

QUETTA VOICE

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Time for world to accept India is 'rogue Hindutva terrorist state': Bilawal on Sikh leader's killing in Canada

LAHORE: After Canada accused India of involvement in the killing of a separatist Sikh leader on its soil, former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said on Tuesday it was time for the international community to accept that India had become a "rogue Hindutva terrorist state".

The separatist leader, 45-year-old Hardeep Singh Nijjar, was shot dead outside a Sikh temple on June 18 in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb with a large Sikh population. Nijjar supported a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent Khanda state and was designated by India as a "terrorist" in July 2020.

Subsequently, Canada said on Monday that it was "actively pursuing credible allegations" linking Indian government agents to the murder of the Sikh separatist leader.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in an emergency statement to the House of Commons that any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen was "an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty".

Ottawa also expelled India's top intelligence agent and accused it of a role in the murder of a Sikh separatist leader.

In response, India said today it had expelled a Canadian diplomat with five days' notice to leave the country.

Earlier, New Delhi also dismissed the Canadian accusation as "absurd and motivated" and urged it instead to take legal action against anti-Indian elements operating from its soil.

Speaking to the media in Lahore today, PPP Chairman and ex-foreign minister Bilawal said the interim Foreign Office should take notice of the episode and issue a "clear" statement.

Canada had levelled a "big allegation" against



India, he noted, adding that India had been "exposed before the world".

He further stated: "Till when the international community, particularly our friends in the West, will continue to ignore such events involving India. It is time for the international community to accept that India has become a rogue Hindutva terrorist state."

"They have not only conducted terrorism in [occupied] Kashmir, not only in Pakistan have

caught their spies involved in terrorism in our country, but they have now been caught violating the sovereignty of a Nato-member state.

"This is not only a violation of Canadian sovereignty. This is [also] a violation of international law and international norms. And the PPP calls — but Pakistan should call on the international community to stand with the people of Canada and highlight the atrocities of the religio-fascist state that is today's India.

This is not the first instance of Bilawal using strong words of criticism for the Indian leadership. In December last year, while Bilawal was the foreign minister, he had called the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "the butcher of Gujarat" — a reference to 2002 Gujarat riots.

He had made these statements while addressing the media at a UN briefing room in New York, minutes after his Indian counterpart accused Pakistan of perpetuating terrorism and sheltering Osama bin Laden. In May this year, he became the first foreign minister from Pakistan to visit India in over a decade, to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Conference in Goa.

Upon his return, he said he had succeeded in "countering the false narrative" of Narendra Modi's government that every Muslim was a terror suspect and exposing Delhi's history of defiance of bilateral and international agreements. While in Goa, Bilawal and his Indian counterpart had also posed for a protocol picture but didn't shake hands. Meanwhile, there was shrill Indian media commentary about why there should not be talks and why the two shouldn't even shake hands. The two foreign ministers also seemed to be engaged in a blame game during the SCO meeting, raising issues such as terrorism and Kashmir. **News Desk**

ANP leader Arbab Ghullam Kasi killed in Kuchlak

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: A leader of the Awami National Party (ANP), Arbab Ghullam Kasi was killed in a firing incident in the Kuchlak area of the provincial capital. Police sources said the dead body of the ANP leader was found near a village in Kuchlak.

The dead body of the ANP leader was shifted to the civil hospital Quetta. A large number of ANP supporters reached the hospital after the dead body was brought. Police also reached the spot of the incident and started

an investigation into the incident.

Postmortem of the dead body of the ANP leader would be conducted to ascertain the cause of death, police said. Balochistan President of the ANP, Asghar Khan Achakzai has strongly condemned the killing and demanded of the government to arrest the culprits behind the killing. He lashed out at the provincial government for its failure to protect the lives and properties of the masses.

The motive behind the killing of the ANP leader could not be ascertained immediately.



2 million families to be provided health cards in Balochistan: CM Domki

Staff Reporter:

Quetta: Two Million families would be provided with Health card in Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Dhomki, the caretaker Chief Minister announced. The chief executive of the province made this important announcement in a meet-up regarding issuance of Health cards in Balochistan.

Caretaker health minister, Dr Amir Muhammad Jogezi, Caretaker Finance minister, Amjad Rasheed, Chief Secretary Balochistan and other high ups of the government were also present in the meet-up.

Asfandyar Kakar, secretary health Balochistan while briefing the attendees about Health Card stated that almost 2 Million families of the province will get health facilities and be benefited from this program.

The Healthcard holder families will be able to get hospital facilities in 1,200 hospitals of the country.

Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki said that a large part of the income of the poor people is spent on medical expenses, as a result of which poverty is increasing, expensive treatments are beyond the reach of the poor people.

