

# QUETTA VOICE


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Email address:  
dquettavoice@gmail.comMonday 26  
June, 2023
**FIA arrests 8 for alleged involvement in smuggling of Greece boat tragedy victims**

**Bilawal, Zardari in Dubai to 'discuss important matters' with Nawaz**

## CM Bizenjo directs abolishing check posts on highways in Balochistan

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo directed the law enforcement agencies and departments to abolish all check posts established on highways of the province. He passed these directives while chairing a high-level law and order meeting on Sunday.

The relevant federal and provincial security agencies were instructed to immediately remove the check posts on the highways and it was decided that from now on no organization will establish check posts on the highways without the permission of the provincial government, an official handout issued by the CM Secretariat said.

**Humiliating people under the guise of check posts will not be accepted: CM Balochistan**

Cabinet members said that humiliating the people under the guise of check posts will not be accepted and the self-respect of the people will not be allowed to be violated, the statement mentioned.

Women, children, patients and the elderly in buses and vehicles are



stopped for hours at the check posts, which not only hurts their self-respect but also makes them undergo mental and physical torture, the cabinet members lamented.

Federal security agencies should ensure the protection of the country by giving duties at the borders and prevention of smuggling and drugs. Levies do not have the authority to harass people by setting up check posts on the highways, nor should the rights of the people be compromised in the name of security, Mr. Bizenjo made it clear.

**Cabinet pays rich tribute to martyred of security forces**

There should be no check posts of federal security agencies inside the cities. In the cabinet meeting, it was said that the security agencies should carry out targeted operations against anti-social elements because the usefulness of check posts on the highways has never been revealed and not till today.

The cabinet also decided to take strong action against drug dealers in other areas of the city including Saryab Road. In the meeting, the sacrifices of the security agencies in the war against terrorism were acknowledged and rich tribute paid to them.

## GPP plays an important role in improving governance in Balochistan

From Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: World Bank Country Director, Najay Bin Hussain said that the Governance and Policy Project, Balochistan (GPP) has achieved significant success in improving governance and public service delivery in Balochistan.

He expressed these views on the Project Closure Workshop of Governance and Policy Project, Balochistan which was organized here at a local hotel on Saturday.

Mr. Hussain expressed his satisfaction over the successful execution of Governance and Reforms project, he expressed his gratitude for the Government of Balochistan, the project implementing agencies, and the project team for organizing this event – which is not only showcasing the achievements, but also discussing future reforms. "I am also grateful to the development partners for their financial contributions in this multi donor trust fund", he said.

**GPP made remarkable strides towards achieving its goals: Rashid Razaq**

Project Coordinator GPP Balochistan, Rashid Razaq stated that under the leadership of the Government of Balochistan, GPP has made remarkable strides towards achieving its goals. The project aimed to improve governance and public service delivery in Balochistan through various initiatives and collaborations with key stakeholders.



**GPP laid a strong foundation for a more prosperous and equitable Balochistan: Miss Irum Touqeer**

The achievements of GPP underscore the commitment of the Government of Balochistan, Task Team Leader Miss Irum Touqeer said on the occasion. She mentioned that it helped in improving governance and public service delivery in the region. The project has laid a strong foundation for a more prosperous and equitable Balochistan.

Since the initiation of the project, BRA has successfully collected over Rs. 24 billion in sales tax on



**Task Team Leader Governance and Policy Project from the World Bank Irum Touqeer**

services, strengthening the financial resources of Balochistan

GPP have given extensive support to Finance Department for an improved Public Financial Management System. GPP established Internal Audit Unit, Debt and Revenue Management Unit, Public GPP's support to the Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) has resulted in a substantial increase in tax revenue. Since the initiation of the project, BRA has successfully collected over Rs. 24 billion in sales tax on services,

strengthening the financial resources of Balochistan.

**GPP supports government departments**

GPP also helped finance to do feasibility Study for Bank of Balochistan, Actuaries Study to calculate the overall liabilities and potential of Balochistan, Tax and Non Tax Revenue Collection Studies for Balochistan. These studies will help Government of Balochistan to strategize and plan to bring reforms in Improved Public Finance Management and Economic Prosperity of Balochistan. GPP have also developed a comprehensive professional Accreditation programme for finance department to equip the human resource with excellent Public Financial Management Skills.

Mr. Tobias Lead Economist World Bank expressed his satisfaction with the success of GPP, stating, "GPP was a flagship project of Government of Balochistan. It is remarkable that the project was able to achieve enormous goals in revenue administration and the obvious rise in revenue generation was seen in Balochistan. He said that MDTF and bank were strong partners with Government of Balochistan to attain its reform agenda. And that the Government of Balochistan looks forward to a partnership of similar intentions with MDTF, the world Bank and Other donors in the future prospects for a prosper Balochistan

## BNP stages protest against spread of narcotics in Sariab Road

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Balochistan National Party (BNP) staged a protest demonstration against the spread of the curse of narcotics in Quetta's Sariab Road area on Saturday. The party took out a protest rally from Sariab and turned into a protest demonstration outside the Balochistan Assembly.

