

# QUETTA VOICE

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## Growers Threaten Protest Across Balochistan Over Power Supply and Taxation Issues

Staff Reporter :

QUETTA: The Zamindar Action Committee has threatened to take to the streets across Balochistan, organizing widespread protest demonstrations against a backdrop of pressing issues, including the non-supply of electricity to agricultural feeders, severe 22-hour force load shedding, the restoration of agricultural taxes, alleged misbehavior by QESCO, arrests related to unpaid bills, and other demands.

### Protests on October 5

Malik Nasser Ahmad Shahwani, the chairman of the Zamindar Action Committee, the head of the committee announced its strategic plan. They have called for a central demonstration scheduled for October 11 in Quetta, the provincial capital, followed by a wheel jam strike slated for October 18 throughout Balochistan.

### 6-members committee formed

The committee has also established a 6-member support and consultation committee, comprising representatives from various parties, traders, and transporters, to foster unity and coordination among stakeholders.

To keep the public informed and engage political leaders, a press conference has been scheduled for October 4 at the local press club. During this



During this event, further actions are currently underway to bring justice to those affected.

conference, leaders from various political parties will address the media and provide insights into the decisions made by the Zamindar Action Committee.

### Prominent personalities

Key figures participating in the action committee meeting included Kazim Khan Achakzai, Haj Aziz Saqar, Haj Muhammad Azizi Bengali, Malik Manzoor Noshirwani, Haj Obaidullah Panizai and others were present.

### They criticize QESCO

During the meeting, attendees expressed their strong disapproval of QESCO Balochistan's alleged landlord-killing policy, describing it as a shocking act that is wholly unacceptable. The committee is determined to fight vigorously against this perceived oppression, pledging to use all available means to protect the interests of landlords in the region. The Zamindar Action Committee's protests and advocacy efforts mark a significant moment in Balochistan's ongoing struggle to address critical issues affecting the agricultural sector. As these developments unfold, the committee's actions are expected to garner increased attention and support from various quarters. Stay tuned for further updates on this evolving situation.

## Tragic Incident in Quetta: Mother and Four Daughters Take Their Lives Amidst Alarming Domestic Violence

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a devastating and deeply tragic incident that has shaken the community of Hazara town in Quetta, a mother and her four young daughters have taken their own lives, allegedly as a result of relentless domestic violence.

According to local law enforcement authorities, the mother resorted to consuming poison, tragically bringing her four innocent children along with her on this harrowing journey.

The incident occurred this past Monday, sending shockwaves through the tight-knit community.

Local police are actively investigating the circumstances surrounding this heartbreaking



event, and further actions are currently underway to bring justice to those affected.

### Local Community in Hazara Town Shaken by Devastating Domestic Violence Incident

Neighbors and community members have expressed their grief and outrage at the tragedy, emphasizing the urgent need for increased awareness and intervention in cases of domestic violence.

This heart-wrenching incident serves as a stark reminder of the critical importance of addressing domestic violence and supporting those who may

be suffering silently.

It is a poignant call to action for society to unite against this pervasive issue and ensure that those in vulnerable situations receive the help and support they desperately need.

### Investigation Underway: Mother's Poisoning and Loss of Four Daughters in Quetta

As the investigation unfolds, the community mourns the loss of a mother and her four daughters, hoping that their tragic story will inspire meaningful change in the fight against domestic violence.

پولیو سے آزاد زندگی، ہر بچے کا حق

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

دماغن اے کی اضافی خوراک بھی دی جائے گی

## Levies foils major terror bid in Kohlu, recovered arms ammunitions

Yousaf Marri:

KOHLU: The Quick Response Force (QRF) foiled a major terrorism bid by seizing a huge cache of arms and ammunition in Kahan Tehsil of the district on Monday.

Levies QRF Sibi Zone took action on the report of intelligence organizations in the area of Tehsil Kahan, Levies sources said. They informed a large number of arms and ammunition were recovered in the operation.

### 3 anti-tank mines also recovered

The weapons recovered by levies forces include 03 anti-tank mines, 08 anti-person mines (APMs), 02 APM small, 04 rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) 7, 04 BM 12 missiles, 05 hand grenades, 08 81 mortar rounds, 01 120 rounds in operation.

Mortars were destroyed, 01 Russian mortar, 14 AGS 17 grenades, and one kg of explosives were recovered, Levys officials mentioned. A total of 12 guns were also recovered in the operation, Levies officials narrated.

### The operation was underway for 11 hours

The operation continued for 11 hours continuously, in which more than 40 levies officers participated.

Kohlu is considered to be one of the sensitive districts of Balochistan.



Militants in the past have carried out attacks against law enforcement agencies and pro-government officials in the Kohlu area.

However, there has been calm in the district for the last few years following successful intelligence-based operations in the district, which borders with Dera Bugti district.

## CS Balochistan Launches Anti-Polio Drive, Administers Polio Drops to Children

Health Desk:

QUETTA: The Anti-Polio Drive was launched across Balochistan like in other parts of the country on Monday morning. Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan administered polio drops to children below the age of five years. Secretary of Health Balochistan, Asfandiyar Khan, Head of the Emergency Operation Cell (EOC), Syed Zahid Shah and others were also present on the occasion.