Poison in the name of vegetables: BFA destroys crops on 150 acres in Quetta

Manan Mandokhail, News Desk :

QUETTA: The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) on Tuesday destroyed vegetables and salad cultivated on 150 acres land in the provincial capital. The BFA launched an operation against the elements involved in the cultivation of vegetables cultivated through contaminated water in the city. "We have destroyed crops on 150 acres land in Quetta", Khadim Hussain, an official of the BFA told Daily Quetta Voice.

Scores of BFA officials backed by local administration launched in the operation in the Sabzal Road and other areas of the city. No resistance was witnessed by the elements involved in the cultivation of the vegetables through contaminated water. "This is poison in the name of vegetables", Khadim Hussain, the BFA official stated.

Crackdown launched against vegetables through contaminated water

People can approach us at our complaint portal with regard to substandard food and cultivation through contaminated water. Mr. Hussain mentioned. The crackdown was

launched in the provincial capital on the directives of the Director-General BFA, Muhammad Naeem Bazzi. Mr. Bazzi has directed the BFA officials not to spare the elements playing with the lives of people.

Khadim Hussain stated that most of the Afghan refugees are involved in the cultivation of crops through contaminated water. Crops are being cultivated in the Sabzal Road, Sarab Road, Mano Jan Road, Aghberg and other parts of the provincial capital.

No arrest was made during the operation

No arrest was made during the operation conducted by the BFA in the Sabzal Road area of the city. Despite repeated operations by the BFA, the cultivation of crops through contaminated water is still underway in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

Medical experts say these crops including vegetables and salads are causing different diseases including cancer, lung issues, hepatitis A B and C. They have urged the BFA and the provincial government to take stern action against the elements involved in vegetables and salad in the city.





Editor: Asim Khan

Shelterless schools in Balochistan and CM Mir Ali Mardan Domki

Editorial :

Caretaker Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki announcement about the construction of buildings for shelterless schools appears to be a positive stride. As per the statistics of the education department, the number of shelterless schools across the province is more than 2,000. However, independent sources put the number much higher than what is being quoted by the department. The CM needs to translate his words into action in terms of the construction of buildings and boundary walls for the government-run schools. Although, the construction of buildings has not been reflected in the public sector development program (PSDP) for the current financial year. However, the government can evolve a strategy and mechanism to include all shelterless schools in the forthcoming PSDP.

UNICEF, EU should go beyond inaugural sessions

Mr. Ali Mardan Domki made this announcement while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Balochistan Education Support Program (BESP). Representatives of the United Nations and UNICEF were also present. As far as UNICEF and EU are concerned, they have to go beyond inaugural sessions and take steps for the promotion of the education sector.

Yes, first it is the responsibility of the government of Balochistan to make sure provision of educational facilities to all children under article 25-A of the Constitution. But UNICEF and EU should not be confined to a private hotel or their heavily-guarded offices. It has almost become a tradition that once in a year these organizations hold such seminars.

8,188 schools have no toilet facility

According to the statistics of the education department, 8,188 schools have no toilet facility. This is a matter of serious concern. The number of government-run primary, middle and high schools across Balochistan is more than 15,000. Statistics show that 11,775 schools have no facility for drinking water and nearly 8,000 schools have no boundary walls. It is good to see representatives from the UNICEF and EU discussing education in Quetta. But still, a lot needs to be done. Their attractive signboards should match their performance on the ground. As far as the government is concerned, it must announce an emergency to make sure the enrollment of more than 1 million children in schools and improve the state of facilities in schools.

The balance of the troika

By Arifa Noor

THERE is a new chief justice in town. And as with any transition, there is a big white building of justice, much as is usually written about the old and new 'sheriffs', for in countries such as ours, it is hard to assess the performance of the new power when they are present.

Only in their retirement do many of us find the courage to write about their tenure, except for those who were elected, they are generally least likely to take offence or are too powerless to do so.

But I digress. As the transition took place, much has been written about the one who left and the one who has now taken over. Some of the commentary has been rather detailed and full of legalese — about judgments and what they wrote and didn't and how legal it was.

These details are for the more legally literate. For the rest of us who view the world more simplistically, our indicators' behaviour is easier to understand in the larger context of politics. For politics in our pure land is played out through the legal and constitutional framework, even though rules and laws have little to do with it. But to say all too

often this is not deemed acceptable, debating legal issues is far more time-consuming and complex. Indeed, what would television do to the judge without two lawyers with opposing views who can argue at length and fill air time?

However, behind it all, there is one reality: a power struggle called politics. In this, the constant are the politicians and the establishment. The third player, post-elected, they are generally least likely to take offence or are too powerless to do so.

