

QUETTA VOICE

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Balochistan Government Launches Full-Scale Anti-Terrorism Offensive Following Mastung Carnage

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Balochistan's Caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai, highlighted the unwavering determination of both provincial and federal governments in combating the grave threats of extremism and terrorism. Mr. Achakzai emphasized the sacrifices made by the people of Balochistan, who are steadfastly working towards ensuring stability in the country. He revealed that authorities had collected the remains of the suicide bomber from the scene, estimating the perpetrator to be a young individual aged between 15 to 18 years. The minister unequivocally declared that Balochistan had no place for terrorism, asserting the state's awareness of the culprits and facilitators behind the tragic Mastung incident, promising that justice would be served swiftly.

Rs.1.5 million compensation announced for heirs of martyrs

The Information Minister announced a compensation of Rs.1.5 million each for the heirs of the



Security personnel walk inside civil hospital Quetta after the arrival of injured of Mastung blast: Photo Daily Quetta Voice

martyrs. He said compensation would also be paid to the injured in the Mastung bombing. He said the government has directed the health department to make sure provision of the best medical treatment to those injured in the blast.

Mr. Achakzai stated that a security policy in line with the vision of the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir would be evolved to battle the menace of terrorism. "Salute to the vision and commitment of Army Chief", he said.

Curse to terrorism to be eliminated

Jan Achakzai mentioned that the provincial government under the leadership of caretaker Chief Minister, Ali Mardan Domki was committed to eradicating the curse of terrorism from the province. He reiterated that the Indian intelligence agency was behind the unrest and terrorist acts in Balochistan. "Such elements would not be spared at any costs", he concluded.

"Cries of injured will haunt me forever", A Mastung blast survivor narrates the ordeal

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a heart-wrenching account, Saifullah Baloch, a survivor of the devastating Mastung blast that claimed 55 lives on the day marking Hazrat Muhammad's (PBUH) birth anniversary, shared his traumatic experience. As he recounted the horrific ordeal, his voice trembled, tears streaming down his face.

The tragedy unfolded when a suicide bomber detonated himself amidst a religious procession at Madni Chowk in Mastung.

Saifullah Baloch vividly remembered the moment when the gathering was shattered by a deafening explosion. He lost close relatives and dear friends in the gruesome attack.

The injured were covered with blood

"The injured were covered in blood, their cries



for help echoing in the chaos," he said, his words carrying the weight of the immense suffering he

witnessed that fateful day.

Outside the trauma center at the civil hospital in Quetta, Abdullah, a grief-stricken father, anxiously awaited news about his seriously injured son.

The broken father was unable to answer any question

Overwhelmed by emotion, he could only muster a plea for prayers, unable to answer any further questions.

This tragic incident serves as a somber reminder of the devastating consequences of acts of violence and terrorism.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families affected by this heartrending event.

Grief and Anger

Grief and anger among the survivors and the

heirs of the victims.

They lashed out at the government for what they claimed its failure to protect the lives of the people.

"What is this, where are our rulers", a grief-stricken mother laments. She had lost her son in the deadly bombing.

Dozens of broken heirs were waiting outside the trauma Center of the civil hospital Quetta to get information about the condition of their loved ones. 51 injured of the deadly bombing attack were brought to the trauma Center.

Mastung a sensitive district

Balochistan's Mastung district is considered to be one of the most sensitive districts of Balochistan. Militants have repeatedly targeted law enforcement agencies and pro government politicians in the area. The minority shia Hazaras have also been targeted in the district.

Indian RAW behind Mastung bombing: Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Caretaker Interior Minister, Sarfaraz Bugti on Saturday said the Indian intelligence agency (RAW) was behind the deadly Mastung blast. "As a State, we have decided to eliminate terrorists and their facilitators".

Mr. Bugti told a hurriedly called news conference at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Home Minister Balochistan, Captain (R) Zubair Jamali, Information Minister, Jan Achakzai and others were also present on the occasion.

