

# Independent

dailyindish@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA briefs Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chairman Gates Foundation, Bill Gates during their visit of NDMC.

## PM expresses resolve for polio-free Pakistan; lauds Gates Foundation's dedication

National Task Force resolves to employ all resources for eradication of polio from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday reiterated that the Federal Government along with all the provincial governments resolved to eliminate the menace of polio forever and said they were fully committed to control its spread through collective efforts.

Addressing a meeting of the National Task Force on Polio Eradication, the prime minister said that the polio eradication campaign in the country was progressing positively and they were close to elimi-

nate polio but unfortunately, things turned negative as the virus returned back in certain parts of Pakistan, still it did not show that they had failed in their efforts.

Gates Foundation Chairman Bill Gates, ministers, senior officials and relevant authorities were present during the meeting.

The prime minister assured Bill Gates that the government was fully committed 'to continue its efforts to control the polio menace on its own interests to protect the lives of our children and make them healthier'.

He said that during the last six months, they ran two nation-wide polio eradication campaigns successfully along with five others targeting the polio-hit areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also stressed that they would have to act swiftly to produce results in the coming days and months.

All the newly formed federal and provincial governments had completely resolved that they would spare no efforts to control the menace, he added.

## Govt's Operation Azm-i-Istehkam to weaken country further; charges Maulana Fazlur Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): The central Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Fazlur Rehman has described the government's re-energized national counter-terrorism campaign i.e., Operation Azm-i-Istehkam as Operation Adm-i-Istehkam saying that "this operation would weaken the country further."

He categorically stated that the democracy and parliament have lost their case while the country is being weakened further.

He said that the country's constitution is the national pact and our guarantee to live under one roof (of the country). He said that our constitution determines the authority of the provinces and so the

jurisdiction of every institution of the country.

He said that there is least writ of the State in the country. The armed organizations are controlling the areas in open whether it in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or Balochistan.

He said that he doesn't know much about Balochistan, but he can firmly say that police kept them closed in the thanas in the KP after sunset.

He said that we have to ponder upon as who brought the country and circumstances at this juncture. The JUI chief stressed the need to set new course of survival and stability of the country, for we are holding talks and negotiations with different political parties.



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazlur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, in Quetta.

## Governor directs to QESCO to provide electricity on Agricultural feeders for 6 hours with full voltage

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Governor of Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed to Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO) to provide electricity on all agricultural feeders for six hours with full voltage.

Otherwise, the heavy losses would cause to the standing crops, green orchards and vegetables.

He said that there is very important role of agriculture sector to provide food to the people and provide raw material to the industrial sector in the country. He was of the strong view that putting agriculture and livestock on modern lines is vital for economic

development of the province.

The Governor assured that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would be informed about the hardships being faced by the growers of the province.

The Governor was speaking to the office bearers of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee who called on him here at the Governor's House on Monday.

The former Member Provincial Assembly Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani and Abdul Rehman Bazai led the delegation.

The Governor said that the agriculture has the status of backbone in the country's economy.

## President for gradual rehabilitation of surrendered criminals of Kacha Areas

SUKKUR (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has said that criminals of Kacha Area in Sindh, except hardened criminals, willing to surrender to the state should be gradually brought into the mainstream and rehabilitated to make them responsible and productive citizens of the country. He called for taking stern action against hardcore criminals involved in heinous crimes.

The President further emphasized the need to improve the road, health, and education infrastructure of the Kacha Areas on a priority basis to improve the socio-economic condition of the people. He advised that a Qaumi Jirga, comprising of tribal chiefs, should be

convened to engage and negotiate with the local population to bring normalcy, prevent crimes, de-weaponize and improve the security situation in the Area.

The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on the security/law and order situation in Sindh, at Sukkur, on Monday.

Federal Minister for Interior, Mr Mohsin Raza Naqvi, MNA Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Speaker Sindh Assembly Syed Waqar Qadir Shah, Senior Minister Mr Sharjeel Inam Memon and senior officials of the federal and provincial governments attended the meeting.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti chairing a meeting about rehabilitation of the drug addicts

## GoB decides to make centers for rehabilitation of drug addicts functional; forms committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Balochistan has decided to make the centers for accommodation and rehabilitation of 2500 drug addicts

The Chief Minister directed to establish separate centers for rehabilitation and treatment of the drug addict women and keep their particulars secret.

The Chief Minister was addressing a meeting about rehabilitation of the drug addicts here on Monday.

The Chief Minister was briefed about the functioning of the drug addicts rehabilitation centers in the province including Quetta.

He was highly concerned about the spread of narcotics curse saying that the poison of narcotics is spreading in the society at fast pace.

He stressed the need to take effective measures for prevention of the drug addiction in the society on emergent basis.

He announced that more drug addicts' rehabilitation centers would be established in collaboration with the welfare organizations.

He said that it is also necessary to eliminate the narcotics sellers in addition to the rehabilitation of the drug addicts.

## Bilawal convenes parliamentary party meeting today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has postponed his address in National Assembly (NA) on budget.

According to sources Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has summoned PPP parliamentary party meeting in parliament house today (Tuesday). He will preside over the meeting.

## Parliament has authority to make decisions for welfare of people: Achakzai

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members of the National Assembly to highlight their problems in the supreme forum and to seek solutions for them.

He asserted that no one would be allowed to violate the constitution and that the country would be governed according to it.

He also advocated for the Senate of Pakistan to be given more powers.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Advisors and MPs expressing their views on provincial budget 2024-25 in the Balochistan Assembly session chaired by Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

## Efforts continue for recovery of kidnapped persons: Operation Azam-I-Istehkam needed much in Balochistan, maintains CM

Says consultation on for formation of the committee to hold talks with the angry Balochs; Funds to be released for schemes on which pace of work would be faster, asserts Mir Sarfraz Bugti

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has insisted that the Operation Azam-I-Istehkam is needed much in Balochistan.

He said that there insurgency in the name of religion in other parts of the country, but in Balochistan, there is the bigger insurgency than other parts.

However, I invite the common Balochs gone on the mountains to come back. We would embrace them under the peaceful Balochistan initiative, maintained the Chief Minister while speaking to the media persons after the budget session here at the provincial assembly on Monday.

The Chief Minister asserted that stern action would be taken against those challenging the writ of State.

He informed that he is doing consultation for formation of the committee to hold talks with the "angry"

Balochs. However, he is personally confused as whom to be talked with.