The protesters were carrying placards and banners inscribed with slogans against the provincial government and police for their failure to eradicate the curse of narcotics. "Police must eradicate the curse of narcotics from Sariab Road area", Malik Nasser Shahwani, the parliamentary leader of the BNP said.

**Protesters demand stern action against drug peddlers**



The protesters blocked the main road outside the Balochistan Assembly and demanded of the police to take stern action against the drug peddlers operating in the area. "Government should translate words into

action", Malik Nasser Shahwani said.

The protesters also lamented that the residents of Sariab were deprived of basic facilities and that the provincial government was least bothered about the miseries of the masses. The protesters said police and the administration were complicit in the spread of the narcotics in the area.

**BNP lawmakers express solidarity with protesters**

BNP lawmakers in the Balochistan Assembly also came out of the house and expressed solidarity with the protesters. They assured that the matter would be taken up with the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo in this regard.

## FIA arrests 8 for alleged involvement in smuggling of Greece boat tragedy victims

The Federal Investigation Agency arrested on Sunday eight suspects from across the country allegedly involved in smuggling the victims of the Greece boat tragedy.

Last week, an Italy-bound fishing trawler reportedly carrying at least 860 people, including approximately 300 Pakistanis – capsized off Greece. Only 104 people are known to have survived and the chance of finding more survivors was seen as virtually nil.

The incident led to a day of mourning along with a nationwide crackdown initiated by the government on human



smugglers. On Friday, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said 82 deceased Pakistani victims had been recovered while amendments to laws were under consideration to ensure that those involved in human trafficking and employing illicit means to send people abroad would face appropriate punishment. In a statement issued today, an FIA spokesperson said six human smugglers were arrested for facilitating the illegal journey of the Greece boat tragedy victims and five cases were registered against them INP.

# AI and Climate Change completely missing in Balochistan budget

The future is all about the Artificial Intelligence (AI). The AI has the potential to significantly impact education and transform the learning experience for students across the globe.

AI-powered tutoring systems can provide interactive and adaptive support to students. These systems can assess students' knowledge, identify areas of weakness, and offer targeted guidance and resources to help them improve.

Experts say the AI has so far taken mere baby steps. Still a lot needs to be done. The AI is going to dominate education, politics, economy etc. in the future.

## Word of AI in the Balochistan Budget

Despite its need and importance, the Balochistan government has not allocated a single penny for the AI in its financial budget for the year 2023-24. The provincial government allocated more than Rs.100 billions for primary, middle and higher education sector. The finance minister Balochistan, Zamark Achakzai did not utter a single word about the AI.

Besides AI, the government has not focused on the looming threat of climate change. Balochistan, the country's arid province is prone to all natural disasters because of its vulnerability to the global warming and climate change.

**Rs.71 crore allocated for Climate Change and more than Rs.73 billions for C&W department**

The government allocated Rs.71 crore rupees to tackle the climate change, whereas, more than 73 billion rupees were allocated for the communication and works department. The department is known for chronic corruption and most of the amount is likely to go into some narrow pockets.

Promotion of AI education provides an opportunity to our students to compete on national and international levels. Its promotion can open new vistas of opportunities for our students.

However, investment in the climate change department is extremely necessary in view of the province's vulnerability to the global warming. Devastating floods last year played havoc across Balochistan and life was completely paralyzed for a month.

The provincial government needs to change its priorities when it comes to AI and climate change since the former offers opportunities and the latter poses a serious threat to human life.

# After the polls?

By Farhan Bokhari

As Pakistan's political rivalry battle hard to rapidly and quickly fill the vacuum space in the run up to the country's next elections, the clear winner is the war on the west. The task of running a crisis-stricken country was laid upon the next set of rulers who will face unprecedented odds in overseeing a return to relative normalcy.

And that's where the change of tactics in the country's multiple crises will start the next government right in its face, without a clear solution in sight in the foreseeable future.

Welcome to the reality of Pakistan anchored on a fast faltering political system. The ray, a security crisis, an administrative and police system badly shaken down and societal trends relentlessly shifting southwards with unifying consequences. The Pakistani state asserting itself through clawing back territory, the future of a range of areas including the battered enclave of Gilgit-Baltistan remain near dismal.

Across the world, it is hard to imagine a nation's economic progress in a country that also remains ridden with debt. The economic progress of today's Pakistan. Even a successful international economic bailout of a near default Pakistan will simply fail to help the country turn the corner.

never unless backed by long overdue reforms. In decades gone by, Pakistan has repeatedly failed to take calls for reforming the country's largely dysfunctional tax collection system. The malaise surrounding the taxation structure has broadly progressed in tandem with the state's ever weakening capacity to impose its writ. Its hardy surviving large scale tax evasion has today become a hallmark of power and influence of those who have proudly and repeatedly raised the Pakistani state.

Meanwhile, the growing failure to impose law and order has exposed a fundamental gap in Pakistan's economic progress. Irrespective of the public's support to one government after another to attract large foreign investments - notably, foreign ones - will remain in place. The country with gaps in its commitment to enforce the law, and the state of government provided health care and education should be a source of concern.

