

QUETTA VOICE

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Thursday, September 28,2023

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Multi storey time bombs in earthquake prone Quetta Pakistan

Syed Ali Shah :

Quetta, Pakistan's southwestern city was razed to the ground within 30 seconds on May 31st, 1935 in the aftermath of the deadliest earthquake. The British rulers introduced a specific building code of 30 feet in height after thorough research and studies to avoid human losses in the case of future earthquakes. The building code also outlawed the use of certain materials in roofs, and only wood and tin roofs were permitted. The building code introduced in 1937 defined seven building types.

The British colonial rulers strictly ensured the implementation of the building code. Governments be military or civilians failed to ensure the implementation of the building code after the independence of Pakistan. For some time, the Quetta Municipal Corporation maintained the implementation of the building code. However, that is no more the case as more than 100 feet-high shopping malls and residential plazas have been constructed in the heart of the city.

A well-placed source in the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) revealed that over 500 buildings were constructed in violation of the building code. Rich owners of plazas and shopping malls constructed buildings right under the nose of the QMC and the Quetta District Authority (QDA) officials. Simply, they greased the palm of the concerned officials and got their maps passed overnight with no objection. The administration was also complicit in this regard.



File photo: Rescue workers at the spot to retrieve the trapped laborers after the collapse of building on Stewart Road: Photo Manan Mandokhai

Poorly constructed buildings in violation of the building code have put the lives of citizens in danger. One laborer was killed and four others got injured when an under-construction building collapsed the other day in Quetta's Stewart Road. Despite applications of the residents of the area to the Administrator QMC, the contractor and owner kept continued the construction work in freezing temperatures. Subsequently, the building collapsed and claiming a human life and injuring another four.

Three points from Balochistan High Court's order regarding building code in Quetta:

1. No building is to be constructed without an approved building plan.
2. No residential building shall be allowed to be converted into a commercial building.
3. No permission shall be granted for the construction of a commercial building in a residential area. To be precise, Quetta is located in the earthquake red zone.

This is neither a political matter nor an economic issue rather it is a matter of human lives. The Balochistan government must form a committee to probe into the construction of buildings in violation of the building code to avert human losses in the future. A lesson must be learned from the deadliest earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Indus Hospital Brings Vital Healthcare to Nokkundi in Collaboration with Reko Diq

Riaz Baloch:

CHAGHI: In a remarkable partnership, Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC) and Indus Hospital & Healthcare Network (IHHN) have joined forces to provide crucial healthcare services to the residents of Nokkundi. District Chagai recently welcomed its very first Indus Mobile Health Clinic, a generous donation from IHHN, designed to bridge healthcare gaps for the next 3 months while the construction of the Indus Hospital in Nokkundi is underway.

This innovative Indus Hospital Mobile Clinic, inaugurated by the RDMC Country Head and the Community Development Committee (CDC), will be strategically stationed in six key locations across Nokkundi. This ensures improved accessibility to essential healthcare services for the local population.

State-of-the-art mobile medical unit established

Inside this state-of-the-art mobile medical unit, run and managed by Indus Health, you'll find a dedicated team of doctors and community workers offering primary healthcare services. Moreover, the mobile unit is equipped with a fully functional lab and pharmacy stocked with essential medical supplies. Ali Ehsan Rand, the Country Manager of RDMC, affirmed,

"This mobile clinic will provide much-needed

healthcare to the local communities in and around Nokkundi temporarily until we can set up the Indus Hospital facility at Nokkundi.

As with all RDMC social investment projects, the mobile clinic enjoys the support and guidance of the local Community Development Committee (CDC), ensuring that projects meet the specific needs of the community.

RDMC committed to the social development of the area

This mobile clinic is the second healthcare initiative undertaken by RDMC in the region, following the inauguration of the Community Health Center in Humai village, a project developed in collaboration with IHHN and funded by RDMC. Additionally, RDMC has opened two primary schools in Humai and Mashki Chah villages and provided access to clean drinking water through a water treatment plant in the Humai village. These initiatives are part of RDMC's commitment to social development in the district since the signing of the new Reko Diq agreement in late 2022.

In summary, the collaboration between RDMC and IHHN has brought essential healthcare closer to the people of Nokkundi, demonstrating their dedication to improving the well-being of the local community.



Justice prevails: Junior out senior in as DGPR

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Justice prevailed, finally, the Balochistan government appointed a senior officer as the Director-General Public Relations (DGPR) on Wednesday evening.

Noor Muhammad Khetran, a senior officer has been appointed as the DGPR Balochistan. His predecessor, Kamran Asad, a junior officer has been transferred and posted as director public relations.

The Balochistan government issued a notification in this regard. The appointment of DGPR on the basis of seniority has come after a landmark judgement by the Balochistan Services Tribunal. The tribunal in its detailed judgment



had declared the appointment of Kamran Asad as illegal and against the rules.

CTD seizes explosive laden vehicle in Quetta, terror bid foiled

Manan Mandokhai:

QUETTA: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) foiled a major terror bid by seizing an explosive-laden vehicle in the Eastern Bypass area of the provincial capital on Wednesday.

