

# Independent

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## Govt authorizes phone tapping for national security, crime prevention

Granting blanket powers of phone tapping to ISI deplorable: PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan government has authorized Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to phone tapping in the context of national security and crime prevention. This authorization has been given to the ISI under Section 54 of the Pakistan Telecommunication Act. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication has issued a gazette notification to this effect. According to the notification, at least an officer of grade 18 will be appointed for this task. The notification also grants the authority to trace calls, messages, and any form of communication. Last month, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) ruled that any action of phone tapping without a legal mechanism as 'illegal' and turned down the additional attorney general's request for an in-chamber hearing in the audio leaks case. IHC's Justice Babar Sattar presided

over the hearing of the petitions filed by former first lady Bushra Bibi and ex-CJP's son Najam Saqib regarding the audio leaks. During the proceedings, Additional Attorney General (AAG) Manoor Iqbal Dogal informed the court that the Ministry of Interior had established a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) allowing ISI and IB to directly retrieve data from service providers. Justice Babar expressed concern that an SOP issued by a section officer, rather than the appropriate authority, raises questions about its legality. Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vehemently condemned the federal cabinet's notification to give blanket powers to ISI to intercept calls and message under the guise of national security in sheer violation of constitution and law, demanding the Supreme Court of Pakistan to annul this notification forthwith.



ISLAMABAD: UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## SC reserves verdict in SIC's appeal regarding reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved the judgment after hearing the arguments from respondents in an appeal of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) regarding reserved seats. A 13-member bench of the apex court, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Athar Minallah,

Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, heard the case. Barrister Salman Akram Raja and SIC's Faisal Siddiqui presented their arguments before the court during the hearing which was live streamed on the website. During hearing, Faisal Siddiqui argued that Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) participated in general elections of 2018 but didn't win a single seat.

## Ahsan highlights importance of social media in enhancing citizens' engagement in different processes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday highlighted the significance of social media, calling it an 'essential tool' in promoting citizen engagement, transparency and participation in government and political processes. "Citizens' engagement, transparency and participation in government and political processes have been revolutionized by social media platforms,

enabling instant communication, mobilization, and dissemination of information," he said. The minister expressed these views while addressing an event titled "Digital Democracy in Action: Enhancing Engagement through Social Media," organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He said social media platforms provide spaces for dialogue, enabling people from all walks of life to voice their opinions, share concerns.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif briefing parliamentarians regarding power sector reforms.

## PM announces Rs 50b relief package to benefit 25m domestic power consumers

Referring to PTI-led govt in past, Sharif recalled tall claims of eliminating corruption within 90 days and repatriating \$300bln from abroad; Instead, the sugar and wheat scams surfaced

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced Rs 50 billion package to provide a relief of up to seven rupees per unit to around 25 million domestic power consumers, falling in the protected category for three months till September. "Today, an amount of Rs 50 billion has been allocated to provide a relief of Rs 4-7 per unit as a concession to our protected category consumers using up to 200 units a month for three months period from July to Sep-

tember. This will benefit around 25 million domestic power consumers which constitute around 94% of the total consumer base," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony held to discuss the prevailing issues related to electricity bills and reforms in the power sector. He said that the federal government had scrapped the said amount from its development budget to realise its commitment to public relief, contrary to the hollow claims of the previous governments.

He also assured the people of further relief as the government got a fiscal space consequent to its ongoing measures of taxing the elite class, expanding the tax net, closing the non-performing entities and plugging the holes, causing financial leakages. He told the gathering of federal ministers and senior government officers that during its previous 16-month stint, the coalition government saved the country from default by putting its politics at stake. Referring to the PTI-led government in the past,

the prime minister recalled the tall claims of eliminating corruption within 90 days and repatriating \$300 billion from abroad. Instead, he said the sugar and wheat scams surfaced and the 190 million pounds coming from the UK through the NCA could not land in the national kitty as was supposed to be done. Similarly, the same government announced a sudden decrease in oil prices causing loss to the national kitty, just for political gains, at a time when the prices were skyrocketing in the global market.

## ATC dismisses Imran's bails in three May 9 riot cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday rejected the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in three cases related to May 9 riots. ATC Judge Khalid Arshad announced the reserved verdict on Imran Khan's bail petitions concerning attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and the torching of Shadman Police Station. The court had reserved its verdict on the bail petitions after the completion of arguments by the parties on July 6. Barrister Salman Safdar represented Imran Khan and argued for bail while Special Prosecutors Rana Abdul Jabbar and Rana Azhar opposed the bail petitions during the final arguments on behalf of the prosecution.



LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Professor Waris Mir Memorial Seminar.

## President for holistic approach, prudent financial policies for country's development

LAHORE (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for adopting a holistic approach and prudent financial policies to put the country on the path of development. He said that different sectors of the economy, especially the agricultural sector, needed to be developed along modern lines. He added that the government was planning to tax agricultural income as per the International Monetary Fund's conditions, however, the provincial governments would be leading the initiative to tax large land-holding farmers in accordance with their profitability and expenditures. The President gave these remarks while addressing the Professor Waris Mir Memorial Seminar, in Lahore, on Tuesday.

A large number of journalists, academicians, political workers, and members of the civil society attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, the President highlighted that the media had given power to the people by amplifying their voices, however, recent years had also witnessed a grouping in the media. He cautioned that a strong religious lobby in the world was manipulating and managing perceptions aiming to sow divisions in Muslim societies. He said that he was a supporter of the freedom of press and had always tolerated harsh criticism from the media. He said that societies needed to be careful against agenda-driven information. The President high-

lighted that one had to face trials and tribulations in life, however, one needed to stay steadfast in the face of challenges. He paid rich tribute to the political struggle and sacrifices of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed for democracy, saying that Pakistan People's Party had a history of facing pressures and assassinations, however, continued its struggle for the cause of democracy in Pakistan. He said that assassination attempts and political pressures could not deter us from our mission as we firmly believed that life and death were in Allah's hands. The President also paid rich tribute to the services and contributions of Late Professor Waris Mir towards democracy and journalism.

## Captain Osama martyred during exchange of fire with terrorists

RAWALPINDI (Online): A fire exchange took place between security forces and terrorists in North Waziristan district. During the fierce engagement, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as result of which two terrorists were sent to hell. However, during the intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad (age: 24 years, resident of Rawalpindi District), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat. Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers

further strengthen our resolve.

