

QUETTA VOICE

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Army Chief vows action against spectrum of illegal activities, participates in Sindh Apex Committee meeting

News Desk:

General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Karachi today and attended a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee along with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqar, the military's media wing said on Friday.

COAS briefed about the Revised NAP

During the Apex Committee meeting, COAS was briefed about the Revised National Action Plan, Operation in the Kacha Area of Sindh.

Security of Foreign Nationals employed on CPEC/Non-CPEC/Private Projects, Repatriation of illegal foreigners, Foreign Currency Regularization Measures.

Karachi Transformation Plan, Progress on SIFC initiatives in Sindh and Green Sindh initiatives, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.



Action against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force: COAS

COAS emphasized, "EAs and other Government departments will continue the enforcement actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities."

The nation united for progress and prosperity

COAS underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for the gainful effects of the landmark initiatives. The participants affirmed that state institutions, government departments, and people are united for the progress and prosperity of the province. Earlier, upon arrival, COAS was received by Commander Karachi Corps.

Balochistan Home Minister Chairs Meeting to Address Law and Order Concerns

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: A crucial meeting convened under the leadership of Balochistan Home Minister, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali focused on the pressing issue of law and order in the province. Held at the Home Minister's office, the gathering witnessed an in-depth review of the prevailing law and order situation, with a primary emphasis on deploying police resources effectively to restore peace in all districts of the province.

ACS Home and others attended the meeting

The meeting brought together prominent figures, including Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasir, Commissioner Naseerabad, DIG Police Sabi, Deputy Commissioner Sabi, and Deputy Commissioner Kachhi. Notably, a comprehensive briefing on incidents along Nutal, Bhag, and the National Highway was presented via video link, underscoring the gravity of the situation.

Joint Patrolling of levies and highway police

DIG Highway Ali Sher Jukran, alongside DC Kachhi, provided detailed insights during the meeting. Participants unanimously agreed that collaborative efforts and joint operations are imperative to



address the escalating incidents, with a particular focus on enhancing joint patrolling by levies and highway police.

Security and safety issues of the Hindu community be addressed

Highlighting the extent of the challenge, meeting attendees pointed out that the incidents span over an area of 12 kilometers. In light of these circumstances, the Inspector General of Police (IG) has given the green light to deploy two platoons of the Balochistan Constabulary (BC) to address the issue comprehensively. It was unanimously decided that all available resources must be leveraged to swiftly resolve these incidents and ensure the safety and security of the Hindu community, emphasizing the intolerable nature of these events.

11 Afghan nationals apprehended

SP Bolan, while providing updates on the ongoing efforts, revealed that 11 Afghan individuals have been apprehended in connection with the incidents.

These individuals have been promptly handed over to the relevant authorities, further underscoring the government's commitment to maintaining law and order in Balochistan.

Coordinated efforts

The meeting concluded with a resolute determination to restore peace and security in the province through coordinated efforts, demonstrating the government's unwavering commitment to protecting its citizens and maintaining law and order.

Congo Virus Claims Another Life in Quetta: Death Toll Rises to 14 in 2023

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Tragedy struck once again in Quetta as another victim of the deadly Congo virus, 35-year-old Ali Muhammad, lost his battle against the disease on Friday at Fatima Jinnah Hospital. This unfortunate development marks the 14th death from the virus in Balochistan this year, prompting renewed concerns about the spread of this dangerous pathogen.

35-year-old Ali Muhammad died of Congo Virus

Ali Muhammad, a resident of Quetta, had been receiving treatment at Fatima Jinnah Hospital after testing positive for the Congo virus. Despite the dedicated efforts of the medical team, his condition deteriorated rapidly, leading to his untimely demise.

2 Congo patients admitted to hospital

According to the administration of Fatima Jinnah Hospital, two patients suffering from the Congo virus were admitted for treatment, including Ali Muhammad and 20-year-old Raz Muhammad, both residents of Quetta. Tragically, Ali Muhammad could not overcome the virus, emphasizing the severity of the outbreak.

Health officials closely monitoring the situation

Health officials in Balochistan have been closely monitoring the situation and have imple-

mented strict measures to curb the spread of the Congo virus. Dr. Shireen Khan, a well-known chest physician said. These measures include heightened awareness campaigns, thorough contact tracing, and the reinforcement of safety protocols to protect both healthcare workers and the general public, he mentioned.

Rise in Congo virus sparks concerns in Balochistan

The rise in Congo virus-related deaths in Quetta has sparked concerns among residents, with many calling for more comprehensive preventive measures and increased public awareness.

