

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com

## Corps Commanders' Conference pays rich tribute to all Shuhada

### News Desk:

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) presided over the 29th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ, on Thursday, the military's media wing said.

Forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Citizens who had their lives for the safety, security and territorial integrity of the country, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Fateha was offered for the martyrs and it was reiterated that the State of Pakistan and Armed Forces will continue to hold the Shuhadas and their families in the highest esteem, ever honoring them with utmost respect and dignity.

### Commemoration of Defence and Martyrs Day across the country appreciated

Commemoration of Defence and Martyrs Day on 6 September across the country by all segments of the society was appreciated for which the Armed Forces of Pakistan remain ever thankful to our proud nation.

Participants reiterated the Pakistan Army's resolve to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against all kinds of direct and indirect threats.

The forum reaffirmed that inimical propagandists' desperate attempts to cause a wedge between

the state institutions and the public are indicative of their mounting desperation and will only result in more humiliation of such elements, InshaAllah. Participants were briefed on the prevalent geo-strategic environment, challenges to national security and their own strategy in response to the evolving threats.

### Terrorists, their facilitators and abettors to be dealt with the full might of the State

The forum resolved that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working at the behest of hostile forces to destabilize Pakistan will be dealt with the full might of the state.

The need for speedy development of the economic potential of Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and Border Districts of Balochistan for sustainable peace and growth was also emphasized. COAS stressed maintaining high standards of professionalism and motivation during operations and achieving excellence during the training of the formations. He commended the commanders for their constant focus on the well-being of their soldiers and maintenance of morale which constituted the foundation of the Army's operational readiness. Forum reiterated to continue full support of ongoing efforts in uplifting socioeconomic growth under the umbrella of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and wholeheartedly assisting the government in curbing all illegal activities that hamper economic stability, growth and investors' confidence.



## Caretaker PM promises to provide 100 green buses to Quetta: Jan Achakzai

### Manan Mandolkhait:

QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai on Thursday said Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has promised to provide 100 green buses for Quetta to provide decent transport facilities to the masses.

Mr. Achakzai expressed these views during his visit to Daily Quetta Voice. He said the green bus scheme would be extended to different parts of the provincial capital to facilitate the people. "This government has decided to support the common man", the information minister stated.

Mr. Achakzai mentioned that caretaker chief minister, Ali Mardan Dornki had also directed for increasing the duration of green buses to support the people.

### Official vehicles to be recovered from former ministers: Achakzai

In response to a question about 200 miss-

ing official vehicles, the minister said the Home and tribal affairs department Balochistan has been directed to ensure the recovery of the vehicles from former ministers, advisers and coordinators. "If they do not return vehicles, then articles 62 and 63 can be applied against them," the minister said.

### Transparency to be ensured in recruitment

To a question about the pending orders of youth in different departments, he said the government has already taken notice of this issue and efforts were on to ensure transparency and merit in recruitment. "Vacancies were sold and people were forced to sell out their properties for that", he lamented. This practice must be stopped, he added.

When asked about the shortage of medicines in hospitals, he said this was not acceptable and the government would ensure the availability of medicines and action would be taken against absent doctors. "Health and education are our top priorities", he added.

## Rs.1,250,000,000 released for 11 universities in Balochistan: Amjad Rashid

### Education Desk:

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has released Rs. 1,25,00,000 for 11 public sector universities in Balochistan to address their issue of financial crisis. This was revealed by the caretaker finance minister of Balochistan, Amjad Rashid while talking to the Daily Quetta Voice.

### We are trying hard to address the financial issues of the universities

"We are trying hard to address the financial issues of the universities", he said. The finance minister said despite all odds and financial constraints, the caretaker government released this huge amount to support the universities.

### Higher education plays an important role in the development

"Higher education plays an important role in the development and prosperity of the country and nation", the finance minister mentioned. He said the present government was determined to address all important issues faced by faculty members and students studying in all 11 universities in the province.

Amjad Rashid however urged the vice chancellors and faculty members to make sure to impart quality education to the students in universities.

"Our students have the right to get quality education and a better atmosphere", he concluded.



## CTD Balochistan kills 5 terrorists in an operation: Spokesman

### News Desk:

QUETTA: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed to have killed five terrorists belonging to an outlawed organization in the Aghberg area of the provincial capital. The Spokesman of CTD said five terrorists associated with the banned TTP were killed during an exchange of fire in Aghberg on Thursday morning.

An operation was planned over information provided by an alleged TTP terrorist, identified as Naseebullah, who was in custody, the Spokesman mentioned in a statement released to the local press on Thursday afternoon.

### The CTD added that during the course of an investigation

The CTD added that during the course of an investigation, the accused revealed the presence of his associates in Quetta and divulged that they were "in advance planning of carrying out a terrorist activity in Quetta soon".

"An operation was planned and terrorists were identified over the information provided by the arrested accused person who was nominated in FIR number 84-2023," the statement said.

Elaborating on the details of the operation, the CTD statement said when police were setting up a security cordon outside the TTP hideout, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire and tried to escape.

### Two terrorists tried to escape on a motorcycle

"Two terrorists tried to escape on a motorcycle but the raiding party took precautionary measures and retaliated," it added. "Additional force was called and the fleeing terrorists were contained."

