

QUETTA VOICE

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PM Shehbaz arrives in London to attend King Charles III's coronation

In report to SC, PTI seeks implementation of verdict on Punjab polls citing 'lack of consensus'

Why this delay: Appointment of VCs in Balochistan

Fire erupted in Hazar Ganji area of Quetta

Syed Ali Shah Analysis

It has been almost two months since the Search Committee constituted by the Balochistan government submitted its recommendations about the appointment of Vice-Chancellors of five public universities. Nevertheless, the provincial government has not issued the appointment letters of the successful candidates of VCs.

The file has been lying on the table of the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo. The reason is crystal clear. Some ministers and powerful opposition members expressed their reservations and apprehensions about the names finalized by the search committee. The answer is simple, they want their blue-eyed to be VCs of five public universities in Balochistan.

CM Bizenjo appears to be helpless before ministers

CM Bizenjo appears to be helpless before the ministers and opposition lawmakers. Although, the CM of Balochistan should not demonstrate any political rapprochement since he is the chief executive of the province. This position demands bold decisions since it is a matter of the future of thousands of youth of



Chancellor/Governor of Balochistan

Search Committee interviews 30 candidates

The Search Committee conducted interviews with 30 candidates and submitted 15 names for five universities in Balochistan. Every three names of each university. Now, it is the mandate of the Balochistan government to choose one out of three for each university as

per the Balochistan Universities Model Act 2022.

Almost all universities have been facing a serious financial crisis. Most of the employees and faculty members of the universities are deprived of their salaries even. Initial investigation suggests, previous VCs acted like uncrowned kings and appointed their blue-eyed to important positions with attractive perks and privileges. Simply, a financial crisis was expected.

CM should make a bold decision

In a nutshell, CM Balochistan Mir Qudus Bizenjo led government should make a bold decision and released the stalled recommendations of the search committee and appoint VCs. It is for the first time in the history of Balochistan that candidates for VCs were interviewed and their academic qualifications were scrutinized. Delay in this regard will further jeopardize the situation.

Staff Reporter

QUETTA Fire erupted in the Hazar Ganji area of Quetta on Wednesday. Police sources said fire suddenly erupted in the

The fire damaged seven shops and damaged five vehicles parked in the Hazar Ganji area. Scores of people rushed towards the spot and extinguished the flames



Hazar Ganji. Initial information suggests the fire broke out in the Iranian petrol and diesel

of fire on their own. Police also reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident.

Hand grenade attack leaves a police man injured in Wadh

From Our Correspondent

Unknown accused hurled a hand grenade at policemen in Balochistan's Khuzdar district on Wednesday. Police sources said the incident happened in the Wadh Tehsil of Khuzdar district.

One policeman was injured in the attack. The injured policeman was rushed to the hospital for medical treatment. Police reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

Security was tightened in the aftermath of the attack on police. Motive behind the attack couldn't be ascertained immediately.



Nasebullah Tareen Advocate appointed as Chairman Services Tribunal

News Desk

QUETTA Senior lawyer, Nasebullah Tareen Advocate was appointed as the Chairman Balochistan Services Tribunal on Tuesday. According to a notification issued by the Balochistan Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD), Mr. Tareen has been appointed as the Chairman of the Services Tribunal for three years.

The appointment has been made with the prior approval of the Chief Minister Balochistan in consultation with the Chief Justice Balochistan High Court (BHC), the notification mentioned.

Mr. Tareen will enjoy the status of the judge of the High Court.



Senior lawyer Hadi Shakeel Advocate passes away

Staff Reporter

QUETTA Senior lawyer, Hadi Shakeel Advocate breathed his last on Wednesday morning. Family members and friends confirmed the death of Hadi Shakeel Advocate. He was suffering from protracted illness for the last few months.

Members of the legal fraternity have expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Hadi Shakeel Advocate. Hadi Shakeel had played an important role in all lawyers' movements against dictatorship in the country and spent his whole life for the supremacy of the constitution and rule of law in the country.

Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Hadi Shakeel Advocate. He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the

departed soul in peace and give patience to the family members.



BUJ pays rich tribute to martyred journalists

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: The Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) paid rich tribute to all martyred journalists on Wednesday. The BUJ organized a seminar on the eve of World Press Freedom Day at the Quetta Press Club.

"BUJ committed to upholding the banner of freedom of speech", Irfan Saeed, the President of the BUJ told the seminar. He said despite all odds, the union was committed to ensuring the freedom of expression and impartial reporting from Balochistan. BUJ Secretary General Manzoor Rind and other senior journalists also attended the seminar.



Journalists shed light on the sacrifices of slain journalists

Journalists put their lives at peril

"Journalists put their lives at peril and then report events", Rahib Buledi stated. Mr. Buledi termed the role of the journalists' community crucial in all democratic movements and the movement for the supremacy of parliament and constitution.

The speakers urged governments to ensure the safety and protection of journalists and Balochistan and let the newsmen perform their constitutional duties.

PM Shehbaz arrives in London to attend King Charles III's coronation

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in London on Wednesday to attend the coronation of King Charles III and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting — a biennial summit of governmental leaders from all Commonwealth nations.

