

QUETTA VOICE

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PM Kakar irked at media 'misquoting' statement on elections minus Imran

LONDON: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Tuesday appeared irked with what he said was the media "misquoting" his remarks that "fair elections" were possible even without PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

Imran, who was originally jailed for "corrupt practices" in the Toshahama case — although his conviction has since been suspended — is currently on judicial remand in the cipher case.

In an interview with The Associated Press last week, the prime minister had said that "fair" polls were possible without Imran and his party leaders, who were jailed as part of a state crackdown in the aftermath of violent riots across the country on May 9. The PTI had rejected the premier's remarks, saying elections without Imran would be "unconstitutional and illegal." The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan had also taken strong exception to PM Kakar's remarks, calling them "anti-democratic" and "ill-judged." Questioned about the matter while talking to the media in London today, PM Kakar said: "I don't have knowledge of the unknown about who the upcoming elections will be held with or without."

"Such sentences are repeatedly circulated and attempted to be associated with me which is never my intention or my purpose." He complained that oftentimes, half sentences were cherry-picked from an entire paragraph for a lead story by the media. "It is a great misfortune that people are misquoted and misled," the prime minister added. On the question of whether the PTI chief would be able to participate in elections, the premier asked if a British-Pakistani citizen could partake in the electoral process



or not. "No? why? because laws do not permit you. And if the law permits any person, whoever political leader they are, then they will take part in elections and if it doesn't, then they won't."

He said the caretaker government had no role in the issue, adding that what people did not understand was that these were all legal matters, not political or administrative. "As far as laws and procedures and due process are concerned, I cannot change them and even if I want to, my hands are tied." On the election date, the prime minister said the Election Commission of Pakistan would fulfil its responsibility

and a date would be announced soon.

Ministry says remarks 'misunderstood and misreported'

Earlier in the day, the caretaker government said PM Kakar's remarks were "misunderstood and misreported". In a clarification, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said PM Kakar was "plain speaking to suggest that whereas participating in the elections was a right, but retribution for crimes was legally warranted."

The ministry said the interview was "twisted by some outlets" to give the impression that someone would not be allowed to take part in the general elections. The government drew attention to the following text of PM's interview: "We are not pursuing anyone on a personal vendetta. But yes, we will ensure that the law is appropriate. Anyone, be it Imran Khan or any other politician who violates, in terms of their political behaviour, the laws of the country, then the restoration of the law has to be ensured. We cannot equate that with ... political discrimination."

"The information ministry reiterated in its statement that the PTI and its leaders were free to participate in the elections like any other party. "It has been clarified that there is no impediment to contesting elections by any leader of PTI or the party as a whole." The statement further added that every citizen was equal before the law and the law would take its course with respect to any person currently facing legal charges. NEWSDESK.



Urgent plea to PM: Restore suspended passenger trains for Balochistan

QUETTA VOICE SPECIAL REPORT:

The continued suspension of six trains for Balochistan has plunged countless passengers into a harrowing ordeal, a disconcerting disruption that underscores the fragile state of our transportation infrastructure. As commuters grapple with the unforeseen halt in their daily routines, it becomes increasingly evident that the ramifications extend far beyond mere inconvenience.

Six out of a total of seven passenger trains have been suspended for Balochistan by the Pakistan Railways without citing any reasons. The provincial government is yet to ask the federal government and the railway ministry to restore the suspended six trains for Balochistan, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

Only Jaffar Express operates for Balochistan

Instead of improving and increasing passenger trains, the government has suspended most of the trains. Only Jaffar Express operates that too in a miserable condition. People prefer to travel by train since they are economical and safe as compared to passenger buses and planes. Passenger buses traveling on Quetta Karachi, Lahore and

Islamabad highways always meet deadly road accidents that claim precious human lives.

The blockade of these highways by protesters is also the order of the day. Road blockades caused the suspension of traffic for hours and women, aged people and children remained the worst sufferers.

Except for a handful of elites, people cannot afford the skyrocketing fares of planes. To be precise, they are out of the reach of the common man.

Caretaker PM should direct railway ministry to restore suspended trains

The caretaker prime minister, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar belongs to Balochistan and is well aware of the suffering of its people.

Balochistan has now considerable representation in Islamabad, therefore, it is the best opportunity to restore the suspended passenger trains and address the grievances of the masses.

Balochistan also deserves fair treatment since its people have suffered a lot. The Prime Minister should direct the railway ministry to restore the suspended six trains on an emergency basis.

Gwadar port to be activated as a transit port: CM Domki

Behram Baloch:

GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has said that Gwadar Port will be activated as a transit port soon. CM Domki is in the country's port city to review development projects and law and order situation for two days.