This tragic incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of taking precautions against the Congo virus. It is imperative for individuals to follow safety guidelines, such as avoiding contact with infected animals, practicing good hygiene, and seeking immediate medical attention if symptoms arise.

Locals urged to be vigilant

The local authorities are urging residents to remain vigilant and report any suspected cases promptly to prevent further casualties. As the battle against the Congo virus continues, the community's cooperation and adherence to safety guidelines are essential in preventing further loss of life. Daily Quetta Voice will continue to provide you with the latest updates on this significant development about the Congo Virus in Balochistan. Your trusted source for breaking news and in-depth coverage.



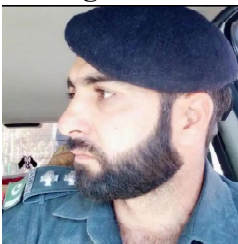
SSP operations Quetta suspends SHO Zarghoonabad

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations, Jawad Tariq suspended the Station House Officer (SHO) at Zarghoonabad police station on Friday. Police sources said according to the announcement, SHO Zarghoonabad police station, Ejaz Mahmood has been suspended till further orders for neglecting his duties and has been directed to immediately report to "Shaheed Fayaz Sambal" police line headquarters, Quetta.

Quetta Bar Association complained against the SHO

On the other hand, Quetta Bar Association Q(BA) in a statement said that SHO Zarghoonabad Ijaz Mahmood exceeded his powers, and the DIG Police gave this assurance to the Quetta Bar Association for punishing the officer for misusing the powers. Departmental action will be taken against him until the IG Police Balochistan's order. SHO Ijaz Mahmood will be banned from entering all court premises and strict action will be taken if anyone does not comply.



25 دن باقی

Expert suggests biomining for extraction of metals, minerals: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD (INP): Biotechnological mining is more sustainable and environment-friendly for extraction of valuable minerals and metals than traditional mining methods, which emit greenhouse gases, pollute water and soil and devastate natural habitats. Muhammad Yaqub, former GM at Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), said this while talking to WealthPK. "Microorganisms or metabolites work wonders to extract valuable metals or minerals from ores and tailings. Bio-oxidation, bio-flootation, bioleaching and bioremediation are a few examples of biomining applications. These processes are best for extraction of low-grade minerals and secondary resources. They help reduce and stabilize the use of different toxic chemicals, such as sul-

furic acid and cyanide. "Traditional mining methods, such as smelting and open pit mining, cause both environmental and source destruction, including greenhouse gas emissions, water and soil pollution, and natural habitat devastation. Biomining improves the recovery rate of metals and minerals from mined ores, reduces capital costs, increases mine life, and is suitable for application in remote mining locations. Compared to conventional mining, biomining is energy-saving as well," he said. "If we consider biomining in a vast scenario, it includes a multitude of scientific activities with both economic and environmental significance, such as the scientific process of excavation, controlled treatment, isolation, and profitable exploitation of aged municipal waste.

Despite the high initial cost of establishing the microbial cultivation system or bioreactor, it reduces the operational cost in the long run. "Pakistan can get a multitude of economic benefits from this sustainable and eco-friendly processing method. It can prove a cost-effective and efficient method for extraction of valuable minerals and metals like copper, gold, silver, iron among scores of others. Using the method, high quantities of metals and minerals can be extracted even from a low-grade ore through biomining," Yaqub added. Concluding the discussion, he said substantial deposits of low-grade ores occur in Pakistan, but it becomes challenging and sometimes impossible to process and extract any metal-rich and acidic solutions created by microbes. Despite gradual processing, biomining is the best option to address environmental contamination by remediation of abandoned mining sites and tailing heaps.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Cuba called on Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan in his office.

Banking sector remains resilient despite tight operating conditions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has released its year-end performance review of the banking sector for 2023, covering the period from January to June 2023 (IHCY23).

This comprehensive review not only assesses the banking sector's performance and soundness but also provides insights into the broader financial landscape, including financial markets and systemic risk factors.

Acknowledging the persistent challenges in the macroeconomic environment during the first half of IHCY23, the review notes that domestic financial conditions tightened, and the operating environment remained resilient, with its balance sheet expanding by a notable 14%. This growth was primarily driven by investments in

government securities, coupled with strong inflows of deposits. Banks also demonstrated a noticeable reliance on borrowings during this period.

While the overall balance sheet grew, advances within the banking sector recorded muted growth. The private sector experienced a contraction in advances, while the public sector sought additional financing, primarily for non-financial operations.