How to hold talks with those who are assassinating the people after seeing their identity cards, he added.

He stressed that we have to strengthen writ of the State in Balochistan.

Referring the abduction of 10 persons from Shaban area, the Chief Minister said that efforts are continued for recovery of the kidnapped persons.

Since it is a sensitive matter so we are working with care, he added.

Meanwhile The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that the funds would be released for the development schemes seeing pace of work. The funds would be released for the schemes on which the pace of work is expedited and faster.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has insisted that the Operation Azam-I-Istehkam is needed much in Balochistan.

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SUKKUR: President Asif Ali Zardari chairing a meeting on the security/law and order situation in Sindh during his visit to Sukkur.

## Disqualification case Imran Khan requests early SC hearing

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former prime minister Imran Khan has filed a petition with the Supreme Court requesting an early hearing of his pending appeal against his disqualification as a lawmaker. The petition was submitted through Barrister Ali Zafar.

The plea requests the apex court to expedite the hearing of the PTI founder's appeal against his disqualification as a legislator.

The petition states that currently, a process is underway to remove Imran Khan from his position as party supremo following his disqualification by the Election Commission.

The plea further states that cases challenging the Election Commission's orders are currently pending in the Islamabad and Lahore high courts, arguing that due to these pending cases, Imran Khan, as the founder of PTI, is unable to contest assembly elections or participate in any by-elections pending the outcome of his

## PTI 'committed suicide' by joining SIC, says CJP Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Monday asked during SIC reserved seat case hearing why Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) committed suicide by joining the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC).

The Supreme Court (SC) full court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa is hearing the SIC's plea against Peshawar High Court verdict on reserved seats.

On June 22, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) informed the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan that the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) is not entitled to reserved seats.

In a reply submitted to the apex court in the case pertaining to the SIC's reserved seats, the ECP maintained that The Hamid Raza-led party failed to submit the list of nominees for the reserved seats by the deadline of December 24.

The ECP added that it asked the independent candidates joined the SIC after the elections. "The ECP

decided not to give reserved seats to the SIC with a 4-1 verdict," the reply added.

The ECP told the SC that the Peshawar High Court (PHC) also upheld its decision. The election watchdog maintained that there is no error in the decision of the ECP as well as the PHC. "According to the constitution of the SIC, a non-Muslim cannot become a member of the party. The provision against the inclusion of non-Muslims in the constitution of SIC is unconstitutional, answer. The SIC is not entitled to reserved seats for women and minorities," the ECP replied.

On May 6, Supreme Court suspended the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Peshawar High Court (PHC) verdict on 'Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) reserved seats.

The three-member bench headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah suspended the verdict pertaining to the allocation of reserved seats to other political parties.

## Three judges elevated to Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Ministry of Law and Justice has officially announced the elevation of three high court judges to the Supreme Court, following President Asif Ali Zardari's approval on Monday. The judges promoted to the apex court include Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan and Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan from the Lahore High Court (LHC), and Chief Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi from the Sindh High Court (SHC).

The appointments were sanctioned by the president under Article 177 of the Constitution.

With Chief Justice Malik Shahzad's elevation from the LHC, President Zardari has appointed Justice Shujaat Ali Khan as acting LHC Chief Justice in accordance with Article 196. Justice Shujaat will serve in this capacity until a permanent appointment is made, as per the notification from the law ministry.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gailo meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## IHC suspends EC decision on appointment of retired judges in election tribunal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended Election Commission (EC) decision regarding appointment of retired judges in Election Tribunal (ET).

The court while issuing contempt of court notice to Anjam Aqeel Khan MNA has sought reply from him within 7 days.

The petition filed against appointment of retired judges in ET came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq Monday.

The court inquired where is Attorney General (AG).

Additional Attorney General (AAG) told the court AG is engaged in full court of Supreme Court (SC).

The CJ inquired that what is written in here is true.

over night. We do so that we abolish parliament. President should run the country through ordinances.

This law has been taken from UK. Has it ever been seen there that ordinance was passed. You people have built the factory of ordinances.

The court while issuing notice on miscellaneous petition of Ali Bokhari counsel for PTI suspended June 10 decision of Election Commission (EC) for appointment of retired judges in ET.

The CJ IHC remarked EC should tell how the judge was partial.

The court inquired from Anjam Aqeel had he filed any application in EC. Had he filed any affidavit in EC that what is written in here is true.

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## Time for dialogue

In the tumultuous landscape of Pakistani politics, the call for dialogue among political forces has never been more crucial. As suggested by PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, the need for political leaders to engage in dialogue, set aside egos and prioritise national interest over personal grievances is critical. Mr Bhutto-Zardari's remarks underscore a pivotal truth: the strength of democracy lies in the willingness of its participants to communicate; to put the public before point-scoring. His underlying message seems particularly aimed at the PML-N and PTI. Both parties are constantly at loggerheads. Even in times of crises, their confrontation does not pause.

The PPP, by virtue of its position within the government, is uniquely placed to facilitate this much-needed dialogue. With his experience and political acumen, President Asif Ali Zardari can play a positive role if he employs his negotiation skills to bridge the divide. By leveraging its influence within the government, the PPP can encourage PML-N to engage in dialogue, thereby clearing a pathway for the PTI to also come to the table. In fact, not only is mediation desirable, it is imperative for Pakistan's democracy.

Giving tangible hope to a polarised public crushed by inflation and unemployment should be the common goal, one that is hardly achievable if the PTI — arguably the most popular party in the country — remains alienated. The consequences of continued polarisation are dire. If the PML-N and PTI remain mired in mutual acrimony, an ever-widening gap will continue to allow non-political forces to assert themselves.

The three main political parties have had a taste of fraught relations with the establishment — with the PTI the latest target of the latter's displeasure. By uniting, even if temporarily, political parties can reduce external leverage over civilian affairs.

A significant starting point for dialogue is to address each other's grievances, a task that can be taken up by the more rational elements in the parties. All should see the judiciary as a legitimate avenue for redressal, rather than a battlefield for political supremacy. The Supreme Court's role in mediating election disputes, as sought by Imran Khan, is a case in point. Demonstrating that electoral processes are transparent and fair is essential for maintaining the legitimacy of democratic institutions.

