

# QUETTA VOICE

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File photo of Lt General Asim Malik

## Imran Khan, Son of Veteran from Quetta, Joins Prestigious Delft University as Assistant Professor

**Syed Muhammad Qaseem:**  
**QUETTA:** In a remarkable achievement, Imran Khan, son of Havildar (Retd) Ajab Gul from Quetta, has been appointed as an Assistant Professor of Space Optics at the globally renowned Technical University Delft in the Netherlands. This prestigious institution ranks third in the world for aerospace engineering.

Imran Khan's journey is deeply rooted in his family's legacy of service.

His father, Hay (Retd) Ajab Gul, served with distinction in the Janissar Paltan for 24 years, joining in 1970 at Kohat and retiring in 1993 when the unit relocated to Quetta.

Imran Khan shared his gratitude and excitement, stating:

"Assalam o Alaikum, I would like to share the significant milestone that Allah has blessed me with in my career. Allah has been gracious, Alhamdulillah."



He explained his role at Delft University:

"I will be contributing towards new infrastructure and technology for space exploration, earth observation, and the detection of gravitational waves while teaching and supervising Masters and PhD students."

Imran Khan also acknowledged the unwavering support of the 39 PR officers, who stood by his father and contributed to his education. His appointment highlights the triumph of hard work, dedication, and the support of his community, marking a proud moment for both his family and the nation.

## Lt Gen Asim Malik Named New Head of ISI: ISPR

**Dawood Ahmed:**

**ISLAMABAD:** September 23, 2024 — The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik as the new Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Lt Gen Malik will officially assume his new role on September 30, 2024. Lt Gen Asim Malik, currently serving as the Adjutant General at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, brings a wealth of experience and a distinguished military career to his

new position. He has previously commanded an infantry division in Balochistan and an infantry brigade in Waziristan, both critical regions for Pakistan's defense strategy. Known for his academic and leadership credentials, Lt Gen Malik was awarded the prestigious Sword of Honour during his military training. He has also served as Chief Instructor at the National Defence University (NDU) and as an instructor at the Command and Staff College in Quetta.

His educational background includes graduation from the United States Army's Fort Leavenworth and the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom.

Lt Gen Malik's appointment comes at a crucial time for Pakistan's top intelligence agency.

Which plays a pivotal role in both domestic and international security operations. His extensive experience and strategic insight are expected to enhance the operational capabilities of the ISI.

## Pashtoon Culture Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm

**Syed Ali Shah:**



**QUETTA:** Quetta and various regions saw lively celebrations as Pashtoon Culture Day was enthusiastically observed. Political parties, civil society organizations, and government departments organized several events to mark the occasion.

The primary event was held by the Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) at Sadiq Shaheed Ground, Quetta, where the party leader, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, addressed a large gathering. Highlighting the significance of the day, Achakzai remarked, "Pashtoon Culture Day represents our rich heritage and serves as a reminder of our identity. Safeguarding and pro-

moting our cultural values is crucial for the unity and strength of the Pashtoons." Another prominent event was organized by the Pashtoonkhw National Awami Party (PKNAP), with Khushal Khan Kakar at the forefront. He stressed the need for cultural preservation, noting, "Our traditions and customs are our pride. Observing Pashtoon Culture Day is not just about honoring the past but ensuring our heritage thrives for future generations."

The Awami National Party (ANP) and other political groups also held events, emphasizing the solidarity of the Pashtoon community. Additionally, the Cul-

ture Department organized a special ceremony at the Mir Naseer Khan Noori Complex, Parliamentary Secretary on Culture, Mir Zareen Khan Magsi, the chief guest, underlined the importance of promoting cultural diversity.

"It is our duty to support all cultural identities, including Pashtoon culture, which significantly contributes to the rich heritage of our province," Magsi stated. The day's festivities included traditional Pashto dances, showcases of cultural attire, ancient crockery, swords, and various artifacts, reflecting the deep-rooted history and pride of the Pashtoon people.

