

# QUETTA VOICE

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### 6 burnt to death 14 injured in district Chaghi road accident

### FIA arrests an accused who poses to be a woman for blackmailing people

## Civil, military leaders decide to observe May 9 as 'Black Day' nationally

## Cabinet approves appointments of VCs of BUHMS, Khuzdar Loralai universities

The National Security Committee (NSC) decided on Tuesday to observe May 9 — when multiple incidents of violence and vandalism were reported amid protests sparked by PTI chief Imran Khan's arrest — as "Black Day" at the national level.

While the protests were under way, social media was flooded with footage of a mob clashing with police in Karachi, attacking and entering the army's head office, General Headquarters, in Rawalpindi and vandalising the official residence of a high-ranking military officer in Lahore.

Meanwhile, state broadcaster Radio Pakistan's building was also set on fire in Peshawar.

The NSC's decision to today is the latest in the string of condemnations of the May 9 events by the country's civil and military leadership.

**"May 9 will be remembered as 'Black Day' in history of Pakistan," says PM**

The meeting of the body, which is the highest forum for coordination on security issues, was convened under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad. It was attended by federal ministers, Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza and other



top brass, among other senior officials.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office after the meeting said it was reiterated during the session that a policy of "zero tolerance" would be adopted towards violence and disturbance of peace.

It added that the meeting's participants expressed solidarity with the armed forces, "strongly condemning rioting and attacks on military installations for personal and political interests".

**"The person who lives in this house [Jinnah House] protects Pakistan"**

The participants reiterated the resolve of not tolerating any violation of the sanctity and honour of military installations and public property and being all elements involved in the black day of May 9 to justice," the PMO statement read. They also supported the top brass decision of booking cases under relevant laws — including military laws the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secrets Act — against "miscreants, planners Web Desk

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA — The Balochistan cabinet on Tuesday approved the appointment of three vice-chancellors of public universities in the province. The universities include — Balochistan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS), Balochistan University of Engineering and Technology Khuzdar and Loralai University.

**Professor Shabir Lehri recommended for VC BUHMS**

A well-placed source in the Balochistan government disclosed to the Daily Quetta Voice that Professor Shabir Lehri has been recommended for the appointment of VC BUHMS. Dr Ehsanullah Kakar as VC Loralai University, and Dr. Maqsood Ahmed was recommended for the Khuzdar University. The cabinet referred the appointment issue of VC Balochistan



University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (UITEMS) to the parliamentary committee. Although the search committee recommended the name of Dr. Khalid Hafeez for the position and professor Dr. Masoom Yaseen was second on the merit list.

The majority of the lawmakers present in the cabinet meeting decided to refer the issue to the parliamentary committee. Search committee asked to conduct interviews for VCs of Chakar and Mekran universities.

The cabinet also decided to re-advertise VCs

Chakar Rind University Sibi and Mekran University and empowered the search committee to conduct interviews. There was no word by the cabinet members about the fate of VC's positions at the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, Lasbela and University of Balochistan.

As per the Balochistan Universities Model Act 2022, the Balochistan Higher Education and Colleges Department would send the summary of the above mentioned names to the Chancellor/ Governor Balochistan for final approval.

## Dr. Rubaba reviews laws related to issuance of domicile certificates

Sheikh Razaq

QUETTA — A high-level meeting chaired by the Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Information Technology Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on Tuesday reviewed the laws and regulations related to issuance of domicile and permanent residency certificate (PRC) in Balochistan.

Secretary Law Abdul Saboor Kakar, Additional Secretary Syed Nasser Shah, Deputy Director Hafeezullah Khan were prominent among others who attended the meeting held at Law department.

The meeting discussed issues related to the court decisions regarding



issuance of domicile and permanent residency certificate and resolution of Balochistan Assembly.

It was informed that consultative meetings of all political parties and relevant stakeholders have been called on this important issue, in which comprehensive recommendations will be formulated and such effective legislation and regulations will be formulated that any underserving person will be denied employment at any level in Balochistan.

Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Information Technology on the occasion said that Balochistan cannot be compared with Sindh or other provinces regarding issuance of domicile and PRC.

**The ground realities here are different from other provinces, she emphasized**

"We must ensure transparency in every case," she said adding that after consultation with all political parties and stakeholders, hopefully we will reach to a conclusion from which a solution to this long-standing problem will be found.

Earlier, parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Information Technology Dr. Rubaba Buledi was informed about the proposed consultative meeting of stakeholders.

## 6 burnt to death 14 injured in district Chaghi road accident

Rizq Baloch

DALBANDIN — At least six people were burnt to death and 14 injured when two vehicles collided in Balochistan's Chaghi district on Tuesday.

Levies sources said two pick ups vehicles collided in the Nokundi area of district Chaghi. They said six people were burnt to death on the spot.

No health facilities in Chaghi district. The injured were rushed to hospital for medical treatment and an emergency was declared



in the hospital. However, most of the injured were far away. Local people of the area rushed towards the spot and extinguished the roaring flames of fire.

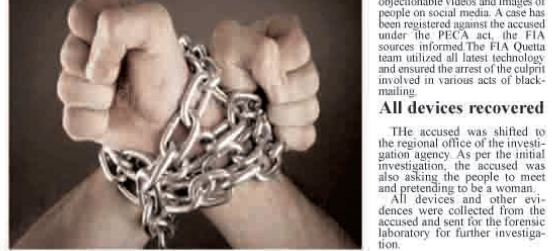
## FIA arrests an accused who poses to be a woman for blackmailing people

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA — The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Quetta arrested an accused who posed as a woman and blackmailing people. The accused identified as Samiullah was making objectionable pictures and videos on social media.