Upon his arrival in London, PM Shehbaz was received by Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK) Moazzam Ahmad Khan and Special Representative of the British Foreign Secretary David Gordon-MacLeod.

During his visit, the prime minister will also engage with other world leaders bilaterally and meet PM-LN supremo Nawaz Sharif, a tweet on his account said.



multifaceted bonds that have grown stronger over the decades."

"The British monarch and the royal family have been great friends of Pakistan," he added. Charles, 74, became king after the death of Queen Elizabeth last year in September. As per royal tradition, a British monarch's coronation takes place some months later, after national mourning and intense preparations. King Charles III's coronation ceremony will be held at London's Westminster Abbey on May 6. The event is expected to be attended by heads of state from around the world, including Ireland, France, Spain, Belgium, Japan, Hungary and Australia. PM Shehbaz had met King Charles III last year in London and offered his condolences over the passing of Queen Elizabeth. Web Desk

In report to SC, PTI seeks implementation of verdict on Punjab polls citing 'lack of consensus'

Just a day after the government and the opposition reached some semblance of consensus on country-wide polls, the PTI on Wednesday submitted a letter to the Supreme Court seeking the implementation of the SC's order on holding elections in Punjab on May 14 "in spirit" and stated that "in spite of the best efforts of parties, no solution within the Constitution" was found.

A day earlier, the PTI and federal coalition concluded the make-or-break round of the much-awaited negotiations on polls. The talks began with the top court's advice last week. Speaking to reporters after the sitting

last night, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar — who was leading the government side — had told reporters that both sides had agreed to hold elec-

tions to the national and provincial assemblies on a single date under the watch of caretaker setting, but it had yet to be decided what that date would be. On the other hand, PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi had regretted that no decision could be taken on "practicable proposals" put forward by his party.

Subsequently, PTI lawyers Faisal Chaudhry and Ali Bukhari submitted a report on the government-PTI negotiations in the apex court today. Web Desk

BALUCHISTAN

The ratio of education for women in Balochistan

Editor Asim Khan

Why not books, if food can be delivered at homes

"Why not books, if food items can be delivered to homes", Shakoor Baloch, a committed young student said. Mr. Baloch and other youngsters of Quetta's Sariah Raza area have established the "Readers' Club" to provide free books to people in general and students in particular.

Sitting in a mud and brick-walled room located in one of the congested poor neighborhoods of Quetta, Shakoor Baloch, Amjad Baloch, and their colleagues are committed to promoting the book reading culture.

Bicycle is economical, we cannot afford petrol: Amjad Baloch "We deliver books by bicycle", Amjad Baloch, another student with a black-bushy beard said. Petrol prices are high, we cannot afford fuel and therefore, deliver books on the bicycle, he mentioned.

Readers' Club has gathered around 700 books so far. Currently, the club has dropped over 400 books at various homes in various parts of Quetta and Balochistan province. "Our aim is to promote book reading culture and people are excited to read books", Shakoor Baloch stated.

Volunteers delivering books at homes

The number of volunteers for this campaign is around one dozen. Most of them are students and an education lover has temporarily handed over the mud and brick-walled room to ensure the success of the initiative.

No official encouragement or support so far

"No contact by any government official or any political party", Shakoor Baloch stated. He said the Readers' Club was in dire need of support since the demand for reading books was growing and they were unable to meet.

Balochistan's various organizations have established libraries to promote book reading culture and open new vistas of knowledge and information for the students.

Students have already established libraries in the Balochistan district of Kech, Gwadar, and other areas. Daily thousands of students from various parts of the province visit libraries.

Education plays a miraculous role in enabling individuals to be successful, and it is essential for everyone to receive an education, particularly for women. It is well-known that when a man is educated, an individual is educated, but when a woman is educated, an entire nation is educated. The role of an educated woman is paramount for the development of a society, even more so than that of a man. There are numerous factors that can impede a girl's access to education and in some places, these factors are removed, while in others, they can have a devastating effect on the lives of girls.

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

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

Balochistan Assembly Sana BLoch. Head of the Education Department Nasir Kazari said that Baluchistan's literacy rate stands at a dismal 37%, far below the national average of 53% and the literacy rates of the other three provinces of Pakistan

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%. Girls' literacy rate is taken into account, it is worst and lowest in the world. Only 27% of girls are literate in Balochistan of which only 2% belongs to rural Balochistan. 78% girls, of school going age are out of school, says Head of the Education Department.

I stopped going to 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. Mahnoor, 6th class student of Government Girls Nawakill Model School.

Balochistan report of 2021 cities that there are approximately 226,643 out of school children of age 6 to 13 in district Quetta, which constitutes 57% of the total 395,207 children of school going age (6-15). Primary school 49% of the level school going age children are out of school, 70% of institutions without electricity, 41% institutions without toilets, 21% institutions without drinking water, 86% institutions without drinking water in Quetta.

