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Balochistan education
budget: more than Rs.100
billions allocated

Balochistan cabinet
approves budget for
financial year 2023-24

Balochistan deficit budget with total
outlay of Rs.750 billions presented

Syed Ali Shah, Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Amid differences and delays, the
Balochistan government presented a deficit
budget with a total outlay of Rs. 750 in the
provincial assembly on Monday evening.
The government's income is estimated at Rs.701 billion
and the deficit is Rs.49 billions.
Presenting the budget in the house amid an
uneasy calm although no protest, Balochistan
Finance Minister, Zamarak Khan Achakzai
announced that the government has also
increased the salaries of government employees
from grade-1 to 16 by 35 percent. "Government
has increased the salaries despite financial crisis",
Mr. Achakzai told the house in his budget
speech, the salaries of government officers from
grade-17 to 22 increased by 30 percent.

Employees
salaries from
grade-1 to 16
increased by
35 percent

The pension has also been increased by 17.5
percent in Balochistan, the finance minister
mentioned.

Unlike past, the budget speech was not
interrupted by lawmakers from the opposition. "This
is good budget and all schemes included", Hamal
Kalmati, a lawmaker from Balochistan National
Party (BNP) told reporters.

Rs.437 billions allocated
for non-development
expenditures

As always this year the volume of non-devel-
opment expenditures also increased. "The outlay



of the non-development budget is Rs.437 bil-
lions", the finance minister informed.
Zamarak Achakzai stated that Rs.229.301 bil-
lions were allocated for the Public Sector
Development Program (PSDP) in Balochistan.
He mentioned that Rs. 170.724 were allocated
for 4,721 ongoing projects and Rs.58.667b were
allocated for 3068 new development schemes in
Balochistan.

4,389 vacancies
created in
the budget

The finance minister informed that 4,389
vacancies were created in the budget to reduce
the ratio of unemployment in the province. He
said most of the vacancies were created in the
education and health sectors.

The finance minister said the government allo-
cated Rs.55 for launching the health card/health
insurance scheme in Balochistan to support all
deserving and needy families.

Rs.2 billions
allocated for
scholarships
of students

He said Rs.2 billions were allocated for the
scholarship of students to support needy and
deserving students. The minister informed that
priority was given to the education department
and over Rs.77 billions were allocated for pri-
mary, high and secondary schools department.

He said similarly Rs.65 billions were allocated
for the health department to improve health ser-
vices in the province.

Over 30,000 junior teachers
upgraded in Balochistan

Education Desk

QUETTA: The
Balochistan government
on Sunday upgraded over
30,000 teachers across
the province. The
Government Teachers
Association Balochistan
(GTAB) called off its 11-
days long hunger strike
after acceptance of its key
demand.



"This is for the first
time in the history of
Balochistan that thou-
sands of junior teachers
have been promoted",
Naseebullah Marri, the
provincial education min-
ister said. He said Chief
Minister Balochistan Mir
Quddus Bizenjo and the
entire cabinet members

endorsed the upgradation
of all teachers.
Members of the GTAB
were observing hunger to
death strike outside the
Balochistan Assembly for
the last eleven days to
mount pressure on the
government for accept-

ance of their demands.
GTAB leaders thank
the Balochistan ministers
for their efforts to accept
the demands of teachers.
"We are thankful to the
provincial government
for accepting our
demands", Habib ur

Rehman Mardanzai, the
GTAB president told the
visiting ministers.
Balochistan finance
minister, Zamarak Khan
Achakzai, member
provincial assembly,
Nasrullah Zari and other
government officials
were also present on the
occasion.

"Despite financial cri-
sis, our government
approved the upgradation
of teachers", the
Balochistan Finance
Minister, Zamarak
Achakzai said. He how-
ever urged the teachers to
ensure their presence in
classes and improve qual-
ity of education after
acceptance of their long-
standing demands.

Balochistan education
budget: more than Rs.100
billions allocated

Education Desk

The Balochistan gov-
ernment allocated more
than Rs.100 billions for
the education sector in
the province in the
budget for the financial
year 2023-24. As per
the budget documents
obtained by the Daily
Quetta Voice, Rs.65.21
billions were allocated
for the salaries of teach-
ers of primary, middle
and high school teach-
ers.



However, Rs. 12 bil-

lions were allocated for
the development of the
education sector in
Balochistan. The
provincial government
also allocated Rs.13.63
billions for the non-
development expendi-
tures in the higher edu-
cation department and
Rs.10 billions for the
development of educa-
tion sector.

The overall education
budget of the primary,
middle, high and higher
education remains more
than Rs.100 billions in
Balochistan as per the
budget documents of
2023-24.

Balochistan Govt allocates land for setting up
National institute of Forensic Sciences

Sheikh Razzak

QUETTA: The Parliamentary Secretary
Law and Parliamentary Affairs Science and
Information Technology Dr. Rubaba Khan
Buledi on Monday said that Balochistan gov-
ernment has allocated land for setting up of
National institute of Forensic Sciences.
With the establishment of this institute,
Balochistan's dependence on the Punjab
Forensic Laboratory will end and Quetta
itself will deal with forensic matters," she
said while talking to former senior officer of
Police Services of Pakistan Dr. Syed Kaleem
Imam (Tamgha Intiaz) and consultant
National Institute of Forensic Sciences who
called on her here at Law Department.