Police sources CTD and security forces conducted a raid on intelligence reports and seized a vehicle loaded with explosives.

Police said more than 35 kilograms of explosives were planted in the vehicle to carry out a major terror act in the city. "Major terror bid foiled", a senior police officer told Daily Quetta Voice. He requested anonymity since he was not authorised to speak to the media.

CTD personnel timely acted and saved the city from major terror bid, he mentioned. Senior police officials reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway. Bomb disposal squad was also called in the



area to defuse explosives, police said. The explosives were seized in the Manzoor Shaheed Police Station area.

Pakistan Army will continue to play role in ensuring peace, stability in KP: COAS

PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir on Wednesday said the Pakistan Army would continue to play its role in upholding peace and stability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and facilitating a "secure environment for economic development".

The army chief made this statement during his address at the provincial Apex Committee meeting in Peshawar.

His remarks come on the heels of an increase in terror attacks in KP. On September 6, four security personnel embraced martyrdom and over 16 militants were killed in an operation to repulse militants from the Chitral district.

The pre-dawn attack had targeted check posts in Astui Pass and Jinjret Koh situated in the south of Lower Chitral, bordering the Afghan province of Nuristan.

During the Apex Committee meeting today, the army chief was briefed about the overall security situation in the province, including initiatives against smuggling, hoarding and drug trafficking, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

It said the participants of the meeting affirmed that state institutions and people were united for

the protection of life and property of citizens.

The participants also paid rich tribute to the Shuhada and their families.

"We have to synergise our efforts for the peace and prosperity of our beloved country," the ISPR statement quoted the army chief as saying.

He underlined that the Pakistan Army would continue to play its role in ensuring peace and stability in KP to provide a secure environment for economic development.

Earlier, Gen Munir also engaged in an interactive session with the women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the "KP Women Symposium 2023".

In his address to the symposium's participants, the COAS emphasised the constructive and pivotal role women have played in Pakistan's historical development.

He underscored that women's contributions to the progress and advancement of Pakistan are of utmost significance.

The army chief acknowledged that the women of KP have confronted multifaceted challenges due to the enduring battle against terrorism, but he praised their resilience, dedication, and courage in the face of adversity. NEWS DESK.

ECP issues preliminary list of constituencies of Balochistan Assembly

News Desk

QUETTA: The Election Commission of Pakistan has released the preliminary list of Balochistan Provincial Assembly seats.

In terms of population, the smallest seat is in Awaran where the total population is 1 lakh and 78 thousand.

The largest seat in terms of population is Chaman, where the population is 466,000. Panjgur seats increased

The seats of Chaman and Qilla Abdullah have been reduced from the earlier 3 seats to 2, while the seats of Panjgur have been increased from one to two seats.

A new constituency comprising Barkhan District and Musa Khel District has been created while Harmai has been cut off from Ziarat and included in Sibi District Constituency.



The number of seats in the provincial assembly of Quetta has been set at 9, while Ketch Turbat has 4 seats and Khuzdar/Pishin has 3 seats each.

THE FLOOD AFFECTEES

Editor: Asim Khan

The forgotten flood affectees of Balochistan

Editorial:

Almost a year on, thousands of flood affected people are yet to be rehabilitated in various flood-hit districts of Balochistan. In scorching heat, the flood affectees in Balochistan's Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sohbat Pur, Lasbela and other districts continue to suffer.

Flood affectees appeals for rehabilitation and relief almost fall on deaf ears in the province and center. It was very shocking for every sane person that the federal government has not paid a single penny out of a total amount of Rs. 10 billions announced by the prime minister Shehbaz Sharif for flood affectees of Balochistan.

Islamabad yet to pay a single penny out of Rs.10 billions announced by Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo lodged a protest before the federal government regarding the financial crisis of Balochistan and demanded the payment of funds announced by the premier on August 28 last year in Jaffarabad district for flood affectees.

The current year's monsoon season is about to start and neither the provincial nor the federal governments have taken any effective steps for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees of the last year.

All abandoned flood affectees of Balochistan

Government departments in general and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in particular have almost abandoned the flood affected areas. The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have almost left the areas affected by floods.

If the federal government has not paid any penny for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees, this is painful. This is also a bitter reality that the provincial government has also not taken effective steps to support the affectees in this hour of trial.

Collapsed bridges after devastating floods are yet to be reconstructed in Quetta. What to speak about rest of Balochistan, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

It is both the responsibility of the provincial and federal governments to take effective steps to rehabilitate the flood affectees before it is already late.