S ecretary Secondary Education Abdul Rauf Baloch said that there is a clear difference between the school and primary school in the province, one middle school out of 8 primary schools are filling the gap as such Steps have been undertaken taken to make 33 primary schools middle and 60 middle schools high in the current financial year. While a plan for the financial year 2021-22 to take 200 primary schools to middle school level has also been approved in PSD of Education as a key b a t t l e f o r u n d e r .

According to UNICEF Pakistan's report in 2021, Balochistan has a total of 14,855 schools, of which only 67.4% are for females. Unfortunately, 25% of these schools are non-functional. Additionally, only 7% of girls attend school, with the remaining only appearing in examinations. This is due to the lack of facilities in many schools; a mere 52.0% have toilet facilities, with the rest lacking on this basic necessity.

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Zainab Asif After 30 years of absence, the UN reopened its offices in the Solomon Islands in August 2022. The UN's return to the Pacific Islands is a sign of the UN's renewed strategic significance in the Indo-Pacific region. The UN's return to the Pacific Islands is a sign of the UN's renewed strategic significance in the Indo-Pacific region. The UN's return to the Pacific Islands is a sign of the UN's renewed strategic significance in the Indo-Pacific region.

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. The remoteness of this region has added to its mystique and aided in the conservation of the environment to some extent. But this isolation has also caused more hardships for the inhabitants of this land and has hindered its development.

UNDP has been very active in the northern parts of the country, including the Gilgit-Baltistan and FATA provinces. Its interventions have focused on the environment, disaster risk reduction, environmentally friendly tourism, empowering the people, and providing them with livelihoods.

The drastic changes in the climate are wreaking devastating glaciers in the north over and Pakistan is no exception. The melting glaciers create lakes that can overflow, and cause tremendous devastation to lives and property.

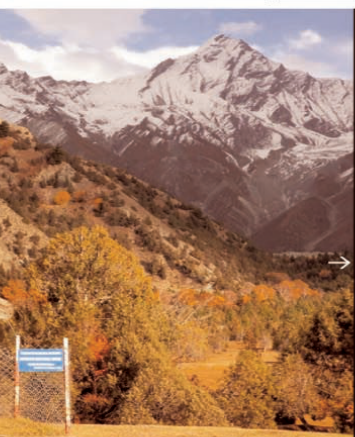
To prevent this from happening, a project by the name of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF-I) was initiated a few years back by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as an investment of 36.9 million dollars by the Green Climate Fund, GLOF-I is being implemented across two provinces.

In addition to climate change, the increase in the human population has also adversely affected the environment. To reverse the effects of deforestation, lands of poplar and fruit-

bearing trees including cherry, apple, and apricot have been planted all over the northern areas. These interventions have been managed through the improvement of Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) project (funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and Government of Italy), and the Pakistan Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme implemented through World

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. Numerous water treatment and purification plants and hydro-rum pumps have been installed to supply schemes have been put into place in various villages.

These initiatives of CKNP 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). **Tales from the Mountains. The author is an international award-winning writer, and photographer, currently working as a consultant for UNDP Pakistan.**



The Toshakhana's moral vacuum

By I Hussain

Now that the Toshakhana record for the period 2002-2022 is in the public domain, we can see how morally questionable the rules were that allowed senior leaders to keep gifts they received from foreign governments at a fraction of their appraised value. To begin with, these rules disregarded the obvious benefits of interest free loans inherent in receiving expensive gifts when dealing with foreign governments.

Let's examine the deals with former president Gen Pervez Musharraf who received gifts worth Rs74 million and paid only Rs5.5 million (7.1% of the value). None of these gifts were auctioned or deposited in the Toshakhana. Former prime minister Jamir Farves' guests paid Rs0.5 million (15 per cent of the value) of the items received. This included two top-of-the-line BMW cars and one armored

Lenor SUV. None of the items were given to the state or auctioned by Zardari. Former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf was in office for less than a year and received Rs1.5 million in gifts for which he paid Rs0.3 million (20 per cent of the valuation). All the gifts were retained. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif received gifts assessed at Rs144.4 million and he paid Rs24.4 million (17 per cent of the valuation). Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's unspecified model of a Mercedes Benz car which has been valued at Rs42.6 million and a Rolex watch and a

pair of cufflinks given to his son Hussain Nawaz. Sharif returned or auctioned them for Rs2.1 million worth of gifts.

The top position in the Toshakhana is held by senior officials in terms of value received is occupied by Shahid Khaqan Abbasi who, along with his wife, children, and children's spouses, received a staggering sum of Rs24.2 million (15 per cent of the value) he paid Rs48.7 million (20 per cent of the value). His gifts were retained by Abbasi and his coterie of relatives. For Abbasi, who held the prime minister's position for 303 days after Sharif's disqualification, this translates into a daily net benefit (value of gifts received minus amount paid) of approximately Rs1,000 a day. Many instances of superfluous accompanying personnel disclosed in the Toshakhana's record. There are numerous instances of gift certificates, protocols, protocol assistants, chief security officers, personal consultants to the prime minister, and, not least, the delicate duty of the minister of 'Lady Gunman'.

Foreign visits should not be tantamount to junkies for friends and acquaintances. Besides, there are Pakistan embassy officials who can carry out

all our leaders. To use a line from Shakespeare, it has been hoisted by its own petard.