Syed Kaleem Imam
briefs Dr. Rubaba
Buledi about the lab

Mr. Kaleem Imam briefed her about the
establishment of National Institute of
Forensic Sciences in Quetta and discussed
the necessary legislation in this context.
Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said that the
provincial government has provided ade-
quate land for the establishment of the first
forensic sciences institute.

MoU inked with
higher education

On this occasion, Dr. Syed Kaleem
Imam said that an MoU has been inked
with the Higher Education Commission
regarding the National Institute of
Forensic Sciences, while all the admini-
strative and technical issues have been
explained in the charter, but the final
law prior to the implementation, docu-
ments containing the suggestions given
by the provincial government can be
made.

The institute will hire six highly
qualified professionals from
Balochistan, including vice-chancellor
and professors, he maintained. This
project will not only ensure educational
facilities, but also employment opportu-
nities will be available to talented local
people of Balochistan.

Balochistan cabinet
approves budget for
financial year 2023-24

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: The
Balochistan cabinet
approved the budget for
the financial year 2023-
24 on Monday evening.
Chief Minister
Balochistan, Mir Quddus
Bizenjo chaired the bud-
get meeting of the provin-
cial cabinet.



The Balochistan
Assembly session was
delayed as a result of
delayed approval by the
provincial cabinet. All
provincial minister and
the chief secretary
Balochistan participated

in the budget session.
CM Balochistan, Mir
Quddus Bizenjo signed
the budget for the year
2023-24. Secretary
Finance Qammar Dashti
briefed the cabinet mem-
bers about the budget.

Roadmap devised to reconstruct
infrastructure destroyed by 2022 flood: Dar
ECC approved
Rs12 billion to
replenish the stock
of the National
Disaster

ISLAMABAD: Federal
Minister for Finance and
Revenue Senator Muhammad
Dar informed the Lower
House of the Parliament
on Monday that a comprehensive
roadmap has been devised for
reconstruction and rehabilitation
of the infrastructure destroyed by
the 2022 flood.



Responding to the concerns of
Pakistan Peoples Party
Parliamentarians (PPP) law-
maker Dr. Nafis Sadiq in the
National Assembly, he said,
"Immediate relief work has
already been done throughout
the country with the disburse-
ment of Rs25000 per family
through the BISP programme.
Almost Rs100 billion have
already been spent in addition to

the assistance extended by NDMA in kind."

Ishaq Dar said that the
Economic Coordination
Committee (ECC) of the cabinet
had recently approved Rs12
billion to replenish the stock of
the National Disaster Manage-
ment Authority (NDMA), keeping in
view the predicted threats of
the monsoon and the cyclone.
Following the widespread
destruction caused by the heavy
rains and floods, he said a com-
prehensive report INP

School teacher killed in
Mashkay Awaran

From Our Correspondent

A school teacher was killed in a firing
incident in Balochistan's Awaran district
on Monday morning. Levies sources
said unknown accused opened fire and
killed a school teacher identified as
Manzoor Ahmed in the Mashkay tehsil of
Awaran district.



The assailants sped away on their
motorcycle after the attack. Levies and
local residents of the area reached the
spot and shifted the dead body to a near-
by hospital.

Security was tightened in the area
after the killing of a teacher. However,
motive behind the attack could not be
ascertained immediately.
CM Bizenjo condemns the attack.
Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir
Quddus Bizenjo strongly condemned
the attack and directed the local admini-
stration to apprehend the culprits
behind the incident. In a statement
issued after the incident, Mr. Bizenjo
said it was a coward attack and a teacher
has been targeted. "This is against
human rights and education", the CM
Balochistan said.
He said the attackers would be
brought to justice.



# Gender budgeting - a tool for gender equality

Editor Asim Khan

Mehroz Ali Khan

## The forgotten flood affectees of Balochistan

Almost a year on, thousands of flood affected people are yet to be rehabilitated in various flood-hit districts of Balochistan. In scorching heat, the flood affectees in Balochistan's Naserabad, Jaffarabad, Sohbat Pur, Lasbela and other districts continue to suffer.

Flood affectees appeals for rehabilitation and relief almost fell on deaf ears in the province and center. It was very shocking for every sane person that the federal government has not paid a single penny out of a total amount of Rs 10 billion announced by the prime minister Shehbaz Sharif for flood affectees of Balochistan.

Islamabad yet to pay a single penny out of Rs 10 billion announced by Prime Minister

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo lodged a protest before the federal government regarding the financial crisis of Balochistan and demanded the payment of funds announced by the premier on August 28 last year in Jaffarabad district for flood affectees.

The current year's monsoon season is about to start, neither the provincial nor the federal governments have taken any effective steps for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees of the last year.

All abandoned flood affectees of Balochistan Government departments in general and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in particular have almost abandoned the flood affected areas. The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have almost left the areas affected by floods.

The federal government has not paid a single penny for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees, this is painful. This is also a bitter reality that the provincial government has also not taken effective steps to support the affectees in this hour of trial.

Collapsed bridges after devastating floods are yet to be reconstructed in Quetta. What to speak about rest of Balochistan, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

It is the sole responsibility of the provincial and federal governments to take effective steps to rehabilitate the flood affectees before it is already late.



