

QUETTA VOICE

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FM Jilani meets Afghan counterpart in Tibet, discusses challenges confronting regional peace

ISLAMABAD: Interim Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Thursday met Afghan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi in Tibet and discussed the challenges confronting regional peace and stability.

FM Jilani is in China on a two-day visit to participate in the third Trans-Himalayan Forum for International Cooperation, being held in Nyingchi, Tibet autonomous region, from October 4-5.

The Trans-Himalaya Forum, established in 2018, aims to foster enhanced collaboration among regional nations on geographical connectivity, environmental conservation, ecological preservation, and the strengthening of cultural ties.

According to a statement released by the Foreign Office on X today, Jilani met Afghan Foreign Minister Muttaqi. During the meeting, Jilani reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties with Afghanistan. He also underscored that challenges confronting regional peace and stability should be addressed in a "collaborative spirit through collective strategies". The meeting comes two days after Pakistan gave an ultimatum to all undocumented immigrants, including Afghan nationals, to leave Pakistan by October 31, or risk im-



prisonment and deportation to their respective countries. The decision was taken in an apex committee meeting headed by Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and attended by the army chief, among others. The committee also decided that movement across the border would be subject to passports and visas, while electronic Afghan identity cards (or e-tazkiras) would only be accepted until Oct 31. After the passage of the deadline, the authorities will kickstart an operation targeting illegal properties and businesses owned by immigrants or those being run in collaboration with Pakistani nationals. The move had drawn a response from Afghan authorities, with Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid terming it "unacceptable" while urging authorities to revisit the policy. Also, at least two people were killed and a child sustained injuries a day earlier when an Afghan sentry opened fire on pedestrians at the Pak-Afghan Chaman Border in Balochistan. Separately, in a weekly press briefing in Islamabad earlier today, FO Spokesperson Muztar Zahra Baloch said the ongoing operation against illegal immigrants in the country was not targeted at any particular nationality. NEWS DESK

Afghan Singers Protest Outside UNHCR Quetta Amidst Deportation Fear

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Over a dozen Afghan singers staged a protest demonstration outside the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office amidst possible deportation and crackdown on Thursday morning.

Carrying white banners, the Afghan singers feared possible deportation after the Pakistan government set November 1st as the final date for all illegal immigrants to leave the country.

"We fear deportation", Afghan singers

"We have all valid refugee documents, nevertheless, we still fear deportation", Ahmed Shehadee, an Afghan singer told Daily Quetta Voice. Shehadee also shared similar concerns of over a dozen Afghan singers and demanded that the UN agency provide them support. During the protest, the Afghan singers were also carrying their singing devices outside the UNHCR office. "We provided them counseling and addressed their fear of deportation", Humera Kareem, the UNHCR's Quetta Spokesman said.

Counseling provided to singers: UNHCR

Protesting singers expressed concern about their life and security in their own country.

"Singers are not safe in Afghanistan", another young singer lamented. He said neither singers can perform their



professional duties nor they can roam freely in Afghanistan.

Pakistan hosts 1.7 million Afghan refugees

The Afghan singers chanted full-throated slogans and demanded of the UNHCR to provide them support and convey their message to the Pakistan authorities in this regard. "UNHCR is committed to supporting refugees", Humera Kareem mentioned.

Pakistan has been hosting millions of Afghan refugees for the last more than four decades. Currently, Pakistan is hosting over 1.7 million Afghan refugees. In his recent press conference in Islamabad, the federal interior minister, Sarfraz Bugti said the Afghan refugees were involved in a number of terrorist activities across the country.

Afghan singers left after the Taliban take over

Most of the Afghan singers left their war-torn country after the Taliban completely took over two years back. Since then, the Afghan singers have been residing in Pakistan and other parts of the globe. Afghan Taliban banned music and declared it un-Islamic.

Pakistan Has Sovereign Right to Repatriate Afghan Refugees: Jan Achakzai

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a decisive move, the Government of Balochistan (GOB) has reaffirmed its right to expel Afghan individuals residing within its borders, asserting its commitment to safeguard national interests and maintain internal stability. "I strongly disagree with the statement of Afghanistan's interim defense minister, Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob", Jan Achakzai, Balochistan's information minister said on Thursday evening.

November 1st is set as the final deadline

This decision comes after an apex committee in Islamabad decided to take action against all illegal immigrants from the country. The government has set November 1st as the final deadline for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan, state affairs autonomously, Mr. Achakzai mentioned.