Facing the near insurmountable challenges, Pakistan's way forward must be to focus on the growing neglect of the state's responsibility to ensure the economic progress of the country with gaps in its commitment to enforce the law, and the state of government provided health care and education should be a source of concern.

Factually, Pakistan's economic progress in a country that also remains ridden with debt. The economic progress of today's Pakistan. Even a successful international economic bailout of a near default Pakistan will simply fail to help the country turn the corner.

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# Financial inequality breeds contempt The false narrative around SOEs

By Iftekhar A Khan

Our society essentially divided into three classes. The elite class comprises the top bureaucrats both civil and military, business tycoons and politicians. Then follow two classes - a middle class and the multiplying poor class, which lives below the poverty line. Instead of reducing the gap, the graph is rapidly escalating.

The politicians - in every government that comes to power by winning the election - promise to uplift the condition of the poor. Their campaigning slogans assure the wretched living from hand to mouth that their pathetic living conditions will improve, and they will get health and education.

The severe disparity between these classes proves the fact that wealth is unevenly distributed. It not only causes the suffering segments of society unhappy and angry against the system that has created the disparity, but it also creates hostility among them.

As a nation, however, we can change our current state of poverty and illiteracy if we single-mindedly follow the nations that have progressed within a few years from being poor to world class. The nations that have progressed within a few years from being poor to world class. The nations that have progressed within a few years from being poor to world class.

Let's consider Singapore as a shining example. Singapore was typically a third-world country like ours but without any natural resources. We luckily have. The turnaround came in Singapore when Chinese

lives making citizens' lives miserable. The clock is ticking. As pointed out in the article, the main reason for the economic crisis is the 'sad' in the shape of meat leavers the people of the country. The 'sad' in the shape of meat leavers the people of the country. The 'sad' in the shape of meat leavers the people of the country.

The Lahore Canal Bank road is notorious for the traffic jams. The road is notorious for the traffic jams. The road is notorious for the traffic jams. The road is notorious for the traffic jams. The road is notorious for the traffic jams.

Whether Mansoor was a 'meat thrower' to the king, he didn't admit. The king, he didn't admit. The king, he didn't admit. The king, he didn't admit. The king, he didn't admit.

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**Urak valley, a picturesque landscape surrounded by rugged mountains**

Urak Valley, a place of picturesque landscape surrounded by uneven mountains in the Quetta district of Balochistan province, has a population of about 24000.

The Hana Lake, which was established by the British, is close to Urak Valley, which is 20 meters from Quetta. The end of it has a small waterfall. The entry to the nearby Wali Tangi Dam.

It is the ancestral home of the Pushtun Kakar tribe, who are renowned for their kindness, bravery and hospitality. High quality apple trees are grown here, and they are exported to a number of nations.

**Daily 15,000 to 20,000 tourists visit Hanna Urak**

Hanna Urak Valley now has the distinction of being the only tourist point in Balochistan with an average daily visits of between 15,000 and 20,000 tourists. The most visits have ever been recorded at any of Balochistan's tourist points.

According to Mr. Muhammad Yunus, the landlord in the Hanna Urak Valley, the country and parts of Balochistan rush to Hanna Urak Valley daily to observe the natural beauty.

We have a deep connection to this place, and we always have. The golden rules of hospitality when visitors arrive in our valley. You cannot avoid visiting Hanna Valley at least once in your lifetime. The Independence Day is celebrated in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan.

**"We are tired of tough daily schedules", tourists**

"Tired of our busy schedule and daily routine, we spare time and visit Quetta to experience scenic Urak valley," Usman Ansari, President and Field Marshal Ayub Khan visit Hanna Urak. During his visit in 1965, he announced to build a dam for the area's people.

The environment is pleasing, the people are friendly unlike some of the people of northern area of the country where not only prices of the commodities are raised manifold during the tourist season, but the tourists are too maltreated.

Ameer Hamza Sarangazi, narrating the history of the province, said that before Pakistan came into being, our ancestors had inked MoU with the British rulers regarding the provision of water to the cantonment established adjacent to the locality of Hanna Valley. The British Army stationed at Cantonment was charged per gallon.

However, he noted that "after the Independence of Pakistan, the British Army stationed at Cantonment was charged per gallon. The British Army stationed at Cantonment was charged per gallon. The British Army stationed at Cantonment was charged per gallon.

My father Gulshan Muhammad Sarangazi was the first member of the Pakistan Peoples Party from Balochistan," he said adding that we still have a membership card issued by Zulfiqar Bhutto with his own handwriting.

Malik Nisar Khan former Minister of Hanna Valley, said, "Provincial government visits has perished, it takes two hours to reach the Hanna valley from the entrance of the province. It takes minutes, he said lamenting that despite the passage of eight months, the restoration of the damaged infrastructure.