Article 25 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan says that there will be no discrimination among the citizens on the basis of sex. It means that the rights of men and women shall be equal. Gender equality is a basic fundamental right in any self-respecting society. Do ground realities substantiate this assertion? Are there even playing grounds for both genders? If not, why it is so? And how can gender mainstreaming be achieved to ensure Gender Responsive, Gender Sensitive and Gender Aware budgeting.

There are many policy options to reduce this imbalance but budget is the primary instrument and planning instrument

Gender Responsive, Gender Sensitive and Gender Aware budgeting.

There are many policy options to reduce this imbalance but budget is the primary instrument and planning instrument

for governments that are working towards reaching the goal of Gender Equality. Gender Responsive, Gender Sensitive and Gender Aware budgeting in a country, region, or a province can create a conducive environment to bring equality? The fundamental objective of gender budgeting refers to refining budget and related policies with a view to promoting gender equality as an integral part of human rights. Gender budgeting makes the gender-specific effects of budgets visible and raises awareness about their frequently implicit dimensions of discrimination against women.

Gender impacts of budget and policies Gender budgeting thus identifies the gender-specific implications of budget and policies which is usually presented as gender-neutral - and, in particular economic and social policy budgeting is therefore regarded as a core strategy for raising awareness and understanding of gender issues and the gender impacts of budgets and policies. When we talk in the context of Pakistan, the first question that strikes us is that 'Is there any study ever conducted to find out the gender gaps? Did we undertake any post or pre-budget assessment of the annual budget on different segments of the society, especially women, who form almost 50% (48.76% to be specific) of our national population? In Balochistan, the gender ratio is 47.47%. If our budget is not Gender Sensitive, almost half the population is left out. In our set up women empowerment starts and ends with the provision of Sewing Machines, the opening of embroidery centers, and the holding of cultural shows. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender-specific at all levels of the budgetary process, and restructuring revenue and expenditure is required in order to promote gender equality. As mentioned above, the gender ratio in Balochistan is 47.4% and their needs are completely ignored at

all levels and they are hardly involved in the budgetary process. An analysis of PSDPs since 2013-14 till 2020-21 shows that there was not a single project in the years 2013-14 till 2014-15, as if women and their needs or they were not worthy of any consideration. Then from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there were one to three projects and the total outlay ranged from 12% to 12.5% which has high priority that 47.49% of the population gets in the province. Although the world over women is not categorized as a vulnerable group.

In Balochistan, they are not only vulnerable but also marginalized. But the reality is they get in Pakistan, especially in Balochistan, they are not only vulnerable but also marginalized in the real sense of the world. A UN Report on Women said that remain an unrealized dream unless the government takes concrete steps through gender budgeting for gender mainstreaming and using this untapped potential.

Women development department manned by male officers. There are women's D e v e l o p m e n t Department, mostly manned by male officers and workers who are supposed to work for the welfare of female workers. They lack the capacity to formulate and implement plans for female uplift. There are women's capital city are simply deplorable. Economic Development will remain an unrealized dream unless the government takes concrete steps through gender budgeting for gender mainstreaming and using this untapped potential. Why they are considered vulnerable because they are solely dependent on male counterparts both at home as well as at work. Surprisingly there are no separate Rest Rooms (Washrooms) for ladies in Secretariat road. For the entire female population, there is only one female park in Smugli Road and they have no recreational facilities whatsoever.

# Ukraine's attack on Russia in review

By Khalid Bhatti

By Hasan Saeed

Ukraine has launched its much-awaited counter-offensive against Russia with the aim to recapture the areas occupied by Russia and Russian troops to retreat. According to Western media reports, Ukrainian forces launched the counter-offensive in at least three areas. The Russian military and government officials have also confirmed the attack. But both sides are offering contradictory claims.

According to the Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Mairer, the Ukrainian offensive is 'taking place in several directions'. Ukrainian officials have not yet provided the full details of the recently launched attack.

Russian President Vladimir Putin claims that Ukraine's large-scale counter-offensive has not been successful in any area. Russia's defence ministry claims that Ukraine has resisted a large-scale attack by Ukraine in the Donetsk region. In its statement, the Russian news agency has claimed that Ukraine has killed 250 Ukrainians and destroyed a number of armoured vehicles used in the assault.

These figures and claims alone are not enough to show the intensity of the battle that has been going on since June 4. This is just the beginning of an offensive that might continue for the next four to six months, and more intense battles are likely to take place on different fronts.

It is not easy to verify the claims made by both sides. Russia and Ukraine are engaged in a propaganda war. Ukraine has the advantage in this war because it is backed by the Western powers. Western media is helping the Ukrainian government to spread its propaganda.

Independent Western military experts say that the current offensive is just the beginning. The Ukrainian forces are testing the strength of the Russian defences on different fronts. The battle will gain strength in the coming weeks and is likely to result in more deaths, destruction and miseries. More soldiers will be killed on both sides. The working class in Ukraine is already suffering economic difficulties caused by the war. The Ukrainian economy is surviving on Western aid and loans.

