

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 46, Shaban 23, 1445 AH Tuesday March 05, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

## In major blow: ECP rejects SIC's request for reserved seats allocation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday rejected the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea for allocation of minority and women reserve seats in national and provincial assemblies.

A five-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, firmly stated that Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) is not entitled to have reserved seats for women and minorities.

The Election Commission also stated that Sunni Ittehad Council is not entitled to avail special seat allocations for women and minorities. The ECP

reached its decision with a 4-1 ratio, with member Punjab Babar Hasan Bharwana, submitting dissent in a note.

The SIC submitted a plea in ECP claiming the allocation of seats based on inclusion of PTI-endorsed candidates within their party. This plea, conveyed by SIC Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza through a PTI representative, was submitted to the electoral watchdog.

Following the Supreme Court's ruling declaring their intra-party polls "unconstitutional" and stripping them of the electoral symbol of the 'bat', PTI candidates participated in the elections as independents.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif chairing a meeting on the matters related to economy

## Sworn in as 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz directs to prepare an action plan to revive national economy

Also directed immediate engagement with the IMF to advance discussions on the EFF

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday took the oath as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Shehbaz Sharif, who was elected to the country's top office for the second time.

Held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the swearing-in ceremony was attended by outgoing Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and his cabinet members, parliamentarians, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, services chiefs, governors, chief ministers and diplomats.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif taking the oath of office.

He gave these directions while presiding over a meeting to review strategies for country's economic revival and growth in Islamabad today.

He said his government will work for improving the country's economic landscape, promoting investment opportunities and facilitating the business community. He said economic revitalization stands as the foremost priority of his administration, highlighting the urgent need for decisive action to address pressing economic concerns.

## ECP lifts ban on postings, transfers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday allowed the transfers and postings of officials.

According to a notification issued in this connection, the ECP lifted the ban on transfers and postings imposed due to the general elections held on February 8, 2024.

The notification stated that as the general elections have been held so there was no need to continue the ban.

## Achakzai urges political unity to overcome national crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pashatunkhwa Milli Awami Party Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai Monday urged all political groups to collaborate in addressing the numerous challenges facing the nation and guiding it through the crisis.

Speaking in National Assembly on point of order, he said that Parliament should have more power and be the main center of authority.

## Bugti meets NP & BNP-Awami leaders; discusses political situation: CM vows to find sustainable solution to issues being faced by people after improving governance in province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti visited the residences of President, National Party, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and central leader of Balochistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A), Mir Asadullah Baloch separately here on Monday.

Also accompanied with the Chief Minister was central leader of Pakistan Peoples Party and Member National Assembly, Ejaz Jhokrani.

Moreover, during the meeting with NP President, the members of provincial assembly from PPP and National Party were also present.

They were included:

Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jatak, Mir Liaquat Lehari Sardar Sarfraz Domki, Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Khair Jan Baloch.

During the course of meeting, the overall political situation of the country and province was discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that he is desirous of all political parties along to put Balochistan on path of development.

He stressed that we have to find sustainable solution to the issues being faced by people after improving governance in the province.

For the purpose, all political parties have to play their role, adding he stressed further.

## Shehbaz farwell outgoing PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): A smartly turned out contingent of the three services on Monday presented a farewell guard of honour to outgoing Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saw him off after the guard of honour and farewell meeting with the staff of Prime Minister Office.

## PPP fully endorses PM's offer for Charter of National Reconciliation: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, stated on Monday that the PPP fully supported the offer made by newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for a 'Charter of National Reconciliation.'

Speaking in the National Assembly, he recalled the Prime Minister's offer during his maiden speech in the House to collaborate on a Charter of National Reconciliation.

"We not only endorse it but also urge the Opposition to participate in this process for the broader interests of the country," he stated.

Bilawal Bhutto congratulated the newly elected Chief Ministers of all four provinces and emphasized the need for them to play their role in saving Pakistan's "democracy and economy."

He said that people did not vote for anyone to create a ruckus but to save them from this economic crisis.

Bilawal Bhutto stressed the need for discourse among all the lawmakers.

He said the Parliament was the mother of all institutions, and if this institution was strengthened, it would ultimately empower the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir shake hand with Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Mian Muhaamad Shahbaz Sharif at President House in the Federal Capital.

## Presidential polls: Zardari, Achakzai set for showdown as ECP approves nomination papers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The presidential election in Pakistan is scheduled for March 9 when Asif Ali Zardari, the co-chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and Mahmood Khan Achakzai, the chairman of the Pashatunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP), will vie for the prestigious office.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has called for a joint session of Parliament on March 9. The National Assembly secretary has issued a notification of the joint session.

The scrutiny of nomination papers for candidates vying for the role of president will be held on Monday.

The final list of eligible candidates will be released on March 5 (Tuesday).

Asif Ali Zardari's nomination papers have

been approved after scrutiny, making him eligible to contest for the coveted presidential seat.

However, Mahmood Khan Achakzai's nomination papers have not been approved yet, as reservations have been raised against them.

Asif Ali Zardari has also called Khalid Maqbool Siddique, president of Muttahid Qumi Movement-Pakistan 9, for the support in presidential election. However, the MQM-P will decide about the matter after consultations.

The voting for the presidential position will be conducted simultaneously in the Senate, National Assembly, and four provincial assemblies. The voting will take place from 10am to 4pm on March 9.



QUETTA: MNA Haji Malik Shah Gorgage meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sardar Bugti. MPA Mir Zaheer Ahmed Buledi is also present

## IMF recommends Pakistan to jack up GST on medicines, petroleum to 18pc

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended the government of Pakistan to implement 18 per cent General Sales Tax (GST) on food, medicine, petroleum products, and stationery. According to details, the IMF experts have recommended the newly-elected government of Pakistan to end sales tax relaxation in its report dispatched to Islamabad.

The IMF team visited Pakistan in December 2023, and dispatched its report in February 2024 with a set of recommendations ahead of the FY2024-25 budget.

The IMF has recommended bringing several dozen items under the standard rate of 18% GST, including unprocessed food, stationery, medicine, POL products and others.