"The accused contacted young men and pretended to be a woman", sources in the FIA said. The accused Samiullah had made various fake Facebook IDs with different names of women.

**Accused uploaded objectionable content on social media**



The accused had also uploaded objectionable videos and images of people on social media. A case has been registered against the accused under the PCCA act, the FIA sources informed. The FIA Quetta team utilized all latest technology and ensured the arrest of the culprit involved in various acts of blackmailing.

**All devices recovered**

The accused was shifted to the regional office of investigation agency. As per the initial investigation, the accused was also asking the people to meet and pretending to be a woman.

All devices and other evidences were collected from the accused and sent for the forensic laboratory for further investigation.

## Imran's plea against arrest in cases registered since May 9 referred to larger LHC bench

Justice Safdar Saleem Shahid of the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday, proposed to the chief justice that a larger bench should decide a petition filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan against arrest in cases registered on or after May 9, when he was arrested from the premises of the Islamabad High Court in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

The petition, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, named the Punjab inspector general and the state through the Punjab advocate general as respondents.

The plea called on the court to direct the Punjab inspector general to provide a fresh report regarding the registration of "undisclosed/new FIRs" in Lahore on or after May 9.

It also prayed the court to give Imran "protection of law" and to bar the respondents from arresting the PTI chief in any new criminal case registered on or subsequent to May 9 without the court's prior permission.

At the outset of the hearing today, Justice Shahid inquired about the PTI chief's whereabouts. His lawyer, Barrister Salman Sadiq, informed the court that his client did not have protective bail. He said that if the court desired, his client could be presented after 11am.

However, the government lawyer opposed this and said that Imran's



plea was inadmissible. He also remarked that the PTI chief was seeking protective bail without appearing before the court. Barrister Sadiq responded by saying that his client was not seeking protective bail and asked for the case to be sent to a larger bench. The court subsequently reserved its verdict in his plea. Imran said more than 100 politically motivated and unlawful FIRs had been registered against him while hundreds of "fabricated" cases had been filed against PTI leaders and workers. It said "thousands" had been illegally detained and the whereabouts of many were unknown. It further said that the "extraordinary nature of the attack on fundamental rights of one of the largest political parties" required the court's intervention. It noted that Imran's plea for pre-arrest bail had been fixed before the HC on May 9 when NAB authorities "attacked" the biometric office and "illegally and unlawfully" arrested the PTI chief. The petitioner was forcefully abducted in the most condemnable circumstances which are already in the kind notice of this court," the plea said. It said that Imran remained in NAB's "illegal and unlawful custody" until he was produced before the court, and was also denied access to his doctors which had resulted in him experiencing "excruciating pains in his leg" after being dragged from his wheelchair at the time of his arrest. Web Desk.

# China's e-commerce

## Cries of coal miners in Balochistan

Editor Asim Khan

Perhaps, the cries of coal miners fall on deaf ears in Balochistan like in other parts of the country. Horrific news of coal miners buried alive, burnt to death, severely injured by methane gas blasts continue to surface from different areas of the province.

Such tragedies are yet to attract the attention of rulers and above all make no headlines in the so-called mainstream national media. Incidents in coal mines are always ignored. No, follow up investigation and inquiries, when it comes to the death of hapless miners in Balochistan.

Hazardous working conditions have claimed thousands of precious human lives inside coal mines of Balochistan, which houses rich-coal reservoirs. Almost with no safety, the miners enter into mines in the morning, and extract coal for a whole day. Fortunate are those who come out alive in the evening. As per the 1923 mines act, the inspector of mines is bound to inspect mine in the morning prior to the entry of miners. Similarly, children, minor boys, and women are not allowed to step inside the mine according to the act.

**Coal mines incidents rampant in Balochistan**  
Incidents in Dukk, Maki, Chamalang, Orange, Khost, Hamat, and other parts of Balochistan are rampant in coal mines.

Six coal miners trapped when a fire erupted inside the coal mines the other day in the Chamalang area of Balochistan. Fortunately, rescue workers backed by the Frontier Corps (FC) rescued all six miners after nine hours-long operations. The technical team dispatched from Quetta in a helicopter to ensure the unhurt recovery of coal miners.

The mines and mineral department government of Balochistan is reluctant to share data of incidents with the media. Although, thousands have died in the coal mines of Balochistan in the last more than a decade. Mines owners are hardly punished for poor working conditions that cause such tragedies.

**Broken families need to be provided a reasonable compensation.**  
Broken and poverty-hit families need to be provided reasonable compensation by the government. It is time for the government to make sure the implementation of the 1923 mines act to save precious human lives. Such incidents cause a national outrage in other parts of the globe. Nonetheless, they go unnoticed in the part of the world. It is a matter of our collective conscience and responsibility to raise the voice of the human rights activists and raising voice for a down-trodden class of society. To be precise, implementation of the 1923 mines act can help reduce the number of such incidents in the coal mines of Balochistan.

Consumers in the mobile age have learnt to expect their online purchases to be delivered instantly, just like their coffee, noodles, or even online entertainment. The quicker their demands are met, the more appreciative they are.