The counter-offensive is likely to continue throughout summer and might end by the beginning of autumn. It is also possible to be a defining moment in this war. Russia's military strategy is working round the clock to produce more soldiers to break through Russian defences to recapture the occupied territories and have serious consequences.

It is difficult to predict the exact outcome of the war at this stage but Russians clearly have the advantage against Ukraine. Russia has modern weapons, modern military hardware and supplies. The Russian economy is still doing well despite the severe sanctions imposed by the US and its allies. But it will be wrong to deny the fact that sanctions do have some impact on the Russian economy. Russia's GDP growth has fallen to a low level in the country. The economic situation is not helping the poor in Russia and the sanctions have affected most sectors as well as businesses and individuals.

The sanctions have not crippled the Russian economy as the US and its allies intended. They have also failed to compel Russia to stop its military operations in the West. So Russia is still in the position to spend more money on the war. According to Western media reports, Ukrainian forces launched the counter-offensive in at least three areas. The Russian military and government officials have also confirmed the attack. But both sides are offering contradictory claims.

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Ukraine has launched its much-awaited counter-offensive against Russia with the aim to recapture the areas occupied by Russia and Russian troops to retreat. According to Western media reports, Ukrainian forces launched the counter-offensive in at least three areas. The Russian military and government officials have also confirmed the attack. But both sides are offering contradictory claims.

According to the Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Mairer, the Ukrainian offensive is 'taking place in several directions'. Ukrainian officials have not yet provided the full details of the recently launched attack.

Russian President Vladimir Putin claims that Ukraine's large-scale counter-offensive has not been successful in any area. Russia's defence ministry claims that Ukraine has resisted a large-scale attack by Ukraine in the Donetsk region. In its statement, the Russian news agency has claimed that Ukraine has killed 250 Ukrainians and destroyed a number of armoured vehicles used in the assault.

These figures and claims alone are not enough to show the intensity of the battle that has been going on since June 4. This is just the beginning of an offensive that might continue for the next four to six months, and more intense battles are likely to take place on different fronts.

It is not easy to verify the claims made by both sides. Russia and Ukraine are engaged in a propaganda war. Ukraine has the advantage in this war because it is backed by the Western powers. Western media is helping the Ukrainian government to spread its propaganda.

Independent Western military experts say that the current offensive is just the beginning. The Ukrainian forces are testing the strength of the Russian defences on different fronts. The battle will gain strength in the coming weeks and is likely to result in more deaths, destruction and miseries. More soldiers will be killed on both sides. The working class in Ukraine is already suffering economic difficulties caused by the war. The Ukrainian economy is surviving on Western aid and loans.

The counter-offensive is likely to continue throughout summer and might end by the beginning of autumn. It is also possible to be a defining moment in this war. Russia's military strategy is working round the clock to produce more soldiers to break through Russian defences to recapture the occupied territories and have serious consequences.

It is difficult to predict the exact outcome of the war at this stage but Russians clearly have the advantage against Ukraine. Russia has modern weapons, modern military hardware and supplies. The Russian economy is still doing well despite the severe sanctions imposed by the US and its allies. But it will be wrong to deny the fact that sanctions do have some impact on the Russian economy. Russia's GDP growth has fallen to a low level in the country. The economic situation is not helping the poor in Russia and the sanctions have affected most sectors as well as businesses and individuals.

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# Facing future floods sales are increasing

Dr Afsheen Siddiqi

Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani

Pakistan's floods of 2022 were the latest, and most damaging addition to the long history of floods in the country. As the muddy waters slowly recede, the need for speeding up action to face future floods is clear.

Floods have been the most frequent natural disaster in Pakistan. The decisions for land-use and habitation do not reflect this reality. Using intensively flooded areas has been concurrent with an increasing population in the flood plains of the Indus river. It is this confluence of factors and people in floodplains that creates the tragedy of lost lives and property. The flood of 2022 has led to reported losses of over 1700 lives, affected 33 million people and incurred damages of over \$40 billion (amounting to more than 20% of the 2021 national GDP). The flood of 2021 led to a loss of over 1200 lives, over 1 million homes for over 14 million people, and damaged over 3 million people and incurred damages of over 1 billion dollars.

Each year has seen a new flood. The flood of 1992 led to a loss of 2000 lives, affected more than 3 million people and incurred damages of over 1 billion dollars. The flood of 1992 led to a loss of 2000 lives, affected more than 3 million people and incurred damages of over 1 billion dollars.

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floods in the country. It is time to focus on setting a different kind of flood management with a clear focus on elevating the safety of people in rural, flood-prone areas, and elevating the well-being of farmers who bear the brunt of the damage.

The prevailing mindset of flood management has to change. In the past, money has been poured in building levees and flood protection infrastructure, and then again on re-building higher and reinforcing more of the same. The need to change is clear.

What are the changes needed? First, a conception of flood security as the emergent outcome of interactions of people with their environment. These interactions are governed by physical laws of nature and institutions (policies, rules and norms) devised by humans. There is a need to steer emergent level of flood security towards a desirable state.