As a result, the CTD said, four TTP militants were killed, while the "arrested accused person" was severely injured by the firing of his associates. The Spokesman said the dead terrorists were involved in a series of attacks in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

## QUANTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

### Balochistan needs motorway not a ministry

Editorial:

Balochistan needs a motorway, not a ministry in the federal cabinet as demanded by the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP). The ruling party expressed reservations about its share in the federal cabinet during its formation. The BAP minister, Ali Mardan Dondki, the party demanded a fair share in the federal cabinet and mentioned that it has sufficient representation in the Senate and National Assembly (NA). Simply, the party demands another federal ministry. The track record shows ministries offer no panacea to the ills of Balochistan. In fact, Balochistan that covers half of the country in terms of the area has not a single kilometre motorway. Although, most parts of the country come through motorways from Islamabad to Peshawar, Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Sukkur, and other cities. Linking Balochistan with the rest of the country through a motorway was not and is not in the rubric of government. Construction of motorways across the country has reduced the sufferings of masses in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, Balochistan has not been on the agenda of rulers with regard to the construction of motorways to enable its masses to cover long distances in short times.

**Nawaz's nationalist partners also fail to construct a motorway**  
Nationalist allies of former ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) failed to launch construction of a motorway in Balochistan despite having cordial relations with former premier Nawaz Sharif. Similarly, chief minister Ali Mardan Dondki has repeatedly mentioned that the province has a single highway motorway. But, he is yet to mount pressure on the federal government to convince it to launch the construction of the motorway. Motorway, for the people of Balochistan, seems to be day-dreaming since the Quetta-Karachi highway, commonly called the 'killer highway' has not been expanded, and work on its finalization is yet to be commenced.

The KCD highway that has been built in the form of a flyover at connects the capital cities of two provinces. Since its construction by Iran and Turkey under the banner of KCD it has never been improved, although the traffic has greatly increased on this road. Moreover, no police, except at some spots, is another cause of concern. There are no checks by the traffic controlling agencies on the 813km highway. Vehicle papers and driving licenses are not checked, while there is no action against those who violate the safety rules. The ruling BAP must come up with a demand for the construction of a motorway to address the long-standing demand of the people of Balochistan. Indeed, this would be a great service to the people. For the federal government, it must demonstrate responsibility to turn its words into action and bring Balochistan at par with other parts of the country.

### The eastern rivers

By Ali Tazqueer Sheikh

CLIMATE change has made the South Asian monsoon evermore unpredictable. Heavy rains in the catchment areas of the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej rivers deep inside India have flooded Pakistan's Punjab province. It has become vital for India and Pakistan to initiate a dialogue on the transboundary impact of climate change, starting with water management between the two countries.

The eastern rivers were awarded to India for its exclusive use under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). Their total water at the time amounted to about 33 million acre feet. Over the years, India has developed a complex web of dams, supported by link canals and barrages, to utilise its share almost entirely. They include Bhakra Dam on the Sutlej, the Pong and Pandoh dams on the Beas. Then Rantisar on the Ravi, the Beas-Sutlej Link, the Madhapur-Beas Link, and the Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan. They collectively divert about 95 per cent of water flows — all in accordance with the treaty.

India has additionally planned three projects to bring new areas under irrigation, instead of leaving the balance of about 2MAF for environmental flows.

The IWT, though, had not envisaged this, and neither has Pakistan raised it as an option to test the waters. Pakistan has not raised any concerns over India's plans to divert the remaining water of its eastern rivers.

In doing so, while both countries are true to the letter of the treaty, they are violative of its spirit. It is not the treaty's intent to disturb the hydrology, ecology, economy, culture and folklore of the riparian states of the Indus Valley Civilisation that probably originated with the city of Harappa and flourished, according to some experts, between 3,500 and 2,700 BCE.

The construction of the Bhakra and Beas dams was, however, conceived decades before the two countries signed the water distribution treaty in 1960. Bhakra Dam was first conceived in 1916 and the preliminary work started in 1946, a year before independence. It was completed in 1963, within two years of the signing of the IWT. This dam has helped India utilise almost all of its share of the eastern rivers. The Pong and Pandoh dams were completed in 1926. The second phase of construction began in 1961 and was completed in 1974.

As these projects

were completed, the flow of waters to Pakistan decreased to trickle. In the Sutlej at Sukramanki, the peak of 598,872 cusecs per second in 1955 was reduced to a mere 17,462 cusecs in 2022. In Ravi, at Ravi/Syphon, the flows shrank from a peak of 920,000 to just 63,720 cusecs during the same period. Except for the high floods of 1988, the upstream infrastructure has steadily become water-tight, not allowing any downstream leakage.

This has posed monumental challenges to communities living along the Ravi and Sutlej rivers in Pakistan: the recharging of groundwater and flushing of stagnant and polluted water. Dying rivers no longer have any life. Farmers keep up the yield with costly inputs that further degrade the quality of surface water and groundwater.