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Manzoor Magsi

In a bid to unlock the untapped potential of Balochistan's unemployed youth, a groundbreaking Information Technology (IT) initiative program has been unveiled. The program, announced during a ceremony held in Quetta, the provincial capital, is set to revolutionize the prospects of Balochistan's young workforce. With the support of the caretaker Chief Minister, Provincial Ministers, and senior government officials, this initiative aims to provide modern IT courses including artificial intelligence that can be accessed by both men and women,

regardless of their educational background or geographic location.

IT skills important

The optimism surrounding this initiative is palpable, and it's not without reason. Balochistan boasts a pool of talented and hardworking youth who have long been hindered by the lack of opportunities and infrastructure. This IT program represents a significant step towards harnessing their latent skills and talents. In today's world, education alone is no longer sufficient; it must be complemented with practical skills. The aspiration is

clear — equip Balochistan's youth not only with degrees but also with modern skills that are in high demand in the job market. This initiative recognizes that the youth of Balochistan should not only be job seekers but also potential job creators. It is envisioned that after just a few months of training through this IT program, those who were once searching for government jobs will have the capacity to provide employment to others.

IT sector opens new vistas for youth

In today's ever-evolving political

economy, information technology plays a pivotal role. It opens doors to a myriad of emerging professions and opportunities that are shaping the modern world. Balochistan's youth will not only gain technical skills but also intellectual guidance to navigate the challenges of this rapidly changing landscape. The program acknowledges the importance of adaptability and critical thinking skills that are crucial in the digital age.

This initiative is part of a broader vision for Balochistan's development, and it marks the beginning of the second phase in the journey to em-

power the province's youth. The commitment of the government, the enthusiasm of professionals, and the potential of Balochistan's youth together form a potent formula for success. As this IT initiative program takes root, we can anticipate a brighter future for the youth of Balochistan, one where they become the architects of their destiny and active participants in the global knowledge economy. This writer is a former Press Secretary to the Chief Minister of Balochistan, currently working as Assistant Director of Public Relations at the Government of Balochistan.

Whither public service?

By Umair Javed

In the past two decades that the country has been in the midst of various economic and service delivery crises, nearly all solutions proposed by economists, policy professionals, and even some politicians have one thing in common: reduce the role of the public sector.

Take the most recent example of rising electricity costs and the cost of living crisis. A consistent demand has been to privatise the distribution companies so that private sector investment and efficiency can be introduced, especially when it comes to reducing transmission and distribution losses.

Another reform suggested is to open the electricity purchase market to private entities, ending the government role as the sole buyer. Market dynamics of supply and demand will then be headed by retailers and distributors, rather than opaque government contracts that private electricity generators are currently offered.

Efforts to minimise the public sector have been made in other service delivery domains too. Since mid-1990s, various reforms in the education sector include the adoption of government schools by private entities; the introduction of voucher programmes to allow low-cost private schools to be subsidised by the government; and the outsourcing of

teacher training, recruitment and monitoring. These reforms exist alongside a complete space to the private sector to set up loosely regulated fee-paying schools and universities since at least the 1970s.

The health sector too has seen a number of privatisation reforms, starting with the outsourcing of health units in Punjab to non-profit organisations in the early 2000s and, more recently, the introduction of private medical treatments via public health insurance schemes in KP and Punjab. Again, like education, fully private medical facilities and universities have been able to function relatively unhindered for several decades.

Given the past performance of government entities, this trend of advocating against the public sector makes sense. Across the country, public sector departments possess low levels of efficiency and administrative capacity. They are often disproportionately staffed, run by generals with excess manpower in non-integral roles, are plagued by poor and highly politicised recruitment and placement practices; and suffer from high degrees of corruption and rent-seeking.

It would not be an exaggeration to suggest that over the past four decades, the public

sector's primary instinct has been to accumulate more and more resources for itself, whether that is through salaries and perks or pension revisions or, most egregiously, real estate opportunities.

The decline of the public sector stretches across many years and has been made possible by a combination of many different actors. These include politicians and political regimes reliant on patronage to get re-elected and attain power, the military establishment that manipulates the political and administrative structures to achieve its own preferred outcomes; and senior public sector employees themselves who have sold out their institutions for private gain.

All of this has been made possible by a political system that is unaccountable to the electorate. In the public sector, it is working-class households, who actually need the most from a national electricity grid, the provision of basic health services, and even the opportunity to transit from one place to another has been made impossible first and foremost by efforts of the state.

Pakistan can probably privatise solutions to many of its problems. Selling PIA and the Steel Mills seem like easy solutions. We can also agree on the larger point that the Pakistan state

cannot make commodities, nor can it provide complex services. But this does not entail giving up on the idea that the basic function of the state in a developing country is to provide welfare to the poorest of its citizens.

The insertion of the profit motive in basic services such as health and education, as well as water, solid waste management, and sanitation, has had disastrous effects for poor and vulnerable citizens. The whole-sale embrace of privatisation in energy in some high-income countries, for example, has led to fat profits for energy utilities but high costs and poor services, especially for lower-income households.