According to the report available with WealthPK, one of the standout features of IHCY23 was the improvement in asset quality indicators. The net non-performing loans (NPLs) to loans ratio dropped to 0.45% at the end of June 2023, compared to 0.68% in June 2022. This improvement was attributed to banks setting aside higher provisions from their steady earnings.

Profitability indicators also saw significant improvement, with the return on assets (ROA) rising to 1.5% in IHCY23, up from 1% for the entire CY22. These higher earnings also contributed to an improvement in the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the banking sector, which reached 17.8% by the end of June 2023, compared to 17% by the end of December 2022.

In line with the recent trend, the investment portfolio of banks increased at a high rate of 16.9% to Rs21.5 trillion during IHCY23. Solvency indicators further improved, highlighting the banking sector's ability to withstand severe hypothetical shocks, as indicated by the latest stress testing results. Kashif Ali, Group Head at MCB Bank Limited, said while talking to WealthPK that while advances in the private sector experienced a contraction, the public sector's access to additional financing, especially for commodity

finance operations, provided a cushion. "The sector's ability to adapt to the changing lending landscape is indeed commendable," he said.

One of the most encouraging aspects is the improvement in asset quality indicators, he said.

The reduction in the ratio of net NPLs to loans from 0.68% in June 2022 to 0.45% in June 2023 reflected prudent risk management and the bank's commitment to maintaining a healthy loan portfolio.

Kashif said, "While these achievements are noteworthy, we must remain vigilant in addressing the risks outlined in the systemic risk survey, particularly foreign exchange risk, rising domestic inflation, and political uncertainty. Confidence in our financial system and regulatory oversight is crucial, but proactive risk management remains paramount."



LAHORE: China's Acting Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Cao Ke addressing a function held on occasion of the 74th founding anniversary celebration of the People's Republic of China. The event was organised by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

ML-1 project to be launched soon: Cao Ke

LAHORE (INP): At the 74th founding anniversary celebration of the People's Republic of China, organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Acting Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Cao Ke, assured that the Mian Line 1 Project will be launched soon.

The spectacular ceremony was attended among other by LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President of the Pakistan (China) Shandong Chamber of Commerce Chen Qianjiang, Vice President of the Pakistan Chinese Federation He

Yubing and Vice President of the Pakistan Chinese Chamber Chen Qianjiang. According to Gwadar Pro, Cao Ke emphasized the significance of Lahore as a pivotal city and lauded the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its commendable efforts in promoting trade and industry. He expressed a strong desire for knowledge sharing and technology transfer between China and LCCI, highlighting the importance of mutual learning.

Furthermore, Cao Ke noted that this year marks the 10th anniversary of both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt

and Road Initiative, along with the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He underscored the significant impact on Pakistan's economy, with a substantial \$24.4 billion investment, and LCCI President Kashif Anwar extended warmest congratulations to all the Chinese friends who celebrated their National Day on 1st October 2023. This day signifies not only the birth of a great nation but also a reminder of their remarkable journey towards making an excellent progress in almost all fields of life.

"We applaud the achievements and advancements that China has made, serving as an inspiration to other nations across the globe," he said. The LCCI President said that the diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China began in 1950 which brought two countries very close as dependable strategic allies and trustworthy neighbours. The enduring friendship between Pakistan and China is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. This friendship is based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for social and economic prosperity. You all will agree with me that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has added great value to these mutual ties.

300-year-old documents found in Kharak Singh's Haveli

LAHORE (INP): A treasure trove of three-hundred-year-old documents has been unearthed from Kharak Singh's Haveli, nestled within the historic walls of Lahore's Shahi Qila.

These invaluable documents not only include rare maps but also hold crucial information about Mughal and Sikh tombs. The documents, which have been preserved for centuries

within the confines of Kharak Singh's Haveli, are now undergoing a painstaking cleaning process by experts from the Walled City Authority. Assigned to a team of diligent researchers, the ancient papers are gradually revealing their hidden secrets.

Archaeologists working on the project revealed that the documents span a vast timeline, encompassing the rise and fall of civilizations, from the Buddhist era to the Mughal Empire, Sikh rule, and even the British colonial period. Among the treasures found are rare maps, dating back to the times when the world was still discovering ancient civilizations such as the Indus Valley.

One notable inclusion is a document authored by John Marshall, offering insights into the discovery of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, two pivotal sites in the history of archaeology. The preservation of this historical treasure is of paramount importance. Specialized brushes, stone weights, gloves, and protective eyewear are being employed to ensure the documents remain intact through the cleaning process.