The IMF estimated that rationalizing GST rates could generate 1.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) revenue, which equates to Rs1,300 billion in national exchequer.

Overall, the IMF has called for the removal of all distortions tax policy changes related to compliance, including the abolition of minimum taxes and additional taxes, as well as the abolition of the Ninth and Tenth Schedules. Last month it emerged that Pakistan would seek a loan package from the International Monetary Fund plus 1.5 billion dollars in climate finance.

The country is exploring the possibility of increasing the program to \$7.5-8 billion, reportedly seeking the addition of climate finance in the next bailout package, sources said.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shake hand with Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari after the oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Mian Muhaamad Shahbaz Sharif at President House in the Federal Capital, Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif also seen in the picture.

## Condemns raid at residence of Chairman PkMAP: We are "war prisoners" not political in Balochistan: Sardar Akhtar Mengal

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President Balochistan National Party (BNP) and Member National Assembly, Sardar Akhtar Mengal has alleged that we are "war prisoners" not political ones in Balochistan and demanded of the authorities to release all political prisoners immediately.

The President BNP was speaking in session of National Assembly, Islamabad on Monday.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal criticized the government for not doing much for people of Gwadar, which is otherwise most affected due to the recent torrential rains saying that Gwadar, which is called the "ornament" is sinking.

He said that it would have been better to provide helicopter for rescuing the people in Gwadar.

Referring the media persons, Sardar Akhtar Mengal said that they (media persons) try to show us the right path. He added that he was expecting that Prime Minister would make announcement for release of the detailed journalists.

The BNP on the occasion condemned the raid at residence of Chairman Pashatunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP), Mahmood Khan Achakzai in Quetta. Adding he also said that we are the war prisoners, not political prisoners.

He said that it would have been better to provide helicopter for rescuing the people in Gwadar.

Referring the media persons, Sardar Akhtar Mengal said that they (media persons) try to show us the right path. He added that he was expecting that Prime Minister would make announcement for release of the detailed journalists.

The BNP on the occasion condemned the raid at residence of Chairman Pashatunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP), Mahmood Khan Achakzai in Quetta. Adding he also said that we are the war prisoners, not political prisoners.

## Raid at residence of Chairman PkMAP: Lawyers observe boycott of courts' proceedings in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The lawyers community observed boycott of the proceedings of courts against alleged raid at the residence of Chairman Pashatunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP), here on Monday. The call for protest and boycott of the courts proceedings was given by the Balochistan Bar Council (BBC).

According to a senior leader of BBC, Rahib Buledi Advocate, the lawyers didn't appear in the courts as mark of protest

against the alleged raid at residence of Chairman PkMAP.

He condemned the alleged raid at the residence of Mahmood Khan Achakzai and termed it violation of chaadar and chaardeewari.

He said that Chairman PkMAP raised voice for supremacy of constitution and law in the parliament recently. Mahmood Khan Achakzai is also candidate for President of the country in the Presidential elections, he added.

## World leaders felicitate Shehbaz Sharif on assumption of PM office

ISLAMABAD (APP): Different world leaders felicitated the newly elected Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the country's chief executive and wished

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in separate messages on Monday congratulated Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for taking oath as 24th prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

progress and prosperity.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey on Monday called Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and congratulated him on his election as the country's chief

executive. The prime minister expressed his gratitude to President Erdogan for his gracious gesture of brotherhood and fraternity. He underlined that enduring people-to-people bonds, and strong religious and cultural linkages underpinned a robust Pakistan-Turkiye relationship. Prime Minister Shehbaz also conveyed that Pakistan looked forward to welcoming President Erdogan for the session of Pak-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), being scheduled to be held in Islamabad in near future. Recalling strong bonds of friendship that exist between the governments and peoples of the two countries, both the leaders expressed their desire and commitment to work closely with each other to take the bilateral relationship to unprecedented heights of cooperation and fraternity.

They also exchanged views on the worsening humanitarian situation in

Gaza and reaffirmed their commitment for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon on Monday congratulated newly-elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, emphasising that through joint efforts, both the countries would enhance and expand long-term bilateral partnership.

"I wish you, dear friend and brother, good health and great new successes in the implementation of your plans for the sustainable social and economic development of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Different world leaders felicitated the newly elected Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the country's chief executive and wished progress and prosperity.

Prime minister's challenge

The new prime minister has taken the wheel. He must steer Pakistan to calmer waters at the earliest possible. Following a deeply contentious election, the opposition seems to be in no mood to let him get comfortable in his seat.

Since Mr Shehbaz Sharif has chosen to lead, he should demonstrate that his second term will be better than the first. He must appoint a cabinet of capable individuals, chosen not for their proximity to the Sharif clan, but for how well-suited they are to manage the portfolios handed to them.

Considering how much has been placed at stake for Mr Sharif to get a second chance to 'deliver', he must deliberate with great care on who will get him the results being expected from his government. He should remember that his government will be walking a tightrope: policy confusion can quickly snowball into a national disaster.

His other major responsibility would be to start shaping the contours of Pakistan's immediate political future such that the country can start to move on from the bitter unravelling of its sociopolitical order that marked the interregnum between April 8, 2022, and March 3, 2024.

Climate stresses

Huma Yusuf

Last week offered a juxtaposition that captures Pakistan's predicament. In Lahore, PTI supporters took to the streets to protest rigging and the lawfare against Imran Khan. Meanwhile, in Balochistan, lashing rain led to flooding dire enough to uproot houses, wash away roads, and paralyse trade.

Our political crises and elite bargaining always come at the expense of governance and service delivery. Democracy - in its true sense, not a hybrid facade - is a prerequisite for a functioning government that can provide prosperity and protection.

The flooding in Balochistan is the latest reminder that climate change-related disasters remain among the top challenges for our country. And these disasters are not tragic one-off events that can be mopped up with a quick dab of emergency relief and rescue.

Each disaster has social, political and security implications that extend for years. Today's floods are tomorrow's famine, protest movements, insurgency. Balochistan is a particularly dire example of how climate change-related stresses will exacerbate fragility and potentially fuel conflict.