The history of the 20th century tells us that where countries have developed, they have done so on the back of public sector performance in key areas of social and economic life. The expansion of education, the development of a national electricity grid, the provision of basic health services, and even the opportunity to transit from one place to another has been made impossible first and foremost by efforts of the state.

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came together to support the nizam-i-sak. An individual, who at Fair, roamed the neighbourhood asking the people to come to prayers, and those who did not were visited by the mosque's maulvi and asked if they had a quarrel with God. In their khurbas, the maulvis also preached against the working and schooling of women and of their driving cars.

All this changed overnight, even the elite, who were not affected by the introduction of these behavioural rules. They isolated themselves in their ghettos, and they had very little to do with the new divided society that emerged, especially in the urban areas. Most of what has been described above was done away with in the post-Zia period, but its influences remain. One does not have to cover one's head or avoid urinals and public and academic buildings because Muslims are not supposed to urinate while standing. This created an acute shortage of toilets.

With the direct support of the government, the local mosque and the neighbouring madrasah (if it existed)

Political culture

By Arif Hasan

MAGIC wand. Silver bullet. Miracle cure. Pick your idiom, and then forget about it. If there's one thing Pakistanis should learn from the turmoil of recent months it is that there is no quick fix for Pakistan's myriad, complex and increasingly insurmountable problems.

The dysfunctional nature of our institutions has highlighted that while we may cling to the idea of salvation, others are backing the bottom-up boost exports approach. And that, in the end, the real challenge are inherent in our system, and when our institutions do not work cooperatively to clean our political mess, not externally to buy us out of our economic woes. Pakistanis must do more than just occupy with power games and saviour seeking has ended at the expense of policymaking and we have argued amongst ourselves while problems were mounted.

Any meaningful solutions now require time, strategising and holistic handling. Let's consider an example from our critical textiles and IT sectors. Recent report from Cornell University's Global Labour Institute argues that garment manu-

No easy solution

By Huma Yusuf

facturing in the key markets of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam can expect collective losses of \$65 billion next year by 2030. This represents a 22 per cent slowdown, and the loss of one million new jobs in these economies. The forecast for 2023 is worse: a collective loss of \$89pc of exports, and 8.64 million fewer jobs across the four countries. The report attributes these losses to climate change-linked events, including high heat and flooding, that are disrupting supply chains and endanger workers' health, jeopardising productivity. The authors argue that while there is growing awareness in the garment sector of the need to reduce emissions and reduce water wastage, countries and companies are not doing enough to implement climate adaptation strategies.

Turning to IT, while we are proud of PIA planes, India has landed a rover on the south pole of the moon. This is a reflection of India's science and technology ecosystem — the country accounts for 23pc of the world's STEM graduates (43pc of them)

emphasise each other's failings. On top seems to generate more consensus than others, and that is the need for economic stability. All the powers that be recognise that the size of the pie must increase so that all can feed off it. But as the era of 'get a bailout, chug along' ends, views on how the economy should be resuscitated also diverge. Some are banking on the top-down approach, while others are backing the bottom-up boost exports approach. And that, in the end, the real challenge are inherent in our system, and when our institutions do not work cooperatively to clean our political mess, not externally to buy us out of our economic woes. Pakistanis must do more than just occupy with power games and saviour seeking has ended at the expense of policymaking and we have argued amongst ourselves while problems were mounted.

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China-ASEAN Expo provides valuable platform to Pakistan for trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Acting Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, Sardar Muhammad said that China-ASEAN Expo provides a valuable platform for Pakistan to showcase its products and explore new avenues of trade and business cooperation with relevant companies and investors.

The Acting Consul General along with Trade and Investment Counsellor, attended the opening ceremony of the 20th China ASEAN Expo and visited Pakistan's products and stalls of Pakistani companies participating in the event, according to Gwadar Pro. Sardar said that the Expo is an annual event that facilitates

economic and trade cooperation among the participating countries. The event attracts a wide range of participants including businesses, government officials, and industry experts from various sectors.

He further said that Pakistan has been allocated a sizable area at the Fair where 23 Pakistani companies are participating with their impressive displays of Pakistani products including jewelry, precious gemstones, handicrafts, leather products, and carpets, to name a few.

The Acting Consul General visited stalls of Pakistani companies participating in their respective fields from the platform of the expo.

PPP to adopt Bilawal's policy over election date

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Tuesday decided to adopt the policy suggested by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the matter for timely elections. According to the PPP sources, a meeting of the PPP Central Executive Committee (CEC) was held on the matter of timely elections where the participants reached a consensus to adopt Bilawal Bhutto's policy.

