

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 136 Zilhajj 18, 1445 AH Tuesday June 25 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

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

**Calls for taking stern action against hardcore criminals involved in heinous crimes**

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 emphasised 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.

The President was briefed about the law-and-order situation in Sindh and the implementation status of the directions given during the last meeting held on 1st May 2024. He was apprised that the crimes and violence in Sindh, especially in Karachi and Kacha Areas, had witnessed a declining trend due to the effective strategy

adopted by the police and Rangers.

IG Police said that dacoit activities had been considerably reduced and no highways-related crime had been reported in the past two months. It was highlighted that targeted operations and installation of smart cameras had helped control crimes and identify and arrest criminals and their abettors. DG Rangers told the meeting that 133 joint operations had been conducted by the Sindh Police and the Rangers which led to the arrest of hundreds of dacoits and criminals.



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



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah addresses during provincial assembly session on Budget 2024-25, held at Sindh Assembly building

## CM Sindh visits Sukkur barrage, inspected repair work of gates

SUKKUR (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday visited the Sukkur Barrage to inspect the situation and repair works of gates No 44 and 47.

The Secretary Irrigation, Zareef Khoro briefed the Chief Minister about the extent of the damage and combating the emergent situation that necessary repair works of both gates were started on an emergency basis by utilising all available resources with the

irrigation department. He said that the Irrigation Department is determined to repair both gates and restore supplies to all canals off-taking from Sukkur Barrage today.

CM Sindh said that a five-member investigative committee has been already formed to probe into the damage to the gates of Sukkur Barrage and to determine the cause of damage.

He said that the committee has also been directed to determine the causes of the incident.



SUKKUR: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah inspecting repair work of Sukkur Barrage Gate No. 47 and 44, these gates have been severely damaged by water flow, during his visit in Sukkur

## Shoro assures prompt action to restore Water Supply

SUKKUR (APP): Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro on Monday has announced that concerted efforts are underway to restore water supply to the canals by expeditiously activating the Sukkur Barrage.

The minister's statement comes as a relief to farmers and agriculturalists in the region, who have been facing severe water scarcity due to damage to the barrage's gates.

Minister Shoro has assured that the necessary repairs and maintenance work are being carried out on a war footing to ensure that the barrage is restored to its optimal functioning level. The minister has also directed the concerned authorities to take all necessary measures to minimize the disruption to

water supply and ensure that the canals are replenished at the earliest.

The prompt action is expected to bring relief to millions of farmers in Sindh, who are dependent on the water supply from the Sukkur Barrage for their crops. The minister's assurance has come as a breather for the agricultural sector in the region, which was facing severe distress due to the damage to the barrage.

In a statement released from Sukkur, Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro provided an update on the repair works at Sukkur Barrage. The Minister announced that the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Gate No. 47 has been prepared, paving the way for its restoration.

## 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.

The final decision on giving vote in connection with budget or otherwise will be made by parliamentary party. During the meeting the statements of PML-N members against PPP will also be reviewed. Parliamentary party will also be informed about talks with PML-N.

During the meeting the proposals will be sought from PPP assembly members on the matter of giving vote on budget. Parliamentary party will be given briefing on talks with government.

Parliamentary party will be taken into confidence on the agreement with government.

## 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.

## 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 reply added.

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 Minalah suspended the verdict pertaining to the allocation of reserved seats to other political parties.

## Mini grids to be set up in each district of Sindh: Nasir Shah

SUKKUR (APP): Provincial Minister for Energy, Sindh, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah Monday said that the electricity generated from the solar park will be supplied to people. He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of newly constructed road with solar lights here.

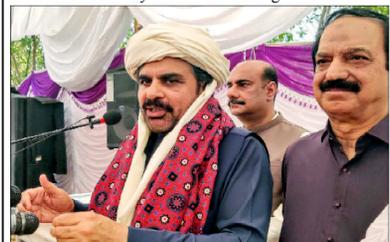
He said that people of the Sindh Province are the foremost priority of the Sindh government. We are not in the federal government fold still we are running governments in two provinces, he said.

He said that Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has promised 300 units free electricity to the

people, as around two million households have no electric supply connections in Sindh. "In the first phase we will supply solar panels electricity to them, he added".

The Energy Minister said that mini-grids will be set up in small localities in each district of the province to provide affordable and environment-friendly electricity. If this model project succeeds it will go ahead further, the Minister said.

Nasir Hussain Shah said that he has requested the Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) Chief to bring the load shedding hours down in this sweltering hot weather.