We had, on our own, established small hotels, swimming pools, parks, and other edible spots to attract the tourists," The Secretary of Tourism Balochistan Manzoor Hussain said Balochistan tourism is characterized by diversity in the fields of tourism. There are beautiful scenic spots in Balochistan that attract request people from the country and outside Pakistan. To visit Balochistan and enjoy the beauty of nature and ensure investment in Balochistan.

The concerted efforts in this connection, would not only ease issues faced by the local community but also generate revenue for the provincial kitty.

Balochistan Spokesperson Babar Yusufzai when contacted reaffirmed the government's resolve to resuscitate tourism in the province. "Government is well cognizant of the issues faced by the people of the valley. The rehabilitation process is under way and we are striving hard to complete it as soon as possible."

About Hanna Valley, he assured that strenuous measures would be put in place to restore the beauty and bustle of the area's road infrastructure.

We will leave no stone unturned to revive the beauty and bustle of the area's road infrastructure. We will leave no stone unturned to revive the beauty and bustle of the area's road infrastructure.

**As ill luck would have it, like other parts of the province, floods in 2022 caused havoc in the Hanna Valley as well.**

"The recent flash floods devastated 100 percent of apple orchards and agricultural land, swept away road and other infrastructure," Mr. Yunus landlord of Hanna said.

As road infrastructure has perished, it takes two hours to reach the Hanna valley from the entrance of the province. It takes minutes, he said lamenting that despite the passage of eight months, the restoration of the damaged infrastructure.

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# PA approves barring parliamentarians' disqualification to 5 years

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Sunday amended a law limiting the disqualification of a parliamentarian to a maximum of five years, paving the way for those barred for life from running for a public office.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme leader Nawaz Sharif and Ishtiaq-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) chief Jahangir Khan Tareen will be among those who benefit from the move.

**Nawaz Sharif and Jahangir Tareen will benefit from the bill**

The Supreme Court had disqualified both senior politicians in June and December 2017, respectively, after they were found to be "dishonest" under Article 62(1)(f) of the Constitution.

Senate — the upper house of the parliament — had earlier this month approved the bill seeking amendments to Section 232 (Qualifications and Disqualifications) of the Election Act, 2017.

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, any other law for the time being in force and Judgment, orders or decrees



QUETTA: A beautiful view of thick clouds hovering over the sky of city.

## Sanjrani assumes charge of acting president as Alvi leaves for Hajj

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani assumed the duties of Acting President as President Arif Alvi left for Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj.

The Cabinet Division has issued a notification of acting president. Sadiq Sanjrani assumed the duties of the office of president in Quetta.

President Dr Arif Alvi along with family and staff will perform Hajj.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan along with his family members reached Jeddah to perform Hajj. INP

## Hand grenade explosions in Bannu claim one life, leave 12 injured

BANNU: At least one person was killed and 12 others were left injured following a series of hand grenade explosions that occurred in Bannu during the early hours of Sunday.

According to the police, the incident took place when two hand grenades were hurled at the residence of local resident Ziaur Rahman late last night.

As a result of the explosions, one individual tragically lost their life while 11 others, including women and children, sustained injuries.

Swift action was taken by the authorities, who promptly transported the injured victims and the deceased individual to the district headquarters hospital. INP

## FIA nabs notorious human trafficker in Faisalabad, involved in illegal migration cases

FAISALABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Faisalabad has apprehended a highly sought-after human trafficker accused of being involved in over 30 cases of illegal transportation of individuals to foreign countries.

The suspect, identified as Tahir Nadeem, allegedly defrauded countless citizens by exploiting them through fraudulent activities and false promises of overseas employment.

His illicit operations primarily focused on unlawfully sending individuals to various countries including Europe, Canada, and others.

During the arrests, authorities managed to seize a substantial amount of evidence against him.

This included 25 Pakistani passports, counterfeit bank seals, counterfeit visas, checkbooks, stamp pads, and checks from different countries.

Tahir Nadeem had been charged in 14 cases by the FIA in the Faisalabad circle alone. Additionally, he faced an additional 16 fraud cases registered against him in various police stations across the city.

Due to the severity of the charges brought against him, the accused had already been declared a fugitive by the court. FIA has launched three separate inquiries to investigate the incident.

## Mother of two tortured to death by in-laws in Muridke

MURIDKE: A mother of two children was allegedly tortured to death by her in-laws over some domestic issue in Muridke, police said on Sunday. The deceased identified as Iqra belonged to Gujranwala, and she had been married off to Adil Abbas eight years ago in Muridke. Iqra's brother Mubashir told the police in his statement that quarrels used to take place between the couple after the marriage.

"Adil Abbas, his mother and other members of the family tortured Iqra to death over some domestic issue," he alleged.

The body of the deceased was shifted to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital for post-mortem. The family of the girl protested and demanded justice from the Punjab inspector general of police (IGP). INP

## Significance of inter-ethnic marriages highlighted in PIDE's basic research

ISLAMABAD: The new research of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has highlighted the significance of inter-ethnic marriages in Pakistan, a country with a diverse ethnic spectrum.