## Public-Private Partnerships: A Solution to Balochistan's Education Crisis

**Syed Ali Shah:**

The recent dismissal of 114 absentee teachers in Balochistan marks a pivotal moment in the province's long-overdue effort to address the crisis in its education sector. With an inquiry underway against an additional 2,000 teachers, the Balochistan government is sending a clear message: education is no longer to be taken lightly. Chronic absenteeism has plagued the region's schools for years, compromising the quality of education for countless children. The actions taken by the provincial government, under the leadership of Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durran,

In this context, an approach recently introduced by the Punjab government could offer a promising model. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced plans to hand over thousands of government-run schools to public-private partnerships (PPPs) to improve the quality of education. This initiative seeks to leverage the expertise and resources of the private sector to address inefficiencies within the public system. Balochistan, with its unique challenges, could benefit greatly from such a strategy.

The PPP model could provide much-needed support in teacher training, curriculum development, and school management. By incorporating private sector efficiency with pub-



lic accountability, it could address the chronic problems of absenteeism and infrastructure development. It also allows for innovative educational approaches, as well as better oversight through community involvement, echoing the role SMCs are already playing in Balochistan.

While the province's government has made significant strides in improving the educational landscape, adopting and adapting the PPP model could be a game changer. A partnership between public and private entities has the potential to create a sustainable system, offering both modern educational resources and stringent oversight to ensure that students receive the education they deserve.

Raheela Hameed Khan Durran's vision of a robust, effective education system is laudable, and the ongoing reforms are a step in the right direction. But if Balochistan is to truly turn the page on its troubled education sector, it must embrace innovative solutions like public-private partnerships to bring about the transformative changes that its children so desperately need. Only by doing so can the province ensure a brighter, more promising future for the next generation.

These initiatives are critical in a province where vast rural areas and underdeveloped regions have long suffered from a lack of access to quality education. Reopening these schools, particularly in remote areas, will expand educational opportunities and bring long-term benefits to underserved communities.

However, while these steps are vital, Balochistan faces deep-seated structural challenges that will require more comprehensive solutions. The province's shortage of educational facilities, coupled with the continued lack of qualified and committed teachers, underscores the need for further innovation.

## Barber Shot Dead in Quetta's Brewery Village

**Staff Reporter:**



**Quetta:** A barber was shot and killed by unknown assailants at a shop near Brewery village Ibrahimzai on Monday. According to police sources, the victim, identified as 55-year-old Mujahid, was a resident of Bahawalpur. The body was immediately shifted to Civil Hos-

pital Quetta for legal formalities. Law enforcement agencies have cordoned off the area and initiated an investigation to apprehend the culprits. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, and the motive behind the killing remains unclear. Police are actively probing the incident.

**Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development**

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**Restoring Quetta to Its Former Glory**

Continued to page 2

**Dengue cases on the rise in Punjab as 86 new cases were reported**

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Stones salvages point for Man City against 10-man Arsenal

MANCHESTER (INP): John Stones' 98th-minute equaliser salvaged a 2-2 draw for Manchester City against 10-man Arsenal in a bad-tempered clash between the two favourites for the Premier League title. Arsenal played the entire second half a man down after Leandro Trossard was sent off but were seconds away from inflicting City's first home defeat since November 2022. "We have that belief we can win any game and never stop fighting," said Stones. A draw was enough for City to relax top spot, two points clear of Arsenal in fourth. Erling Haaland's 100th City goal was given Pep Guardiola's men the perfect start. Arsenal turned the game around thanks to Riccardo Calafiori's wonder strike and another set-piece header from Gabriel Magalhães. The Gunners lost Trossard for a second booking just before half-time. However, Mikel Arteta's men produced a stunning rearguard action to hold out until the final seconds when Stones bundled in after Ricardo Calafiori's wonder strike and another set-piece header from Gabriel Magalhães. "They have made another big step today as a team and individuals," said Stones. "They have made another big step today as a team and individuals."