As per reports, during the CEC meeting, the participants consulted the policies of PPP co-chairman Asif Zardari and his son Bilawal.

The senior members of the committee recommended to adopt Asif Zardari's constitutional policy, as Asif Ali Zardari was inclined to save the economy through his policy. However, the majority members in the CEC opposed the former president Asif Ali Zardari's stance and emphasis to adopt PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's policy.



QUETTA: Dr Palitha Gunaratna Mahipala, WHO Country head in Pakistan giving health equipment to Secretary Health Asif Yaqar Kakar during a ceremony.

Renovations completed in China-Pakistan School Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan along with the China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) has completed the renovations of China-Pakistan Government Girls Middle School Faqeer Colony Gwadar.

Naseem Baloch, the school administrator, told Gwadar Pro that two buildings of the school, which were built in

2016 and 2020 respectively, were repaired and renovated to give a better learning environment to the students. Some parts of the school were also installed with solar panels to provide uninterrupted electricity.

He said the repair and renovations will create a safe, functional, and inspiring space for children while promoting effective teaching and learning atmosphere.

Naseem was hopeful for the school upgrade from middle to high school this year. He noted that the school has sufficient area and facilities to be converted into a higher secondary school.

"We have 18 classrooms and a total of 30 rooms, including a computer lab and the library. Once the school is upgraded, the

underprivileged girls can continue their education at least till high school level.

At present, the China-funded middle school in Gwadar is providing free education to 560 young girls and boys in Gwadar," he added.

Established in August 2016, this school stands as a shining example of the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan.

May 9 riots cases: Lahore ATC extends Asad Umar, Imran's sisters' interim bail till Oct 4

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Tuesday extended the interim bail of PTI leader Asad Umar, party chairman Imran Khan's two sisters and other suspects till October 4 in cases pertaining to the violent incidents of May 9.

Imran's arrest on May 9 in Al-Qadir Trust case had resulted in widespread violence and saw important military installations come under attack, on the basis of which the state had

launched a severe crackdown against his party. While Imran Khan was released a few days later (he has since been rearrested in a separate case), scores of PTI workers and almost the entire top-tier leadership were rounded up, with many still facing court proceedings under serious charges.

Last month, a Lahore ATC allowed the police to interrogate several PTI leaders and activists afresh in different

cases of May 9 riots following the addition of new offences of mutiny and waging a war against the state in the FIRs.

On September 2, a Lahore ATC had extended the pre-arrest bail of Umar and Imran's sisters Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan in multiple cases relating to the May 9 riots.

The sisters' bail had been extended till today (September 19) with directives to join the investigation. While the investigation of-

ficer had informed the court that Umar had been discharged in five out of seven cases against him, his bail in the remaining two cases had been extended till today as well.

Today, ATC Judge Abbar Gul presided over the hearing while the former PTI secretary general and other suspects appeared before the court and marked their attendance. The court sought the complete record of the investigation from the police.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Shamsah Akhtar.

UN meet to look for ways to help world's poorest

NEW YORK (INP): World leaders met at the United Nations in a bid to salvage ambitious promises to lift the planet's poorest, at a time when vulnerable nations are facing a volley of crises.

But the development summit, on the eve of the annual UN General Assembly that opens on Tuesday, threatens to be eclipsed by growing geopolitical tensions — which will be symbolised by the presence at the meeting in New York of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

In 2015, UN member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, 17 targets to transform the world by 2030 including by completely ending extreme poverty and making sure not a single of the planet's eight billion people goes hungry.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the summit will seek a "global rescue plan" on the targets, as he acknowledged that only about 1.5 per cent were on track to be met and that metrics on some were heading in reverse.

"The goals are about the hopes, dreams, rights and expectations of people and the health of our natural environment," Guterres said.

"They're about righting historic wrongs, healing global divisions and putting our world on a path to lasting peace," he said.

Efforts to devote money and attention to the goals have been repeatedly set back, including by the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and other turmoil, worsening cli-

mate catastrophes and sharp increases in the cost of living.

The United Nations summit "is a vital space to make change," said Abby Maxman, the president of anti-poverty activist charity Oxfam America. "I leaders must be held accountable, heed the calls of those on the front lines and use this time to listen, make meaningful commitments and follow up with real action," she said. She

said that one powerful step would be for wealthy nations to back reforms of international economic institutions to address the crushing debts impacting parts of the developing world.

A Group of 20 summit in New Delhi this month also took initial steps to address representation in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. "But overall, issues this SDG summit reignite a sense of hope, optimism and

enthusiasm," as it's been billed," asked Noam Unger, a development expert at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "Rising authoritarianism, democratic backsliding, but also geostrategic competition and economic distress, those are likely to overshadow other fundamental issues related to climate change and global development," he said.