For illustrative purposes, the Ravi's high floods at Jassar in 1955 crossed 680,000 cusecs, compared to 17,010 cusecs in 2023. In Sutlej, at Sukramanki, it crossed 598,872 cusecs, compared to 191,050 cusecs during the same period. In other words, the present flooding is nothing when compared to the floods of 1955, in spite of waters to Pakistan decreasing to a trickle. Several conclusions can be drawn from these trends: one, the reconstruction of infrastructure upstream by India, has reduced for Pakistan the risks of frequent floods. Allowances for human error and management practices, however, need to be agreed on with India to mitigate Pakistan's risks. Two, intense monsoon can still render the existing infrastructure, made of concrete and unsafe. Pakistan's risks will compound if present thresholds become more frequent. Three, as India-Pakistan improve their early warning systems and bilateral communication mechanisms, Pakistan will need to undertake a strategic resilience assessment of its infrastructure. A relatively small number of families were recently evacuated for safety. It is possible to permanently move the settlers in riverbeds to safer locations in Sindh. This is presently being done under a World Bank project, by granting land ownership documents and extending financial support for flood-proof housing. The present floods in the eastern rivers present an important turning point to leapfrog towards flood-resilient communities and infrastructure.

Environmental and climate change are the prospective strategic gridlines that would define the international fraternity of relations. The prosperity and longevity of nations around the world would be both defined and jeopardized by the elements of environment, preservation and climate change management. Pakistan in general and the Balochistan, in particular, are threatened by the climate change shifts and the throes of environmental degradation.

Balochistan attains a peculiar nature both in terms of geographic extension as well as the various trends associated to this expansive bounty. It is the gift of nature that environment are not systematically and institutionally addressed. Reason on would demand a synergized level where these various departments would focus on the nature together with a jointly hatched mutual framework that could allow for information

### Environmental Woes of Balochistan

Muhammad Jahangeer Kakar

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passage, initiatives segmentation and avoid parallelism in terms of applications of actions. This could also produce joint results and could gauge the grey areas. The hollow base in terms of legal terrain has raised an infructuous institutional pyramid which is sating a cry in the wilderness. Balochistan is a land of mysterious habitat. Its environmental issues are multifaceted. The long coast remains unwatched in terms of coastal and marine life preservation. There is no documented study that has yet scaled and mapped the conditions of the coastal life with the mapping of various types of marine and aquatic species. The marine record measurement, the environmental conditions and baselines, and the quality of marine environment. There can be said to be no institutional arrangement making along the coast completely responsible for looking at these parameters.

The unchecked urbanization has raised an infructuous institutional pyramid which is sating a cry in the wilderness. Balochistan is a land of mysterious habitat. Its environmental issues are multifaceted. The long coast remains unwatched in terms of coastal and marine life preservation. There is no documented study that has yet scaled and mapped the conditions of the coastal life with the mapping of various types of marine and aquatic species. The marine record measurement, the environmental conditions and baselines, and the quality of marine environment. There can be said to be no institutional arrangement making along the coast completely responsible for looking at these parameters.

### Rapid industrialization along the coast in Lasbella, Gwadar districts going unchecked

The rapid industrialization along the coast and especially in the coastal districts of Lasbella and Gwadar go unchecked and are at large as of this moment. The industrialization is good enough but its goodness at the expense of environmental degradation would be a sorry compromise we may be intentionally or unintentionally making up. The Gaddani shipbreaking yard could one day result as the Wuhan of China as it hosts the most hazardous activity of shipbreaking which is like inviting the thick dirt of the world to our clean, green, and serene shores. The cost-benefit analysis of this and other such activities along the coast enables something yet to be done though it has been so long to have been so

### Increasing urbanization another reason for environmental nuisance

The unchecked urbanization is another cause of environmental nuisance. The dearth of amenities and facilities of life and livelihood have pushed the rural populace to shift and center around the urban centers of which the provincial capital of Quetta takes precedence over all other cities of the province. The city has donated into one large stockpile of human pollution without any town planning, the invasion of town management rules, and facilities. The air pollution caused by transportation has led to an ever-increasing rise with no controls over the fitness of vehicles plying on the roads. The lack of environmental fitness verification and the customary traffic increases by the pollution enable something yet to be done though it has been so long to have been so

### Reaching the stars

By F.S. Aijazuddin

THE launch by India of its Chandrayaan-3 rocket and space probe on Aug 23, 2023, and, a few days later, its Aditya L-1 observation mission to the sun, has propelled India into another league. They have separated the men from the boys.

Such programmes take nations decades to develop. The commitment to the US lunar mission was announced by president John F. Kennedy in May 1961. It was fulfilled eight years later in July 1969, when Apollo XI sent two astronauts — Neil Armstrong and 'Buzz' Aldrin — to the moon and returned them to earth safely, to be welcomed by Kennedy's successor Lyndon B. Johnson. President Richard Nixon.

India's Chandrayaan-3 project was made public by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpa-vee in August 2023. Twenty years later, another BJP leader, PM Narendra Modi, became the beneficiary of Vajpa-vee's fantasies.

