

QUETTA VOICE

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Nation should be 'fully expectant' of voting in new govt by Nov 10: Dastgir



Shehbaz asks Nawaz to return to Pakistan, become PM for fourth time

Funds lapse in financially-starved Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah analysis

Lapsing of funds is a common phenomenon in the financially-starved Balochistan. The provincial health minister, Syed Ehsan Shah revealed a bitter reality that his department lapsed Rs.7 billions allocated for the purchase of medicines and equipment for government hospitals.

Hospitals without medicines for last three months in Balochistan

Government-run hospitals in Quetta, the provincial capital have been without medicines for the last three months. This compounded the problems of deserving and needy patients knocking the doors of government



ment hospitals. Since the elites can afford to go to Karachi for medical treatment. So the deserving and needy patients remained the worst sufferers of this incompetency of the government in general and the health department in particular.

Angioplasty and Angiography machines out of order for the last two and half years in BMC

Look at the irony, the angioplasty and angiography machines are out of order at the Balochistan's largest government-run hospital i.e. Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) hospital for the last two and half years. This daily has repeatedly reported the out of order machines. Unfortunately, the reports are falling on deaf ears.

The BMC administration cites lack of funds as the underlying reason behind the non-repair of machines.

Rs.7 billions lapsed in health department Balochistan

This is strange, on one hand Rs.7 billions are lapsed by the department, on the other hand, the same department complains about lack of funds for the repair of two machines in BMC.

Simply, this is unacceptable and an investigation conducted by this daily suggests the machines are deliberately made out of order to force the patients towards private clinics and hospitals.

Provincial government should put its own house in order prior to criticism of Islamabad

From the province's chief minister to a section officer everyone speaks about the financial crisis, currently, Blaming Islamabad for the all ills of the province has been the hallmark of all political leaders from government to opposition.

However, they are yet to put their own house in order and ensure financial discipline in this resource-starved province of the country.

Land record digitalized in Balochistan: Mitha Khan Kakar

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Adviser to the Chief Minister Balochistan on Information, Mitha Khan Kakar on Friday said that land record across the province has been digitalized to prevent corruption and land occupation.

Spokesperson of government of Balochistan, Farah Azeem Shah and other officials were also present on the occasion. They thoroughly highlighted the provincial government's initiatives in Balochistan.

Mr. Kakar said that according to the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan, digital facilities will be provided in Gwadar, Pishin, Jaffarabad and Quetta, which include individual choices to dissolve land, collection SMS services etc.

Government signs agreement with Google to provide scholarships to students



He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Balochistan, the government of Balochistan has signed an important agreement with Google under which scholarships are being given to 3 thousand youth of Balochistan.

He said that IT education will be made public in the next few years, digitalization of land records will make geology safe and conflicts will decrease and economic development, trade and agriculture will also increase.

He said that the government of Balochistan has also actively participated in welfare works by providing ration to one lakh people in the month of Ramadan, and has participated in the summer relief in the flood affected areas.

Land management system to decrease disputes in Balochistan

On this occasion, the spokesperson of the Balochistan government Farah Azim Shah said that Balochistan is the largest province in terms of area and here the problem faced by the people with the help of land management will be solved with the land revenue management system.

Digital Balochistan is the vision of the chief minister

The Spokesperson mentioned that making Balochistan digital is the vision of the chief minister, the land revenue management system also stands for the same vision and the people will be provided with an online system. She said that the youth should benefit from the IT facilities and also train them. Along with Google, 3000 students of Balochistan have been offered scholarships.

Nation should be 'fully expectant' of voting in new govt by Nov 10: Khurram Dastgir

Power Minister Khurram Dastgir on Friday said Pakistanis should be expectant of voting in a new government by November 10, affirming that 2023 was an election year.

He made these remarks during an interview with Dawn News English when asked whether this was an election year. "Yes this is, I fully expect and hope that even if the prime minister chooses to dissolve the [National] Assembly a day or two before — the maximum we can go up to is Nov 10 — the people of Pakistan should be fully expectant of voting in their new government on or before Nov 10," the minister said. In reply to a preceding question, he mentioned that the Parliament would dissolve by itself on August 12. The power minister's statement is the clearest indication of a firm timeline for the elections coming from a member of the ruling PML-N yet.



PML-N-led government's term on August 13, 2023.

As the ruling coalition is indecisive about holding the general elections in coming October, Information Minister Murrizum Aurangzeb had said on Tuesday that elections would be held after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) gave a date for the purpose of the completion of the government's tenure in August.

"The PML-N and its allied parties have said that we will hold elections when the ECP gives a date after the completion of the incumbent government's tenure in August. It is the responsibility of the ECP to give the election date," she had said.