While the gifts indicated in the Toshakhana presents from foreign leaders and their friends/relatives make their acceptance morally questionable. The valuation of the gifts is itself dubious, with a silk scarf given to Musharraf valued at only \$1 (Rs60) which is unlikely for a foreign VIP.

Several issues need to be addressed in the future. The definition of gifts should be widened to include non-tangible presents from foreign governments such as all-expenses paid vacation for any leader and his family or educational expenses to be covered for leaders' children.

Another issue is the needlessly large delegations led by ministers and politicians on their foreign visits. There are numerous instances of superfluous accompanying personnel disclosed in the Toshakhana's record. There are numerous instances of gift certificates, protocols, protocol assistants, chief security officers, personal consultants to the prime minister, and, not least, the delicate duty of the minister of 'Lady Gunman'.

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many of the duties much more efficiently as they are more accustomed to local conditions. Leaders travelling abroad on official visits should not be accompanied by military airlines and not commandeer an aircraft from Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to provide a fleet of airworthy planes. This should also provide a deterrent to expanding the size of the leader's entourage which, needless to say, a country on the brink of defaulting on its foreign debts can hardly afford.

Further, gifts given in the past to friends or 'guests' in the leaders' entourage should be returned to the Toshakhana. They had no moral right or reason either to tag along on official visits or to accept gifts from foreign governments. Pakistan's embassies should be advised to henceforth only gifts with a token value (such as mementoes, pens, or plaques) will be accepted so there should be no need for a ransom, if any, for a diamond-studded Piaget watch is declined.

More troubling is the fact that not one of our leaders thought it fitting or proper to donate the gifts they received to the earthquake victims left orphaned and homeless after Pakistan's earthquake of 2005 nor for the choice of the oppressed Kashmiri people for whom the nation takes a daily toll every Friday. Out of the total of Rs83.4 million received by the nine heads of government

China's America power wanting?

By Maheeb Shafeeq

A n alysis has marked the rise of China as its diplomatic triumph in the Middle East, pointing to growing coziness with Russia and the downfall of the US as a significant global player due to the aspects of de-dollarization and its footprints worldwide.

Although these are undeniably important aspects that account for China's emergence, there are by no means the end of the US era. In addition to its footprints worldwide, the US is heavily focused on developing a more significant role in the wider Indo-Pacific region. The US and its allies are carrying out multiple joint military exercises to deter China. In addition, the US is actively engaged with regional players to increase its diplomatic, economic and military influence in the region.

The trend of joint exercises between the US and the Indo-Pacific region, On April 3, 2023, the US, Japan and the UK, the Korean Naval forces carried out joint anti-submarine drills in the Korean Sea. This trilateral exercise is significant as it tested emerging technologies from autonomous underwater vehicles and intelligence-sharing equipment.

In addition, earlier in the year - from March 15-30, the US hosted an annual multinational joint military exercise in Guam which invited Canada, South Korea and the

QUAD countries, Japan, India and Australia to participate in its first-ever Sea Dragon 23 focused on advanced-level anti-submarine warfare tactics and training. This exercise aims to improve allied states' readiness, operational capacity and allow the interoperability of emerging technologies and systems.

On April 5, 2023, the Nanties and Marine Corp of the US and US also pledged to work closely on bilateral agreement intends to enhance operational readiness by increased cooperation in maritime security training, computer simulation and overseas exercises in the Indo-Pacific region. The US has expanded its military presence in the Philippines by establishing four new military sites under Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). These sites are expected to enhance the military strength and strengthen the interoperability of the US and Philippine militaries. The shared threat behind this increased cooperation is China. The Philippines and China have strained relations due to historical disputes over islands in the South China Sea. Drawing the US is using to its advantage. These military exercises were directed against China and Indo-Pacific states for confrontation with China by allowing joint responses.

The US is also enhancing its military presence with the smaller states in the region. For example, after 30 years of absence, the UN reopened its offices in the Solomon Islands in August 2022. The UN's return to the Pacific Islands is a sign of the UN's renewed strategic significance in the Indo-Pacific region. The UN's return to the Pacific Islands is a sign of the UN's renewed strategic significance in the Indo-Pacific region.

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In March 2023, the prime minister of the Solomon Islands signed Beijing's Global Development Initiative that would allow China to carry out development projects, including redeveloping transport ports. Taiwan was only in 2019 that China and the Solomon Islands established formal diplomatic ties. Before this, the Solomon Islands had visited the UN without Taiwan. Last year, the island signed a security pact with China, and the influence of China, the Japanese foreign minister visited the island for the first time to register Tokyo's concerns regarding the island's security pact with China.

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Tales from the Mountains by Jamil Akhtar. The author is an international award-winning writer, and photographer, currently working as a consultant for UNDP Pakistan.

Pakistani rupee nits back at US dollar

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar inched up against the Pakistani rupee in the directionless interbank market on Wednesday but later the local currency hit back. According to the information collected from the forex dealers, the rupeeback went up by eight paisas against the local currency in the dull interbank business but later the rupee came back roaring and gained 17 paisas against the US dollar and was currently being traded at Rs283.65.