The Interior Minister stated that the elements involved in this heinous crime would be brought to book and that the government has directed all law enforcement agencies to arrest the culprits. "Zero tolerance, no place for terrorism and extremism", Mr. Bugti warned.

IBOs to be conducted

The Interior Minister said intelligence-based operations would be conducted to apprehend and eliminate the terrorists involved in such tragic incidents. "This is a tragedy beyond words, my heart goes out to the broken families", he said. "As a State, we know who is behind such tragic incidents", he warned, saying that major operations would be launched against terrorists playing with human lives. "Who is sponsoring such terrorist attacks, we know that", he mentioned.



No word of pardon for terrorists: Sarfaraz Bugti

"We cannot tolerate shedding the blood of innocent Pakistanis", Sarfaraz Bugti said. He said none would be allowed to shed the blood of innocent people in the sacred name of Islam. "No word of pardon for such elements", he warned. The Caretaker Interior Minister said "Enough is enough" and the writ of the State would be established at all costs. The facilitators of such tragedies would be exposed, he said. Noting that at times an attack would be conducted by one organisation and another would claim its responsibility, the interior minister said the recent attacks were being investigated. "Whether it is Daesh or TTP or anyone else... anyone committing violence under any banner... violence will only be exercised by the state," Bugti said while vowing to hunt terrorists.

Massive Anti-Polio Campaign Targets Over 2.4 Million Children in Balochistan

Health Desk:

QUETTA: The anti-polio campaign across Balochistan will start on Monday, October 2, for which all preparations have been completed. Syed Zaid Shah, Coordinator of Emergency Operation Center Balochistan in a statement urged all members of society to support polio volunteers during the ongoing fight against the crippling virus.

2.4 million children be provided drops

He said that during the seven-day anti-polio campaign, more than 24 lakh 44 thousand children up to the age of 5 years have been set as the target of vaccination against polio.

More than 10,000 teams will participate during this campaign, including 8,589 mobile teams, 925 fixed sites and 547 transit points. Vitamin A drops will also be given to the children during the campaign, Syed Zahid Shah stated.

Parents urged to cooperate

The role of parents, scholars, political circles, tribal elders, administration and media is very important in the fight to eradicate polio, the EOC Chief observed. With the help of their positive thinking and attitudes, the polio campaign can be successful, he mentioned.

He said that eradication of polio has been ensured through this vaccine throughout the world including Islamic countries. Therefore,



there is no harm in vaccinating children during every polio campaign. Rather, it builds immunity in children against disease, he mentioned.

The last polio case was reported in January 2021 from Killa Abdullah district

Since January 27, 2021, no case of polio has been reported across the province. Which is a great achievement for the people of Balochistan, the EOC Chief said. The last case in Balochistan was reported from Qila Abdullah district in January 2021. Due to the large movement of the population from neighboring Afghanistan, the presence of poliovirus has been revealed in samples taken from sewage drains in Pishin after almost two and a half years, which belongs to Kandahar.

پولیو سے آزاد زندگی،
ہر بچے کا حق

2 اکتوبر سے قومی پولیو مہم میں اپنے بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے اازی پلاؤ

دماغ میں اے کی اضافی خوراک بھی دی جائے گی

Balochistan Shutter Down Strike Demands Justice for Mastung Carnage Victims

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan, Pakistan, witnessed a peaceful shutter-down strike in response to the tragic Mastung bombing...

Strike in Multiple Locations:

The shutter-down strike resonated across the province, affecting areas such as Mastung, Kharan, Khat, and several others.

Demand for Justice:

Religious parties leading the strike have vehemently called upon both provincial and federal governments to swiftly apprehend those responsible for the deadly blast.

Robust Security Measures:

To maintain law and order during the strike, the provincial government implemented stringent security measures. This included the deployment



of law enforcement personnel, including police, levies, and frontier corps, in sensitive areas throughout Balochistan.

Peaceful Outcome:

Despite the tense atmosphere, the strike remained peaceful, and there were no reports of untoward incidents from any part of Balochistan.