Life is elsewhere

By Masood Lohar

HISTORIAN Will Durant once stated, "A great civilisation is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself within." The patterns and characteristics leading to the downfall of great civilisations, empires, and states are remarkably consistent. This self-destruction is evident in the narratives of civilisations like Egypt, Mesopotamia and our own Indus Valley. Even the modern-day Soviet Union doesn't deviate much. With socio-cultural decay, corruption, escalating poverty, ethnic and sectarian strife, and a constant economic crisis, Pakistan's case is unique. However, a distinctive factor exacerbating these challenges is the 'life is elsewhere' mentality fostered by dual citizenship. India's dual citizenship policy, allowing its citizens to hold passports for both countries, including developed nations, has created a disconcerting trend. The elite — rulers, business tycoons, retired army chiefs and bureaucrats, etc — often aspire to maintain their connections with Pakistan while residing elsewhere. This dual identity breeds apathy towards Pakistan's development, fostering an attitude that nurtures ad hoc decision-making and mediocrity. Pakistan, in essence, becomes the proverbial golden-egg-laying duck for its elite. Those in positions of power amass wealth with the intention of relocating abroad, exploiting the nation's resources for personal gain all the time. The prevailing attitude is one of self-protection where everyone seems intent on maximizing their personal wealth, often at the expense of national welfare. The moment these elites exit power or retire, their focus swiftly shifts elsewhere, leaving behind a void in the leadership. India has taken a different approach, which does not allow dual citizenship. Instead, it offers a path to Indian Citizenship of India to its citizens who acquire foreign citizenship. The OCI

card comes with several benefits, including a life-long free travel visa to India, and the freedom to live, work, conduct business, and own assets/properties there. However, OCI cardholders do not have an Indian passport, the right to vote or hold public positions, and are subject to restrictions on purchasing agricultural land. The question of dual citizenship's impact on a developing country as a stepping stone to personal enrichment is complex. On one hand, it can lead to a 'brain drain' as skilled individuals may permanently reside in their self-protection, resulting in a loss of talent. Dual citizens may also have divided loyalties, leading to a conflict of interest in politics and business. Their involvement in domestic politics can contribute to political instability and over-investments drive up housing prices, worsening wealth inequality. The elite's intense craving for blood blindingly blinds them to the pain of the blade, leading to demands for pro-elite policies. The 'wolf here is definitely licking its own blood now.

By Masood Lohar

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 of Canadian citizenship require us to look beyond the fog of nationalism fervour that impedes a clear view of the facts. 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 Khalistan 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 Sirsa, 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 Khalisa shall rule' ('rajkarega Khalsa') has since been part of the Sikh liturgical prayer, and it remains an indivisible part of today. The idea of the Khanda Raj under Banda Singh was realised in the early 19th century in the kingdom of the Sikhs in Punjab (1780-1839). The Khalsa Raj declined after Ranjit Singh, but the idea lived on in the form of a Sikh nationalist movement. The Sikh population's lack of numerical strength in relation to other residents of the Punjab made this an unviable proposition at the time. In the 1970s and 1980s, a violent secessionist movement for Khalistan paralysed Punjab for a decade. The movement crushed, the idea of the Khalistan lives on, invoked twice a day in gurdwaras. Khalistan in its essence is thus a religiously-fueled concept put into motion by devout and militant Sikhs. The idea is anathema to all those who do not conceive of an inclusive and secular state embracing a conglomeration of languages, religions, or even those who do not believe in God.

However, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's watch, the country has been hurtling towards becoming a

majoritarian Hindu state, a Hindu rashtra, stalling the scope for consensus of a minority community seeking a similarly grounded homeland of its own. Khalistan would be an anachronism in Nehru's India, but less so in a majoritarian state governed by the doctrine of Hinduva.

Hinduva nationalists love to name their real or perceived challenges as Pakistani or Khalistani. There are, of course, proud Pakistanis and Khalistanis, but every Indian Sikh or Muslim may not like to be called by either name.

Protesting Sikh farmers who bravely and peacefully fought a successful yearlong battle against Mr Modi's anti-farmer laws were branded Khalistani by TV anchors close to the government. It was like saying: "We don't like you, so here's a name for you." Hindu men and women who take principled positions against Hindutva's aggression towards India's minority communities are also not spared. They too are branded Pakistani. Communitarianism was and is called Chinese agents without seeing how most Indian partisans mistreated China and were

close to the USSR, which stood with India in the 1962 border war.

Also, it was Kaffi Azmi, a communist poet, who wrote the ever-green patriotic songs for the movie that described the valor of Indian soldiers in the border war with China. Strands from this pervasive India collective contribute to the diaspora in Canada, as well as in other countries. The other notable feature of the spat over the murder of Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar is the doubleSpeak on both sides on the issue of sovereignty. Canada is offended that Indian agents attacked to the embassy in Ottawa violated its sovereignty by murdering Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, on Canadian soil. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau applauded Canada's democratic tradition and regard for human rights as an element in his outrage against Nijjar's murder by suspected Indian agents. Canada, however, is a member of the Five Eyes group, a post-World War II cabal of five Anglo-Saxon nations that share intelligence and have violated the sovereignty of countless countries casually.

Beyond their mandate

By Zahid Hussain

HE is an interim prime minister with a difference. Anwarul Haq Kakar's actions have appeared to go beyond his limited role as a non-partisan caretaker prime minister whose job is to lead the country to fair elections. But, since taking over the caretaker prime minister has appeared on most TV channels holding forth on subjects ranging from politics to the economy and foreign policy, one gets the distinct impression that he is attempting to present himself as a man who knows it all.