QUETTA: A vendor selling dry fruit at air port roadside.

US shot down Turkish drone amid rising tensions

DAMASCUS (INP): A US warplane shot down a Turkish drone over Syria, citing it as a threat to American forces in the region, as reported by the Pentagon. This event has the potential to escalate tensions between the United States and Turkey, who are NATO allies. The incident occurred as Turkey was attempting to contact Ankara's military. At this point, US commanders are assessing the Turkish unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to be a potential threat, as it was less than half a kilometer away from American troops. In self-defense, US F-16 fighters shot down the drone. Following the incident, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had a conversation with his Turkish counterpart, US Yasar Guler, in which he emphasized the need for de-escalation in northern Syria and Hasakkeh, located less

Gold prices in Pakistan continue their downward trend

ISLAMABAD (INP): On Friday, the current rate for 24-karat gold in Pakistan can vary from Rs188,000 per tola, while those interested in 22-karat gold can acquire it for Rs172,333 per tola. These rates are obtained from trustworthy sources, mainly based in Karachi and Multan. However, there has been a gap in the official gold rates reported by the All Pakistan Jewelers Association, which typically provides daily gold prices, since September 5, 2023.

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TENDER NOTICE

The Joint Hospital Awaran invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: TSE-232410356381

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 BPPRAGOB. Tender Fee Not required

S.No. Class of Object Bid Security
1. Medical Equipment and Accessories (Total Cost: Rs. 2,000,000/-)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: No Prior Experience is Required. There is No Requirement of Turn Over. Presence of Active Sales Certificate. The bidding information must be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan bidder must agree to deliver the awarded items within one month from the award of contract must unconditionally agree with all the instructions, terms and conditions specified in the bidding documents & contract agreement. She/It must be 75% & 70% (from the date of supply of medicines) or local products and imported products respectively. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 21 October 2023 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 21 October 2023 at 01:29 PM Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 02:30 PM Address: Joint Hospital Awaran Phone no: 0952987076 Email: nit@gnmail.com

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PTI seeks CJP timely intervention to ensure polls within constitutional timeframe

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was constitutionally bound to hold elections within the stipulated 90 days; hence the electoral watchdog and the caretaker government have only 34 days to meet the constitutional deadline.

He categorically stated that the nation would not tolerate any unconstitutional attempts to delay the polls beyond the constitutional deadline come what may.

The PTI spokesperson made it clear that it was electoral body's main constitutional responsibility and the fundamental right of the people to hold elections within the constitutionally mandated timeframe of 90 days. Therefore, he demanded that the honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan should intervene preemptively in order to thwart any attempt of violation of the

Constitution and to make the ECP and the caretaker government bound to ensure holding elections within the constitutional time limits.

PTI spokesperson went on to say that the state was subject to the constitution and the caretaker government had the free will of the public the basis of the political and governmental system.

"Suspension of any article or part of the Constitution is akin to suspending the entire Constitution, which is a serious crime," he said, adding that the constitution did not give any authority to any state institution alone or in association with others to take any decision contrary to its intent regarding holding of the elections.

PTI spokesperson underlined that the constitution was very clear about the five-year term of the elected assemblies and about conduct of elections in the wake of the timely or premature dissolution of these

assemblies.

He stated that in case of premature dissolution of the assemblies, the constitution mandated the conduct of elections within timeframe of 90 days, which was interpreted by the top court and approved by the President.

PTI spokesman made it clear that the ECP and the caretaker government have only 34 days to conduct the elections, as the President of the state in his letter to the electoral watchdog suggested November 9 as the date for the elections. He alerted that if the constitution was violated by avoiding holding polls within 90-day limits, then the ECP and the caretaker prime minister along with his cabinet would be guilty of constitutional violation, which was punishable crime under Article 6. PTI spokesperson vowed that the nation would not accept any attempt to delay the poll for an indefinite period at any cost.



ISLAMABAD: British MP Afzal Khan called on Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah, Federal Secretary Humaira Ahmed and Adviser & Culture expert Muhammad Kashif Ishaq were also present in the meeting.

Senate Body on I&P deliberates on appointments in PITAC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Presided over by Senator Sena Khalida Ateeb, the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production held at Parliament House on Friday deliberated on appointments made in the Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Center (PITAC).

The Senate Body discussed the appointment of Mr. Basir Ahmad, son of Haji Yar Muhammad, at the PITAC. The Legal Counsel of PITAC approved the committee that Basir Ahmad was appointed as an 'Apprentice Engineer' in 2012, and the rules do not make it obligatory for PITAC to offer employment to an individual after the completion of their apprenticeship.