ICCI & RCCI for joint efforts to resolve issues of businessmen

RAWALPINDI (INP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) and Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) have reiterated their firm stance for making collective efforts to resolve the issues of the businessmen.

He said that now we have to prove by delivering instead of just paperwork that as before we are contributing to the stability of the country's economy by paying the highest taxes.

PML-N legal team to approach LHC for Nawaz Sharif's bail before return

LAHORE (INP): As Nawaz Sharif's return date moves closer, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) through its legal team has decided to approach the Lahore High Court (LHC) for his bail before he lands in Pakistan, request a section of daily English national.

Sharif family that the Imran Khan-led government and his backers had tried to poison Nawaz. He was treated at the Harley Street Clinic and London Bridge Hospital for four months.

Security forces casualties in fight against terrorism hits eight-year high: report

ISLAMABAD (INP): Close to 156 personnel — including 137 army and 208 cops — have lost their lives in the first nine months of 2023 in the fight against terrorism, largely in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, putting it on an eight-year high, say a report.

Q3 2023. The report noted that there was a consistent and alarming increase in violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Equally greater concern is the collective percentage of violence-related fatalities recorded in these two provinces which indicates a disturbing upward trend over the last five years; together, they suffered 72% of all fatalities in 2019, and this unsettling figure surged to a staggering 92% in the first 9 months of 2023.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Pakistan Peoples Party (SB) hold a protest against the Sakrand incident, in Hyderabad.



QUETTA: President Marzai Anjum-e-Tajran Raheem Agha speaks during a press conference.

US gov shutdown: Last-minute House vote approves 45-day funding extension

WASHINGTON (INP): In a dramatic eleventh-hour twist, the United States House of Representatives has voted overwhelmingly, 335 to 91, in favor of a 45-day extension of federal funding.

any funding for Ukraine, a contentious issue that has polarized lawmakers. The Senate's stance on the bill remains uncertain, as the Senate was poised to vote on its bipartisan funding proposal at the same time as the House.

Hangu attacker's prints not in Nadra database: police

PESHAWAR (INP): The fingerprints of a suicide bomber, who left five people dead when he blew himself up at a mosque in Hangu on Friday, do not match any available in the Nadra database, suggesting that he may be an unknown man or a foreigner.

men was shot dead. According to an initial assessment report, an explosion took place where the man was shot, which was attributed to a grenade. In the smoke and confusion, the attacker managed to enter the mosque and blew himself up. The report also said that while fingerprint samples were obtained, no match for which could be found in the database.

PHMA new body calls for enhancing value-added textile exports

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association (PHMA) has elected Nahid Abbas and Farrukh Iqbal unopposed as central chairman and zonal chairman of the north zone respectively for the year 2023-24.

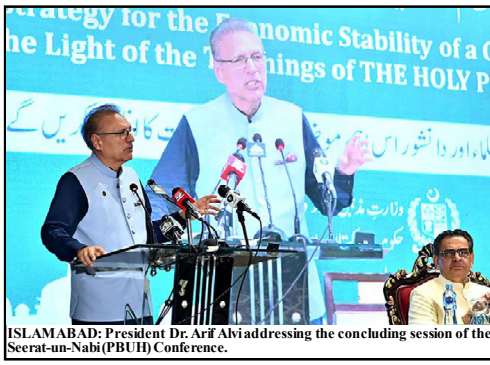
He also stressed the need for adopting new technology so that Pakistan's exports may be able to cope with the emerging challenges in international arena. Farrukh Iqbal urged the government to undertake thorough research and also brief the SMEs of the details of such challenges.

Two terrorists killed, cop martyred in attack on Mianwali patrolling post

MIANWALI (INP): A police constable was martyred after a group of terrorists attacked a Punjab Highway Patrolling Post in Mianwali. A crossfire also left two terrorists dead and another severely injured.

their attacking law enforcement agencies of committing suicide attack.

The firing left two suspects dead and PHM head constable Haroon Khan martyred. Khan suffered bullet wound in his eye. The spokesman further said the gun



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the concluding session of the Serat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference.