Last week, he flew to New York to attend the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session. On the way, he reportedly stopped in Paris to shoo the Eiffel Tower to his family. There was certainly nothing important that needed his participation at the global forum. In fact, many important world leaders attended the annual convocation of the World Economic Forum this year. Reading from a prepared text to a half-empty hall, he addressed hardly any significant issues.

There were also very few meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA, none of them of any significance, and there was no separate meeting with western neighbours and delegations. Few are likely to take an interim leader meant to govern for just 90 days seriously. But it appeared that the most disconcerting moment was to come at the border tensions with Afghanistan, one of America's most prestigious independent think-tanks. His comments there exposed a limited understanding of international affairs.

While the prime minister's relations with China's strong ties with Pakistan — to illustrate the dual citizen's role in the US support enjoyed by Israel — evoked a strong public reaction on social media, his relations with Pakistan-Afghan relations were more unimpressive. Responding to a question by the American media that has drawn criticism for its stance in Pakistan's relationship with the Taliban regime, he referred to post-war US-Japan relations. "And after Pearl Harbour, the dual citizen of the United States and Japan enjoys good relations with the United States and Japan." He also referred to the US-Japan relations.

There were more pearls of wisdom as he addressed the UNGA. I think about the German occupation of Eastern Europe, and then its western neighbours' intervention. He also, when I see EU as a bloc, multiplies and amplifies my silver lining. All that leaves one wondering whether the most disconcerting moment was to come at the border tensions with Afghanistan, one of America's most prestigious independent think-tanks. His comments there exposed a limited understanding of international affairs.

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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 are among the top 10 globally in terms of per capita emissions (2021), and are gearing up to meet their respective economies.

Private entities or governments can use age-old techniques like Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM), where they trade carbon offset credits representing the demand for carbon offsets. The UAE recently updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) — the demand for carbon offsets traded in international Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) framework to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) — to reduce its emissions reduction target from 23.5 per cent to 31pc by 2030.

Also investing in the green economic transition through the Middle East Green Initiative and significant purchases of carbon offsets from voluntary markets, signing agreements with African governments to protect and preserve large tracts of forests. These dense forests serve as natural carbon sinks, which absorb GHGs such as carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and convert them into biomass through the process known as photosynthesis. Nature-based solutions both reduce and remove harmful emissions from the atmosphere, either through carbon offset projects or through reforestation and restoration of degraded land. Typically, such projects have low capital costs and add social co-benefits through job creation, enhanced environmental quality, etc. The Paris Agreement allows private entities to offset their emissions using carbon offset credits purchased from the VCMs. However, to avoid double-counting, these cannot count towards the NDCs 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 Delta 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 objection certificate from the federal climate change ministry to continue selling the carbon offsets generated from the project in international VCMs.

Age-old dilemmas

By Mahir Ali

IT seems likely that the presidential runs of Benne Sanders — now 82 — in both 2016 and 2020. The outcome of the primaries in both those years may well have been very different had the Democratic establishment not intervened decisively. Young Americans rallied to Sanders' cause precisely because he addressed some of their biggest concerns and offered viable alternatives. One can only wonder whether such tenacity is intended to somehow serve the public interest or to find a slot in the Guinness World Records. The question of age and cognition is a tricky one. It's taken for granted that intellectual capacity declines with the decades, but its effects are disparate. There are people in their 90s whose minds remain sharp, and some whose physical agility can be envied by far younger folks. Others can't do simple tasks or find a slot in the Guinness World Records. The question of age and cognition is a tricky one. It's taken for granted that intellectual capacity declines with the decades, but its effects are disparate. There are people in their 90s whose minds remain sharp, and some whose physical agility can be envied by far younger folks. Others can't do simple tasks or find a slot in the Guinness World Records. The question of age and cognition is a tricky one. It's taken for granted that intellectual capacity declines with the decades, but its effects are disparate. There are people in their 90s whose minds remain sharp, and some whose physical agility can be envied by far younger folks. Others can't do simple tasks or find a slot in the Guinness World Records.

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Economy recovering due to actions taken by govt, army: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the due to actions taken by the government and the army, the economy was on the path of recovery steadily.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, he said that the prices of many things, including food items, are coming down across the country, which is appreciable as it was reducing the burden on the people.

The decision to discourage unnecessary imports through

taxation was a good move, which will save a lot of foreign exchange, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said the country seems to be coming out of a quagmire of problems due to the complete focus on the economy, but it will take time for the situation to return to normal.

The caretaker Prime Minister has also mentioned the benefits of investing in Pakistan to UK-based Pakistani and British investors while expressing his commitment that the government will reduce expenditure and increase revenue so that the country's economy can grow.

The PM wants the situation to improve

and the sufferings of the people to decrease, he said, adding that the economic indicators and foreign exchange reserves have started to improve, and it is hoped that there will be improvement in the industry, agriculture, trade, and services sectors. The business leader said that for continued improvement, it was necessary to put the economy before everything, including politics.