COMMON MANAGEMENT UNIT (CMU) FOR THE GLOBAL FUND (GFATM) GRANTS
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS & COORDINATION
BLOCCO C, 1/F, EPI BUILDING, NEAR N-5, PAF NATIONAL HEALTH COMPLEX,
CHAK SHARAZ, PARK ROAD, ISLAMABAD.
BE INVITATION TO BID

- The National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) under the Common Management Unit (CMU) for the Global Fund (GFATM) grants re-invites sealed bids for the Hiring Firm for the installation of Cooling System in CMU Warehouse at Islamabad, under procurement reference number: CMU/NTF/2024/2023.
- Bidding shall be conducted under National Competitive Bidding through Single Stage-Two Envelopes Procedure Bidding Procedure detailed in the Public Procurement Rules (PPRA Rules) 2004 (as amended) and the GFATM approved NTP Procurement Manual.
- Eligible original manufacturing firms (suppliers) who have the experience in installation of Cooling systems in warehouses, registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) may collect / download from www.fbr.gov.pk the bidding documents in English at free of cost, from the office of the undersigned during office working hours up to Thursday, October 16, 2023 (before 5:00 pm). The Bidding Documents can also be accessed through sending email at cmu@nhs.gov.pk starting from Wednesday, September 20, 2023.
- There shall be a pre-bid meeting at the office of the undersigned on Monday, September 26, 2023 at 11:00 am. Written questions and inquiries about the bids from potential bidders shall be emailed to cmu@nhs.gov.pk not later than five (5) days to the deadline for bid submission.
- The bid must be accompanied with a refundable Bid Security or Earnest money of PKR 10 Million (Ten Rupees Ten Million only) in the form of Bank Demand Draft or Cash Deposit Receipt in the name of Federal TB Control Programme (NTP). Original Bid Security or Earnest money shall be attached with the original financial bid whereas a copy with completely cancelled and blank non-refundable amount shall be attached in the technical bid.
- The sealed bids shall reach to the office of the undersigned through registered Mail Services, Courier Services or by hand submission on or before Friday, October 06, 2023 at 11:00 AM. Late bids shall be rejected. The bids shall be opened publicly on the same day by the Procurement committee in the presence of representatives of the bidders who choose to attend at 11:30 AM at the office of the undersigned.
- Submission address:
Deputy Director - Central Procurement Cell (CPC)
Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination
Committee Room, 3rd Floor, Kohar Block, New Secretariat,
ISLAMABAD.

RIZWAN NAB BALOCH
CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER - CMU
PHONE NO. 351-438811, 352621-3

15 Hunza students received Chinese Ambassadorial Scholarship

ISLAMABAD, Sept 19 (INP): As China continues to bolster its support for education in the northern regions of Pakistan, fifteen students from the Karakoram International University (KIU) Hunza campus have been granted financial assistance through the 'China-Pakistan Friendship-Ambassadorial Merit-cum-Need Scholarship' program. The students were presented with scholarship checks during a ceremony held at the KIU Hunza campus, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

The event featured Dr. Saifur Ali Shah, Director General of the China-Pakistan Friendship-Ambassadorial Merit-cum-Need Scholarship Cell at the Higher Education Commission (HEC), as the chief guest. He dis-

tributed the checks among the students. "Spend the money on your education to fulfill the purpose of the scholarship," advised Saifur Ali Shah to the deserving students who qualified for the scholarship.

He also expressed gratitude to the Embassy of China for their generous contribution towards education in the northern region.

Under the scholarship program of the Chinese Ambassadorial Program, every year 140 scholarships are disbursed to the needy and talented students of KIU main campus and its sub-campus. To address the issue of gender balance, a minimum of 50% of the beneficiaries are females.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Commerce Minister Gohar Hjaz, High Commissioner of Malaysia Azhar Mazlan and others cutting cake to celebrate the 66th Independence Day of Malaysia at a local hotel.

Commissioner Sargodha directs strict action against crop residue burning

SARGODHA (INP): Commissioner Sargodha division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti on Tuesday ordered a strict action against those involved in burning residues of crops in the division.

Chairing a meeting to review the performance of administrations of all districts of the division, he directed that all brick kilns be switched over to zigzag technology and zero tolerance policy be adopted in this regard. He also directed the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to launch a crackdown against smoke emitting vehicles and the Deputy Commissioners to impose Section 144 as required for the elimination of environmental pollution and to control smog.

Giving orders to the Agriculture Department, the Commissioner said that farmers' livelihood was linked with land and their issues be addressed on priority basis. He ordered to ensure urea and DAP fertilizer at cheaper rates and directed the

officials to launch a crackdown against fake pesticides and fertilizers.

He also asked the agriculture department officials to come out of their offices and conduct field monitoring.