82-Year-Old Senior Citizen Left Shocked by Hefty QESCO Bill
 "Look, they also sent a hefty electricity bill to me", 82-year-old, Haji Abdul Manan lamented. The elderly man was spotted by the Daily Quetta Voice team on the main Zarghoon Road, which houses the Quetta's House and Chief Minister's Secretariat on the other day. "QESCO says, pay more than Rs.12000 bill", the aged man complained. QESCO has launched anti power supply theft drive in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. However, the elderly man complains he was a daily wage worker and had no money to pay hefty QESCO bills.

Lack of growth, investment aggravates economy, incentives for industry must: Anjum Nisar

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Businessmen Panel (BMP) has called for putting the economy on a sustainable growth, asking the government to provide incentives to the trade and industry, as the business confidence has taken a significant hit due to lack of investment and growth, exacerbating economic challenges further.

Former president FPCCI and Chairman BMP Mian Anjum Nisar asked the government to address the underlying structural vulnerabilities through smooth energy supply at competitive rates, as country's overall export proceeds continued to shrink, showing a pessimism about the conditions and prospects of the businesses amidst various economic crises to worsen business treasury.

Mian Anjum Nisar underscored the need for the government to take immediate steps to address the concerns of the business community, including implementing policies that support business growth, promoting employment and productivity through incentives, and addressing inflation and currency depreciation. Failure to do so will only exacerbate the country's economic challenges and hinder its ability to attract investment and create jobs.

The BMP Chairman said that the government has increased the gas and electricity tariffs and, at the same time, also the subsidy has been phased out, which will further increase the cost of production. Month on month increases in consumer prices may be countered by a further mean reverting international commodity prices and some exchange rate stability due to decreased pace of depreciation.

He further stated that the current vacuum uncertainty, which is aggravating each other's impact, is eroding business confidence, as the political tug of war and the inconsistent approach of the government is leading to a trust deficit between the business community and the government and between the international community and the government.

The Businessmen Panel chairman said that the export drop shows the government would find it difficult to achieve the industrial growth and export target, leading to more pressure on foreign exchange reserves of the country. Quoting the data, he pointed out that remittances witnessed significant drop during the first half of the current year, exports declined, foreign direct investment dipped by 654 million

dollars, portfolio investment plummeted from negative 45.5 to negative 1032 million dollars, Public Sector Development Program decreased by 122 billion rupees and credit to private sector from 1043.1 to 703.6 million rupees. He added that the government's policies that promote employment and productivity through incentives to businesses, including tax benefits, subsidies, and skill development, can help. He also highlighted that inflation is the most cited problem that businesses would like the government to solve. Referring to the report of business confidence, he said 66% of businesses perceive themselves as facing bad or worse conditions, with a 7% increase in businesses reporting very bad business conditions. Most business types reported the business being in bad state, with a 50-50 split between good and bad conditions in the construction, cosmetics, and industrial machines and equipment sector. Around 70% of businesses perceive bad conditions in Sindh and KPK, and 64% in Punjab. The report highlights that 61% of businesses in the first quarter of 2023 said future expectations are negative while the Net Future Business Confidence score has worsened by 11% since the previous quarter and is now at -22%.

Germany announces €2m aid for Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): German Consul General in Karachi Dr Rüdiger Lotz said that Germany will provide €2 million in aid to Pakistan till 2027 under the World Food Program.

He said this during a book launch event organised by German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GPCCI) here in Karachi.

The book launch event titled, "Landmarks of Pakistan" contained pen and ink drawings of historical places of Pakistan by a German Painter, Ms. Ute Elpers.

German Consul General in Karachi Dr Rüdiger Lotz said, "Tonight it is an event where we do not talk [about] politics or business but about culture. The book has landmarks covering the country, all four provinces of Pakistan. We have in the book the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad and the

Quaid-i-Azam Mausoleum in Karachi... and so on. What I found particularly charming is the old who loved this country, its people and culture and started to take her ink and pen to draw these buildings and the love of the first half of the current year, exports declined, foreign direct investment dipped by 654 million

Ute Elpers (1935-2019) was a highly gifted artist trained as a porcelain and ceramic painter who worked as a technical drafter in road and bridge construction. She also learned the art of using special ink pens.