The history of our democracy has important lessons on the perils of divisions. Unity is rare, but if there were ever a time for parties across the political spectrum to smoothen matters, it is now. Ironically, the call to end the 'politics of hatred' is coming from one of the youngest parliamentarians. The more experienced of our politicians should know that the path to democratic consolidation lies in political maturity and a shared commitment to national interest. Engaging in dialogue, despite deep-seated differences, is not a sign of weakness but political wisdom.

Maleeha Lodhi

At a time when democracy across the world is under challenge, there have recently been a number of developments, some that may shape its future trajectory.

Elections in India saw the BJP lose its majority and its leader Narendra Modi cut down to size — a verdict widely viewed as voters salvaging India's democracy from the authoritarian, autocratic direction a populist demagogue was taking the country in. India may have started to buck the global trend of democratic erosion but elsewhere developments have reinforced this trend.

Europe has just seen far-right parties make stunning gains in the European Parliament polls at the cost of French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's parties.

This prompted Macron to call snap legislative elections in a high-stakes effort to contain Marine Le Pen's National Rally party by turning it into a referendum on the far right. But the spectre looms of Le Pen's party winning power. Opin-

ion polls now show that less than half of French voters see that as a threat to democracy. In the US, former president Donald Trump is the front-runner in the presidential election due in November. Barring any legal impediment, he is poised to regain the presidency. In Britain, Nigel Farage's Reform party is expected to make gains in next month's elections at the expense of the Conservative party.

The resurgence of the far right in the West comes at a time when democracy is already under threat across the world. Democratic regression is now a worldwide phenomenon. Democratic backsliding has been pervasive in countries facing challenges from polarisation, intolerance, anti-minority sentiment and toxic politics. This global trend has been recorded by many international organisations.

In its annual Democracy Report 2024, the Swedish V-Dem Institute finds democracy has declined in almost all regions of the world with "the wave of autocratisation" becoming more pronounced. Its research shows a rollback of

democratic rights and institutions. It says the level of democracy enjoyed by citizens worldwide is down to levels last seen in 1985 — almost 40 years ago. According to the report 71pc of the world's population — 5.7 billion people — live in autocracies — an increase from 48pc 10 years ago.

Similarly, the latest edition of the Global State of Democracy 2023 report by the Stockholm-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance sees democracies continuing to contract globally with erosion in checks and balances and constitutional freedoms in nominally democratic states. It finds that for six consecutive years "more countries experienced net declines in democratic processes than net improvements".

Democratic weakening is also the finding by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which conducts an annual survey of the health of democracy in 165 countries, assessing them across five measures. Its report, published earlier this year, says conflict and polarisation have driven a new low for global democracy. Its democracy index

shows less than 8pc of the world's population now reside in full democracies, and that 39pc are under authoritarian rule — up from 37pc in 2022. It designates Pakistan as a country under authoritarian rule, downgraded from the previous year when it was classified as a hybrid democracy. The report classifies India and America as flawed democracies. It finds 37pc of people living in a flawed democracy and 15pc in hybrid regimes.

The rise of the far right or ultra-nationalist populist leaders has much to do with democratic reversals. In countries witnessing this phenomenon elected leaders have acted with impunity to erode civil liberties, curb freedom of expression, suppress dissent, persecute minority groups and undermine any check-and-balance system that holds governments to account. They have shown disregard for democratic institutions and norms, engaged in authoritarian conduct and used hyper-nationalism to rally support, orchestrating anti-minority sentiment that often triggered violence. This has turned their political systems into illiberal or flawed democracies and

deeply divided their societies.

In a recent op-ed in the Financial Times, Gideon Rachman makes a distinction between the far right and the right, which is helpful to keep in mind. The dividing line is their attitudes to democracy. He writes, "If a political leader refuses to accept the results of an election and wants to smash the 'deep state' (in reality, the state itself), then he or she is clearly on the far right." But leaders who pursue reactionary, even racist policies (he includes Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni) but "within the framework of democratic politics and the rule of law", cannot be regarded as far right. Sometimes, he argues, the line between a new form of authoritarian conservatism and the far right becomes "blurry".

The global trend of democratic regression in the last decade or more raises the question of the underlying factors responsible for this and for the rise of far-right populist leaders. This cannot be attributed to any uniform set of reasons as each country's case is different with distinct factors shaping its politi-

cal trajectory.

Some common features can still be identified although this is not an exhaustive list. They include the failure of traditional political parties and their policies to meet heightened public expectations, growing disconnect between political elites and the people, poor governance, increasing inequality, lack of responsiveness by institutions to public concerns, political polarisation, as well as economic and social discontent spawned by globalisation and the cost-of-living crisis. Many analysts ascribe the far right's surge in Europe to public discontent with soaring inflation, fallout of the war in Ukraine, anti-immigrant sentiment and the cost of green policies.

Pakistan too has seen democratic decline, but for reasons different from those challenging democracy elsewhere. The 2018 election led to a form of hybrid democracy that increasingly shifted the civil-military power balance and gave way to a greater establishment role in governance, the political system and even economic management. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Drivers of extremism

Umair Javed

What compels a mob to burn someone to death? What explains such amplified levels of anger that an accusation against some person from a marginalised group leads to a lynching?

What reasoning dictates why groups of people — including state functionaries — engage in the violent policing of a minority group, arresting its members and taking away their sacrificial animals from the private confines of their homes?

All three incidents took place recently. Last week, a man was burnt to death in Swat over the alleged desecration of a holy text. In May, a 72-year-old Christian man was lynched in Sargodha on a blasphemy-related accusation. And during Eid, several Ahmadis across Punjab — the number reportedly as high as 36 — were detained by the police on accusations of practising 'Muslim rituals' levelled by Barelvi extremist activists.

Much ink has been spilled trying to understand religious extremism and its outcomes, both in Pakistan and abroad. Existing re-

search points out two sets of factors here — the societal organisation and drivers of extremism; and the role of the state.

On societal organisation, it is well documented that such indoctrination is carried out by clerics, not just through in-person contact in sermons and in madrasahs, but also through highly localised WhatsApp and Facebook groups, as well as content on TikTok. They do it because they believe in it and because it sustains their social status within communities. People pay them respect, provide them with gifts, turn to them for advice and for dispute resolution.

Their words and actions help develop followers of various types. Their closest adherents are socialised into believing that certain events are an affront to religion. Such events require a coercive response. That the response must be immediate. And that it will help further some vague faith-inspired objective, protect the purity of religion, or help restore the natural order of society.