was lit within the first few seconds when Kai Havertz charged into Rodri to leave the Spaniard needing treatment. Guardiola said City had been handed an advantage by Arsenal's extra day's rest and not travelling for their Champions League draw with Inter Milan on Wednesday. Arsenal, by contrast, were in Italy on Thursday for their 0-0 stalemate against Atlanta. City burst out of the traps to try and make their fresh legs count and got an early reward. Haaland had not even managed a single shot on target. "They were in a good position to win but they were not," said Guardiola. "We have made another big step today as a team and individuals."



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Mr. Oybek Usmanov, meeting president Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan a potential supplier in global kiwifruit market: Experts

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan is a potential supplier in global kiwifruit market, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday quoting experts. According to the report, the newly concluded International Training Workshop on Kiwifruit Production in Sichuan, agricultural experts from Pakistan saw their country's potential to become an important player in the world's kiwifruit market, through collaborating with China. Meanwhile, an MoU was reached between Sichuan Provincial Academy of Natural Resource Sciences and the University of Swabi. Marking a promising beginning of Sino-Pak kiwifruit cooperation in a more in-depth form. "Pakistan's kiwi industry has immense potential for growth and development. With its favorable climate, rich soil and abundant water resources, Pakistan can become a significant player in the global kiwifruit market," Dr. Ruidar Ali Shihab said at the University of Swabi told CEN. Further, "Pakistan's strategic location allows for easy access to markets in the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe, providing a competitive edge. I am optimistic about the future. Additionally, as Pakistan's kiwi industry and its potential to contribute significantly to the country's economy," he added. "Pakistan's cli-

mate, especially in its northern and hilly regions, is suitable for growing kiwifruit, which requires moderate temperatures and adequate rainfall. The growing demand for kiwifruit in both local and international markets, coupled with Pakistan's large agricultural workforce, presents a significant opportunity for the country to develop a profitable kiwifruit industry," Dr. Muhammad Akhlaq from PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi holds the same opinion. At the two-week workshop, agricultural experts from overseas countries including Pakistan, Egypt, Nepal and Mongolia acquired China's expertise in kiwifruit germplasm selection and protection, new variety breeding, cultivation management, pest control, postharvest storage and marketing. "China kiwifruit technology and industry are highly advanced and impressive. The country's experience in kiwifruit production particularly in Sichuan province is remarkable. China's success in kiwifruit cultivation, harvesting and marketing is attributed to its robust research and development, efficient irrigation systems and effective supply chain management," Dr. Ruidar Ali Shihab said. Additionally, as Pakistan's kiwi industry and its potential to contribute significantly to the country's economy," he added. "Pakistan's cli-



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, meet with Mr. Ghulam Nabi Marri, National Coordinator International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

Pakistan to benefit from Chinese expertise to protect its cultural relics: Says a Pakistani delegate

XIAN (INP): Archaeological discoveries could be one area of Sino-Pak bilateral cooperation, and Pakistan can benefit from Chinese expertise to protect its cultural relics. In 2023, China and Pakistan launched the Guardians of Gandhara project to support Pakistan in site maintenance, the protection of cultural relics, education on indigenous heritage, and archaeological collaboration, said a Pakistani delegate. Naveed Hussain. He was along the representatives of several prominent international media outlets who recently visited Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi province in Northwest China. Naveed told China Economic Net (CEN) that China's cultural confidence is evident in Xi'an. China and Pakistan are collaborating in numerous ways. He believes archaeological discoveries could be one area of Sino-Pak bilateral cooperation, and Pakistan can benefit from Chinese expertise to protect its cultural relics. Xi'an is truly a wonder of the world and a fitting tribute to the heroes of ancient China. It stands as a testament to the multi-civilizational exchanges throughout human history," said Naveed Hussain, as he marveled at the Terracotta Warriors. In 1974, an archaeological team began excavating Pit No. 1 of Emperor Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty, in Xi'an. The excavation revealed a vast underground army of life-size Terracotta Warriors, created to accompany the emperor in the afterlife. Talking about archaeological discoveries, Naveed informed China