A 2021 survey by the IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Class found that 25 per cent of Balochistan's rural population was food-insecure, with some districts facing emergency-level food shortages. Given that more than half the province's population relies on agriculture or livestock-related activities for their livelihood, this food insecurity can partly be attributed to drought and cli-

mate change more widely. Other drivers are food inflation, soaring fuel prices and livestock diseases.

The current flooding will exacerbate food insecurity. Flooding will destroy agrarian families' food stocks, usually amounting to three to six months' sustenance. Other farm inputs - stored harvests, seeds, fertilisers - are also subject to damage during flooding.

The same survey found that 64pc of the province's farming households struggled to sell their produce, propelling a vicious circle of food insecurity. This was because of difficult access to markets, either due to poor infrastructure that led to transport delays and crop damage or the high cost of transportation. Last week's rains will worsen this situation: the roads that have dissolved will take months, if not years, to repair, impairing mobility.

Local fuel costs will likely soar, following disruption to Pakistan-Iran border routes due to flooding. Secondary sources of income such as inter-provincial or cross-border trading will be hard hit.

Add other dynamics to this food insecurity, and it becomes apparent that Balochistan's intersecting challenges may soon feel insurmountable. Consider the long-running grievance of the coastal fishing community, which has increasingly protested against illegal trawling resulting in depleted fish reserves. This is another community that for both climate-related and geopolitical reasons finds its livelihood threatened.

Research shows that a local temperature rise of 0.5 degrees Celsius increases the likelihood of conflict by 10 to 20pc as climate change drives resource competition. Balochistan's already explosive political dynamics - rooted in valid historical grievances over resource extraction and state excesses, particularly disappearances - will further ignite due to climate change-driven resource scarcity.

However, climate disasters can also create opportunities to demonstrate that a state is capable of effective, inclusive service delivery, thereby building trust. District administrations, disaster management authorities, the army and navy quickly commenced relief and rescue operations in Balochistan.

Can this responsiveness be sustained? Plans to address climate change and natural disaster-related food insecurity, resource competition and political fragility have to be nuanced, localised and adaptive. Resource-sharing arrangements between stressed communities have to be carefully negotiated to prevent conflict from flaring.

Such grassroots interventions are the work of local governments and civil society, not security forces or law-enforcement agencies. And so it comes full circle: the need for meaningful democracy to enable climate responsiveness. This is where the Lahore protests connect with the Balochistan floods.

Waves of terrorism

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Historically, terrorism has evolved in its aims, forms, frequency, lethality, targets, and operation methods at various intervals. The changes underscore the shifting dynamics of terrorism, driven by global political shifts and technological advancements. In each era, terrorist strategies have been shaped by the technology of the time.

The evolution of terrorism can be categorised into four waves - the 'anarchist' (1880-1920s), 'anti-colonial' (1920-1960), 'new left' (1960s to end-century) and 'religiously inspired' (1979 onwards).

A 'wave of terrorism' represents a cycle of increased and decreased activity in a specific time frame, characterised by phases of expansion and contraction.

During the anarchist wave, anarchist and nationalist groups employed similar tactics and even shared training, highlighting the interconnectivity and influence among different terrorist ideologies. Diaspora communities became significant contributors to militant groups.

as a dominant factor, with militant groups leveraging the internet for recruitment, radicalisation, and fundraising.

The kidnapping and murder of former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades in 1979 marked a significant moment in the third wave, underlining the continued importance of kidnapping as a tactic. Between 1968 and 1982, the world witnessed 49 international kidnapping incidents involving 951 hostages, forcing companies to insure their executives against kidnappings.

This wave also saw renewed efforts in political assassinations. The IRA and its offshoots were responsible for killing two British ambassadors in 1976 and 1979, Lord Mountbatten in 1979, and of unsuccessful attempts on the lives of Margaret Thatcher and John Major.

Despite the eventual defeat of revolutionary terrorists by the end of the third wave, international counterterrorism cooperation faced challenges, evidenced by instances like France's refusal to extradite suspects from the PLO, Red Brigade, and ETA to West Germany, Italy, and Spain, respectively. However, efforts to enhance global collaboration against terrorism led to the signing of international, including UN, conventions from 1970 to 1999, aimed at prohibiting hijacking and hostage-taking.

This wave stands apart from its predecessors, driven not by political ambitions but by a distorted interpretation of religious doctrines. Advocates of religiously motivated terrorism contend that the eradication of perceived evil justifies the use of militancy. Events such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Iranian Revolution played a role in propelling religious fundamentalism into prominence, whereas groups like the Tamil Tigers attempted to maintain a secular image.

In 1901, president Roosevelt rallied for a crusade to eliminate terrorism globally, and a century later, in September 2001, president George W. Bush proclaimed a "war that would continue until every terrorist group with global reach had been identified, halted, and defeated".

This repetition of resolve over a century later underscores the necessity for major powers to understand why history has repeated itself and why they failed to create history. The critical question now is whether the current wave, driven primarily by religious motivation, will persist or conclude by 2025. The global nature of terrorism calls for enhanced international collaboration, including the establishment of MOUs, mutual legal assistance, and extradition treaties, as crucial measures for combating terrorism and minimising the influence of violent non-state entities.

Commerce News

Pakistan to become largest Muslim economy in 10 years: Dr Gohar Ejaz

LAHORE (APP): Former caretaker federal minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz said on Monday that Pakistan would be the largest economy of Muslim Ummah during the next ten years.

Addressing the business community here at Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Office, he said that Pakistan has opened the doors of trade to China, UAE and other countries.

Gohar Ejaz said that China, America and the

Gulf region are major markets for Pakistani products, asserting that a policy has also been formulated that after three years, no raw materials would go out of Pakistan.

He said that Afghan Transit Trade (ATT) had increased from USD two billion to USD 7.2 billion during July 2022 to June 2023. "The imports we had banned through LCs (Letters of Credit), had been reaching Pakistan through ATT, and the high US dollar rate against rupee was mainly due to ATT.

