

# Independent

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Gwadar

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MAKKAH: The Khateeb of Arafat Sheikh Dr Yusuf bin Muhammad bin Saeed delivering Hajj sermon at Arafat

## Sheikh Yusuf calls for Ummah's unity & cohesion in Hajj Sermon

**Imam highlights the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH); Urges Muslims to observe Taqwa by obeying Allah's commands; Islam provides preventative measures to counter destructive intentions; Chanting "Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik, around three million Hujjaj performed Rukn-e-Azam of Hajj Waqoof-e-Arafah**

ARAFAT (MAKKAH) (APP): Sheikh Yusuf bin Muhammad bin Saeed on Tuesday made a clarion call for the Muslim Ummah to forge unity and cohesion among their ranks to reap the benefits in this world and the Hereafter. It would surely lead to salvation of the Ummah in addition to averting any discords or divisions, he said while addressing a diverse and mammoth gathering of the Muslims from around the world. The Imam commenced the Hajj Sermon here at Arafat: "All praise belongs to Allah, the Almighty, the One who bestows abundantly. He made unity a cause for salvation, and division a cause for punishment. He, the Absolutely Perfect, commanded that

our ranks be united, and our word be one, as a cohesive alliance, and made forbidden everything that leads to discords and divisions." Quoting the verses from the Holy Quran, he reaffirmed the main articles of faith - the Oneness of Allah and the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The Sermon highlighted the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), which emphasized unity, cooperation, and the prohibition of disputes and conflicts. It underscored the unifying role of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was commanded to convey the message of Allah and bring unity among his followers. The Imam urged the

Muslims to observe Taqwa (righteousness) by obeying Allah's commands and staying within the boundaries set by Him. The Sermon emphasized that diverting any aspect of worship to entities other than Allah was totally prohibited. It highlighted the significance of Tawheed (worshiping Allah alone) for guidance, salvation, and a praiseworthy end. The pillars of Islam, including the five daily prayers, obligatory Zakaat (charitable contribution), fasting during Ramazan, and performing Hajj, were emphasized as crucial aspects of worship. The Sermon cited the Quranic verses and the sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) to underscore

their importance in the lives of Muslims. It further stressed that linguistic, racial, and ethnic differences and divisions should not lead to any discord among the Muslims. Diversity in languages and colours was a sign from Allah and an opportunity for knowledge, he added citing Quranic verses. The Sermon underscored that "Islam provides preventative measures and defensive strategies to counter destructive intentions and acts of sabotage, aimed at dividing communities." The importance of referring back to the Quran and the Sunnah during disputes was highlighted, along with the necessity of good conduct, compassion,

forgiveness, and patience. The Imam urged the Muslims to strengthen social, familial, and spiritual bonds and to uphold ties of kinship. He emphasized kindness and goodness towards relatives, neighbours, and the needy, while promoting cooperation in righteousness and Taqwa. The Sermon also cautioned the Muslims against following rumours and disinformation that aimed to create divisions and disunity. The Imam concluded the Sermon reiterating the Islamic message of unity and cohesion, calling upon the Muslims to wholeheartedly embrace unity, practice tolerance, and reject divisions, while adhering to the teachings of Islam for a prosperous and harmonious society.

## Gwadar's development top priority, says CM: Governing body approves GDA's revised budget of current FY & proposed budget for next FY

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Governing body of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) approved the GDA's revised budget for the current financial year 2022-23 and proposed budget for the next financial year 2023-24. The budget of the GDA for current and next financial year was approved in its Governing body meeting held with the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, also the chairman of GDA in the chair on late Monday night. The meeting participated by Member Provincial Assembly and member of GDA's governing body, Mir Hamal Kalmati and other concerned quarters approved Rs. 33.8 million

for feasibility of fishermen's residential colony besides directing the concerned to send summary about creation of different vacancies in GDA. The meeting also approved to revise the pay scale of contract staff appointed in the GDA. In addition to this, the GDA's governing body decided to form technical committee regarding business plan. The meeting was also directed to send summary of the revised grant in aid of business plan besides approving the GDA service regulation 2023. Moreover, the meeting also approved the post facto amount of Rs. 21.90 million for GDA's participation in the international tourism con-

ference to be held in Berlin. While on the other hand, the meeting approved beach front development for construction of the recreational places at the Gwadar marine drive. While speaking at the meeting, the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that Gwadar is our important coastal city. He said that the provincial government has provided substantial funds for development of Gwadar. He said that the standard of life of the people of Gwadar is being improved through different development projects. No doubt, the development of Gwadar is included in priorities of the incumbent government, he maintained.



Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo presiding over 26th meeting of Governing Body of Gwadar Development Authority through video link

## PM orders inquiry into recent Lahore flooding; calls for future preparedness

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday ordered an inquiry and fix the responsibility on the officials concerned over their failure to overcome the flooding situation caused by recent rains in Lahore. The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the preparedness ahead of predicted rains in North Punjab, particularly Lahore, expressed his annoyance over the failure to make timely arrangements to drain the rainwater. He instructed the provincial government and the district administration to fix the responsibility for poor



water drainage, and immediately suspend the officials showing any negligence. He said the slackness of the relevant departments made the citizens suffer. The prime minister instructed to ensure full preparedness in the wake of rains predicted in the next few days. The administration should particularly remain alert during Eid-ul-Azha and formulate an emergency plan to deal with the possible situation caused by the rains, he added.

## PML-N, PPP fail to resolve differences in Dubai meeting

ISLAMABAD (INP): The People's Party and the PML-N in their Dubai meeting failed to resolve most of the issues. The leaders of the two parties are likely to sit again today to resolve differences. The PML-N and the PPP have agreed to resolve the issues between them with dialogue. PML-N top leader Nawaz Sharif and PPP leaders Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto have been in Dubai for talks over the election and other political issues. People's Party sources have said that the issue of seat adjustment was not discussed with the PML-N leadership. "Former

president Asif Ali Zardari discussed the charter of economy with PML-N leaders," sources said. The two sides also discussed the caretaker setup and future line of action in the meeting yesterday. The PPP leaders also clarified the party's stance over general election adding that they want election in October or November, according to sources. The coalition partners in the PDM government also discussed on pre-date dissolution of the assemblies. The two sides have been at odds with regard to the timetable of the next general election after dissolution of assemblies in August.

## Trial of civilians in military courts: How army authorities can arrest any person without charging him: CJP

**AGP submits details of 102 arrested accused in SC** ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has raised question how the army authorities can arrest any person without charging him. The CJP further remarked lacuna lies in law. Leveling allegations against any one without evidence is futile and ridiculous. SC resolved in its 1975 decision that it will be decided on judicial side accused is who. The procedure on charging under army act is there in law. Still we are talking in air. What offences fall under 2D2. Assistance is required on it. It is interesting thing that what allegations have come to fore

with regard to accused persons are not related to official secret act. It has been made clear in Liaqat Hussain case every case cannot be tried in military court. But relevance of case with army act should be proved. He further remarked morale is most important thing for army. If morale is affected then enemy benefits from it. Lowering the morale of army officers is also offence. Army officers have spirit for rendering sacrifice for their country due to their high morale. He remarked it should be known to every one on Eid occasion about persons who are under arrest. All

should be given opportunity to talk to their family members on the occasion of Eid. Arrange the talks of the accused persons with their family members today. We will now meet after Eid. The petitions against trial of civilians in military courts came up for hearing before a 6-member larger bench of SC presided over by CJP Tuesday. On questioning from CJP if there is any issue of death sentence in the present cases, Attorney General (AG) told death sentence can be awarded in the event of foreign contacts. No lawyer has been arrested so far.