Second, a systems approach to managing the complex challenge is needed. This so-called 'goal-seeking' system structure to attain desired targets of flood safety is essential. It entails setting clear and shared goals, having sensors for measuring the state of flood security, having accurate and timely communication of that information to relevant

actors, having a process that assesses the situation (having sensors for time information, and having decision-makers with necessary authority) to take corrective action. If all of these elements are linked together, a feedback structure at district, provincial and federal levels and functions with necessary speed and resources, then level of flood security can be improved in a disaster response. However, shared goals of flood security can be achieved. Additionally, components that produce information at local level and feed it back to the authority and resources to take corrective action are lacking. These deficiencies can be addressed.

Goals and targets for flood safety can be instituted and adopted from federal to district level. Necessary links that connect existing agencies can be established through periodically updated flood-risk maps, considering the state of flood security at local-level. These can be shared with the public to inform property

owners and residents of their flood risks) as well as to inform public planning. Local evacuation plans for people and moveable assets can be developed in rural areas can be put in place, and early warning systems can be installed. Community education programmes that raise awareness about safety and evacuation procedures can be conducted at the time of storm water passage can be taken. Flood resilient designs and construction and aid for households to live in lower risk areas can be provided. Financial solutions, such as insurance, can be offered in flood-prone areas. Additionally, components that produce information at local level and feed it back to the authority and resources to take corrective action are lacking. These deficiencies can be addressed.

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Pakistan-Iran sign MoU to enhance Maritime cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance Maritime cooperation.

PMSA and Iranian border guards. Upon arrival in Tehran, the Secretary of Defence was welcomed by the Iranian Deputy Defence Minister.

Pakistan and Iran. He also expressed the hope that bilateral relations will continue to evolve on principles of mutual respect and shared common interests.



QUETTA: MPA Balochistan National Party Malik Naseer along with Akber Mengal addressing a press conference.

Pakistan-Iran sign MoU to enhance Maritime cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance Maritime cooperation.

The MoU was signed between Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and the Iranian border guards during the visit of Secretary of Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Hamooduzzaman to Iran.

During interaction, the Iranian Deputy Defence Minister expressed his wishes for Pakistan's political and military leadership.

The Secretary of Defence emphasized the importance of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran. He also expressed the hope that bilateral relations will continue to evolve on principles of mutual respect and shared common interests.

Summoning of son of former CJP by parliamentary committee case: IHC directs AGP to file reply within four weeks, extends stay order

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) to file reply within four weeks in the case against summoning of son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar in parliamentary committee.

points and your assistance will be needed on these points. AGP said the federal government constituted commission in regard to alleged audio leaks matter.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till August 16. The court while moving to AGP remarked the court had raised some questions and he has been called in connection with replies to these questions.

The petition came up for hearing before a single bench of IHC led by Justice Babar Sattar Monday.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked assist us on our five points. The matter has eventually to go to SC. May be we give some decision and it may prove assistance for SC.

The court inquired from the AGP you will need how much time to give reply to the questions? The court remarked we give you four weeks.

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300 Pakistanis died at sea to escape economic carnage: Sheikh Rashid

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief and former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday the country was mourning death of 300 Pakistani nationals in Greece boat tragedy.

People died at sea in Greece to escape unemployment and economic carnage, he said. In a message on the social networking site Twitter, Sheikh Rashid said it was not the first incident of its kind.

"When a 20kg bag of flour costs Rs3,000, people will be forced to swallow bitter pills. Economic and political destruction, shutdown of factories and closed businesses show clearly how the affairs of state are being run. No one has any idea how to cope with this difficult situation," he said.

Almed said the entire nation had condemned the incidents of May 9. "For God sake, give this nation right to live. People have only one time meal at their homes," he added.

Over 10,000 migrants arrived in UK on small boats in 2023

LONDON: The number of people arriving in the UK on small boats has reached over 10,000 since the start of the year, UK government figures showed Sunday.

The provisional total covering the period up to Saturday stands at 10,139, according to data released by the interior ministry, the Home Office.

The figure is down by over 1,000 on that from the same time last year, when there had been more than 11,300 crossings by June 17.

and was one of the main battlegrounds of the Brexit referendum in 2016, which saw the country leave the European Union.

TEHRAN: Secretary Defense Lt Gen (R) Haroon Uz Zaman khan and Commander Border Guards of Islamic republic of Iran Brig Gen Ali Goudarzi signing MoU in Tehran.

Iran deports 45 trespassers back to Pakistan: border officials

CHAGAI: Iranian border officials have arrested 45 Pakistani nationals who had trespassed into Iran and deported them back to their country on Monday.

"Those deported from Iran have been handed over to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for investigation," border authorities said.

At least 78 people were drowned when the ill-fated boat with reportedly 400 to 750 people onboard sank in the Mediterranean Sea near the Greek coast.

Iran's officials handed over 45 persons to Pakistan's border officials who had crossed into the country in hope of illegally emigrate to Europe for economic reasons.

The issue of illegal immigrants has highlighted on global level with recent boat sinking incident near the coast of Greece, in which several Pakistani nationals have reported death.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced to observe mourning day on Monday (today) and constituted a four-member high-level committee to probe into the death of dozens of Pakistanis in the tragedy.

Sajid Sadpara to summit Nanga Parbat without supplemental oxygen

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani mountaineer Sajid Ali Sadpara has announced to summit Nanga Parbat without supplemental oxygen.

He said he wanted to climb all 14 peaks above 8,000 meters without supplemental oxygen, adding that so far he had climbed 6 highest peaks without supplemental oxygen.