He mentioned that usually, the interest rate

has to be kept higher than the inflation rate, and at that time, the inflation rate was 28 percent but the last caretaker government had contained the interest rate at 22 percent which was then also objected by the IMF. He said that 50 percent of employment opportunities in the country were created by the private sector.

FPCCI's job is to formulate policies and it should have economists to help guide the government, he suggested and added that the FPCCI should form a panel of five big economists who make a ten-year industry vision for the government.

The FPCCI Regional Chairman Zaki Ejaz, former caretaker provincial minister SM Tanveer, FPCCI Vice President Zain Iftikhar.



KARACHI: Women are busy is buying handmade items on a stall at a local hotel, in the Provincial Capital.

Pakistani experts praise 'Two Sessions' for propelling global economic stability

BEIJING (APP): Pakistani experts have lauded the significance of the "Two Sessions" in fostering global economic stability in the context of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative, particularly China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiatives.

Muhammad Asghar, a Pakistani journalist in China told China Economic Net that the strategic discussions held during the Two Sessions serve as a platform for fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and China, paving the way for mutually beneficial partnerships that contribute to global economic stability.

He said that the foreign policies and incentives for foreigners in China during these sessions are pivotal in enhancing economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development in the region.

A meeting of the SAB here the other, presided by Mahmood Nawaz Shah, also drew the government's attention towards the problems which required their immediate attention and action, according to a press

statement. The Board's members from different districts expressed their deep concern on increasing prices of inputs and irregularity in selling of fertilizers.

They pointed out that the price of urea, which was the highest used fertilizer in Pakistan, was rising every other month, having witnessed a hike from Rs2,900 a bag to Rs4,649 in the last 12 months.

The SAB claimed that the prices were en-

hanced overnight and the companies and their dealers make billions of rupees in additional income by selling the old stock at the new rates. They told that during the outgoing winter sowing season the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of a bag of urea was Rs3,650 but the dealers used to extort between Rs4,500 to Rs5,400 for a bag from the growers.

"According to the SAB's estimates, the fertilizer companies and their dealers minted between Rs 60 to Rs70 billion over and above the MRP in the last 6 months alone," the state-

Progress not possible without justice in society: Dr Asif Jah

DG KHAN (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah said on Monday that progress is not possible without justice in the society because delaying justice is tantamount to denying justice.

He expressed these views while addressing a gathering organized by the Dera Ghazi Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Gymkhana Club here.

He said that the Ombudsman is striving hard to address complaints of consumers as the basic purpose of our institution is to respect taxpayers and solve their issues immediately.

The Federal Tax Ombudsman said that our

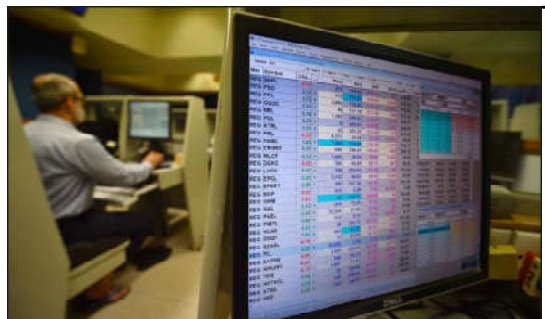
institution was established in 2000 with the fundamental objective of promptly addressing taxpayers' complaints, adding that our department is resolving complaints of thousands of taxpayers every year. He further said that last year, more than 9,000 applicants were resolved within 45 days, while complaints from more than 12,000 applicants this year would also be addressed without delay.

He said that our institution has initiated an awareness campaign under the Outreach Programme in remote areas of the country.

The campaign, he said had started from Dera Ghazi Khan in this regard.



LAHORE: Farmers are busy in preparing to collect honey from boxes placed roadside fields in the Provincial Capital.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbroker monitors the share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

PARC organises workshop on promoting climate smart agriculture

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) in collaboration with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday organized a workshop on promoting climate-smart agricultural research in Pakistan.

The event brought together participants from various national and

international research organizations, said a press release issued here.

Addressing the workshop, Chairman PARC, Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali, reiterated that climate-smart agriculture research is crucial in addressing the challenges posed by rapidly changing climatic conditions and to ensure sustainable food production and agricultural resilience.

RCCI inks MoU with WELDO

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) inked an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Women Empowerment Literacy and Development Organization (WELDO) here on Monday.

President Mr. Saqib Rafiq, on behalf of RCCI and Manager Finance Mr. Umer Waqas from WELDO inked and exchanged the MOU documents.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq assured all kinds of support, close cooperation and assistance through the chamber platform.

He said that the prime focus and mission of WELDO was to provide impartial returns and reintegration services to returnees coming back to Pakistan through health, social, economic, and psychosocial support measures.

## Peace, security top priority: Amin Gandapur

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, stated on Monday that peace and security will be the top priority of his government, with no compromise to be made.

Speaking to the media in Charsadda, he emphasized that the police force would be provided with necessary financial resources on a priority basis. He assured that the police would be ensured provision of vehicles and other necessary equipment.

He highlighted that

development and prosperity are not possible without peace and security in the region. He also mentioned that the reduction in poverty, provision of employment opportunities to people, and uplift of weaker sections are the second important priorities of the provincial government. Furthermore, he stated that construction and development of infrastructure will be the third important priority.

The Chief Minister clarified that when he talked about reforms in the police, it should not be

perceived as a threat. He emphasized, "We do not believe in retaliatory actions, but reform is our duty."

He expressed the desire for a system where no one can commit violence or injustice against anyone else, aiming for a better and fair system for the coming generations. Earlier, he offered condolences to the family of martyred SP Ijaz Khan in Sherpaa village, Charsadda and met with the children of the martyred. He praised the bravery and sacrifices of the police in the line of duty.



**RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi along with Chaudhary Muhammad Akram keenly viewing Science & Arts Exhibition of Punjab College of Commerce.**

## All-out efforts to be made to provide relief to people: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak on Monday said that all-out efforts would be made to provide relief to the people and all the welfare projects of the city would be completed within stipulated time frame.