Such marriages play a crucial role in promoting assimilation, social cohesion, and stability, thereby blurring tensions arising from ethnic differences, the research findings from the PIDE BASIC'S survey indicated.

The survey revealed that language, closely tied to ethnic background, has a profound impact on personal identities, which can sometimes be divisive and undermine unity within the larger identity. The survey employed a new approach to measure ethnic exogamy and homogeneity by asking respondents three questions related to the ethnic backgrounds of their parents and the language spoken in their everyday lives. The results revealed that only a small proportion (1.5%) of marriages in Pakistan are ethnically

exogamous, indicating a strong trend of intra-ethnic marriages. However, slight variations exist among different languages, with Urdu, Potohari, Brahui, and Brushaski showing slightly higher rates of exogamy.

Additionally, gender differences were observed in languages such as Urdu, Shina, and Kashmiri. The study also examined the language preferences of children in families with different ethnic backgrounds. It found that when parents share the same ethnicity, 92.3% of children spoke the same language as their parents. However, children of exogamous parents exhibited a mixed pattern, with some languages influenced more by the mother's language and others by the father's language. These findings shed light on the role of inter-ethnic marriages and language dynamics in Pakistan's social fabric. According to a press release issued from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Prof. Vice-Chancellor, INP

## Modi-Biden declaration failure of Pakistan's foreign policy: Sheikh Rasheed

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said on Sunday that declaration issued after Modi and Joe Biden's meeting was a failure of Pakistan's foreign policy.

In a series of tweets on social media website Twitter, Sheikh Rasheed said two Pakistani citizens were martyred by Indian forces on the border (Line of Control) on the very next day after Modi-Joe Biden meeting. Pakistan should respond to Indian aggression in a befitting manner.

Our soldiers are embracing martyrdom daily combating terrorism and the US-India declaration have held Pakistan responsible for terrorism," he said. The former federal minister said that handcuffed women and violation of four walls of the house were making mockery of Sharif's democracy. He said rulers were leading a luxurious life and making

foreign tours and the poor people were being burdened with Rs 15 more taxes. Tax levy on petrol was being enhanced by Rs 10. Mr Rasheed said inflation, unemployment, load-shedding, shortage of commodities was the destiny of the poor.

"The whole world knows that ruling alliance is a corrupt and unpopular Qabza group (power grabbers) imposed on people through backdoor. These unpopular rulers are brought only for delivering speeches and making photo sessions and they play havoc with the economic, internal and foreign policies."

Mr Rasheed said the rulers were not in a position to go for elections. Neither people nor the world had faith in them. He said they were walking with the help of crutches, not with the support of the people. The assets of the rulers, their wealth and their children were out of the country. INP

## Joint Archaeological Research meeting on Basha ancient rock carvings held

ISLAMABAD: "Chinese civilization has been enriched by interactions with other civilizations such as interaction with Islamic civilization, Buddhism, and Western civilization," Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said at the joint Archaeological research meeting on Basha ancient rock carvings which was held here.

"Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) has organized the meeting with the participation of Chinese and Pakistani archaeologists."

According to Gwadar Pro, Prof. Li Xiguang, Eminent Chinese Scholar presided over the meeting which discussed ways to protect and preserve important rock carvings and inscriptions at Basha ancient rock carvings in the millennium B.C. to the 16th century A.D. via 3-D scanning, documentation,

replication, and relocation.

According to Sayed, the first example of connectivity in this region was the Silk Route, 2000 years ago which was the real example of globalization, with China leading the way. "We are very happy that China and Pakistan are now being revived by the Belt and Road Initiative, which is the most important diplomatic and developmental initiative of the 21st century," Mr. Sayed said.

Mr. Sayed said that through the efforts of Prof. Li Xiguang's team and PCI, they were endeavoring to recapture the historical heritage that unites China with Pakistan and the broader region. Professor Ghani Ur Rehman of Quid-e-Azam University Islamabad discussed the feasibility suggestions for the protection of Buddhist INP



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan National Party hold a protest in favor of their demands in front of press club.

of any court, including the Supreme Court and a High Court, the disqualification of a person to be elected, chosen, or to remain as a member of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) of 9 Provincial Assembly under Paragraph (1) of clause (1) of Article 62 of the Constitution shall be a period not exceeding five years from the declaration by the court of law in that regard and such declaration shall be subject to the due process of law," the bill reads.

## Lawmakers disqualified for life will be able to run for office

With Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed President Arif Alvi out of the country due to Hajj, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani has taken charge as the acting president and chances are that the might approve the bill soon, Geo News learnt.

The house also approved another amendment to the law, allowing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce the date for polls unilaterally, without the president's approval. Web Desk

## Qureshi takes issue with govt's 'lack of response' to US-India joint statement

MULTAN: Ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Sunday criticized what he described as the coalition government's lack of response on the joint statement issued by the United States and India which called on Pakistan to crack down on extremists that target New Delhi.

US President Joe Biden laid out a red carpet for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House on Thursday where the two countries sealed major defence and technology deals as Washington bet big on India as a counterweight to China.