Sindh Minister of Energy Affairs and Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah addresses during inauguration ceremony of SEPCO Regional Training Center, held in Sukkur

## DPM Dar lauds Pakistani women's contributions in diplomacy

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world observes the International Day of Women in Diplomacy on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar appreciated the services and contributions of Pakistani women in the field of diplomacy.

At the UNGA's 76th Session, the United Nations General Assembly by consensus declared the 24th of June each year to be the International Day of Women in Diplomacy. The deputy prime minister wrote on his X timeline that throughout the country's history, Pakistani women had made tremendous contributions in the field of diplomacy.

"Stalwarts like Begum Raana Liaquat Ali Khan, Madam Shaista Ikramullah, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and many others broke barriers and set the path for hundreds of women diplomats who continue to represent Pakistan on the international stage with grace and dignity," he remarked.

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

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 eliminate 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 in our 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 pro-

duce 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. The prime minister told Bill Gates that they held a holistic security conference the other day and held lengthy discussions to counter surge of terrorism and other relevant security issues. He called his meeting with Bill Gates in Riyadh on the sidelines of World Economic Forum (WEF), the prime minister said that they had held comprehensive discussions on polio eradication and health related issues of Pakistan.



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

## Governor Sindh stresses to promote tourism sites of country, cultural activities for youngsters

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori Monday stressed for the promotion of tourists sites in the country to strengthen Pakistan's economy and enhance 'cultural activities' for youngsters to enable them to be future leaders and effective contributors for society.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan is blessed with numerous tourist attractions, from civilizations of antiquity to unique heritage including diverse topography from mountains to beaches and religious sites, adding, we need to project the right image of the country to the outside world.

He said present government is committed and taking all possible steps to improve the basic infrastructure including the road network, water and sanitation, safety and security for the promotion of country tourism.

He said government will continuously focus on niche tourism segments such as business events, Eco-tourism, community-based tourism (CBT), medical and wellness, education, and experiential travel to bring more tourists in the country, adding, we want to promote local cuisine as part of our cultural heritage and strengthen local culinary identity.

He further pointed out that there is also need to work on new mechanisms that contribute to boosting tourism between other countries, while we need to focus on increasing the number of flights between other nations. He stressed the need to further strengthen cultural relations and enhance joint cultural activities with brotherly countries to strengthen cultural and people-to-people relations which will produce positive results.

The Governor Sindh also admired hill station of Murree and heaven like valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan which are a matter of immense attraction for tourists all around the world.



KARACHI: Opposition members of district government are holding protest demonstration against Districts Councils Budget 2024-25 during district assembly annual budget session presided by Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, held at Old KMC building

# Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Tuesday June 25, 2024

## 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 "blurred".

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 Bareilly 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 ulema 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 of the 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 respective Categories. CCU Nurse, NICU Nurse, ER Nurse, PICU Nurse, MICU Nurse, Oncology ICU Nurse, Neuro ICU Nurse, Surgical ICU Nurse and LDR Nurse. He said that the following details of facilities which will be entitled to the employee are as follows accommodation and transport will be provided by the company, over time as per Saudi Labor Law, free return ticket after one year, 21 days paid holidays every year. The Candidates must bring their original Diplomas, CNIC, updated CV+ 02 Passport Size Picture. Interested applicants can apply via OEC's website <https://oec.gov.pk/>



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

Aurangzeb at Finance Division Monday. Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervez Malik, Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana also attended the meeting. The 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 Finance Minister acknowledged and thanked the Pakistan Business Council for its insights. He assured that their recommendations will be considered in the finalization of the budget to whatever extent

## High level industrial delegation leaves for Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation led by Federal 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, Foad 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 favorable environment to the standing committees to identify their sector specific problems along with their viable solutions and recommendations. He said that the issues identified by the standing committees are raised at local, provincial and federal level for their solutions and creating maximum facilitation for them. He himself minutely studies the minutes of every standing committee and their workable recommendations are forwarded to the concerned department.

## 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 the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the youth of the country are being given training in information technology. She said that the youth make up 70 percent of the country's population and the government is determined to equip them with IT training so they can secure jobs. She said that the government would train around 150,000 young people in the IT sector, who will then play a vital role in the country's economy. The minister said that a three to six-month IT course would enable the youth to earn a respectable income in both local and international markets. She recalled that during the government of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif,

## 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 neighbouring, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Pakistan carried out its border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives. Pakistan's exports to China witnessed an increase of 35.61 per cent to \$2,553.481 million in eleven months of this year from \$1,889.195 million last year while exports to Afghanistan also witnessed an increase of 6.12 percent from \$478.614 million to \$507.935 million. The country's exports to Bangladesh decreased by 14.56 percent to \$605.744 million this year from \$709.050 million whereas exports to Sri Lanka rose by 36.68 percent to \$361.690 million.