## Governor strongly condemns Harnai-Mangi incident

**Calls for taking stern action against criminals** **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has strongly condemned the incident of torching coal laden trucks in Harnai-Mangi area. In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Governor said attacking the vehicles and property is a very cowardly act. He said that it is responsibility of the government to protect life and property of the masses,

## Six of a family killed as van falls into Bolan ditch

BOLAN (INP): Six members of a family, including women, were killed when a passenger van fell into a ditch in Bolan on Tuesday. The accident took place at Panjara bridge in Bolan where a van got out of control and fell into the ditch. The van left Quetta for Sibi. Two women were expired on the spot while five people including children were seriously injured after the accident. The Levies Force and the rescue team reached the site and shifted the bodies and injured to Civil Hospital Dhadar. Four more people succumbed to their injuries at the hospital, taking the toll to six. The deceased were said to be from the same family.

## Five permanent judges of Balochistan High Court take oath

**Independent Report** QUETTA: Five permanent judges of Balochistan High Court (BHC) took oath here on Tuesday. The Chief Justice BHC, Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan administered oath to the judges who made permanent recently. Those who took oath were included: Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz, Justice Iqbal Kasi, Justice Shukat Rakhschani, Justice Gull Hassan Tareen and Justice Sardar Ahmad Halemi. The oath taking ceremony held at the auditorium of High Court was attended by the senior Judge of Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mando Khalil as well as the judges of BHC, Mr. Justice Hashim

Khan Kakar and others. The ceremony was also attended by the senior lawyers as well as the office bearers of Balochistan High Court Bar Association, Balochistan Bar Association and other lawyers' organizations. It may be mentioned here that the parliamentary committee of judges' appointments consented for the approval of the permanent status of the judges. Acting president Sadiq Sanjrani had approved the appointments of five judges of Balochistan High Court on permanent basis on Monday last. With the appointment of permanent judges, the total strength of judges has reached 13 in the High Court.

## Minister Home takes notice of Harnai - Mangi dam incident; seeks report

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has taken notice of the incident took place in Harnai-Mangi dam area. According to an official hand out issued here on Tuesday, the Minister Home also sought report of the incident from the concerned authorities within 24 hours. He directed the concerned authorities to update him about the progress made so far in the incident. Mir Ziaullah Langove asserted that legal action would be taken against those found negligent in the incident. He also ordered to form teams for arrest of the culprits involved in the incident and take them to task. In addition to this, the justice should be provided to the owners of transport on priority basis. In addition to this, the district administration should take stern action for prevention of such incidents in future, the Minister maintained. It may be mentioned here that some unknown armed assailants had resorted to fire targeting six trucks load with the coals in Harnai-Mangi area the other day.



QUETTA: Provincial General Secretary PML(N) Jamal Shah Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Some legal hurdles in prosecuting civilians in military courts: Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday noted that there were some legal hurdles in prosecuting civilians in military courts, but added that the government would be able to remove the same. Replying to various questions regarding the May 9 mayhem and its consequences during an interview to a private TV channel, the defence minister passed these remarks as he praised the military for moving ahead with the accountability process and taking actions against the responsible persons. Khawaja Asif also said that blocking social media platforms was always an

option and the government exercise the powers whenever required. His comments were in reference to the government stance that the PTI used social media as a tool to incite hatred and violence against the state institutions in the country. The same argument was repeated by the defence minister who said use of social media platforms was instrumental in inciting people to resort to violence, leading to the attacks on military installations and other state assets on May 9. Khawaja Asif argued that the social media platforms were regulated in China and even in the developing world like Europe.



QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Mr. Justice Naem Afghan administering oath to newly regularized judges of BHC

## Budget session ends: BA approves financial draft law 2023

**Deputy Speaker gives ruling to start implementation on PSDP from July 1, fill all vacant posts at earliest** **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail has given ruling for commencing the implementation on Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) from July 1, 2023. He also asked the Chief Secretary to fill all the vacant posts in different departments at the earliest. The Deputy Speaker gave the ruling during last sitting of the budget session here on Tuesday. The Deputy Speaker was in the chair when the session resumed on Tuesday morning after around one and half hour late from its due schedule. Sardar Babar Musakhail on the occasion congratulated Chief Minis-

ter Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on presenting excellent budget for the next financial year. He said that no member of the assembly lodged protest against the budget which speaks about the budget. Earlier, winding up the debate on the budget, provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai said he is thankful to all the members for their support and help in preparation of budget. He said that it is his desire that work on the new PSDP may be started from July 1, 2024. He also expressed the desire that all posts laying vacant in different provincial government departments are filled by August this year.

Wednesday June 28, 2023

## Checkmate?

Is it game over for Imran Khan and the PTI? That seems to have been the foremost question on most people's minds as the DG ISPR began addressing a sombre press conference late Monday afternoon.

Curiously, there was scant mention of Mr Khan and his party in the military spokesman's almost hour-and-a-half-long address, which was otherwise focused on the 'tragedy' of May 9. But while he may not have named names, there was little doubt whom the DG ISPR was addressing when he stated that the military believes that, currently, the 'single biggest threat' to Pakistan is from the "internal political instability" that has wracked the country over the past year or so.

He also described the events of May 9 as a planned conspiracy masterminded by people involved in "misleading the people for the past several months against the army and its leadership", making it clear whom the finger of blame is pointed at.

More concerning was his public acknowledgement that three army officers, including one lieutenant-general, had been stripped of their uniform over the events of May 9, and many more were facing accountability and/or disciplinary proceedings.

The DG went to great lengths to explain that the men were dismissed not because of their involvement or for being 'co-conspirators' in the events of May 9, but for procedural lapses and inadequacies of security arrangements in certain areas under their watch, which allowed vandals to run amok and damage military installations and properties on the day.

To some journalists, however, this seemed to conflict with the narrative that the armed forces had deliberately shown restraint that day by refusing to engage with the protesters.

The DG was repeatedly asked to clarify why three officers had to be let go for not engaging the protesters when the military itself wanted to show restraint, but his answer remained the same.

Importantly, by underlining that the military had penalised its own over the May 9 'tragedy', the DG ISPR seemed to make it clear that his institution believes it is time to make the civilian perpetrators pay. He defended suspects' trials by military courts, revealing that the court martial of 102 suspects was already underway.

"Those creating hurdles in the way of making this process reach its logical conclusion will be dealt with strictly," he warned. With the Supreme Court currently hearing a case challenging the legality of trying civilians under military courts, the implications of the warning seemed rather ominous. However, considering how many times the DG ISPR stressed the armed forces' deference to the Constitution and the state, it is hoped that the security establishment will take the legal challenges to military courts not as a provocation, but as a procedural hurdle that must be crossed.



Afzal Ali Shigri

Skardu, nestled in a beautiful corner of the country and surrounded by majestic mountains, has become a favoured destination of the rapidly growing tourism industry. The Pakistani government has projected Skardu as a paradise for tourists. However, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic found people confined to their homes.

