fitr.

## SBP, ECP submit reports in SC pertaining to release of funds for polls in KP, Punjab

Both the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday submitted their respective reports to the Supreme Court (SC) pertaining to the release of Rs21 billion for polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The directives for releasing the funds were issued by a three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Mumtaz Akhtar in an April 4 verdict. The apex court had ordered the government to provide Rs21bn to the ECP to conduct elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by April 10, and directed the ECP to provide a report on whether or not the government complied with the order on April 11. However, the government referred the matter to Parliament which defied the court's orders and refused to issue the funds. Last week, the electoral watchdog had submitted a report to the Supreme Court in a sealed envelope. Though the contents of the report are not known, a source privy to the information told Dawn that the one-page report informed the apex court about the government's reluctance to issue the Rs21bn needed for the purpose. Subsequently, the court had directed the SBP to release funds worth Rs21 billion for elections from Account No 1 — a principal component of the Federal Consolidated Fund worth Rs1.20 trillion — and send an "appropriate communication" to this effect to the finance ministry by April 17. Following the top court's orders, the central bank on Monday allocated the funds and sought the finance ministry's nod to release the amount. Web Desk

Increasing ratio of suicides in Balochistan

Editor Asim Khan

In Balochistan, the ratio of suicides continues to increase especially among the women segment of society at an alarming level...

Mental stress, social-tribal taboos, unemployment and poverty appeared to be the underlying reasons behind the increasing ratio of suicides...

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

The health department established a psychiatry institute in the Bolan Medical Complex Hospital (BMCH) after the hectic efforts of well-known psychiatrist Dr. Oshuan Rasool.

It is ironic of fate that mental disorder/stress is hardly considered an illness in our society. People take it very lightly and easily and prefer to avoid psychiatrists.

Education plays a miraculous role in enabling individuals to be successful, and it is essential for everyone to receive an education...

According to the 2017 census

According to the 2017 census, in the literacy rate kech district at 62.66%, Panjgur at 59.22%, Quetta at 58.76%, Pishin at 52.97%, Gwadar at 51.97%, and Nushki at 51.67%.

Women and girls in the Balochistan have extremely poor access to education

Balochistan has the lowest rate of female education in the world, says Member-of the

school last year as there was no wash-room, water or electricity in the one used to attend and I left school without finishing 6th class...

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Girls' literacy rate is taken into account, it is the worst and 27% of girls are literate in Balochistan of which only 2% belongs to rural Balochistan.

Zainab Asif

lege of the province would soon start work in Quetta, which would provide better opportunities for female students to get skilled-based education.

He said that the government was paying special attention to the educational institutions and soon branches of the government polytechnic institutes would be established in every district of the province.

According to UNICEF Pakistan's report, less than 12 percent women in Balochistan made it past primary school. Unfortunately, 25% of these schools are non-functional. Additionally, only 7% of girls attend school, with the remaining only appearing in examinations.

Tales from the Mountains

By Jamil Akhtar

The northern areas of Pakistan are among the most beautiful parts of our planet. Here, nature can be witnessed in all its might and glory.

UNDP has been very active in the northern parts of the country, including Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the Gilgit Baltistan province.

The drastic changes in the climate are wreaking devastation on glaciers in the north over and Pakistan is no exception.

To prevent this from happening a project by the name of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF-I) was initiated a few years back by the International Centre for

In addition to climate change, the increase in the human population has also adversely affected the environment.



Wide Fund for Nature and Snow Leopard Foundation.

Improving the living conditions of the people has had primary importance in UNDP's efforts. The provision of clean drinking water is a very important aspect of these efforts.

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These initiatives of CNKP and CCAM-II projects have been funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Government of Italy, and the Global Water Challenge (Coca-Cola Foundation).

The author is an international award-winning writer, and photographer, currently working as a consultant for UNDP Pakistan

Disturbing inequality

Dr Rafiqe A Memon

The policies of Pakistan's ruling establishment have turned the country into a dead-end trap for ordinary people who are left in the lurch month of Ramadan.

This year, distribution drives organized during the early days of Ramadan were mismanaged, resulting in deadly stampedes. This economic inequality is a result of extractive policies of the elite - politicians, generals, judges, business owners, landed aristocracy and bureaucrats who have created an unjust and discriminatory society.

The legal system of the country is so skewed and hostile for ordinary people that it requires nerves of steel, unimaginable financial resources, time and energy to pursue genuine cases.