Emphasizing this stance, the GOB's response comes in light of alleged interference by Mullah Yaqoob, the Defence Minister of the Afghan Interim Government, who sought support from religious and political leaders in Pakistan.

Pakistan wants stability within its borders: Minister

The caretaker information minister said the primary motive behind this decision lies in safeguarding Pakistan's national interests and ensuring stability within its borders. With an eye on the security and well-being of its citizens, the GOB has taken this bold step to address the matter expediently, he said.

Jan Achakzai stated Pakistan remains committed to executing the process in a humane and respectful manner. The government will work closely with relevant authorities to facilitate the safe return of Afghan refugees to their



homeland, he said. This approach reflects Pakistan's commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals involved, the minister concluded.

Respect for Sovereignty:

Pakistan stresses the importance of respecting the sovereignty and autonomy of nations. It expects the Afghan Interim Government to refrain from meddling in its internal affairs and to focus on resolving challenges within its own borders.

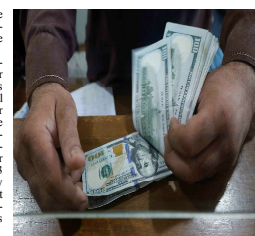
Pakistan remains committed to respectful repatriation of Afghan refugees

Pakistan's decision to repatriate Afghan refugees within the next 26 days is a firm assertion of its sovereign rights and its commitment to national interests and internal stability. It also sends a clear message to the international community about the importance of respecting the sovereignty of nations. As this process unfolds, Pakistan remains committed to ensuring a humane and respectful transition for Afghan refugees returning to their homeland.

PKR gains further against USD, closes near 283 in interbank

ISLAMABAD: The rupee extended its gains for the 21st consecutive session on Thursday, appreciating by a further Rs1.06 against the US dollar in the interbank market.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan, the greenback was changing hands for Rs283.50 at 9:44am in the interbank market, which is buoyed by the recent crackdown on the informal currency market. By the closing time, the dollar stood at Rs283.62, depreciating 0.37 per cent, the State Bank of Pakistan said. Meanwhile, the benchmark KSE-100 index continued its momentum of trading in the green, gaining 372.55 points, or 0.79 per cent, closing at 47,452.38 from the previous 47,079.83 points. Experts have questioned the sustainability of the rupee's rally, and had earlier projected that it would not make it below the 285 mark due to dwindling foreign exchange reserves amid low inflows and weak economic fundamentals. NEWS DESK



پولیو سے آزاد زندگی، ہر بچے کا حق

2 اکتوبر سے قومی پولیو مہم میں اپنے بچوں کو پولیو سے نظر سے لاری پولیو میں

دماغ میں اے کی اضافی خوراک بھی دی جائے گی

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME

Expanded Programme on Immunization Government of Pakistan

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Govt to file review petition against SC verdict on NAB amendments

ISLAMABAD (INP) The federal government on Thursday decided to file a review petition against the Supreme Court (SC) verdict in the NAB amendment case. The Supreme Court of Pakistan on September 15 struck down amendments made to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws as it announced its reserved verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's plea. In a majority 2-1 verdict, the top court approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's petition challenging amendments made to the country's accountability laws during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government.

Sources say that the review petition will be filed in the top court next week. The law ministry has also started preparing a draft of a review petition. The three-member bench, headed by then CJP Umar Ata Bandial, and comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ijazul Ahsan had reserved judgment on September 5. Ex-CJP Bandial and Justice Ahsan declared Imran's plea to be maintainable while Justice Shah disagreed with the verdict. The top court also restored graft cases against public office holders that were closed down following the amendments to NAB laws. Following the verdict, the references against some of the country's political bigwigs will

once again land in the accountability courts. These include the Tashkhanah reference against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Supremo Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, LNG reference against former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, rental power reference against former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf and assets beyond means case against former finance minister Ishaq Dar. In June 2022, the former premier had moved the apex court against amendments made to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) ordinance under the National Accountability

(Second Amendment) Act 2022. NAB law amendment The NAB (Second Amendment) Bill 2021 states that NAB's deputy chairman, to be appointed by the federal government, would become the acting chairman of the bureau following the completion of the tenure of the chairman. The bill has also reduced the four-year term of the NAB chairman. After approval of the law, NAB will not be able to act on federal, provincial or local tax matters. It has also set a three-year term for the judges of the accountability courts. Under the proposed law, it has been made binding upon NAB to ensure the availability of evidence against an accused prior to his or her arrest.