As restrictions eased, in 2021, local tourists began to flock to Skardu in unprecedented numbers. Encouraged by this surge in domestic tourism, the government proudly announced Skardu's airports as being ready to cater to international flights.

The once-dormant tourism industry, stifled by the pandemic, found renewed hope and the government's efforts to

promote this hidden gem as a sought-after destination seemed to be paying off. To accommodate the increasing numbers, flights from three major cities were added, leading to a surge in unplanned investment in the tourism industry. Skardu's fragile and old infrastructure crumbled under the strain.

But despite the inconveniences, the influx of visitors continued to escalate. Businesses flourished, fueling expectations that the trend would persist throughout the current year. However, both tourists and locals were in for a shock when the effects of climate change hit the region. The winter season was longer than usual, keeping the streams frozen. Skardu's divisional headquarters faced an unprecedented water shortage, severely impacting hydropower generation. Consequently, the distribution of drinking water had to be rationed for the first time. It became evident that the government had failed to recognise the apparent growth in seasonal demand, resulting in immense hardship for the locals and despair among the visitors.

The sight of cherry blossoms bursting in every village, accompanied by the emergence of vibrant green leaves under the radiant sunshine and the gushing of crystal-clear water, would normally be a delightful treat for the eyes. The receding cold, coupled with mornings filled with birdsong, would typically transform Skardu valley into a surreal world — a scene from paradise. However, this year's experience was hardly heavenly — in fact, it a journey through hell.

Four hundred years ago, in the absence of her warrior husband Ali Sher Khan Anchan, raja of Skardu, who was busy expanding his rule in a challenging terrain and in the face of formidable local fighters, the rani Gul Khatoon, a Mughal princess, demonstrated remarkable engineering prowess. Her visionary mind conceived an engineering marvel that was executed to transform the high-level desert of Skardu valley into a lush green paradise. Her most notable accomplishment was the planning and construction of the Sadpara Dam and the canal system, which not only provided essential water for domes-

tic use but also for irrigation. Gul Khatoon's remarkable achievements stand as a testament to her intelligence, leadership qualities, and, most importantly, genuine concern for the well-being of her subjects.

Gul Khatoon's commendable efforts in addressing what centuries later would prove to be Wapda's shortcomings underscore the incompetence of the present-day organisation. The unfortunate neglect of this remarkable region by Wapda's extensive engineering and bureaucratic machinery is a clear indictment of governance in the area, compounded by the indifference displayed by local political leaders, save for a few committed individuals.

In 2001, Wapda undertook the Sadpara Dam project with the aim of addressing the water supply issue in the region. The project encompassed four key elements: upgrading the existing dam, constructing power houses for energy generation, establishing an irrigation channel, and diverting the Shatung nullah to augment water supply. Descon Engineering was awarded the contract for the dam and powerhouse,

CCPG for the irrigation channel, and D-Baloch for the Shatung nullah diversion. During the project implementation, concerns were raised by IUCN and WWF regarding the potentially negative impact of the nullah diversion on the habitat of the brown bear population and the overall environment.

There have been unverified claims suggesting that the contractor in charge of the Shatung nullah project considered it financially unfeasible due to the limited working season. Surprisingly, the preservation of the habitat of a small population of brown bears took precedence over the well-being of the human inhabitants in Skardu.

Consequently, the project underwent secretive revisions, leading to the abandonment of the water supply diversion to the dam. This decision has left the local community with a dam that provides no additional energy or water supply, rendering the project futile. Billions of rupees have been wasted, exposing the valley to water scarcity and energy shortages. This situation is exacerbated by the increased frequency

of minor weather fluctuations caused by climate change.

Despite numerous applications, presentations and requests, the concerns of the locals have been ignored. The recent drought has led to widespread street protests. However, an imaginative local cleric Agha Baqir, inspired by the historical achievement of Gul Khatoon and the Balts in constructing the Sadpara Dam with their bare hands, realised that the locals could also take matters into their own hands. Agha Baqir's rallying cry has resonated with the people, and many volunteers have decided to join him in the initiative to manually divert the water from the Shatung stream.

This grassroots movement symbolises the determination and resilience of the people of Skardu. They have become determined to take charge of their own destiny and address the water supply issue. Through their collective efforts, they aim to dig channels and redirect the flow of water themselves, echoing the spirit of Gul Khatoon and the Balts. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Women, words and the constitution



Mehnaz Akber Aziz

One of the landmark moments during the golden jubilee celebrations of the constitution of Pakistan was the realization that the time had come to foster inclusivity in its language. This idea took shape on the floor of the National Assembly, where I had the privilege of highlighting the presence of gender non-inclusive language in a draft legislation. The honourable speaker of the National Assembly, invoking Article 263 of the constitution, ruled that "words implying the masculine gender in the constitution shall be interpreted to encompass females as well."

Covering behind the argument that traditional language has long been employed in constitutional and legal texts may seem convenient, but it is hardly compatible with evolving gender roles and the fundamental concept of gender equality. Across numerous countries, a growing consciousness is emerging, advocating for the use of either gender-neutral or gender-inclusive language. This heightened awareness stems from the increased representation of women in democratic institutions and their presence at crucial decision-making tables within the realm of governance.

Owing to the contributions of feminist movements worldwide, tangible progress has been achieved in certain jurisdictions such as Sweden, Canada, Finland, and New Zealand, where legal texts are being authored in a different manner. In the United Kingdom and the European Parliament, the adoption of gender-inclusive language in laws, debates, and discussions has been duly recognized. Debates and discussions on this issue are expanding in many countries, reflecting a global shift towards greater inclusivity.

In Pakistan, in the third decade of the 21st century, we embarked on a historic initiative to reinterpret the constitution through women's perspective. The Federal Ministry of Law

and Justice joined forces with the Women Parliamentary Caucus, and two days of vigorous deliberations took place at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services. Meticulous background research conducted for this initiative revealed that, while the constitution of Pakistan acknowledges "We the people" in its preamble, its extensive text, spanning over 280 articles, schedules, and oaths, recognizes individuals and groups in various ways.

Chairing the session on 'Language of the Constitution', I spoke with esteemed experts including veteran politicians and expert drafters on how masculinity in legal drafting of the constitution has curbed women's empowerment and the importance of gender neutrality whilst promulgating law.

Mr Farhatullah Babar elaborated on the importance of a 'word' itself — as it forms the basis of love, hate, war and peace. Therefore, discounting the significance of a word in defining circumstances, especially in terms of constitutional provisions, is not ideal for gender equality. It was described how the use of masculine language in a society

where patriarchy is deeply entrenched has inevitable and detrimental effects on the legal and social status of a Pakistani woman. As he aptly noted, removing masculine language has been a strenuous task and the exception provided in the General Clauses Act seems to be outdated in a time where the use of language is of utmost significance towards gender-based sensitivities.

The purpose of positive discrimination and affirmative action which is encompassed in Article 25 of the constitution as well, highlights the need for special efforts made by the state to equate women with men, as women have been at the receiving end of discrimination and have been back benched since the inception of gender itself.