India's Chandrayaan-3 mission, like that of Apollo XI, will be a landmark event. The moon and conduct valuable scientific experiments there. Apollo XI brought the first rocks back to earth. Fragments were distributed by Nixon to every country in the world. (In-

identally the one sent to us as a gift — to display in the drawing room of president Yabha Khan's grandson, in Dubai.) It is interesting that these futuristic space programmes draw on antiquity for their launch space station that will orbit the earth, with its hardware based at sites hidden from the naked eye in neighbouring countries.

Honestly, someone on our National Command Authority responsible for protection of our nuclear assets has anticipated such a possibility.

It should remember, though, US president Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative of 1983, to which the US, with a space-based shield that would detect and destroy enemy (ie nuclear) ballistic missiles launched from the USSR. It took a nuclear warhead to be able to orbit the sun at the same rate as the earth. It can monitor the sun even during an eclipse.

Although Pakistan will never be the direct beneficiary of the scientific data collected by Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L-1, it could learn from their development and outlay. The cost of the Aditya L-1 is reported to be \$46 million. By contrast, Pakistan's external

debt stands at \$125 billion, with no moon or sun in the drawing room of president Yabha Khan's grandson, in Dubai. It is interesting that these futuristic space programmes draw on antiquity for their launch space station that will orbit the earth, with its hardware based at sites hidden from the naked eye in neighbouring countries.

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### Coordination is key

By Arif Hasan

I WORKED on a number of large community infrastructure development projects in the 1990s, some of which were disastrous but whose sponsors dubbed them as "best practices". The reasons for the problems with these projects were always the same: an absence of coordination between the agencies involved in the project concept, planning and implementation and the blaming of each other for their problems. The situation is not very different in the Pakistan of today.

Our country is in the midst of a major civil-civil war. All the pillars of state are in conflict with each other and within each pillar there are conflicts as well. If there was coordination between them and within them there would be no civil-civil war. All the pillars of state are in conflict with each other and within each pillar there are conflicts as well. If there was coordination between them and within them there would be no civil-civil war. All the pillars of state are in conflict with each other and within each pillar there are conflicts as well. If there was coordination between them and within them there would be no civil-civil war.

with our neighbours (except perhaps for India) would also be better. Evictions and arbitrary arrests would not take place, and bureaucrats who take decisions on governance issues would not be changed every second day.

Then there are other serious coordination-related issues too. Railway accidents happen all the time because of an absence of coordination. Buses carrying passengers have accidents because of the police every time and trucks and tankers overturn into ditches and collapsed roads, because of the police. We cannot decide who is responsible for this. Factories, commercial and residential buildings catch fire in which hundreds of persons get burned just because the implementation of existing building by-laws are not followed and as soon as that happens, agencies start blaming each other. There would be better control on inflation and our relations

entrepreneurs' acquire land destroying the ecology of the regions where the cities are located, making them un-governable. Many of the persons involved in this, work closely with what we call mafias.

There are also conflicts between the police and the local administration, creating huge traffic jams that make things ungovernable and resulting in civil parking issues that are managed by private mafias in league with sections of the police and local government. Billboards collapse as they are built in violation of local government rules and directions of the judiciary as no link between the two exists. Buildings collapse since they have never been checked for structural quality, and so do walls, killing a large number of people all over Pakistan. Almost every child appears into manholes, and die.

The most serious of all coordination issues is related to the

judiciary where in recent history it has failed to reach a consensus on how to deal with major constitutional issues. Cases of rape and abduction also remain unresolved for years, and because of a lack of faith in the system, most are unreported, unpursued and eventually forgotten making a mockery of justice and exposing the misogyny of those in power.

This absence of coordination and internal strife promotes corruption, negligence and delays, and a lack of accountability and transparency. This in turn makes nepotism possible giving power to politicians at all levels to appoint their preferred individuals in positions of prominence, where constitutional benefits are possible.

The media for the last few years has been talking mainly about constitutional issues in a vocabulary which even educated individuals in the country do not understand.

By Arif Hasan

A common man has to what a constitution is; I doubt if even the experts who are brought to discuss it on TV know the niceties of it. They spend most of their time, day after day, talking to each other, from the same point of view which are of little relevance to the daily life of a common man. In addition, all the channels have the same news and international news, much of which concerns Pakistan, is mostly irrelevant to the daily life of a common man but they do not form the most important part of news on the news channels. All this and much more is because of an absence of coordination between the pillars of state and the disparties within them because of which the existing laws of the country are not followed. In the meetings of bureaucrats, it is common that some representing a particular agency do not turn up, or are called away by a senior bureaucrat or politician.

WE are living in a world of illusions. While the country is fast hurtling towards an economic meltdown, we are told that our bad days are over, with billions of dollars in investment soon expected to be pouring into the country that would change our fortunes. The caretaker prime minister says that Saudi Arabia will be investing \$25bn in the country over the next five years, while the army chief is reported to have reassured a group of businessmen that Pakistan has the potential to attract up to \$100bn in investments from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and others to alleviate the suffering of the Pakistani people.

There is a sense that the army leadership is on a mission to steer the country through the next era of economic prosperity, by fixing everything — from containing the dollar to stopping smuggling and eradicating corruption in the next few months.

It believes that the recently formed Special Investment Facility

Council will be able to bring in investments in the energy, IT, minerals, defence and agriculture sectors. The SIFC structure, which includes the COAS as well as other military representatives in key roles, aims to take a 'unified approach' to change the country out of the current state of economic turmoil in which it finds itself.

