

QUETTA VOICE

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Sherani calls for limiting powers of political heads like CJ



Judge threat case: Islamabad court converts Imran's non-bailable arrest warrants into bailable again

PPL attitude towards Balochistan intolerable: CM Bizenjo

Staff Reporter

QUETTA, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo on Friday said the attitude of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) was intolerable towards the province. The CM lashed out at the PPL for its failure to pay an outstanding of Rs.30 billion to Balochistan.

Addressing the provincial cabinet's meeting, the CM expressed serious reservations and apprehensions about the attitude of the PPL towards Balochistan. "Neither the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) providing gas supply to Balochistan nor PPL paying its dues", the CM lamented.

Committee formed to take up the PPL issue with the federal government

The provincial government formed a committee comprising provincial ministers Gohram Bagti, Syed Ehsan Shah, Zamarak Khan Achakzai, and Omar Jamali to take up the issue of PPL with the federal government. CM Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo



said that the attitude of PPL is intolerable. Balochistan should continue to get its rights according to the constitution and law. There are companies that have been exploiting Balochistan for 75 years.

Resources of Balochistan being exploited for the last 75 years: CM

Constitution says the province which has natural resources will have the first right, Bizenjo

The cabinet members said that they will not allow anyone to enjoy the resources of Balochistan and ignore its people. Natural gas is the biggest source of income in Balochistan.

Mr. Bizenjo said that the constitution says that the province which has natural resources will have the first right to that province. Since the production of gas started in 1954, we have not been given our rights till now, the CM concluded.

At least 12 dead in stampede at Karachi's SITE area during Zakat distribution

At least 12 people died in a stampede during distribution of Zakat among the families of employees working at a private com-



pany in Karachi's Sindh Industrial and Trading Estate (SITE) area on Friday.

In a statement, a spokesperson for Karamari police initially said that 11 people had died while five others had been injured. The spokesperson said the injured had been shifted to the hospital while further investigation was under way, adding that most of the victims were women between 40 to 50 years of age.

Later, South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Irfan Ali Baloch said that another woman had died, taking the death toll to 12.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told Dawn.com that three children were among the dead. Karamari Senior Superintendent of Police

employees in order to distribute Zakat among them. He said that "around 400 women" had arrived and fearing a large crowd, the company staff closed the doors. He said that inside the premises there were no arrangements in place for making a queue, adding that local police were also not informed about the activity.

SSP Janwari said that several women fainted from the heat and the stampede. He said police contingents rushed to the spot, detained some of the employees on charges of negligence and shifted the women to different hospitals. "Report by the company's owner was not present," he said.

South DIG Baloch said the company used to distribute Zakat and other items among the poor in Ramadan Web Desk.

Cabinet approves Balochistan health card program

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

QUETTA, The Balochistan cabinet approved a health card program to facilitate the masses and ensure the provision of health facilities across the province.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo chaired a prolonged session of the cabinet, which discussed a total of 63 points.

Health card to be functional for 3 years

The cabinet approved the health card for three years for all families of Balochistan and for this purpose Rs.5 billion have been allocated, an official handout issued here on Friday said. The cabinet also approved



the Balochistan digital media policy 2023. Under the newly reviewed policy, advertisements can be issued to newspapers, TV channels, and digital media to promote the government's policies among the masses.

Cabinet approves handing over of 170 tubewells to WASA

To address the water scarcity issue in Quetta, the cabinet decided to hand over 170 private tube wells to the WASA to make sure provision of clean drinking

water to the citizens.

Son quota approved for the heirs of dead employees

In a major development, the Balochistan cabinet also approved the policy of jobs for the heirs of dead employees. This was one of the longstanding demands of retired employees in Balochistan. The cabinet also approved various schemes for the promotion of sports activities in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. The cabinet decided to make the Shahid Afridi Cricket Academy functional to promote cricket in the province. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo urged the cabinet members and the officers to ensure the implementation of the cabinet decisions. Every decision has to be implemented in letter and spirit, Mr. Bizenjo stated.