## Funeral prayer of martyred Capt offered

Funeral prayers of Captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed were offered at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi. He embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in North Waziristan District. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Defense Minister, Information Minister, Chief of Army Staff and a large number of serving and retired military officers, soldiers and relatives of Shaheed attended the funeral.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, COAS General Syed Asim Munir carrying the coffin of captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed after funeral at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi.

## SC orders Balochistan govt to file details of property of Qasim Suri

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has ordered Balochistan government to file details of all the property of former Deputy Speaker National Assembly (NA) Qasim Suri. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Issa issued Order. According to order advertisement was given in news papers but Qasim Suri did not come. Lawyer Naeem Bokhari has no connection with his client. Notices are issued to federal government, Balochistan government and FIA. Balochistan government should file the details of all the property of Qasim Suri. Federal government and FIA should tell

how Qasim Suri went outside the country. The CJP Qazi Faez Isa while moving to counsel Naeem Bokhari said how I can say such a beautiful person to leave this case. Justice Musarrat Hilali remarked why you are escaping from court. You should convey our message to him. Counsel Naeem Bokhari said I have no contact with him. How should I send message. A 4-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing. At the inception of hearing the CJP remarked we are thinking what we should do in this case.

## ECNEC clears construction of Dadhocha Dam, other water, transit projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Tuesday met under chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The meeting considered and approved four water sector projects including Government of Punjab's project namely "Construction of Dadhocha Dam (revised)" on. "The project will help bridging water deficiency in Rawalpindi through supply of 35 MGDs of water," Of-

fice of the Deputy Prime Minister said in a press release. The Upgradation of Pakistan Railways existing Main Line-1 (ML-1) was approved at re-modified scope, with directions that the Phase I of the Project i.e. 929 km from Karachi to Multan will be taken up as priority. The ECNEC also considered and approved project titled "Flood Response Emergency Housing Project (Phase-I), to be funded through a loan from the Asian Development Bank.

## Tarar stresses Comprehensive measures to address societal challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights, Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday underscored the need for comprehensive measures to address societal challenges, particularly in policy-making and implementation. Addressing an event "The Art of Parenting, highlighting critical social issues and emphasizing collective action for effective solutions," he said called for the effective implementation of the policies, thus bridging the gap to effectively support families and children. He said: "In the realm of parenting, it is imperative for the government, civil

society, and all stakeholders to collaborate." He acknowledged that raising children was a fundamental concern for every household, transcending economic disparities. He also addressed prevalent issues such as poverty, destitution, and child labor, which significantly impact the ability of families to provide proper upbringing and education to their children. He advocated for a shift towards robust family planning initiatives to mitigate these challenges effectively. "We must raise awareness among our populace about their role in fostering the proper upbringing of children."

## Washington says has 'shared interest' with Pakistan in combating regional threats

ISLAMABAD (INP): Washington has a "shared interest" with Islamabad in combating regional security threats, US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in response to a question on whether America would support Pakistan if it conducted cross-border attacks against militant targets in Afghanistan. Tensions escalated between Islamabad and Kabul last month after Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif hinted Pakistan could carry out cross-border attacks in Afghanistan against militants. Pakistan has suf-

fered a surge in militant attacks since the Afghan Taliban seized Kabul in August 2021 which it blames on the Pakistani Taliban or the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) outfit. Pakistan says the TTP carries out attacks against it from sanctuaries in Afghanistan. "So the Pakistani people have suffered greatly at the hands of terrorists," Miller told reporters at a press briefing, when asked whether the US would support Pakistan if it struck militant targets in Afghanistan. "We have a shared interest in combating threats to regional security."

## Azerbaijan president due in Islamabad on July 11 for two-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev is scheduled to undertake an official visit to Pakistan from July 11-12, 2024, at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During the visit, President Aliyev will hold meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a Foreign Office press release said. The two sides will engage in wide-ranging discussions on areas of mutual interest in order to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.



KARACHI: Members of Quaid-e-Azam Management Board and others are paying homage to the Madar-e-Millat, Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah during their visit at Quaid-e-Azam Mausoleum on the occasion of her Death Anniversary.

# Daily Voice of Masses Independent

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## Supplementary grants

The ex post facto parliamentary approval of huge unbudgeted expenditures of Rs9.4tr — up by 389pc from Rs1.9tr sanctioned a year earlier — during the last two fiscal years underlines how the government is abusing the powers it derives from the Constitution to deal with possible budgetary shortfalls, and unexpected new expenditures or cost overruns. This practice of altering the original budget by obtaining retrospective approval of fund re-appropriation or new expenditures made during a given fiscal year, without parliament's nod to supplementary budget statements, is not new. But the rapid growth of these unauthorised expenditures affirms that the fiscal authorities have lately been interpreting Article 84 rather liberally to bypass parliamentary and public scrutiny. This is despite the fact that the constitutional provision is meant to give the government access to funds for unforeseen financial needs in times of emergencies or contingencies to ensure the unhampered functioning of public services.

A story on the excess expenditures by three successive governments between May 2023 and May 2024 through supplementary grants reveals that subsidies and the power sector, water division, defence and civil armed forces and related agencies stand out in exceeding budgetary allocations or securing finances for unbudgeted expenditure and initiatives. Many expenditures for which the government sought retrospective parliamentary approval have little to do with emergencies or contingencies. Several expenditures, such as additional funds for CPEC security, military pensions and other retirement benefits, the Green Corporate Initiative of the armed forces, Pakistan-Iran border fencing, K-Electric and public power generation plants, etc, could have been anticipated when the original budget was passed. The abuse of a constitutional provision meant for unforeseen financial needs betrays bureaucratic disdain for parliament and public opinion, in fact, even democracy. It is also a sort of violation of a 2013 Supreme Court observation that "the amounts as approved in the budget passed by the National Assembly have to be utilised for the purpose specified in the budget statement. Any re-appropriation of funds or their utilisation for some other purpose, though within the permissible limits of the budget, are not justified..." The recent re-appropriation of funds for need-less payment of 'honoraria' to PMO officers, as well as for parliamentarians' development schemes and renovation and construction of judges' residences at a time when the government has implemented additional taxes of Rs1.7tr underscores the urgency for restricting the government's powers under Article 84 to alter the approved budget, except in extreme cases. Even when an expense is made in emergency situations, it should be immediately brought before parliament for debate and approval to ensure the integrity of the budget, avoid unnecessary additional expenses and reduce digressions from the approved original spending framework. These changes are crucial to ensure tight fiscal discipline and contain budget deficits.

