

From Musharraf to Shehbaz

Toshakhana gifts record declassified

Sitting PM only ruler who retained no expensive gift; Zardari took 181 gifts, Nawaz 55, Shahid Khaqan 27, Imran 112, Pervez Musharraf 126; Zardari paid 10pc or even less for gifts he took home; Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, family took nine gifts in 2017, 18 in 2018, paying 10 to 20pc of assessed value; Imran remains the only ruler who sold Toshakhana gifts at a profit

By Kasim Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: For the first time in the country's history, the federal government Sunday declassified the record of Toshakhana gift beginning 2002.

A 446-page record of gifts from 2002 to March 2023 has been released, which includes the details of gifts received by the presidents and prime ministers, including Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan, Asif Ali Zardari, Sha-

hid Khaqan Abbasi and General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf. All of them took away jewel class sets and other gifts by paying minimal or no costs at all.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is the only ruler who retained no expensive or jewel class gift from the Toshakhana and surrendered them, reveals the latest Toshakhana record from 2002 till now.

Interestingly, Nawaz Sharif, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi,

Asif Ali Zardari and Shahbaz Sharif were also gifted jewel class sets containing a watch, a pair of cufflinks, a pen and a ring.

It is pertinent to mention that the famous Makkah design watch gifted to the former prime minister Imran Khan contained the same set type. One same kind of set was gifted to Nawaz Sharif

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KARACHI: A large number of people participating in the Aurat March here on Sunday. —Photo by Nageeb-ur-Rehman (Related story on page 13)

By-polls for 37 NA seats postponed

ECP notifications say decision taken on court orders; by-polls schedule for 24 NA seats in KP, 9 in Sindh, 3 in Islamabad, 1 in Balochistan had been issued; Commission meets today to discuss imposition of Section 144 in Lahore; PTI files petitions

By Mumtaz Alvi

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has suspended by-elections for 37 constituencies of the National Assembly.

The ECP issued four notifications on Sunday according to which by-elections for 24 National Assembly seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, nine in Sindh, three in Islamabad and one in Balochistan have been postponed.

According to the ECP, the electoral process has been suspended on the orders of the Peshawar High Court, Islamabad High Court, Sindh High Court and Balochistan High Court this month on the

basis of different petitions. The by-elections were scheduled for March 16 and 19.

The constituencies include NA-241 Korangi Karachi-III, NA-242 Karachi East I, NA 243 Karachi East-II, NA-244 Karachi East-II, NA-247 Karachi South-II, NA-250 Karachi West-III, NA-254 Karachi West-V, NA-254 Karachi Central-II and NA-256 Karachi Central-IV.

The ECP has postponed the by-election in the NA-265 Quetta-II constituency by complying with the order of the Balochistan High Court (BHC) till further the court.

In pursuant to the order

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Imran doing politics over dead bodies: minister

Says PMLN never used its workers for politics; PTI chief sole beneficiary of Zille Shah's death

By our correspondent

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Sunday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan wanted to create unrest just to achieve his agenda of destabilising the country.

Addressing a press conference at Model Town, she said Imran has nothing to do with the country's economy and progress, and now he was doing politics on the dead bodies.

She said now people were asking questions from Imran about his long marches, politics over the

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Imran avoids naming who will lead party if he is arrested

Says three plans in place; details to be shared on right time; Shah Mehmood said a couple of days back he'll lead PTI if Imran is arrested; PTI chief defers Sunday's rally till today after Section 144 imposition; claims he visited Russia after consulting all stakeholders; regrets grade-22 officer went against govt policy, criticised Russia attack on Ukraine; PTI submits application against Section 144 in ECP Punjab office

News Desk

Punjab in the centre

—Editorial on page 7

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Sunday three plans had been prepared in case he and other main leaders of the party were arrested by the government authorities, though he avoided sharing the names who would lead the party in such a situation.

"In case I am arrested, we have three plans ready which will be shared with the nation at the right time," he said in a video-link interview with a private TV channel.

He said the coalition government in centre wanted to arrest him as it could not defeat in elections, even with the help of neutrals.

He defended his decision to defer the Sunday rally, saying that he got scared after seeing the turnover of the PTI supporters and was afraid that there might be bloodshed if everybody came out.

Earlier, the PTI chief postponed the party's election rally in Lahore on Sunday after the Punjab care-

taker government imposed Section 144 (ban on public gatherings) in the provincial capital.

On Saturday, he announced a fresh rally in Lahore after which the district administration banned public gatherings through invocation of Section 144 in the Punjab capital, citing concerns in the wake of a Pakistan Super League (PSL) match in the city.