The Commissioner along with Regional Police Officer (RPO) Syed Khuram Geelani chaired an introductory meeting with the newly elected 23 Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) of Punjab elected from Rawalpindi Division.

He said all the welfare projects of the city would be completed in time along with elected members of provincial assembly.

"Our commitment is to provide relief to the people with the help of the

political leaders," the Commissioner said.

The administration and the elected representatives would play their constructive role to solve the problems of the people, he added.

Engr. Aamir Khattak said that the primary responsibility of the administration is to serve the people.

The suggestions of the newly elected members of the provincial assembly would also be utilized for the completion of all the projects including Rawalpindi Ring Road and Dadocha Dam projects, the Commissioner informed.

He said that practical steps would be taken in the light of the orders of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.



**MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Rizwan Qadeer leading awareness walk about 'Clean Punjab Campaign' organized by the Waste Management Company.**

## 06 dead, 1378 injured in 1274 road traffic crashes in Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1274 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

In these RTCs, 06 people died, whereas 1274 were injured. Out of these, 610 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 768 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (73%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective

enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 667 drivers, 58 underage drivers, 160 pedestrians, and 557 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

The statistics show that 252 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 280 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 115 in with 142 victims and at third Gujranwala with 88 RTCs and 87 victims.

## Six power pilferers booked in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) caught six power pilferers during an ongoing crackdown here on Monday. According to official sources, task force teams raided at various areas of the district and caught six accused involved in electricity theft from main lines and meter tampering. The task force teams also imposed a fine of Rs 262,551 on pilferers. On a report of the Fesco, police also registered cases against pilferers.

## Three killed, two injured on road

FAISALABAD (APP): Three people, including a boy, were killed while two women sustained injuries in two accidents here on Monday. A Rescue 1122 spokesman said a speeding truck hit a motorcycle near Dumar Flour Mills on Narwala Road. As a result, Tariq Masih and his wife Shahnaz of Chak No 8-JB died on the spot. In another accident, a three-year-old Arsalan of Chak No 66-JB Dhandra was killed while his mother Nazia Imdad and grandmother Zahida Habib were injured.

## KP assembly approves over Rs.159 billion for one month budget

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly with Speaker, Babar Salim Swati in chair Tuesday approved one month budget of over Rs. 159 billion for the province. KP Chief Minister, Ali Ameen Gandapur moved the motion for budget approval under rule 150 of the Provincial Assembly Procedure and Conduct Rules.

Among Rs. 159 billion, Rs. 40 billion

## ANF recovers 128 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover more than 128 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 40 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Jeddah at Peshawar Airport. 63 kg hashish was recovered from Zakhakhel Khyber area and 58.8 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects rounded up near National Highway Hyderabad.

## Delegation of Germany-based Deutsche Welle visits Karachi University

KARACHI (APP): A two-member delegation of the Germany-based Deutsche Welle (DW) international broadcaster visited the University of Karachi on Monday.

The DW Director of Programs for Asia, Debarati Guha, and the Head of the Urdu Department Adnan Ishaq visited the KU Radio station and the TV newsroom established in the KU Department of Mass Communication along with the KU Vice Chancellor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the chairperson MCD Dr Asmat Ara and other faculty members.

They appreciated the television and radio labs and production work of the stu-



**HYDERABAD: A Group photo of ENT Specialists with Pakistani society of otorhinolaryngologist Sindh (PSORL) Prof. Atif Hafiz.**

## Delegation of Germany-based Deutsche Welle visits Karachi University

dents. Dr Asmat Ara briefed the DW delegation about the daily radio bulletin on-air by the KU MCD Radio 90.6 and students working on different projects in the TV news lab.

Earlier, speaking to the students and faculty members of various departments of the varsity, at the Jinnah Auditorium of the Dr A.Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Debarati Guha informed that DW, stationed in Bonn, Germany, aims to engage with young journalism students and provide them with valuable insights into DW's work in Asia.

She said that they would like to give them a

perspective on journalistic ethics and standards, and would like to discuss constructive journalism and opportunities at Deutsche Welle. According to her, DW gets around 1.5 billion people views from different parts of the world in a month and she shared that DW focuses on promoting democratic values and traditions, free trade, justice, and cultural values.

She mentioned that they strive to be unbiased in broadcasts and provide unbiased analysis and mentioned that DW is providing programs in different 11 languages in Asia. "We try to prioritize youth in our broadcasts and content, we want to promote a culture

of dialogue in society and our target group is mostly youth."

Debarati Guha said that DW is not present in Iran and China due to media censorship issues, whereas in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India they face the same issues as the native media outlets, on the other hand, they have not faced any problem during covering topics in Jakarta, Indonesia. She claimed that DW journalists meet international standards everywhere in the world.

She observed that the work of the media is not to solve problems but to point them out. She added that earlier we were ahead in ra-

dio but now radio is slowly disappearing. We produce programs in 32 languages worldwide and operate with over 4,000 employees around the globe with people of 150 nationalities and have offices in 18 countries around the world.

On this occasion, the KU VC Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that the local media also needs to ensure training and implementation of ethics. We have tried our best to keep the communication department updated with the help of technology and advanced curriculum. He informed the audience that KU MCD has also introduced a course related to social media marketing.

# International News



**Children stand amid the rubble of a mosque and makeshift shelters that were destroyed in Israeli strikes in Deir El-Balah in central Gaza.**

## Canadian, Italian PMs' soiree scrapped amid pro-Palestinian protest

**Monitoring Desk**  
MONTREAL: A soiree to be attended by the prime ministers of Canada and Italy on Saturday in Toronto was cancelled over "security concerns", the Canadian leader's office said, as pro-Palestinian protesters picketed the venue.

Hundreds of pro-Palestinian demonstrators had gathered in front of the Art Gallery of Ontario, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was due to host his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, according to Canadian media reports.