Arifa Noor

Drip, drip, drip ... the drops fall, big and small. There is a conversation here, an incident there. A snatched conversation with an acquaintance, a long chat with a friend. All of them quiet interactions, small, unnoticeable incidents unworthy of retelling. But the drops are unending; they are so many that they eventually become puddles left after the monsoon rains. Here, there and everywhere, some deep and some shallow, some deceptively deep while others can be skipped.

But there they are. And they are not going away.

A friend needs a visa, to somewhere in the glittery West. Well-travelled and well-educated and no stranger to the country in question — but there are no appointments to be had. She had travelled there more than once, as to other parts of the world. But visa appointments are not to be had. In hushed tones, it is whispered that visa appointments are being 'sold' for hundreds of thousands, as well as the

approval or checking of documents. The amount of money changing hands varies greatly but such is the rush of people trying to leave the country that few are willing to dismiss the numbers as wild exaggerations.

During another casual conversation, a colleague says his relative paid 10 lakh rupees to try to get out. But, he says, in all seriousness, if someone asks, "officially, the bribery rate is only two". What is official about the rate of bribery is beyond comprehension.

A visit to a medical centre turns into a painful exchange when a young doctor asks seriously if what happened over 70 years ago was really worth it. He stumbles over the question because it is so difficult to put into words, even though he is careful to wait until none of his colleagues are nearby when he shares this burden.

Another friend bemoans his lack of social life. There are hardly any people left to socialise with. What happened? Most of them have moved away in the past couple

## Conversations

of years; they all left the country.

An old college friend from somewhere in Africa messages to ask about the American school because she has an application from a teacher who was employed at one in Pakistan. Is the school any good, she asks?

Asking a colleague to explain the intricacies of the economy leads to a conversation about how everyone appears to be in a bad mood. They are always ready for a fight and the tiniest of irritations leads to an argument or a loud exchange, at work or in public. I didn't need to ask why and he didn't need to explain further.

A WhatsApp message from a friend settled abroad reveals that he ran into a Pakistani waiting tables at a restaurant, who turned out to be PhD in engineering from south Punjab and had left a teaching job to migrate. The friend then added that in recent times, he has run into many educated Pakistani migrants in basic jobs.

These conversations are not recent. They happened over months and

even years ago. And most of them, like a random drop of water, did not even register. They got brushed away, as one does when on a dry, clear day, suddenly, there is a tiny sensation of wetness on a hand or a bare arm.

All these happened before the latest budget, which has imposed new taxes on what a friend calls the moral backbone of society ie the salaried class, and indirect taxes on the poor, while everyone who had the power and access to get relief managed to do so, beginning with the civil and military bureaucracy, which will get plots from the state and sell them without paying the tax that ordinary civilians will have to do. The military also managed to delay pension reform for a year.

The parliamentarians increased their perks, while also ensuring fat chunks of development funds. The PML-N saved their voters in the trader class. As the phrase goes, everyone who was anyone got to wash their hands in the Ganges. But for the rest, there is the mantra of the difficult days. In In-

dia, the politicians promise 'achay dinn' while we have to settle for mushkil ones.

So many far better equipped at finance and the economy have explained this in detail in article after article and podcast after podcast.

And now the drops are forming deep puddles of dirty water.

Conversations among white-collar, ordinary people are about how not to pay taxes. Others have complicated conversations about establishing companies on foreign shores.

And the hopelessness afflicting the ordinary souls is creeping up.

A wealthy businessman speaks of family members who had left these lands long ago. They did the right thing, he said, I too should have moved and now I will. It was no longer possible to run a business in Pakistan, he added. He explains that over time whatever he has running in Pakistan might just slowly and steadily downsize and shut down.

Another one says friends have moved away not because they can't af-

ford to live comfortably in Pakistan but because life is less stressful elsewhere.

The conversations are endless. Neither are they new. But with each passing year and each political development, they become more desperate and more pessimistic. The budget is merely one such incident. It is so critical but there is so much more. The lack of tolerance and the lynchings; the unending blocking of X; the draconian laws; the enforced disappearances.

This sense of despair is not even recognised by those ruling us, who continue to talk down to the people, or rather at each other. For what else can one call the interminable conversations about the need for IMF programmes, the divisions between the judiciary or the parties (Fawad Chaudhry and Javed Latif got more attention in talk shows than the budget) and the vague promises of billions headed our way as investment? It is more than a disconnect; it's a lack of respect for those who live in this country. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Fable of the bicycle and a plane

Jawed Naqvi

The inability to accept defeat with grace comes from an authoritarian streak found in enfeebled democracies. Donald Trump and Narendra Modi, for example, are peas in a pod in this regard. Modi has an added problem — his compulsive obsessive rivalry with *bête noir* Jawaharlal Nehru's back-to-back three-term tenure as India's first prime minister. It reminds one of the soirée where a wet-behind-the-ears Urdu poet earned the wrath of a master versifier.

Legendary Firaq Gorakhpuri was waiting for his turn at the late-night mushaira when he felt compelled to chide a young poet for suspiciously plagiarising his lines to compose a bad verse. The young man pleaded innocence, adding a tad grossly that he was delighted to be involved in an intellectual accident with the master poet. Firaq's response was withering: "One has heard of bicycles crashing into bullock carts. But a bicycle crashing into a plane?"

President Murmu, however, had to indulge Modi's persistence. "The world can see Indians have for the third time formed a government with a stable and full mandate," she said. "This has happened after six decades. People have shown trust in my government for the third time." Murmu was clearly reading an address drafted by Modi's office to the new parliament, earning endless applause from the treasury benches.

Full mandate? Stable government? In which case why did the markets, revered by BJP acolytes as a thermometer of the nation's health, crash so nervously when the results came in on June 4? Worse, they crashed after Modi and his home minister exhorted investors in TV interviews to bet on their victory. The markets picked up only when help came from two regional parties who had little in common with the BJP's communal agenda.