He said that it was necessary to hold the election as soon as possible for the sake of political stability. According to the Election Commission, the elections will be held in January, but no political party has started the election campaign yet, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the sooner the elections were held, the better, so as to end the uncertainty. He further said that it has become necessary to give relief to the public and the business community, which should be started by reducing the price of electricity, while it has also become necessary to reduce the price of gas, petrol, and diesel.

Inflation has risen sharply due to the rise in electricity, gas, and fuel prices, which is the depreciation of the dollar, but it has become necessary to reduce business costs for cheaper production and exports, without which relief cannot be given to the public.



ISLAMABAD: CEO national steel along with delegation from steel industry called on Caretaker Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz.

Abbasi disapproves of Sanaulah's 'warning' to interior minister over Nawaz's arrest remarks

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has disapproved of his party's colleague Rana Sanaulah's statement warning caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti over party supremo Nawaz Sharif's arrest upon his return to the country.

"Rana Sanaulah is a sensible man [but] he should not have said something which has multiple meanings," the senior PML-N leader said while responding to a question in a private TV channel programme on Tuesday night. The statement came after

Sanaulah hit back at incumbent caretaker security czar Bugti for saying that the PML-N supremo would be arrested on his return if he was not granted bail.

The former premier, who has been living in London since then, has recently announced his return to the country on October 21 this year.

Reacting to the Bugti's remarks, Sanaulah said the minister crossed his limits by making such a statement.

"Sarfraz Bugti should see the fate of former interior minister Sheikh Rashid before issuing giving such remarks," the PML-N leader warned. However,

Abbasi also opposed Bugti's remarks, saying that it was not his mandate to arrest someone and his only mandate was to ensure the implementation of the law.

"If you want to arrest Nawaz Sharif and there is also court order [regarding arrest] then you will have to implement it," he maintained.

Moreover, Abbasi also commented on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's recent statement that fair elections are possible without incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan participating in it. "Caretaker prime minister

should not have said such thing. His job is to run country's affairs during transitional period and remain neutral," he remarked. This is not the first time that Abbasi has publicly differed from the statements of PML-N leaders. On Monday, took exception to his party-led government performance saying it did not take any meaningful steps to resolve the prevailing issues.

"The ability to quick decision making was not seen in the Shehbaz-led government as it should have been," Abbasi said while referring to the previous coalition government led by PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif.

China's stance on global issues aligns with its vision of common future: Experts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Experts in Pakistan believe that China's proactive stance in addressing global issues, such as cybersecurity, health, and climate change, aligns with its vision of a common future.

China issued a white paper on building a global community of shared future, a grand vision serving as a blueprint for a better world raised by President Xi Jinping in 2013.

The white paper called for efforts to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity, turning people's longing for a better life into reality.

During an interview with GwadarPro, Executive Director Pakistan Research Centre for Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) Khalid Taimur Akram said that the vision is a profound

commitment to international cooperation, mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

He said, "The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a significant example of China's commitment to building a global community with a shared destiny that prioritizes sustainable development, enhanced living standards, and high-quality collaboration with developing countries. It was due to this concept that

the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has significantly benefited Pakistan's economic and social development, fostering economic cooperation and connectivity.

"As BRI operates transparently and inclusively, it avoids political or military alliances and emphasizes shared growth. It also offers an open platform for collaboration, welcoming all interested nations.



KARACHI: A laborer works at a clay pottery workshop on the outskirts of Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Florence Rolle Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdulla.

Senator for aiding Pakistani Engineers as skilled workers to Japan, China, other countries

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan has lamented that 50,000 Engineers and IT Professionals in the country are unemployed and urged the Ministry to develop a mechanism in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other related ministries to aid the Pakistani Engineers as skilled workers to Japan, China and other countries considering the prevailing dire economic crisis. Speaking during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development on Wednesday, he said that highly skilled qualified professionals are desperate for jobs and as of now are even willing to work for 15000 to 20000 rps salary per month.

Senator Zeehan Khanzada while endorsing the view point of Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan said that the level of desperation among the People of Pakistan is such that they are willing to give millions of rupees in lieu of employment visa because of severe inflation and recession in the country.

The committee on Overseas Pakistan and Human Resource Development which met under the chairmanship of Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar here at the Parliament House urged

that proper mechanism should be developed to focus on specifically sending the skilled professionals abroad. The committee sought a detailed briefing for clarification on the SOPs of overseas employment. The Secretary Ministry apprised the committee that through a new arrangement we are now more focusing on the educated sector including IT professionals, Engineers, Para Medical staff. "It would abruptly increase the foreign remittances" the secretary said. Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan raised serious questions on the ability of Pakistan to migrate Engineers to Japan irrespective of the fact that Japan needs 3 lac workers. "We were not even able to send 100 workers," Senator Shahadat Awan added further inquiring the reasons behind such a negligence.