"Government is committed to eradicating the crippling virus", Shakeel Qadir Khan vowed on the occasion. The top civilian officer of the province stated that fool-proof security measures were adopted by the government to provide security for polio volunteers across the province.

### More than 2.4 million children to be administered polio drops

During the campaign, the health department has set the target of administering anti-polio drops to more than 2.4 million children in Balochistan. Thousands of teams have also been formed to ensure the success of the campaign.

"No child would be missed and anti-polio drops would be administered to all the children", the CS Balochistan stated. He directed all government departments to boost coordination to eradicate the polio virus from the province.



### Balochistan polio-free for the last two years

Balochistan has been polio free for more than two years. The last polio virus case was reported in January 2021 from the Killa Abdullah district of Balochistan. However, the health officials feared that polio environmental samples were detected in the Pishin district of Balochistan.

The provincial government has tightened security across Balochistan to ensure peace and avoid the occurrence of any untoward incident in the province.

## When Quetta razed to ground within 30 seconds 88 years ago

Editor: Asim Khan

**When Quetta razed to ground within 30 seconds 88 years ago**

### Editorial

Quetta, Pakistan's southwestern city was razed to ground within 30 seconds when a powerful earthquake struck 88 years ago. The deadliest earthquake of 1935 still haunts the people. Strong tremors jolted this mountain-ringed city between 2:33 to 3:40 am when people were in their deep sleep on May 31st, 1935. The earthquake was recorded 7.7 on the rector scale. It was Chilian fault located in the South West of the city that destroyed the city Chilian and Chaman fault pose a serious threat to Quetta and parts of northern and central Balochistan.

**British rulers declared emergency after the deadliest earthquake of 1935**

The English colonial rulers declared an emergency in the aftermath of the deadliest earthquake, which claimed more than 30,000 lives. Rescue workers and military personnel were moved from Bombay to Quetta in passenger trains to assist in the rescue efforts. Local tribesmen from neighboring Pishin, Mastung and other areas also rushed towards the city to participate in the rescue operation.

It took weeks and months for the rescue workers to retrieve the dead bodies buried beneath the rubble of the houses. The earthquake destroyed main commercial center of the city.

**Specific building code was introduced for Quetta**

The British rulers introduced a specific building code for Quetta in view of the looming danger of earthquakes. For sometime, the building code was implemented in letter and spirit. However, that is no more than the case when it comes to the implementation of the building code in the city.

**Over 700 building constructed in violation of building code**

As per the statistics of the metropolitan corporation Quetta, around 700 buildings have been constructed in the city in violation of building code.

Substandard materials are also being used in construction, which can cause more human losses in the case of any future earthquakes.

Experts have warned that there is ticking bomb beneath Quetta and precautionary measures need to be adopted to ensure quality construction and implementation of building code to avoid human losses in the case of any natural calamity.

BY Huma Yusuf:

It has been a bad week for refugees. A debate is brewing on whether the UN's refugee convention is still fit for purpose. A recent Financial Times poll found that 56 per cent of Americans and 60pc of Britons say immigration is too high. Closer to home, our interim government authorised the deportation of undocumented Afghan refugees. Our policymakers should closely follow the evolving global rhetoric on refugees for it will inevitably affect Pakistan's global standing.

It is not surprising that refugees are back in the headlines. According to the UNHCR, the Afghaneconomy is at a low. May this year, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced across the globe. More than 35m were categorised as refugees.

Pakistan is in a double bind. On the one hand, as the preferred destination for over 2m Afghan refugees, it faces international pressure to sign up to the UN

refugee convention (Pakistan is not a signatory and this does not have national legislation guiding refugee and asylum protocols or non-refoulement rules, which is why it can deport vulnerable Afghans without breaching local or international law). On the other, as a (growing) export of refugees, it will face mounting pressure from the tide as well as aggressive containment approaches. Our economic, security and foreign policies are not adequately equipped to manage the challenge.

The interim set-up has already faced criticism for its decision to deport undocumented Afghan refugees (Pakistan's current refugee population is an equal number of undocumented Afghans and citizens who reside in the country). The refugees' compliance of international law is being questioned, claiming that Pakistani authorities have been slow to approve regularisation and visa extension applications. The international community is raising its eyebrow at a country

ready to send Afghans,

including girls and

children that is with-

standing to support

to comply with non-

refoulement require-

ments (the prohibition

on states to return in-

dividuals to places

where they would be

at risk). Indeed, refuge-

es may become a

core aspect of our for-

eign policy.