Meanwhile, there have been divergent statements from the coalition government's leaders regarding the holding of general elections in October. Web Desk

Govt says flexible on FY24 budget, ready to reach 'amicable solution' with IMF

Responding to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) reservations over the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) budget tabled in the National Assembly last week, the government expressed willingness on Friday to show flexibility on the matter and said it remained engaged with the international money lender to reach an 'amicable solution'.

"We are not 'doctrinaire' about any element of the FY24 budget and are keenly engaged with the IMF to reach an amicable solution," the finance minister



said in a statement, adding the government was "fully committed" and "keen" to at least complete the ninth review of a \$6 billion IMF

programme, which has been stalled since October. The IMF has made the decision of releasing at least some of the \$2.5 billion pending disbursement under the 2019 Extended Fund Facility (EFF) that will expire at the end of this month conditional on multiple factors, including the government satisfying it with regards to the budget for the coming fiscal year. The IMF's resident representative for Pakistan, Esther Perez Ruiz, said in a late-night statement on Wednesday that the lender had raised several issues in the FY24 budget but was ready to work with Pakistan to refine the budget ahead of its passage. Web Desk

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Shehbaz asks Nawaz to return to Pakistan, become PM for fourth time

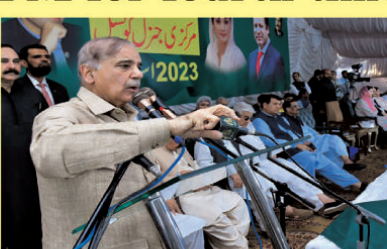
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan to lead the election campaign of the party and become the prime minister for the fourth time.

PM says those who criticise Ishaq Dar should separate themselves from party

PM Shehbaz made the appeal during a central general council meeting of the party where the premier was re-elected as the president of the PML-N.

Addressing the meeting, the premier said that he was waiting for his elder brother — who has been in self-imposed exile in London since November 2019 owing to health reasons — to return to Pakistan and then hold the party meeting so he could hand over the PML-N's presidency back to him.

"The election commission's sword was hanging which is why this meet-



ing was held," the prime minister added. Premier Shehbaz was given the PML-N's presidency after his predecessor — Nawaz, the three-time prime minister — was disqualified by the Supreme Court and barred from holding any party office. He also said that the PML-N needed young leadership, and commended Maryam Farhan for her hard work.

Adds politics will change when Nawaz Sharif returns to Pakistan

"You will see that the map of politics will change when Nawaz Sharif returns to Pakistan," PM Shehbaz said. Coming to his governance, he once again reminded the workers that his government took charge at a time when they did not get roses but thorns. "Inflation has broken the back of the people, oil prices were touching the sky. The coalition government decided together that we would face the tough times," he said, adding that in the upcoming budget, the government increased the salaries of employees and pensions. "We have still locked horns with the IMF [and] Pakistan will continue on the path of development," the premier further said. Web Desk

Major industries witness a 9.39pc decrease in production

ISLAMABAD: A decrease of 9.39 per cent has been witnessed in the production of major industries during the first ten months of the current fiscal year, it was learnt on Friday.

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During this period, there has been a further decline in the production of the textile sector by 17.86 per cent, pharmaceuticals by 14.25 per cent and tobacco by 27.45 per cent.

Muslim world must focus to produce skilled youth as per market trends: Dr. Hathal

ISLAMABAD: President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), Hathal Hamoud Alotabi has said that education must be the top priority and prime focus of Muslim world must be to produce skilled youth equipped with knowledge of modern market trends.

This was stated by him while speaking at the dinner reception hosted by him in honour of media fraternity here at Faisal Masjid campus. The attendees included anchor persons, Editors, article writers and veteran media persons.

The participants agreed that youth were the real power to bring positive change in the society and educational institutions must focus on producing skilled graduates. The dinner reception by Faisal Masjid campus.

President IIUI, Hathal Hamoud Alotabi, President IIUI said that a nation has a well-edu-

ated & nurtured youth, nothing can bar it to achieve the destination of prosperity and success. He called for the meaningful role of educational institutions urging those to be relevant to the needs of society.

Talking about the university, its new approach and initiatives, Dr. Hathal said he was proud to serve this university that has a unique distinction across the Muslim world. He appreciated of the university's new strategic plan, recent reforms and its academic and infrastructural achievements.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with a delegation from Artificial Intelligence Education Foundation (AIEF), at Aitwan-e-Sadr.

Pak-Iran bilateral political consultations begin on Today

ISLAMABAD: The 12th round of two-day Pakistan-Iran Bilateral Political Consultations will begin in Tehran tomorrow Saturday.

Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan will lead Pakistani delegation while Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of Iran Ali Bagheri Kani will lead the Iranian side.

While reviewing the progress on implementation of decisions of last session, the meeting will review all aspects of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations covering political, economic, trade, investment, border security, education, climate change and culture domains.