As chair of the session, I emphasized the importance of women's representation in the Bar — as the nurseries of the legal fraternity — and imposing the policies of positive discrimination in an efficacious manner to achieve the desired result of gender equality. The session was successfully concluded upon resolution by Mr Jam Aslam, senior drafter, who

urged the parliamentarians in attendance to propose before the House for the use of only gender-neutral language. He further added that he too will only use gender-neutral terms in future drafting of legislation and the constitution.

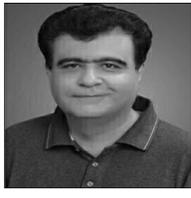
At present, the constitution employs the term 'people' 30 times and 'peoples' once, 'citizen' 27 times, 'citizens' 15 times, 'person' 236 times, 'human' three times, 'humane' once, 'family' 9 times, and 'individual' 10 times. It uses 'man' 14 times, 'men' zero times, 'woman' three times, 'women' 21 times, 'female' once, 'male' zero times, 'mother' 35 times, 'daughter' and 'son' two times each, 'widow' six times, 'spouse' three times, 'child' seven times, and 'children' five times. It employs 'he' 40+ times, 'his' 157 times, 'him' 44 times, and 'himself' seven times. 'She' and 'her' appear twice each, and 'herself' does not appear at all. 'Ombudsman' is mentioned once in the Federal Legislative List-1, 'chairman' 66 times, 'deputy chairman' 14 times, 'Qaumi Razakar' and 'lumberdar' once each.

What can be done to address this? Global best

practices guide us to either repeatedly mention the noun or, where unavoidable, use plural pronouns. If we choose to make this change in pursuit of gender parity and inclusivity, it will be necessary to amend the constitution. Until that historic moment arrives, the parliament may consider adopting a resolution to encourage the use of gender-inclusive language in future legal texts. In this regard, the General Clauses Act-1897 should be amended to incorporate gender-inclusive terminology.

The significance of adopting gender-inclusive language in the constitution and legal texts cannot be overstated, as language profoundly shapes our interpretations, aids in negotiating the meanings of governance, and helps us make sense of institutional frameworks. The terms we choose to use have a direct impact on how we think, perceive, and behave. Our communication and writing reflect our underlying assumptions about the world, including gender roles and relationships. Even the order in which words are placed in legal texts conveys our priorities. -- Courtesy TheNews

## The next monarch



Dr Niaz Murtaza

The PTI is dead but its spirit will live long as the PPP and PML-N copy and often even exceed its autocratic ways. If the PTI's constitutional violation of a no-trust move lasted a week, PDM's on the KP polls is months old now.

I have long said they were the lesser evil vis-à-vis the PTI. But with the PTI dead, and given their current ways, they are now regarded as the main evil — on the civilian side of course. Yet, even many good anchors still focus daily on Imran Khan, as if he is our main evil.

Only an unlikely and undesirable mutiny by pro-Khan guys can resurrect the former prime minister soon. And May 9 was no mutiny; just a spoilt kid acting out against his leashing by parents who had adopted and spoilt a political orphan no end.

Fear of Khan keeps the establishment, the PPP and PML-N united. So strong is the concern, they are ready to eliminate him using any trick: fake terrorism cases in non-civilian courts, media gags and reverse engineering of PTI. That will end the fear but also the unity. What shape will politics take once these elements start dog-fights?

Will the establishment ditch the PPP and PML-N after using them to nix Khan and instal long-term interim set-up, pulling the same trick the two played on PTI on provincial polls? It would be poetic justice. Dreamy analysts think a group of able angels is on stand-by to save

us in a technocratic set-up. But there is none.

The economic wizards being touted contributed to our mess via loose fiscal and monetary policies earlier. Democrats always prefer polls over such set-ups — but fair polls, and not the rigged ones we will have (much more than the 2018 ones) with the PTI decimated wrongly. So, do polls matter? One still wants polls, hoping the rigging ploys fail. Even the establishment may think twice about bringing in a technocratic set-up, as it will have to give it the same kind support it lent to the PTI.

But then, who will the monarch-makers crown from among the many feuding princes and princesses? With Shehbaz Sharif saying he will make way for Nawaz Sharif, will Noon still be OK for them? Thus, there is buzz about Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari being crowned soon. But his would be a crown of thorns, for the economic, political and external challenges after the polls will be too big for his raw hands to handle, just as his young mother couldn't handle the big mess from Zia's era right after his birth.

Thus, if Asif Zardari is astute, he should keep his son away from the throne for now to not burn his career so early.

Even the elder Zardari, Sharifs or Khan will do poorly given their ideas on display. Zardari says he read economics in jail and can take reserves to \$100 billion. Khan says this time his expatriate lovers will surely send the \$200bn they forgot last time.

The Sharifs and the establishment are selling another fake dream after CPEC — the Special Investment Facilitation Council. The idea is decades old: clientage of unsavoury states such as the US, China or Saudi Arabia, instead of attract-

ing private capital like Bangladesh or India.

They too short-change the poor but are at least not near default. While these Shaikh Chilli dreams cook in Islamabad, the reality in Pindi is clear — the brief pretence of eschewing politics is long gone.

The earnest 'duty' of fixing our huge woes will only deepen them. We are marching firmly on a circular bridge to nowhere as we have since 1947, except for a brief period from 2008 to 2018.

The PDM blew the chance to resume on that path by deferring polls after the no-trust move. Even now, fair polls are the way forward. Even if PTI wins, it would have to tackle the same huge issues and may do worse than the PDM is doing now, given its bad ties with Pindi and externally with all main allies and its infighting. Thus, it may not last long and get thrown out politically, perhaps for good.

But with Khan now made a hero by the crack-down and the stagnation, if pro-Khan officers (reputedly there are many just a few rungs down the ladder) become dominant in a few years, they may bring him back. Age is not on Khan's side. But Zimbabwe's mad Mugabe ruled in his 90s. Khan is much fitter physically, but perhaps not when it comes to clear thinking.

The only small chance lies in the Zardaris and Sharifs putting their respective egos aside and sticking to running their parties, while appointing a competent cabinet as the Gandhis have done in Congress since Rajiv Gandhi's death to usher in India's path to progress. But pettiness and selfishness reign supreme in both houses, madness on top of those in Bangala and worse traits in Pindi. So, the chances of wisdom prevailing in any quarter are small. Thus are our chances of progress. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Something in the air



Jamil Ahmad

Worldwide, millions of people are losing their health and lives by breathing polluted air. Toxic emissions from industry, transport and power generation (from fossil fuels and agriculture) are contaminating the environment, particularly in the developing countries.

Air pollution is the world's largest environmental health threat. A mixture of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide carrying tiny droplets are major contributors of outdoor air pollution. Invisible to the naked eye, these tiny particles, commonly known as particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) are 30 times thinner than human hair and highly toxic. Methane emissions from solid waste, agricultural processes, cattle and other ruminants like sheep, horses and goats add to the lethal mix that causes severe health issues.

Lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, and other chronic respiratory problems are often caused by polluted air. A recent study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health revealed that exposure to fine particulate air pollutants may also increase the risk of developing dementia.

The air so essential for our life is now making us sick. Being a transboundary issue, there is no escape from bad air quality.

Globally, polluted air is responsible for 7m premature deaths, with 90 per cent of them occurring in low- and middle-income

countries according to the WHO. The heavy burden of disease and job loss is severely impacting the economies of and societies in developing countries, impeding growth and destroying homes.