The absence of a social apparatus is missing, investment in human development is far from adequate and health facilities for ordinary people are few and far between.

trolling and suppressing people. Inheritance on the part of rulers reigns supreme. They are blissfully ignorant of the problems faced by the people and are more interested in expanding their political activities to extend their power.

The scenario portrayed above carries all the ingredients of a failed nation where we are plagued by such evils as poverty, health and sickness, and food and famine.

The dejected educated youth believe that the ruling class has been using its citizens for the last 75 years and that this country is a waste of time.

75 years and that this country is a waste of time. We now see an increase in the number of students registered with coaching centres like IELTS, TOEFL, GRE preparation classes.

Life after abrogation of J.O.K's autonomy

In 2019, BJP revoked the special status of then Jammu and Kashmir, and illegally integrated with India. I was studying in India at the time when my family was in Kashmir. Due to the communication blockade, I was not able to connect with them for a very long time.

It all started after partition. The British did not divide the princely states as they were ruled by princes. In fact, they never had proper control over these states to begin with. To solve this issue, India created the Instrument of Accession which allowed the princely states to accede to India.

neither acceded to India nor Pakistan and decided to remain independent. After doing so, Pakistan tried to enter its territory to take control. In order to defend his state, the Maharaja asked India for military help but India only agreed to help if Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India.

Since the accession to India was not acceptable by the people, the Indian government gave it special status. In the Presidential order of 1954, Article 370 and 35(A) to end terrorism and integrate Jammu and Kashmir with India. Many scholars claim that the removal

of these Articles happened with the intention to change the demography of the region. Since the removal of these articles, the legislative framework of the region has started to change. For example, in colleges 50% of seats are reserved just for Indians.

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Mehak Arshad

guaranteed special status and power to Jammu and Kashmir to have their separate constitution, a state flag, and autonomy of internal administration, defence and communication. Article 35(a) of the Indian Constitution, allowed the state legislature of Jammu and Kashmir to define their people as the 'normal' permanent residents.

Can the disease be cured?

here is such a thing as a false binary. But the fact is, we have already been committed against the people of this country.

Let us begin with stability. Where does instability in Pakistan come from? Let's first remove the distractions of Afghanistan, Iran and India as sovereign countries, and none is a friend or foe of Pakistan.

So, where does instability in Pakistan come from? Pakistan is inherent and unstable by its nature. It is a political system that is constantly in the guardianship of internal and unaccountable military bureaucrats. These are delayed election results and a difference of norms, and more fundamentally questions that should haunt the moral

by Mosharraf Zaidi

and ethical calculus of the most powerful men in the country (and one in London). The real concern is who whippers and from the circuits of jealousy spreading gossip circles of the elite that the country needs 'stability'.

Let us begin with stability. Where does instability in Pakistan come from? Let's first remove the distractions of Afghanistan, Iran and India as sovereign countries, and none is a friend or foe of Pakistan.

# PM stresses 'no politics' on health, education projects

**RAWALPINDI:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday stressed that the development projects, particularly those relating to health and education, must not be politicized and be implemented in the best interest of the general public.

During his visit to the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Transplantation (RIUT), he said no one should be allowed to politicize the projects of any government.

Shehbaz Sharif said it

was time to get united for the proper implementation of the Constitution of the country.

He expressed satisfaction with the successful completion of the first phase of the hospital where patients were being provided best medical treatment in areas of dialysis, kidney ailments, and organ transplants.

He lauded the Punjab administration of health for effectively carrying out the operationalization of the hospital and appreciated doctors and nurses for their dedication.

He mentioned that Rs 5 billion in stone of the hospital RIUT so far and recalled that he laid the foundation of the project which otherwise could have been made earlier.

PM Sharif said earlier, an allegation put against him by a former chief justice of the Supreme Court halted the work on a kidney and liver transplant hospital in Lahore.



**ISLAMABAD:** Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed called on Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik.

# Deadly landslide in Torkham claims two lives, buries several trucks

**PESHAWAR:** Landslide during a thunder and lightning storm in Torkham, a town in Khyber District near the Pak-Afghan border, buried more than 20 trucks killing at least two people, with dozens more feared trapped, officials said.

A fire erupted in several trucks following a landslide but was quickly extinguished by rescue teams. Efforts to provide aid and support to those affected by the incident are being led by Rescue 1122 teams hailing from Khyber, Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, and Mardan.