Without supplemental oxygen, he said he wanted to fulfill his father's dream by climbing all 14 peaks. Sajid Sadpara tweeted on Thursday that he was departing for Nanga Parbat Expedition 2023 from Islamabad to Chilas and he would be climbing with high-altitude

Keen to boost Pakistan's dairy sector with support of China: PCJCC

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), Muzazzam Ghurki has said that cooperation between China and Pakistan on dairy industry and multifarious demands for high-quality dairy products in China would provide a contemporary path of development for Pakistan's domestic dairy sector.

Pakistani specialties shine at int'l economic and trade fair in Northeast Chin

BEIJING: The enchantment of Made-in-Pakistan specialties including but not limited to wood carving, brocade carving, carpets, firmly holds the gaze of visitors by its unique appearance and deep-rooted cultural foundation at the 32nd China (Harbin) International Economic Cooperation Forum.

Speaking to reporters at the Nepal Embassy in Islamabad on Monday, Sajid Sadpara said that he would on his way to Nanga Parbat base camp and he would summit next month along with his friends.



LAHORE: Secretary General of Jamat-e-Islami Baluchistan Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch and activists of All Pakistan Pan and Cigarette Association holds protest rally in the favor of the demands in Provincial Capital.

Pakistani bestowed British Empire Medal for serving free meals

LONDON: The British government has honoured a Pakistani who serves free meals to low-income families residing in Hounslow area of London.

Through the food kitchen, the charity is able to serve 500 meals a day to needy families.

not eating for a whole day in January, up from 12 percent at the same time in 2022.

British-Pakistani Ehsan Shahid Choudhry, the co-founder of Muslim Hands — The Open Kitchen, will be awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) under the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

The award was established by King George V in 1917 to honour those who had served in a non-combat role and made contributions to art, sciences, charitable work and public service.

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The charity Muslim Hands was started in Nottingham in 1993 when, in the wake of the Bosnia war, Muslims in the UK began to collect donations and charity for the people of Bosnia.

The charity focuses on getting low-income families to get free lunch throughout the year.

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# MoIB must pay retirement benefits to PBC employees, directs President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) to pay retirement benefits to 38 employees of Radio Pakistan within three months as their families were facing hardships due to delayed payments.

A revenue-generating institution, such as Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), was facing an acute shortage of financial resources, he noted.

Dr Arif Alvi emphasised taking up the matter of providing funds to PBC at the highest level and directed the Secretary MoIB to seek approval of the competent authority to obtain funds for payment in lieu of pension, gratuity, and commutation within three months and report compliance to Wafaqi Mohtashib.

These remarks were given by him while disposing of a representation filed by PBC against a decision of the Wafaqi Mohtashib directing it to make the payment to the aggrieved employees.

The act of non-payment of benefits to employees under the garb of financial constraints amounted to maladministration, he added.

The Mohtashib said he regretted that the superannuated employees were roaming to get their genuine and legal rights, in such old ages, where every penny was a basic necessity of that retired employee.

As per details, Syed Pervaiz Hussain Shah and 37 others (the complainants) had filed a complaint with the Wafaqi Mohtashib stating that they had retired from service of PBC on different dates and necessary Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) were issued but no payment was made so far.

Feeling aggrieved, they approached the Wafaqi Mohtashib, who passed the order in their favour. PBC, then, chose to file a representation before the President against Mohtashib's order.

The President disposed of the representation by observing that "for retirement benefits, pension being a government servant, who retired from Government service, qualifying for retirement benefits, pension being a material part of it, did not get it as a bounty of the State but as a right acquired after putting in satisfactory service. He said that it was matter of grave concern that PBC's retired employees and their families were suffering from hardship without having pension/benefits, to which they were entitled that PBC had also admitted the entitlement and liability of pension/commutation/gratuity etc. payable to its employees.

President Alvi, therefore, disposed of the representation with the direction to Secretary MoIB to seek approval of competent authority to obtain funds for payment of benefits to employees within three months. INP



KARACHI: Health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child during Polio Campaign, in Provincial Capital.

## English translation of "Diwan Abu Talib" launched at PAC

RAWALPINDI: Launching ceremony of English translation of Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry collection "Diwan Abu Talib" was held in Punjab Arts Council (PAC) in collaboration with Central Imam Hussain Council.

Former controller of Radio Pakistan, Syed Altaf Hussain Shah has translated Diwan Abu Talib in English. Chairman of the Central Imam Hussain Council, Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi presided over the ceremony while former chairman of Punjab Arts Council (PAC) in collaboration with Central Imam Hussain Council, Dr. Yusuf Kusbek, attended as a special guest. Ms. Kauser Parveen performed the duties of host of the event.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi said that the main point of Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry is monotheism and prophethood. It is important to enlighten the new generation with the achievements of Hazrat Abu Talib.

Speaking on the occasion, former chairman of Academies of Letters Pakistan, Dr. Yousof Khokh said that the translation of Diwan Abu Talib has led to an increase in our literary heritage. Translation of Diwan Abu Talib from Arabic to English was a difficult task, which Altaf Hussain Shah has done successfully.