This year – 2023 – is poised to be an exciting one for Q-commerce (quick-commerce) as it continues to gain momentum globally. However, there are still many people who haven't experienced the convenience of this service, and may not fully understand its benefits. The ability to have your online purchases delivered within 45 minutes, compared to hours or even days, is a game-changer for many people, especially those who lead busy lives.

Quick, convenient and hassle-free service. The rise of quick-commerce is a global phenomenon, and it's important to note that this is not just a trend, but a fundamental shift in consumer behavior. While it may seem like a recent phenomenon, the integration has turned out to be immensely successful, even greater heights in 2023. The industry's revenue is projected to reach \$100 billion, a testament to the power of digital integration and innovation.

One of the challenges is predicting which areas will buy what products, and there have been issues with dark store operations in Europe due to their close proximity to residential areas.

In Pakistan, however, Q-commerce has been received very positively by consumers because of the convenience it brings and regulatory regimes have consequently been more business-friendly, allowing companies to operate more efficiently. What Pakistan may only be the 39th largest e-commerce market in terms of revenue, the growth rate is quite high compared to the rest of the world, making it a unique and promising market for this industry.

Key entrants to the Q-commerce market pushed existing players to rapidly expand their services along with the variety of products they already offer. It's no secret that this is a competitive market, and integration has turned out to be immensely successful, even greater heights in 2023. The industry's revenue is projected to reach \$100 billion, a testament to the power of digital integration and innovation.

28.43 per cent, projecting a market volume of \$184.7 billion by the year 2027.

Tier-1 cities like Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi consist of 70 per cent of the nation's population, making them the perfect opportunity for Q-commerce to flourish. These four cities offer approximately 150 million tech-savvy customers that are looking for quick service.

It's clear that Q-commerce has the potential to revolutionize the way we shop and receive goods, but it's important to recognize that there are challenges that come with this business model – including the right marketing strategy, customer awareness, product diversification/coverage, and the need for opening hybrid solutions for effective delivery etc. In Pakistan, the unique regulatory regime and the fast adoption of this service make it a promising market for growth and innovation.

Nobel Prize winning economist Ronald Coase observed that the most important question for a business is not how to grow, but which activities are worth doing internally and which it should look for

the market to supply. He further noted that the above question is never straightforward, and the answer may change over a period of time. For Pakistan, however, Q-commerce may be the answer for now.

Consumers in the mobile age have learnt to expect their online purchases to be delivered instantly, just like their coffee, noodles, or even online entertainment. The quicker their demands are met, the more appreciative they are. This year – 2023 – is poised to be an exciting one for Q-commerce (quick-commerce).

While it continues to gain momentum globally, however, there are still many people who haven't experienced the convenience of this service and may not fully understand its benefits. The ability to have your online purchases delivered within 45 minutes, compared to hours or even days, is a game-changer for many people, especially those who lead busy lives and appreciate quick, convenient and hassle-free service. Looking at the business lens of Q-commerce, it's important to note that this industry is not without its challenges.

By Ibad ur Rehman

While it may seem like a certain future globally, more experts are skeptical and question whether it can make a lot of money. Most companies have struggled and many have failed, raising questions about the model's sustainability. One of the challenges is predicting which areas will buy what products, and there have been issues with dark store operations in Europe due to their close proximity to residential areas. In Pakistan, however, Q-commerce has been received very positively by consumers because of the convenience it brings and regulatory regimes have consequently been more business-friendly, allowing companies to operate more efficiently. What Pakistan may only be the 39th largest e-commerce market in terms of revenue, the growth rate is quite high compared to the rest of the world, making it a unique and promising market for this industry. Key entrants to the Q-commerce market pushed existing players to rapidly expand their services along with the variety of products they already offer. It's no secret that this is a competitive market, and integration has turned out to be immensely successful, even greater heights in 2023. The industry's revenue is projected to reach \$100 billion, a testament to the power of digital integration and innovation.

## Why are we always fighting these chop waters?

Historically, Pakistan has faced several economic crises, and the most recent economic challenges are no exception, but alarming as well.

At the moment, we face several economic issues, including very high and volatile inflation, fiscal deficits, trade imbalances, substantial depreciation of the Pakistani rupee, unemployment, poverty, and income inequality.

The turbulent economic situation in the country is caused by both domestic and external factors. At the domestic front, political instability and the uncertain policy environment are dragging investment and affecting economic growth. Economic instability, frequent and significant fluctuations in economic indicators, exchange rate depreciation, increase in unemployment rates, and surge in poverty incidence are largely exacerbated by the current waves of political uncertainty.

Moreover, the current political unrest is a major obstacle to economic growth and stability, comes in the form of price increases, and slowdown in global growth have also hit our economy hard. Moreover, the current political unrest is a major obstacle to economic growth and stability, comes in the form of price increases, and slowdown in global growth have also hit our economy hard.

makers and people in the power corridors to address the underlying causes of political instability and ensure long-term economic development and prosperity.

The waves of high and volatile inflation have badly affected the country's economy, reducing their purchasing power. They have also negatively damaged investors' confidence, further to a determined economic stability. Theoretically speaking, the State Bank of Pakistan can raise interest rates, reduce inflation expectations and promote price stability, which will help to curb inflation and support long-term growth.