In an apparent bid to use the visit to further India's agenda against Islamabad, a joint statement issued by the two heads of state late on Thursday called on Pakistan to crack down on extremists that target New Delhi. The statement also called for action against extremist groups based in Pakistan.

The Foreign Office (FO) had termed the statement "misleading and unwarranted," saying that the reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones while Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said the US president should "consider facts the next time he fetes the butcher of Gujarat."

Speaking to the media here Multan, Qureshi said that

as a former foreign minister he was "pained" to see the joint communiqué issued after Biden and Modi's meeting in Washington.

"This was a bilateral visit, it is his right. They met [and] they had a discussion. But the joint communiqué issued after the meeting — reading that joint communiqué as a former foreign minister of Pakistan — caused me great pain."

And then in a bilateral meeting, setting aside diplomatic norms, Pakistan is made a target of criticism. This was inappropriate," he said.

At the same time, Qureshi said he was "amazed" to see that no one in Pakistan was saying anything. He said that he had made his views and his "disappointment" on the topic clear yesterday outside an anti-terrorism court when he was doing the sunset prayer.

The PTI leader said that while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was doing "salesmanship" of mangoes in France, he should have had a response to the statement issued by US and India. "Our foreign minister says nothing on this? INP

## SBP seeks explanation over glitch in cheque-clearance system

KARACHI: The system of cheque-clearance institution, the National Institutional Facilitation Technologies (NIFT) remains non-functional as cyber attackers managed to breach its security, officials said. The government is forcing the banking system to resort to a manual system despite the prevalence of digital technology.

Even after seven days since the cyberattacks occurred last week, NIIFT is still in the process of fully resuming its normal operations. Cheques are being cleared manually nationwide, and digital payment services remain halted.

Last Friday (June 16), the attack forced the national institution to shut down both its data centres in Islamabad and Karachi.

The private banks said their cheque-clearance operation is badly affected as they are going for manual clearance and due to staff shortage, it is taking more time for clearance of cheques, which were earlier being cleared in seconds through NIIFT.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has sought an explanation from the NIIFT.

Currently, Pakistani banks hold deposits worth around Rs2.3 trillion with 67.5 million bank accounts. NIIFT processes nearly 150,000 to 160,000 cheques through its online system every day. INP

## Anti-measles drive concluded in Rawalpindi district

RAWALPINDI: Anti-measles drive concluded in Rawalpindi district and around 262,363 children from six months to 59 months of age had been immunized against Measles during a week-long drive in the district's high-risk areas.

According to media reports, Anti-measles drive was launched by the Health Authority official that the special anti-measles drive was launched in the 42 Union Councils (UCs) of the district from June 19-24.

He said 52 UC supervisors, 354 skilled workers, 354 assistants and 354 social mobilizers visited 19 union councils of the city, eight UCs of Rawalpindi Cantonment, five UCs of Faisalabad and ten UCs of Rawalpindi. INP



QUETTA: A roadside vendor covers his handcart with plastic sheet during heavy rainfall after a long spell of hot weather in the city.

## New taxes to put additional burden on already suffering masses: SVP PEW

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Hanif Mughal has said that the recently announced tax measures will bring untold pressure on the poor masses facing unprecedented inflation and unemployment since last few years.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that the government has made several changes to the fiscal year's budget, including fiscal tightening measures in a last-ditch effort to secure critical funding, but it will also hit the masses badly.

Dr. Hanif Mughal said that the government now needs to generate another Rs215 billion in taxes and cut spending by Rs85 billion without reducing the federal development budget or the salaries and pensions of government employees, which will be difficult.

The IMF orders will revise the revenue collection target to Rs9415 trillion, put total spending at Rs1448 trillion and the share of provinces would be reduced.

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increased to Rs5.39 trillion from Rs5.28 trillion, he maintained.

The SVP PES said that the government will collect Rs70 billion from fertilizer duty, Rs45 billion from hike in tax on buying, selling property, and Rs30 billion from increase in tax on people earning above Rs200,000 per month.

The government has claimed to cut spending package of Rs150 billion, Petroleum Development Levy from Rs50 to Rs60 per litre and introduce a scheme worth Rs80bn to boost remittances.

The allocation for the Benazir Income Support Programme was also revised from Rs450 billion to Rs466 billion.

Hanif Mughal said that the government has claimed that these measures would not affect the poor, which is highly unlikely.

It is expected that the government may announce further tax amendments in the finance bill any time soon, he said. INP

## Pak-China collaboration enhanced to promote Pakistani pharmaceutical development

BEIJING: Pak-China collaboration has enhanced recently to promote Pakistani pharmaceutical development.

"China has equalized or surpassed the developed nations' Pharma standards over a period of time. With 30 years of experience in cooperatively with China, our progress is accompanied by the dividend of the development of China's pharmaceutical industry," said Waheed Ahmed, Chief Executive of Shaigun Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd at the CPPI & PMEC China held last week, according to Gwadar Pro.