That's precisely what everybody other than the BJP accepts. After the loss of 63 MPs, Modi's party was reduced to a minority of 240. Rajiv Gandhi resigned as prime

minister after he was reduced from a mammoth 400-plus seats to become the leader of the single largest party in 1989, but short of a majority. Rajiv was a democrat, so he preferred to sit in the opposition, despite commanding the highest tally.

Third stable term? Is that why Modi rushed to the two leaders from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh too hastily, who included a man who was only recently vying to become convener of the opposition alliance and the other who rose in politics as a Youth Congress leader? Modi sought their support, and the duo dictated their fanciful financial terms for their states, whose burden if fulfilled could be prohibitive for current and future taxpayers. Thus, it remains a point to ponder as to how long the alliance remains stable.

In the rush to keep the job, Modi broke a sacred democratic convention. While getting the two anchors to endorse their support, he tellingly didn't hold a mandatory meeting of his own party's MPs, a standard democratic requirement. Unlike the presidential system,

the prime minister must be elected by his or her party's MPs before getting the president's nod. It's widely believed that by holding a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance, while studiously dodging the meeting of BJP parliamentarians, he was delaying the blame game for the electoral debacle, which reportedly is waiting to burst into the open.

Everyone, except the BJP, sees the election results as a clear rejection of Modi's communal politics, and of his hateful speeches against Muslims during the election. To rub in the point, the prime minister's handpicked candidate was trounced in Banswara, the constituency in Rajasthan from where Modi had exhorted Hindus to mistrust Muslims, claiming they would steal their women's mangalsutras and even their buffaloes. Muslims were infiltrators, he said venomously. The hand-picked election commission unsurprisingly wouldn't book him. Remember a court had ordered Indira Gandhi to be removed as prime minister for using an election

podium built by the Public Works Department.

Still, the elections were a great leveller. The BJP's candidate from Ayodhya was also crushed by a Dalit leader from the INDIA alliance, literally mocking Modi for embarking on his polarising campaign by hurriedly inaugurating a half-built temple to Lord Ram. In another religiously loaded rebuke, Modi's candidate from Chitrakoot lost. The epic Ramayana tells us that Ram, Sita and Lakshman spent most of their exile years in the woods of Chitrakoot, in present-day Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Facts are sacred, opinions free. The fact is that way beyond the moral grasp of the current incumbent of the high office, Nehru had publicly pleaded with his party to relieve him of his post as prime minister in 1958. The high office he earned came from spending nine years in jail and marching as a foot soldier of India's freedom movement. His experience as Gandhi's lieutenant prepared him for the job. On April 29, 1958,

the Congress Parliamentary Party found itself facing an unprecedented crisis. Nehru requested the party's permission to retire as prime minister after guiding the country for four decades. Serving the country had been exhilarating, Nehru's biographer M.J. Akbar quotes him as telling fellow MPs. But he now wanted a respite from "this daily burden" to do "some quiet thinking" and return to "myself as an individual citizen of India and not as prime minister".

As one Congress MP remarked, "Jawaharlal wanted time to think about how to save the world from the hydrogen bomb but had no complications about dropping a hydrogen bomb on the Congress." When Nehru's party rejected the offer to resign, Akbar recalled in a tribute in 2011, "letters of congratulation and relief came from both Dwight Eisenhower in Washington and Nikita Khrushchev in Moscow". Modi might as well follow his bugbear to test the love the world leaders have for him. To begin with, he could offer to resign, and let his party take the call.

## Boom or doom?

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Narratives about Pakistan verge on two extremes. The narrative of all our regimes has been that it is on the verge of take-off that will land it in the august company of the Asian Tigers. But such imaginary flights to glory disappear mysteriously like Malaysia Airlines flight MH370. Then there are the prophets of doom who see a collapse soon. But despite close calls, the country has dodged many bullets since 1971.

Which outcome is more likely? On the boom side, the Asian Tigers are a leap too far. Can we even match South Asian horses like India and Bangladesh with whom we share a DNA? They are no Asian Tigers. Out of the four economic aims — stability, durable growth, equity and sustainability — they have only the first two via a neoliberal model, with sustainability eluding even the Tigers and others globally. For a nation fed by its state with a false sense of superiority over Hindus and Bengalis, it's a rude shock how far it lags behind them.

Despite similarities with them, we have huge lags that make this outcome hard. There were the congenial ones. India had been a state for centuries and also inherited most of the administrative, economic and political legacy the British left behind. Bangladesh had ethnic homogeneity which further crystallised into a strong sense of nationhood due to 25 years of exploitative West Pakistan rule pre-1971. India and Bangladesh's freedom drives were led by grassroots leaders pursuing democracy. Pakistan was a divided, brand new state led by elites looking to escape democracy and majoritarian Hindu rule.

So, if even modest

These varied birth conditions led to, and were compounded by, three catastrophic choices made by our elite rulers (especially non-elected ones) fearful of losing power: economic dependence on big states, political autocracy and social religiosity. So, we are now the breeding ground for many perverse economic, social and political traits that undercut national progress. This includes a severe gap in social capital and trust due to decades of autocracy and exploitative rule, which undermine cooperation and conflict resolution, and a lack of economic dynamism and creativity due to economic dependence and social extremism.

Our main economic problems — fiscal and external deficits and low growth — reflect these societal traits. The fiscal deficits, given low tax revenues, reflect the social mistrust in the state, while the external deficits and poor growth expose the lack of societal creativity and dynamism.

But these traits aren't immutable. All were grafted onto society by elites and can be excised via a counter-effort. However, one doesn't see a strong reformist social group on the horizon with clear ideas that can uproot the exploitative ruling set-up to usher in even economic stability and durable growth let alone equity and sustainability. The task is not just of following the right policies but of societal transformation that only popular movements, and not autocratic regimes, can undertake. The middle class is often billed for this role. But our middle classes and expats are still in the infancy stage of chasing populist messiahs bereft of solid ideas.

So, if even modest

progress seems elusive, is doom inevitable? Many say no badly run state can avoid doom for long. We face almost every political and economic path that has led states to doom: religious and ethnic insurgencies, nuclear stand-off, slow growth, high fiscal deficit and debt, depleted reserves and weak currency.

Climate change will hit us more badly to aggravate these issues. The three-er-tos from insurgents are still not as strong as in Yemen, Somalia etc. But our econ-omic issues are grim. Recent state econ-omic collapses have come from high fiscal deficits and money supply growth causing hyperinflation (Zimbabwe) or high external deficits causing currency collapse and default (Sri Lanka).