The monitoring System of the Fisheries Department is being activated to help the Coast Guard and Navy, the Caretaker CM Balochistan said. He expressed these views while talking to reporters on Tuesday evening. The caretaker information minister Jan Achakzai also present on this occasion, the caretaker chief minister of Balochistan said that they are doing their best to prevent illegal traveling and in this regard, help will also be sought from the federal government.

CPEC projects to be completed on time

He said that work is going on diligently

for the completion of CPEC projects so that they can be completed on time and economic activities can be started.

However, no final date or schedule has been released.

About the forthcoming general elections, Mr. Domki stated that preparations for holding the elections will begin after the Election Commission gives the final date.

He said that there are drinking water problems in Gwadar. Usable water reserves are being used carefully, he said that the electricity supply from Iran to the areas of Balochistan has been affected for two months, but there have been no problems with electricity from Iran in these areas of Balochistan for ten months.

Ali Mardan Khan Domki said that the end of illegal traveling is a matter of the Balochistan government, however, they will also take assistance from the federal government in collaborative measures for remediation.

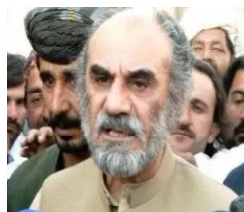


Nawab Raisani chairs meeting of tribal chieftains at Sarawan House

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani chaired an important meeting of tribal chieftains to discuss various tribal issues. According to the details, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani, Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani, Sardar Kamal Khan Barglazai, Sardar Azim Jan Muhammad Shahi, Sardar Sher Baz Satakazai, Sardar Muhammad Ishaq Zagar Mengal, Sardarzada Biberg Lahri, Sardarzada Mir Yahya Khan Ruztamzai participated in the jirga held at Sarawan House.

Tribal customs and traditions were taken into consideration and tribal and regional issues were discussed in the jirga. Sarawan Chief presented suggestions which were re-



corded. It should be noted that this was the fourth Jirga under the chairmanship of Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani.

Services tribunal declares appointment of Kamran Asad as DGPR unlawful

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Balochistan Services Tribunal declared the appointment of Kamran Asad as the Director-General of Public Relations (DGPR) unlawful and against the rules. The tribunal directed the provincial government to make regular appointment to the post of the DGPR BS-20 grade.

This judgment was passed by Naseebullah Tareen, the Chairman Balochistan Services Tribunal, members Dr. Pervez Nowsherwani and Abdul Rasheed.

Noor Khetran, a senior officer of the information department had challenged the appointment of the DGPR in the tribunal. The tribunal also directed the Balochistan government to appoint new



DGPR on merit as per the rules. In its judgment, the tribunal restrained Kamran Asad from holding the charge of DGPR.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Editor: Asim Khan

Outdated Balochistan bureaucracy resisting transition to E-Governance

EDITORIAL:

Balochistan, a province with immense potential for growth and development, finds itself hindered by an outdated bureaucratic system resistant to change. Almost all departments' websites are outdated and none bothers to update websites regarding the ongoing projects and other administrative issues. This article sheds light on the challenges plaguing Balochistan's bureaucracy and emphasizes the urgent need to implement E-Governance initiatives to attract investments, foster modernization, and pave the way for a brighter future.

A Resistant Bureaucracy:

Balochistan's bureaucracy has resisted the transition to E-Governance, thwarting all attempts to modernize its operations. This reluctance to embrace technology is reflected in the province's archaic websites and a focus on personal interests over departmental responsibilities.

The Plight of FDI:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is crucial for economic development, but Balochistan's bureaucracy lacks the capacity to handle investments worth billions of dollars. As a result, FDI-based projects are managed by the federal bureaucracy, further sidelining the province's potential.

The Role of Planning and Development:

Despite highly educated officers, the Planning and Development (P&D) department in Balochistan's paperwork over research and development. They cling to outdated paper-based systems, stalling the implementation of high-tech projects.

Resistance to Reforms:

Attempts by federal government officers to introduce reforms are met with resistance from the entrenched bureaucracy in Balochistan, preventing progress and keeping the province in the dark ages.

The Curse of Red Tape:

Excessive paperwork and a convoluted bureaucratic system focused on procurement have deterred reputable companies from investing in Balochistan. The inefficient filing process in Quetta has led many potential investors to abandon their plans.

The Way Forward:

To attract investment and modernize the bureaucracy, Balochistan must prioritize the implementation of E-Governance initiatives.