The committee also inquired about the MoU signed with Saudi Arabia, "we have to see where we are lacking in the MoU between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, Senator Sahadat Awan said. The officials apprised that in 2019 a bilateral agreement was

signed according to which a Skill verification program was set up by Saudi Arabia government in Pakistan known as the Takamol having 18 centers with its headquarters in Islamabad. The program is led under the supervision of NAVTTC and comes under the ministry of Education. The officials of the overseas Pakistan foundation apprised the committee that 2.8 million workers at present are employed in Saudi Arabia. On inquiring the criteria and system through which Korean skilled immigrations are conducted it was apprised that Pakistan is among 19 countries which are members of the Korean Employment Permit System through the system skilled workers are sent on the basis of merit and country-wise quota allocation. He apprised that this year Korea allocated 100 skilled workers from Pakistan.

He further apprised that overseas foundation also furnish training on culture and specified skills to the selected migrant. While discussing the issues faced by the ministry on skilled immigrants the secretary overseas ministry contended that one of the issues is the inability to determine the migrant intentions whether he will become an immigrant or remain skilled worker which leads to

issues of human trafficking and legal procedures. The secretary ministry further said that languages is one of the issues while clearing immigrations to countries like China Japan and Korea. He said that the committee should give directions to NAVTTC to conduct language training courses. He also said that through NAVTTC we are also planning to establish regional centers for language training and test centres. The committee sought appearance of NAVTTC to brief on the matter in the next meeting. The committee also inquired on the services provided to overseas Pakistanis for foreign remittances. Senator Bahramand Khan Lang inquired regarding the funds/grants proviso by EOBI to the mine workers after completing 30 years of service.

He said that as per rules of the EOBI the grant is not given until the requirements are completely fulfilled, but amazingly the hinge of the completion is deliberately created by EOBI. He said that the mine workers are not legally registered and also not given proper training. He said that the reply submitted by the EOBI is satisfactory and inquired about the number of cards issued and also inquired about its verification as well.



HYDERABAD: Leader Pakistan Sunni Tehreek Khalid qadir speaking at a press conference.

ICC World Cup 2023: Pakistan squad leaves for Dubai en route to India

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan cricket squad has departed for India to participate in the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup in the wee Wednesday.

The team, led by Babar Azam, left for India's Hyderabad from the Lahore airport on a private international airlines flight EK 623 via Dubai. The travelling troop comprises 18 players and 13 officials.

The team is scheduled to stay in Dubai for nine hours and then depart for India. It will likely reach Hyderabad in India around 8pm local time.

The team will play their first warm-up match of the ICC World Cup against New Zealand on September 29. The second warm-up match is scheduled for October 3 against Australia in Hyderabad.

Pakistan will play with their inaugural match for the World Cup completion against the Netherlands on October 6.

They are set to clash with archrivals and host India in a much-awaited match on October 14 in Ahmedabad. Bowling coach Morne Morkel will join the national squad in Dubai while the director, Mickey Arthur, will reach India directly.

The Pakistani and Afghan cricket teams were finally granted visas for the World Cup 2023 in India on Monday after a considerable delay and uncertainty.

After days of uncertainty and concerns raised by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) over the delay in visa issuance, both teams can now gear up for the mega cricket event just days before it commences.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan's first warm-up match leading up to the ICC World Cup is set to be held behind closed doors due to security concerns, as announced by India's cricket board (BCCI).

The Pakistan cricket team is scheduled to face 2019 World Cup runners-up New Zealand on Friday.

However, fans will not be permitted inside the Hyderabad stadium for the match, in line with the guidance provided by local security authorities, as revealed in a statement issued by the BCCI on Monday.

The statement read, "The match in Hyderabad coincides with festivals on the day and large gatherings are expected around the city. Hyderabad coincides with festivals on the day and large gatherings are expected around the city. Consequently, spectators who had purchased tickets for the game will receive a full refund.

British PPs condemn human rights abuses in occupied Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Speakers including some prominent members of British Parliament while shedding light on various dimensions of the Kashmir dispute have called for an immediate cessation of human rights violations by Indian troops in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a seminar organized jointly by the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Kashmir (UJK) and the UK based Rights to Self-Determination Movement (International) in Muzaffarabad, the speakers strongly condemned the grave human rights abuses in occupied Kashmir and pledged support to the Kashmiri people's fundamental rights and their right to self-determination.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Minister of State for Human Rights, Mushaal Hussain Mullick, addressed the audience and highlighted that occupied Kashmir represents the world's largest military concentration. She stressed that the Indian army's actions in occupied Kashmir have resulted in numerous military conflicts in the world.

Mullick underscored that Kashmir stands as the only region in the world where sexual violence against women, children, and even men is systematically used as a weapon of war. She further expressed concern about the potential use of nuclear weapons by the RSS-led Indian government to further their agenda.

She drew attention of the world to the plight of Muhammad Yasin Malik and the atrocities committed against him in the Indian Jail. She emphasized that the Modi led government in India might go as far as judicial murder of Yasin Malik in a bid to solicit the support of extremist Hindus in the upcoming elections.

Andrew Gwynne, Member of the British Parliament, emphasized the British Parliament's strong commitment to supporting the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and addressing human rights violations in the disputed region. He highlighted the efforts of both the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir and Friends of Kashmir from the Labour Party in advocating for Kashmir's rights and the protection of human rights.