Zimbabwe had 250 million per cent inflation caused by money supply growth above 50pc for years even before hyperinflation. Our highest money supply growth was less than 20pc during 2019-2023. Covid-19 and terrorism caused Lankan foreign revenues from remittances and tourism to fall hugely to just \$2.6 billion and the current account deficit reached 5pc. Our recent external profile is better but still similar to this. Though it's improving, external shocks and state policies can quickly reverse it.

So, while the chances of even limited boom are near-zero, the chances of economic doom, though not near-certain, are surely high. The best that we can hope for from the current ruling coterie is that it avoids economic doom. For long-term boom, and that too an equitable one, we must keep scouting the horizons for the rise of better social groups. - Courtesy Dawn

## Revitalizing slums: Inclusive solutions for viable rehabilitation

By Umm-e-Maliha

Slums often evoke the picture of neglect and desolate congested population with temporary housing and unhygienic condition. They are in suburbs of a city, infamous for their infrastructure deficiencies and elevated crime level. Nonetheless, it's crucial to understand these negative stereotypes and recognize the mankind and capability of locals.

As per United Nations Human Settlements Program, 56% of Pakistan's urban communities resided in slum residence as of 2020. These societies are not only overloaded with the country's resources but people having some goals and human resilience. Residents end up renting out their new homes to return to slums due to proximity to jobs and low living costs. Earlier initiatives to rehabilitate slum residents by offering government-subsidized housing, frequently unsuccessful because of inadequate fulfillment of resident's basic needs like socio-economic needs. For instance, Dharavi Redevelopment Project in India, the project aimed to provide the subsidized housing to slum's residents but failed because of discrepancy of requirement and solutions.

Therefore, it is necessary to consider all the basic needs of slum residents while planning and implementing the rehabilitation programs. There are successful programs that use strategies considering the local requirements and conditions. These are Kenya slum upgrading program, Minha Casa Minha Vida program Brazil, Baan Mankong Program, Medellín's urban transformation. These programs not just improve sanitary conditions but also offer real advantage to the community.

Efforts to rehabilitate slum areas in Pakistan have seen range of results but The Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) in Karachi emerged as a one of the successful projects. Initiated in the 1980s, the OPP directed on upgrading housing and sanitation in Orangi Town, one of major informal settlements in Karachi. Regardless of such successes, Pakistan still encounters hurdles in slum rehabilitation, such as limited resource and rapid urbanization. Continued emphasis on community-driven initiatives and sustainable urban planning is critical for achieving lasting improvements.

Other feasible strategy. These programs, by offering small loans for business ventures and housing upgrades can enable residents to recover their living conditions and economic opportunities. In addition, slums up gradation initiatives should emphasize the provision of vital services like fresh water, sanitary conditions, public health, and education.

Coordinating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector entities can potentially overcome resource constraints. Like, the Urban Resource Centre in Karachi collaborates with local communities to deal with urban challenges, urging for the rights and needs of slum inhabitants.

The key to rehabilitating slums requires recognizing and exploiting the potential of their inhabitants. By engaging residents in decision-making processes and delivering support based on their needs, we can rehabilitate these underprivileged areas into developing communities. It is time to provide slum inhabitants a seat at the stakeholders' table for decision making, making sure that their voices are heard and their dreams are supported.

Developing microfinance programs targeted at slum dwellers is an

## Finance Minister meets with PMLTC CEO, discusses energy sector reforms and collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met with the President and CEO of Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) Ms. Zhang Lei to discuss various aspects of energy sector development and cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy CEO Ma Desheng and CFO Wang Bo, said a news release.

The minister thanked the delegation for their constructive proposals. He underscored the government's commitment to support these vital sectors through enhanced financing mechanisms.

The minister assured that relevant ministries would be consulted to consider the proposed framework, aiming to translate it into actionable policies that drive tangible results. Syed Yawar Ali shared insights on the current state of these sectors and emphasized their potential to significantly increase yield productivity and exports.

Syed Yawar Ali and Afaq Ahmed Tiwana appreciated the government for prioritizing agriculture and livestock in its policy framework.

### Finance minister meets Chairman Nestle Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met Chairman Nestle Pakistan Syed Yawar Ali and Ex-President Farmers Association of Pakistan Afaq Ahmed Tiwana to explore avenues for enhancing the growth of Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sectors.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik and Member-IR Policy Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) also attended the meeting, said a news release.

The minister thanked the delegation for their constructive proposals. He underscored the government's commitment to support these vital sectors through enhanced financing mechanisms.

The minister assured that relevant ministries would be consulted to consider the proposed framework, aiming to translate it into actionable policies that drive tangible results. Syed Yawar Ali shared insights on the current state of these sectors and emphasized their potential to significantly increase yield productivity and exports.

Syed Yawar Ali and Afaq Ahmed Tiwana appreciated the government for prioritizing agriculture and livestock in its policy framework.



QUETTA: A delegation of representative of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are also present.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain chairing 11th meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Small Medium Enterprises Development.

## 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle transmission line to enhance national grid's capacity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPK) Wang Huihua has said that the 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line will play a pivotal role in enhancing national grid's capacity, ensuring stable and efficient transmission of electricity by connecting Nelum Jhelum and 844 MW Suki Kinari project.

Pakistan's quest for energy security and economic growth, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

"As we inaugurate this critical piece of the project, we also celebrate the collaborative efforts that have brought us to this point. From the hardworking engineers and dedicated workers to our valued partners and supporters, your collective contributions have been invaluable. This transmission line is more than just a technological achievement, it is a symbol of progress and a testament to our commitment to building a resilient and reliable energy network", he said.

He said the project is a cornerstone of our strategy to improve grid infrastructure, directly impacting the quality of life for millions and supporting the continuous operation of essential services. A robust and dependable energy supply is the backbone of economic growth and this transmission line will support CPEC industrial zones, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and urban centers, creating an environment that is conducive to investment and development, he said.

## Govt needs to engage businessmen for workable economic policy: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has urged the government to devise a viable solution to boost industry and businesses through providing affordable electricity and imposing nominal taxes.

when inflation has already dropped to 12%, he pointed out. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that providing electricity to the industry at a rate of 9 cents/kWh would increase exports by \$6 billion, add over 300 megawatts to the grid, generate Rs. 500 billion in revenue, and reduce debt servicing by Rs. 240 billion.