Pakistan since 2021

has been resisting set-

ting up a Resettle-

ment Centre to enable

the US to process re-

settlement applica-

tions of Afghan refugees

and relocate them

onwards to the US. It

argues that Pakistan

refugees later the world

is on a difficult trajec-

tory and the number of

refugees. The US, mean-

while, refuses to handle

resettlement cases with-

out an RSC. This is an

area for productive en-

gagement between Pak-

istan and the US. Islamabad can enable

the Taliban to meet its

international negotia-

tion goals, which it

would want to advocate

for Pakistani refugees in

other countries to be

relocated. However, in

accordance with interna-

tional laws. As a first

step, Pakistan should

sign the UN refugee con-

vention, and knowledge

sharing of best practices

for refugees' asylum

frameworks could be a

key element of the grow-

ing partnership between

the two states. Pakistan

could also serve as a

valuable interlocutor

with allies such as China

and the GCC to encour-

age them to take a

greater share of the

global refugee population

in line with their economic

status, an argument that

can only be made from

the moral high ground,

but that would help sus-

tain the relevance of

Pakistan's voice glob-

ally, and help secure fair

treatment for Pakistani

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## Economic emergency

By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry:

FOR most Pakistanis, the prevailing economic conditions have unleashed unprecedented hardship. Steep power tariffs and high fuel costs have made every-thing expensive. Even the basic necessities are now beyond the reach of the public. Spending consistently more than earning has indebted the country to the core. We have mortgaged the future of even our grandchildren.

The irony is that while the rest of the country is expected to bear the economic crunch, for the top tiers of government, it appears to be business as usual. Foreign tourists abroad have been in full force, regardless of the expense involved. Let us bear in mind that foreign policies are made at home, and not through meetings and tours abroad.

It is time our government, an interim one though it is, led the austerity drive from the front, particularly when they expect the rest of the country to bear the economic measures. We can take a cue from the present chief justice, who has voluntarily

given up protocol, privileges and all pomp and show attached to his high office. The administration needs to demonstrate to the people through definitive actions that it stands with them in this time of acute economic emergency.

As a general rule, officials' salaries should be suspended. Online mediums are effective in today's era, and our ambassadors abroad can represent us. There should be no free electricity for anyone—officials' salaries should be suspended. Online mediums are effective in today's era, and our ambassadors abroad can represent us. There should be no free electricity for anyone—

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By Umair Javed

NAWAZ Sharif was ousted from the Prime Minister's Office by a dubious Supreme Court decision on July 28, 2017. He left the country on Nov 19, 2019. Six years have passed since his departure. The political and parliamentary politics, and four since he was last in Pakistan.

When he left the country, his party had been weakened by defections, but was still the dominant party in urban Punjab, and a close second to the PTI in the rest of the province. On the day his brother took over the premiership on a waiver-ship plan, following Imran Khan's controversially-laden ouster, his party was competitive on their home turf and could have capitalised on the immediate anti-incumbent sentiment. That ship sailed soon after.

At the time of writing, in late September 2023, none of these trends hold up. The political context has

## Along four years

February 2023

It further confirms that efforts to portray him in a negative/disruptive light through court cases have fragmented the party's support base. Of greater interest is its significant gains in voting intention in the province of Punjab—home to 141 out of 266 directly elected seats. The PTI (41pc) commands a 13-point lead over the PML-N (28pc), a gap that has widened over the preceding year. Around a year or so ago, the PML-N was polling above 30pc in the province, with the PTI in close proximity. Despite restrictions and crackdowns on PTI workers, the party's favourability continues to translate into province-wide voting intention. This shows that party identification continues to increase and is not necessarily mediated by the on-ground presence of the PTI's local office-bearers or politicians. The results from the provincial provinces are also worth considering. Intention to vote for the PTI is the highest out of the major parties in Balochistan, which is a further indication of its national appeal.

## Stepping up

By Muna Khan:

IN 2014, I had the good fortune of attending a talk by my favourite writer, David Sedaris, where he read from a yet to be published piece about his Fibrit, a digital pedometer which is worn on your wrist and monitors your activity. The goal is to take 10,000 steps every day, which is roughly eight kilometres.

When I began graduate school in the US, the Fibrit was quite common and more affordable, so I bought one. Soon I became obsessed with hitting 10,000 steps, then reaching that goal quicker in the day, and then increasing that goal. I did not let Chicago's schizophrenic weather come between me and my steps. Once the weather improved, I would walk at sunrise and walk to get more steps. I was competing against myself. I saw more of the city in my walks than I did as a student reporter.

I caught the walking bug from my father, a lifelong avid walker come rain or shine, and I was determined to continue my practice once back in Karachi.

Sadly, that didn't last long, because I could

only walk in parks or the beach near my house and became bored of the same scenery. I was also conscious of my body among a sea of men in these places. I occasionally walk my dogs in the neighbourhood, but Doha is a hot, dirty mess and the walk is not pleasant. The beauty of walking—whether aimless or with purpose—is that you cannot predict your experience.

When I was a young woman says the most enjoyable part of being abroad is walking. Women want to walk without fear—of stares, harassment and other worries they carry when they step out of their safety zones in Pakistan. Before my father, people get into a tizzy, pleasure to understand women's capabilities in public spaces here versus anywhere else. The outdoors, which was always restricted freedom, is a marking point of inappropriate behaviour here. Crime statistics in the Punjab police and 777 to the Sindh police, according to a report by the Sustainable Social Development Centre in Karachi.

But for health reasons, I have to resume my walking practice. I will partner with my father. Maybe we'll take short routes to recover different parts of our neighbourhood.