According to details, several trucks and containers loaded with goods were buried under the debris after a landslide at Torkham Export Road in the Khyber district of KP.

Deputy Commissioner Khyber Abdul Nasir Khan said emergency 1122 teams from Khyber, Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda and Mardan are at the scene and taking part in the relief operation with heavy machinery.

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# IMF continues to ignore many distressed countries: PEW

**ISLAMABAD:** Saifuddin Sheikh, Executive Director of Pakistan Economic Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said the IMF is sitting on more than 1000 billion dollars but it is continuing to ignore many poor countries that are stuck in difficulties.

The policies of the lender are affecting its influence and reputation, and many countries are not listening to it, he said in a press statement.

Saifuddin Sheikh said that despite massive capital, the international organisation is ignoring many countries that are asking for one to three billion dollars, which is reducing confidence in this institution.

The IMF continues to alter its

conditions for loans for political gains, therefore, it would be better to cut the Western Monetary Fund instead of the International Monetary Fund because many poor countries are being neglected by the IMF and are now looking to China for loans. Currently, 65 countries have to return 13 percent of their external debt to China. And in the case of Pakistan, about 30 percent of its external debt is taken from China, which is increasing.

He said that the IMF never presses poor countries to raise taxes on the privileged class; it always targets the common man.

The IMF has been subject to a range of criticisms, generally focused on the conditions of its loans, it has also been criticised for its lack of accountability and willingness to lend to countries that are known for corruption of rulers and wastage of funds.

The IMF always stresses reducing government borrowing, increasing taxes and interest rates, and lowering spending. It also calls for allowing foreign firms to go bankrupt. Its structural adjustment, privatisation, and deregulation have seldom worked as expected.

He recalled that during the Asian crisis of 1997, many countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and

allocation for police training barracks, "We are providing modern weapons and training to the police," Shah said. "Police are also being given handsome salaries."

Murad Ali Shah approved Rs 1.56 billion for Sindh Toll Plaza Surveillance Project. He directed for installation of CCTV cameras on all 40 toll plazas in the province.

Chief Minister also approved releasing budget for the investigation allowance. Sindh CM decided to update and modernize investigation branch of the police.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Sindh Cabinet had approved funds for military-grade weapons procurement in

last month to launch an anti-bandit operation in Katicha area.

Provincial cabinet approved the funds and procurement of modern arms. It was decided to get NOC from the interior ministry after the cabinet's approval.

Sindh cabinet decided to conduct joint operation against dacoits in Katicha area, which will be participated by Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan police departments. "It will be a joint and pre-planned operation," Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said. The Sindh police had in January sought Rs 2.79 billion for the purchase of military-grade sophisticated and heavy weapons.

Later, the judge announced his reserved verdict dropping terrorism charges against the political leader and handing him over to police on Monday. He will be produced before magistrate of a civil court in Bhakkar tomorrow.

# Court quashes terrorism charges against Ali Amin Gandapur

**SARGODHA:** An anti-terrorism court in Sargodha cleared Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Ali Amin Gandapur of terrorism charges, removing sections of terror law in a case registered against him.

The ATC judge announced the verdict after police produced the PTI leader in the court and sought 14-day extension in his physical remand in the checkpost attack case.

Mr Gandapur had been brought to court after expiry of his three-day physical remand in the case. During the hearing, police said the vehicle used by the former minister in the attack was yet to be recovered. The PTI leader's lawyer also submitted his arguments.

# Two terrorists shot dead in Rajanpur operation

**RAJANPUR:** Two terrorists were killed in firing by their accomplices during an intelligence-based operation of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Rajanpur.

Explosives, arms, and detonators were recovered from them. Their three accomplices managed to flee away under the cover of darkness.

# Imran will not appear before IHC over security concerns

**ISLAMABAD:** Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan will not appear before IHC on Tuesday due to security concerns, confirmed his lawyer Barrister Gohar Ali Imran Khan had to appear before IHC today as his interim bail in eight cases is going to expire. Barrister Gohar Ali Imran Khan had to appear before IHC today as his interim bail in eight cases is going to expire. Barrister Gohar Ali Imran Khan had to appear before IHC today as his interim bail in eight cases is going to expire.

# Government reviews ongoing development projects of South Punjab

**BAHAWALPUR:** Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has expressed his satisfaction with the effectiveness and performance of the South Punjab Secretariat and Health Care South Punjab to report within two days about the functioning of dialysis machines in all hospitals.