Emphasizing that the business community can't secure international orders when the government imposes high charges under cross-subsidies, he questioned why international buyers prefer Pakistan over countries like Vietnam.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying Bananas attraction for customers on his loading van alongside a road, in the Federal Capital.

## Pro rata billing system to eliminate overbilling issue in Pesco region: Pesco chief

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) chief Akhtar Hameed Khan has said that a pro-rata billing system has been implemented to eliminate overbilling in the region.

in this regard and explaining that this software did not remove consumers from the protected category. Instead, the implementation of the pro rata billing system had increased the number of protected consumers.

In March 2024, the number of protected consumers in PESCO was 1.85 million, which increased to 2.217 million in April. Similarly, this number reached 2.462 million in May. However, the number of protected consumers decreases due to increased electricity usage in the summer.

## Zong expands data network with addition of 400 new 4G sites in H1, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The private mobile operator - Zong 4G - has announced the successful expansion of its network with over 400 new 4G sites added in the first half of the current year.

This significant expansion solidified Zong 4G's position as the second largest data network in the country.

This effort underscores the company's commitment to providing widespread and reliable connectivity. Currently serving 49 million customers, Zong aspires to democratize access to data across Pakistan, said a news release issued on Tuesday. In addition to expanding its network, Zong 4G has concluded an extensive network modernization project to address capacity challenges.

## CCP Green-lit merger of SCL in JKSM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a Scheme of Arrangement for the merger of M/s. Shamim and Company (Pvt.) Ltd with M/s. JK Sugar Mills (Pvt.) Ltd.

JKSM is a private limited company with the business of production and sale of sugar or related products in Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. JKSM primarily produces refined white sugar, along with three by-products namely, molasses, bagasse, and mud. SCL, since 1967 is into the business of manufacturing and distribution of PepsiCo products across Pakistan.



MULTAN: A worker weighing and packing good quality mangoes into the boxes for delivery to the other City.

## Advisor to Ombudsman for steps to enhance revenue of Pakistan Post

KARACHI (APP): Advisor Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Karachi Seema Shakil, on Tuesday, paid a visit to Pakistan Post GPO Sadder Karachi to inspect facilities being offered to public.

The senior advisor, while speaking to media at the occasion, said that federal Ombudsman is the only institute that resolves the grievances of citizens without any fees while they don't need assistance of lawyer as well.

The officials of Ombudsman secretariat conduct visits and inspections of federal government departments and organizations engaged in public service delivery to review their performance and service delivery status and forward their findings and recommendations for not only resolving the public grievances but also to address the issues faced the relevant institution, she mentioned.

Though the customers present in GPO expressed satisfaction on available facilities and services, she said and added, waiting area for customers need to be improved and water and other basic facilities should be made available there.

## Ali Pervaiz says: Reforms in energy sector to be introduced shortly

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik massive will be introduced in energy sector shortly which will ensure a sustainable and efficient energy sector for the future. During an interview with PTV News on Tuesday, he stated that the government was adopting a multi-faceted approach to overhaul the energy sector.

grade utilization was needed to reduce per unit capacity costs. Emphasizing the importance of shifting towards local fuel sources to decrease dependence on imported fuels, he highlighted the ongoing efforts in local exploration. A significant portion of the reform strategy involves the privatization of distribution companies (DISCOs) and generation companies (GENCOs).

He said that inefficient and obsolete furnace oil plants currently incurring costs despite being non-operational would be scrapped, auctioned, or liquidated. "Efficient plants will be put on a privatization model," he added.

The state minister said that the government was working on establishing a robust regulatory framework to safeguard consumer interest's post-privatization. The government is working to enhance corporate governance and auditing practices in the DISCOs.

## Flour price reduced

FAISALABAD (APP): Price of flour bags have been reduced across the district Faisalabad to facilitate the masses.

A spokesman of local administration said here on Tuesday that on special direction of Chief Minister Punjari Maryam Nawaz, the government had made reduction in the flour bags and new rate for 10 kilograms (kg) flour bag was fixed as Rs.800 while 20 kg bag would be available at Rs.1600.

In this connection, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh also directed the price control magistrates as well as assistant commissioners and officers of the Food department to ensure the availability of flour bags on its new price.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Chairman Nestle Pakistan and Ex-President Farmers Association of Pakistan.

## Dr Mughal says: Budget has nothing for masses but distribution of resources among legislators

LAHORE (INP): President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), Dr Murtaza Mughal has said that the federal budget has nothing for masses but it is only distribution of resources among legislators. He said that differences among major political parties regarding budget was not aimed to facilitate countrymen but about their share in resources. In a statement issued on Tuesday, he said that Rs 16 billion have been earmarked for development projects in the budget, which will be used to please the members of national and provincial assemblies and supporters.

development budget, electricity tariff would not have to be hiked to unbelievable levels. Still, the rulers were not concerned about people's problems and were busy shaping their future.

The government was making life difficult for the masses through taxes and blaming the IMF, which was not a reality, he added.

The President PEW said that the government had increased its current expenses by 24 per cent, for which the right to live has been taken away from the people and the salaried class.

According to a recent survey, 94 per cent of people want to leave the country because they don't see anything here.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan Central President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with Hazrat Ali Achakzai, Jaffar Khan Kakar and others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club

## DG Agriculture says: Punjab gov't striving for welfare of farmers

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Agriculture Department will guide farmers on crop cultivation, better yields, and proper use of agricultural medicines at the Farmer Facilitation Centers by the Punjab government is a farmer-friendly initiative where fertilizers, quality agricultural medicines, and spray machinery are available at reasonable rates.

Farmer Facilitation Centers have been established throughout Punjab to provide relief to farmers as per the instructions of the Punjab government. The

Shipping activity at Port Qasim was reported at the port where two ships, MSC Mundra VIII and Al-Thakhira carrying Container and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Common Venture and Sky Blue scheduled to load/offload Rice and Palm oil also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on during last 24 hours. A total of four ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containership 'MSC Mundra VIII' left the port on today morning while another ship 'Suvani Reis' is expected to sail on today.