In this context, the SBP has made several upward adjustments in the interest rate to tackle inflation but so far its demand management policy has proved ineffective. One of the reasons for the ineffectiveness of monetary policy is the supply side issues, such as disrupted global supply chains, causing shortages of raw materials, leading to higher prices of finished products led to higher prices for goods and services.

Furthermore, the current political uncertainty is a major obstacle to economic growth and stability, comes in the form of price increases, and slowdown in global growth have also hit our economy hard.

Therefore, it is essential for policymakers and people in the power corridors to address the underlying causes of political instability and ensure long-term economic development and prosperity.

reduce regulations, and encourage investment. It is important for policymakers and the SBP to balance the need for controlling inflation and promoting economic growth and stability.

Another serious issue is the persistent imbalances at the external front. The continuous trade deficit is a major concern, leading to a depletion of foreign exchange reserves, causing a substantial depreciation in the Pakistani currency, which has further to a determined economic stability. Theoretically speaking, the State Bank of Pakistan can raise interest rates, reduce inflation expectations and promote price stability, which will help to curb inflation and support long-term growth.

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Therefore, it is essential for policymakers and people in the power corridors to address the underlying causes of political instability and ensure long-term economic development and prosperity.

By Dr Muhammad Shahid

report of IMF has revealed that Pakistan will miss the fiscal and debt reduction targets of this year. The balance of payments indicated that the situation will become worse in the next fiscal year. The budget deficit reached at 8.3 per cent of GDP. Therefore, serious efforts are needed to move the country back to a sustainable level.

Our governments can decrease spending, increase tax revenues, cutting wasteful programmes, and improving the efficiency of government operations. This requires a careful balancing act to avoid cutting social welfare and economic growth. Governments can also increase revenues by raising taxes, improving tax collection, or improving tax collection. Tax increases should be targeted at high-income earners and the most careful considerations are needed to impose taxes in a way that does not have negative impacts on economic growth.

Economic growth can also be stimulated by reducing fiscal deficits, increasing government spending, and raising higher taxes on income, profits, and sales. In this connection, it is important to note that encouraging investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship is essential for long-term growth and reduce fiscal deficits over the long term. Furthermore, governments should consider policies that are more pro-growth and less inflationary at lower interest rates, extending maturities.

analysts have marked the rise of China as its diplomatic triumph in the past few years.

China's growing closeness with Russia and the downfall of the US in the Indo-Pacific region have led to the rise of China as a global power due to the aspects of de-dollarization and decoupling from the US.

Although these are undeniably important aspects that account for the rise of China, the US has by no means the end of the US era. In addition to its leadership in the Indo-Pacific region, 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 also working to establish four new military sites under Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

The trend of joint exercises has been consistent in the Indo-Pacific region. On April 3, 2023, the US, Japan, and the South Korean Naval forces carried out joint anti-submarine drills in the Korean Peninsula. This exercise is significant as it tested emerging technologies such as underwater vehicles and intelligence-sharing equipment. In addition, earlier in the year – from March 15-30, the US hosted its annual multinational global exercise in Guam which invited Canada, South Korea and the

## Why are we always fighting these chop waters?

By Maheen Shafeeq

QUAD countries, Japan, India and Australia to participate in a major exercise. The US is also working to establish four new military sites under Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

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after 30 years of absence, the US responded its promise to return to the Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands is a nation of six major islands scattered in the western Pacific Ocean. Due to their location, these islands have a strategic significance and allow the interoperability of the Indo-Pacific region of great powers.

In March 2023, the prime minister of the Solomon Islands signed the US-IL Security Agreement. The agreement allows the US to establish four new military sites under Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

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# The Toshkhana's moral vacuum in the troubled Pakistan

Now that the Toshkhana record for the period 2020-2022 is in the public domain, it is clear how morally questionable the rules were that allowed the leaders to keep gifts they received from foreign governments at a fraction of their appraised value.

To begin with, this practice disregarded the obvious interests of the country, inherent in receiving expensive gifts when dealing with foreign governments. Let's examine the former president Gen Pervez Musharraf received gifts worth \$75 million and Pakistan only \$5.5 million (7.1% of the value).

None of these gifts were auctioned or deposited in the Toshkhana. Former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani received \$6.1 million in gifts from his trips abroad (for which he and his relatives' guests paid Rs0.9 million) and received Rs3.7 million (14 per cent of the value) of the items received. The former prime minister Nawaz Sharif received gifts worth \$5.9 million (7.1% of the value).

Toshkhana's record, but for the purposes of calculation of net monetary gifts from his trips abroad has been set at \$450 million, on the basis that Asif Ali Zardari received the same Lexus model in 2009, which has been valued at \$50 million.

As for former president Zardari, he received gifts worth \$134.4 million (15 per cent of the value) of the items received. This included two top-of-the-line BMW cars and one armored car. The former president Gen Pervez Musharraf received gifts worth \$75 million and Pakistan only \$5.5 million (7.1% of the value).

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pair of cufflinks given to the son Hussain Nawaz. Sharif returned or auctioned by the Toshkhana for only \$2 million worth of gifts.

The top position in the Toshkhana is held by the chief officers 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 Rs242.4 million (14 per cent of the value) he paid Rs48.7 million (20 per cent of the value) received. All the gifts were retained by Abbasi and his coteries or relatives. For Abbasi, who held the prime minister's position for 30 days after Sharif's disqualification, this translates into a daily net benefit of \$1 million (or \$30 million over his tenure) as he received minus amount (paid) of Rs65,000 a day.