"Due to security concerns, the event was cancelled," Jenna Ghass-abeh, a spokesperson for the Canadian prime minister's office, said without giving further details. Meloni, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) nations, is visiting Canada ahead of a leaders' summit in Italy in June.

Earlier in the day, the two leaders held talks where they discussed what Meloni described as a "very difficult Middle East crisis".

## Bangladesh Nobel winner fears for future as woes mount

DHAKA (AFP/APP): Bangladesh Nobel peace laureate Muhammad Yunus says it is a "million-dollar question" why the prime minister hates him, but says many believe she sees him as a political threat.

Yunus, 83, is credited with lifting millions out of poverty with his pioneering microfinance bank but has earned the enmity of long-time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

## Australia commences building of air traffic control system for uncrewed flights

CANBERRA (Xinhua/APP): The Australian government has commenced the building of an air traffic control system for drones ahead of an expected surge in uncrewed flights.

Government agency Airservices Australia on Monday announced that it has appointed the Australasian branch of international air traffic control company Frequentis to develop a world-leading Flight Information Management System (FIMS) to safely integrate millions of drone flights into the country's airspace.

## Haley beats Trump in first Republican primary in Washington DC

WASHINGTON (Online): Nikki Haley has become the first woman to win a Republican primary following victory in Washington, DC.

The former ambassador to the United Nations was declared the winner late on Sunday. The victory offers a small boost to her campaign, but former United States President Donald Trump retains a huge lead in the race to become the Republican candidate in November's presidential election.

Trump's only remaining challenger for the nomination won 62.9 percent of the vote in the capital. The controversial former president took 33.2 percent. The

result handed Haley all 19 delegates at stake.

"It's not surprising that Republicans closest to Washington dysfunction are rejecting Donald Trump and all his chaos," Haley campaign spokesperson Olivia Perez-Cubas said in a statement.

However, the GOP appears ready to look past that chaos, which includes numerous legal cases, including efforts to brand Trump ineligible to run in November.

Haley faces near-impossible odds in her quest to win the Republican nomination to take on likely Democratic nominee President Joe Biden in November.

Trump won the first eight nominating contests by significant margins and is expected to increase his lead in this week's Super Tuesday races, which will see 15 states vote.

Despite the small and symbolic victory in DC, the primaries later this week are thought likely to test the former South Carolina governor's determination to fight on.

Trump's campaign

issued a statement shortly after Sunday's vote was declared, sarcastically congratulating her on being named "Queen of the Swamp by the lobbyists and DC insiders that want to protect the failed status quo". "Tonight's results in Washington DC reaffirm the object of President Trump's campaign - he will drain the swamp and put America first," the statement

added. The US Supreme Court is expected on Monday to rule on an earlier decision by the Colorado Supreme Court that disqualified Trump from running for president.

Referring to the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol, the Colorado court invoked a Civil War constitutional provision preventing those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office.

## Iran conservatives secure bulk of seats in elections

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iranian conservatives secured the bulk of seats in elections for a key clerical body and the national legislature, local media reported on Sunday, estimating a record low turnout. Authorities were still counting ballots two days after Friday's vote for members of parliament and for the Assembly of Experts, which selects the Islamic republic's supreme leader. The election, in which a vetting process

barred many hopefuls from running, took place with Iran suffering a severe economic crisis deepened by international sanctions.

The official IRNA news agency put the turnout at around "41 per cent" among 61 million eligible voters. No official figure had yet been announced. The reformist daily Shargh predicted the next parliament would be "in the hands of radical conservatives" who "took advantage of the opportunity created by the low participation".

## Indian police hunt more suspects in gang rape of Spanish tourist

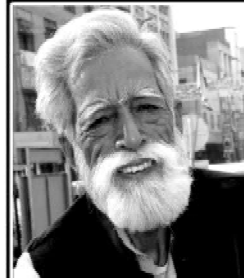
**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Three Indian men have appeared in court after the gang rape of a Spanish tourist on a motorbike trip with her husband, with police hunting four other suspects, reports have said. The attack took place on Friday night in eastern India in Jharkhand state's Dumka district, where the couple were camping.

A total of seven men are accused of carrying out the brutal assault.

"We have formed a team to hunt the remaining suspects," senior local police officer Pitamber Singh Kherwar told AFP.

On Sunday, three accused were seen being escorted into court with sacks on their heads by police officers holding ropes tied around their waists.

**CONDOLENCE**



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

**Sardar Abid Aleem**

Publisher and Chief Editor of

**Daily Millat, Faisalabad**

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.

**APNS**  
All Pakistan Newspapers Society

# Senate unanimously passed resolution in favour of innocent Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senators of all political parties on Monday during the Senate Session unanimously passed the resolution that was moved against the Israeli force's massacre of the innocent people of Palestine.

Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khan presented the resolution which stated that the Israeli army carried out a brutal massacre on 29th February 2024, on innocent and unarmed Palestinians who were gathered to receive aid (food supplies, medicine, etc.) as a result hundreds of Palestinians were murdered in cold blood.

The resolution further stated that the people of Palestine are already being starved due to the blockade from the International Community by the Israeli

army. "This House strongly recommends and urges the International Community to take action such that the siege of Gaza be lifted immediately and Muslim countries be allowed all access and cover for delivery of aid" it added.

Dr Afnan Ullah Khan criticized the weak stance of the international community for not practically helping the innocent Palestinians. Meanwhile, Senator Pulwasha Muhammad Zai Khan highlighted that Israeli forces not only killing innocent Palestinian people but also making fun of the martyrs by capturing their pictures.

Senator Faisal Javed informed the upper house that around 01 million are affected in Gaza due to the infectious disease.

They are not being

provided the medicine and other necessary things.

Senator Kamran Murtaza said that today, again hundreds of innocent people of Palestine have been martyred who were gathered to take aid. This issue is relevant to humanity and it should be ended for the sake of humanity, he added.

Senator Aon Abbas said that one child is being killed every 15 minutes in Palestine and around 10,000 children have been killed so far.

Senator Khalida Ateeb said that we hold the first rally in Karachi in solidarity with the innocent people of Palestine. We should boycott Israeli products and this step should be taken at the government level.