In addition to human-induced pollution, gases and ash from volcanic eruptions and smoke from wildfires also contribute to air pollution.

When smoke from wildfires in Canada engulfed parts of the US East Coast earlier this month, Manhattan's iconic skyline nearly faded in a smoky haze, and the authorities advised citizens to stay indoors to avoid health risks. Soon after, London's mayor imposed a two-day "high pollution alert" as winds blew "existing pollutants from the continent towards London". These were short-lived aberrations in the otherwise clean air and blue skies of these two cities. Efforts by the city authorities to reduce pollution in most parts of the developed world are succeeding through policies and regulations on health and environmental standards, and are raising public awareness about the benefits of a clean environment.

In contrast, people living in cities across the Global South are forced to breathe poisonous air on a daily basis for long periods. Nearly 90pc of the Asia-Pacific region's 4.3bn people regularly inhale air considered unsafe by the WHO. Two-thirds of the 7m premature deaths attributed to air pollution occur in this region.

Economic losses attributed to air pollution are inflicting heavy costs on healthcare and development. In 2021, air pollution in South Asia was responsible for healthcare costs equivalent to 10.3pc of its GDP compared to 6.1pc of healthcare costs to global GDP, according to the World Bank.

Urban air pollution is the worst in South Asia, home to a quarter of the world's population. Unsustainable urban sprawl, often at the expense of green cover, deprive the cities of natural air filters. The air in many cities in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh is counted among the world's most polluted. Vulnerable and marginalised communities often face higher exposure and are affected disproportionately.

Pakistan's urban air pollution is the most severe in the world. With the highest rate of urbanisation in the region, almost half of Pakistan's population is expected to live in cities by 2025. If air pollution is not controlled, it will expose more than 120m people to polluted air and impose heavy economic and social costs on the country.

Air pollution is not a stand-alone issue. It is intrinsically linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and other forms of pollution. One cannot be resolved without addressing the other.

Band-aid measures will only complicate the problem. A combination of cross-sectoral actions will be required to control air pollution especially in energy, transport and urban areas. Such targeted action must be supported by enabling policy frameworks and regulatory set-ups to monitor air quality in a systematic manner by involving the local authorities and civil society. To support policymaking, UNEP has compiled actions that governments can take on air quality and identified implementation and policy gaps. Pakistan has announced its first National Clean Air Policy which should be linked to time-bound targets of renewable energy, energy efficiency in industry, transport and infrastructure. For effective environmental action, it will also be desirable to design and implement provincial clean air strategies. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Murtaza Mehmood says: Pakistan's development hinges on promotion, facilitation of SMEs

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Murtaza Mehmood said on Tuesday that Pakistan economic and industrial development hinged on promoting, incentivizing, financing and strengthening the SMEs, besides establishing one platform for their facilitation.

He stated this while addressing a ceremony regarding World Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Day organized by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) here. On this occasion, SMEDA signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with six public sector organizations including Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC), Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Messalaha International

Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR), Urban Unit Government of the Punjab and Government of Gilgit Baltistan.

The Federal Minister cited that in other countries, a company that started in the backyard grew speedily and ultimately turned into a multi-billion global company but unfortunately in Pakistan, it was very hard for SMEs to survive. He added that the world had done a lot regarding SMEs and also micro businesses but Pakistan had not done enough as there was a lot it could have done. The SMEs in Pakistan faced too many issues especially regarding finances as there were too many bottle necks and hurdles in the bureaucracy and government, he said and mentioned that as federal minister, his focus was to get rid of these bottle

necks and facilitate SMEs, which could also be turned into a multi-national companies and 'this is our vision and focus.'

He was of the view that government should not be intervening and interfering but it should be facilitating, incentivizing and focusing on making policies. "I am very lucky to have a best SMEDA team and we worked together. Today, we have signed MoUs with public sector organizations," he maintained. The Federal Minister also appreciated the very important incentives introduced with regards to single window operation like MoU was signed between Punjab government and SMEDA. "I think, more has to be done when I see different organizations working on Pakistan's single window; they all are working on single window but actually there is no one platform for the single window."



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation, Khawaja Saad Rafique calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Minister explores meat export opportunities with American Consul General

LAHORE (INP): Provincial Minister for Livestock Ibrahim Hasan Murad met with American Consul General William K. Makaneole at American Consulate General in Lahore to discuss meat export opportunities between the two countries.

He said the government was keen to expand meat exports to international markets. The purpose of the meeting was to explore new avenues for strengthening bilateral trade relations between the US and Pakistan in the livestock sector with a specific focus on meat exports.

Minister Murad and Consul General Makaneole reiterated their

commitment to fostering a strong trade relationship that would not only benefit the livestock industry but also contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan.

American Consul General William K. Makaneole appreciated the efforts of the minister in fostering the livestock industry to international markets. He also expressed that US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome was also very eager to enhance trade between the two countries. The American Consul General assured Minister Ibrahim Murad of full support and cooperation for the livestock industry in Punjab.

## Hundreds of interns to work as additional field assistants in cotton areas

MULTAN (APP): Secretary of Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateeel said on Monday that hundreds of interns would be deputed as additional field assistants in cotton-growing areas of South Punjab to extend guidelines to farmers under an Rs 150 million project.

Under this project of the Punjab agriculture department, the interns from agriculture departments of different universities would be paid Rs 20,000 per month, however, they would join the assignment from July 3, 2023, after completing training, Saqib Ali said while presiding over a meeting to speed up proceedings on Punjab

government's internship programmes, meant to strengthen on-field advisory services for flawless cotton crop management and enhanced production.

Vice Chancellor Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Dr. Asif Ali, Additional Secretary of Task Force South Punjab Imtiaz Ahmad Waraich, Dean Faculty Dr. Shafiqat Saeed, focal persons of internship program from universities were present while divisional and district officials of the agriculture department joined the meeting online.

Interns would be deputed as additional field assistants by July 3.



MULTAN: Women farmers bus in seedling the rice crop in their field in the outskirts of the city.

## CTP to take action against transporters involved in overcharging

RAWALPINDI (APP): As residents of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad head to their hometowns and villages to celebrate Eidul Azha, intercity transporters have started hiking their fares.

To stop this profiteering, the City Traffic Police (CTP) has launched a grand operation against these transporters for overcharging passengers. According to City Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan transporters have already been warned to stop overcharging or else face strict action in accordance with the law.

CTO said that they had constituted special squads who monitor these buses and wagons. If they find public service vehicle (PSVs) overcharging passengers, they are issued a ticket and slapped with a heavy fine.

## Trade of sacrificial animals picked up in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The trade of sacrificial animals has picked up momentum in the Sukkur and other districts of the Sukkur division as the faithfuls are finalize the purchasing of different animals in cattle markets because only two days are remaining in Eidul Azha. It is the second Muslim ritual that commemorates the supreme sacrifices of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and his son Hazrat Ismail (AS). Apart from domestic traders, the businessmen of Sindh and Punjab have also brought their sacrificial animals in large number to fully exploit the market of Sukkur.



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, Islamabad.