Gwynne stated that he

pledged to be a voice for those who are voiceless, both within and outside the British Parliament, after hearing about the atrocities in occupied Kashmir during his constituency visits. This commitment has guided his actions for several years. Naz Shah, another British Parliament representing the Labour Party, emphasized her unwavering support for the oppressed Kashmiri people. She noted the stark contrast between the challenges faced by parents in Azad Kashmir and occupied Kashmir, where children's safety is uncertain even when they go to school. She underlined that the struggle for Kashmiri peoples' rights spanning 76 years, must be supported by the global community to prevent further oppression.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi expressed his gratitude for the valuable insights shared by the esteemed speakers and their commitment to raising awareness about the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. He reiterated the university's dedication to providing a platform for intellectual discourse and discussions on pressing global issues including conflict of Jammu and Kashmir.



QATAR: Jamal Shah, Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture met Minister of Culture Qatar Sheikh AbdulRehman bin Hamad bin Jassin Al Thani in Doha on the sideline of 12th Conference of the Culture Minister of Islamic World.

Sanjrani invites tourists worldwide to explore Pakistan's natural, cultural wonders

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has invited the tourists worldwide to explore the untapped potential of Pakistan's natural and rich cultural wonders.

In a statement on World Tourism Day, the Chairman Senate inspired by the breathtaking landscapes and cultural richness observed in Skardu, Gilgit Baltistan during his recent visit, envisions the region as a potential tourism hub.

Sadiq Sanjrani encouraged global tourists to explore majestic mountains, serene valleys, and vibrant culture of Pakistan's northern areas, recognizing the economic benefits that tourism can bring to the people of the region.

Highlighting the profound cultural and economic significance of Tourism, he expressed that Pakistan is blessed with the regions of unexplored beauty, with majestic mountains, serene valleys, and a vibrant culture awaiting discovery. "By fostering tourism, we can create jobs, stimulate local businesses, and contribute to the overall prosperity of our nation," remarked Chairman Senate, emphasizing the economic opportunities tied to the tourism industry.

In addressing global environmental concerns, he underscored the role of responsible tourism in the preservation of

Pakistan's breathtaking landscapes.

"By promoting eco-friendly practices and sustainable tourism initiatives, we can ensure the preservation of our natural wonders for generations to come," Sanjrani stated, aligning the call for exploration with environmental responsibility.

Recognizing the tremendous potential of religious tourism in Pakistan, he called for global outreach efforts to market the country's religious tourism potential on the global stage. He also extended an open invitation to individuals from all backgrounds to experience the spiritual diversity and harmony inherent in Pakistan's rich religious history.

"Our land hosts sacred sites that attract pilgrims from various faiths, such as Buddhists, Sikhs and Hindus. We extend an open invitation to people of all backgrounds to experience the spiritual diversity and harmony that defines our nation," the Chairman Senate emphasized.

Sadiq Sanjrani warmly invited tourists from across the globe to explore Pakistan's culture, witness the hospitality of its people, and behold the natural wonders that grace its landscapes. "Let us join hands in fostering a world where travel becomes a bridge that connects hearts and cultures," he concluded.

Inran Khan gained remarkable popularity, says Miftah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Miftah Ismail, a prominent figure in the Pakistan League Nawaz (PML-N), has acknowledged that Inran Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has gained remarkable popularity, surpassing other political leaders, as revealed in a recent opinion poll.

Miftah, along with Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Mushtaq Khokhar, who initially proposed the idea of "Reimagining Pakistan" seminars, is contemplating the formation of a new political party. While no official decision has been made yet, they are actively considering the possibility. Miftah disclosed that they conducted a public opinion survey in July of this year, which indicated Inran's substantial lead in popularity. Abbasi's discussions regarding his political future within the PML-N and the idea of a new political party are part of their strategic exploration before reaching a final verdict. Abbasi, Miftah, and Mustafa are engaging with various individuals and stimulating discussions on social and traditional media to gauge the feasibility of launching a new political entity. Among the trio, Khokhar appears to be more inclined toward founding the party, while the other two remain undecided. All three share the belief that the current political landscape allows for the emergence of a new political party. However, the key question is whether they can attract sufficient support to make it viable. To assess the landscape, they commissioned public opinion polls, which reinforced their conviction in the necessity of a new political party.



ISLAMABAD: Visitor takes a keen interest in the painting exhibition of Sara Sultan at Tanzara Art Gallery.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador designate to Bangladesh Syed Ahmed Maroof called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Awan-e- Sadr.

Pharmaceutical Conference: Pakistan highlights collaboration with SCO countries

BEIJING (INP): CEO of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) Asim Rauf has said that the 2nd SCO Pharmaceutical Cooperation Development Conference has demonstrated the commitment of member states to foster international cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry. Through this platform, SCO member states aim to promote mutual benefits, strengthen regulatory frameworks, encourage research and development collaboration, and expand market access, he added.

Participating in the conference in Suzhou as a VIP guest, Asim Rauf delivered a keynote address highlighting Pakistan's commitment to promoting pharmaceutical development and regulation.