Forever technocrats

By Arifa Noor

FINANCE ministers in Pakistan are familiar faces, as familiar as SRK was to those who were young in the 1990s, and Bachchan to those who grew up in the 1970s. However, the reason that the men and the occasional woman who loit over Q Block are well-known is not because they are Bollywood hero material but because, like Dev Anand, they have just been around forever. Consider our current finance minister, Shamshad Akhtar. She first joined government service back in the Musharraf years, when she became part of the Board of Investment during the first term of the Noonoo quad. And while opinions can vary about how successful he was in his various stints, no one would disagree he is PMI-N's only choice for finance minister a quarter century later. Shaikat Tarin, too, has been part of this power circle for long. Indeed, other than a few short stints in recent times, it appears that

political and technocratic choices for running the finance ministry have been limited to a handful of people who have made appearances in one position or another since the 1990s. This also appears true for those who get appointed as advisers or special assistants: consider Waqar Masood, who is said to be the longest-serving finance secretary in Pakistan. And even that hasn't convinced him of the need for change. He has also 'advised' the finance ministry more than once and continues to do so during the caretaker set-up. This is not to say it's only the finance ministry which instils such single-minded devotion to the status quo. Less high-profile ministries or government departments also have similar situations. Atter-Rahman's sustained interest in the Higher Education Commission is well known, while the retired general who heads the Pakistan Olympic Association

has already become a bit of a myth in Islamabad. Even 'institutions' are now acquiring habits of extended tenures. But for obvious reasons, all these examples are less known or generate less interest than those in the finance sector, who have become household names due to the fragility of the economy. There are, however, larger and multiple issues with this trend of men hanging on to their positions. As with an ageing political leadership, such as times appears disconnected with the average voter of Pakistan, who is much younger, it is not just a question of senior people clinging to positions instead of allowing younger ones to rise. It also wonders how possible it is for those who perhaps feel they ran the economy well during the 1990s to make the shift to current times, when the world has changed considerably. It's a thought that continues to recur as, soon after Ishaq Dar and

he's efforts to control the dollar, there is yet another administrative effort to control the market through a crackdown on money changers. It appears as if some of those in charge on the civilian side also believe in these ideas of administrative measures to fix the economy rather than addressing the fundamentals. Is it just a matter of age? Sometimes, it does appear so to people such as myself, who are watching the show from the sidelines. Nonetheless, I would just question the issue's far more complex than a question of age. For it is important to ask if the presence of the same faces for so long is a reason for the continuation of the bad old policies, or whether the presence is due to a desire to ensure that policies are not changed. After all, the never-changing elite capture that we are obsessed with is, perhaps, not just about status quo. Perhaps it also means that only those who offer comfortable solutions.

Fundamentalism by any other name

By Jawed Naqvi

SEVERAL issues in the ongoing Canada-India spat over the murder of a pro-Khalistan Sikh man in Canadian Punjab require us to look beyond the fog of nationalist fervour that impedes a clear view of the fray. To begin with, the idea of Khalistan has existed since the 17th century, it is much older than the idea of India as it evolved under British rule, and then since independence. According to the summation of the Britannica, the declaration of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 fired the Sikh imagination to pursue its God-given right to rule Punjab. In 1710, under the leadership of Banda Singh Bahadur, Sikh forces captured Sirhind, a major Mughal administrative centre between Delhi and Lahore, and established a capital in nearby Mukhlispur ('city of the purified'). They struck coins, designed an official seal, and issued letters of command invoking the authority of God and the Gurus. The notion that 'the Khalsa shall rule' ('raj karega Khalsa') has since been part of the Sikh liturgical prayer, and

Fair play

By Adeel Wahid

THE business model of law firms in Pakistan is oppressive. It is exploitative and unfair, and not meant to attract individuals with talent, integrity and ambition. The challenges are many. To begin with, employment opportunities in law are few, the graduates many who unreservedly contribute to the diaspora in Canada, as do in other countries. To ensure that they hold on to their clients, lawyers may provide services of bribing court staff, stenographers and sometimes allegedly even the judges, too. And not all bribes are considered the bad kind; some are expressly asked to be paid by the litigants themselves. The stark pace at which the judiciary can be brought to function requires, at times, greater input in order to get things moving.

seen as having few qualms about employing unjust means to obtain relief for their clients, the noble notions of fairness and not dictating the manner in which the new entrants in the profession are treated. However, the results in the courtroom are not necessarily procured on the basis of the cogency of arguments or the strength of evidence. If they were, even for the most part, there might have been a need for people with aptitude and talent. But, it seems there is no such need. Even without any such need, there are some brilliant lawyers in Pakistan. And most of them deservingly do not equate to the rest. And when they do, the bookkeeping instincts of many kick in. Depending on the product of the legal mind in Pakistan. It may be better to look outside, and ask, towards those private courts that pervades the world of venture capital, contained in Sebastian Mallaby's 'The Power Law: Venture Capital and Making of the New Future.'