## Poultry output targets fixed at 2.363 million tons for fiscal year 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (Online): The government has set a target to produce about 2.363 million tons of poultry during fiscal year 2023-24 in order to fulfill the domestic requirements of poultry meat and other value added products. The poultry output during the 11 months of current fiscal year (2022-23) was recorded at 2.160 million metric tons as compared to its fixed targets, where as about 5.809 million tons of meat also produced in order to fulfill the local requirements of the commodity as well as for exporting to exploit existing potential of halal meat in global markets. Domestic output of meat in 11 months of last year was recorded at 5.5 million tons as the government had set to produce about 5.5 million tons of meat during the year 2022-23, said an official in the Ministry of

National Food Security and Research. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, he said that beef production targets for period under review were fixed at 2.630 million metric tons and mutton at 817,000 tons, adding that during out going fiscal year the local production of beef was recorded at 2.55 million tons as against the set targets of 2.54 million tons, where as about 799,000 metric tons of mutton also produced as compared to the set targets of 799,000 metric tons. He further informed that agriculture sector was envisaged to grow by 3.9% in the Annual Plan 2022-23 given a strong crop sector performance of the previous year. However, he said that during the period from June-August 2022, torrential rains and flash flooding led to an unprecedented disaster in various parts of the country.

## PACRA reaffirms credit rating of PMIC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) has maintained the long-term and short-term entity ratings of Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC) at 'AA' (Double A) and 'A1+' (A One Plus) respectively.

The rating reflects a strong equity base, well-conceived business plans and strong ownership structure, a news release said.

The ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk emanating from a very strong capacity for

timely payment of financial commitments which is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

PMIC, incorporated in 2016, is licensed to carry out investment finance services as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) under the NBFC Rules, 2003 and NBFC Regulations 2008.

The strong sponsors, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (49%), Karandaz (38%) and KfW, a German development Bank (13%) strengthen the financial profile of PMIC.



LAHORE: Federal Minister of Industries & Production Syed Murtaza Mehmood witnessing the signing ceremony of MoU between SMEDA & Strategic Partners.

## Business of knife sharpeners shine on Eidul Azha in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Besides the trade of sacrificial animals, the business of blacksmiths and knife sharpeners were also shined in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the joys occasion of Eidul Azha.

Eidul Azha has brought joy for people viz a viz blacksmiths, butchers and knives sharpeners whether trained or untrained arrived to get maximum profits at Peshawar.

As only a day left in Eidul Azha celebrations, the blacksmiths and knife sharpeners of Peshawar and adjoining districts have received numerous orders to get maximum business, they were earning two times high.

Knife sharpeners and blacksmiths besides seasonal butchers whether trained or untrained, are deemed as rare commodities these days in Peshawar, who were receiving innumerable orders despite an exorbitant charges for their services.

At Firdus, Rati Bazar, Hayatabad, Gulbahar,

Boards etc. in Peshawar, special machines have been installed at various shops to sharpen knives, beef cutters, knives and meat cleavers along with selling Bar-B-Q instruments as part of an arrangements for Eid ul Azha.

The professional traders are attracting a number of customers due to their decorated handles and sharp-edged instruments.

Butchers' appliances sale including knives, cutters and stand blades etc, has also witnessed record increase.

The people are also repairing their old and damaged machetes, knives and other tools needed for cutting meat. Ordinary shopkeepers, professional and untrained blacksmiths and knife sharpeners belonging to far flung areas of KP are also being seen selling these tools in different areas including Gulbahar, Hastnagri, Karimpura, Cantonment areas, Tehkal, Latifabad, Ghareeb Abad, Hayatabad, Board and were earning two times high.

## US, China, UK remained top three destinations of Pak exports in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (INP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the eleven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-May (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 5481.385 million as opposed the exports of US\$ 6162.991 million during July-May (2021-22), showing a decline of 11.05 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1891.949 million compared to the exports of US\$ 2544.418 million last year, showing a decrease of 25.64 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1806.385 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 2011.859 million during last year, showing a decline of 10.21 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani

exports to Germany stood at US\$ 1488.461 million against US\$ 1574.850 million last year, showing a decrease of 5.48 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 1341.359 million opposed US\$ 1632.907 million last year.

During July-May (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 1324.959 million against US\$ 1341.035 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 478.342 million against US\$ 494.8585 million.

## Rupee gains 71 paisas against US Dollar in interbank

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 71 paisas against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs285.99 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 287.5 and Rs 290 respectively.

The price of the Euro went up by 71 paisas to close at Rs 312.93 against the last day's closing of Rs 312.22, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost one paisa to close at Rs 1.99, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.05 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.



LAHORE: Vendors displaying sacrificial animals to attract the customers in connection with upcoming Eid ul Adha at Sacrificial Animal Market.

## IMF agreement inevitable for Pakistan: ICCI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Tuesday said the International Monetary Funds (IMF) agreement was inevitable for a sustainable economic base in Pakistan.

However, the government would have to take decisions keeping in view the country's economic recovery, he said in statement.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said, "The business community believes that the IMF agreement is indispensable for the country and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has negotiated with the Fund as a real national leader and spokesman for the aspirations of the Pakistani nation. "He emerged as a true national hero by not compromising on national interests during the long period of negotiations, but it is our misfortune that at last he also had to accept the tough conditions of the

IMF to save the country economically," he added.

The ICCI president said the trust of friendly countries and international organizations would be restored by the IMF agreement. However, instead of burdening the people or the business community, the government should find a middle way.

To get out of the economic crisis, the government should formulate short, mid and long-term policies, he added. He said the business community had been supportive of the government's initiatives, which should adopt such measures to provide a conducive environment for business. He said the business community across the country, including the ICCI, had demanded reduction of the interest rate in the budget proposals, which was supported by the parliament and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, OOCL Le Havre, MSC Mundra, Lana and Milaha Ras Laffan carrying Containers and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Pakistan Gas Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile four more ships, MSC Letizia, Maersk Columbus Yankul Silver and Al-Maha with Containers, Palm oil and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of 09 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, MSC Mundra, Sadah Silver, Bochem Pegasos and Opera sailed out to sea on Tuesday morning on Tuesday and two more ships, Lana and Star Bovarius are expected to sail on today.

Cargo throughput of 160,017 tonnes, comprising 117,850 tonnes imports Cargo and 42,167 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,646 Containers (1,809 TEUs Imports and 1,837 TEUs export).



MULTAN: A laborer busy in spreading corn seeds for drying purpose in his field.

## Tokyo stocks end down on unease over Russia

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks ended lower on Tuesday after global markets mostly retreated as US tech shares stumbled and a short-lived mutiny in Russia stoked unease on trading floors.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.49 percent, or 160.48 points, to end at 32,538.33, while the broader Topix index slipped 0.28 percent, or 6.36 points, to 2,253.81.

The dollar stood at 143.62 yen, against 143.50 yen in New York late Monday.

Falls in large tech shares weighed on major indices on Wall Street overnight. Shares of Google

parent Alphabet dropped 3.2 percent following a downgrade by UBS, while Tesla plunged 6.1 percent on a downgrade by Goldman Sachs. Worries related to an advance by the Wagner mercenary force, which was called off before it reached Moscow, also held back share prices, according to analysts. The developments weighed on the sentiment of investors in Japan, where "uncertainty over the situation in Russia smouldered", IwaCosmo Securities said. "As the end of the month approaches, concerns over the tilt toward selling also dragged down the market," it said.