Imran Khan benefited from receiving gifts worth \$146.6 million for which he paid Rs36.6 million (20 per cent of the value) he received. Khan also gave back to the Toshkhana for Rs1 million worth of gifts received. Khan has been accused by the current government of illegally profiting from the sale of gifts that should have been auctioned in the Toshkhana. However, the record shows that he did not position his gifts in the Toshkhana.

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

While the gifts indicated in the Toshkhana records are not the full picture, then if their values and the fact that they were retained by the recipients, 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 \$1.8 (\$60) which is unlikely for a foreign VIP.

Several issues need to be addressed to ensure the future. The definition of gifts should be widened to include non-tangible benefits from foreign governments such as all-expenses paid vacations for any leader and his/her family or educational expenses to be covered from receiving gifts.

By I Hussain

many of the duties much more efficiently as they are more accustomed to local conditions.

Leaders traveling abroad on official visits are often accompanied by air force pilots and commanders. The fact that they were retained by the recipients, 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 \$1.8 (\$60) which is unlikely for a foreign VIP.

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By Dr Naazir Mahmood

Ministry if they did not fall in line. He followed by believing that all Muslims are Muslims. Of course, Islam is a religion, not a political ideology.

Even Saudi Arabia is now changing fast and most governments in Muslim majority countries are openly trying to curb extremism. It is considered more progressive and secular but then spew venom against any return to a more Islamic cause.

Even in Pakistan there are intellectuals such as Dr Mubarak Ali and Dr Pervez Hoodbhoy who are progressive and secular by all standards, having a large following and reaching more people than incite revolt and they are not rebuffed with maligning and smearing anyone or any community. Liberal and progressive intellectuals are not rebuffed with maligning and smearing anyone or any community.

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# Minister Poverty Alleviation, Kazakh envoy agree for exchanging experiences

ISLAMABAD Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety & Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Mari was called on by Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin during the meeting held at BISP headquarters on Tuesday, both sides discussed the bilateral issues and agreed to work together for exchange of experiences in the fields of education, culture and social protection.

While highlighting the similarities of common cultural and religious heritage of Pakistan and Kazakhstan, Shazia Mari said that connectivity between the brotherly nations would enhance mutual cooperation. She also emphasized on strengthening bilateral relationship at government level as well as the people to people contact.

On this occasion, presented brochure on Benazir Income Support Programme and traditional gift of Sindh Aprikot to the visiting diplomat.

Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin appreciated the warm welcome extended by the government and said that Benazir Income Support Programme is one of the best social safety INP

# Int'l joint lab established to strengthen China-Pakistan horticultural collaboration

BEIJING The signing ceremony of the International Joint Laboratory on Horticulture Research, a collaboration between Huazhong Agricultural University (HAZU), China and University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), Pakistan, was held at HAZU on May 16.

The joint laboratory will focus on horticultural research, with an emphasis on improving crop productivity, developing new varieties and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The laboratory will provide a platform for joint research projects between HAZU and UAF as well as for academic exchange programs for students and faculty.

The scope of the joint laboratory includes innovative research activities in the industrial chain of horticultural crops, such as germplasm innovation, culture or production, and post-harvest technology innovation for fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants, with an emphasis on the use of modern agricultural techniques, equipment and management systems.

The joint lab encourages both institutions to develop special programs and/or internships that provide opportunities for students and/or faculty members to gain practical experience in their respective fields.

It also encourages the publication of joint research findings in peer-reviewed journals. It is worth mentioning that in the past decade, Pakistani students from the College of Horticulture and Forestry Sciences at HAZU have published more than 60 scientific articles in international SCI journals.

HAZU and UAF have long history of collaboration in scientific research, talent development and cultivation.

More than 50 UAF alumni are studying or have already graduated from HAZU in Horticulture and Forestry Sciences, HAZU.

Both universities jointly established the China-Pakistan Horticulture Research and Demonstration Centre last year, which has enhanced their partnership and promoted the exchange of knowledge in the field of horticulture, agriculture and forestry.

The inauguration ceremony was witnessed by HAZU President Dr. Zhaohui and UAF Vice-Chancellor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan. The two sides also visualized



PESHAWAR: Activists of Tajran Khyber Pakhtunkhwa hold solidarity rally in favor of, Pakistan Army Zindabad at Qissa Khawani Bazaar.

# IHC bars Fawad Chaudhary's arrest till May 17

Later Justice Aurangzeb approved Fawad's protective bail for two days and barred the police from arresting the former minister in any case registered against him in Islamabad.

The court also directed that a copy of the order should be sent to the Inspector General of Police (IGP). The court adjourned the hearing till tomorrow.

Earlier in the day, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhary managed to escape from their grasp and swiftly made his way back to the courtroom.

It is pertinent to mention here that the IHC on Monday ordered authorities to produce Pakistan Ambassador to U.S. Vice President Teheek-e-Insaf Vice President Fawad Chaudhary on Tuesday.

The plea against the arrest of the former minister for information and broadcasting was taken up by IHC Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb.

Faisal Chaudhary in his arguments before the court said that he had been ordered by the court to remain in protective bail for two days.

The Punjab Police attempted to arrest PTI senior leader Fawad Chaudhary from outside the Islamabad High Court.