The author of the book, Dr. Altaf Ahmad Shah, said that he has expressed his love for Abu Talib by translating Diwan Abu Talib into English. Hazrat Abu Talib's praise and naat is the golden chapter of our religious studies. Prominent jurist Kokab Iqbal Advocate said that Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry collection is a dear expression of his faith. Director Rawalpindi Arts Council Waqar Ahmed thanked the participants. INP

## Court extends interim bail of PTI chief in six cases

ISLAMABAD: The interim bail of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Mian Muhammad Asif was extended in six cases registered against him in Islamabad was extended on Monday.

In six cases registered against PTI chief at Karachi campus police station, PS Secretariat, Ramana police station and Jinnah Police Station, he appeared before the Islamabad court.

The judge during hearing, asked Chairman PTI, when do you want to join the investigation. "We want to join the investigation today at this court building," Sardar replied to the judge.

"I don't have the power to order the PTI chief to join the investigation in this building."

Later the court extended interim bail of the former prime minister in six cases until July 4.

The PTI chief had been facing over 100 cases under different charges in the country.

Earlier on May 23, an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) extended interim bail of former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in eight cases registered against him. INP

## Accused of triple murder over property dispute held

PAKPAITAN: The police on Monday arrested a man who is accused of triple murder of his wife and parents-in-law over property dispute.

Police said that accused of triple murder identified as Zabeer Baloch was arrested from insider River Sutlej.

The culprit had killed his wife and parents-in-law over property dispute in Shagarah area, Chakbadi police station jurisdiction in Pakpattan District Police Officer (DPO) Tariq Waliyat said that the accused was at large after committing triple murder but was held by police early Monday morning. INP

## SC reserves verdict on petitions challenging apex court judgments review law

ISLAMABAD: A three-member bench of Supreme Court of Pakistan after completion of argument from both sides on Monday reserved the verdict on petitions challenging the apex court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023.

Headed by Chief Justice Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Muneer Akhtar, the apex court bench heard the petitions challenging the vires of the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023.

The vires of the Act were challenged by Ghulam Murtaza, Zaman Khan Vardak and the Jurists Foundation, through its CEO Riaz Hassan. The National Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Ali Zafar during the hearing concluded their arguments, after which the top court reserved the verdict.

## High-yielding rice varieties to increase production ease growers' miseries: Chairman PARC

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali has said that introducing high-yielding rice varieties will increase the productivity of the crop besides giving high profit to growers leading to lessening their sufferings.

This was stated by the Chairman PARC while speaking during Rice Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) meeting held at PARC Headquarters in Islamabad on Monday. Representatives from the Federal Seed Certification, national and multinational seed companies, provincial seed councils, as well as rice scientists from research institutes at the provincial and federal levels attended the meeting.

Chairing the meeting, Member PARC's Plant Sciences Division, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain said that the PARC was committed to extend all out cooperation with public and private sector institutes and seed companies as well in the evaluation and introduction of rice hybrids and varieties.

PARC's National Coordinator on Rice, Dr. Muhammad Yousof gave a comprehensive overview of the work at the institute. He also discussed the need for vigilant consideration, the Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) recommended 14 high yielding rice hybrids including long grain Basmati, bio-fortified Basmati and Green Super Rice varieties to the committee members.

After a detailed discussion and discussion, the VEC recommended 14 high yielding rice hybrids including long grain Basmati, bio-fortified Basmati and Green Super Rice varieties to the committee members.

## Greece Shipwreck Tragedy: FIA registers cases against human traffickers

GURJANWALA: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Monday registered four separate cases against human traffickers involved in the Greece shipwreck tragedy.

As many as 78 Pakistani nationals drowned when the ill-fated boat with reportedly 400 to 750 people onboard sank in the Mediterranean Sea near the Greek coast.

According to media reports, some 104 people were rescued and sent to Kalamata, Greece. Cases were registered against the human traffickers in Gujrat and Gujranwala on the complaints of the people rescued in the boat wreckage tragedy. And sent to Kalamata, traffickers including Asif Sanyal, Riyasat, Rana Naqash, Nadeem Aslam and Muhammad Aslam and others in three cases registered in Gujrat.

An announcement of PM Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan observed a day of mourning over the tragic deaths of its national in the ship sinking incident near the coast of Greece on June 14, 2023.

The national flag flew at half-mast and special prayers were offered for the deceased of the Greece ship tragedy.

As many as 78 Pakistani nationals drowned when the ill-fated boat with reportedly 400 to 750 people onboard sank in the Mediterranean Sea near the Greek coast. According to media reports, some 104 people were rescued and sent to Kalamata, Greece. Cases were registered against the human. INP

## IMF chief criticized IMF and World Bank, saying IMF favors rich countries

ISLAMABAD: Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations criticized the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in a recent paper, saying IMF has benefited rich countries at the expense of poor ones.

He pointed out that IMF and World Bank's response to the COVID-19 pandemic which he called a "stress test" for the institutions is a "glaring failure" that left developing countries deeply indebted, according to a report carried by China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday.

Guterres said that it's time for the boards of IMF and World Bank to right what he called the historic wrongs and "bias and injustice built into the current international financial architecture".

He said the institutions haven't kept pace with global growth. According to him, the World Bank has \$22 billion in paid capital and the money are used for low-interest loans and grants for government development programs, yet, as a percentage of global GDP, it is less than a fifth of the level of funding in 1960.