ISLAMABAD: Country Director of World Bank Najib Benhassine called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Pakistan needs to renew economic outlook, boost business environment: PIDE

ISLAMABAD (INP) Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr. Nadeem ul Haque has said that Pakistan, a nation steadfast in its commitment to overcoming economic and governance challenges, is poised to embark on a transformative journey towards sustainable national development. In his opening remarks at the Third Think Tank Moot hosted by PIDE, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque said that recognizing the urgency of comprehensive reforms as the bedrock of progress, Pakistan seeks to revitalize its economic outlook, enhance its business environment, and elevate its global trade standing.

Dean of PIDE, Dr. Shujaat Fanoori provided background on the Think Tank Moot, highlighting its role as a unique platform for esteemed partners and thought leaders to collectively address transformative and sustainable reforms. The Moot fosters the exchange of intellectual capital and actionable strategies, transcending individual efforts to leave a profound impact on policymaking. It will culminate in regular meet-ups, allowing each think tank the opportunity to present their agendas, engage in discussions, and forge a consensus on reform

priorities. The discussions at the event revolved around critical reform areas, with each think tank contributing insights and ideas enriched by innovative strategies and approaches. PIDE's researchers presented compelling briefings on "Catalyzing Inclusive Economic Growth via Structural Reforms" and "Optimizing Governance for Effective Policy Execution and Impact Evaluation." Participants emphasized that in today's world, having ideas means having access to funds, extending to politics and governance. Financial resources are vital for driving positive change and addressing societal issues. Contrary to common belief, smuggling is not the root cause of economic challenges in many countries; import tariffs often have a more significant impact. Recognizing this distinction empowers policymakers to focus on the real issue and implement appropriate solutions. To ensure meaningful and sustainable development, a theme-wise reform agenda should be established, tailored to tackle key challenges across various sectors. Public engagement is crucial, as the collective wisdom and diverse perspectives of the people can lead to more inclusive and effective poli-

cies. Inadequate educational steps towards a more prosperous and sustainable future. Together, we can shape a better world for generations to come. According to the Press Release issued from the PIDE, Islamabad office, following the culmination of the Third Think Tank Moot, a platform for fostering diverse perspectives and innovative ideas, participants from various sectors and backgrounds have united to address the pressing issues affecting Pakistan's economic development. Under the overarching theme of "Collaborative Reforms for Prosperity," participants have put forth a joint Resolution encompassing key themes and actionable steps to guide the nation's path towards sustainable growth and prosperity.

Representatives from numerous think tanks and universities, including SZABIST, SDPI, PRIED Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIED), IPS Institute of Policy Studies, POP Council, PSF Pakistan Science Foundation, OAU, Islamabad, IPRI, CDPI Customer Data Platform Institute, PRIME Institute organization, COPAIR Centre of Pakistan and International Relations, ISSI Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, IPS Institute of Policy Studies.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci called on Murtaga Solangi Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the Pakistan Long Range Field Target Rifle Team who won the European Long Range Rifle Championship 2023 held in Britain, at Awwan-e-Sadr.

Gwadar Port receives 34000 tons fertilizers for export

ISLAMABAD (INP) As a fresh impetus to the Gwadar transshipment drive, Gwadar Port has received a mega vessel loaded with 34,000 tons of DAP fertilizers to be processed and discharged to Afghanistan as per the Pakistan-Afghanistan transit trade deal.

The Pacific Integrity, a vessel loaded with 34,000 tons of DAP fertilizers, arrived at Gwadar Port on the morning of October 3rd.

The fertilizer is imported by joint venture of Agven Private Limited and KB Fertilizer, two private enterprises registered in the Gwadar Free Zone area.

An Agven official told Gwadar Pro that after offloading the fertilizers, the next step is to pack a huge quantity of fertilizer at a warehouse jointly

sub-leased by both entities in the Gwadar Free Zone.

After the packing process is completed, all packets will be transported by trucks to Afghanistan, he added.

This is the second commitment delivered to Afghanistan in 2023. The last time during the current year, a private sector consignment of 20,000 tons of DAP fertilizer was sent from Gwadar Port to Afghanistan on May 21, 2023.

This batch of DAP fertilizer was imported from Australia. DAP is used in various industrial processes, such as metal finishing. It also improves crop yield besides the development and growth of flowering plants or leafy plants.