Beyond the immediate actions of violent ac-

tivists, there is a wider segment of people in every community who think the objectives of these zealots are worthy. Perhaps they have not yet been socialised to such a great degree that they take matters into their own hands. However, they frequently appreciate those who do. These people are the ones who will stand on the side while someone is burnt, lynched, or attacked. Their passive support helps sustain this enterprise of violence.

Broadly speaking, this is the organisation of violent religious extremism at the community level. Every case of violence will reveal actors of these three types — the ideologue, the activist, and the passive supporter.

Let's assume that ideologues exist everywhere. Extremist preachers who try to outdo each other by being more extreme are a reality in every society. It is less useful trying to understand why they exist. As long as beliefs and ideologies exist, violent interpretations will likely persist.

But what explains the level of support for their messaging? Here, research often turns to existing so-

cial and economic conditions. One popular interpretation is that poverty, material distress, and other forms of economic anxiety push people towards extremism.

In Pakistan, religious extremism seems to have an implicit class character. TLP's street cadres, for example, are overwhelmingly young men from working-class backgrounds, many of whom are un/underemployed. It is likely that associating with a movement adds purpose to a listless existence. Sometimes it goes as far as to become a source of power, prestige, and status mobility in a supremely unequal society.

Class politics, however, is not just a preserve of the poor. Relatively better-off traders, merchants, contractors etc also offer support (financial and otherwise) for fundamentalist ideology. In my conversations with bazaar traders in Lahore, I found that these groups are motivated for both self-serving objectives — to gain local respect and status — as well as a way to push back against what they think is the hedonistic agenda of Westernised upper classes. There is thus a different

type of class-based politics also at play here, one that pits un-Islamic elites against pious middling sorts.

The second set of factors concerns the role of the Pakistani state in creating fertile conditions for extremism. National identity and the concept of state authority are tied to Islam, which gives plenty of space to non-state actors to weigh in on how it should be interpreted.

School and even higher education curriculum content is devoted to the creation of ideal (Sunni) Muslim citizens, which casts minority sects and non-Muslims as deviants. Laws have been put in place that police religious practice and create punitive conditions for heterodoxy, which perpetuates vigilantism.

And governance failures and the expedient use of religious actors for political ends — such as geostrategic goals in neighbouring countries or taking down a popular government domestically — ensure that law and order responses to religious violence are either belated or entirely inadequate. Combining both sets

of factors — societal and state-specific — the future does not look optimistic.

On the societal front, there are no mass movements that can challenge religious extremism. Mainstream parties are either complicit or too risk-averse to take this issue on, especially when they are in government. Preachers who attempt more pacifist interpretations find themselves irrelevant or at risk of violence. Economic conditions are worsening, leaving more young people stuck in social stagnation and precarity.

As far as the state is concerned, it has not demonstrated any serious intent at reforming its protocols around religious extremism. Police responses are often belated, and biased against minority groups. Prosecution is largely absent. There is not even a modicum of intention to revisit laws that catalyse violent acts. And extremist groups remain valuable as a strategic asset, especially when needed to stifle democratic processes and teach some non-conforming party a lesson.

## Integrity is the law

Muhammad Mohsin Masood

What do judges really do? What magic do they use that, not them, but the words they speak, dictate and rule? What is their lot? What objects are hidden under their robes that many try to de-robe them? Surely being a judge is no easy task. You are to judge people, to resolve their disputes, to conciliate and determine rights. But you are also expected to do justice, to ensure fairness, and to protect rights. Above all, you are tasked to apply the law. Ordinarily, this would be enough for most people to lose their heads, not at the guillotine of political chaos, but because of the taxing demands of conscience to do what is right.

Unfortunately, in this land of the pure, perhaps because there is no right or wrong, many judges find themselves in the fray of political chaos. Questions are raised of allegiance, of tribal support, of national loyalties, of favours, kickbacks and foreign conspiracies. Let alone the veracity or otherwise of all this, these questions strike at the heart of the law — what becomes of it? What is the law of this land where judges pronounce judgements merely to dethrone political leaders who have become liabilities? What rules or principles are at play, which set out the legal and political system of the country? These are questions which stare us in the face, yet no answers are attempted by our ruling elite.

There is no need to despair, however, as there can be an attempt at an answer. One of the

most influential conceptions of the law was put forth by Ronald Dworkin. According to Dworkin, the law can be thought of as a chain novel where each chapter is being written by the judges when they adjudicate and interpret the law. The interpretation and adjudication of the law should be consistent with the earlier chapters so as to result in a coherent whole.

Just like a novel should make sense, with recurring characters and storylines, so too must the judges lay down the law which fits in with the earlier chapters. On the whole, this coherence should reflect the political ideal of a society. The law should operate to reflect this inherent integrity: a judge is bound by earlier pronouncements yet retains the independence to take the story forward — forward in essence, while retaining the overall conception of political morality in a society.

So, integrity — where the law should fit in with the rest of the picture to present a coherent whole — is the bedrock of a functioning legal system. The spirit of this integrity is to make decisions by choosing an interpretation that the judge believes best from the standpoint of political morality, one that reflects the aims and aspirations of the whole of society.

Integrity is, therefore, not a mechanism of ensuring continuity, but a political ideal that ensures that the institutions of state work together in a way so as to treat the political community on the basis of principles. This integrity cannot be achieved without the personal integrity of individuals within the institutions,

especially legal institutions, to ensure justice, fairness and a commitment to achieving those principles of political morality. Hence, the integrity of a judge is to be judged from their commitment to the principles of our political morality — principles such as respect for individual rights, liberty, a role for religion in society, freedom and accountability; integrity can also be gauged by the way a judge raises these issues in his or her judgements.

In this light, consider the recent judgement of Justice Babar Sattar where—in he initiated contempt proceedings, but in doing so, quite philosophically asked the following questions: is the rule of law to be treated as a device capable of producing nothing other than feel-good rhetoric in Pakistan, or is it to be regarded as a meaningful concept signifying a legal system that affords ordinary citizens the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution? Does our legal system have the ability to give effect to the protections the law affords to citizens, while simultaneously operationalising the obligations it imposes on the exercise of state power? Does our court system have the capacity to minimise the gap between a blackletter law and its enforcement such that the law serves a useful purpose in citizens' daily life and experience?