## Sabzwari distributes letters to 750 regularised employees of KPT

KARACHI (APP): Under Prime Minister's Assistance Package for employees, service of more than 750 contractual staffers of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) has been regularised.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Sabzwari, on Tuesday, distributed letters to regularised KPT employees in a ceremony here that was attended by Chairman KPT Syed Syedam Raza Zaidi, trustees and leaders of CBA union and a large number of workers.

Syed Faisal Sabzwari addressing the occasion felicitated the employees and said that longstanding issues of KPT employees were resolved by the administration and years-old issues of employees including regularisation of services, adjustment of increments, issuance of bonus and other demands of employees presented in charter of demand has been fulfilled.

The minister also announced a Rs 2000 Eid bonus for daily wage staffers of KPT at the occasion.

Now it was the responsibility of the employ-

ees as well officers of the trust to work with a renewed zeal and dedication for the growth of KPT, he urged adding that the government was endeavouring to make KPT not only a profit-making organisation but also an efficient entity and employees of the trust could play a pivotal role in the achievement of the objectives. The minister highlighting the ministry's efforts for modernising the port infrastructure and attracting foreign investment said that a concession agreement has been inked with Abu Dhabi Port Group for the establishment of Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited. Pakistan would receive \$50 million as an upfront payment with 12.5% additional royalty as per the agreement which also included provisions for the development of state-of-the-art terminals, setting up a special economic zone and railway connectivity of KPT and Port Qasim, he informed.

The term of the current 21-year agreement of Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT) was about to end and the expiry

of the agreement would have left 4 births of the port inoperative and risking jobs of hundreds of workers, he said adding that the government have made timely arrangements those not only secured the jobs of employees but also ensured much needed foreign investment.

Later responding to media queries, the minister said that KPT does not sell any birth but enters into a concession agreement with private sector entities for operations of births and receives charges and royalties under the agreement.

It was a government-to-government agreement that was reviewed and authenticated by framework development and negotiation committees and later by the federal cabinet after fulfilment of all the necessary procedures and regulations in a transparent manner, he clarified.

Faisal Sabzwari said that the government was working with a comprehensive approach consisting of measures for revenue generation, infrastructure improvement, employee welfare and other initiatives for the development.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

## SC rejects plea for early initiating proceedings on complaint against judge

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has rejected the plea seeking court's order for initiating immediate proceedings on the complaint against judges in Judicial Council (JC).

A two members bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up the case for hearing Tuesday. The petitioner had filed petition in SC for regulating proceedings in JC.

The court had reserved judgment on June 13 in connection with maintainability of the petition.

SC rejected the petition for continuing reference against former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar.

The petitioner had filed petition praying the court to issue orders for

launching immediate proceedings on receipt of complaint in JC against the judges.

A 2-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up for hearing on June 13, 2023 the petition seeking court's order to regulate JC proceedings.

During the hearing of the case Justice Muneeb Akhtar remarked removing the judge from his position has been talked about in 209. But nothing has been written about if judge is removed. The petitioner wants what. Should court issue directive to council.

Justice Muneeb Akhtar had given these remarks too "will the right to fair trial be not affected due to initiation of proceedings against judge in a jiffy."

## Faisal Karim Kundi says BISP, a non political scheme, serving 9 million women across country

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was a non-political scheme under which about nine million deserving women were being benefitted across the country.

Faisal Kundi, who is also the central information secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), stated this during a meeting with different delegations and party representatives here at the residence of PPP District President Malik Farhan Dhap in Paroa.

He said the poor voters of every party were being facilitated under this program.

Kundi said that Rs 80.7 billion were being dis-

tributed among deserving people under Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) across the country.

He said the recent payment distribution process of BISP was being monitored by him, Federal Minister Shazia Marri and the BISP officials. Keeping in view the extreme weather conditions and the hardships being faced by the beneficiary women, the payments were transferred to specific retailers from the payment centres, he added. Kundi said that 900,000 cards were blocked during the previous regime and he had promised the nation to restore them, adding, about 250,000 cards including 7,000 from Dera Ismail Khan had been restored to date. About 165,000 women from Dera Ismail

Khan benefitted under BISP while 12,000 more have been registered from the area during a recent survey.

Kundi said that Dera Ismail Khan has been included in the districts of the pilot project under which the beneficiaries would be paid through banks by next month. Moreover, he said Rs 70 billion were given to the flood victims. He said a NADRA office had been opened in Paroa Tehsil despite the obstacles and now he had demanded the Interior Ministry to immediately establish the same facility in Paniala. "We inaugurated the rehabilitation work on Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) last month and issued instructions to the contractor to complete the work within one month."



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) Engr. Zamrak Khan Achakzai presiding over 9th meeting of BFA Board.

## QESCO announces no load-shedding during Eid-ul-Adha

Independent Report QUETTA: Quetta Electric Supply Company has made various arrangements for a regular supply of electricity during the Eid-ul-Adha holidays and in this regard, there will be no load shedding in the provincial capital city of Quetta during Eid-ul-Adha. Central Complaint Cell Zarghun Road, Quetta 0819201445 and 0812829753 have been designated as central monitoring and emergency control center which will operate 24 hours and the center will also be in touch with the emergency control center 15 under the provincial government.

There will be three shifts i.e. 24 hours in the control center headed by an executive engineer in the QESCO control center. The control center will oblige the concerned subdivision to take immediate action to restore electricity in the shortest possible time on the part of the consumers during the Eid-ul-Adha

in case of a power cut or technical failure at any place in the city of Quetta.

After this, the concerned SDO in case of disconnection of the power supply, along with their line staff, will take immediate action to restore power. Also, during the Eid-ul-Adha holidays, the Central Complaint Cell will monitor power outages on all feeders and inform the higher authorities of QESCO about the status of the power supply.

Similarly, the sub-divisional officers outside Quetta will be present in their office from 5 pm to 11 pm during the Eid holidays to ensure the timely resolution of customer complaints. In addition, customers can call 118 directly or send a message to 8118 from their mobile phones. On SMS their complaints would be registered. All city and district headquarters outside Quetta city will not have load shedding from 7 am to 12 pm.



QUETTA: MPA Mir Hamal Kalmati meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Sikandar Ali Umrani

## Delegation of Councilors meets MS DHQH Uthal

Independent Report UTHAL: While living in limited resources, efforts are being made to provide basic health facilities to the citizens of Uthal. The support of elected local public representatives is indispensable for providing better health facilities and solving the problems faced by DHQ Hospital. These views were expressed by Dr. Imran, Medical Superintendent of District Headquarters Hospital Uthal while talking to the delegation of Uthal Councilors under the leadership of Chairman Municipal Committee Uthal Syed Somar Shah Kazmi. In the delegation, Dr. Tola Ram Lasi, senior minority leader of Jam Group Lasbela, Vice Chairman Wasim Ahmed Khaskheli, Councilors Abdul Ghaffar Langah, Abdul Ghani Somo, Khalifa Nabi Bakhs Barah, Sanaullah Chana, Habibullah Khaskheli, Huzoor Bakhs Chana, Rahmatullah Jamot, Jam Leaders of the group, Mohammad Akram Khosa, Azizur Rahman Yousafzai,

and others included. DHO Dr. Imran made the delegation a detailed visit various departments of the hospital, Operation Theater, Gynecology Ward, Children's Ward Laboratory, and Benazir Development Center, and also gave a detailed briefing regarding these departments. Talking to the delegation, Dr. Imran said, "Civil Hospital Uthal is facing a shortage of medicines and staff. The current staff is quite old, some of whom are nearing retirement and the existing medicine quota is also insufficient. The population of the city is also increasing day by day." The cooperation of the elected public representatives is indispensable for solving the problems faced by Civil Hospital Uthal. Elected local public representatives should play a role in solving the problems faced by DHQ Hospital Uthal, he said. On this occasion, Chairman Municipal Committee Uthal Syed Somar Shah Kazmi praised the performance of Dr. Imran, Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital.