In 2022, Gwadar Port processed a pri-

vate sector consignment of 8,000 tons of DAP fertilizers and transported it via road to Afghanistan. In 2021, a total of 500 tons of fertilizers were shipped out through Shipping Procedure and Instructions for the Operationalization of Gwadar Port.

In April 2020, the federal government allowed the import of fertilizers at Gwadar Port and onward transit to Afghanistan through bonded carriers — insured and sealable trucks with a tracking device.

The Ministry of Commerce (MoC), at the request of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), the Gwadar International Terminals Limited, and

other stakeholders, issued an Office Memorandum (MO) titled "Implementation of the Import and Export Policy Orders through Shipping Procedure and Instructions for the Operationalization of Gwadar Port".

The petitions of all stakeholders were examined in the light of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) of 2010, specifically Article 21(1)(c) which allows transit of "bulk cargo (not imported in containers — like ship load) in open trucks or other transport units."

Economist Shahid Hussain told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan can reach its true potential for transshipment when China, Afghanistan, and other Central Asian economies are connected with Gwadar through land routes.



HYDERABAD: Students present a tableau during a ceremony "Salam Teacher" on the eve of World Teachers Day, organized by Government School Teachers Association.

Masood Khan urges Pakistan-bound US diplomats to build people-to-people linkages

WASHINGTON (INP) Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, Wednesday met 16 US foreign service officers selected for postings at American diplomatic missions in Pakistan, urging them to build people-to-people linkages and strong economic ties between the two countries. The two countries have stood side by side with each other in their decades-long relationship," he told the officers picked for serving at the US Embassy in Islamabad and US Consulates in other cities, according to a press release issued by the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Your efforts would bring the two countries especially the people of Pakistan and the United States closer to each other," the Pakistan envoy said at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) where these officers are undergoing a 32-week Urdu language course and Culture Training. Speaking in Urdu,

Ambassador Masood Khan urged them to employ the tool of public diplomacy to dispel mutual misperceptions and misgivings.

The two countries, he said, were making efforts to strengthen their economic ties and give muscle to the existing relationship in the non-security areas.

In his remarks, Ambassador highlighted the strengths of the country with a special focus on its untapped potential, natural resources, geography and rich cultural heritage. Educational cooperation, he said, was an important plank of the bilateral relationship that helps Pakistani youth contribute towards socio-economic progress. In this regard, he highlighted the important role being played by a strong network of 39,000 alumni who benefited from various educational institutions and seats of learning in the United States.

TENDER NOTICE		
TSE-23241035223 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION-Q invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.		
Tender Fee Rs.1500/- and Bid Security 2%		
S.No	Name of Works	E/CoT
1	DRILLING & DEVELOPMENT OF BORE HOLE UP TO 14,979.128-1200 FEET DEPTH WITH IN-SITU CASING	
	PIPE AND INSTALLATION PUMPING MACHINERY AT DIRECTOR GENERAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION OFFICER RANIBAGH SARYAB ROAD QUETTA	
Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014 Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 10,485,389 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Power of Attorney on Stamp Paper of Rs. 1000/- duly signed and attested. Affidavit on Stamp Paper of Rs. 1000/- duly signed and attested. Colored Profile of the Company/ Firm. PEC Category Code is C-6 and above (Up to 25 million) with Specialized Code Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 23 October, 2023 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 23 October, 2023 till 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM. Address: DIRECTOR GENERAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION RANIBAGH SARYAB ROAD QUETTA Phone no: 0815211500 Email: pnyrbid@gmail.com		
AB No.133/05-10-2023 www.dgagr.gov.pk dgagr.gov.pk dgagr.gov.pk dgagr.gov.pk		

Urgent plea to PM: Restore suspended passenger trains for Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah:

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

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

Only Jaffar Express operates for Balochistan

Instead of improving and increasing passenger trains, the government has suspended most of the trains. Only Jaffarabab Express operates that too in a miserable condition.

People prefer to travel by train since they are economical and safe as compared to passenger buses and planes. Passen-



ger buses traveling on Quetta Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad highways always meet deadly road accidents that claim precious human lives. The blockade of these highways by protesters is also the order of the day. Road blockades caused the suspension of traffic for hours and women, aged people and children remained the worst sufferers. Except for a handful of elites, people cannot afford the skyrocketing fares of planes. To be precise, they are out of the reach of the common man.