In his address, he stressed the significance of cooperation among SCO member states in ensuring drug safety and advancing research and development in the pharmaceutical sector. With the world facing unprecedented challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for collaboration and partnership in the pharmaceutical sector has become even more critical.

Pakistan and other SCO members are committed to working together to ensure the availability of essential medicines, strengthen health systems and improve the overall well-being of their populations. The CEO took the opportunity to share Pakistan's achievements in pharmaceutical regulation, highlighting the steps

taken by DRAP to streamline the drug approval process, enhance quality control measures and promote transparency in the pharmaceutical industry. "Pakistan has developed very rapidly in the field of regulation and the acceptance of its drugs is also increasing in the world. Especially during the pandemic, we have done a lot of work, including independent trials, starting the digitization process, introducing the CTD format, automating, etc," the CEO added that "recently, we have noted the surge in Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports as a result of these advances. We are ready to share the steps and experiences we have taken with other SCO member states." In an interview with China Economic Net, Asim Rauf touched on many potential areas of collaboration and partnership between Pakistan and other SCO member states in the pharmaceutical sector, the most important of which is clinical trials at present. Pakistan has various products from China including manufactured goods, high-tech products, cancer medicines, active pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices. The CEO said there were many pending applications for clinical trials of Chinese medicines in Pakistan. He added that "we have generated a conducive environment where we have specifically invited Chinese companies to bring their products to Pakistan and import them." In addition to attending the conference, Asim Rauf

held bilateral meetings with representatives from other SCO member states to explore opportunities for collaboration in the pharmaceutical sector. He noted that "the conference provided a platform where we can individually sign bilateral MoUs and agreements with all other member countries so that we can bind each other and share knowledge on those global issues that may affect public safety and people's health."

These meetings aimed to foster closer ties and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise in areas such as drug regulation, quality control, and capacity building. The conference provided a platform for participants to exchange best practices, discuss regulatory challenges and explore avenues for future collaboration. Experts from SCO member countries shared their experiences and insights on topics such as drug registration, pharma co-vigilance and pharmaceutical research and development. The conference concluded with the Suzhou Initiative, injecting new and strong impetus into the building of an even closer SCO community of shared future. The health and pharmaceutical regulatory authorities, relevant institutions and industries of the participating countries attach great importance to cooperation in the field of medicine and health among the SCO member states, observer states and dialogue partners, and will actively play the role of the SCO mechanism as a platform.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov presenting book, Chief Guest Senator Mushtaq Hussain Syed during the book presentation ceremony titled "The History of the Patriotic War- Personality Factor" at the Azerbaijan Embassy.

Nepal cricket team breaks plethora of T20I records while facing Mongolia

HANGZHOU (INP): While facing Mongolia, the Nepal cricket team broke a plethora of T20I records in the opening men's cricket match of the Asian Games 2023 at the Zhejiang University of Technology Rongcheng Cricket Field on Monday.

Mongolia won the toss, invited Nepal to bat first and the batting team turned the game into a run-fest with a record 314-run total in their allocated 20 overs.

Nepal's 314-3 is the highest-ever total by a men's team in T20 cricket, be it international or domestic. This was also the first instance of a men's team scoring 300 runs in a T20 innings. Prior to that, the highest T20 total was Afghanistan's 278, which they scored against Ireland in 2019, as well as the Czech Republic who scored the same against Turkey in 2019.

Nepal lost their first wicket in the fifth over with 44 runs on the board, which brought

Kushal Malla to the crease, who played a blazing innings that helped Nepal score the fastest T20I century in only 34 balls.

The previous record for the fastest T20I century was jointly held by David Miller, Rohit Sharma and Suresh Wickramasekara, with each having taken 35 balls. Kushal Malla scored an explosive 137 off 50, hitting eight fours and 12 sixes. Meanwhile, Nepal's captain Rohit Paudel scored 61 off 27, with the help of two boundaries and six sixes, before getting out in the 18th over with 259 runs on board. Dipendra Singh Airee came to bat with only 11 balls to go, but he made the best out of available resources and struck the fastest fifty in T20 cricket. The record was previously held by Yuvraj Singh in T20Is, while Chris Gayle and Hazratullah Zazai held the record in domestic franchise cricket. They all took 12 balls to score the fifty.

In his undefeated 10-ball 52, Dipendra Singh Airee scored at a strike rate of 250, marking the first instance in T20s where a batter has scored at a strike rate exceeding 500 in an innings for 10 or more balls.

Prior to this, the record was held by Malcolm Waller, who played at a strike rate of 430 against Matabeleland Tuskers during Zimbabwe's domestic T20 tournament in 2016. The Nepal cricket team also set a new record for the most sixes in a T20 international by a team with 26 sixes. The previous record of 22 was held by Afghanistan against Ireland in Dehradun in 2019 and by West Indies against South Africa in Centurion earlier this year. Nepal bowlers then bowled out Mongolia for a meagre 41, defeating them by a whopping 273 runs margin and setting a new record for the highest margin of victory in terms of runs in all T20s.