Senator Taj Haider

said that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto decided to use our resources for the betterment of Muslim countries and he united the Muslim countries but unfortunately, he was hanged.

He urged the government and masses to stay within your resources to get rid of foreign loans, adding that only this way we can get honor in the world.

Senator Mohsin Aziz said that we should probe the issues within the Muslim Ummah as without resolving these issues, we cannot make progress and stand at the international level with honor.

Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand said that Palestinian-injured Children were being operated on without anesthesia which is so painful that a human cannot bear it.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, shake hand with, Prime Minister Mian Muhaamad Shabbaz Sharif after the oath taking ceremony, at President House in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inspecting the Guard of Honor presented by a contingent of Pakistan's Armed Forces upon arrival at the Prime Minister House.

## 3-day Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2024 would be held from March 7 to 9

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Three-day Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2024 would be held from March 7 to 9 at Pak-Japan Culture Center Quetta to enlighten the visitors regarding the diverse Japanese cultural and traditional heritage through various themed calendars displayed in the exhibition.

Pak-Japan Friendship Society Quetta in collaboration with Conciliate-General of Japan in Karachi would organize the event of "Japanese Calendar Exhibition 2024" to be held on

March 7 at Pak-Japan Culture Center in Quetta.

Japanese Calendars Exhibition is an annual feature being regularly held, providing the audience a chance to experience various aspects of Japan.

The calendars on display would portray various subjects of Japanese art, culture, heritage, sports, industries, agriculture, environment, photography and lifestyle. The calendars describe Japan's scenery, everyday life of the Japanese and beautiful culture in a compressed manner.



Chairman WAPDA Lt. Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani inspecting ongoing construction work during his visit to Diamer Basha Dam.

## Asad Qaiser demands judicial commission investigate cipher case

ISLAMABAD (INP) - PTI leader Asad Qaiser on Monday demanded a judicial inquiry into the cipher case.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, the former NA speaker stated, "Our position on the cipher case is clear: we demand a judicial commission is formed and the truth will come out."

The cipher case revolves around a diplomatic cable that the Federal Investigation Agency alleges was never returned by the PTI founder. The PTI has long maintained that the document contained a threat from the US to oust the PTI founder as the prime minister of Pakistan.

Asad Qaiser recalled that an extremely hostile attitude had been adopted towards Pakistan's ambassador in Washington.

Pointing to the lawmakers sitting on the treasury benches, Qaiser asserted that all of them had called the cipher "false", but later on, the same diplomatic cable was used as a tool to punish the PTI founder and the former foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

In January, both the PTI founder and Qureshi were sentenced to 10-year rigorous imprisonment in the cipher case by a special court established under the Official Secrets Act.

About the proceedings of the cases initiated against the PTI founder, Asad Qaiser said that the party founder was being subjected to long court proceedings of up to 14 hours in a single day. He also alleged that judges had been held at gunpoint to extract sentences [against the PTI founder].

## DC inaugurates tree planting drive of spring in Chaman

CHAMAN (APP)- Deputy Commissioner Chaman Captain Raja Athar Abbas officially inaugurated the tree planting campaign in connection with spring at DC office.

On this occasion, in a message to the youth, Deputy Commissioner Chaman Captain Raja Athar Abbas said that the people, especially the youth, of Levies should plant saplings near their police stations, checkpoints and check posts and

play their part in making the Green Pakistan project a success. He said that we all need a clean and natural environment saying that natural disasters were increasing day by day as a result of climate change due to deforestation in Pakistan and climate change was being happened which was causing death and diseases for human health. To prevent these climate changes, it is necessary to plant more plants to make the environment like nature's desire.

## UN Chief congratulates Shehbaz on becoming PM

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Monday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif after he was sworn-in as Prime Minister of Pakistan, saying he was looking forward to working with him on a number of issues.

On Sunday, the National Assembly elected Shehbaz Sharif as the Leader of the House by 201 votes, defeating Omar Ayub of the Sunni Itehad Council.

"We congratulate Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the post of Prime Minister of Pakistan and we look forward to continuing cooperation with the country on a wide array of issues," Stéphane Dujarric, the UN Chief's spokesperson, said in an email to APP.

## Bizenjo given PPP ticket for Senate

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has been given the party ticket for Senate here on Monday.

The central leader of PPP, Ejaz Jhokrani gave the ticket of party for Senate.

Also present on the occasion were member of National Assembly, Malik Shah Gorgej and provincial president of PPP Mir Changez Jamali as well as Deputy Speaker of Balochistan Assembly, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Zahoor Buledi, Ubaid Gorgej, Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Liaquat Lehri.

## Unknown assailants injured a person

QUETTA (Online): Unknown assailants shot and injured a person in Quetta. According to the details, last night in Hazara Town area of Quetta, unknown attackers opened fire outside the house of Haji Ramzan and escaped.

He is the Vice President of Balochistan Shia Conference. The injured was shifted to hospital. Police are taking further action.



Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan visiting different affected areas of Jewani.

## To get out-of-school children enrolled School admission campaign starts across Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The school admission campaign has been launched by the School Education Department on eve of new academic year all over the Balochistan province. According to the official sources, the School Education Department has targeted to get 2,69,143 children enrolled during the new academic year in province.

In addition to this, the Education department officers and staff would also attempt to convince the parents to send their children to schools after visiting their homes.

It may be mentioned here last year, 2,56,327 children had been enrolled in the province.



QUETTA: Provincial Election Commissioner Muhammad Fared Afridi examining the documents of Kohda Babar for Senate election. MPAs Aghar Umar Ahmadzai and Farah Azeem Shah are also present.

## Khetran greets Shahbaz Sharif on becoming PM

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The member of Provincial Assembly Balochistan, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has extended congratulations to Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif on being elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan.

In a felicitation message issued here on Monday, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran expressed the hope

that Mian Shabbaz Sharif-led government would take the country and province to development.

He prayed for the development of Pakistan under leadership of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that it is our collective responsibility to resolve the long-standing issues being faced by the country/ province.