There are many reasons why the lawyers in Pakistan are the way they are: dismal legal education, tribalism and nepotism, and unprofessional and unethical practices normalised through the years. Most ironically, however, it is not a profession that the aspir-

And while the dynamics of Silicon Valley are completely distinct, there is still inspiration to be sought in its original

Democratic regression

By Malecha Lohdi

EARLIER this month, the world marked the International Day of Democracy, celebrated every year on Sept 15. But this hardly masked the reality of democratic backsliding that is pervasive in the world today. Pakistan, too, has seen democratic regression. Many democracies across the world are challenged by polarisation, intolerance, and toxic politics. They have also seen an erosion of civil liberties and media freedom and the suppression of dissent. This is happening against a backdrop of economic stress and rising but unmet public expectations.

Carbon markets

By Maha Qasim

AS COP28, the annual global climate conference, approaches, the demand for carbon offsets has surged, particularly from this year's host, the United Arab Emirates, and its neighbour Saudi Arabia. With relatively small populations but with large emissions-intensive industries, such as those producing oil and gas, petrochemicals and fertilisers, both the UAE and Saudi Arabia report 10 globally in terms of per capita emissions (2021), and are gearing up to decarbonise their respective economies. Private entities or governments can use voluntary carbon markets (VCM), where they trade carbon offset credits representing the demand for carbon offsets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to mitigate any greenhouse gases they generate. The UAE recently updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) — the demand for carbon offsets is traded in international VCMs. Owing to a combination of factors, it is easier and cheaper to reduce and remove GHGs in some locations than in a country's existing emis-

of the country generating these offsets. Private entities need an undertaking from the national government that it will make 'corresponding adjustments' in its NDC targets by excluding those private carbon credits. To make corresponding adjustments, a government needs a carbon market policy to regulate the trade of carbon credits so that NDC commitments are not compromised. The absence of a carbon market policy increases investor risk, as there are no clear guidelines for potential carbon offset project developers to invest in Pakistan. There is a lack of clarity regarding revenue distribution from carbon offset projects between the federal and provincial governments. The Doka Blue Carbon Project, a mangrove restoration project in Sindh, has been generating revenues from carbon offsets since 2015. The Sindh Forest Department, one of the project developers, sought a mangrove certification from the federal climate change ministry to continue selling the carbon offsets generated from the project in international VCMs.

thirds of the global population now live in backsliding democracies, authoritarian or hybrid regimes. It attributes the current wave of democratic erosion to the political consequences of the economic crisis that began with the coronavirus pandemic and economic fallout of the war in Ukraine, especially the cost-of-living crisis. The report's list of backsliding countries includes the US, which faces 'problems of political polarisation, institutional dysfunction and threats to civil liberties'. India and Brazil are listed among the rest. It says authoritarian governments have intensified repression with the previous year being the worst on record. A more recent assessment by Washington-based Freedom House comes to a similar conclusion. It says global freedom declined for the 17th consecutive year with civil liberties and political rights being undermined in seven countries. The latest edition of the Global State of Democracy 2022 report by the Stockholm-based International Institute for Democracy (IIDEA) sees a record number of democracies in decline. It calculates over two-

China-Pak crop pest management seminar held in Chengdu

BEIJING (INP) - A China-Pak crop pest management seminar was held in Chengdu, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

It was aimed at strengthening the mutual learning and cooperation between China and Pakistan in the fields of crop pest management technology, prevention and control measures and management standards.

The seminar on Methods and Standards of Crop Pest Management in China and Pakistan was organized by International Standardization Talent Training Base (Chengdu).

Co-hosted by University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and University of the Punjab online, it was attended by experts engaged in crop pest control and experts of related

scientific research institutes from both countries.

Honored guest Dr. Abid Ali, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology at University of Agriculture Faisalabad, gave a keynote speech titled Standard System and Current Situation of Pest Control of Major Crops in Pakistan.

"We are facing growing severe pressure from pests, which is a serious threat to survival and security for Pakistan, an agricultural country. Climate change and high temperatures have intensified pests, in the meantime, extensive cropping signifies a lack of systematic and scientific control."

Moreover, blind abuse of pesticides has led to more and more pests becoming resistant further. Such a vicious cycle keeps the

cost of plant protection high."

After analyzing the complex situation of crop pest management in Pakistan, Dr. Ali took several major pests such as Fall Armyworm (FAW) as examples to introduce Pakistan's current management system (chemical control), and pointed out that Pakistan lacks adequate pest monitoring and forecasting systems, which means that pesticides still dominate prevention and control measures.

Statistics showed that Pakistan's annual pesticide use has soared from 50,000 tons/year in 2001 to 200,000 tons/year in 2020 in the past 20 years.

Therefore, studying the population distribution of natural enemies of pests in different phenological stages and crops will help Paki-

stan establish a biological management system, by which reduce the use of pesticides. "China has leading technology in the field of biological control."