On Thursday, the Pakistani rupee had remained largely stable against the US dollar, settling with a marginal loss of 0.03% during the morning trading session. The local currency closed at 283.92, a decrease of eight paisas.

During the previous week, the rupee remained largely stable against a current account surplus and lack of progress on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) kept the currency hanging. On the other hand, the United States had called on Pakistan to

move ahead on stalled reforms sought by the IMF, promising technical help and encouraging the country to enact policies that promote an open and fair and transparent business climate.

The market awaits the resumption of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, which remains stalled to date.

Moreover, it is also closely monitoring development at the political front, as the government and PTI leaders continued to hold talks on conflicting sections in the country.



QUETTA: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch breaks the ground for Khuzdar Block at NUST University Quetta Campus on May 3, 2023. Rector NUST Lt. Gen. (R) Javed Mahmood Bukhari also present.

NEPRA okays further hike in power tariff

ISLAMABAD: The National Electricity Regulatory Authority (Neptra) has approved an increase in the price of electricity by Rs0.34 per unit on account of a monthly fuel adjustment on Wednesday.

According to the regulatory body, the new tariff will come into effect immediately.

The increase in electricity tariff will be applicable to all the consumer categories except lifeline consumers and KE users.

The cost will be charged into Meter bills, the power regulator said.

The increase in power tariffs will put Rs2.9 billion additional pressure on the already burdened masses, who are struggling to make ends meet amidst rising inflation and a weak economy.

The hike in power tariffs has been attributed to the rising costs of electricity production and distribution. The country has been experiencing frequent power outages and load shedding, causing immense inconvenience to citizens and businesses alike.

It is feared that this latest development may push more people below the poverty line, especially those who rely on electricity to run their small businesses.

Medical board advises Imran Khan to take complete rest

LAHORE: The former prime minister of Pakistan, Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan has been advised on Wednesday to take complete rest otherwise his complications with his affected leg.

The medical board at Shaukat Khanum Hospital advised PTI Chief Imran Khan to take complete rest otherwise the increased swelling could pose a risk of infection, which can lead to a surgery again.

The medical board has also directed Imran Khan to use a wheelchair to reduce the strain on his leg and to avoid any extra movement in this condition.

It is pertinent to mention here that PTI Chairman Imran Khan, who was shot during longers March November attack in Wazirabad, has been shifted

to hospital after he experienced inflammation in his feet.

Sources said that the PTI chief experienced inflammation in feet due to pressure, after which he was shifted to hospital for medical examination.

Sources claimed that Imran Khan's feet experienced pressure during his appearance in the Lahore High Court (LHC) today, which caused swelling.

It is worth mentioning here that the former premier and several other PTI leaders were injured after a man opened fire near the PTI reception camp at Allahwala Chowk during party's long march.

According to details, unidentified assailants opened fire on PTI Chairman Imran Khan's container near the Allahwala Chowk in Wazirabad, injuring six people and killing one.

Earlier in the day, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) expressed annoyance over the non-appearance of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in inciting mutiny case.

Hearing the case, IHC Chief Justice Amir Farooq warned that if Imran Khan did not appear before the IHC in inciting mutiny case during working hours, the interim bail granted to him will be dismissed as the hearing began.

IHC Chief Justice Amir Farooq inquired where was the petitioner. At this, Lawyer Naeem Haider Panjotra said that he could not appear before so he had filed an exemption plea. The IHC chief justice then asked about the exemption request. To this, the lawyer replied that the application had been filed.

China presents a fresh approach to the world on development paths

ISLAMABAD: China's modernization presents a fresh approach for the world to consider when it comes to development paths.

This is especially vital given the challenges posed by climate change and growing geopolitical competition, according to a report carried by *Gowader* Pro on Wednesday.

China's resolute efforts to address the global deficits of development, peace, governance, and trust through modernization is a new phenomenon that is being viewed with suspicion by the Westerners.

The simple words, the Chinese modernization contains four essential attributes - *coherence, harmony, peace, and development* - as a path to creating a global community with a shared future.

The world is closely watching China's modernization process. With skyrocketing inflation and the erosion of many economies after three years of pandemic, the global community is acutely aware of the need to prioritize effective modernization efforts.

Dispelling the notion that "modernization equals Westernization,"

China's astounding development has corroborated the fact that there is alternative, viable, practical and more effective approach to modernization for developing nations.

The success of China's modernization can be attributed to four key factors - a far-sighted vision with Chinese characteristics, resolute efforts by CPC to implement this vision, acknowledgment and acquisition of cutting-edge technology, and appreciation for the significance of infrastructure.

One of the differentiating features of CPC's vision of modernization is that it does not claim superiority or universal template for modernization; it will work for all the countries. It is not one-size-fits-all approach to modernization.

Given the varying historical contexts of countries, diverse pathways to development must be devised. Hence, China's citizens must tailor solutions to domestic challenges. China's modernization in their unique national conditions. This is what the Chinese characteristics - an amalgam of geographical conditions and culture Chinese modernization.

ernization is characterized by several key elements, including a focus on the advancement of the population, the pursuit of shared prosperity, the promotion of both material and cultural progress, the fostering of a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature, and above all, a commitment to peaceful development.