He said that the establishment of the endowment fund in colleges of South Punjab and the law of compulsory teaching of the Holy Quran in private schools should be strictly implemented.

Secretary of Health Care South Punjab to report within two days about the functioning of dialysis machines in all hospitals.

He issued instructions to complete the Motorway Jhangara Link Road by June 30 this year and said the will personally talk to the Punjab government Secretary of Health Care South Punjab to report within two days about the functioning of dialysis machines in all hospitals.

He said the issues of blockage of sewerage lines in Bahawalpur

# New route of Peoples Bus Service announced

**KARACHI:** Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, who is also the portfolio of transport ministry, on Tuesday announced a new route of the Peoples Bus Service in Karachi.

The new route No 4 of the Peoples Bus Service will start from Power House, Chungi and end at Nagari chorang, Shaifur Moh, Sohrab Goh, Shakra e Pakistan, Aisha Manzil, Lalooh Khan, Teen Hati, Guru Kandi, Namash, Jinnah Hospital, City court, Light House, Boltan Market and Tower.

The Sindh government launched the second route of the electric bus service in Karachi under its Peoples Bus Service programme.

The new route No 2 of the EV bus service starts from Baharia Town and ends at Malir Halt via M9 Toll Plaza, Baga University, Jinnah Hospital, Malir Cantt, Tank Chowk, Model Colony.

Earlier, in a tweet, the PPP leader said, "Sindh government entered into the syndicate and party's leadership and CM Sindh is going to start new routes of buses for the people of Karachi. The new routes will start in current month of Ramadan. These public can use now new fleet of EV buses."

# Pakistan looks forward to explore true potential of bilateral cooperation with Iran: Ayaz

**ISLAMABAD:** Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq says Pakistan looks forward to exploring the true potential of bilateral cooperation with Iran.

He was talking to outgoing Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Hosseini, who paid a farewell call on him in Islamabad today (Tuesday).

During the meeting, both sides agreed to maintain close contact to ensure the continued progress of the economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Ayaz Sadiq expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Hosseini for his dedicated services and congenial relations with its very important neighbouring country Iran.

He noted that under the leadership of the Iranian Ambassador, bilateral trade increased significantly and several joint projects were initiated in various sectors, including energy, agriculture and infrastructure.

The Minister also praised the Ambassador for his proactive and focused role in facilitating the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

# ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf witnessing the Exhibition of rare Manuscripts of the Holy Quran in connection with the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan at Parliament House.



# Pindi Police arrested notorious dacoit wanted in robbery, murder

**RAWALPINDI:** The Rawalpindi Police on Tuesday arrested a notorious dacoit wanted in murder case in the twin city of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The Bani Police held the most wanted dacoit, Halim Khan alias Alam while two members of his gang were already chained, the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson said. The Police also recovered the stolen

money of Rs 37,000 and the weapon used in the crime.

The notorious dacoit had escaped from police custody at the beginning of this year, whose case was registered in Margalla Police Station, Islamabad.

City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mahmood Hamdani appreciated police team and said that several active gangs operating in the city, whose case was registered in Margalla Police Station, Islamabad City Police Officer (CPO) Syed

# Peshawar University teachers end 43-day strike for demands

**PESHAWAR:** The teachers' union at Peshawar University declared Tuesday an end to the 43-day strike after the authorities assured that their demands would be met.

During a meeting with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Higher Education and other relevant officials, the President of the Peshawar University Teachers Association, Dr Uzair, presented demands. After receiving assurance from the governor, chief secretary, and higher education department officials that their demands would be met, the association announced the end of the strike.

The university administration has promised to call a meeting of the syndicate to address the teachers' concerns and conduct a judicial inquiry into the murder of the security supervisor. The administration also assured the teachers that their problems would be resolved in the shortest possible time.

It should be noted that academic activities and administrative affairs were suspended at Peshawar University for over a month due to the teachers' strike, which was initiated following the killing of the security supervisor by teachers and other employees.

# Khald Mahmood Hamdani appreciated police team and said that several active gangs were busted during the month of Ramadan as stolen goods, motorcycles, rickshaws, vehicles and other items worth millions of rupees were recovered.

The CPO further said that strict action would be taken against active and organized gangs operating in the city.