Organisations working on urban issues who promote the "right to the city" concept—giving the power of the city to its citizens—can apply for grants to invest in public spaces which may be neglected by the government in favour of wealthier areas. The private sector also invests in public spaces where they create their urban projects because it increases value.

By Malecha Lodhi

THE interim government seems to be getting itself mired in unnecessary political controversy at a time when it should be reassuring people of its commitment to holding free and fair elections.

Instead of creating a propitious environment for credible polls, which is their man task, gratuitous assertions by the caretaker prime minister and some of his cabinet members are clouding the atmosphere and raising questions about how inclusive the election will be. An interview with Associated Press, Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar declared that fair elections are a requirement even with the exclusion of PTI leader Imran Khan and his jailed party members. This is a sharp response from PTI, which said elections must be held. The caretaker prime minister said Kakar's claim was "ill-judged and anti-democratic" as courts had not yet found Khan guilty in the legal cases against him. HRCP also said it was not for the prime minister or his gov-

ernment to decide unilaterally what constitutes a "fair" election. Former prime minister PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi also said it was not the interim PM's job to make such contentious statements.

An official clarification claiming Kakar's comments had been "misunderstood" and "misreported" did little to quell the controversy. Nor did Kakar's subsequent clarification that his insistence on being non-partisan was a response to rising criticism, but in fact, his nonstop media interviews on political issues and daily sermons on "requirements of the law" only compounded the matter.

Meanwhile, remarks by the interim caretaker minister also drew a furious response, this time from leaders of Pakistan's major party, PML-N. In an interview, Sarfraz Bugti said Man Nawaz Sharif had not arrived back home from abroad if he failed to get bail. PML-N leader and the conduct of the "election" and pointed out that it was neither his business nor his decision about where Sharif

would go on arrival. Again, a clarification by the minister that his government had no "political agenda" did little to calm ruffled feathers. Earlier, PPP leader Bilawal Bhattozardari declared the absence of a "level playing field" for the polls. Party representatives publicly assailed the inclusion in the interim cabinet of former bureaucrats closely aligned with PML-N in the past. They insisted that the interim government was acting as a vehicle for PML-N and also accused the Election Commission of Pakistan of bias. If the principal role of a caretaker government is to oversee free and fair polls and act impartially, such criticism from political parties who are major contenders in the upcoming election, suggests it is already being challenged, fulfilling its responsibilities as envisaged in the Constitution and Elections Act 2017.

The gap between how a caretaker government is supposed to act and what is being done by the Kakar administration is evident from what is prescribed by Section 230 of the Elections Act 2017. It obliges the interim

government to be "impartial to every person and political party" and "restrict itself to activities that are of routine, non-controversial and urgent" nature.

Responsible for managing "day-to-day matters which are necessary to run the affairs of the Government," it is barred from taking "major policy decisions except on urgent matters". It cannot take decisions that pre-empt the scope and sphere of activities and powers of the next elected government.

PML-N is also not authorised to make appointments or carry out large-scale shuffles of civil servants that can affect the working or policies of the future government. Over the years, the Supreme Court has upheld this principle in rulings on petitions by government employees and others who challenged such transfers. The judgement in the Khwaja Asif case 2013 is a case in point.

True, an effort was made by the previous parliament to grant more powers to the caretaker government. But because of strident protests from treasury and opposition benches, the Elections.



## Nawaz Sharif books his ticket to return home on Oct 21

LONDON (INP): Former three-time prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has booked his air ticket for Pakistan, source said on Monday.

Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Nawaz Sharif will land at Abu Dhabi International Airport from London on October 21 from where he will fly to Lahore on the same date.

Nawaz Sharif has booked a ticket for Ehtad Airways' business class.

The sources informed that he has booked Ehtad Airways Flight EY 243 which will land at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport at 6:25 pm.

The PML-N supremo will be accompanied by his staff and personal advisors including Muhammad Waqar, Dr Adnan and Mian Nasir Janjua.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui will also be accompanying the former prime minister.

Several party leaders and former members of parliament also booked their seats on the same flight from Abu Dhabi, sources said adding that the PML-N workers from different walks of life would arrive at Abu Dhabi airport to receive them.

In February 2020, the then government had declared Nawaz Sharif an absconder, and later in the same year, an accountability court had declared him a proclaimed offender in the Toshkhana vehicles reference.

It bears mentioning that in June 2023, in

what was seen as a move to pave the way for Nawaz's return, both houses of the parliament passed the Elections (Amendment) Act 2023, which empowered the Election Commission of Pakistan to unilaterally fix the date for elections and also limits the lawmakers' disqualification period to five years with retrospective effect.

In June, an accountability court also acquitted Nawaz in a reference pertaining to the alleged illegal allotment of plots in 1986 to the owner of a media house. Nawaz Sharif has been living in Britain for the last four years in self-exile and has decided to return on Oct 21.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the National Task Force for Eradication of Polo.

## Trump business empire under threat as New York fraud trial opens

WASHINGTON, Oct 02 (INP): Donald Trump faces fresh legal danger on Monday as a civil fraud trial against the former president and two of his sons begins in New York, threatening the Republican frontrunner's business empire as he campaigns to retake the White House with four criminal cases looming.