Dust & thunderstorm rain likely in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Dust and thunderstorm-rain with isolated heavy falls and hailstorm expected in Sindh, East and South Balochistan, Upper and Central Punjab, Islamabad, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Intense dust-storm and thunderstorm and rain heavy to very heavy scattered rain with extremely heavy at times is expected in lower Sindh. Dust-storm and dust raising winds are likely over plain areas of the country. Temperature of some major cities recorded on Friday morning.

The unwise pursuit, as Washington's bid to include India in NATO Plus

ISLAMABAD: Surprisingly, a US Congressional Committee's recent recommendation to include India in the "NATO Plus" alliance raises questions about global defense equilibrium.

The timing of this proposal, just ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, has further added a thick layer of curiosity over these questions, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

"NATO Plus" is a US-led, defense-oriented group consisting of all NATO members and five other nations: Australia, Japan, Israel, New Zealand, and South Korea.

While touted as a mechanism to ensure Taiwan's territorial integrity in the face of direct threats, the real motive behind such a proposition remains extremely questionable.

Zong 4G celebrates first successful completion of women digital program

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, in collaboration with Pakistan (PBM) and Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (MOPASS), held a momentous Graduation Ceremony at its headquarters, celebrating the achievements of the first graduates of the center's Digital Program.

The talented individuals successfully completed the comprehensive training program to gain valuable skills in various digital domains. Gwadar Pro reported on Friday, this initiative aims to provide women with essential digital skills and empower them to thrive in the digital era.

Speaking at the ceremony, Zong 4G's official spokesperson said the company's commitment to women empowerment and emphasized the importance of providing equal opportunities for all.

"We firmly believe that empowering women is crucial for a progressive and inclusive society," he said. "Through the digital lab and vocational initiatives, we aim to equip women with the necessary skills to excel in the digital era, opening doors to better opportunities and a brighter future," he added.



QUETTA: Activists of Young Nurses Association Balochistan hold protest outside OPC.

Speaker NA expunges Asif's remarks about WCs of varsities after apology

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf expunged the remarks of Minister for League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif about vice chancellors of universities in his budget speech after he tendered apology on Friday.

During the National Assembly session, Khawaja Asif tendered apology for calling the vice chancellors "robbers" during the budget speech.

request all members to refrain from using offensive words while speaking on the floor of the House," he maintained.

Latif Khosa's house comes under attack in Lahore

LAHORE: Unidentified armed men opened fire at former governor Punjab and senior lawyer Latif Khosa's house in Defence area of Lahore late Thursday night.

Detailing the firing incident, the senior lawyer said he remained safe in the attack while his driver sustained bullet wounds.



QUETTA: A man run during rain in provincial capital.

Pakistan's Zaheer Ahmed wins US award for anti-human trafficking efforts

NEW YORK: The United States has honored a Pakistani officer, Zaheer Ahmed, with a prestigious in recognition of his tireless efforts to curb human trafficking and anti-smuggling laws in the formulation and implementation of a National Action Plan.

Persons Report Hero award at a ceremony US State Secretary Antony Blinken presented the awards to eight recipients, including Mr Ahmed. The TIP report is released by the annually. Through the tireless efforts of his Anti-Human Smuggling Unit, Mr. Ahmed helped drive the modernization of Pakistan's anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling laws and the formulation and implementation of a National Action Plan.

Senate passes amendment in Election Act 2017, abolishes lifetime disqualification

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Friday passed an amendment bill in the Election Act 2017 with the majority, abolishing lifetime disqualification of lawmakers under Article 62 (1) (f).

The bill moved by the Minister of State for Law Shahadat Awan contains an amendment to the Election Act 2017.

The House also passed an amendment to the Senate Salaries and Allowances Bill, 2023. The bill moved by the Minister of State for Law Shahadat Awan contains an amendment to the Elections Act 2017.

Wani urges US President, Congressmen to raise Kashmir issue with Indian premier during his visit to US

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Kashmir Institute of International Relations, Afzal Hussain Wani, has conveyed his serious concerns to United States President Joe Biden and other officials of the administration about Indian premier Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US.

According to Kashmir Service, Wani said Hussain Wani in a joint communique addressed to the US president, Congressmen, Senators and top officials of the state department said,

"Before rolling out a red carpet for the Indian premier, they should take into account the fact that Modi is the man who has been censured as a 'Hero of hatred and killer of lives'."

the UN-recognised disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Referring to the RSS influenced regime's muscular policy on Kashmir, Wani said on 5 August 2019, the Modi government, in brazen violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, moved a contentious bill that led to the revocation of Kashmir's special status and dissolution of the state into two union territories.

complete siege and hapless Kashmiris who were virtually caged in their houses reeled under curfews and clampdowns for more than 14 months. Essential fundamental freedoms were suspended and the social, political and economic life of the region was virtually suppressed, the letter further said.



QUETTA: Activates of Jamaat-e-Islami hold protest against Karachi Mayor Election outside OPC.