China has effectively disproven the notion that modernization is exclusively the domain of the West. Instead, each country can chart its own course towards modernization that aligns with its distinct national context.

China's modernization offers a fresh perspective and a valuable opportunity for the rest of the world to learn and grow.

The Chinese approach to modernization has been radically different from the West. Rejecting the narrow confines of western theoretical frameworks, China has forged a path towards progress that is entirely unique and distinctly its own. Unlike the West, China has been able to develop without succumbing to the colonialist mindset that has historically hampered the evolutionary phase of western modernization. InP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Aybek Arif Usmanov called on Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, Inger Amir Muqam.

Increase in foreign exchange reserves to over 4.5b dollar encouraging: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Wednesday said that increase in foreign exchange reserves to over four and a half billion dollars is good for the economy.

In a statement issued here, he said that the country's rupee currency is recovering slowly which is encouraging.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that if the IMF loan was received, the recovery of the rupee will be accelerated, while if the loans are not received, the recovery process will come to a halt and its value may fall further.

The one dollar was being traded at 288.43 rupees on April 11, but now it was available for 283.84 rupees, he added.

The business leader said that Saudi Arabia and Iran will reopen embassies in each other's countries after seven years, which is a great achievement for China.

This development has reduced American influence and improved the balance of relations between the region, increase trade, and cut the military budget, he maintained.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that it was expected that due to the improvement of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Syria and Yemen will see some stability and the economic situation will improve.

He said that China was also pushing for a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, and Beijing should also consider mediation between

Pakistan and India so that the two countries can become friends instead of enemies.

This will end hostilities and improve the living standards of more than one and a half billion people. It will be a difficult task for China, but not impossible, the business leader added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that Pakistan has always been in need of political and economic support from America while India is always close to the US while both countries are on the same page to counter China that has been able to help establish better relations between Pakistan and India for development and elimination of terrorism and smooth sailing of CPEC/INP.

SECP introduces regulatory framework for 'online only' brokers

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved the regulatory framework for online-only brokers through amendments to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Rulebook, paving the way for the launch of Online Only Brokers (OOB) in Pakistan.

"Cognizant of the growing demand for online investing platforms, the SECP is committed to promoting innovation in the securities market while ensuring investor protection," said a press release issued here.

This regulatory framework is a significant step towards modernizing the securities market. Under the new regime, the customer onboarding process will be conducted online and the

Online Only brokers will be able to provide trading services to their clients, exclusively through online means.

The Online Only Brokers will be a sub-category of Trading Only Brokers. They will be the custodial and clearing services will be performed by Professional Clearing members, resulting in significantly less compliance and operational requirements, thereby allowing the brokers to concentrate on their core competencies of brokerage services and distribution.

This will enable new entrepreneurs to start brokerage businesses at lower preliminary and operational costs. The new category will also attract new investors in the capital market as it offers greater convenience for

managing investments via online means. The framework includes net worth requirement of PKR 7.5 million and a single member company is also eligible to apply SECP has also notified fees at PKR 50,000 and PKR 25,000 respectively for Online Only Brokers. Moreover, existing brokers may also switch to this new category to lower their overhead costs and remain focused on the core business of trading. The launch of Online Only Brokers is expected to revolutionize the way investors buy and sell securities by providing a new level of convenience and accessibility as investors will no longer be required to call or visit a physical office to place trades, which is often inconvenient for

the former chief minister of Punjab, Usman Buzdar's interim bail till May 06.

The Accountability Court in Lahore held a hearing on the bail plea of former chief minister of Punjab. The court accepted Usman Buzdar's plea for exemption from personal appearance and extended his interim bail till May 06, in an anti-corruption case.

In March, the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab has summoned the former chief minister Usman Buzdar for building Buzdar's house on the state's property.

As per details, the ACE said that the state's property worth billion is under the possession of the former chief minister Punjab in Fort Munro.

Buzdar constructed Buzdar House on two acres of the state property and grabbed two canal's commercial property by misusing his powers, the ACE added.

NA speaker forms committee to probe leaked audio of Saqib Nisar's son

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Parvez Ashraf on Wednesday constituted a committee for investigation into an audio leak allegedly involving the son of the former Pakistan Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif. The National Assembly Secretariat has issued a notification in this regard. Mohammad Aslam Bhoobani will be chairman of the committee while the members include Aslam Bhoobani, Muhammad Aftabkhan Chaudhry, Muhammad Barjees Thar, Shaikh Rohale Asghar, Sayyed Hussain Tanjir, Naz Baloch, Khalid Hussain Saeed, Wajid Qamar and Dr Muhammad Afzal Khan Dhandla.

"The Honourable Speaker, National Assembly, has been pleased to appoint a Special Committee to Audit, Inquire and Investigate the audio leak involving the son of Mr. Saqib Nisar, Ex-Chief Justice of Pakistan with PTI ticket holder. The Committee shall conduct a thorough investigation and inquiry of the said audio leaks and present a comprehensive report in the National Assembly. The Committee shall be assisted by any investigative agency," reads the notification.