Sherani calls for limiting powers of political heads like CJ

News Desk

QUETTA, Senior politician and religious leader, Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani has called for clipping the powers of political heads like the Chief Justice of Pakistan. In a statement issued here on Friday, Maulana Sherani stated that the political leaders should follow the precedent of clipping the powers of the chief justice. Their powers should also be limited if they want true democracy in the country, the senior parliamentarian and religious leader suggested.

He has said that earlier the Supreme Court has declared in one of its orders that any action



taken by the Prime Minister without the approval of the Cabinet will be considered a personal order of the Prime Minister and not as a government action.

Judges together form the institution of the Supreme Court

Legislation is being enacted to limit the powers of the Chief Justice that the Supreme Court is not only the Chief Justice's person, but all the judges together form the Supreme Court institution.

It happens that there is a consensus on both judicial and the political parties are practically not ready to implement and recognize this principle at the party level, he mentioned.

Judge threat case: Islamabad court converts Imran's non-bailable arrest warrants into bailable again

An Islamabad district and sessions court on Friday converted former prime minister Imran Khan's non-bailable arrest warrants in a case related to alleged threats made to a judge into a bailable warrant till April 18.

On March 13, a non-bailable arrest warrant was issued for the PTI chairman after he failed to appear in court in the same case. The next day an Islamabad district and sessions court suspended the same warrant.

On March 24, another Islamabad lower court converted the non-bailable arrest warrant into a bail-



able warrant. It had also dismissed the former premier's plea to extend the suspension of the same arrest warrant. Subsequently, on March 29 an Islamabad court issued

non-bailable arrest warrants for Imran in the case as he failed to appear before the court.

Additional Sessions Judge Sikandar Khan converted the non-bailable

arrest warrants into bailable ones while hearing a review petition filed against the issuance of the non-bailable arrest warrants. However, the CJP said that the case record instead of Margalla Police Station's investigation officer.

Prosecutor Adnan Ali was unable to appear before the court because he was busy in an Anti-Terrorism Court Web Desk.

SC rejects AGP's request for full court in election delay case

A diminished Supreme Court bench comprising three judges on Friday rejected Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan's request for the formation of a full court to hear PTI's petition against the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision to postpone elections to the Punjab Assembly till Oct 8.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case after the original five-member bench constituted for the matter was disbanded following the recusal of Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, which came a day after Justice Khan, took the apex court by surprise today and fuelled calls from government figures to constitute



a full court to hear the case. However, it was CJP Bandial, Justice Ahsan and Justice Akhtar who conducted the proceedings.

During the hearing, when the AGP requested the formation of a full court, Justice Bandial remarked that the court had conducted proceedings into the case for three complete days and that the inclusion of new judges to the bench will further waste time. "It will take time for the new judges to understand the case," he observed, adding that Article 184(3) of the Supreme Court Rules 1980 was clear on the matter. Justice Akhtar also said that it was everyone's right to request a full court but the government giving the impression that benches were formed on "favouritism" was a serious accusation. "The Supreme

Court has said that the CJP is the master of making benches," he added.

As the proceeding commenced today, the chairman of the executive committee of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) appeared before the bench. However, the CJP said that the court will hear his arguments later. "The bar has nothing to do with supporting anyone," PBC's Hassan Raza Pasha stated. "If not a full court bench, you can call a full court meeting."

The CJP responded that he was pondering over it and went on to say that the SC judges shared good relations. Two judges recused themselves from the hearing today and yesterday, he said, revealing that polite conversations took place between the judges both before the recusal and afterwards Web Desk.

Glaucoma in children increasing at a rapid pace

RAWALPINDI: The prevalence of glaucoma in children is increasing at a rapid pace in Pakistan which requires proper intervention. Al-Shifa Trust eye hospital said Friday. Glaucoma in children is a vision-threatening condition and is highly prevalent in our population. This may be due to the high incidence of consanguinity or family marriages in Pakistan, it said.