The Bani Police held the most wanted dacoit Halim Khan alias Alam while two members of his gang

# NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Deputy Director Agriculture OFWM Washuk invites sealed tender / bid based on Composite Schedule of Rates, 2018. Government of Balochistan for eligible bidders for execution of following works under the Project National Program for Improvement of Watercourses & Water Storage Tanks Phase-II Balochistan Component PSP (No. 28/2018/1987) on cost sharing basis (Government 75% & Farmer 25%) as per government policy. Tender Fee Rs. 1,000/- in shape of Green Chit form deposited in the account (CO2136) EMoney 2% in shape of Call Deposit and Green Chit form 203-06-2023 in the per

Sl	Description of Works	Estimate	E.Cost
1	Construction of Water Storage Tanks 50x60x4.50 in Brick Masonry (No)on		
2	Construction of Water Storage Tanks 50x50x4.50 in Brick Masonry (No)on		19,482,989
3	Construction of Water Storage Tanks 40x40x4.50 in Brick Masonry (No)on		
4	Construction of Water Storage Tanks 40x30x4.50 in Brick Masonry (No)on		
5	Construction of Water Storage Tanks 30x30x4.50 in Brick Masonry (No)on		

Procurements shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014 Basic Eligibility: Preference in Active Tax Payers List. The bidding form must not be issued by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Bidding/contract Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignments of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 15,482,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Up to 50million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Grade is C6(4) (Drain/Water Retention Structures), C6(9) (Sewerage Works), CE (6) (General Civil Engineering Works), Income Tax Return for last three years. Audit Report/Audit Balance sheet for last three years Method of Procurement: Single-Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. Issuance: Tender documents will be issued from the date of NIT published in newspapers till 03:00 pm of bid submission. The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned if any working day or can be downloaded from authority website against fee mentioned. TENDER NO. 22230-229233 Bid Validity Period: 90 days Deadline of Bid submission: The tender should be submitted on 05-05-2023 till 11:00 sharp at the office of the undersigned. Tender opening: Initially Technical Proposal will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 12:00. Envelope marked as Financial Proposal shall be retained in the custody of Procuring Agency. Address: Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management District Washuk.

# PRQ No. 3439/18-04-2023

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The Bani Police held the most wanted dacoit Halim Khan alias Alam while two members of his gang

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# Ambassador Moinul Haque invites Chinese enterprises to visit Pakistan for TEXPO 2023

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Ambassador to China Moinul Haque has invited Chinese enterprises and companies to visit Pakistan and participate in the 4th International Textile Exhibition (TEXPO) 2023 to be held in Karachi next month.

"I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Chinese enterprises and companies to come and join us in TEXPO," Ambassador said in a statement according to Gwadar Pro.

Ambassador Haque said his team at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing and Pakistan's Consulates in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Hong Kong would facilitate the participation and visit of Chinese enterprises and companies.

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is organizing TEXPO 2023 from May 26 to 28 this year at Karachi Expo Center.

Giving details of the upcoming three-day event, he said that it is Pakistan's largest textile and leather exhibition providing a platform for local and international companies dealing in raw materials and finished products with globally competitive prices and premium quality.

"The theme of this year's TEXPO is leading the way to sustainability and this theme is a tribute to the efforts of the local and global textile industry that continues to strive towards ensuring compliance with local and international environmental laws ensuring consumer protection and eco-friendly practices."

Ambassador Haque maintained that TEXPO offers three days of exhibitions, business-to-business opportuni-

ties, fashion shows, design studios, product displays, press and media events, industry visits and business opportunities seminars.

"TEXPO's main focus would be apparel, art and silk synthetic textile, carpets, denim, fabric yarn, finished leather products, footwear, home textiles, personal protective equipment, sportswear, tents and canvas, textile machinery, towels and many more."

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# Gwadar Free Zones to become Export Industrial Parks soon

ISLAMABAD: With multifaceted dividends of COPIC's 10 years saga of development, Gwadar Free Zones are heading to become Export Industrial Parks. China Overseas Port Holding Company (COHC) new chairman Yu Bo said in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

He said Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zones offer immense potential investment opportunities for investors from Pakistan and abroad.

"The policy framework and guiding principles administered by Gwadar Port and Free Zones have been keeping in view its geo-economic significance for transformation."

Since Gwadar Free Zones are exempted from all sorts of provincial taxes, federal taxes and custom duties, investors especially those who plan to do manufacturing businesses will be in good position to cash in on such incentives," he added.