However, it appears to be part of the game of illusions. The next five years, our ruling elite, as reported to have reassured a group of businessmen that Pakistan has the potential to attract up to \$100bn in investments from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and others to alleviate the suffering of the Pakistani people.

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By Zahid Hussain

started looking at a country river by multiple crises as a lucrative investment destination. Notwithstanding some of them acquiring interests in certain state-owned ventures being offered for investment, there is no tangible commitment to invest in new projects.

But our caretaker prime minister is euphoric about the prospect of \$25bn in Saudi investment coming in various sectors, particularly in mining, agriculture and information technology, in the next two to three years. One can only wait to see such a wonder happening that could change the fortunes of a country struggling to keep itself afloat amid a massive foreign debt burden and looming stagflation.

Curiously, the civil and military leadership never gets tired of hyping Pakistan's rich untapped mineral resources. Their latest estimate is that the country is sitting on precious minerals valued up to \$6 trillion. One former minister in the previous government got very excited during a TV talk show.



# PM Kakar sees elections in 3 to 4 months

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that he was "certain" about the general elections being held in the country within three to four months. The prime minister, asked in an interview with a private television channel, about his strategy if any future scenario demanded an extension in the caretaker setup, he said as per the legal arrangement they would move to the electoral process within three to four months. "I think within few months... few months can be translated into three, three-and-half or four... that needs to be seen... this will conclude and we will go to the electoral process," he commented. Asked again whether he expected the general elections to be held within four months, he replied, "I am not (just) hopeful (rather) I am certain." He said considering the limited time, his government was mulling to prioritize certain policy issues to at least lay a foundation for any future government to enable that to carry forward the journey. To a question, the prime minister explained that even after the expiry of the term, the President of Pakistan could continue in his office till the election of his replacement. However, the Senate chairman would fill the slot, in case he voluntarily gives up the office. Coming to the issue of electricity bills, the prime minister said the government was coming up with short and mid-term solutions including the planning to convert the oil-based power plants to run on local coal. Besides, the process for the privatization of one or two power Discos will also be finalised soon which would help curb power theft through the introduction of new technology and would also attract investment. Regarding the sugar price hike, Kakar said the government had asked the provinces to activate the price control committees and that the hoarders would be cracked down. The prime minister said through the legislation, the previous government had empowered the caretaker setup which necessitated them to act differently from the normal caretaker setup. The prime minister told the interviewer that the Special Investment Facilitation Council had been formed as a forum to address the concerns impeding the investment projects. He said Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain had sent proposals and due diligence was being done which would follow the signing of formal agreements by November or December. To a question, the prime minister said the government and the military had a very comfortable working environment.



ISLAMABAD: Former senator Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

# Cyclone leaves 21 dead in southern Brazil

BRASÍLIA (INP): Torrential rain and winds caused by an extratropical cyclone have left at least 21 people dead in southern Brazil, officials said Tuesday, warning more flooding may be coming. The latest in a string of weather disasters to hit Brazil, it is the deadliest ever in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Governor Eduardo Leite told a news conference. "We were saddened to get the news that as the water recedes... 15 more bodies were found in the town of Mucum, bringing the death toll to 21," he said. Close to 6,000 people were forced from their homes by the storms, which started Monday, dumping hail and more than 300 millimeters of rain on the state in less than 24 hours and triggering floods and landslides, officials said. In Mucum, a small town of 5,000 people, hundreds had to be rescued from their rooftops as the Taquari river flooded more than 85 percent of the city, according to local news site GZH. "There are still people missing. The death toll might climb higher," Mayor Mateus Trojan told Radio Gaucha. "The town of Mucum as we knew it no longer exists." President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva sent a message of solidarity with those affected, saying the federal government is "ready to help." The victims included a man killed by an electrical shock in the town of Passo Fundo and a couple whose car was swept away by a river as they tried to cross a bridge in the town of Ibiraiaras. The storms hit 67 municipalities in all, affecting more than 52,000 people, authorities said. The neighboring state of Santa Catarina also recorded one death, according to news site G1. Hundreds of firefighters as well as military police and civil defense personnel were dispatched as part of rescue operations, with helicopters sent to reach areas cut off by flooding. "There are many isolated families, many people still at risk," said Communications Minister Paulo Pimenta, who is planning to travel to the region with a government delegation Wednesday. With more rain forecast from Thursday, authorities warn more flooding is possible. It is the latest in a string of deadly weather events to hit Brazil, which experts say are likely being made worse by climate change. Unchecked urbanization and irregular housing built on hillsides are also making such disasters deadlier, officials say. An estimated 9.5 million of Brazil's 203 million people live in areas at high risk of flooding or landslides. In June, another cyclone left 13 dead in Rio Grande do Sul and forced thousands of people from their homes. And in February, 65 people died in landslides caused by record flooding in the southeastern resort town of Sao Sebastiao, on the coast of Sao Paulo state.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Balistan Bahar Hayat Tarar chairing a high level meeting to review the preparations to observe Kashmir Black Day.