Caretaker PM should direct railway ministry to restore suspended trains

The caretaker prime minister, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar belongs to Balochistan and is well aware of the suffering of its people. Balochistan has now considerable representation in Islamabad, therefore, it is the best opportunity to restore the suspended passenger trains and address the grievances of the masses. Balochistan also deserves fair treatment since its people have suffered a lot. The Prime Minister should direct the railway ministry to restore the suspended six trains on an emergency basis.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George held a meeting with Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council Maulana Tahir Ashraf.

PRCS organizes seminar to raise mines risk awareness in AJK

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK chapter, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized a seminar aimed at enhancing risk awareness and safer behaviors among journalists in Muzaffarabad. The event was held at Central Press Club here Thursday, with an enthusiastic turnout of local journalists, media professionals and representatives from various media outlets. Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent Society Chapter Gulzar Fatima graced the event as chief guest. Besides, officials from Civil Defence Department and other stakeholders also participated in the seminar. In today's rapidly evolving media landscape, journalists often find themselves working in high-risk environments, covering events ranging from natural disasters to conflicts and emergencies. Recognizing the crucial role of journalists in disseminating timely and accurate information, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society took the initiative to provide them with essential knowledge and skills to ensure their safety while reporting from the field. The seminar included a comprehensive program featuring expert speakers, interactive workshops and practical demonstrations. The participants were privileged to hear from distinguished speakers who shared their experiences and insights into risk management and safer reporting practices. The event also featured representatives from the local

government and the Red Crescent, who reiterated their commitment to supporting the safety and well-being of journalists. Expert trainers provided journalists with the tools to assess potential risks associated with their assignments. They emphasized the importance of proactive planning and identifying potential dangers before heading into the field. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society underscored the importance of collaboration between humanitarian organizations, government agencies, and the media to ensure the safety and security of vulnerable community and journalists. They expressed their commitment to providing on-going support, resources, and training opportunities for journalists in Muzaffarabad and beyond. Media and Communication Officer of PRCS AJK gave detailed presentation on the history of the Red Cross Red Crescent Society, fundamental principles and mission. In addition, the participants were apprised about the on-going program of PRCS AJK in detail. On this occasion, Program Coordinator Yasir Arafat Kazmi gave a comprehensive briefing regarding the program and the role of Pakistan Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the efforts and measures taken in this regard. Apart from this, various components of the program and the people affected by landmines were also informed in detail. The seminar also provided awareness to the journal-

ists about these explosives, the damage caused by them and their identification and adoption of precautionary measures and selection of safe routes. Addressing the closing ceremony, Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent Society Gulzar Fatima expressed gratitude to all the participants, speakers, and partners who contributed to the success of the seminar. She highlighted the significance of such initiatives in building a safer and more resilient media landscape, ultimately benefiting society by ensuring the delivery of accurate and timely information. She also thanked the Central Press Club management of Press Club for organizing and supporting the seminar. Addressing the journalists, Gulzar Fatima said that the safe behaviour program was working in six districts in the areas along the Line of Control, under which awareness was being raised among the people about these explosives that valuable could be disposed of and loss of lives can be minimized. "In collaboration with International Committee of the Red Cross and other stakeholders, efforts are also underway to work on Child Focused Mine Risk Education and a plan of action will be decided in this regard", she said and added that the media should play its role to prevent the loss of precious lives. She further reiterated that the media organization and the Red Crescent would jointly raise awareness among the public for the promotion of safer behaviors.



ISLAMABAD: Country Director World Bank, Njya Benhassine called on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Thursday to discuss the progress and implementation projects for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the flood affected areas.

NATIONAL EMERGENCIES OPERATION CENTER



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo after the inaugural ceremony of National Emergencies Operation Center established by NDMA.

Major reshuffle in Balochistan bureaucracy as per ECP approval

Our Reporter :

QUETTA: In a strategic move gearing up for the upcoming elections, the Balochistan government has initiated a major administrative reshuffle, targeting 20-grade secretaries and DG-rank officers stationed across the province. The Election Commission of Pakistan has given the green light to these crucial transfers, setting the stage for a significant shift in the province's bureaucratic landscape.

Details:
The Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) presented a comprehensive summary to the Election Commission, which received unanimous approval. Some of the notable appointments and transfers include:

Sohailur Rehman Baloch as Secretary of Agriculture.
Imran Khan as Secretary Information.

Heshim Nadeem as Secretary of Culture.
Qambar Dashti as Secretary of Communication and Works (Additionally, the Balochistan government has already executed transfers of Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners across all districts.