On Monday's case, Judge Arthur Engoron has already ruled that Trump and his sons Eric and Don Jr. committed fraud by inflating the value of the real estate and financial assets of the Trump Organization for years.

Trump said late Sunday night he planned to be present for the start of the trial Monday morning.

"I'm going to Court tomorrow morning to fight for my name and reputation," the 77-year-old wrote on his Truth Social platform. "This whole case is a sham!!!"

In addition to the case, Trump also faces several major criminal proceedings in the months ahead. He is scheduled to appear be-

fore a federal judge in Washington on March 4, on charges of trying to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election won by Joe Biden.

After that, Trump will be back in New York state court, this time on criminal hush money charges, and later in a Florida federal court, where he is accused of mishandling classified documents after leaving office. Finally, he will also have to answer to state charges in Georgia, where prosecutors say Trump illegally tried to

get the southern state's 2020 election results changed in his favor.

In the New York civil case, Engoron ruled that Trump, his two eldest sons and other Trump Organization executives lied to tax collectors, lenders and insurers for years in a scheme that exaggerated the value of their properties by \$12 million to \$2.2 billion between 2014 and 2021. As a result, the judge revoked the business licenses that allowed the Trump Organization to operate some of its New York properties.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti addressing a press conference.

## 134 more suspects identified in MDCAT scandal

PESHAWAR (INP): In a major progress in Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) test scandal, the authorities in Peshawar have identified 134 more suspected candidates on Monday.

The Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency (ETE) officials have said that these individuals will now appear before the UPW Committee.

Their papers, too, will be presented in the court, they have said, and added, "When the papers of 2,000 successful candidates were rechecked, it was found out that they had not done the numerical work."

The officials have said that 2,100 candidates, however, did the rough work.

As many as 219 candidates were caught red-handed while cheating with Bluetooth.

After the scandal was reported, the caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) had to declare the results of the MDCAT void, and announce that the exam would now be re-conducted.

Earlier this month, over 40 candidates, including 20 females, had been arrested while solving papers with the help of Bluetooth device. Police had also lodged several cases in this connection.

Secretary of Higher Education Anis Durani told media that there was a gang that took hefty amounts from students in return for helping them solve the test with the help of Bluetooth.

Nazim Jokhio murder: SHC adjourns Jam Awais disqualification plea KARACHI, Oct 02 (INP): The Sindh High Court on Monday adjourned a petition seeking disqualification of Jam Awais MPA, key accused of Nazim Jokhio murder till Nov. 08.

The election commission sought further time from the court for submitting its reply.

Advocate Wazir Khoso appeared before the court on behalf of Jam Awais. The plea has become redundant after dissolution of the provincial assembly, the counsel argued. "Reconciliation is not a crime," Jam Awais's lawyers said.

Jam Awais (Golam, Speaker Sindh Assembly, Chief Secretary Sindh) and the election commission were named in the petition filed by Barrister Ali Tahir.

Jam Awais has paid Deyat (blood money) to the family of the deceased in the murder case.

"After paying Deyat Jam Awais didn't remain truthful and trustworthy," petitioner said.

The British military equipment maker said the investment will "cover development work until 2028", and the "recruitment of more than 5,000 people" at its Barrow-in-Furness site in northern England.

The first examples of this submarine are due to be delivered in the late 2030s. Nuclear-powered submarines are difficult to detect, can travel great distances for long periods, and can carry sophisticated cruise missiles.

The plan involves Australia purchasing US nuclear-powered submarines, and then building a new model with US and British technology.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak praised it as "the most important multilateral defence agreement for generations". In a separate statement, BAE Systems said that the future SSN-AUKUS "will be the largest, most powerful and most advanced submarine supplied to the Royal Navy."

The deal, which involves British companies BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce and Babcock, are part of the AUKUS military alliance between the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom to counter China's navy far greater stealth and

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## PKR's bullish run against dollar continues

ISLAMABAD, Oct 02 (INP): The US dollar witnessed a notable decrease of 99 paisas, settling at 286.75 rupees in the interbank market on Monday.

According to the Bloomberg report, a remarkable surge of almost 6% has catapulted the PKR to a seven-week high against the US dollar.

The decline in the

value of the dollar has persisted with the interbank rate experiencing a notable drop of 90 paisas.

Continuing its recent strengthening trend against the mighty US dollar, the Pakistani rupee gained further ground at the trading session on Thursday.

In a recent development, the value of the US dollar witnessed a moderate decline in the interbank and open market exchange rates in Pakistan.

The decline in the

rupee, settling at a rate of Rs287.15.

Similarly, in the open market, the US dollar experienced a depreciation of one and a half rupees, bringing its selling price to 288 rupees and 50 paisas.

The US dollar closed the day's trading activity with a drop of Rs1.1 to settle at Rs287.74, while in the open market, it saw a decline of Rs2 to close at Rs288 on Thursday evening.