Economic Net that he learned Chinese archaeologists have applied their expertise in Central, West, and South Asia over the past decade to assist in the protection of these sites. A screen show different figure heads are pictured during an exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the discovery and excavation of the iconic Terracotta Warriors at the Emperor Qin Shi Huang's Mausoleum. The delegation also visited an exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the discovery and excavation of the Terracotta Warriors. Naveed was interested in how to preserve the color and integrity of these artifacts during the excavation process. "In recent years, Chinese and foreign re-

Legal services platform established to support China-Pakistan B2B cooperation

BEIJING (INP): Commercial legal services platform has been established to support China-Pakistan Business-to-Business (B2B) cooperation. The newly established legal services zone is expected to address complexities arising from the different legal systems of China and Pakistan. Gwardar Pro reported on Monday. While Pakistan operates under a legal framework rooted in common law traditions, influenced by European and American systems, China follows a civil law system. The presence of an international commercial legal services platform will facilitate dispute resolution and ensure smoother business transactions. Mr. Wang Yongxin, President of China-Pakistan International Business Alliance introduced that the platform will not only serve Chinese companies operating in Pakistan but also provide legal assistance to Pakistani enterprises in China. "Previously, Pakistan and China lacked a unified standard for legal disputes, making it difficult to resolve conflicts that arise from differ-

ences in legal practices, for example, different quality inspection systems," explained Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, member of the Pakistani delegation. The new platform aims to fill this gap by providing arbitration and mediation services accepted by both countries, ensuring that disputes, particularly in trade and export contracts, can be resolved efficiently. It is learned that a team of lawyers has been put in place to provide legal services in both countries under the to-be-established commercial legal committee.



QUETTA: Young Lawyers Forum for Judicial Reforms President Fatima Nazar advocates addressing a press conference Quetta Press Club (QPC).

TENDER NOTICE
City electronic bid will be submitted, the physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GGB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPTRA GOB. The Executive Engineer (Road) Govt. P&H Department District Dera Bugti invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023.
S.No Name of Works E/Cost
1. Resurfacing of Road from Indus Road to P&H No. 1307 (Z/2024/0480) 2024-2025. (T&S-2420059423) 567,776,762/-
2. Construction of 22 Km Road from Sibi to Chahk Kora Karal Darra to Chahk Pathraigh District Dera Bugti (Package II) P&H No. 1628 22024/0480 (T&S-2420059423) 647,496,000/-
3. Construction of 22 Km Road from Sibi to Chahk Kora Karal Darra to Chahk Pathraigh District Dera Bugti (Package I) P&H No. 1628 22024/0480 (T&S-2420059423) 557,640,000/-
Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Panel. The bidding form must be downloaded by any procuring agency of Pakistan (Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 figure of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 411-AEC-103/- 288,000,000/-and 334,000,000/- PWS amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-2, C-3 and above (upto 1000 million 500 million). In Relevant Category and Specialized Code in CEN/IT (General Civil Engineering works) CEN/10 (Slope Protection System) CEN/11 (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure ). At least 02 project of similar Nature to Road work and Bridges work amount to Rs 150 million or above in last 05 years. 2% of the Estimated Cost (Rs. 10,200/-) in account No. C-42/16 through Green Channel. The eligible bidders are required to verify the eligibility call codes. To be eligible to participate in this bidding process, bidders must meet the following conditions: 1. Non-Bidding Certificate: The Bidder must not be blacklisted or formed from participating in public or private sector procurement by any government agency, regulatory body, or international organization. 2. No Pending Litigation: The Bidder must not have any pending litigation or court cases related to contractual disputes, fraud, corruption, or other similar offenses. 3. No Contract Breach or Termination: The Bidder must not have been involved in any contract breach or termination due to: - Failure to perform contractual obligations; - Completion of fraudulent practices; - Gross negligence or misconduct; 4. Integrity and Compliance: The Bidder must demonstrate a good record of integrity, transparency, and compliance with laws, regulations, and ethical standards. 5. No Conflict of Interest: The Bidder must not have any conflict of interest that could compromise their ability to perform the contract impartially. DECLARATION: By submitting their bid, the Bidder declares that they: - Have not bid on any eligible contract; - Have not been convicted of any serious offenses related to professional conduct; - Have not been investigated for any serious offense; - Have not been suspended or debarred from participating in public or private sector procurement. VERIFICATION: The Bidder reserves the rights to verify the Bidder's eligibility through various means, including: - Checking with government agencies, regulatory bodies, or international organizations; - Reviewing court records and litigation history; - Conducting background checks; - Verifying the Bidder's financial statements; - Conducting random audits. CONFIRMATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE: Failure to meet these eligibility criteria may result in rejection of the bid. Disqualification from the bidding process-Debarment from procurement opportunities. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the tender signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The IT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically until by 10 October, 2024 09:30 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPRS System Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROVINCIAL BILDR CONSTRUCTION) Phone No: 333557025 Email: XZshahbaz@gmail.com PRQ No.1153/23-9-2024 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS) CHINA-PAKISTAN BIZNESS ALLIANCE Quetta