"With no additional costs in the zones, the cost of production becomes much less than that of tariff area. Subsequently, the products will be cheaper and competitive in the global market."

Potential investors must take advantage of these commerce encouragements. Besides, these business encouragements provide Pakistan traders with an indispensable platform to expand exports and strengthen foreign exchange reserves.

"Now it is completely functional," Yu told the reporters. It is equipped with full capacity to handle bulk cargo, containerized and LPG vessels. The three multi-purpose berths can process hundreds of metric tons of urea and DAP fertilizer.

When asked what kind of difficulties are being faced in making Gwadar Port and Free Economic Zone func-

tional and profitable, he replied that number one obstacle is security precariousness.

Although it has been improved over the last many months but still there is a bigger room to bridge security gaps, he added. Second risk problem is high costs of electricity generated with diesel-generator. If they receive grid-related power, development will be accelerated.

Another dilemma is about Pakistan currency devaluation. Chinese companies in Gwadar have been demanding and seeking permission to be settled in Chinese currency instead of US dollar. If the government accepts it, companies will have high relief," he added.

Responding to another question, he said that the operator of Free Zones, Gwadar Free Zone Company, has no plan to do any other facilities including water and power are provided to its investors. Thus, COPIC is working on many power and water projects. COPIC has established two desalination plants with production capacity of 0.2 million and 0.1 million gallons per day in the Free Zone and Port areas respectively to supply uninterrupted water for consumption. In connection with addressing water woes, Chinese funded 1.2 MGD desalination water plant is in its final stage of completion. Similarly, in order to ensure all power requirements of the allied industries and port facilities, the 8.5 MW diesel generator is providing electricity to keep port and free zones' operations running 24/7 without any interruption. Gwadar Port is also going to receive 20 MW from Gwadar Grid Station that will help meet electricity needs presently," he revealed.

He said that the cost of the construction of the 1.2 MGD desalination water plant has been completed. INP



**RAWALPINDI:** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits different wards of Institute of Urology and Transplantation Rawalpindi and interacted with patients under treatment, in City.

## Women thieves' gang arrested

KARACHI: The police have arrested a gang of three women thieves in the Korangi Awami Colony area of Karachi.

According to Karachi Police, the arrested women commit thefts in markets and crowded places while the CCTV footage of this group in various markets also went viral.

The official said that police had been searching the gang involved in theft incidents and the arrested women in police action were identified as Nazia, Hamida and Iqra.

The police further said that a case has been registered against the three women and they have been transferred to the Women Police Station for investigation. INP

## SC's verdict would determine direction of country future: Rasheed

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said on Tuesday the Supreme Court of Pakistan's verdict on elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would determine the direction of the country facing economic, political and constitutional crises.

In a series of tweets, the former interior minister said the top court would make the government pay heads to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for polls, adding that the government is flouting the court orders would face the music.

"Caretaker governments' tenure has ended as 90 days have passed," he said, adding that the top court has now driven the country out of crisis. He said parliament without lawmakers, and illegal cabinet could not face the judiciary.

He said the apex court would discharge its constitutional and legal responsibility this week, and that the whole nation was supporting the judiciary. He said the interior and law ministers were hounding the judges at the judiciary and they could face treason cases over such statements.

He lamented that no meetings were being held to discuss inflation and unemployment. He said the government had suppressed the masses with price inflation and that the prices witnessed downward trend in the international market but the situation in Pakistan was the other way round. INP

## PM urges all segments of society to stay united for serving humanity

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif formally inaugurated various services for the patients at Urology Department of Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Transplantation (RIUT) Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of Secretary Health, Vice Chancellor and management of the Hospital for timely completing the project and ensuring safety of the patients at health facilities in the city.

The Prime Minister said the groundbreaking ceremony of this hospital was laid by him and sufficient funds were provided during his last tenure as Chief Minister Punjab that helped complete the various units of this hospital highlighting the role of the hospital during COVID-19 pandemic, he said efforts will be made to provide modern facilities to this hospital.

Expressing regret over the steps taken by former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar and PTI chairman to undermine the health department, the Prime Minister categorically said that no one would be allowed to do politics over health and education. He said all the segments of the society including political parties to stay united to serve the health department. He visited various wards of the hospital and also inspected the facilities provided at different units. He also interacted with the patients and entered wards of the health and facilities they were availing at the hospital. INP

## Eid-ul-Fitar shopping getting momentum in twin-cities

ISLAMABAD: Despite of rising inflation in Pakistan, the people are making arrangements to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitar with full religious zeal. Eid shopping is getting momentum in the twin cities Rawalpindi and Islamabad as buyers swarm markets and shopping malls all over the city during the last Ashra of Ramadan without being worried about the early closure of shops.