Cargo volume of 87,510 tonnes, comprising 64,293 tonnes imports cargo and 23,217 tonnes export cargo carried in 1,497 Containers (610 TEUs imports and 887 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours. There are 07 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Common Venture, IVS Kerstrel and Sky Blue are expected to take berths at respectively FAP.

## Chairman PMYP says: Parenting plays vital role in nation-building process

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday said that parenting plays a vital role in the nation-building process.

Addressing at the ceremony "The Art of Parenting" here at the Pakistan National Council of Arts, he said that unfortunately we experienced the lack of youth training in our lives and youth comprise 65 per cent of the popula-

tion, need special care and healthy activities to glorify country's name.

He appreciated the role of the Agha Khan Foundation, Rotary Club and other institutions in creating awareness about parenting and the mindset of children and bringing awareness to the right parenting.

Chairman PMYP said that the government was taking revolutionary steps in various fields including sports, education, technical

education, arts and culture, and others to empower youth through several initiatives.

He said that Pakistan has a talented youth and has a pivotal role in advancing the country towards fast-paced development.

"We are dedicated to preparing our youth to excel in diverse fields, from technology-driven industries to traditional crafts. This holistic approach will enable them to contribute meaningfully to Pakistan's

socio-economic development," he added.

The event aimed to empower parents and caregivers with effective strategies for raising children in a confident, creative and compassionate manner.

According to UNICEF, "Positive Parenting is not restricted to a method, a set of rules, or a style; it is a belief, a way of living. Children should be treated with respect, free from fear of violence and shame, and guided with loving."



Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the President and CEO Ms. Zhang Lei and other executives of Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), meets with the delegation from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women's Wing at BISP Headquarters. The delegation discussed challenges faced by women beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, receiving assurances of support from the Chairperson.

## Romina says: Local scientists, researchers' capacity building crucial to promote indigenous sustainable urbanisation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator for the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said the promotion of local scientists and researchers through capacity building and viable opportunities is crucial to drive indigenous sustainable urbanisation to ward off the risks of urban flooding.

She was addressing as chief guest at the one-day workshop on Urban Floods: Implications for Resilience organised by the Pak-German Climate & Energy Partnership and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Romina Khurshid Alam said infrastructure

development must keep climate risks in view to sustain climate aftershocks.

She urged the forum to share all recommendations with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

The PM's aide appreciated the workshop's organisers in bringing together policy makers, practitioners and academia to co-create solutions that are driven by evidence. She noted that the capacity of local researchers should be developed and that they should have a stronger role in developing quality policy work. Research based policies are crucial to overcome impending risks and fill gaps in decision

making.

She added that the legislators and policy makers needed such policies for informed decision-making.

The PM's Coordinator said adaptation goals needed to be set as per the local needs and realities as there were new technologies emerging in the field but indigenous knowledge technicians need to be incorporated in the climate risk mitigation strategies.

"The session convened local scientists and experts that made me feel proud as local scientists and experts should be engaged and equipped to work on addressing climate problems of the country," she added.

## SIC not fielded even single candidate in elections: Aqeel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to Ministry of Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik on Tuesday said that why reserved seats should be given to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) as even its head didn't contest the election on his party's platform.

Addressing a press conference, he said that the top court had reserved its verdict regarding the re-

served seats.

He said that people of a political party participated in the elections as independent candidates but now Hamid Raza was demanding reserved seats for SIC.

Barrister Aqeel said that SIC did not field even a single candidate in the elections, adding their own constitution was in conflict with the Constitution of Pakistan.

## Sana elected Chairman IPC Standing Committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of the National Assembly, Sana Ullah Khan Mastikhel, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Standing Committee for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) on Tuesday.

The election was conducted by Muhammad Mushtaq, Advisor (Legislation), Syed Jawad Murtaza Naqvi Additional Secretary (Committees) and Syed Haseen Raza Zaidi, Joint Secretary (Committees).

In the meeting held here, Mushtaq wel-

comed the committee members and described them the election procedure of the Chairman.

Mastikhel's name was proposed by MNA Anjum Aqeel and seconded by all other members.

Accordingly, Mastikhel, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Standing Committee on IPC.

The Advisor (Legislation) congratulated the newly elected Chairman on behalf of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Secretary General National Assembly.

## BAC decides to continue NA session till July 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly's Business Advisory Committee (BAC) on Tuesday decided to continue the current session of the National Assembly till July 10 with the possibility of further extensions if deemed necessary.

The BAC met under the chairmanship of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq that mulled over the agenda and duration of the seventh session in detail.

## Last date for applying NYC membership July 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) office had announced the National Youth Council (NYC) membership under which the last date for submitting forms deadline is July 10.

The PMYP spokesperson told APP that NYC an initiative under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, is accepting applications till July 10. "We're just 24 hours away from closing applications for the National Youth Council, and we want you to take advantage of this life-changing opportunity."

## PM greets Daanish School student over 1st position in BISE Lahore exams

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday congratulated Muhammad Ayan Kashif, a student of Daanish School for clinching the first position in the matriculation examination of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Lahore.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that Ayan Kashif of Daanish School Mianwali proved his mettle by scoring 1190 marks in the board examination.

Also felicitating Ayan Kashif's family and teachers, the prime minister said the male and female stu-

dents of Daanish School had set a new example of success and capability.

He reiterated the government's resolve to expand Daanish School's network across the country to bring about a change through education.

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated Moez Haider and Maheen Sajjad for grabbing second and third positions respectively.

He also felicitated three female students Abeer Ashraf, Zainab Asif and Sehar Shakeel for obtaining a second position in the science group.



ISLAMABAD: CEO International Governance and Sustainability Institute Dr. Sultan Azam Temuri awarding certificates among students in closing ceremony of Summer Fiesta Program organized by Federal Ministry of Education held at IMCG F-7/4.

## Senate Body recommends early appointment of MD PBM

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety has strongly recommended earliest appointment of Managing Director of Pakistan Bait ul Mal (PBM).

Meeting of the Senate Body with Senator Sardar Al Haj Muhammad Umer Gorgaj in chair was held at Parliament House on Tuesday, Senator Abdul Shakoor Khan, Senator Jaan Muhammad, Senator Dost Ali Jeesar, Senator Rubina Qaim Khani, and the senior management of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety along with representatives of the attached departments attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Committee was briefed on the operations and performance of the Ministry

and its attached departments. It was informed that the Ministry administers four departments namely Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Bait ul Mal, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO). Additionally, the Ministry has initiated the National Poverty Graduation Programme (NPGP), a joint venture of Government of Pakistan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The main objective of NPGP was to provide monetary support and training to deserving individuals in order to uplift their livelihood. The program was initially being implemented in 21 districts of the country with a total volume of USD 132.6 Million.