TENDER NOTICE
T&S-24200554243 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GGB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered at Electronic Public Procurement System of BPTRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROVINCIAL BILDR CONSTRUCTION) Dera Bugti invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.
S.No Name of Works E/Cost
1. Construction Of Black Top Road Bridge From Main Gali/Kohli Road To Thaco District Kohli 192,380,443
Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Panel. The bidding form must be downloaded by any procuring agency of Pakistan (Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 figure of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 411-AEC-103/- 288,000,000/-and 334,000,000/- PWS amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-2 and above (upto 1000 million 500 million). In Relevant Category and Specialized Code in CEN/IT (General Civil Engineering works) CEN/10 (Slope Protection System) CEN/11 (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure ). At least 02 project of similar Nature to Road work and Bridges work amount to Rs 150 million or above in last 05 years. 2% of the Estimated Cost (Rs. 10,200/-) in account No. C-42/16 through Green Channel. The eligible bidders are required to verify the eligibility call codes. To be eligible to participate in this bidding process, bidders must meet the following conditions: 1. Non-Bidding Certificate: The Bidder must not be blacklisted or formed from participating in public or private sector procurement by any government agency, regulatory body, or international organization. 2. No Pending Litigation: The Bidder must not have any pending litigation or court cases related to contractual disputes, fraud, corruption, or other similar offenses. 3. No Contract Breach or Termination: The Bidder must not have been involved in any contract breach or termination due to: - Failure to perform contractual obligations; - Completion of fraudulent practices; - Gross negligence or misconduct; 4. Integrity and Compliance: The Bidder must demonstrate a good record of integrity, transparency, and compliance with laws, regulations, and ethical standards. 5. No Conflict of Interest: The Bidder must not have any conflict of interest that could compromise their ability to perform the contract impartially. DECLARATION: By submitting their bid, the Bidder declares that they: - Have not bid on any eligible contract; - Have not been convicted of any serious offenses related to professional conduct; - Have not been investigated for any serious offense; - Have not been suspended or debarred from participating in public or private sector procurement. VERIFICATION: The Bidder reserves the rights to verify the Bidder's eligibility through various means, including: - Checking with government agencies, regulatory bodies, or international organizations; - Reviewing court records and litigation history; - Conducting background checks; - Verifying the Bidder's financial statements; - Conducting random audits. CONFIRMATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE: Failure to meet these eligibility criteria may result in rejection of the bid. Disqualification from the bidding process-Debarment from procurement opportunities. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the tender signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The IT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically until by 10 October, 2024 09:30 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPRS System Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROVINCIAL BILDR CONSTRUCTION) Phone No: 333557025 Email: XZshahbaz@gmail.com PRQ No.1153/23-9-2024 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS) CHINA-PAKISTAN BIZNESS ALLIANCE Quetta