Timely medication and surgical treatment can help control this disease with a good visual outcome and can save many children from lifelong visual disability or blindness. Prof. Dr. Sumaira

Alaf, Head of the Paediatric department at Al-Shifa Trust. She said that glaucoma in children is a hereditary disease caused by a genetic defect and in Pakistan is suffering from it.

Treatment of glaucoma needs the specialised medical and surgical care and frequent follow-up hence parents of children suffering from childhood glaucoma have to face psychological and financial stress, she added. Dr. Sumaira Alaf said that Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital provides free of cost medical and surgical treatment to 80 per cent of patients

who are treated by experienced and skilled Paediatric Ophthalmologists.

On average 22 to 25 paediatric eye surgeries are performed daily. A large number of patients has resulted in a high number of referrals to the trust's hospital from all over the country. A large number of cases of paediatric glaucoma are secondary causes either due to trauma, previous eye surgery, associated eye anomalies or in judicious use of steroids. Dr Sumaira highlighted that I



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of national health services Abdulqadir Patel visiting regional blood centre Islamabad along with high level delegation of UAE.

Six dacoits shot dead during Okara, Kandhkot encounters

OKARA: Four dacoits were killed in firing by their accomplices in Okara while two others were shot dead in a police encounter in Kandhkot, police said on Friday.

Four dacoits were shot dead by their accomplices during a police encounter in the jurisdiction of Hujra Shah Muegem police near Kam Parshad bridge, Okara.

Seven dacoits were robbing police of valuables on Kam Parshad bridge when a police team arrived. On seeing the police, the accused opened indiscriminate fire.

The police fired back in retaliation. When the firing stopped, the police found six dacoits dead. They had been shot dead

by their three accomplices who had managed their escape good. The identity of the deceased dacoits was yet to be ascertained. The police recovered illegal weapons and two stolen Honda 125CG motorcycles from the crime scene. Search in the area for the arrest of the fleeing dacoits was underway.

In Kandhkot, two dacoits were killed while an accomplice of them escaped during a shooting with police near B-10 Indus highway with the intention of committing a robbery. They opened fire on a police team as soon as the latter reached the spot. Two dacoits

were killed in retaliatory fire by the police while an accomplice of them managed to flee away.

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New SC bench to hear elections' case today

ISLAMABAD: A new bench of the Supreme Court is set to resume hearing the PTI's petition regarding delay in election on Punjab today Friday. A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munsif Akhtar, and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail will take up the case at 11:30am.

The original five-member bench of the top court hearing the case was dissolved on Thursday after Justice Aminuddin Khan rescued himself from the bench.

As Thursday's hearing was resumed, CJP Bandial said Justice Khan wanted to say something. Later, Justice Khan announced he could not be part of the bench after his yesterday's verdict regarding suo motu cases.

The second part of the three-member bench which on Wednesday ordered suspending proceedings on ongoing suo motu notices until rules for the procedure were framed. The bench, headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa, had issued the verdict on Friday. The verdict had been issued with 2-1 majority as Justice Shahid Waheed wrote a dissenting note, stating the verdict was issued on matters that were not raised before the court. I

Women empowerment help to boost productivity, ensure food security: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Women play a vital role in the agriculture sector and possess valuable knowledge and skills that are critical for agricultural productivity and food security. Agriculture is a fundamental aspect of any country's economy, and its success largely depends on the contributions of its people, including women.

In a discussion with WealthPK, Economic Consultant at the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Dr Muhammad Ali Talpur said, "Women play a critical role in agriculture, as they make up a significant portion of the agricultural workforce."

51% of the people in our country are women. The current share of agriculture accounts for 22% of GDP and 83 million people are engaged in agriculture, of which 40 million are women. Women play their part in various

fields of agriculture, he said.

Many educated women have adopted agriculture as a profession and are working as scientists and field assistants. "Despite their significant contribution, women face several challenges in accessing and utilizing agricultural resources, including land, credit, and technology. They also encounter cultural and gender-based barriers that limit their participation in the decision-making processes and restrict their access to education and training."