# Pervaiz Elahi re-arrest: Court seeks reply from police

LAHORE (INP): Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday sought replies from Punjab police and Superintendent Jai regarding the re-arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Pervaiz Elahi. A hearing was held in the Lahore High Court (LHC) regarding the re-arrest of the former Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi. During the hearing, the Chief Police Officer (CPO) of Rawalpindi sought an apology from the court stating that, "We want the apology from the court to be accepted." The court, in a response, ordered "to bring response, and then we will decide, if the apology to be accepted." The court then issued orders for the District Police Officer (DPO) and the Central Police Officer (CPO) to submit their replies within seven days, implying that a thorough investigation was necessary before any decision could be made. Superintendent of Attock Jail, who was not noticeably absent from the proceedings, in response to the court's inquiry about his absence, cited security concerns surrounding Pervaiz Elahi in Attock Jail. "Chairman PTI is in jail, and his security was an issue," Superintendent of Attock Jail stated before the court. The court questioned, "whether the security concerns had been resolved?" The court issued another directive to the jail superintendent to submit a response before the court. The Lahore High Court (LHC) decided to adjourn the hearing until September 18, providing all parties involved with ample time to present their arguments. It is worth mentioning here that just one day ago, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) issued a suspension of PTI President Pervaiz Elahi's detention under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance, mandating his immediate release. But shortly after his release from the police custody, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi re-arrested by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the judicial complex attack case. The case was registered against Pervaiz Elahi at CTD police station on September 3 and he will be presented before the ATC today [Wednesday].

# Change of guard ceremony at Quaid's mausoleum on Defence Day

KARACHI (INP): A special ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (RA) on Wednesday with smartly-turned guards of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) assuming their duties. Air Officer Commanding PAF Academy Air Vice Marshal Ghazanfar Latif was the chief guest at the change of command ceremony. He also laid the floral wreath at the mausoleum, offered Fateha and wrote his comments in the guest book. Addressing the gathering, Mr Latif said today is a day to pay tribute to the joint victory of armed forces of Pakistan. "We will always continue defending our boundaries as protective shield against our enemies."



LAHORE: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed along with Jamat-e-Islami (JI) chief Sirajul Haq talking to media.



ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Kamran Tessori, Governor of Sindh called on Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs & Privatization at Finance Division.

# CJCS, Services Chiefs pay tribute to martyrs, families on 58th Defence Day

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), Services Chiefs and Armed Forces of the country paid rich tribute to martyrs, their families and war veterans on the 58th Defence and Martyrs' Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the country's military leadership in its message said that on 6th September 1965, it was yet again displayed that a smaller but righteous force overcame a numerically larger enemy with professionalism, determination and faith. "Indeed this day and associated heroes and sacrifices continue to inspire our generations."

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
NADRA REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE  
QUETTA

RENTAL OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED  
FOR NADRA REGISTRATION CENTER SARAB ROAD, QUETTA

1. Official accommodation for NRC at following tollah/city is required with facilities / requirements mentioned as under:-

S#	Site Location / JRC	Tollah	Quetta	Preferred Covered Area
1.	NRC Sarab Road, Quetta	Quetta	Quetta	2000 to 6000 Sqft

- Accommodation should be permitting in the main city
- Space consisting of covered area preferable from 2000 sqft to 6000 sqft.
- Should be at prominent place having independent entrance.
- Security near viable location and readily accessible for general public.
- Dedicated Electrical Meter/Connection.
- Proper Outer Door Implementation.
- Roomy for wheel chair for disabled citizens.
- Sufficient parking space for staff and general public.
- Transfer for a longer period i.e. 12 month.

NOTE: Interested parties / owners can purchase the bidding documents on submission of a written application at a cost of Rs. 1000/- from below mentioned address between 07:30 AM to 3:30 PM (except public holidays). The bids proposal should be submitted duly completed in all respect by 20th Sep, 2023 at 11:30 hours under Single Stage - Two Bidding Building Procedure. The envelopes shall be clearly marked as General and Financial proposals. General Bids / Proposals will be opened by 20th Sep, 2023 at 12:00 hours at Regional Head Office-NADRA New Zangoboo Road Quetta in respect of available bidder. Bids / Proposals must include the following documents in addition to any other information that the bidder may find necessary. Moreover, detail terms and conditions, required specification, evaluation criteria are mentioned in bidding documents.

- Attested photocopy of ownership / lease leased property documents.
- Attested photocopy of valid approved Site Plan, CNR, NTN, GDT & SST.
- Completion Certificate of the building if available.
- Undertaking / Non Judicial Stamp Paper of Rs.100/- Certifying that owner / building is not temporary / permanently delivered from any Government agency / authority / department (without bearing any responsibility on NADRA whatsoever in this regard).

Bidding documents received after submission of the date/time mentioned above will not be entertained. Current price shall be inclusive of all taxes, except GST / SST, which shall be mentioned separately. No bidkeeping / service charges will be paid to use of mail-order agency. Opening time / time of Financial Proposal will be indicated in all successful bidder of General Bidding Provision. NADRA reserves the rights to reject all bids / proposals under PPSA Rules 33 and can cancel the bidding process before acceptance of bid proposal. Bid can also be reject if owner of selected building fail to produce acceptable required / property documents.