This time the relaxation of the business hours will not only facilitate customers but also help traders to sell out the stock they have booked for Eid.

Several local brands have begun displaying their latest Eid editions of dresses, shoes, and other essential accessories to attract buyers and gain maximum profit.

Families come out for shopping soon after iftar and are seen buying shoes, cosmetics, ready-made garments, eye-catching artificial jewellery, multi-coloured bangles, and other items for the upcoming festival of Eid-ul-Fitar.

A colourful variety of stalls have been set up displaying earlins, glittering bangles, embroidered clothes, and jewellery in markets as Aabpara market, Sitra, mass-used Super market, Jinnah super, Karachi company and F-10 in Islamabad and in different parts of Rawalpindi as Sadar, Commerce Chowk, Raja Bazar, Commercial Market and Muzee road.

A bangle seller in Aabpara Market said "The number of customers is gradually picking up and hopefully it will go further up as Eid ul Fitr approaches." A customer said in Sadar Rawalpindi, "I have completed shopping for my kids and I have bought clothes and matching shoes." Hawkers are also making brisk sales of clothes, footwear, cosmetics, and other goods as these products are generally purchased by low-income people ahead of Eid in Raja Bazar, said another citizen. Several Eid shoppers also complained of overpricing, especially INP.

## Sindh Govt launches free mortuary service

KARACHI: The Sindh health government on Tuesday launched a free mortuary van service across the province.

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechhoo inaugurated the service. The Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services will operate free mortuary van service. A total of 25 mortuary vans will be used to transport bodies for free throughout Sindh. This will be the first such service of its kind in the province.

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechhoo inaugurated the service. The Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services will operate free mortuary van service. A total of 25 mortuary vans will be used to transport bodies for free throughout Sindh. This will be the first such service of its kind in the province.

Initially, eight vehicles will be stationed in Karachi, 5 in Hyderabad region, 2 each will be deployed in Mirpurkhas, Shabead Benazirabad, Sukkur and Larkana regions.

The service will be provided free of charge on a first come first served basis to those who cannot afford to transport the bodies of their loved ones.

The service will be offered based on a first-come, first-served basis. This service will be offered without charge to those who cannot afford it after adequate verification. Only bodies from hospitals shall be transported by mortuary vans. The service will initially be only for within the district transportation. Free mortuary service will be accessible throughout Sindh by dialling 1122.

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## JJ Ameer urges Govt to step back from their red line, hold elections

ATTOCK: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq has urged upon the ruling government to step back from their red line and hold elections as it is the only way to bring political stability to Pakistan. While speaking to a private TV channel program he stated that 90-day time has already passed and according to the constitution the government must hold an election. "As a stakeholder, Jamaat-e-Islami wants to participate in the elections," Sirajul Haq said.

Sirajul Haq said that the politicians and ruling government must follow the constitution, adding that the clashes with the institutions will never be beneficial for anyone. He said that as a citizen and party responsible, he is making efforts, and three institutions must remain impartial, otherwise,

it will be difficult to save democracy and politics.

The JI chief said that decisions related to the fate of the nation cannot be taken behind closed doors. He added that JI wants peaceful elections as the country belongs to the people and not to a single political party. It was worth mentioned here that Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) announced on Sunday it would host an all parties conference (APC) after Eidul Fitr to develop consensus on same-day elections. JI leadership has already initiated spadework for the much-needed APC as its Ameer Sirajul Haq called upon Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday in the meetings. The JI Ameer had proposed that the APC would be held on one-point. INP

## Upcoming Eid will be un-exciting for masses, dismal for business community: ICCI

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said the upcoming Eid will be un-exciting for the masses and dismal for the business community.

ICCI Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said the upcoming Eid will be un-exciting for the masses and dismal for the business community. He said that the purchasing power is struggling to manage their food, so they would not be able to buy anything for their families, he added.

But said in a statement issued here today that electricity, gas, flour, sugar, ghee, vegetables, and other essential items, rent and school fees, has become expensive, and it has become difficult for people to manage things with their shrinking income.