At the same time, many developing countries are in a deep financial crisis, exacerbated by inflation, rising interest rates and a standstill in debt relief. Guterres added that IMF's lending rules unfairly favor wealthy nations. This is done according to the rules, but, this is "morally wrong," said Guterres.

## Deeply grieved over Greece tragedy, incident must be probed: Sherry

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environment Sherry Rehman has said that the Greece shipwreck tragedy claiming lives of a number of countrymen has deeply grieved her and the incident should be probed thoroughly.

After addressing a press conference at Lahore Press Club on Monday said, "We are Pakistanis, not traitors. Stop desecrating our soil."

Chairman Balochistan Rights Movement (Hag) Do Tehreek Balochistan Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman Baloch, who recently secured bail from the Supreme Court after four and half months' Pakistan on false and fabricated charges, said he was put in jail only because he was demanding clean drinking water, education and health facilities for the locals of Gwadar.

He said the people of Balochistan wanted due share in the CPEC and they were not opposing any development. He said the chairman treatment with the locals on security check posts was cause of concern for him, demanding removal of unnecessary pillars.

The JJ leader expressed concern over corruption and unfair distribution of resources and said over 70 percent money from a project went unchecked in the province. He said the people of Balochistan were not against Punjab and Punjabis. INP

## UAE, Qatar reopen embassies after years of tensions

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar on Monday announced the reopening of their respective diplomatic missions, six years after the Gulf rivals severed ties during a regional turbulence that sent tensions soaring.

The two resource-rich monarchies restored official relations in January 2022 after the end of the nearly four-year diplomatic and transport blockade that isolated tiny Qatar. "The UAE and the state of Qatar announced the restoration of diplomatic representation between the two countries," said a statement on the UAE's official website.

The sides are "resuming the work at the embassy of the UAE in Doha, and at the embassy of Qatar in Abu Dhabi and its consulate in Dubai," it said.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt imposed a diplomatic and transport blockade on Qatar in 2017, accusing it of supporting extremist organisations and becoming too close to Iran.

The reopening of the diplomatic missions comes at a time. INP



LAHORE: A 4-member delegation led by ex-MPA Khwaja Imran Nazir calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## Pakistani products attract visitors at SCO expo

BEIJING: Visitors flocked to the Pakistani National Pavilion at the 2023 SCO International Investment and Trade Expo held from June 15 to June 18, where more than 20 Pakistani merchants displayed their goods.

The Permanent Pakistani National Pavilion at the SCODA Pearl International Expo Center, authorized by Qatara, is a joint venture operated by the Pakistan China Center at the SCO Demonstration Area, displays and sells nearly 200 Pakistani specialties, including food (biscuits, spices), tea, wooden crafts, toys, bedding, hand-woven textiles, scarves, leather bags, and salt lamps, etc. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

In addition to displaying and selling Pakistani products on the first floor, the Pakistani Pavilion also undertakes the tasks of China-Pakistan cultural and tourism exchange and serves as a e-commerce platform for Pakistani products. With an area of 512 square meters, the second floor of the pavilion is for livestreaming and e-commerce. Muhammad Kamal, Managing Director of Pak Link Enterprises, one of the resident merchants of the Pakistani Pavilion, expressed his "100 percent delight" at the platform for promoting Pakistani handicrafts. This highly anticipated exhibition has brought as new opportunities for international trade cooperation," he said. Wang Zhihai, Pakistani Honorable Investment Counselor highlighted that the expo has had a significant positive effect on the promotion of Pakistani products and culture. Besides the significant increase in turnover, a steady stream of visitors kept showing their interests in further understanding all aspects of the country. INP

## JJ demands formation of JIT to probe into Karachi mayor election

KARACHI: Hafiz Naeem Rehman the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami's Karachi chapter on Monday demanded the court to move the court and demanded formation of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to ascertain why the union council chairman belonging to the PTI remained absent on the day election was for the port city's mayor.

Representatives from all the spy agencies should be made part of the JIT to determine how these elected members went missing during the process, said Rehman told media and accused the PPP and the ECP (Election Commission of Pakistan) of having a nexus.

Rescinding the Election of PPP's Murtaza Wahab as Karachi mayor a robbery committed against the city's mandate and totally fake, he said the process was exposed the reality of PPP and ECP. The JJ's local head said they would also stage a "massive protest" outside the ECP office in Islamabad, adding that the top electoral body would have to declare the election invalid and rectify all the mistakes.

Rehman said the failure to hold fair and free local government polls in Karachi was just a trailer and questioned how the body would be able to hold elections across the country. "This was just a trailer, the entire film is yet to be unveiled."

"How can we trust this institution to hold unbiased elections? If the ECP works as a facilitator for parties, how will democracy flourish in Pakistan?" Last week, Wahab was elected Karachi mayor by defeating Rehman with Salman Abdullalil of PPP defeated the deputy mayor's slot. Wahab bagged 173 votes while Rehman could secure 161 votes only. Out of 366 members, 333 members were present at the polling venue while 33 members could not reach the polling venue to cast their vote. INP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing PM's National Innovation Award among the successful candidates, in Federal Capital.