# New Parliament Lodges Project: Speaker NA expresses dismay over prolong delay

Visits Parliament Lodges along with Chairman PAC on Tuesday. The project is progressing on construction of 104 additional family suites including servant quarters.

ISLAMABAD Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf has expressed dismay over the prolonged delay in execution of New Parliament Lodges project.

The Speaker NA along with Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Noor Alam Khan visited Parliament lodges on Tuesday to inspect the progress on construction of 104 additional family suites including 500 servant quarters.

On the occasion, they were briefed by senior officers of CDA regarding issues and basic contours of the project construction.

Raja Pervez Ashraf criticizing the poor performance of CDA said that delay of more than a decade in completing this project is tantamount to severe negligence on the part of professional team.

He also instructed National Assembly Secretariat to arrange meeting with Chairman Senate in order to deliberate upon finding ways to complete this project.

He also said that in order to complete such projects there is need to find out of box solution.

Chairman PAC Noor Alam Khan highlighted the significance of completing this project in Phases and stressed on the need to complete family suites on priority basis as more than seventy percent work has already been completed. He also mentioned the project of connecting parliament lodges with Parliament House through tunnel.

He said that drainage issue is a distraction of the whole building and there is an urgent need to resolve this issue. Furthermore, the issue of parking and lift were also deliberated upon in the meeting.

The member planning CDA briefed NA Speaker and chairman CDA that CDA is the executing agency of the project and the project construction of new Parliamentary lodges was to be completed in 2013. He also said that due to the delay the cost of the project has exponentially increased from Rs1600 million to Rs6.4 billion. The Speaker and chairman expressed dismay and displeasure over the non INP

**TENDER NOTICE**

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. The Project Director Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development has been invited to submit bids for execution of following works for the year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender fee Rs.2000/-

S.No	Name of Works / E/CoSt
1	Construction of Jungli Bagh Road with Nallah 170,128,761/- and Qambrian Road. TSE-22205318223

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 100,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-4 and above (Up to 200 million) in Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE09 (Sewerage Works), CE10 (General Civil Engineering Works), CE01 (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure). AUDIT REPORT OF LAST 3 YEARS. Gross challan of Rs 2000/- 2% of estimated cost. Bidder to submit the original documents. Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) and at the office of the Project Director. Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 01 June, 2023 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: House No. 81-A, Chaman House Scheme, Abbottabad. Phone no: 03337917699/0337868226. Fax no: 0812864486. Email: [dqpc@bpa.gov.pk](mailto:dqpc@bpa.gov.pk)

**PROJECT DIRECTOR CHIEF MINISTER PACKAGE FOR QUETTA DEVELOPMENT**

**AB NO.452/16-2023**



MADINA MUNAWARA: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and PML-N central leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq attend a dinner hosted by PML-N Saudi Arab President Sheikh Saad.

# World Hypertension Day to be marked on today

ISLAMABAD High blood pressure, or World Hypertension Day (WHD) will be observed across the globe and in Pakistan on Wednesday.

It should be mentioned here that the World Hypertension Day is celebrated to increase awareness about abnormally high blood pressure, which is the primary risk factor not only for cardiovascular diseases like a heart attack, but for many other health conditions such as stroke, kidney problems, vision loss and dementia.

Hypertension is a common condition in which your normal or average blood pressure is measured to be higher than what is considered the standard for your age/condition.

The most common symptoms of hypertension are fatigue, nose-bleed, chest pain, dizziness, vision problems, irregular heart-beat, headache and difficulty in breathing.

Remember, only a qualified health care practitioner can diagnose hypertension after proper examination and consultation with your active participation in monitoring your blood pressure.

Though hypertension in most cases is not curable, it is manageable through lifestyle changes. The mass graves in most cases through some medications.

Here are some suggestions for lifestyle modifications, consult with an expert before implementing these in your daily life.

Maintain a healthy weight, increase daily physical activity, quit smoking and any other form of tobacco intake, add more fruits and vegetables to your diet and reduce added salt in your meals.

Remember, rush to Emergency Department if you have symptoms or your blood pressure reading is continuously higher than normal and you experience severe chest pains, numbness and difficulty in speaking, or shortness of breath INP

# Mushaal urges G20 countries to boycott moot, play role for Kashmir settlement

ISLAMABAD A B A D Mushaal Hussain Julluck has urged G20 countries to boycott its upcoming meeting being hosted by the fascist Narendra Modi government in India by threatening to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir (JOKK), advising that they should utilize their power and influence to settle the decades-long Kashmir dispute.

Mushaal, who is the wife of incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Majeed, said that Kashmiris rejected and boycotted such dramas of India so G-20 countries should also boycott the upcoming conference to give a clear message to Modi that they can't stand with the oppressor, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Mushaal said that occupied Kashmir turned into a graveyard for Muslims due to Modi's fascist and genocidal policies. Mushaal also said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bloodshed has been revealed to everyone.

The mass graves in Occupied Kashmir were identified by Indian historian Angana Chatterjee in 2012, adding that Angana Chatterjee identified 2,700 mass graves in Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara districts of Occupied Kashmir.

In this regard, according to the National Human Rights Watch, 2943 bodies have been recovered from mass graves in 55 villages of Occupied Kashmir. Among these mass graves in Occupied Kashmir, 80% of the graves have not been identified, she added.