## Asad Qaiser suggests PM Shehbaz to quit as govt will 'cease to exist' by December

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former National Assembly speaker and PTI leader Asad Qaiser has said that the government will not last till December, it is better that Shehbaz Sharif resigns himself.

Speaking in a TV programme on Sunday night, he said the nation has been reeling under inflation and unrest. There are no representatives of the people in the current assembly, he added.

"The government is trying to take away our reserved seats," the former speaker said and added that the PTI was playing its role as opposition in the assembly.

Talking about the Lahore rally, he dared parties to "organise a rally under the circumstances we held the jalsa."

He said raids were conducted before the rally to arrest PTI work-

ers and leaders, he continued.

Asad challenged "Mian Sahib to hold a rally having half of our rally's participation."

The PTI leader deplored that the government has crossed all moral limits. "Fundamental rights are suspended in the country. The Punjab government used every illegal tactic to stop the rally. The government has failed. We have decided to go to any extent to fight them."

He said that the government was flouting the orders of the judiciary. He announced that the PTI core committee would meet on Monday to chalk out a future course of action.

The former speaker said that "we are running out of options. We will soon be on roads. The country would be run democratically."

Asad Qaiser said that the government has no mandate. It has exhausted all its options. The PTI founder is kept in jail only to exact revenge on him. Frivolous cases have been registered against him.

Regarding resignations from assemblies, he said it could take some time as "we will take our allies on board in this regard."

"In a couple of weeks, we will engage the parties of every province [on resignations]."

He said the PTI has no other option left except launching a movement for the ouster of the government. "We want Maulana Fazlur Rahman and other parties to be on board with us."

Asad expressed unhappiness at the decisions of the chief justice and requested him to decide cases according to the law.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan and UK Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian Discuss Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Exploring New Avenues for Partnership.

## Election authorities denying major political party recognition infringes electorate's rights: SC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court on Monday released its detailed verdict on the July 12 order in the reserved seats case, which had declared the PTI a parliamentary party.

The 8-5 majority July order had declared ex-premier Imran Khan's PTI eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities, dealing a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah had announced the majority verdict, which was supported by seven other judges: Justices Mumb Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha A Malik, Athar Minallah, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Mansoor Khan and Saadat Khan.

The case had been heard by a 13-member bench — Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail had penned a minority judgment. Justices Aminuddin Khan and Naeem Akhtar Afghani in their ruling had rejected the pleas for reserved seats; and Justice Yahya Afridi had also dismissed the Sunni Ittehad Council's petitions.

Despite the 8-5 split, all 13 judges had declared the PTI a parliamentary party as they ruled that out of a list of 80 MNAs, 39 belonged to the PTI while 41 were given the chance to resubmit their party affiliation.

The 70-page judgement released today, available on the SC's website, was authored by Justice Shah, who is set to succeed incumbent CJP Isa as the top judge in October.

The verdict states: "When election authorities engage in actions [...] such as unlawfully denying the recognition of a major political party and treating its nominated candidates as independents, they not only compromise the rights of these candidates but also significantly infringe upon the rights of the electorate and corrode their own institutional legitimacy."

"The importance of free and fair elections in a democracy cannot be overstated. The judiciary's role in ensuring electoral integrity

and upholding the will of the people is essential for sustaining public trust in the democratic process," the order read.

The SC asserted that the "court's power to do 'complete justice' is a critical tool in preventing democratic backsliding and protecting democracy effectively."