In one year, the price of petrol has increased by one hundred and thirty-three per cent. This trend is not stopping and is taking a toll on the economy, and the masses, but the politicians are fully engaged in a power struggle that has made them indifferent to the problems of the people, he added.

The business leader said that the masses are told about the IMF loan very frequently, but six months have passed and there is no good news from the lender.

The IMF is not ready to trust Pakistan because of broken promises in the past for the sake of the elite.

Some people believe that the tension between the United States and China is also the reason for the delay in the approval of the loan installment.

He noted that the price of oil is decreasing in the global market, but instead of giving the benefit of it to the people, it is being made expensive repeatedly. If the government wants to earn money only by selling the fuel, why is it spending billions of rupees on the tax collection agencies, he questioned.

He said that in these circumstances, the government is not ready to receive IMF funds. He said, adding that instead of giving INP.

## Imran's bailable arrest warrant issued in woman judge threat case

ISLAMABAD: A local court of Islamabad on Tuesday issued bailable arrest warrants for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan and his wife. The court issued a case of threatening a woman judge.

The case of threatening the judge against former prime minister Imran Khan was heard at the District and Sessions Court. Prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbas appeared in court of Judicial Magistrate Iqbal Ahsan during the hearing.

Prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbas, giving arguments in court, said Imran Khan had been summoned by the court in personal capacity and his request for bail was not approved at the previous hearings.

He pleaded the court that Imran's request for exemption from attendance should not be approved. Mr. Abbas asked the court to issue non-bailable arrest warrants for Imran Khan. He inquired whether the court would exhibit the same behaviour with any other accused. He said, "An appeal is always filed on behalf of Imran in the court, but he himself does not appear in court."

The prosecutor requested the court to issue a non-bailable arrest warrant for Imran. He also urged the court that Imran should submit surety bonds for bail. The court adjourned hearing of the case till arrival of Imran Khan's lawyers. After the break in the hearing, Imran Khan's lawyers Ali Bukhari and Faisal Chaudry appeared in court. INP



**ISLAMABAD:** Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## China offers to mediate between Israel and Palestine

BEIJING: China's foreign minister told his Israeli and Palestinian counterparts his country is ready to help facilitate peace talks, Xinhua reported.

The separate phone calls between Qin Gang and the Israeli and Palestinian top officials, came in the wake of Beijing to position itself as a regional mediator.

Qin encouraged "steps to resume peace talks," and said that "China is ready to provide convenience for this," in a Monday phone call with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen.

In his conversation with Palestinian foreign minister Riyad Al-Maliki, Qin is reported to have said that Beijing supports the resumption of talks as soon as possible. In both calls he emphasised China's push for peace talks on the basis of implementing a "two-state solution," Xinhua said. The talks come at a time of rising tensions in Israel. Clashes at the Gaza Strip began in October 2022, in which at least 400 Palestinians were arrested by raiding Israeli countries, drew a burst of condemnations from Arab countries across the region.

## Eight members of Kokani, Lathani gangs arrested

RAHIM YAR KHAN: The Punjab Police arrested eight members of the Kokani and Lathani gangs and destroyed their several hideouts of the robbers in the Kathcha area.

A spokesperson for the Punjab Police said the forces made some significant achievements on the ninth day of the grand operation launched under the supervision of Rahim Yar Khan District Police Officer Riazwan Umar Gondal.

He said the police used modern technology, heavy weapons and armored personnel carriers (APCs) against criminals and arrested the key members of the Kokani and Lathani gangs after an intense exchange of fire. He said that the forces also moved ahead and carried out a major operation, destroyed the hideouts of the Farda Kokani Gang and arrested one member of the gang.

They said the gang was involved in kidnaping of a young child from the

Jhuk family. Several Kalashnikovs, hundreds of bullets and other weapons were recovered from the arrested gangsters. The recovered weapons included some of another hardened gangster, namely Qabli Sikhani. When the police surrounded the hideout, the robbers fled and escaped and the forces were pursuing him in the riverine areas.

DPO Riazwan Umar Gondal said the operation took part in the mega operation in Kathcha was high.

He said the spokesperson of Punjab Police, during the operation, the number of arrested suspects has reached 18 while 3 robbers have been killed, various types of heavy weapons have been recovered from the possession of the arrested suspects, including launchers, rockets, RPGs and grenades. Includes dozens of Kalashnikovs and thousands of different bore bullets. INP



**QUETTA:** People selecting and purchasing shoes from shop on ahead of start Eid-ul-Fitr.