QUETTA: Deputy Director Sports Syed Naeem Akhtar presenting a memorial shield to Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan on his services during Golden Jubilee of Barney Hockey Club.

## Raid on house of Achakzai exposed reality of new puppets: Hafiz Hamdullah

QUETTA (INP): Jamiat Ulema e Islam (JUI-F) central leader, Maulana Hafiz Hamdullah has said that raid on house of PKMAP chief Mehmood Khan Achakzai has exposed the reality of new puppets that how much authoritative they are.

In a statement on Monday, the JUI-F leader strongly condemning the incident said that the raid

on house of elderly politician violated the sanctity and privacy.

Hafiz Hamdullah further stated that Mehmood Khan Achakzai was among the senior politicians of the country and the political leadership should restrain from adverse actions.

He said that raids of administration on house of senior politicians were intolerable.

## USC to launch Rs 7.5 b PM's Ramadan Relief Package today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Utility Store Corporation (USC) is all set to launch Rs 7.5 billion Prime Minister's Ramadan Relief Package 2024 on Tuesday (March 5).

The prime minister had announced a special subsidy of Rs 7.5 billion to provide edible items to the people subsidized prices during the holy month of Ramadan, a USC spokesman said on Monday.

Under the package, he said, the USC would give subsidy on 19 basic food items, including flour, ghee, edible oil, sugar, pulse gram, white gram, besan, dates, rice, tea, spices, milk and beverages.

The spokesman said the USC would ensure abundant availability of all food items at its outlets to meet the needs of the public during the holy month.

Only the poor families comprising around 200 million people registered with the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) under the PMT-60 category instead of PMT-40 would be able to benefit

from the targeted subsidy, he added.

The BISP beneficiaries would get a 10 kilogram flour bag for Rs 648, ghee Rs 365 per kg and sugar for Rs109 per kg, while the subsidy of Rs 25 per litre would be given on edible oil, the spokesman said.

Similarly, he said, the subsidy of Rs 25 per kg on pulse gram and white gram, Rs 50 per kg on gram flour (besan) and dates, Rs 25 per kg on Basmati rice, Silah rice and broken rice, Rs 100 on tea (800 grams), and Rs 30 per liter on packed milk.

Spices and beverages would also be available at cheaper prices, he added.

The USC, he said, would provide total 20 kg flour, 5 kg each of sugar and ghee, and 3 kg each of rice, pulses, and cooking oil to the families registered with the BISP, while there would be no limit for the purchase of other food items.

The spokesman advised the deserving individuals not registered under the BISP to immediately contact the Programme's

regional offices or designated Utility Stores so that they could avail the package.

He said in addition to the BISP, the USC had also arranged special discounts with its vendors and suppliers for general consumers.

A special discount of up to 15 percent would be given on more than 1000 items, whose lists would be displayed at USC outlets, he added.

During the holy month, all outlets across the country would remain open as usual to serve the general public, he added.

He said a monitoring cell had been set up at the USC head-office to address the public complaints about the package. For transparency in the package, vigilance teams had been deployed all over Pakistan, he added. The spokesman said the USC management and workers were engaged in serving the people. The consumers could lodge their complaints, if any, at helpline number (0800-05590).



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik inaugurate "Spring Thaw 2024" National SimEx Conference at NDMA Headquarters.

## LHC moved to remove Sanjrani as Senate chairman

LAHORE (INP): Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday moved to remove the Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani from his post.

As per details, a citizen named Mashkoor Hussain filed a plea in Lahore High Court seeking the removal of Sadiq Sanjrani as Senate chairman. The plea stated that Sanjrani has been elected as a member of the Balochistan Assembly and he cannot retain both seats at the same time. Hence, the court should bar him from performing duties.

## QDM demands increase in number of Green buses; improve services

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Quetta Development Mahaz (QDM) has demanded of the government to increase number of Green Buses besides improving its quality of service.

In a press release issued here on Monday, it was mentioned that the QDM had welcomed the launch of Green bus service on a route between two universities. Then the initiative was also welcomed considering it a gift and asset.

However, it was con-

sidered an insufficient thus there is a need to make increase in the number of buses and routes.

According to the press release, it stressed to take every possible steps for improving and expand the service of Green buses.

It was demanded of the provincial government to make arrangements for at least 50 buses immediately so that all segments of society including male and females may have the facilities of pleasant and cheaper journey.

## 3-Day workshop starts to determine NAP for Health Protection 2024-28

QUETTA (APP) A three-day consultative workshop was started to determine the National Action Plan (NAP) for Health Protection 2024-2028 in Balochistan on Monday till Wednesday, the workshop was attended by Chief Executive National Institute of Health Dr. Sulaiman, Chief Center for Disease Control Pakistan Dr. Mumtaz, Technical Advisor Ministry of Health Dr. Safullah along with National Ministry of Health, National Institute of Health, all directors and project directors of the Department of Health, Livestock, representatives from the National Institutes of Health and technical teams from the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNOCHA and UNFPA.

While addressing the participants of the workshop, Additional Director

Health Dr. Faheem Khan appreciated the collaborative efforts to tackle the challenges of health protection in the area. In the consultation workshop, the determination of the action plan of the Balochistan Health Department under the National Action Plan for Health Security will also be observed, he said.

He said that implementation of international health regulations would be required capacity building in 19 different sectors including biological hazards, biochemical events, natural disasters, disease control such as border management and air pollution.

Health Specialist UNICEF Dr. Amir Akram said that the project would be developed under a health agenda and an all-hazards approach, this includes el-

ements of veterinary, climate change, health and food safety.

While an all-hazards approach includes health, chemical, radiological, environmental, natural or human-induced hazards, and climate change, he said.

Chief E Center for Disease Control Pakistan Dr. Mumtaz said in his address that a national action plan has been established for health security at the national level saying that Balochistan Health Department has to play its role to implement it, collective efforts at the provincial level were aimed at developing action plans aligned with the National Action Plan for Health Security. He said that Balochistan province was currently developing an action plan in compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005.