## CTD arrests nine alleged terrorists

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab arrested nine suspected terrorists, including a woman, linked with banned organizations during operations in different areas of Punjab.

According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 35 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 36 suspected persons were interrogated and nine alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

## CJP orders search of journalists Imran Riaz

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial ordered the AGP to search the senior journalist Imran Riaz Khan.

As per details, while hearing the proceeding on civilian trials in military courts the CJP to the Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) to search and then recover him.

He made these remarks as the six-member bench of the Supreme Court Tuesday resumed hearing pleas against trials of civilians in the military courts.

The bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial comprises of Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Ayisha Malik.

## Lightning, heavy downpour claims 5 lives in district Mansehra

MANSEHRA (APP): At least five persons and a number of livestock were killed in lightning and rain-related incidents in Mansehra district on Tuesday.

The first incident took place in Kas Khawari village of Siran Valley during late-night, the wall of Abdul Razaq's house was collapsed due to heavy downpour. Tragically, two siblings were buried under the debris and lost their lives on the spot while two others sustained critical injuries and were shifted to the hospital. The dead children were identified as Zafraan, 12 years old, and Alishba, 8 years old.

In the second incident, lightning struck shepherds and their herd as they were heading towards the Chormali forest in Chattr Plain.

## Project Pakistan Sports Festival & Culture Day Program ends in Ziarat

Independent Report QUETTA: The closing ceremony of the Project Pakistan Sports Festival and Balochistan Culture Day programme was held at Government Degree College Ziarat on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Shabbir Ahmed Badini was the chief guest on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were the District Sports Officer, Nasir Panezai, principals and teachers of different colleges, schools besides the tribal elders.

A large number of students from various educational institutions also participated in the programme.

The Deputy Commissioner distributed prizes among the position holder students of different events.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy commissioner said that wholehearted steps would be taken to promote sports and culture in Ziarat.

In addition to this, all necessary facilities would also be provided to youth, adding he assured.



QUETTA: Chairman Tajir Balochistan Takri Hameed Bangulzai meeting with Director Anti Narcotics Force Brig. Adnan Danish

## Dar chairs a meeting on CAD, ASF at Finance Division

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on matters related to Civil Aviation Division (CAD) and Airport Security Force (ASF), at Finance Division, today.

Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, DG ASF, DG CAA and senior officers from Finance and Aviation

attended the meeting.

The Chair was briefed on the issues being faced by the Aviation sector pertaining to regulation, service provision, security, safety and enhancement of state capacity in Aviation sector.

The meeting discussed the necessary amendments required in the aviation laws/ordinances in order to ensure effective service provision to improve the standards of aviation sector in Pakistan to meet the international standards for resumption of PIA flights to the USA, UK and the Europe.

## Journalists vow to become voice of Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior Kashmiri journalists based in Islamabad and Rawalpindi have vowed to become voice of Kashmiris at a time when media in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is totally choked by Indian government and is not allowed to report ground realities.

They were addressing a conference titled "Plead-

ing the case of Kashmir in Changing Global Realities - Challenges and Opportunities" which was organized by Institute of Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies (IDDDDS) in collaboration with Riphah International University (RIU). The conference was aimed at bringing the Kashmir issue in limelight keeping in view the changing regional and global situation.

## Dr. Arbab Kamran posted as MD Trauma Center

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior doctor of Health management cadre serving in Grade-20, Dr. Arbab Kamran has been posted as the Managing Director, Trauma Center and Emergency Department, here.

This was announced in an official hand out issued here by the Health Department the other day.

According to the notification, Dr. Azamullah Babar, serving as MD Trauma Center, has been transferred and posted as the Consultant Surgeon, Mufi Mehmood Memorial Hospital Kuchlak.

## Pak, Japan hold bilateral political consultations to strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and his Japanese counterpart Shigeo Yamada held bilateral political consultations in Tokyo on Tuesday and reviewed significant aspects of Pak-Japan ties.

The two sides agreed to spare no effort to preserve, promote and diversify the longstanding robust relationship. Important regional and international issues were also discussed in depth, said a Foreign Office statement.

The foreign secretary also called on Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei Shunsuke and National Security Advisor Takeo Akiba. He also interacted with Shun Imaizumi, President, Japan-Pakistan Association.

## 6 killed and 4 injured as car plunges into ravine in Lower Kohistan

KOHISTAN (APP): At least six people were killed and four others were injured in an accident on Tuesday when a car traveling from Besham to Kolai Pallas Lower Kohistan fell into a deep ravine while taking a sharp turn.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, a car that was carrying 10 persons was heading towards Kolai Pallas from Besham fell into a deep gorge when the driver lost his control while taking a sharp turn. The accident claimed six lives while four others sustained injuries.



KARACHE: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Sabzwari addressing a ceremony to hand over letters to KPT employees for regularization of service under PM's Assistance Package.

## Notification for appointment of VCs of 5 PSUs issued

Independent Report QUETTA: The Vice Chancellors of five public sector universities of Balochistan have finally been appointed on Tuesday.

The necessary notification regarding appointment of the Vice Chancellors has been issued.

According to the notification, Dr. Khalid Hafeez has been appointed the Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) while Dr. Ehsanullah Kakar has been posted as the Vice Chancellor, University of Loralai and Dr. Maqsood Ahmed has been posted as the Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of Engineering

and Technology Khuzdar.

Similarly, Professor Dr. Shabbir Lehri has been posted as the Vice Chancellor, Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences Quetta and Dr. Qadir Bakhs Baloch was posted as Vice Chancellor of Mir Chakar Rind University Sibi.

According to the notification, the appointment of vice chancellors has been made for three years.

It may be mentioned here that a search committee was formed for Vice Chancellors of the five public sector universities of the province.

Interviews of the candidates has also been conducted before the appointment.



QUETTA: MPA Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Engr. Zamrak Khan Achakzai

## Commissioner directs to take stern action against encroachments

Independent Report QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Sohailur Rehman Baloch has directed all Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to take stern action against those established encroachments in the nullahs and other water courses in their respective districts.

He also directed to take immediate steps for cleaning of the nullahs and improving sewerage and sanitation system ahead of the monsoon rains in the

Division. These directives were issued by the Commissioner Quetta while chairing a meeting to review the preparations and arrangements for the monsoon rains in the districts fall in Quetta Division, here on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Dr. Yasir Khan Bazai, Assistant Commissioner Political, Babar Khan, as well as officials of PDMA, Education, Health, Irrigation, C&W department, Metropolitan corporation besides others.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretary and MPAs expressing their views on point of order during Balochistan Assembly session