ISLAMABAD: Policemen stands alert at a road near Markazi Asna Ashri Imambargah G-6/2 in the Federal Capital.

## Court seeks arguments on petition for changing judge in alcohol case against KP CM

ISLAMABAD (Online): The court while seeking arguments on the petition in connection with changing the judge in alcohol case against KP Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur has adjourned the hearing of the case till today (Wednesday). The petition seeking changing the judge in recovery of arms and alcohol case registered against KP Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur in police station Bhara Kahu came up for hearing before district and sessions judge Shah Rukh Arjumand.

Raja Zahoore ul Hassain counsel for KP CM appeared in the court and filed his power of attorney.

The counsel said one day time be given for arguments on the petition for changing the

judge.

District and sessions judge Shah Rukh Arjumand sought arguments on July 10 on the petition for changing the judge. In official application it was said the case against Ali Amin Gandapur is pending hearing in the court of Judicial Magistrate Sohaib Bilal Ranjha. Last hearing of the case had taken place on July 5 2024. The accused was granted exemption from attendance without any reason.

The petition said trial is near to completion. The accused is using dilatory tactics to prolong the case. The accused was given exemption repeatedly without any reason. Repeated exemption harms the prosecution case.

## Resilience must be redefined across the board: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday while chairing the committee meeting emphasised the importance of a resilient approach to counter the adverse impacts of climate change in Pakistan.

Senator Rehman stated, "NDMA and the Pakistan Meteorological Department have predicted above-normal rainfall. The committee was keen to understand the measures for risk reduction and predictability of the monsoon across the country. From the available reports it appears that the eye of the storm will likely be Punjab. Apart from rains, we are facing other environmental crises. Pakistan's climate

challenges are multifaceted, and all relevant environmental institutions must not work in silos. There should be a coordinated and shared strategy to tackle these challenges."

Discussing resilience, Senator Rehman noted, "Pakistan's exposure to climate stress is so high that resilience must be redefined across the board. It can't just be about infrastructure; it has to be local and people-centric."

She further highlighted the lack of updated equipment in disaster management departments due to insufficient funding. "Heavy funds were required to update the environmental department's equipment during my tenure. After the 2022 floods, all funds

were re-allocated to flood-affected areas because of the shortage. The capacity of PDMA and other regional institutions must be increased to prevent disasters," she said.

The committee was informed that the Sindh and eastern parts of Balochistan are set to receive a fresh spell of monsoon rain on July 8-9, while upper and central parts of the country, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, from July 10 to 15. Chairman the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) stated that heavy, moderate, and scattered rainfall is expected in various cities of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit-Baltistan.

## Naqvi takes notice of girl's death in kite string incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the death of a 7-year-old girl in a kite string incident in the area under the jurisdiction of Khanna Police Station.

He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and stated that we equally share their grief.

While taking notice of the unfortunate incident the minister sought report from the IG Islamabad and directed strict action against the culprits. He directed the Islamabad Police to ensure strict implementation of the ban on kite flying adding that indiscriminate action must be taken against the violators.

## Rubina Khalid vows to address concerns of BISP beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, reaffirmed her commitment to resolve the issues faced by deserving women beneficiaries of the program.

During a meeting at the BISP Headquarters on Tuesday, with a delegation from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women's Wing, Senator Khalid emphasized the importance of addressing beneficiaries' concerns.

The delegation included Ms. Shazia Tahmas Khan, General

Secretary, Ms. Meher Sultana, Information Secretary, and Ms. Ashbar Jadoon, Vice President.

They apprised Chairperson BISP of the challenges faced by women beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, such as the registration process and the provision of basic facilities at BISP payment campsites.

Senator Rubina Khalid assured the delegation of her full support in resolving these issues. The delegation also extended an invitation to Senator Rubina Khalid to visit Kohistan.



ISLAMABAD: People drinking free sweet water (Sharbat) from a roadside Sabeel at sector G-11 in the Federal Capital.

## Car plunged into river in Astore, 3 killed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Three passengers, including two women, were killed when a car plunged into the river in Harcho, Astore Valley, a private news channel and rescue reported on Tuesday.

According to the details, the ill-fated family was traveling from Islamabad to Astore.

Rescue teams reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported. The rescue team shifted the dead bodies to the hospital.

## Islamabad police cracks down on kite flying: 23 arrested in major raids

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant crackdown against the perilous activity of kite flying, Islamabad Police have arrested 23 suspects following 39 raids in Rawalpindi and its adjacent areas. The arrests came following Inspector General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi's directions who has called for stringent action against this dangerous pastime, which is deemed a threat to human life, said police spokesman.

## Removal of name from PNIL list IHC reserves judgment on Hamid Raza chairman SIC petition seeking

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reserved judgment on the petition seeking removal of name of Sahibzada Hamid Raza, chairman Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) from PNIL list.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq reserved judgment on the petition seeking removal of name from Provisional National Identification List (PNIL).

CJ IHC Aamir Farooq remarked FIA walas consider them monarch. I will give decision on this case. When law says name cannot remain beyond 60 days. Why have you not removed. Name has not been removed from list to harass. If they give superfluous reply I will send them to jail on contempt of court just now. You play with the lives of people and you have no repentance.

Justice Aamir Farooq inquired what is PNIL. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) told law

of PNIL list has been enacted at behest of Supreme Court (SC).

CJ IHC said can the law be enacted on the direction of SC. What is such power of SC and high court If it was direction it was to be seen by the government that under what law it can be done

According to SRO, name cannot remain more than two months in the list.

CJ IHC while moving to DAG remarked you yourself have got embroiled by reading this SRO. How have you kept name in list after lapse of 60 days.

Assistant Director (AD) FIA replied report was got from police and they said they wanted to maintain name in the list.

Justice Aamir Farooq inquired when law says the name cannot remain in the list more than 60 days. Why have you not removed. The court reserved judgment on the petition.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) busy in preparing map of Pakistan on a green belt at Zero Point during development work, in the Federal Capital.