Commissioner Ajmal Bhatti said the Punjab government had taken a good initiative in the name of 'Ab Chankenge Gaon' to improve sanitation condition in rural areas. Sewerage and sanitation work would be carried out by eight members management committee in each union council. The committee will comprise Assistant Commissioner, revenue officers, patwari and dignitaries of the area. He said that in the past, there was a lack of infrastructure and resources for cleanliness and sanitation of rural areas but the Punjab government had taken a historic step for neglected rural areas. Deputy Commissioner Sargodha Capt (R) Shoaib Ali and other divisional heads were present in the meeting.

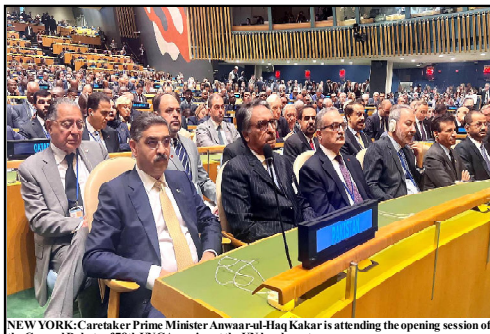
PM Kakar expected to visit China next month

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar is expected to pay official visit to China next month.

The premier will attend 10-year celebrations of CPEC and hold meetings with Chinese leadership.

Matters pertaining to mutual interests would come under discussion in the meeting. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar is currently in New York to lead Pakistan's delegation at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which opens today, with nearly 150 world leaders set to attend the annual event.

He was received at John F. Kennedy International Airport by Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Aamir Khan, Consul General in New York, Aamer Ahmed Atoazi, and other officials.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar is attending the opening session of the General Debate of 78th UNGA session at the UN headquarters.

COMSTECH organizes Int'l workshop on Advances in Nuclear Medicine

ISLAMABAD (INP): COMSTECH in collaboration with the Pakistan Nuclear Society (PNS) and Pakistan Society of Nuclear Medicine (PSNM) Tuesday inaugurated a two-day international workshop on 'Advances in Nuclear Medicine and its Applications' being held on September 19-20, at COMSTECH Secretariat.

Rector, Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) Prof. Dr. Nasseem Irfan who was the chief guest at the opening session of the workshop in his address briefed the audience about the evolution of human resource development in the fields of nuclear medicine and research and development in Pakistan. He said that PIEAS and PAEC train doctors and medical professionals in the fields of nuclear medicine and diagnostics. Prof. Nasseem said that PAEC provides state-of-the-art cancer treatment to the patients all over Pakistan on their door step through its wide spread network of institutions on a very minimal sub-

sidized cost. He informed that foreign students can also join PIEAS in the fields of nuclear medicine and diagnostics.

The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and said that this is important, timely, and very useful activity that aims to project the current developments in S&T in the fields of nuclear medicine. He thanked the speakers for sparing their precious time for the workshop from Turkey, Bangladesh, Kuwait and Pakistan.

Prof. Choudhary said that the techniques such as the positron emission tomography, CT oncology, hybrid imaging as well as advanced radiolabeled therapies as new cancer treatment procedures, are highly important and it is vital to familiarize the clinical practitioners, the medical oncologists and the researchers with these latest developments.

He said that COMSTECH channelizes resources towards the areas where S&T can be used to

address the needs of OIC states in combating underdevelopment, addressing health and medical challenges, as well as educational and food security needs.

International experts from Turkey, Kuwait and Bangladesh, and local experts will give lectures during the workshop. Local faculty and researchers will share their research findings. Over 150 clinical practitioners, oncologists, researchers and medical technologists have registered to attend physically while about 500 practitioners from different OIC states are participating online. The ambassadors and diplomats of different OIC states also participated in the opening session.

Prof. Dr. S. Khurshid Hasnani, Advisor COMSTECH is the focal person of the organizing committee while Dr. Shazia Fatima, Director Karachi Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine (KIRAN) is head of the program technical committee of the workshop.



Chinese Vice President Han Zheng shakes hands with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the ongoing 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Renewable energy potential can offset expensive fossil fuel import: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Denmark, Jacob Lenclof on Tuesday said Pakistan's renewable energy potential amid the growing climate crisis was immense and could help the country offset its expensive fossil fuel imports and limit its carbon emissions alongside sustainable resource management.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a high-level policy dialogue on COP-28 and Beyond: Strengthening Climate Action through Public-Private Partnerships that convened the Ambassadors of the United Arab Emirates and Denmark alongside key civil society, government and private sector officials.

Ambassador Lenclof commended the SDPI for holding important seminars on pertinent agendas and getting the right people on board for dialogue. The population of Denmark was 5.5 million and that of Pakistan was 240 million, an enormous challenge to meet. He said, "The resources in Pakistan are immense like the wind corridors of Sindh and Balochistan, the sun for solar and hydropower potential is abundant to embrace ambitious renewable energy solutions. It can go green if it dares to."