This advertisement is also available on PPSA website at [www.ppsa.gov.pk](http://www.ppsa.gov.pk)

Assistant Director (Admin)  
Regional Head Office-NADRA  
New Zangoboo Road, Quetta  
Ph: 081-9211853

PID(Q)97/23

# Sana Mahjabeen Umrani appointed as ADC Gwadar

**Behram Baloch:**

Sana Mahjabeen Umrani was appointed as the first additional deputy commissioner (revenue) Gwadar. According to an official statement, Sana Mahjabeen assumed the charge of ADC Gwadar on Wednesday. She has already served as additional deputy commissioner in Quetta and assistant commissioner in Surab.



# Levies man killed in Mastung Balochistan

**From Our Correspondent:**

MASTUNG: Alevies man was killed in a firing incident in Balochistan's Mastung district on Thursday. Police sources said unknown accused opened fire at the Bus Addah area of the city.

The firing left a levies man dead. The victim was identified as Abdul Zahir. Two people were injured in the at-

tack. The injured were rushed to Shaheed Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani hospital for medical treatment. The attackers escaped unhurt from the spot.

The dead body of levies was also shifted to the hospital. Senior administration officials and police reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.



# Ji to stage protest demo against worst inflation outside Governor House Quetta

**Staff Reporter:**

QUETTA: The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Balochistan on Wednesday announced to stage a protest demonstration outside the Governor's House against worst inflation. The party would stage a demonstration on September 24. Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi, the Balochistan Amir of the JI told a press conference at the Quetta Press Club. Dr. Attaur Rehman and Professor Sultan of the JI were also present on the occasion.

Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi has said that by pushing the country into a quagmire of crises, the former rulers are now busy trying to hide their corruption. The government should try to pull the country out of difficult situations with courage, or they should show their helplessness in front of the

people. **Ji Amir Siraj ul Haq to lead the demonstration**

He said that the Jamaat-e-Islami's effort is to create awareness among the people so that the people cannot reach their enemies.

The previous governments have made agreements with the IMF to suppress the country. Maulana Hashmi claimed. Instead of burdening the people, the privileges of the country's elite should be reduced, he demanded. Those who drowned Balochistan are saying today that Balochistan has sunk. He said that a protest drama will be held on September 24 in front of Governor House Quetta under the leadership of Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque against inflation and the agreements made with IMF organized by Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan.

**Rulers should reduce their luxuries**

He said that Jamaat-e-Islami has decided to issue a white paper to expose the corruption in the country, especially in Balochistan, and will soon call for a power generation conference along with a long march. He said that theft of electricity has become common in political departments, but no one is taking notice, on the other hand, poor people have been forced to commit suicide by charging electricity bills higher than their salaries. He said that the caretaker government has no intention to reduce the prices of petroleum products, the government's show of helplessness has created fear in the people, which is condemnable. In response to a question, he said that the rulers who harmed the public mandate are not praiseworthy.

# Australia PM confirms China visit, Li says ready to resume exchanges

PERTH (INP): Australia's prime minister confirmed on Thursday he will visit China later this year after talks with China's premier, who said Beijing was ready to resume bilateral exchanges after years of friction.

The announcement by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on the sidelines of a Southeast Asia summit in Indonesia came after a year-long break in relations over political and economic issues including Chinese sanctions on Australian imports.

"I confirmed the invitation from President Xi," Albanese told reporters after talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, adding he "will visit China later this year at a mutually agreeable time". The trip would be the first to China by an Australian prime minister since 2016. Li told Albanese China was ready to work with Australia to resume exchanges in different areas, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported, without mentioning specific

areas. He said the Asia-Pacific region was the shared home of both countries and Beijing would work with Australia to safeguard peace and stability in the region, according to Xinhua.

China's foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing welcomed the planned visit and that "a healthy and stable China-Australia relationship serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples".

Albanese thanked President Xi for the invitation and said his talks with Li were "constructive" and "positive", adding the two countries needed more dialogue to improve relations.

"This was an important meeting. I told premier Li that we would continue to cooperate where we can, disagree where we must and engage in our national interest," he said. Albanese last met Xi on the sidelines of the G20 summit on the Indonesian resort island of Bali in November.

# Sudan army chief visits Qatar on third trip since war began

KHARTOUM (INP): Sudanese army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan travelled Thursday to Doha for talks with Qatar's semir, Sudan's ruling sovereign council said, his third trip abroad during his nearly five-month war with paramilitaries.

Burhan and Qatar's Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani will "discuss bilateral relations, issues of common interest, and the situation in Sudan," a council statement said. Since April 15, Sudan's regular army has been at war with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, led by Burhan's former deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

After spending months under siege inside the military headquarters in Khartoum, Burhan made his first foray outside last month has visited regional allies in recent weeks.

He has since been based in Port Sudan in the country's east, which has been spared the fighting and to which government officials and the United Nations have relocated.



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Saeed Al Malki with the Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

# Dollar goes down by Rs 2.48 in interbank, trading at 304.50

KARACHI (INP): The US dollar (USD) goes down by 2.48 rupees in interbank this morning and trading at 304.50 on Thursday.