Over the last 17 days, the American currency has depreciated against the rupee by

Rs19.36 in the interbank market and Rs42 in the open market. The steady depreciation of the dollar against the Pakistani rupee is a significant development in the local financial landscape.

In the interbank market, the rupee started trading at Rs288.64, after an increase of Rs1.16 on Wednesday morning.

Later, the greenback dropped by a further Rs1 and was traded at Rs288.80, while in the open market, the currency lost Rs1 to settle at Rs290.

## Seven die in Mexico church roof collapse

MEXICO CITY (INP): At least seven people were killed in Mexico on Sunday when the roof of a church came crashing down, local officials said.

"Seven people are confirmed dead, and 10 injured people have been rescued" in the northeastern coastal town of Ciudad Madero, a spokesperson for the Tamaulipas state government said in a statement.

More people remained trapped and rescue efforts were underway after the incident which occurred in the early afternoon, the spokesperson added.

Local media reported that at least 20 people were missing under the rubble of the Santa Cruz parish, and that a baptism was being celebrated when the ceiling collapsed.

"We are experiencing a very difficult moment... the roof of a church has collapsed during the celebration of the Eucharist," the bishop of the local diocese Jose Armando Alvarez said in a video posted to social media.

"At this moment they are doing the necessary work to save the people who are still under the rubble," he added, without providing more details. A Red Cross rescue video mentioned below, on or before October 08, 2023 till 1200 Hours. e-Applications (submitted through NHA e-Bidding System) and the envelope containing hard copy of e-application, will be opened on the same day at 1300 Hours.

for specialized equipment to arrive in order to complete a "final search" under the rubble. The tv channel showed dozens of people trying to hold up part of the collapsed structure with their hands while others made

their way through the wreckage in search of survivors. In a scene reminiscent of earthquake recovery efforts, rescuers could be seen raising their fists in the air as a call for silence so they might hear any calls

for help coming from people stuck under the wreckage. "Security and civil protection forces are already dealing with the situation... to coordinate rescue plans," Tamaulipas Governor

HYDERABAD: View of dried part of Indus River as the water level decrease due to acute water shortage which indicating for high risks of shortage of water in future, at Kotri.

### President Alvi directs CDNS to reimburse Rs1.2m to fraud victim woman

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) to reimburse an amount of 1.2 million rupees with profit to a fraud victim woman.

It should be mentioned that the money was fraudulently withdrawn from the woman's account through the issuance of a fictitious cheque book and affixing her fake signatures on the withdrawal slip.

Dr Arif Alvi on Monday asked CDNS to refer the matter to FIA for proper investigation so that the delinquent officials of CDNS involved in the scam may be brought to the book and punished.

The president issued these directions while deciding on a representation filed by CDNS (the Agency) against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing CDNS to refer the matter to FIA for thorough investigation. As per details, the complainant Abida Rifat had alleged that she was maintain-

ing a Pensioners Benefit Account with CDNS in Rawalpindi. She found out in 2021 that an amount of 1.2 million had been fraudulently withdrawn from her account in 2019 through another cheque book which was never issued to her.

She lodged a complaint with CDNS for investigation and recovery of her defrauded amount, but the matter was investigated in a superfluous manner and she was informed that she could not produce any evidence in support of her claim. Feeling aggrieved, she approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib which asked CDNS to refer the matter through FIA. CDNS then filed a representation with the President against the Mohtasib's decision.

President Alvi in his decision observed that CDNS in a letter dated 28.12.2021 had admitted that Rs 1.2 million were withdrawn from her account through the fake transaction on

23.05.2019 by affixing a fake signature on the withdrawal slip.

He noted that during an internal inquiry conducted by CDNS, an officer had given a statement in which he alleged that the disputed amount was fraudulently misappropriated by a gunman and the cashier and the Agency had not associated the said officials in the inquiry proceedings. This, he added, depicted that the process of inquiry was not transparent and CDNS was opposing the entrustment of the matter to FIA without any justification.

The president concluded that Wafaqi Mohtasib had rightly observed that the matter of fraudulent withdrawal of the amount had not been properly investigated and directed it to refer the matter to FIA. He upheld the Mohtasib's decision with the direction to CDNS to submit a compliance report to Mohtasib within 30 days.

### May 9 Vandalism: Sanam Javed, others sent on judicial remand

LAHORE (INP): In vandalism case, Sanam Javed Khan and other Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) woman activists on Monday were sent on a 14-day judicial remand.

According to the report submitted by the police to the court, Sanam Javed Khan was identified in the case related to the riot case. Police urged the court to grant the physical remand of PTI women activists in police van attack case. However, the court rejected the physical remand plea and sent the PTI women activist on 14-day physical remand where Ashima and Shah Bano were discharged from the case upon no evidence of their involvement in

the vandalism case. Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) women activists were re-arrested moments after release from Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore.

As per details, policewomen force arrested the PTI activists and took them from Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore. The re-arrest came after the PTI women activists were released from jail but their families refused to take them home as they were facing re-arrest.