Through learning related experience, it will be of great benefit to the promotion of biological control in Pakistan."

Another attendant, Liu Jie, Deputy Director, National Agro-Tech Extension and Service Center, detailed Monitoring and Warning Technology of Agricultural Pests and Diseases Based on IoT and Big Data, focusing on cutting-edge Agro tech such as intelligent testing equipment, which can rely on automatic image recognition to detect and report all insects that enter the trap range, and identify the type, quantity, and gathering period of pests in certain area.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan visited BHU Bahara Kalus.

Egypt to vote for president in December, Sisi expected to win

CAIRO (INP) - Egypt will hold a presidential vote on Dec. 10-12, the elections authority said with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi widely expected to win reelection despite an economic crisis including record inflation and foreign currency shortages.

Sisi, 68, can stand for a third term due to constitutional amendments in 2019 that also extended the length of presidential terms to six years from four, opening the way for him to stay in office until at least 2030.

Election results are expected to be announced on Dec. 18 and in the event of a run off round, final results should be announced on Jan. 16 at the latest, the election authority said. Though Sisi has not formally announced his candidacy, pro-government parties have started a campaign including billboards around Cairo backing his reelection.

Sisi was declared winner of both the 2014 and 2018 elections with 97% of the vote. In 2018 he faced just one opponent, himself an ardent Sisi supporter, after the main challenger was arrested and other hopefuls pulled out, citing intimidation.

Russian air strikes on Ukraine kill six, damage grain and port facilities

KYIV (INP) - Russian air strikes and shelling killed six people in Ukraine and caused "significant damage" to infrastructure at the Black Sea port of Odesa and to grain storage facilities, Ukrainian officials said. The air attacks were part of a campaign that has made it harder for major grain producer Ukraine to export its products since Moscow quit a deal in mid-July that had enabled Black Sea shipments and helped combat a global food crisis.

The strikes have intensified as Kyiv presses on with a counteroffensive in the south and east that has made slow gains but could be boosted by the delivery of U.S.-made Abrams tanks, announced on Monday by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "Another massive attack on Odesa," Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said on X. "The attack resulted in the destruction of grain storage facilities and significant damage to the seaport."

Oleh Kiper, the Odesa region governor, said the facilities that were hit had contained almost 1,000 tons of grain and that the bodies of two men were found under the rubble of a warehouse where grain was stored. Ukraine's military said 19 Iranian-made Shahed drones and 11 cruise missiles were shot down overnight, most of them directed at Odesa region. The grain storage facilities that were destroyed were hit by two supersonic missiles, it said. The energy ministry said damage to power grids cut off power to more than 1,000 consumers in the Odesa region, a reminder of air strikes that at times left millions of Ukrainians without heating and light in the

freezing cold last winter. A man aged 73 and a woman of 70 were killed in a separate air strike on the town of Beryslav in the southern Kherson region, officials said. The administrative head in the city of Kherson - the region's main center - later said that two city residents had died and two were injured in Russian shelling. Russian forces abandoned Kherson city and the west bank of the Dnipro River in Kherson region late last year, but regularly shell different areas from positions on the east bank.



QUETTA: People busy in filling their water pots from drinking water point.



LONDON: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interact with students at O'Fjord Union in London.

Cipher case: Special court extends Imran, Qureshi judicial remand till Oct 10

ATTOCK (INP) - A special court on Tuesday extended the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and party's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi's judicial remand till October 10 in the cipher case.

Judge Abul Hasanat Zulkarnain, who heard the case at the Attock District Jail under the Official Secrets Act 2023, extended the judicial remand of Imran Khan in the missing cipher case, a classified state document.

During the hearing, the court directed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to submit a challan in the case soon.

Hearing of the case took place at the Attock Jail following approval by the Law Ministry amid security concerns expressed by the Interior Ministry.

The PTI Chairman Imran Khan was sent to jail on August 5 following his conviction in the Toshakhana case. On August 29, the IHC had suspended his sentence. Imran still in Attock Jail despite IHC orders.

Despite directions from the Islamabad High Court, PTI Chairman Imran Khan was not shifted to Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail until late on Monday, mainly due to security concerns.

Former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were nominated in the report, while names of former principal secretary Azam Khan and former planning minister Assad Umar were also mentioned. According to the report, action also will be taken against Azam Khan and Assad Umar after the authorities reached the conclusion that they were also involved in misusing the classified documents.

However, the Adiala jail administration refuted the claim, saying that Khan has not yet been shifted there.

The first information report (FIR) was registered on August 15 under the Official Se-

South Korea to stage first military parade in a decade

SEOUL (INP) - South Korea on Tuesday will stage its first military parade in a decade, showcasing its advanced arsenal in the face of plummeting ties with nuclear-armed North Korea.