To overcome these challenges, there is a need to leverage women's knowledge and skills in agriculture. Women possess valuable skills and knowledge that are critical for agricultural development, including knowledge of local crops, traditional farming practices, and natural resource management. By leveraging

women's knowledge and skills, we can enhance agricultural productivity and ensure food security for our country, he added.

He suggested that governments and development organizations should work to ensure that women have equal access to the agricultural resources such as land, credit, and technology. Women should be provided with education and training opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills. The agricultural sector should encourage women involvement in decision-making. This will ensure that their perspectives and knowledge are taken into account in policy and program development.

Dr. Talpur said women's subdivision should be recognized and valued, which will help change cultural and gender-based attitudes towards them in agriculture and promote greater gender equality. I



QUETTA: Daily wages labours sitting with their work tools at Bacha Khan Chowk.

LHC accepts bail plea of former XEN in corruption case

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday accepted the post-arrest bail of former XEN Rana Muhammad Iqbal Ashraf in an bribery case involving ex-secretary to CM Muhammad Khan Bhatti. The court also ordered the accused to submit Rs100,000 surety bonds against the bail.

The LHC judge Justice Shahram Sarwar Chaudhry heard the case. Advocate Muhammad Qaiser Amin Rana represented Rana Iqbal Ashraf. According to prosecutor, the accused offered bribe to ex-principal secretary to CM Muhammad Khan Bhatti for the choice posting.

However, advocate Amin Rana contended that police extracted statement invoking section 164 from the accused

under duress. The statement taken under duress has no legal value, he added.

He went on to say that the court should not accept the other proof except the statement given under duress.

The government prosecutor, however, opposed the bail plea and told the court that the accused's properties and all record during his posting was being seized by the authorities.

The Punjab Anti-Corruption Tribunal Establishment, Lahore region, registered an FIR incorporating the ex-principal secretary Bhatti had received millions of rupees for lucrative postings from SDO Highway Rana Muhammad Ashraf during last few years.

The FIR further men-

tioned that Rana Muhammad Iqbal Ashraf had received Rs70 million as kickbacks and bribe during posting as XEN M&R Gujarat Division, 250 million rupees during posting as SDO Phalga charge from May 2021 to May 2022 as XEN Highways District Kasur and 120 million rupees for awarding contract to pave basic infrastructure company and Rana construction company.

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Pakistan upset Australia to reach World Group

PESHAWAR: Pakistan caused a major upset by beating a strong Australian team 2-1 in their quarter-final tie of the ITF World Tennis Junior Team competition in Asia. Pakistan's Abubakar Talha was declared a 6-4, 3-0 winner against Australia's Taiki Takizawa who retired while his team-mate Kose Cooper outlasted Hamza Roman in a 3-0 victory. Pakistan's Abubakar Talha was declared a 6-4, 3-0 winner against Australia's Taiki Takizawa who retired while his team-mate Kose Cooper outlasted Hamza Roman in a 3-0 victory. Pakistan's Abubakar Talha was declared a 6-4, 3-0 winner against Australia's Taiki Takizawa who retired while his team-mate Kose Cooper outlasted Hamza Roman in a 3-0 victory. Pakistan's Abubakar Talha was declared a 6-4, 3-0 winner against Australia's Taiki Takizawa who retired while his team-mate Kose Cooper outlasted Hamza Roman in a 3-0 victory. I



PESHAWAR: Trehek-e-Insaf workers are demonstrating in front of the press club.

Pakistan logs another near-100 Covid infections

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has posted 98 more Covid-19 infections with no fatalities during the last 24 hours, showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Friday morning.

According to the NIH data, the death toll in the country remained the same at 30,649 whereas the number of total infections now went up to 1,579,617 after adding the fresh 98 cases.