He said the Danish government was willing to roll out its technology on a larger scale, adding, "Pakistan will have to be more open for it to embrace foreign investments at the larger scale. Denmark is all behind Pakistan for its stance on loss and damage at COP-28 and ready to commit finances for that." Ambassador of UAE, Hamid Obaid Alzaabi said

COP-28 was one of the main subjects of UAE agenda and the SDPI dialogue was very apt. "I would commend Pakistan's commitment to address climate change and actively seek solutions to address the crisis," he added. The Emirates' envoy stated that the UAE was actually aware of its responsibility and that it was not just another conference but a moment in the global fight against climate change; an opportunity to reset the course and accelerate global efforts to prepare global stock take and solution-oriented decisions, he added.

"We firmly believe that taking this global challenge requires government, public private and international cooperation. Our goal is to create a platform where government and businesses can come together to share ideas and share innovative best practices," he said. Chairperson, Board of Governors, SDPI, Shaqat Kakahel in his opening remarks said UAE was not for the first time hosting such bigger environmental moots like the COP as it earlier hosted the UNEF special session in 2005 and has also been holding industrial climate-friendly exhibitions which played a tremendous role in highlighting sustainable energy technology solutions. He said the COP-28 would be one of the most important sessions with main agenda items including for Pakistan, the operationalisation of the loss and damage fund which was decided at COP-27, global stock take inter-governmentally negotiated acknowledgement of the successes and the gaps in it, global early warning systems, to ensure the world countries have suffi-

cient warning before a climate disaster to strike, climate finance not only global climate fund of \$100 billion but also other financial facilities as well. Executive Director SDPI, Dr. Abd Qayyum Suleri while setting the scene said climate change is manifesting in different shapes and forms amid a poly crisis irrespective of borders and regions. The regions of Hawaii, Honolulu and London faced a temperature rise, Beijing got unprecedented rains, typhoon and droughts in different countries apart from natural disasters in Pakistan indicating the scale and impact of the climate crisis.

He said, "Climate change is challenging us and all we need to devise multidimensional strategies to rethink our course of fighting climate change. No single sector, company and government can alone take the responsibility to address climate change we all need to join hands. However, the private sector is important for meaningful climate action and the government and private sector together can do wonders," he added.

Dr. Suleri said that Masdar City in UAE was the only carbon-zero, completely green city, established with the support of government, non-development, development, private sector, and academia. He said the second example was Denmark, the country leading in the carbon market and trading initiatives that practically demonstrated government and private sector working for carbon trading that's why the SDPI convened both the ambassadors for the dialogue.



ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amir Moghadam called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Khalil George.

CDA urged to start development works in G-10 Markaz

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that G-10 Markaz is one of the important business centers of the federal capital, but is neglected for development and urged that CDA should start development works in this market to facilitate the traders in better growth of trade activities.

He was talking to a delegation of Traders Welfare Association, G-10 Markaz led by its President Akhlaq Abbasi which visited ICCI on Tuesday and congratulated Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, for one year extension in his tenure.

Addressing the delegation, President ICCI said that G-10 Markaz needs construction of a filtration plant and washrooms, carpeting of parking and roads, repair of footpaths and emphasized that CDA should address these issues on priority.

He said that markets in G-series are ignored for development and emphasized that CDA should allocate specific

funds for the upgradation of these markets.

Ahsan Zafar said that ICCI had evolved a strategy with CDA to focus on the better development of markets, but frequent change of Chairman CDA after a short period has disturbed all the plans for the development of commercial and industrial areas. He stressed that the Chairman CDA should be appointed at least for 3 years to ensure better development of the federal capital. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with the TWA G-10 Markaz in resolving key issues of their market.

Akhlaq Abbasi, President, Traders Welfare Association, G-10 Markaz, Islamabad said that Ahsan Bakhtawari was working actively to resolve the issues of the business community and hoped that he would resolve the remaining issues of the business community during his additional term.

He said that G-10 Markaz is one of the oldest markets of Islamabad, but the CDA was not paying due attention to its development and the traders

are facing many problems. He said that a park has divided the market into two parts due to which people from one side cannot go to the other side of the market and stressed that the CDA should address this issue. He said that the CDA has earmarked a plot for a filtration plant, but has not made any further progress on this issue.

He said that washrooms and security cameras are needed in the market to ensure proper security of businesses.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that traders are playing an important role in the development of the economy and CDA should facilitate them in business development by addressing their development needs. He said that ICCI will try to play a role for the filtration plant to address this key issue of the traders.

Zafar Iqbal, Azhar Amin and others also spoke on the occasion and called on the CDA to focus on better development of G-series markets.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with delegation of ICCI at Government House.