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) had ordered to release Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javed Khan and other party activists in Jinnah House attack case. The court approved

the bail pleas of PTI activists Sanam Javed Khan, Robina Jameel, Afshan Tariq, Ashma Shuja, Shah Bano, Faisal Akhtar, Qasim, Ali Hasan and Husain Qadri. It should be mentioned that on May 9 this year, violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and PTI chief Imran Khan were arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers were agitated due to their chairman's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order.

### No one can predict time, location of earthquake: Ameer Hyder

KARACHI (INP): Director National Tsunami Centre, Ameer Hyder Leghan on Monday said that no one can predict time and location of an earthquake.

It should be mentioned here that earlier in the day, a Netherlands-based organization known for its seismic predictions, has forecast a major earthquake in Pakistan within 48 hours.

Ameer Hyder Leghan said, "Pakistan is situated in a highly seismically active region. Two major tectonic plates pass through Pakistan."

"These fault lines spreading from Somalia to the east seas of Pakistan." "An earthquake could hit at any place on these

lines, but it is impossible to predict which tectonic plate is more likely to cause an earthquake of as high as 9 to 10 intensity on the Richter scale had jolted Chaman Faultline in Year 1892. "In Year 1935 a high intensity quake in Chitran Rangeland claimed lives of thousands of people in Quetta and Gilgit areas."

He said that generally an earthquake could hit along a faultline after passage of a century. "The Solar System Geometry Survey (SSGEOs) has predicted a major earthquake in Pakistan within 48 hours."

The SSGEOs specializes in monitoring fluctuations of electric

charge in the atmosphere near sea level, which then indicates indicative of regions where stronger seismic activity might occur, typically within a range of 1 to 9 days.

While the organization emphasizes that the regions they mark as potentially affected are approximations, they provide valuable insights into seismic-prone areas. In a recent prediction, the Dutch scientist working with SSGEOs reported a significant surge in electric activity along the Chaman Faultline in Pakistan. This surge has sparked anticipation of a powerful earthquake occurring within the next 48 hours, causing concern among the local population.

### Economic Review: IMF team to visit Pakistan in October end week

ISLAMABAD (INP): An IMF mission will arrive in the last week of October for economic review of the standby arrangement agreement, it was learnt on Monday.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Energy, State Bank of Pakistan, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), have been instructed to prepare their implementation reports on the IMF conditions.

The IMF mission will hold talks on the review with the economic managers for over one week. The energy sector's circular debt, FBR revenue generation and market-based

currency exchange rate will be key points of the economic review.

The visiting IMF officials will also review external financing, circular debt management plan, and issuance of bonds.

The team of global lender will review the adjustment and re-basing in the price of electricity and gas as per the conditions of the standby agreement. The Ministry of Finance has assured the IMF, a reduction of 180 billion rupees in circular debt of the power sector by June 2024.

The mission during its stay in Pakistan will also hold meetings with various political parties and discuss the next gen-

eral elections in the country. The talks for the second tranche of the IMF bailout will likely to be held in the last week of October, APJ News had reported recently.

Sources said that the global lender has expressed its satisfaction with performance of the FBR. "The IMF will be re-informed about economic performance of the country in the first week of October."

"Taxation data of the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal year, July to September, will likely to be shared with the IMF," sources said.

"A plan of crack down against tax theft has also been shared with the IMF," sources added.

### Corruption, mismanagement deteriorated country's economy: Siraj

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ameer Jamat-e-Islami (JI), Siraj-ul-Haq has said that corruption, mismanagement, and reliance on an interest-based financial system have deteriorated economy and emphasized the need of competent leadership to rectify this situation.

Addressing a seminar titled "Jihad for Revival of National Economy," held at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) on Monday, he announced the JI's intention to initiate the Green Pakistan Project after coming into power with the support of the people.

Sirajul-Haq said that the initiative was aimed to allocate millions of currently unused acres of land to skilled young individuals, with the goal of transforming it into productive, fertile land for agriculture. CCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, earlier, wel-

comed the JI chief and moderated the session.

The JI chief outlined a comprehensive plan for the nation's development over a 50-year period, emphasizing the incorporation of this plan into the national constitution. He proposed replacing the existing taxation system with a model based on Zakat, enabling over 70 million people to contribute to the national economy and combat poverty. He said the JI demanded proportional system of democracy with free and fair elections. Siraj criticized the rulers' failure to heed the recommendations of economic experts and business chambers, contrasting this with the global practice where governments typically give weight to such advice.

He argued that the ruling elite often prioritized their own interests, resulting in the hijacking of politics and democracy by corrupt elements. He pointed out that individuals with immense wealth could easily manipulate and win elections. Highlighting the economic progress of neighboring countries, he lamented the contrast in Pakistan, where citizens were queuing up for basic necessities like flour. He accused the rulers of neglecting self-reliance and over-relying on foreign loans, making the country economically vulnerable. He stressed that a strong economy was crucial for Pakistan's stability and growth, emphasizing the need for capable and honest leadership to achieve this goal. He announced the JI's commitment to a peaceful struggle for the rights of the people, mentioning an upcoming sit-in protest in front of the Governor House in Islamabad scheduled for October 6th.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday launched the five-day anti-polio vaccination drive targeting around 44 million children across the country.