As Asia's leading pharmaceutical show for trading, knowledge sharing and networking, CPPI & PMEC China spans all industry sectors along the pharmaceutical supply chain including APIs, excipients, packaging, manufacturing, etc.

Waheed, who has been attending the expo since 1995, noted that CPPI China is becoming more and more informative due to the major R&D work being carried

out in China.

China, Pakistan's largest trading partner and the largest provider of APIs, attaches importance to investing in chemical labs and training scientists. China's key technologies are developing rapidly and the quality of pharmaceutical and mechanical products is reliable, he explained.

"This time I am exploring future technologies and newly developed products, especially in biosimilars and new drug delivery systems," Waheed mentioned, "meeting my way over 15 collaborative partners who are all old friends at the expo and witnessing their growth is always a pleasure and opportunity to tap new business range."

At the expo, Jack, head of a pharmaceutical packaging machinery manufacturing enterprise integrating R & D, production and sales service told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan has a huge pharmaceutical market of 250 million people, making it one of the most promising pharmaceutical consumer markets. INP

Ghulam Abbas was arrested from a local hotel near Cantt Karachi Station during an operation of anti-human trafficking circle.

The accused was involved in minting money from the innocent people in the name of sending them abroad.

In another operation, an accused named Tahir Mehmood has also been arrested from Agra Taj Colony. The accused was pointed out by those people who got deported from foreign countries.

The FIA stated that the accused had given fake visas INP

exploiting business and explore new opportunities.

Pakistanis who faced challenges last year due to floods and uncertain economic conditions were expected to significantly increase their exports this year.

In addition to traditional wholesale imports, Chinese companies have shown growing interest in fat and high-fiber properties of Basmati rice, hoping to showcase Basmati rice in international forums and expand the Chinese market in the rice and health sectors through retail sales. Nawab Ali Rahgoju, Deputy Consul of the Chinese Consulate in Pakistan in Shanghai addressed the session. He highlighted the potential of Pakistani rice in the Chinese market, according to Gwadar Port, Chinese customers of Pakistan's exports of rice to China in 2021 and 2022 amounted to 1.2 million metric tons, US\$455 million, respectively. Pakistan's export of broken rice to China

**MUZAFFERABAD:**President of Azad Kashmir Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry taking oath from newly elected Ministers, in the Capital of AJK.

The majority of the richest people in the world belong to a Western power, and the IMF is adopting every legal and illegal tactic to increase their wealth, he observed.

The business leader said that at present more than seventy countries, including Pakistan, are unable to pay their debts.

Self-interested elites who can sell the country's assets but cannot reduce spending control most of these countries.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that dozens of countries have been ruined by the IMF's policies and have been forced to abandon national integrity and interests.

The ability of such countries

During the door-to-door meeting with businessmen, Chairman PIAF said that the manifesto of PIAF is to solve the problems of the business community on a priority basis. The business community is facing problems like unannounced load shedding, power outages, overbilling, departmental proceedings and expensive electricity and gas in the markets.

The government should solve the above problems on a priority basis in consultation with businessmen. PIAF's mission is to create a stable economy and prosperous business community.

Fahmur Rahman said that business community was facing tough challenges because of limited business. In this context, he

to compete in the international market is lost, the economy falls, inflation increases and people's lives become more difficult.

In these situations, rich countries transfer their resources while intelligent people leave their countries and go to Western countries to increase speed of their development, which is a serious brain drain issue.

IMF has never stopped any country from corruption and spending spree, but has always victimized the common people.

This institution has never brought any country out of crisis. It has worsened their situation, so the sooner the country gets rid of it, the better it is. IMF

## es of traders ns: PIAF

**TANGWANI:** Dacoits held the passengers in a bus hostage at gunpoint and made off with valuables on Indus Highway in Tangwani police said on Sunday.

The dacoits fired shots at the bus to stop it which also left it with downpanes broken and tyres burst.

The incident took place at Mags Stop in the jurisdiction of Dera Sarki police station.

**KHUSHAB** Malik Ehsan Ullah Tiwana, former PTI member and National Assembly (MNA) from Khushab, has not only announced quitting his party but also politician on Sunday.

In his statement, Tiwana has said that due to bad health he is finding it hard even to meet the people of his constituency. "I condemn the incidents of violence of May 9," he said. "I want to inform all my family members and friends that due to present political situation of the country and bad health of mine, I am dissociating myself from politics."

He has further said it is of no use staying in the PTI when he is not able to do anything for the party.

"Pakistan Army is our pride since it defends our country," he has said, adding "Ann-army rhetoric is a bad tradition. Violence of May 9 was bound to result in May 10 violence."

**NAWABSHAH.** At least eight persons were killed and over sixty others were injured in a road accident in Sindh's province of Shaheed Benazirabad in the hours of Sunday night.

According to police, the incident occurred on the Chhaprup Stop in Nawabshah, when two passenger buses collided, leaving eight persons dead on the spot and over 60 injured including children.

The injured have been shifted to the Provincial Medical University Hospital. Police said that one bus was travelling from Karachi to Punjab whereas the other was on way to Karachi from Munjabad. Reportedly, the accident happened due to over-speeding. Earlier Lasr was the most serious, including five women were killed and 31 others injured when INP.