The eight-judge order also expressed "some doubts about whether the Commission has the power to reject the certificate of intra-party elections submitted by a political party under Section 209, and whether the commission exercised its discretion under Section 215(5) justly, fairly and reasonably in PTI's case, adding that the "unlawful acts and omissions of the Returning Officers and the Commission, which have caused confusion and prejudice to PTI, its candidates and the electorate who voted for PTI, are numerous," the order read.

"Similarly, we have certain reservations about how the matter of intraparty elections — a matter of internal governance of party — can trump the fundamental rights of citizens to vote and of political parties to effectively participate in and contest elections through obtaining a common symbol for their candidates, guaranteed under Articles 17(2) and 19 of the Constitution."

"However, since these questions are sub judice in the review petition filed by PTI against this Court's judgment dated 13 January 2024, we abstain from examining and expressing our definitive view on them," the verdict said, referring to the SC ruling denying the PTI its party symbol.

The verdict stated that Justice Mazhar wished to "make clear that nothing in this paragraph is intended to or will impact upon the hearing of the review petition."

In its majority verdict, the SC also observed that the returning officers (ROs) and the ECP's numerous "unlawful acts and omissions" had "caused confusion and prejudice to PTI, its candidates and the electorate who voted for PTI."

"PTI's nominated candidates were wrongly shown independent candidates in the list of contesting candidates (Form 31) by the returning officers and were also

wrongly notified as independent returned candidates in the Section-98 notification by the Commission," the judgment read.

It noted that after the intra-party elections (which were not later accepted by the Commission), Gohar Ali Khan had assumed at least de facto charge of PTI's functions and affairs as its chairman.

Therefore, the SC said, the "acts performed by him on behalf of PTI" before January 13 — when the court restored the ECP verdict of not letting PTI retain its electoral symbol for general elections — were "fully valid and effective."

"In the present case, [...] the unlawful acts and omissions of the Returning Officers and the Commission, which have caused confusion and prejudice to PTI, its candidates and the electorate who voted for PTI, are numerous," the order read.

ECP failed to perform its role as "guarantor institution" of democratic processes.

The SC verdict noted that ECP "in its role as a guarantor institution and impartial steward, is tasked with ensuring the transparency and fairness of elections to maintain public trust in the electoral system."

"This is essential for the legitimacy of elected representatives and the stability of the political system. The Commission must uphold democratic principles and the integrity of electoral processes by ensuring that elections truly reflect the will of the people, thereby preserving the democratic fabric of the nation," it stressed.

"Unfortunately, the circumstances of the present case indicate that the Commission has failed to fulfil this role in the general elections of 2024," the apex court observed.

It highlighted that the ECP as a "constitutional 'electoral management body', is not merely an administrative entity but a fundamental 'guarantor institution' of democratic processes, with a constitutional status akin to a 'fourth branch of government', adding it must "fully recognise its constitutional position and the critical



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti along with Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Bakht Muhammad Kakkar and Parliamentary Secretary Nawabzada Zareen Magsi on the occasion of Pashtun Culture Day.

## Speaker NA declares KSA an emblem of strength, progress worldwide

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday declared the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia an emblem of strength and progress worldwide.

The Speaker NA in a statement on the 94th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia said that on this joyous occasion, he on behalf of the National Assembly and the people of Pakistan extends heartfelt congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that not only Pakistan but all international countries recognize and appreciate the contributions of Saudi Arabia to global peace, economic development, and the preservation of Islamic heritage.

He expressed special greetings to King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Speaker of Shura

Council Dr. Abdullah Al-Sheikh and the nation of Saudi Arabia commending their exemplary leadership and vision.

The Speaker NA emphasized Saudi Arabia's vital role as the custodian of the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina, expressing profound gratitude for the Kingdom's hospitality towards millions of Muslim pilgrims each year.

He acknowledged the importance of this sacred responsibility, highlighting the Kingdom's commitment to ensuring a safe and enriching pilgrimage experience for all. Reflecting on Saudi Arabia's achievements over the past 94 years, he said the Kingdom contributes to socio-economic development within the region and the Muslim world are commendable.