Mushaal also said that Kashmir Human Rights Watch had also identified 2,700 mass graves in Occupied Kashmir.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division, Jaffarabad invites sealed percentage rates based on Composite Schedule of Rates, 2019 Govt. of Balochistan and non-schedule items (on prevailing Market Rates from interested Contractors for the works mentioned below - BID SECURITY 2% (in Shave of CDR) - Tender Fee Rs. 650/- and time limit 30-06-2023 for each work.

S/Sl.	NAME OF WORKS	ECOST	BID SECURITY
1	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES MARKET COMPLEX USTAMHAMMAD DISTRICT JAFFARABAD PSPD NO.3550		
1)	FORK VILLAGE TAMOOR KHAN JAMALI	73,40,564/-	1,45,900/-
ii)	Civil Work TSE-22205319393	25,20,960/-	50,500/-
iii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE-22205319403	11,61,678/-	23,700/-
2)	FORK VILLAGE ABDUL QADIR RAKHSHANI	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
i)	Construction of Raw Water Tank (Civil Work) TSE-22205319413	11,61,678/-	23,700/-
ii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE-22205319423	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
3)	FORK VILLAGE ABUL HAFEZ RAKHSHANI	11,61,678/-	23,700/-
i)	Construction of Raw Water Tank (Civil Work) TSE-22205319433	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
ii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE-22205319423	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
4)	FORK VILLAGE NIAZ PANDRANI	11,61,678/-	23,700/-
i)	Construction of Raw Water Tank (Civil Work) TSE-22205319483	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
ii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE-22205319483	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
5)	FORK VILLAGE SARFAD FAJER ALI AHMAD PANDRANI	11,61,678/-	23,700/-
i)	Construction of Raw Water Tank (Civil Work) TSE-22205319503	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
ii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE-22205319513	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
6)	FORK VILLAGE SHAKAL SOBDRANI	11,61,678/-	23,700/-
i)	Construction of Raw Water Tank (Civil Work) TSE-22205319523	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
ii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE-22205319533	26,04,452/-	52,100/-
7)	DRILLING OF NEW BORE FILTER PLANT WITH SOLAR SYSTEM WATER SUPPLY SCHEME AT VILLAGE RAJ		
8)	HUYANI DISTRICT JAFFARABAD PSPD NO.3559		
i)	Civil Work TSE-22205319573	25,21,804/-	50,500/-
ii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE-22205319593	25,21,804/-	50,500/-

Procurement shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: The contractor must have registration with Tax authorities i.e. BRA, NTN & Sales tax department, valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in Category C-09 who have enrollment/renewal for the year: 2022-23. In the contractor's representative will participate in the tender then the representative must have the original authority issued by the contractor in his name. Eligibility Criteria - Minimum three assignments of value not less than estimated cost and Turn over of value not less than estimated cost. Method of Procurement- Single stage, Single envelope. Bid Security- The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of bidding document fee (non refundable) (amount mentioned above) through Green Channel C-2725-02 PHED (Revenue Receipt) deposited only in National Bank of Pakistan Dera Allah Yar Branches. (The NIT & Bidding Documents can also be downloaded from [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) Issuance of Notice Documents: Tender forms/documents will be issued to the bidders/contractors on publication of Tender documents upon presentation of requisite documents. Last date for submission: The tenders should be submitted by 31-05-2023 till 02:00 PM at the office of the undersigned. Tender Opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 02:00 PM (in case of public holiday announced by the Government (due to any reason), the tender will be opened the next working day at the same time and venue). Tender commission reserves the right to change the quantities or cancel/accept any offer without assigning any reason. Address: Public Health Engineering Division, Jaffarabad, Dera Allah Yar. Phone No. 0835-510362 Fax No. 0835-510362. Email: [ee@phedbalochistan.gov.pk](mailto:ee@phedbalochistan.gov.pk)

**PRQ NO.3861/116-05-2023**

PRQ NO.3861/116-05-2023



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and PML-N central leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq attend a dinner hosted by PML-N Saudi Arab President Sheikh Saad.

# President directs banks to refund Rs564,469 to victims of bank fraud

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Dr Anif Alvi has directed two private banks to refund an amount of Rs 564,469 to three victims of bank fraud who were deprived of their money by fraudsters through online funds transfers and fraudulent ATM transactions.

The President gave these directions while deciding on three separate representations filed by Allied Bank Ltd (ABL), United Bank Ltd (UBL) and a citizen against three different decisions of the Banking Mohtasib (BM).

As per details, the complainants Mr Muhammad Saleem Zafar, Mr Hidayatullah, and Mr Ghulam Muhammad were maintaining separate accounts with ABL in Lahore, UBL in District Karak, and ABL in Peshawar respectively. Mr Zafar received a call from a number similar to ABL's helpline and the caller introduced himself as the Bank's representative. Mr Zafar shared his banking information with the caller, after which, a sum total of Rs 348,500 was deducted from his account.

Similarly, Mr Hidayatullah lost Rs 170,969 to some unknown person using UBL Digital App even though he had neither requested for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Facility nor had he ever used it. Mr Ghulam Muhammad lost Rs 45,000 when his card was captured by an ATM machine and he later found out that some fraudsters got hold of his card through deception, conducted ATM transactions, and withdrew funds from his account unauthorizedly. The complainants approached the banks for relief but without any result. Feeling aggrieved, they separately approached the Banking Mohtasib (BM) which in the cases of Mr Zafar and Mr

Hidayatullah directed to refund the lost amounts to them whereas in the case of Ghulam Muhammad, BM directed to close the complaint. The cases were later referred to the President through separate representations, who directed the banks to pay the defrauded amount to all three victims of bank fraud.