"The greenback rate dropped by two rupees in the open market and trading at 310 Pakistani rupees," Forex dealers said.

Pakistani rupee (PKR) has made impressive recovery against the US dollar (USD) in the open market in three days, rising by Rs18 against the greenback, currency dealers said. "The banks selling the dollar to importers at Rs 305.70," dealers said.

President Forex Association of Pakistan Malik Bostan has said that the US dollar will also enter in the reverse gear mode and will come down to Rs300. It is pertinent to mention here that the caretaker government has announced a crackdown against dollar smugglers following the identification of facilitators linked to government officials.

To combat dollar smuggling, hoarding, and organized crime, the caretaker government has decided to launch comprehensive crackdown.

The identification of faci-

lators and patrons among government officials has already taken place, and a list has been compiled for this purpose, sources said.

A day earlier, it was reported that the US Dollar (USD) rate dropped in the open market after an administrative crackdown and deployment of plain-clothed law enforcement personnel at exchange companies across the country.

"The law enforcement personnel monitoring dollars' sale and purchase in exchange companies," secretary exchange companies body Zafar Paracha has said.

Plain-clothed law enforcement personnel have been deployed on the premises of exchange companies across the country. "We had requested the administration to deploy plain-clothed officials outside the exchange companies," President Forex Association of Pakistan Malik Bostan stated. "Our members had complained that the black mafia agents giving headache to them," he said. "These agents grab the people, coming to the exchange companies for dollars, outside the premises of the companies," Bostan stated.

# IMF approves Rs15bn relief in electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has given the green light to a relief plan of Rs 15 billion which aimed to give financial relief to electricity consumers in Pakistan, sources said on Thursday.

According to media reports, matter revealed that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) played a pivotal role in securing this relief from the IMF, adding that the FBR has exceeded expectations by collecting an impressive amount of Rs20 billion in excess taxes.

The IMF's decision to grant the relief of Rs15 billion – aimed at relieving the financial burden on electricity consumers – is a testament to the commendable performance of the FBR.

It underscores the tireless efforts of key figures in the caretaker government, including Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, and Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali. The relief package is expected to provide substantial benefits to consumers with up to 200 units of electricity consumption.

# FIA accelerates crackdown on currency smugglers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency has accelerated its crackdown against the smuggling of foreign currency on Thursday. The Peshawar zone ranks first in the crackdown against Hawala/Hundi. During the last 20 days, as many as 27 actions have been taken against the Hundi references. During the crackdown, the FIA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa zone arrested 28 accused and recovered more than Rs102 million from the accused.

The FIA took the mobile phones of the accused and sent them for forensic. Cases were registered against all the accused under currency smuggling.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Jawad Sohrab Malik, Strengthens Support for Overseas Pakistanis through Engagements with Community Welfare Attaches.

# Digital Silk Road to stimulate Pak-China e-commerce collaboration: Lin Jianming

BEIJING (INP): Digital Silk Road will help to stimulate Pak-China e-commerce collaboration, said Lin Jianming Chairman and CEO of Chinese sci-tech enterprise Samoyed Cloud Technology, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. "Next, we're going to make full use of AI tools to promote technological innovation and learn from successful experience, integrating into Pakistan's national digital strategy to effectively facilitate the shared prosperity of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," he said.

China's digital trade has developed vigorously for the past few years. According to the data released by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the scale of China's digital economy increased by USD 4.1 trillion, with an average annual compound growth rate of 14.2 percent from 2016 to 2022. The dividend of China's booming digital trade has provided a pool of business opportunities and injected fresh hope into countries along the Belt and Road.

Up to November 2022, China had established the Digital Silk Road cooperation mechanism with 16 countries and advanced Silk Road e-commerce bilateral cooperation mechanism with 26 countries, including Pakistan. Samoyed Cloud Technology, focused on artificial intelligence (AI), big data, mobile Internet, and cloud computing, exploited the vast potential of Pakistan's digital economy and launched its e-commerce platform for EZTRADER to provide digital trade services for the local retailers importing Chinese products. Recently, Lin called on Pakistani Ambassador to China Moinul Haque to reach an important consensus on the digital transformation of Pakistan. "The common goal of both parties is to allow Pakistani people to buy better and cheaper Chinese goods," the Ambassador indicated, "as well as to enable our businessmen to reduce financial pressure and better expand their business scale." "Chinese products are popular in Pakistan. Since the platform

EZTRADER was launched in May of this year, it has attracted more than 3,000 local retailers, including 3C digital, home appliances, stationery, accessories, beauty makeup and the like, which completely exceeded our expectations," said Lin. To date, EZTRADER is committed to becoming a localized comprehensive e-commerce service platform connecting the local small and medium-sized retail B-side and trade B-side in Pakistan. With an efficient supply system, it provides one-stop B2B digitalization for the whole link of e-commerce trade from purchase and sale to payment.

Lin considers that with Pakistan, the fifth most populous country in the world, with the popularity of mobile Internet, the information flow, capital flow and logistics has a certain development foundation, thus the digital transformation has huge growth potential. In the future, the company will focus on promoting higher-level and deeper cooperation in the digital field with countries along the Belt and Road, including Pakistan.