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 technique, 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.

## 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.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting of National Task Force on Polio Eradication..

## Chairmen Senate Committees elected

ISLAMABAD (Online): In three separate sessions held today at the Parliament House, Senator Taj Haider, Senator Jan Muhammad, and Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan were elected as Chairmen of the Senate Committees on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, States and Frontier Regions, and National Food Security and Research, respectively, in accordance with Rule 184(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate 2012.

The Senate Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges convened at the Parliament House to elect its Chairman today. Senator Taj Haider, nominated by Senator Prof. Sajid Mir and seconded by Senator Dost Ali Jeasar, assumed the role of Chairman. Senator Taj Haider expressed gratitude to the committee members for their confidence in his leadership, pledging to steer the committee forward with unwavering dedication and collaboration.

Earlier, the Senate Standing Committee on States and Frontier Regions elected Senator Jan Muhammad as its Chairman. Senator Jan Muhammad was nominated by Syed Masroor Ahsan and seconded by Senator Dost Muhammad Khan.

Similarly, in a separate proceeding, Senator Rahat Jamali proposed Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan as Chairman of the Senate Committee on National Food Security and Research in a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research. The nomination received endorsement from Senator Dost Muhammad Khan, resulting in Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan assuming the chairmanship unopposed.

The newly appointed chairpersons extended their appreciation to all participants and affirmed their commitment to ensuring the effective functioning of their respective committees with the full support of its members.



KARACHI: Residents of Jahangirabad protesting against the shortage of water and load shedding of electricity at Chandni Chowk in Paposh Nagar by burning wood

## Mayor Karachi vows to improve healthcare facilities to provide relief to people

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that our goal is to improve healthcare facilities to provide relief to people during the times of inflation, and we remain committed.

He expressed these views while speaking to media representatives on Monday after inaugurating the dental unit and nursery at Gizri Maternity Home.

He said that over the past year, 14 hospitals under the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation have been improved. The Sindh government of the Pakistan Peoples Party has assisted us in this matter and the journey of improvement in the city will continue in the same manner, he added.

On this occasion, Mayor Karachi's representative for political affairs Karamullah Waqasi and others were also present. Murtaza Wahab said that this old hospital in Gizri was privatized at one time and the private organization was charging heavily for treatment here when we came here KMC again activated and work started. We were determined to improve this hospital, and soon people started seeing significant changes here, he said.

He said that in Gizri

Maternity Home, we have taken steps to improve the wards, and with the establishment of the dental unit and nursery, this maternity home will be able to serve the people of this area even better. In this hospital, OPD costs Rs 20, and ultrasound is available for Rs 150. Delivery service is available for only Rs 2000, and root canal service is provided for Rs 500.

He said that we corrected the gynecology ward of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and established a child health institution there. Dental system is running successfully in ASH, since the time Jiyala mayor came, the nursing department has been made operational.

Likewise Saffraz Rafiqi Shaheed Hospital was not operational but we provided facilities at Karfaraz Rafiqi Shaheed Hospital, and now dental services and sugar tests are announced in this hospital.

He said that the leadership of the Pakistan Peoples Party activated the nursing school at Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases, which will improve the economic conditions of 130 families. We have overcome the challenge of the past year, and hospitals facing water issues will be addressed on a priority basis.

## 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 revived 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.

The PPPP leader said that the untapped resources of the country should be explored and used for the economic development of the country.

She said that the budget deficit is a big issue in the country at present, which needs revenue collection to reduce it in the coming budget.

Shahida stressed for allocating more money in the budget 2024-25 to make the youth educated and skilled for providing them employment opportunities.

Iqbal Khan Mahsud, MNA of MQM emphasized for bringing foreign direct investment in the country at this time of economic challenges and the vision of SIFC is significant in this regard. The MQM leader said that currently the trade councilors posted in foreign embassies of Pakistan need to be mobilized for increasing foreign investment and export in the country for economic growth.

## Country Director WB calls on Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Country Director World Bank, Njay Benhassine on Monday called on Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and discussed the progress and current status of the ongoing projects supported by the World Bank. During the meeting Ahsan Iqbal expressed his gratitude for the continuous support provided by the World Bank and emphasized the importance of expediting the implementation of various project components and instructed the relevant authorities to accelerate their execution to ensure timely completion. The minister also highlighted the comprehensive nature of the "5Es Framework"

that encompasses all the important sectors. He noted that development partners, including the World Bank, regard this framework as crucial for achieving sustainable development and success.