The President in his decisions observed that in the cases of Mr Zafar and Mr Hidayatullah, the respective banks had opened EFT Facility by default without the consent and knowledge of the customers, which was in violation of the State Bank of Pakistan's rules/regulations and the Payment System and Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) Act, 2007. He noted that the complainants had not requested for the opening of such channels and the banks could not produce any evidence with regard to the full disclosure of terms of fund transfer in a clear manner as stipulated in the EFT Act 2007. He upheld the decisions of the BM that since malpractices and maladministration on the part of banks had been established, therefore, the banks were liable to make good the loss of Rs 348,500 and Rs 170,969 to the customers. In the case of Ghulam Muhammad, the President observed that it was proven unambiguously that the card was captured and later on some swindlers got hold of his card through their sleight of hands/deception from the ATM. He said that it was the primary responsibility of the bank to protect the interests of the depositors optimally and recently representations of similar nature filed by banks were rejected, therefore, justice demanded consistency in cases of similar nature. The President, therefore, rejected the decision of the Banking Mohtasib to close the case and directed ABL to pay Rs 45,000 to the victim of fraud. INP



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Commission to enquire and investigate grievances of the students of Balochistan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

# 1 schoolgirl killed, 7 injured in firing outside Swat school

A girl was killed and seven others, including a teacher and female students, sustained injuries after a police officer posted outside a school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat district opened fire on them, the police said.

According to District Police Officer (DPO) Shafiqullah Gandapur, the constable, identified as Alam Khan, was arrested immediately after the attack and a first information report (FIR) was registered against him.

"A special investigation team has been formed to make further investigation into the matter. I assure everyone that strict legal punishment will be given to the culprit," he told media persons. Gandapur said the accused hailed from the Salampur area and was suspended from the police force twice. Khan was reinstated in the police department last year and was deployed outside the school for security three months back. He added that the wounded persons were moved to the Saifu

Sharif Teaching Hospital and an emergency has been imposed at the facility.

Meanwhile, one of the injured girls, who is currently being treated at the hospital, told Dawn.com that the suspect opened indiscriminate fire on their van as soon as it exited the school gate.

"All the schoolchildren got scared and starting shouting after which people started gathering," she added.

After the gruesome incident was reported, KP Inspector General Akhtar Hayat Gandapur took notice of the shooting and visited the injured children along with Malakand Regional Police Officer Nasir Mehmood Dasti, DPO Gandapur, and Swat Deputy Commissioner Irfanullah Wazir.

A statement issued by the Swat police said that RPO Malakand directed hospital authorities to ensure the best treatment for the injured girls. Web Desk

# Sherry stresses for political will at global level to address climate crisis

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman has called for the race against time necessities both critical mass and political will to address the climate crisis saying we are likely hurtling towards a 2-degree plus world.

The minister was speaking virtually at the Austrian World Summit 2023 during a panel discussion titled "We Have the Power to Reach Our Climate Targets". She was joined by Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria and Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Scotland.

Sherry Rehman said that unlocking climate finance is crucial for building resilience in countries vulnerable to climate change. The path ahead is clear and straightforward: climate finance must be affordable, agile, and easily accessible in times of disaster. We need a clear understanding of the Loss and Damage Fund and the Adaptation Fund, despite its existence for years, has been underfunded and ineffective.

"We must ensure that the Loss and Damage fund, which restored trust in the multilateral process of climate change, does not become a ghost fund. These funds require reliable sources of capitalization to fulfill their purpose and to make a transformative shift, we need creative solutions to reform the multilateral development banks (MDBs) and international financial architecture."

# Politics of Imran based on fanning chaos, disorder: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has stated that the 9th of May tragedy would have not occurred if the main culprits of attacks on PTI Headquarters in 2014 were held accountable and awarded strict punishment.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, she said the politics of PTI Chief Imran Khan is based on fanning chaos, disorder in the society and enmity towards the nation.

The Minister said the plot of attacking national installations including Jinnah House and burning the monuments of Shuhada and Ghazis was hatched in Zaman Park. She said PTI leaders gave targets and issued instructions to their armed gangs of Tiger Force to attack national installations.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said the entire nation is in shock over the May 9th tragedy when armed forces

installations, public and private buildings were attacked and torched.

The Minister said we have concrete evidence that PTI leaders issued instructions to activists of Tiger Force to attack state institutions.

She said the allegations of Imran Khan on the state institutions for burning and damaging the state installations are baseless and false.

Strongly criticizing the judiciary, the Minister said Imran Khan is being backed and encouraged by the apex court, which is tantamount to tarnishing and humiliating its own image.

About reducing the existing prices of petroleum products for next fortnight, Marriyum Aurangzeb said the government gave a sigh of relief to the people by decreasing petroleum prices substantially despite difficult economic situation of the country. INP

تمہیں تعین نفرت کی جو دے دشمن تمہارا ہے  
سراسی سیاست کی جو دے صحیفہ، وطن ہم سب کو پیارا ہے

شہیدوں کی وفا کی یاد گاریں، فخر تھیں تیرا  
یہ طیارہ نہیں تھا، استغداد تھا کہ سرحد پار سے دشمن تیرے گھر آئے پائے گا

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