In 2003 Ute became a member of the Humanity Care Foundation based in Muenster, Germany. She was encouraged by Col Folker Klasse (ret), President of Humanity Care Foundation, a charitable organization registered in Germany and Pakistan, to support its humanitarian work in Pakistan. In 2005 Ute started her pen and ink drawings of historic buildings, monuments, mausoleums, shrines and landscapes. She portrayed through her pen and ink drawings the rich and diverse architectural and cultural heritage of Pakistan.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Sunni Tehreek Pakistan hold a protest rally against terrorists, who were involved in the Mastung bomb blast.

'Prison for Muslims': Indian father-son duo seek refuge in Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): An Indian Muslim and his son who fled their home country citing religious persecution and arrived in Pakistan earlier this month have appealed to the government not to deport them and allow them to stay under "any restrictions," wrote Arab News, an English-language daily newspaper published in Saudi Arabia.

Arab News covered in detail the journey of the father and his son. Here is what the newspaper wrote.

Journalist Mohammad Hasnain, 65, and his son Ishaq Amir, 31, a technician at an Indian company, had fled from their industrial city located in the state of Jharkhand bordering West Bengal. Their journey to Pakistan involved flying to New Delhi to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on September 5, where they got visas for Afghanistan and then flew onwards to Kabul and Islamabad.

The two are now living at a shelter in Karachi, and say they left their country out of "helplessness" over repeated attacks by Hindu extremists.

Rights groups allege mistreatment of Muslims, some 14 percent of India's 1.3 billion people, under Narendra Modi who became prime minister in 2014. In reports on human rights and religious freedom, the US State Department has also raised concerns over treatment of Muslims, Hindu Dalits, Christians and other religious minorities in India while also listing a crackdown on journalists.

Activists point to a 2019 citizenship law described as "fundamentally discriminatory" by the United Nations human rights office for excluding Muslim migrants, an anti-conversion legislation challenging the constitutionally protected right to freedom of belief, and the 2019 revoking of Muslim-majority Kashmir's special status.

There has also been demolition of Muslim properties in the name of removing illegal construction and a ban on wearing the hijab in classrooms in Karnataka when Modi's BJP party was in power in that state. Attacks by cow vigilantes are also on the rise. "You can consider that India is like a prison for Muslims, you cannot drink, and dress up but you don't have freedom of any kind, you are considered a second-class citizen," Hasnain told Arab News from the Karachi shelter where he is staying. "If some injustice happens to you, there is no one to listen to you, the police won't listen, the courts won't listen."

Hasnain, who was the editor of an Indian weekly publication "The Media Profile," was also targeted for his journalism.

"It's common for journalists to provide commentary on government policies, every journalist does it," he said, holding up a copy of the publication he worked for. "Every journalist talks about the poor conditions in an area. I also used to write about the injustices faced by Muslims due to their religion. This used to rile them [Indian government] up."

Amir, the son, said he had been beaten up by right-wing Hindus three times, in 2018, 2019 and 2021, he said both father and son were beaten up.

"I filed formal complaints in the company, but there was no reaction, no action taken," Amir said of the attacks that took place at his workplace.

"Instead, the reaction always seemed to be directed at me. I've done beatings, heard abusive slogans, and was even forced to chant derogatory slogans against Pakistan and Islam. If we answer them, we will get thrashed and if we don't, then we have to live with our heads down."

Once in Pakistan, the father and son met police officials who advised them to seek refuge at a shelter run by the Edhi Foundation, Pakistan's largest charity organization. They are now living there under the supervision of two policemen, and are not allowed to

leave the premises.

Asked about the pair's legal status, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police Asad Raza directed Arab News to speak to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). An FIA spokesperson said the agency had nothing to do with the Indian nationals since they were being handled by police officials. The Indian High Commission did not respond to emails seeking comment about the case.