"The Honourable Speaker has authorized to include any other Member and make such other changes in the Composition of the Committee from time to time as he thinks fit," it stated.

U.S. expresses confidence on Pakistan's economic policies

ISLAMABAD: US Embassy Charge d'affaires Andrew Schofer called on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday and discussed overall economic situation.

Both sides discussed bilateral relations between Pakistan and USA in economic and trade fields.

US Embassy Charge d'affaires Andrew Schofer expressed confidence in Pakistan's policies and programs and assured his support to advance economic and trade relations.

Finance minister informed about the country's economy and the challenges faced and also informed the Mr. Andrew about ongoing program of the International Monetary Fund IMF.

It is pertinent to note that IMF and Pakistan are holding negotiations for the ninth review of the IMF for release of \$1.1 billion as part to revive loan program.

Ishaq Dar said government is committed to complete IMF programme.

The finance minister reiterated to further expand bilateral trade and investment relations with the United States.



QUETTA: Mutahida Local Bus Association President Haji Ishaq addressing a press conference.

Inflation in Pakistan higher than Sri Lanka's due to mismanagement: EDPEW

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), Saifuddin Sheikh said that Pakistan's inflation has surpassed Sri Lanka due to rampant mismanagement.

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poverty was increasing and the middle class was disappearing in the country, he added.

The Executive Director PEW said that the burden of poor priorities and benefiting the elite falls on the poor who are reeling under inflation.

The price of flour, meat, rice, chicken and sugar along with other items was continuously increasing in the country and their export and smuggling were also growing rapidly, he maintained.

Saifuddin Sheikh noted that the statements regarding action against the profiteer mafia by the top authorities instead of the public a jollipop of satisfaction, which he said, will not come with reality. All the important policies are designed to benefit the elite which increases the suffering of the people instead of reducing it, he added.

The Executive Director PEW said that due to the selfishness of the elites and the avoidance of necessary reforms, the economy has not been able to develop and instead of reducing poverty, it is increasing it.

He said that politicians and other influential consider their right to plunder national resources while paying tax is considered as an insult.

Businessmen are preferred to get subsidies and packages through top authorities instead of competing in the international market and when they do not get the money, they get the government to announce an amnesty scheme.

Population census: Central becomes largest district of Karachi

KARACHI: Central district has become population-wise the largest district of the metropolis in the digital census, according to the latest figures released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The Karachi South has become the smallest district of the city in the 7th population census, while Central has become the largest.

District Central has 3.42 million population in the digital census, while the figure released by the PBS.

District South, historically the old town of the city, has a population of 1.824 million population - the smallest district in the metropolis.

District East has 3.171 million population count in the census, while Korangi has been the third largest district of the city with 2.928 population figures shared by the PBS.

The District West has 2.775 million population in the census, and Keamari have

2.180 million population count, according to the latest figures.

The government recently extended the deadline of the population census fifth time to complete the digital census process, which will now be concluded by May 15.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said that the city's extension was made to reach the remaining people not counted in the census.

Iqbal said that the

government will remove the fault lines and appeal to the nationals to actively take part in the census.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Sunday released latest figures of the ongoing seventh population census.

According to the official statistics released by the authorities, Karachi's population had increased by 1.6 million to rise over 17.6 million and Sindh's population has jumped by 6.46 million to reach 54.31 million.

The Hyderabad division came in second with a population count of 10.19 million people, followed by Larkana division with 7.9 million people.

Sukkur division had a population count of 6.19 million people, while Shaheed Benazirabad division had a count of 5.9 million. The smallest division was Mirpurkhas, with a count of 5.9 million population.



QUETTA: Paramedical Staff Association President Abdul Salam Zehri addressing a press conference.

Digital Census declares Central the largest district of Karachi

KARACHI: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) recently released figures have pointed out Karachi Central district has become population-wise the largest district of the metropolis in the digital census.

According to media reports, District Central has 3,442 mln populations in the digital census exercise, the figure released by the PBS.

District South, historically the old town of the city has become the smallest district of the metropolis in the 7th population census with a population of 1,824 mln.

District East with a second with having 3,171 mln population count in the census, while Korangi has been the third largest district of the city with 2,928 population figure, shared by the PBS.

The District West has 2,275 mln population, Malir 2,217 mln and Keamari have 2,180 mln population counts, according to the best figures.

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LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister of the Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Man kills wife on suspicion of 'bad character' in Sukkur

Sukkur: A man shot dead his wife for honour near Saleh Park in Sukkur on Wednesday.

According to police, accused Inam Ali was suspicious of the 'bad character' of his wife Nawaban Bibi and opened fire on her, killing her on the spot. After killing his wife, the accused fled the scene. Police shifted the body of the woman to the Rohri Hospital for post-mortem.

Islamabad court approves Imran Khan's exemption plea in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in the Federal capital on Wednesday granted one-day exemption from appearance to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case.

Additional Sessions Judge Imran Dilwar approved the petition while hearing the case filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against Khan. He was not present at the hearing.