Tayab Lehri as Secretary Livestock.
Abdul Lateef Kakar was appointed as S&MBR.

Wali Bareech as Under Secretary Planning and Development (UP&D).
Syed Sikander Shah as Secretary of Social Welfare.
Ayaz Mandokhail as Secre-

tary IT.
Sardar Khan Bugti as Secretary of Women Welfare.
Wali Kakar as Secretary PHE.
Saleh Baloch as Secretary Food.

Mujeer ur Rehman appointed as MD BPPRA.
Kaleemullah Babar as Secretary of Parliamentary Affairs Law.

Zafar Buledi as Secretary of Higher Education.
Abdul Khaliq Mandokhail as Secretary Labour.

Rohit Razak as Secretary Planning.
Tariq Mengal was appointed as DG Social Welfare.
Captain R Javed as Chairman BDA.

Deer Shah Ghalzai as DG BCDA.
Younas Sanjrani as DG Fisheries.

Manzoor Hussain was appointed as Member CML.
Manzoor Zehri as Temporary Member CML.

(Additionally, the Balochistan government has already executed transfers of Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners across all districts.

Impact on the Elections:
This extensive bureaucratic reorganization is poised to have a profound impact on the forthcoming elections in Balochistan. With key figures taking on new roles,

the province's governance structure is set to undergo a transformation that could significantly influence the electoral landscape.

As election preparations gain momentum, the realignment of key administrative posts signals the government's commitment to ensuring a smooth and impartial electoral process. These changes are anticipated to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the lead-up to the elections, making them a pivotal moment in the region's political history. Balochistan's political arena is witnessing a significant overhaul in the run-up to the elections, with the Election Commission's approval of these vital administrative transfers. The Balochistan government's decision to reshuffle top bureaucrats underscores its dedication to a fair and transparent electoral process, ultimately shaping the future of the province.



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ISLAMABAD: UNFPA representative in Pakistan called on Dr. Nadeem Jan, Caretaker Federal Health Minister.

Operation against illegal immigrants not targeted against any particular nationality: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has categorically stated that its ongoing operation against illegal immigrants is not targeted against any particular nationality. Responding to questions at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the ongoing action envisages repatriation of individuals who have either overstayed their visas or do not have the valid documents to stay.

She said Pakistan is all within parameters of its sovereign domestic laws to take action in this context. She clarified this operation has nothing to do with 1.4 million Afghan refugees that Pakistan has been hosting since decades with exemplary generosity and hospitality despite its own constrained economic situation.

The spokesperson said Pakistan's national policy on Afghan refugees remains unchanged and their safe and honorable repatriation is a separate matter on which it continues to engage with Afghanistan to create conducive environment for their safe return. Refuting media reports that Pakistan has closed transit trade with Afghanistan, Mumtaz

Zahra Baloch said Pak-Afghan bilateral trade continues but Pakistan will not accept the misuse of existing trade facilities. She said any measures taken recently or in future will be in accordance with this understanding.

In a question, the spokesperson said Pakistan has very clearly articulated its concerns over the use of Afghan soil for terrorism. She said Islamabad while believing in diplomacy and dialogue continues engagement with Kabul to fight the threat.

To another question about a report published in international media regarding India's anti-Pakistan propaganda, the spokesperson said there is irrefutable evidence of India's involvement in terrorist activities inside Pakistan but it continues to blame Pakistan for this on fictitious grounds. She said as Pakistani team is in India for ICC cricket world cup, it is responsibility of the host country to provide foolproof security and conducive environment to the team.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan has a clear stance that sports should not be mingled with politics and the Pakistani team is in India, not for a bilateral series but an international

tournament.

Responding to delay in issuance of visas by India to Pakistanis for the World Cup, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan is in contact with Indian authorities and expects it to immediately grant visas to Pakistani journalists and spectators who wish to watch ICC matches in India. To another question, the spokesperson said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received the formal communication from the Election Commission to invite international observers for the upcoming general elections. She said we will facilitate the process and invite international observers in accordance with the policy and past practice. The Foreign office spokesperson said free trade agreement between Pakistan and the Gulf Cooperation Council has been concluded and this is the first such agreement by the Council with any country since 2009.

She said Pakistan looks forward to early ratification and implementation of the agreement, which will enhance Pakistan's exports to Gulf countries and mark a new chapter in its economic relations with the GCC.