In asking and then attempting to answer these questions, there is a display of immutable integrity — both personal and professional. If integrity is to provide an answer to these existential questions regarding our state and society, the starting point must be integrity within. -- Courtesy Dawn

## State's failure

Huma Yusuf

A throng of men encircle leaping flames. They are energised, holding mobile phones aloft to capture the moment. By now, we all know what they are filming, and we are shocked, sickened, scared. Those who feel distanced from this horrific violence — immune by virtue of their class privilege or majority status — should look again. This is what state failure looks like, and it affects us all.

Mob violence is ascendant in Pakistan. And when mobs gather to beat, break and burn, the public focus is on how the state failed in the moment; how it failed to anticipate the violence, defuse the situation or use law-enforcement tactics to control the mob. Police officials are re-posted and inquiries launched, but often to no avail. And so we also recognise impunity as a form of state failure — from Joseph Colony to Jaranwala, none that have joined mobs have faced the legal consequences.

What we have not yet fully acknowledged is that state failure is evident not only in the state's inability to control and punish mobs, but in their very existence. The truth is the mob exists because the state is weak and compromised enough that it needs the mob to survive, to perpetuate its power. In her work on Vigilantes and the State, Rebecca Tapscott argues that in low-capacity states, particularly where militaries have dominated, state institutions often collaborate with 'informal' and 'non-state violent groups' to enforce their writ.

In Pakistan, the mob is an extension of a semi-authoritarian, hyper-nationalist security state that has peddled religious-national narratives as a way to ensure political control. The entrenchment

of these narratives has required the cultivation of proxies, including violent extremist groups. It has also required the introduction of flawed legislation that is consistently and perversely abused at the expense of the most vulnerable, our religious minorities and other marginalised groups. At the grassroots level, these security policies and laws manifest as the mob.

When mobs in Pakistan mobilise, they do so confident in the knowledge that they are on the side of might, that they are enacting the secret desires of the powers that be, that they are finishing what the state started. The problem with such complexity is that it soon becomes co-option. As the weak response to Madyan and countless similar atrocities have shown, after a point, it's the mob that's in control.

We are not alone in this devolution. Across the border, Hindutva vigilantes emboldened by the BJP's political agenda have carried out lynchings on absurd pretences such as 'love jihad' and the treatment of cows. But the prevalence of a problem does not temper its severity.

Indeed, when the mob is an extension of the state, it is normalised, and mob violence becomes a rational means to an end. Think of Karachi, where the police have had to rescue robbers from lynch mobs intent on doling out their own version of justice. Or consider the chaos in Peshawar lately, where a mob took control of a grid station to protest loadshedding. This mob was duly egged on by a parliamentarian who has clearly internalised the fact that where the mob goes, there lies power.

What is to be done? Too often, the focus is on the quick fix to manage

the state's failure in the moment. And so there is lip service to police trainings and judicial reviews of incidents. The more ambitious among us call for a strengthening of the democratic system to ensure better accountability and, ultimately (hopefully) deterrence.

But strengthening democracy is no easy task. As Francis Fukuyama wrote, "before you can have a democracy, you must have a state, but to have a legitimate and therefore durable state you must have democracy." Mad-yy--an highlights our st--a--te failure is, and so, how much more challenging the task of building an inclusive democratic system.

We can achieve little until we shift our understanding of mob violence as a moment of madness in which state control failed to the recognition of mob violence as an extension of the state. To address the problem, we must diagnose it, and this will require a full reckoning with our political history, a rewriting of our national policies and narratives, starting with a review of the public curriculum.

To his credit, Ahsan Iqbal started on this path by recommending to parliament that a committee including ulama be formed to consider how religion is being weaponised in Pakistan.

His remarks were shushed and side-lined by the speaker, emphasising how the state and the mob are conflated. It is difficult to confront and disperse a mob — especially one rallied over decades, even centuries, of postcolonial history. But we must find a way, starting with seeing the mob for what it is: our state, and so by extension, us. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Aurangzeb assures consideration of PBC budget proposals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday assured Pakistan Business Council (PBC) that its recommendations would be considered in the finalization of the budget for FY 2024-25 to whatever extent possible.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, a delegation of Pakistan Business Council (PBC) led by Chairman PBC, Shabbir Diwan called on the minister.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervez Malik, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana also attended the meeting.

The PCB delegation appreciated the ongoing efforts of government and discussed the Federal Budget 2024-25 with the finance minister.

They also presented specific suggestions and tax proposals for consideration.

The minister acknowledged and thanked the PBC for their insights.

He also highlighted the FBR's ongoing efforts aimed at broadening the tax base and bringing retailers in tax net.

Aurangzeb assured that decisions would be made through mutual consultation to ensure favorable outcomes for both the public and the business community.

**Online add:** A delegation of Pakistan Business Council led by its Chairman Shabbir Diwan called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the delegation of Pakistan Business Council (PBC) led by Mr. Shabbir Diwan.

## KMC council approved budget of Rs. 49,602.138m for FY 2024-25

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) council approved a budget of Rs. 49,602.138 million for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25 by majority vote.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab presented the budget in the KMC council on Monday for approval. The budget shows a surplus of Rs. 99.707 million.

The total income is estimated at Rs. 49,701.845 million, while the estimated expenditures are Rs. 49,602.138 million. Current Receipts is Rs. 39,718.132 million and Capital Receipts is Rs. 815.213 million, while funds for the District ADP are Rs. 9,168.500 million.

Establishment expenses are estimated at Rs. 27,846.975 million, contingent expenses at Rs. 3,176.048 million, repair and maintenance at Rs. 424.355 million, and development projects/works at Rs. 8,986.260 million.

## OEC to export nurses staff to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development would export the nurses staff to Saudi Arabia and all staff would be selected through the walk-in-interviews from the different dates and station including 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 Lahore Shalimar Tower Hotel Jail Road, Lahore.

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024 Pearl Continental (PC) Hotel Rawalpindi.

An official source told APP here on Monday, he said that ICU Nurse with diploma in general nursing or bachelor of science in nursing/ Post RN, at least 02-Years of experience in



ISLAMABAD: Vendors busy in checking the mangoes filled in wooden boxes before buying at Islamabad Fruit and Vegetable Market.

discussed the Federal Budget 2024-25 with the finance minister.

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## High level industrial delegation leaves for Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation led by Deputy Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday embarked on a three-day official visit to Turkmenistan.

The delegation, comprising senior officers from the Ministry of Industries and National Food Security is also accompanying the Federal Minister.