Pervaiz Elahi's front man flees from police custody

GUJRANWALA: The accused involved in the corruption case against former chief minister and PTI President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi fled from the custody of anti-corruption establishment police on Wednesday in Gujranwala.

Reportedly, police were shifting Pervaiz Elahi's front man Sohail Asghar from ACTE police station to the hospital after the complaints made by the accused of feeling ill.

Swindler tricks blind Moazan, loots him in Karachi

KARACHI: A swindler has not even spared a blind Moazan (Azar reciter) in Karachi and took away his mobile phone and money on Wednesday.

Reportedly, a trickster approached a blind Moazan, Hafiz Amjad, in a mosque in Gulistan Johar. He asked him to recite a Naat for him so that he could record and upload it on social media and made it viral.

Man shot dead in front of DHQ Gujranwala

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Three people were riding in the car and one of them instantly succumbed to his wounds after the attack, while another was severely injured and taken to the hospital, where his condition is said to be critical.

Over 100 Chinese enterprises, companies to participate in Karachi TEXPO

BEIJING: Over 100 Chinese enterprises and companies are expected to participate in the 4th International Textile Exhibition, also known as TEXPO 2023, scheduled to be held in Karachi next month.

Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Gulam Qadir said on Wednesday, "Around 70 Chinese enterprises have already consented to attend the TEXPO while over 30 others have shown interest to participate."

Larkana murder: Sindh High Court orders recovery of victim's body

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Wednesday ordered the police to recover the body of Larkana youth Shaikh and throw it into a canal.

DIG Larkana Mazhar Nawaz Shaikh and SSP Dr Imran were appeared in the court case hearing in the high court bench.

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The federal government will remove the fault lines and appealed to the citizens to actively take part in the census.

According to the official statistics released by the authorities, Karachi's population has raised over 17.6 million after an increase of 6 million and Sindh's population has reached 54.31 million after a jump of 6.46 million in population.

Hyderabad division came in second with a population count of 10.19 million people, followed by Larkana division with 7.9 million people.

Sukkur division has a population count of 6.19 million people, while Shaheed Benazirabad division has a count of 5.9 million. The smallest division of Sindh in terms of population is declared Mirpurkhas with a count of 4.9 million populace INP.

ECP moves Supreme Court seeking review of Punjab election order

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking review of the apex court's April 14 decision of holding elections in Punjab on May 14 next.

"The Supreme Court should review its decision of April 4. The judiciary does not have the power to give the date for elections," the petition said.

The Supreme Court did not give the right to the judiciary to give the date for elections, the petition said.

"The Supreme Court altered the law by giving the date for elections in Punjab. The Supreme Court should correct the mistake. The Constitution of Pakistan has clearly defined the powers of the institutions," it added.

"Conducting free and fair elections is the constitutional responsibility of the ECP. It is respectfully requested that the Supreme Court has negated its own rules by giving the election date," it stated.

"The ECP has the power to change the programme for elections. The Judiciary has the power to only interpret the Constitution. It has no right to rewrite the Constitution," it stressed.

"Neither the Constitution nor the law empowered the Supreme Court to fix the election date. A strong election commission is necessary for a strong democracy in the country. It is impossible to hold free and fair elections without a strong

election commission," it pointed out.

"The ECP as a constitutional body is entitled to respect. If the ECP makes a mistake in a decision, the judiciary can't correct it. The Supreme Court should refrain from interfering with the powers of the ECP," it emphasized.

"Free and fair elections are not possible due to the recent political environment, a lack of security and the shortage of security personnel. Without a conducive environment, free and fair elections cannot take place," it stated.

"The constitutional provision of holding elections in 90 days should, no doubt, be enforced. In the same way, the implementation of the constitutional provision of holding free and fair elections is also necessary," it pointed out.

"Conducting elections in Punjab will raise questions about the transparency of the National Assembly elections, for the Punjab government will be able to influence the National Assembly elections," it added.

"Of the 326 seats in the National Assembly, the number of seats in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is 226. The number of seats of both provinces in the National Assembly is 72 percent of the entire House. The term of the National Assembly will end in August. The facts on the ground should be properly assessed," it emphasized INP.

One dacoit killed, 3 fled during an police encounter

OKARA: A dacoit was killed in an alleged police encounter on By-Pass Road near Saddar Police Station Okara, while his three accomplices managed to flee in dark hours.

The dacoits were spotted by citizens after setting up a blockade on By-Pass Road near Saddar Police Station. Police on receiving a call about this criminal activity rushed to reach at the scene.

Police reached near the dacoits, they opened fire on the police party. The police retaliated and responded with fire on dacoits.

The police further stated that the body of the deceased suspect has been shifted to the hospital for a post-mortem INP.

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Gulam Qadir said that TEXPO was Pakistan's largest textile and leather exhibition providing a platform for local and international companies dealing in raw materials to finished products with high competitive prices and premium quality.

The theme of this year's TEXPO is leading the way to sustainability and thus there 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.

He said that TEXPO offers three days exhibition, business-to-business opportunities, fashion shows, a design studio, product display, press and media events, industry visits and business opportunities seminars.

The products in 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, toys and many more, he added INP.

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