Pyeongang regularly puts on huge military parades but such events in Seoul are traditionally only arranged every five years to mark South Korea's Armed Forces Day. The last parade was in 2013. Five years later, then-president Moon Jae-in chose to hold a celebratory ceremony instead of a military event, in line with his conciliatory approach to North Korea.

South Korea's parade in Seoul will begin around 4 pm (0700 GMT) and will involve around 6,700 troops and 340 pieces of military equipment, including F-35 stealth fighters, the South Korean defence ministry said. The KF-21, South Korea's first domestically produced fighter jet, as well as next-generation hecokop and drones will also be on display, it added.

Further, around 200 personnel will demonstrate "tactical drops in the same way as an actual aerial infiltration," the ministry said. President Yoon Suk-yeol, who was elected last year, has pulled South Korea closer to the United States and the longstanding allies have ramped up defence cooperation - including large-scale drills - to counter growing threats from North Korea. Around 300 US military personnel will take part in the parade on Tuesday. During a separate ceremony to mark the 75th Armed



QUETTA: Green Pakistan Party Youth President Iqbal Khan addressing a press conference.

Kiwi veteran Boulton looking for 'one more run' at World Cup title

WELLINGTON (INP) - After 12 months out of one-day international cricket, New Zealand seamer Tommy Boulton is looking for a third crack at the 50-overs World Cup after bitter defeats in the last two years.

The 34-year-old is one of the world's best ODI bowlers, but spent the last year sidelined from the Black Caps after turning down a New Zealand Cricket contract to play for lucrative Twenty20 teams in Australia, the United States and India.

Putting his international career on hold to spend more time with his young family was a risk, but Boulton's back in the frame for October's ODI World Cup as a key part of New Zealand's run to the last two finals when they lost to Australia in 2015 at Melbourne, then England four years later at Lords. "I've been very

fortunate to play in a couple of World Cup finals and been on the wrong side of all of them," he said with a wry smile. "It's a cliché, but you learn more when you fail than when you succeed. I feel like I'm a better cricketer for that experience." His 22 wickets at the 2015 tournament was the joint highest alongside Australian speedster Mitchell Starc. They lost by seven wickets to hosts Australia in the final. New Zealand cricket fans need no reminding of the 2019 final defeat to England, when they met in their first game of this year's tournament. With England struggling to make the final few runs, Boulton accidentally trod on the boundary rope attempting to catch Ben Stokes, who went on to steer the hosts to victory in a dramatic Super Over.

TENDER NOTICE
EME CENTRE QUETTA

- Sealed quotations are invited to this Centre for purchasing of General Stores, Miscellaneous Training Stores, up gradation of Training Facilities, Junior Non Commissioned Projects, Stationery Items and Article in Use (A-to-U) Stores.
- Details/tender documents may be obtained from EME Centre Quetta (Training Branch) on 28 Sep 2023. For more details, please contact phone number 081-9208416.
- Last date of submission of quotation is 15 Oct 2023 on 1200 hours and tender will be opened on 15 Oct 2023 at 12:45 hours.

COMMANDANT
EME Centre Quetta

All parties including PTI are free to join polls: Caretaker Govt

ISLAMABAD (INP): The caretaker government on Tuesday said under the constitution and prevalent electoral laws, all political parties had the equal right to participate in the general elections and categorically stated that the remarks of the caretaker prime minister during a recent interview to the foreign wire service Associated Press had been "misunderstood and misreported". The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in its official statement issued the original text from the Associated Press to clarify that Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was plain speaking to suggest that whereas participating in the elections was a right, but retribution for crimes was legally warranted.

The ministry lamented that the interview had been "twisted by some outlets" to give the impression that someone will not be allowed to take part in the general elections.

The ministry drew attention to the following text of Prime Minister's interview:

"We are not pursuing any-

one on a personal vendetta," Kakar said. "But yes, we will ensure that the law is appropriate. Anyone, be it Imran Khan or any other politician who violates, in terms of their political behavior, the laws of the country, then the restoration of the law has to be ensured. We cannot equate that with... political discrimination."

Kakar said fair elections can take place without Khan or hundreds of members of his party who are jailed because they engaged in unlawful activities including vandalism and arson, a reference to the violence that rocked the country following Khan's initial arrest in May.

The caretaker prime minister added that the thousands of people in Khan's party who didn't engage in unlawful activities, "will be running the political process, they will be participating in the elections."

The Information Ministry reiterated in its statement that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its leaders are free to participate in the elections like any other party. It has been clari-

fied that there is no impediment that every citizen is equal before law and the law will take its course with respect to any person currently facing legal charges. The courts are free and independent and the caretaker government has neither authority nor intention to influence the courts at any level.