Terming it "unfair", the ex-premier said that when Maryam is allowed to hold public rallies, why not the PTI? "Is this a level playing field?" he questioned. He said according to their perception of level playing field, they wanted to tie hands of the opponents, and themselves hold a gun in their hands.

He said the Sharif family considered itself above the law, and they were angry why they were convicted in

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Under Nawaz guidance

PMLN to introduce new justice system: Saad

By our correspondent

LAHORE: Minister for Railways and Aviation Khwaja Saad Rafique said on Sunday Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN), if elected to power in upcoming elections, would introduce new judicial system through legislation in the parliament.

Talking to the media after the PMLN workers convention at Bhatta Chowk here, he said former prime

minister and party supremo Nawaz Sharif would return to the country soon and give an outline of the new justice system and economy.

"Nawaz Sharif is coming back; Babbar Sher [the lion] will be back in the country soon, and the PMLN will bring about a new justice system under his guidance," added the minister.

Giving a hint, he said the

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US congressman reminds Pakistan of its HR obligations

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Brad Sherman, American Congressman of the Democratic Party and senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed concerns regarding the rising human rights violation in Pakistan.

"There is concern over the increasing incidents of violence in Pakistan," the congressman said in a video statement, shared by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Punjab's former information secretary Musarrat Cheema on Sunday.

He reminded Pakistan's government about its obligation to take action against those who violate human rights. "We will not hesitate from raising our voice against human rights violations," he said. Sherman

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Sodium intake reduction could save 7m lives globally by 2030: WHO

— See page 3

PTI lawmaker arrested in Karachi overnight raid

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Sindh lawmaker Arsalan Taj Hussain was taken into custody by plainclothesmen and personnel in police uniforms in an overnight raid at his house on Sunday.

The PTI spokesperson claimed that the police raided the houses of the party leaders including Khuram Sher Zaman, Raja Azhar and PTI Secretary General Arsalan Taj Hussain. Raja Azhar and Khuram Sher

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SAMDANI QURESHI AQLAAL

A COLLABORATING FIRM OF ANDERSEN GLOBAL IN PAKISTAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

We have been instructed by the Project Director, Iqra University, H-9 Campus, Islamabad ("Our Client") to inform the public at large that the services of Mr Muhammad Rizwan Bari, former Director H-9 Campus, have been terminated w.e.f 10 March 2023.

Our Client would further like to inform the Public at Large that the said Mr Bari has no authority to act on behalf of Iqra University or hold himself out as possessing any authorization to represent Iqra University before any governmental/semi-governmental or private authority or entity in Pakistan or abroad.

All those who may be approached by Mr Bari in connection with any matter relating to the affairs of Iqra University are advised to refrain and desist from dealing with him and to immediately inform us of such approach.

Barrister Farrukh K. Qureshi

Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal

Advocates & Legal Consultants

(Collaborating with Andersen Global)

#642 Aun Muhammad Rizvi Road, Sector G-10/Islamabad

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Constitution the only way out of quagmire: Abbasi

PMLN leader says corruption biggest problem; allegations, hate politics to damage country; Miftah says govt should live within its means, strengthen LG system; urges institutions to do their own work; Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar says establishment brought Pakistan to a pretty pass; it is our collective responsibility to bring country on the right track

News Desk/Arshad Yousafzai

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Sunday emphasised the need for following the Constitution by all in a bid to take the country out of quagmire.

Speaking at a seminar entitled 'Reimagining Pakistan' at the Habib University here, the former prime minister said the way the country was being run will do no good and stressed dialogue to get the country out of the current situation. Fawad Hasan Fawad, aide to former PM Nawaz Sharif, PPP former leader Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar and other economists were present at the seminar.

Ismail, Abbasi, Khokhar and former Balochistan chief minister Aslam Raisani are part of a group of political mavericks holding a series of nationwide seminars on the current challenges being

faced by the country. The events are aimed at developing consensus on the future course of action required to be taken by all stakeholders to bring Pakistan out of the ongoing crisis.

Abbasi said, "The solution to the country's problems lies in the Constitution. There is no alternative. If we don't run this country as per the Constitution, then this state will not survive."

"The military chief suggests politicians to change parties while the inelegance head tells them you can't win elections. We are responsible for destroying ourselves so that we can't send competent people to parliament or stop them," Abbasi said.

"If we don't want competent people in the parliament, then how Pakistan would run. This is very basics. Today, we have to

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Israeli army kills three Palestinians

NABLUS, Palestinian Territories: Israeli soldiers shot dead three Palestinian gunmen in a pre-dawn firefight in the occupied West Bank, Israeli and Palestinian sources said Sunday, amid a surge in violence in the region.