The delegation will engage in discussions on bilateral trade, economic relations, industrial and agricultural cooperation with Turkmenistan while cooperation in the energy sector will also discuss.

During the visit, the delegation is scheduled to meet with President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow and the national leader of Turkmenistan and chairman of the People's Council Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Doris, Al-Jassasiya and Chemtrans Ionian carrying chemicals, LNG and Mogas, berthed at Grain Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Sea Journey, Sinar Mendawai, Horizon-1 and Gaslog Geneva with Canola, Palm oil, LPG and LNG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

Four ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them none ship left the port on Monday. Cargo volume of 78,492 tonnes, comprising 68,668 tonnes imports cargo and 9,824 tonnes export cargo carried in 727 Containers (296 TEUs Imports and 431 TEUs export).



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee led by former MPA Malik Naseer Shahwani meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## 30% tax will be imposed on the money kept in the bank by non-filers: Atif

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Atif Ikram Sheikh, while talking about the budget anomalies, has said that 30% tax will be imposed on the money kept in the bank by non-filers, thirteen trillion rupees will be collected in a day. Expenses will have to be eliminated. Privatize everything in one year. We have proposed a five-line one-pager tax form. They should implement it. Five crore people will come into the tax net. We don't want a non-filer category, just a filer category. It is necessary that the business community stands with the country and the nation. The businessman-friendly scheme is good, but the non-bailable warrants are reprehensible. The tax culture has to be made respectable. Patron Chief Aptama and former caretaker minister Gohar



ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh, and Dr. Gohar Ejaz, former federal commerce minister, addressing a press briefing at FPCCI Capital Office, in the Federal Capital.

## SIAL installs 1.8MW solar power system

SIALKOT (APP): The Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) has announced the successful installation of a 1.8MW solar power system, a significant milestone in its journey towards achieving self-sustainability and reducing environmental impact.

In a press release, it said the move accentuates its commitment to sustainable development and innovative energy solutions. "The new solar power system is now operational, providing a substantial portion of the airport's energy requirements. This initiative will not only reduce our reliance on non-renewable energy sources but also contribute to significant cost savings and a reduction in our carbon footprint. The capacity of the installed solar system holds 1.8 Megawatts (MW) and is expected to produce approximately 2.4 million kWh annually," it added.

With a phenomenal environmental impact, it will help reduce approximately 1500 tons of CO2 emissions per year. The economic benefits of it will reflect a significant reduction in energy costs, contributing to long-term financial sustainability, it added. A spokesperson for the Sialkot International Airport expressed that the significant step aimed at energy self-sufficiency and environmental stewardship. "This solar power system aligns with our vision of a greener, more sustainable future for the aviation industry."



PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President, Fuad Ishaq addresses to media persons during press conference, at SCCI House in Peshawar.

## Every trade sector given due representation in policy making: FCCI

FAISALABAD (APP): Every trade, sector and sub-sector has been given due representation in policy making through standing committees concerned and their proactive role could make the FCCI more efficient, productive and result oriented, said Dr Sajjad Arshad, Senior Vice President, Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Addressing a meeting of conveners and co-conveners of the standing committees, he said that the FCCI provided a

## Training of young Pakistanis with assistance from Huawei to start next month: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Monday said that the training of young Pakistanis in information technology and artificial intelligence, with assistance from Huawei, will begin next month.

Participating in the budget debate, she said that during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, it was agreed that Huawei would train 200,000 young people in the information technology sector.

Shaza Fatima said that the present government is taking effective steps to promote Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the country.

She said that under

## Gold rates up by Rs.500 per tola to Rs.242,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs.242,000 on Monday against its sale at Rs.241,500 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.429 to Rs.207,476 from Rs.207,047 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.190,186 from Rs.189,793, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,850 and Rs.2,443.41 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$8 to \$2,328 from \$2,320, the Association reported.

## Pakistan's regional exports increase 20% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 20.61 per cent in the first eleven months of the financial year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year.

"The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$4043.371 million, which is 14.09 per cent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$28,678.265 million during July-May (2023-24)," State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of technology company ZTE called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

## ZTE delegation calls on Minister of State for IT

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of tech company ZTE called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Monday.

The matters related to smart phones manufacturing, fiberization, and skills & trainings were discussed in the meeting, said a news release.

Member Telecom, MoIT, Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim was also present in the meeting.

## Tokyo stocks end higher

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo shares ended higher on Monday, supported by a cheaper yen against the dollar following falls on Wall Street and losses in early trade for the key Nikkei index.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was up 0.54 percent, or 208.18 points, to end at 38,804.65, while the broader Topix index added 0.57 percent, or 15.50 points, to 2,740.19.

The dollar fetched 159.71 yen, against 159.90 in Tokyo's early hours.

## Pak mangoes arrive in China, delighting e-commerce shoppers with sweet flavors

BEIJING (APP): Chinese consumers are able to enjoy the sweet taste of Pakistani mangoes, as 800 cartons of the prized fruit arrived in China.

This shipment, weighing over 3 tons (3,200 kilograms), marks the latest collaboration between Zhitong Batic Ltd in Guangzhou, China and MERA P C Solutions in Pakistan.

The mangoes, renowned as the "King of Fruits" in Pakistan, are available for purchase through various Chinese e-commerce platforms, including JD.com's Pakistan Pavilion, Douyin shops, and WeChat accounts. This is the first batch of mangoes imported by Zhitong Batic company this year. They hit the shelves in China at a price of 168 yuan per carton, inclusive of express delivery. Each carton contains mangoes with a net weight of 4 to 4.2 kilograms.

Cindy Chen, regional director of the company, told local media that they had carefully selected two varieties, Sindhri and Chaunsa, which are widely considered the tastiest in Pakistan.

"Pakistan boasts over 300 mango varieties. We partner with premium mango orchards, providing guidance on variety selection, cultivation techniques, harvesting, and packaging," said Chen. "Pakistani mangoes are grown naturally, using traditional methods and naturally fermented fertilizers without artificial growth enhancers or bagging."

This ensures a pure mango flavor that Chinese consumers love.

To maintain the unique taste of Pakistani mangoes while ensuring smooth logistics, a rigorous process is followed from orchards to consumers. Mangoes are harvested, heat-treated and packed before being transported by cold chain to Pakistani airports for air shipment to China. Domestic delivery in China is then handled by SF Express, ensuring freshness and quality.

The company once faced challenges in preserving the freshness of mangoes during transportation.