**KARACHI:** People are boarding into bus at Sohrab Goth area to reach their native villages for celebrating Eid-ul-Adha with their beloved one.

The EFS awareness seminar held at PHMA regional office Lahore was participated by a number of knitwear exporters, Customs Collector Naveed Shafique along with his team members briefed the exporters about the salient features and registration process of Export Facilitation Scheme 2023.

Chairman PHMA north zone Naveed Butt welcomed the Customs officials this orientation seminar to enlighten the exporters about the main features of EFS.

The Customs Collector Samar Bahar and Naveed

Shafique, accompanied by Deputy Collector Sidra Munawar, assured the PHMA members of removing the glitches in Export Facilitation Scheme to make it business friendly with a view to improve the inflows of foreign exchange in the country. Smbrial appreciated that PHMA, saying the FBR believed in facilitating the exporters to contribute in the economic prosperity of the country, as the government and the PHMA were working closer like hands in gloves to facilitate the taxpayers and exporters.

He gave a detailed presentation on the scheme, highlighting the accomplishments INP

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, so far, China has inked more than 200 cooperation agreements with 151 countries and 32 international organizations.

As economic globalization is reeling with unseen upheavals and global economic recovery is in deep water, BRI's global aura becomes a silver lining showing a more important role in boosting the

economic growth of relevant countries and regions. BRI plays a crucial role in advancing world progress by fostering economic development, promoting trade, and enhancing cultural understanding. Through massive investments in infrastructure projects, including roads, railways, ports, and energy facilities, BRI creates new opportunities for economic growth and job creation.

By improving connectivity and reducing logistical bottlenecks, the initiative facilitates the movement of goods and

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday directed the concerned officials to formulate a comprehensive policy for meat export.

Chairing a meeting in Lahore, the chief minister also sought a plan for making improvements in dairy and livestock sectors.

The meeting also decided to take steps on a war footing for the promotion of beef, mutton and poultry industries in the province.

could be earned in foreign exchange through the export of beef, mutton and poultry. It was decided to approach the federal government in order to remove impediments in the way of export these items. The meeting decided to declare Bahawalpur a 'meat division', while proposals to declare Dera Ghazi Khan a 'mutton division' were also discussed. It was told that there was a need to adopt latest method of farm management and vaccination. It was informed that Punjab had the potential to export livestock and dairy products worth billions of rupees to Saudi Arabia and China. INP

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad said that it was quite unfortunate that the United Nations did not mention the Kashmiri dispute in its report on human rights, human dignity and arbitrariness. He said that the thousands of Kashmiris languishing in different jails of India and India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that it was most regrettable that the country of the United States, which has been a cosponsor of the historic United Nations resolution that acknowledged Kashmiris' right to self-determination, had turned a blind eye to the abysmal situation in the territory that continues to reel under India's relentless and brutal repression.

Saghar, while referring to the US stance on Kashmiri dispute, said being a strong proponent of the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, the US government supported a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute through dialogue and diplomacy.

# Partnership of years journey

**RAWALPINDI:** All Pakistan Mobile Phones Association are shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands at Sadr area in City.

**UNITED NATIONS:** India has angrily denounced and disassociated itself from a United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for unity to face the new emerging terrorist threats, after failing in its bid to incorporate into the text some self-centred proposals designed to shield India's self's anti-terror activities.

The Indian action came on Friday evening as the 193-member Assembly concluded its 8th biannual review process of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), with the adoption of the resolution that involved months of negotiations in which Pakistan

After the setback, an irate Indian Ambassador, Ruchira Kamboj, took the floor to vent her feelings, targeting the co-facilitators as well as Pakistan "without naming names".

"It was deeply disappointing to note that the co-facilitators of the ... Strategy not only disregarded the strong support that India has offered, but also delegation to their efforts since the beginning, but also that they acted in a non-transparent, non-consultative, and partial manner, making an attempt to circumvent the concern of one delegation while completely ignoring the contribution and concerns of my delegation," she said.

deep" disappointment over India's action, saying the move reflected New Delhi's bid to impose its will on member states.

"It showed the prioritization of their narrow political agenda over the broader global effort to combat terrorism," the diplomat said in an interview with APP UN correspondent. On its part, Pakistan took the position that documents, including the Delhi Declaration, which were not negotiated by a wider membership, should not become a part of the General Assembly resolution, which is adopted by consensus.

INP

India was pushing for the inclusion into the resolution of the so-called 'Delhi Declaration' adopted by the 15-member UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee's special meetings held in India in

to accept an outcome which the wider membership does not deserve, the Indian envoy said, adding, "They have left us with no option but to disassociate with this document altogether."

A veteran European diplomat expressed his

for Forest' documents which were not requested by ALL member countries. As such the Indian proposal was not included in the final resolution, a move that the Delhi Declaration focused on three main areas: forest management systems, terrorist financing, and information and communications technologies.