The Israeli army said "gunmen opened fire" at an army position near the Jit junction, west of Nablus in the northern West Bank, with the soldiers responding with "live fire". A Nablus-based militant group said the Israeli troops had laid an ambush for them. The Palestinian health ministry identified three men killed by Israeli gunfire near Nablus as Jihad al-Shami, 24, Uday al-Shami, 22, and Mohammad Dabeek, 18. According to the army, the "three gunmen were neutralised during the exchange of fire and an additional armed gunman surrendered himself to the forces."

It noted in a statement none of the Israeli forces were wounded in the clash.

The Lions' Den, an emerging Palestinian militant group that claims to rise above traditional factional loyalties and has been blamed for a number of recent attacks on Israeli targets, identified the three as members. A statement from the group said they had engaged in combat after identifying the Israeli ambush, vowing to revenge the "martyrs". Violence intensified last year, but has worsened in the West Bank — which Israel has occupied since the Six-Day War of 1967 — after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned to office in December at the head of a hard-right coalition.

Speaking ahead of his weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu commended the Israeli forces who "operate around the clock against

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OCCUPIED WEST BANK: Palestinian youths watch as Israeli soldiers take position near the Jit junction west of Nablus during an army operation here on Sunday. —AFP

77 new cases reported

Rapid Covid tests to be carried out at airports

By Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: The government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services (BHSs) in country to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19 in the country in wake of sudden increase in coronavirus cases.

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel, while talking to The News here on Sunday, said that the surveillance system at all entry points of the country, including airports, has been activated in view of the development.

He reminded that rapid tests and screening of passengers would be carried out at all airports.

The health officials on Sunday said that 77 new coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 1.38 percent while 13 patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 5,565 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

Patel said that the situation was completely under control and asked the general public to avoid give ear to rumours. He said that the coronavirus case passivity ratio was just 0.3 to 0.5 in the country while 90 percent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine.

"An efficient system with a proper management team is fully functional in the country to remain vigilant and is ready to make an emergency plan to deal with

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CAIE removes Israel, Palestine chapters from history syllabus

By Syed Mohammad Askari

KARACHI: The Cambridge Assessment International Examination (CAIE) has removed two chapters related to Western Asian and Middle East countries from the history curriculum.

A history curriculum sent to Cambridge affiliated schools has excluded two chapters including "Israelis and Palestinians since 1945" and "why did events in the Gulf matters 1970-2000".

The revised syllabus will be effective from 2024 and continue for the next year years.

How students would learn about the Israeli Palestinian conflict - how Israel was created, how Palestine was occupied, and the Arab-Israeli war - and the issues confronted by the Gulf states, remarked an O level school teacher. She also claimed that it was an attempt on the part of

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Saudi Aramco reports 'record' \$161bn profit for 2022

RIYADH: Saudi Aramco said on Sunday it achieved "record" profits totalling \$161.1 billion last year, drawing an outraged response from activists warning about the ravages of climate change.

The mostly state-owned energy giant, the world's second most valuable company behind Apple, said in a filing with the Saudi stock market that net income for 2022 was up 46 percent from \$110 billion in 2021. The results — the strongest since Aramco became a listed company in 2019 — were "predominantly due to the impact of higher crude oil prices and volumes sold, and stronger refining margins," it said. Global energy prices surged after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

"It is shocking for a company to make a profit of more than \$161 billion in a single year through the sale of fossil fuel — the single largest driver of the climate crisis," Agnes Calamard, secretary-general of Amnesty International, said

in a statement. "It is all the more shocking because this surplus was amassed during a global cost-of-living crisis and aided by the increase in energy prices resulting from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine."

Amnesty described Aramco's profits as "the most ever disclosed by a company in a single year" and said they "should be used to fund a human rights-based transition to renewable energy."

Aramco's gains are consistent with record profits for 2022 reported by the five oil majors Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil, BP and TotalEnergies, which in total surpassed \$150 billion and would have been closer to \$200 billion without costly withdrawals from Russia.

"Aramco rode the wave of high energy prices in 2022. It's what the company is geared to do," said Robert Mogielnicki, of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. "It would have been

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Khurram Dastgir meets Iranian energy minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir on Sunday met his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Mehrabian in Tehran.

During the meeting, mutual areas of interest were discussed, said a press release.

The Iranian minister appreciated the authorities

of Pakistan for the construction of transmission line to import electricity from Iran to Gwadar on fast pace.

He also expressed his interest to initiate more electricity projects with Pakistan. Khurram Dastgir thanked his counterpart for extending his cooperation in the energy field.—APP



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