## Sargodha, Swat mob lynchings Senate unanimously passes resolution “unequivocally condemning”

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday unanimously approved the resolution unequivocally condemning mob lynching incidents occurred in Sargodha and Swat and demanded the federal and provincial governments to ensure public safety of all including that of vulnerable communities and minorities. Speaking on the floor of the House, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman amid ruckus of the Opposition members’ protest said counter terrorism operations across the country were critical to stem the menace of terrorism resurgence.

“Do PTI want instability, extremism and violence against minorities? I am shocked to see that PTI members in the National Assembly didn’t sign the resolution on Swat mob lynching incident that demanded not to weaponise religion and extremism. They have learnt no lesson from the past,” she said.

She added that the attitude of PTI lawmakers was disgrace to 90,000 civilians and armed forces’ martyrs who sacrificed their lives in war on terror.

The Senator read the Resolution while tabling it at the floor of the House, saying, “The House unequivocally condemns the recent mob lynching in Swat and Sargodha of persons accused of offences pertaining to religion. The right to life is the most fundamental right as guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan.



QUETTA: Chief of JUI Maulana Fazalur Rehman meeting with Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani.

## Chinese experts to visit Pakistan at end of June

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Chinese experts from various fields is scheduled to visit Pakistan at the end of June, aiming to foster innovation, technology transfer, and capacity building.

In preparation for this visit, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chaired a high-level meeting, under the directive of the prime minister, said a press release.

Senior officials from federal ministries and heads of various sectors participated, highlighting the importance of this collaboration.

Ahsan Iqbal directed the ministries to develop a comprehensive roadmap to maximize the benefits of the experts’ visit.

He said that the focus will be on capacity building of Pakistani experts through training and knowledge sharing, learning from China’s experience in innovation and technological advancements, adapting innovative solutions to Pakistan’s specific needs, and skill development in key sectors.

The minister directed the line ministries to be selective and strategic, focusing on areas where China has significant experience that could be shared with Pakistani professionals.

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QUETTA: Opposition leader in Balochistan Assembly Mir Younis Aziz Zehri meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

## IHC wraps up petition seeking recovery of missing citizen of Azad Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has wrapped up petition filed in connection with recovery of missing citizen of Azad Kashmir.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani remarked ok the man has been traced. Now you can resort to proper forum according to law.

He gave these remarks during hearing of petition regarding recovery of missing citizen of Azad Kashmir Khurshid Ahmad here Monday.

Director legal of ministry of defence appeared in the court.

During the hearing of the case Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Dogal told the court Khurshid Ahmad is in the custody of military on the charges of espionage.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani remarked ok information about whereabouts of man has come.

The court directed the counsel for the petitioner he can approach the proper forum as per law.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani inquired is he retired from military.

## China-Pak Health Chinese modern technologies to boost Pakistan’s healthcare system

BEIJING (APP): Chinese modern technologies are set to revolutionize Pakistan’s healthcare system through the ambitious China-Pakistan Health Corridor initiative. This collaborative effort aims to enhance medical infrastructure, improve patient care, and streamline health services across Pakistan,” said Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of China Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA).

Addressing the launching ceremony of the Medical Device Innovation Center of Lingang New Area and the International Cooperation and Exchange Conference on Medical Technology with the theme of “Promoting High-level Opening and Creating a Great Health Era” on Saturday in Liangang, Shanghai, he said that by integrating advanced technologies and expertise from China, the initiative promised to address critical healthcare challenges, ensuring better health outcomes and increased access to quality medical services for millions of Pakistanis.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat chairing a meeting regarding preparation for upcoming monsoon rains.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti expressing his views during Balochistan Assembly session

## MNAs underline need for fair distribution of resources among provinces in Budget debate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The parliamentarians on Monday underlined on taking measures for the fair distribution of resources, to bring foreign direct investment and also provide education of the youth for sustainable economic growth in the budget 2024.

They also stressed the need for reviewing the 7th National Finance Commission (NFC) Award and fair distribution of resources among the provinces, which will not only make the federation stronger, but also the country’s economy achieves the sustainable development goals.

The lawmakers also emphasized for providing more resources for the agriculture sector, which is the backbone of the country’s economy and also stressed for increasing the role of youth in the country’s economy.

Participating in the budget debate, Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur, MNA of PPP said that the government has presented the budget 2024-25 in a time of huge economic challenges and now the government needs to take necessary steps for sustainable economic development.

The PPP leader said that agriculture is the pivotal sector of the country’s economy, for which more allocation is needed in the budget 2024-25.

He said that in budget 2024-25 tax has been proposed on agricultural inputs, which is the biggest sector in the country’s GDP growth and is the guarantor of the country’s economic development.

Talpur said that the National Finance Commission (NFC) award needs to be revised so that the resources can be distributed fairly among the provinces and the federation can be strengthened.

He said that the country’s economy and the federation will be strengthened by fair distribution of resources.

Ch Bilal Ejaz, MNA of Sunni Ittehad Council said that more resources need to be allocated for education, health and agriculture in the budget 2024-25.

He said that Pakistan has a large youth population and there is a need for more allocation in the budget for the youth.

He said that there will be sustainable economic development in the country by equal distribution of resources and making the youth educated and skilled.

He said that only with freedom of expression in the country, the democratic culture will be promoted and the country’s economy will also be strengthened.

Ms. Shahida Rehmani, MNA of PPP said on the occasion that there is a need for tax reforms and also to tax net increase in the country, which will make the country’s economy sustainable.

## Maulana Fazal condoles death of Maulana Siddiq Mengal with son

QUETTA: The central leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Fazalur Rehman condoled the death of provincial Naib Ameer of JUI and President of Khuzdar Press Club, Maulana Muhammad Siddiq Mengal with his son, Maulana Fazalur Rehman here on Monday.

During meeting with son of Maulana Siddiq Mengal, the JUI Chief offered for his departed soul and inquired about his family.

He also expressed his best wishes for the bereaved family of Maulana Siddiq Mengal.

The JUI Quaid also highlighted the invaluable services of Maulana Siddiq Mengal for the religion of Islam.

## Rare leopard killed by villagers in Dera Bugti

DERA BUGTI (INP): A group of armed villagers in Balochistan’s Dera Bugti killed a rare leopard after finding the animal in the vicinity of Sui. As per details, the villagers after spotting the leopard chased it and killed it in its den. After killing the predator, the villagers dragged its body from the den and filmed it.