### PSX Marks World Investor Week 2023 with a Gong Ceremony

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) along with numerous other exchanges and commissions across the world marked World Investor Week (WIW) 2023 through a gong ceremony held at PSX Trading Hall on Monday.

The World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), of which PSX is an Affiliate Exchange, spearheads the WIW. The WIW is being held from October 2 - 8, 2023. PSX is holding this event and organising the WIW for the third consecutive year.

Present at the gong ceremony were representatives from the SECP, leading academic institutions, professional bodies, and securities brokers, amongst others.

The week-long activities in World Investor Week are planned to promote the importance of financial literacy and to raise awareness about investor education and protection. The objective being to encourage financial inclusion and foster learning opportunities for investors.

The gong was struck by the Chief Guest, Mr. Abdul Rehman Warrach, Commissioner, Securities Market Division, Supervision Division, Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Mr. Shoab Javed Hussain, CEO State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC), along with the PSX Board members and MD & CEO PSX Mr. Farukh H. Khan.

The gong was struck amidst the presence of senior management of PSX and heads of leading brokerage houses, to officially mark the beginning of the week-long World Investor Week and to open the trading day.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Farukh Khan, stated, "PSX welcomes you all in marking the World Investor Week. It is a matter of great satisfaction that all the SROs and stakeholders have also come forward to participate and play their role in World Investor Week 2023."

I want to thank the SECP for their leadership enabling us all to augment our efforts to promote financial literacy and investor awareness."

He further stated, "As the capital market of Pakistan, PSX is fully focused and determined on disseminating financial education through consistent and constant efforts in the form of in-person sessions, webinars, courses, and workshops."

Pakistan Stock Exchange also effectively utilizes digital platforms through its investor education portal, virtual trading web-based application, financial glossary available on the PSX website and social media through its media channels to disseminate financial education and awareness."

The 20-year return of KSE 100 is well above 15% per annum in dollar terms. Very few asset classes in the world give such a return."

This is true of equities globally. So to learn and understand investing on the stock market is of crucial importance especially for the youth who can start early and maximise investment returns

in time. We are confident that our efforts to impart investor education and awareness will help raise the level of financial literacy amongst the general public which will not only benefit the investors themselves but will also help strengthen the economy."

Speaking at the occasion, the Chief Guest, Mr. Abdul Rehman Warrach, Commissioner, Securities Market Division, Supervision Division, SECP, stated,

"Investor education and awareness are among the most effective and least controversial approaches that a financial regulator like SECP can adopt for achieving the objectives of financial inclusion, investor protection and investor confidence."

SECP intends to set up a Fund with regular contributions from various regulated and self-regulatory institutions.

The Fund will spend these resources primarily on promoting investor education and awareness through print, electronic and social media, and educational and training programs by strengthening institutions like IMP."

He added, "Transparency and good governance in corporate sector are necessary to complement the education and awareness campaign to foster investor confidence over the medium to long term."

Financial institutions must invest the public monies wisely and exercise their proxy voting rights responsibly. They must stand up for the issues involving transparency, good governance and investor protection.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of PEIRA Dr Sayeda Zia Batool presented Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi with a portrait of Minister.

### UN mission arrives in Karabakh, first visit in 30 years

BAKU (INP): A United Nations mission visited Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday, Azerbaijan said, after almost the entire ethnic-Armenian population fled since Baku recaptured the breakaway enclave.

An Azerbaijani presidency spokesman said that the mission had visited a checkpoint at the Karabakh border with Armenia.

It marks the first time in about 30 years that an international body has gained access to the region. Later on Sunday, an Azerbaijani foreign ministry spokesman told that the mission had visited a checkpoint at the Karabakh border with Armenia.

He said the mission - headed by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative Vladanck Andrievic - was expected to hold a press conference on Monday.

Armenian separatists, who had controlled the region for three decades, agreed to disarm, dissolve their government and reintegrate with Baku following a one-day Azerbaijani offensive last week.

The end of Karabakh's separatist bid dealt a heavy blow to a centuries-old dream by Armenians of reuniting what they see as their ancestral lands, divided among regional powers since the Middle Ages. Nearly all of Karabakh's estimated 120,000 residents have since fled the territory, sparking a refugee crisis.

Sergei Aitsaryan, 40, said he was among the last Armenians to leave the region. "I have no idea of where to go, maybe Europe," he told reporters, adding however that he hoped many of the refugees would return if Azerbaijan provides guarantees, provides help."

"I've talked to Azerbaijani police and they said there would be no problems if we want to return, that we can live in our homes," he said.

The Azerbaijani migration service began operating in Karabakh's main city of Khankendi (Stepanakert in Armenia) to register Armenian residents to ensure their "sustainable reintegration... into the Azerbaijan society," promising them the "patronage of the Azerbaijan state".

The statement also said that central government "has started providing appropriate medical services in the city of Khankendi".

Nazeli Baghdasaryan, spokeswoman of the Armenian prime minister, said "transportation of forcefully displaced persons from Karabakh is nearing its end 100,514 refugees arrived in Armenia" by Sunday evening.

She added that 47,322 refugees were now in temporary accommodation.