The minister also discussed about the development of Pakistan's 20 poorest districts, with a significant portion, 11 out of 20, located in Baluchistan. He underscored the government's commitment to improving living conditions in these areas.

by enhancing food security, shelter, healthcare, and education facilities. He also outlined plans for large-scale infrastructure projects aimed at uplifting these districts.



LARKANA: District Education Officer (DEO), Gulbahar Magri presided over the meeting on issues of school codes and Sindh Education Management Information System (SEMIS) held at his office

## Punjab Assembly resolution condemns blasphemy incidents, seeks protection for citizens

LAHORE (INP): A resolution unanimously passed by the Punjab Assembly on Monday strongly condemned the blasphemy incidents and sought protection for all citizens.

The provincial assembly resolution comes in the backdrop of the lynching of tourist in Swat over the allegations of desecration of the Holy Quran.

A local tourist, suspect of blasphemy was tortured to death by violent mob and later set his body as well as the police station ablaze, where he was kept after allegations.

The resolution, moved by PML-N lawmaker Raheela Khadim Hussain, stated that incidents of blasphemy are

"extremely worrying" and "cannot be tolerated in any civilized society."

"This House strongly condemns the horrific and condemnable incidents of blasphemy and demands that the government ensure the protection of all citizens.

The government should take immediate and necessary steps to identify and prosecute those involved in such incidents," the resolution reads.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan said that such incidents are a violation of the Constitution, which guarantees equal protection to all citizens.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary leader of Mutahidda 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 un-taxed areas may be found.

Farmer should be given blanket exemption, said the senator adding that indirect taxes are more ruthless and they a 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.

to the government for the payment of IMF.

Senator Faisal Vawda taking part in the budget debate said that this budget will be approved by the house at all costs and latter the government will privatize the sick units.

## 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 what heaven had fallen that that

you promulgated ordinance 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.

## Two people shot dead, body of man found

KARACHI (INP): Two people a girl and a teenager were shot dead while body of a man was found from a flat in different localities of the metropolis, police said on Monday.

According to details, unidentified culprits gunned down 22-year-old Ambar in Sector 9 E of Orangi Town and escape the scene.

Matriculation student Ali Raza 14, was critically injured after shot by unknown accused while sleeping

on roof top of his house in Korangi Town. He was rushed to hospital but succumbed his wounds during treatment.

Body of a man identified as Asif was recovered from a flat located in Allah Wala area of Korangi Town.

The bodies were shifted to different hospitals and police after registering separate cases in all incidents at respective police stations started investigations.



HYDERABAD: View of water level increasing in the Phuleli Canal while many nearby residents evacuate from their homes due to increased water level and over flowing canal water



SUKKUR: Activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and high inflated electricity bills, at Sukkur press club

## 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.

He instructed that, according to the 80/20 rule, the ministries should focus the 20% of areas that could provide 80% of the results.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Mahmood Khan Achakzai said on Monday that parliament, as the representative of the people of Pakistan, has the authority to make decisions for their welfare.

Participating in the budget debate, he said that people have elected mem-

bers 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.

## PTI stages protest outside UK PM's residence

LONDON (INP): PTI UK Chapter held a protest demonstration in front of 10 Downing Street, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's residence in London, on Sunday and demanded the release of former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan and other incarcerated leaders of the party.

A large number of party leaders and workers, including former federal minister Zulfi Bukhari, former National Assembly (NA) deputy speaker Qasim Suri, PTI stalwart Sher Afzal Marwat, Sahibzada Amir Jahangir, Sajjad Bukhari, Asim Khan and Khalil Imran, were present on the occasion.

Holding banners, placards and the party flags in their hands, PTI workers kept raising slogans vigorously.

Speaking to the protestors, PTI leaders said

that back in Pakistan, senior party leaders and workers, including women, had been put in jails only to victimize them for their association with the PTI.

Basic human rights were being violated in jails with complete impunity, they alleged.

They further said that there was a fake Form-47 government in Pakistan that had destroyed the country's economy.

The speakers said that the PTI was not allowed to protest inside Pakistan, but overseas Pakistanis, who stood by Imran Khan, would continue to raise their voice against injustices and excesses being committed against the PTI founder as well as other party leaders.

They vowed that they would not relent unless Imran Khan and other incarcerated party leaders were set free.