The villagers said they killed the predator because it was attacking their goats. The district administration has so far not taken any action regarding the killing of the endangered species, but people on social media have expressed sorrow over the villagers’ act of killing the rare animal.



NASERABAD: Heavy machineries busy in cleaning and maintenance Rabi Canal during cleanliness drive under the supervision of Irrigation Department, in Naserabad.

## Limit of Taxable income of salaried class may be increased: Senator Faisal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary leader of Muttahidda Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQMP) in the upper house Senator Faisal Sabzwari on Monday advised the government to increase the limit of Taxable income of salaried class and the tax burden may be decreased.

Taking part in the budget debate, the senator said that all stakeholders are well aware with the difficulties of the country however the existing tax system cannot alone provide a solution to get out of the economic trap. He said people will pay taxes voluntarily if the burden on them is decreased and in the meantime untaxed areas may be found.

Farmer should be given blanket exemption, said the senator adding that indirect taxes are more ruthless and they are common Pakistani are paying tax more than his capacity through indirect taxes.

“We must think out of the box” said the senator suggesting that the provinces should be taken on board for the repayment of debt and none of the province should be allowed to return the lapsed budget.



QUETTA: Senator Bilal Ahmed Khan Mandokhel condoled the death of Senator Faisal Sabzwari.

## PM Shehbaz, Bill Gates for continuing efforts to eradicate polio, strengthen health system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chair of Gates Foundation Bill Gates on Monday agreed to continue working together to not only eradicate polio, but also to strengthen health systems across the provinces, and to ensure prosperity for all Pakistanis, especially women and girls.

During a meeting at the PM House, the prime minister reiterated the firm commitment to eradicating polio as it remained the highest priority for the government and emphasized that all resources of the state would be employed to provide security to the polio workers.

“I will personally monitor national efforts until the crippling disease is wiped-out from our soil.”

Bill Gates visited Pakistan at the invitation of the prime minister which he extended during his meeting with him in Riyadh on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

Welcoming Mr Gates on his visit to Pakistan, the prime minister updated him about the government’s efforts to achieve economic stability and key advances in digital financial services, increased health coverage, climate change adaptation and efforts to eradicate polio. The prime minister deeply appreciated the Gates Foundation’s valuable support for the government’s initiatives to digitize the economy.

A digitized eco-system of the entire government structure would result in enhanced revenues that would help improve governance and the government would be able to spend more on public welfare schemes, he added.

PM Shehbaz underlined that both the Government of Pakistan and Gates Foundation shared many goals including closing the gender gap, increasing health coverage, improving food security, climate change adaptation, and financial inclusion. He updated Bill Gates about key metrics of the progress made and the challenges faced in these areas.

Thanking the Gates Foundation for being the largest donor for the polio eradication programme, the prime minister outlined a robust and focused strategy to counter threats of increased wild poliovirus infections and the actions needed to overcome the challenge to completely wipe out the disease in Pakistan.

Bill Gates thanked the prime minister for his continued dedication and personal interest in eradicating wild polio from the country. He also expressed his confidence that with a sustained vaccination campaign and firm commitment of the government, polio eradication drive would get back on track to end polio following the recent surge in environmental detections.



TULA: Pakistan Military Attache to Russian Federation Brig Muhammad Asif Khan alongwith Pakistan Military Cadets who are participating in games in Russian city of Tula after the opening ceremony.

## Rs. 10 billion allocated in provincial budget: CM assures to deal with matters of solarization of agri. tube wells soon

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has assured that the matters about solarization of agriculture tube wells would be dealt with soon.

He said that the provincial government has allocated Rs. 10 billion for the project of solarization in the next financial year.

The Chief Minister was speaking to a delegation of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee who called on him under leadership of its chairman, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoab Nausherwani, Secretary Finance were also present.

The matters about shifting the agricultural tube wells on solar energy were discussed between the Chief Minister and zamindars.

During the course of meeting, Chief Minister contacted the Federal Secretary Power Division, who informed that the matters about solarization project were delayed due to business in the federal budget.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that the complaints about electricity shortage would be decreased after solarization of the agricultural tube wells in the province.

He said that the load shedding of electricity could be ended if the consumers paid their utility bills well in time.

He stressed the need to create awareness about payment of their utility bills and urged the elected representatives to launch awareness in this regard.



FAISALABAD: Lawyer Babar Awan talking to the media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court in the city.

## Pakistan’s economy hinges on stability, security: Mushahid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on Monday said that political stability and security are vital for boosting economy of this country.

Improved security conditions and political stability are crucial for attracting foreign investment in this part of the region, he said while talking to a private news channel.

In the past, our security operations, like Zarb-e-Azb, Radd-ul-Fasaad and Rah-e-Nijat had been successful due to political support of the governments, he said adding that Azm-e-Istehkam could achieve the results if the political parties and stakeholders fully cooperate with the incumbent government.

Replying to a question about the achievement of the last operations, he said that in the Army Public School (APS) tragic incident, the then prime minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif, called a meeting of all political parties to formulate a National Action Plan (NAP) to launch the action against the miscreants and terrorists, he added.

## Occupation and encroachments on drainage nullahs not acceptable at all, asserts Commissioner Quetta

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has warned that occupation and encroachments on the drainage nullahs is not acceptable at all and as such action would remain continued against those involved in the encroachments.

The Commissioner directed to the concerned staff to ensure timely cleaning of the nullahs and clear the choke points there.

The Commissioner was chairing a meeting on advance preparations in view of the expected heavy rains in Quetta division here on Monday.

The Additional Commissioner Quetta, Soban Dashti, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners of all the districts of division, Project Director of Quetta Development Package as well as representatives of the Communication and Works, Irrigation, Metropolitan Corporation, FC, Agriculture and other departments were in attendance.

The meeting was informed that heavy rains are expected in the monsoon season this year.

This has caused flash flood and urban flooding in different parts of the division, it was feared.

It was decided to complete the necessary preparations in advance by all the concerned departments.

In this regard, all the Deputy Commissioners were directed to prepare the contingency plan and put all the departments on alert taking timely measures in their respective districts.

The Commissioner directed to take steps for draining of the rain water particularly at Imdad Chowk, Zarghoon road, Eastern bypass, Gahi Khan chowk and university chowk.

It was recommended to enforce section 144 for stopping constructions and ending encroachments at the drainage nullahs in different localities of Quetta city.