Asked what they would do if the Pakistani government refused to grant them asylum, Hasnain said the pair would be out of options. "We just want to be given refuge, we are not demanding anything else," he said. "You [Pakistan government] can impose any restrictions you want, give us any punishment you desire, do whatever you want, we have no complaints. All we seek is permission to live in this country... I can only make one request: where 250 million people are living, please spare a place for two more."

Hasnain denied he and his son were seeking refuge in Pakistan as the best of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency to tarnish India's reputation or had arrived in Pakistan on an espionage mission.

"I refute both claims," Hasnain said. "Neither the Indians have sent us here nor the Pakistanis brought us under their patronage."

Asked why he opted for Pakistan and not Bangladesh, which is closer to his hometown and where he would have received a visa more easily, the journalist pointed to New Delhi's influence over the administration in Dhaka.

"It would have been like falling out of the frying pan and into the fire," he said. "If the Indian government were to someday ask for our return, the Bangladeshis would hand us over within a second."

Amir, whose father separated from his mother several years ago, didn't even tell his mother before fleeing India.

"Now that we have come here, all that we hope for is mercy," he said. "We seek refuge."

PIAF terms ever-increasing cost of production real threat to businesses

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said that high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for businesses, as ever-increasing cost of production is the real threat to the economy amidst frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar.

In a statement on Sunday, Chairman PIAF Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that constant hike in power tariff has pushed the electricity prices higher and added to the already soaring cost of trade and industry. He asked the government to shut down all expensive oil-based power projects to ensure availability of cheaper energy for consumers. He condemned the government for shifting power distribution company's inefficiencies burden to the consumers by jacking up the tariff under the guise of Fuel Charges Adjustment.

He observed that the aggressive oil-based power projects, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting running businesses.

With a view to deal with fiscal challenges, Faheemur Rehman Saigol asked the economic managers to work on the three-way strategy by implementing short-term goals that will help to keep generating resources for smooth fiscal operations, medium-term goals that will help to ensure financial inclusion, document-

ing the economy by designing a system where all businesses can be registered and properly document their income including collection of sales tax, initiating the process of privatization as well as improving governance in each sector. He said that as a long-term goal, the country must focus on improving its human capital, and revamping IT sectors by extending facilities and providing all the requisite supports. In the same way, we also need to work on designing a comprehensive and proactive strategy to tackle challenges related to strengthening border security and implementing effective and comprehensive Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing measures holding accountable and taking to task all those who are involved in illegitimate activities, undermining both our economy and national interests. The PIAF Chairman stated that the significant jump in electricity prices and hike in gas tariffs to meet the IMF condition will put additional burden of billions of rupees on consumers. He observed that it is unfortunate that the authorities in all governments continued to approve billions of rupees' additional burden on consumers through a direct tariff increase and an indirect increase through the withdrawal of subsidies given to exporters and imprudent foreign policy towards neighboring countries, where they should focus on external vulnerability risks are el-

evated and there remain considerable risks around its ability to secure required financing to fully meet its needs for the next few years.

It is to be noted that the authorities had pledged to stop any further rise in circular debt adding that around Rs 250 billion was added to the gas circular debt annually though the actual figures are available with Petroleum Division. However, if 11.5 percent price hike for SNGPL and 11 percent tariff for SSKG was not implemented then the circular debt will rise to Rs 740 billion. At present, the gas tariff for residential consumers is Rs 450 per mmbtu in the Sul Southern Gas Company system against the prescribed price of Rs 850 per mmbtu and Rs 400 per mmbtu in the Sul Northern Gas Pipeline Limited system against the prescribed price of Rs 1,007 per mmbtu, showing a significant gap between sale price and actual cost of gas. Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that the economic managers did not have any pragmatic plan to address this liability, apart from asking for more loans to repay existing debt. Likewise, the target for current financial year's exports is too low to meet the country's revenue. The conventional approach of focusing solely on improving exports while pursuing a passive and imprudent foreign policy towards neighboring countries, where they should focus on external vulnerability risks are el-