The statement further added that every citizen is equal before law and the law will take its course with respect to any person currently facing legal charges. The courts are free and independent and the caretaker government has neither authority nor intention to influence the courts at any level.

It was further clarified that any person aggrieved by an order or ruling of a statutory or judicial forum has a constitutionally guaranteed right to approach the next forum in judicial hierarchy for relief.

"The caretaker government is committed to holding free and fair elections. The caretaker government will support the constitutional and legal structure for holding elections and would ensure that all orders and directions of the Election Commission of Pakistan and independent judiciary are complied with in letter and spirit," the government said in its statement.



LONDON: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi presenting souvenir to Former First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff Royal British Navy, Admiral Lord Alan West during Transfer Agreement Signing Ceremony for the ex-Pakistan Navy Ship TARIQ to UK.

10 students selected for Volunteer Youth Ambassador Programme: PFA

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has arranged a capping ceremony for the first batch of the Volunteer Youth Ambassador Program (VYAP) of Teshil Model/ Safe Food City Project at the PFA Directorate, Rawalpindi.

PFA Director Operations North Anna Rafique was the chief guest of the ceremony while PFA Additional Director Operations Sabtain Kazmi, Anti Corruption Deputy Director Ehsan-ul-Haq and PFA deputy director were also present. Director Operations North Anna Rafique, during her address, congratulated the students on the selection and successful completion of their training. She said that the purpose of the VYAP is to promote the PFA

motto 'Community Participation through Awareness Program, Nutrition Program in Educational Institutions during the Safe Food City Project about food nutrition and educate the public about the importance of healthy eating habits, balanced diets, and the benefits of proper nutrition.

Ambassadors will also intend to integrate all initiatives of the authority in local cities in a coordinated manner for better results in food hygiene, quality and safety, she said.

PFA Director North further said that ambassadors can organize events, create educational materials and collaborate with the community to raise awareness about food safety hygiene nutrition and encourage people to

make informed choices for their health.

The selfless services of people from different walks of life are highly appreciated for the success of Safe Food Zone, she added. At the end, the participants appreciated the efforts made by PFA Director General Raj Jahangir Anwar regarding quality food and promoting the safe food culture in Punjab.

In the first phase, the authority has selected 10 students for the volunteer youth ambassador program including Shaheena Noman, Mussera Nauman, Hana Hameed Abbasi, Hina Nauman, Raheela Rasheed, Bushra Firdous, Anisa Sohaib, Muhammad Danyal, Ayesha Nawazish and Zumara Shahid.

Education, the only way towards development, progress: Madad Ali

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi has said that the education is the only way towards development and progress.

This was stated by him speaking during his meeting with Director General Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) Amjad Ahmed during his visit to FDE on Tuesday.

Madad Ali Sindhi said that there are countries that were decades behind us but now due to better education are miles ahead of us. Pakistan is our home and we should try to resolve its problems like we resolve our personal issues, he added.

He said that there are challenges faced by every institution but we should try to resolve them with complete dedication and hard work. He said that government institutions hold immense importance for the employees as they not only provide salaries but also pensions after retirement.

The minister said that in today's age, such facility was a blessing. He said that every employee should keep this into consideration and try to benefit the organization, as it is responsible for the maintenance of several hundred employees.

Madad said that teachers should not hold administrative

positions and should solely focus on their duties as teachers. He said that teachers have the most important responsibility of all and should give their hundred percent to this task only.

Minister was briefed by DG FDE Amjad Ahmed. Minister was told that FDE faces a regular budget deficit. He was told that the current year deficit is almost PKR 7 billion. Minister was told that a biometric system has been placed in all institutions of FDE to ensure attendance of teaching and non-teaching staff.

The minister was told that almost 24k students are enrolled in all of the FDE institutions.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating the First Police Driving School for Women.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Jordan Maj Gen (R) Muhammad Ajman Iqbal called on President Dr Arif Alvi, Awan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan Navy Ship TARIQ gifted to UK as goodwill

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Navy has gifted its PNS TARIQ to the United Kingdom as a goodwill gesture that will serve as a symbol of maritime heritage for navies of both countries in the future.

The Transfer Agreement Signing Ceremony for the ex-Pakistan Navy Ship TARIQ to Falls of United Kingdom was organized at Pakistan High Commission in London, said Pakistan Navy news release on Tuesday.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. Former First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff Royal British Navy Admiral Lord Alan West attended the ceremony as Guest of Honour.

Ex-PNS TARIQ was formerly decommissioned by Pakistan Navy on 4 Aug 23 and has been gifted by the Government of Pakistan to a UK based firm Falls of

Clyde International (FOCI) that plans to convert the ship into a floating museum.

The ship will be on static display at Clyde Maritime Heritage Centre in Glasgow as a symbol of common naval heritage of the Royal and Pakistan navies.

Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Lord Alan West said that the close relationship between the navies and nations of Pakistan and UK are clearly shown by the historic agreement focused on one ship that served both each country over many years.

While addressing at the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi acknowledged the meritorious services of PNS TARIQ for the defence of Pakistan. The Chief Guest hoped that handing over of TARIQ to FOCI will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between UK and Pakistan as the ship will continue to symbolize the shared maritime heritage

of both the navies in times to come.

The historical ship served in the Royal Navy as HMS AMBISCADRE for 18 years and participated in the Falklands War before being inducted and re-commissioned in Pakistan Navy as PNS TARIQ in 1993.

The ship served for over 3 decades in PN & distinguished herself on many operational deployments, earning the reputation of a versatile, agile and ever-ready combat ship. The ship was famously involved in Search and Rescue mission in Maldives during the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2005 which helped save precious lives of 377 tourists belonging to various nationalities.

The ceremony hosted by High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK, Dr Mohammad Fasaai was attended by Director FOCI, Mr David O'Neill, veterans from the Royal Navy and representatives of Pakistani community in UK.

CTP devise traffic plan for Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH)

RAWALPINDI (INP): The City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi has devised a comprehensive traffic plan to maintain traffic flow on Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH) to be celebrated on Friday.

More than 455 traffic police officers and traffic warden will be on special duty to provide the best traffic facilities to the citizens under which parking of vehicles or handcarts on the route of the Eid Milad processions would be prohibited.

According to a CTP spokesman, two main processions will be taken out and the first procession will start from Jamia Masjid Hanaifa Jamia Masjid Whereas, Traffic, from Liaquat Bagh to Fawara Chowk will be diverted from DAV College towards Gawalmandi. The second procession will be taken out at 9:30 AM from Cheng No. 22 which will start from Trench Road, Dhok Syedan Chowk, Kalna Chowk, No. 22 Chowk, Adam Road.

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RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalid George along with 13 members' delegation of Christian Community called on General Syed Asim Munir NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at General Headquarters.

Xinjiang Grand Bazaar reflective of neat blend of tradition and innovation

URUMQI (INP): The rhythmic beats of the Naghra kettledrum reverberate through the air as a Uyghur musician, dressed in a blue robe, strikes the drum with practiced taps.

His red-robed companion plays a lively melody on the suona, a traditional Xinjiang instrument, as they perform at the entrance of a newly opened fruit-themed supermarket. Drawn to the vibrant sounds, a twenty-something passer-by joins the duo for an impromptu traditional Xinjiang dance, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

Established in 2003, the Xinjiang Grand Bazaar spans an expansive 100,000 square metres with more than 3,000 stores. The bazaar has increasingly become a tourism hot spot, with a daily visitor count exceeding 120,000 and surpassing 150,000 over the weekends since this August.

Behind this uplifting development is that the bazaar goes beyond its role of a marketplace to showcase the region's unique architectural, culinary and cultural traditions, and its innovation capabilities.

At the entrance of the Xinjiang Grand Bazaar lies an 80-metre dome-roofed sightseeing tower. Adopting traditional Uyghur architectural design, the two-storey platform offers a panoramic view of the entire bazaar and its surrounding area. "I just love this tower. It has an amazing appearance, and it provides so unique a view," Mr Liu, a visitor from China's coastal city of Hangzhou told China Economic Net (CEN) reporter.

To promote the culture of naan, a traditional Xinjiang flatbread that resembles a pizza without sauce, a naan-themed museum was established.

The museum educates visitors about the history of naan bread, the different types of naan across Xinjiang and the raw materials used for naan making.

Also highlighted at the bazaar are traditional culinary delights such as Kao Bao Zi (meat-filled baked buns) and Xinjiang lamb skewers and traditional dance and music performances.

Building on the cherished traditional elements, the bazaar has also explored new avenues for development. The first way is to combine cultural elements with contemporary designs to develop a range of creative tourism and culinary products.

For example, in 2020, the bazaar partnered with a tourism company based in Fujian to craft official merchandise featuring silk apparel, hats, and scarves, and traditional Uyghur musical instruments.

The bazaar has also engaged the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries for exchange and inspirations. In the 2023 Silk Road Culinary Festival held at the bazaar from September 23rd to 28th, culinary and tourism enterprises from countries along the Silk Road including Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are invited to showcase their unique offerings.

CEN reporter understands that the event also witnessed the establishment of a silk road culinary alliance to further boost culinary cooperation between Xinjiang and Silk Road countries.

Up to now, the grand bazaar boasts nearly a hundred local snacks and a variety of distinctive cultural products, a representative from the Tianshan District Cultural Tourism Development Co., Ltd. in Urumiqi said in an early September interview, adding that more such products are to be launched.