During the last 24 hours (Thursday), 4,639 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 2.11%. The number of patients in critical care stood at 22. India reports over 3,000 new Covid-19 cases just a day after hitting the 2,000-mark. India recorded over 3,000 Covid-19 cases as infections started surging at a faster rate. By Wednesday, the seven-day average of daily cases had nearly doubled as opposed to the previous few days. India logged 3,016 fresh cases, the highest single-day tally since October 2 last year. Though hospitalisation rates are low, epidemiologists warn against any complacency. I

Indus Dyeing & Manufacturing Company sales, profits dip: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Indus Dyeing & Manufacturing Company Limited's revenue stood at Rs21.9 billion in the first six months of the ongoing financial year 2022-23, down from Rs23.7 billion over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

The gross profit of the company also decreased by 59% to Rs1.95 billion in 6MFY23 from the gross profit of Rs4.77 billion recorded in 6MFY22.

The company posted a net profit of Rs69.5 million in 6MFY23, down a massive 98% from the profit of Rs3.2 billion in 6MFY22, reports WealthPK.

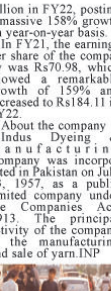
Performance in 2021-22: During the fiscal year 2021-22, the company's gross sales jumped to Rs75.3 billion from Rs49 billion in FY21, posting an increase of 53% year-on-year.

The gross profit for FY22 jumped to Rs14.5 billion, 123% up from Rs6.5 billion in FY21. 1913 is the principal activity of the company in FY21, the after-tax profit leapt to Rs9.98

billion in FY22, posting a massive 158% growth on year-on-year basis.

In FY21, the earnings per share of the company was Rs70.98, which showed a remarkable growth of 159% and increased to Rs184.11 in FY22.

About the company: Indus Dyeing & Manufacturing Company was incorporated in Pakistan on July 23, 1957, as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1913. The principal activity of the company is the manufacturing and sale of yarn. I



KARACHI: Volunteers distribute Ifar food plates for muslim devotees before breaking their fast on the holy fasting month of Ramadan, in Provincial Capital.

Pakistan can achieve fiscal sustainability by improving tax-to-GDP ratio: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs to restore fiscal sustainability by increasing tax-to-GDP ratio through tax reforms, said a renowned economist. Dr. Abdul Rashid, Director General of the International Institute of Islamic Economics at the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU), said while talking to WealthPK that Pakistan is facing a significant fiscal deficit and increasing the tax revenue has proven to be a significant challenge for successive governments. He noted that the country's tax-to-GDP ratio is one of the lowest in the

world, indicating a significant tax gap.

"If we talk about the general public, they are already bearing a heavy burden of taxes, but not generating sufficient tax-to-GDP ratio hovered around 10% during the last 10 years," he mentioned.

Dr. Abdul Rashid said that the tax-to-GDP ratio has widely been attributed to inter-commodity tax and weak enforcement of taxes, and lack of government's confidence towards taxpayers that the money would be spent on their welfare and development.

"The government needs to ensure the taxpayers that tax revenues will be used to eradicate poverty, provide health and education facilities, build basic infrastructure and increase the living standard of people," he emphasised.

He noted that in Pakistan, there is a dire need to win the trust of the people, including businessmen, small traders, and other stakeholders, to improve tax-to-GDP ratio.

"The government should offer incentives to businesses to increase production and exports by improving tax-to-GDP ratio."

He noted that in Pakistan, there is a dire need to win the trust of the people, including businessmen, small traders, and other stakeholders, to improve tax-to-GDP ratio.

"The government should offer incentives to businesses to increase production and exports by improving tax-to-GDP ratio."

policy. It needs to reduce the tax burden on exporters by offering tax breaks, rebates and exemptions, which will make Pakistani exports more competitive in the international market. This will not only boost exports but also generate more revenue for the country, leading to a better balance of payments situation," he suggested.

"To improve the revenue, the government must implement effective tax rates. The government should increase soft changes in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) laws and make the process of filing tax returns easy and simple," he added.

Additionally, the economist pointed out that the political turmoil, which is currently engulfing the country, has a negative impact on the country's efforts to stabilise its economy. Abdul Rashid said the federal budget targets for 2022-23 may not be achieved if there is a natural fact that tax collection increases as a result of an increase in production and economic activities in a variety of sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture. I