Saudi Arabia has significantly fostered growth in the region and has played a key

role in unifying the Muslim Ummah, through its monumental contributions as member of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), he added.

Ayaz Sadiq also highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, built on mutual respect, shared values, and Islamic brotherhood.

He said that both nations have consistently supported one another in times of need, reinforcing their enduring friendship. The Speaker expressed confidence that the relationship will continue to flourish, paving the way for greater collaboration and mutual benefit in the years to come.

The Speaker prayed to Allah to bless Saudi Arabia with lasting peace, unity, and progress, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties for a prosperous future.

## LHC hears plea seeking issuance of notification for appointment of new CJP

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday heard a petition, seeking the issuance of the notification for the appointment of Supreme

Court (SC) judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

Justice Faisal Zaman Khan heard Nadeem Shibli Advocate's petition. Assistant Attorney General Chaudhry Naeem Ahmad Gujjar represented the federal government in the case.

In his plea, Nadeem Advocate stated that there was a sense of anxiety in the country owing to political, legal and constitutional issues.

He further said that the

retirement of CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa, the government had yet to issue the notification that showed a bad intention on its part.

"And in order to enlist the support of a majority of the members of the Parliament (MPs) for the passage of the constitutional amendments, even the MPs were picked up," read the petition.

The petitioner further said that as per the constitution, the senior-most judge in the apex court was elevated to the rank of the CJP. "The appointment

of the new chief justice is notified two months prior to the retirement of the sitting CJP."

Now when, Nadeem Advocate went on to say, only one month was left before the

retirement of CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa, the government had yet to issue the notification that showed a bad intention on its part.

"Consequently, there is a sense of uneasiness not only in the legal fraternity but also in the masses. The LHC Bar even organized a lawyers' convention on the issue," the petitioner said, adding, "Unfortunately, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar is not playing the kind of role he is supposed to play."

The petitioner prayed to the court to order the immediate issuance of the notification for the appointment of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah as the chief justice of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain in a meeting with religious scholars.

## Dengue cases on the rise in Punjab as 86 new cases were reported

MIANWALI (INP): Dengue cases are on the rise in Punjab as 86 new cases were reported from various parts of the province during the last 24 hours.

Majority of these cases, 74 in total, were reported in Rawalpindi, while Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Attock, and Mianwali each recorded two cases.

One case each was identified in Lahore, Kasur, Chakwal, and Sahiwal. According to health department sources, the total number of dengue cases was swelled to 1,044 after 377 new cases were reported in Punjab.

A spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said that hospitals were fully equipped with necessary medicines and treatments to combat the virus.

In response to the spike in

Govt Maternity Hospital New Karol on Sunday.

The minister said the addition of these facilities was a part of larger upgradation process aimed at improving the hospital's services.

They called for public cooperation with health teams actively working to control the outbreak. A free helpline (1033) has also been provided for those seeking treatment or information, or to register complaints related to dengue.

Health department officials stressed the importance of vigilance and proactive measures to curb the spread across Punjab.

On the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the upgradation of all hospitals inside the City has commenced. This was disclosed by Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Inam Nazir during the inauguration of a new nursery and blood bank at the

Govt Maternity Hospital New Karol on Sunday. The minister said the addition of these facilities was a part of larger upgradation process aimed at improving the hospital's services. He emphasised that each hospital would be thoroughly assessed, and any missing or inadequate facilities would be provided on a priority basis.

Khawaja Inam Nazir announced the opening of clinics for hepatitis and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) under the chief minister's directive, further enhancing the healthcare system in the City.

During his visit, the minister toured various departments of the hospital, reviewing medical facilities and inquiring from patients about the availability of medicines, tests, and other treatments.

Islamabad: FEDERAL MINISTER FOR INTERIOR MOHSIN NAQVI IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Mallik.