The affected individual, Basir Ahmad, mentioned that he was appointed as an 'Apprentice

Engineer' under the 'Aghaz e Hasoon' Pakistan. The subject for consideration for a permanent position after the completion of his apprenticeship. However, despite the availability of relevant positions, no permanent position was offered to him. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with PITAC and directed the ministry to investigate the matter and submit a report at the next meeting.

Senator Dr. Muhammad Humayun Mohamand highlighted the matter of illegal conduct by Private Members of the NFC Board in dereliction of their fiduciary responsibilities. He claimed that some NFC employees were continuing to work after accepting the consensual Golden Handshake and enjoying the perks and privileges associated with it.

Officials of NFC stated that

the matter was referred to the FIA in 2019, and the investigation has not been completed yet. The Committee has directed NFC to provide details of the necessary actions taken by NFC management to expedite the inquiry."

While discussing the present status of the regularization of services and the increase in salaries of National Fertilizer Marketing Ltd (NFML) employees, the MD of NFML apprised the committee that there is a substantial gap between the salaries of regular and contract employees. However, the salaries of contract employees were increased by 30% last year to lessen the gap to some extent.

Senator Khalida Ateeb remarked that complaints were received, which indicate that a 'Blue Eyed Criteria' was adopted for the regularization of services.

Pakistan needs charter of economy to overcome problems: Atif Akram

KARACHI (INP): Presidential Candidate of Federal of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Atif Akram has said that Pakistan needs a charter of economy so that all political forces can focus on economic recovery.

Speaking to business community on Friday, he said that economic matters should be in capable hands to improve the economy which will also provide relief to the masses and the business community.

Atif Akram Sheikh who has also served as VP FCCCI, Chairman PVMA and President ICCI said in a statement issued here today that continuity of policies should be ensured so that investors can breathe a sigh of relief and stop withdrawing capital from

Pakistan to safe destinations. Important decisions should not be delayed, otherwise, they would severely affect the masses and the currency and lead to a sharp rise in inflation, he added.

The business leader said that agreements with the IMF and other institutions should be honored, as breaching promises will result in displeasure with international institutions, which the country cannot afford at this critical juncture.

We want economic managers with good economic understanding, experience, and foresight to resolve the country's problems.

He demanded that the hike in electricity and gas tariffs be reversed and the infamous circular debt, which has become a threat to the economy, be reduced.

State-run corporations should be sold, the cost of doing business for industry and trade should be reduced, and the business community should be treated well, he said.

Higher policy rates are discouraging businesses and increasing government borrowing costs, driving higher financing needs. These financing needs are met through increased borrowing, he said. The higher interest rate is a major contributor to our debt woes; a quicker growth in the debt stock is due to its failure to contain its expenditures and boost its income by broadening the tax base, he added.

He noted that production, exports, and remittances are going down, necessitating a strategy to reverse the trend.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice Ahmad Irfan Aslam had a meeting with Haroon Ur Rasheed Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council at Ministry of Law and Justice.



KARACHI: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain Saqib Rauf, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Governor House.

Political forces should sign CoE for stable country: Mandviwalla

MULTAN (INP) Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance & Revenue, Saleem Mandviwalla on Friday said mainstream political parties should come forward to sign Charter of Economy (CoE) which was the dire need of the hour. He said it was imperative for a stable Pakistan which would eventually help tackle challenges on the economic front, besides ensuring the interests of people.

Addressing a news conference with PPP leaders Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Ak Qasim Gilani and others at Multan Press Club, he stated that inflation was at its peak and there was a need to bring rates of commodities down to ensure relief for people.

The Senator said that he had

met Faisalabad and Multan business community on Thursday adding their issues would be resolved on priority.

He noted that Pakistan People's Party wanted general elections on time and added that PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and he were meeting with the business fraternity to find solutions to the economic woes of the country. Replying to a question, the Senator said that whoever party assumed power after the elections, should act upon CoE. He said that the masses would be disappointed if the winner in the election. Earlier, speaking to the executive committee at Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) late on Thurs-

day night, he said that business community were the most important people of the country.

He said though the standing committee had an oversight role for the govt departments, even then it took up issues of the business community and got them resolved. Mandviwalla announced that the committee would take up the Model Customs Collectorate issue and would get it restored for both appraisement and enforcement soon. The Senator said that FBR's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committees (ADRCs) would be made functional soon adding that cess did not fall in the purview of federal governments rather it was a matter of provincial governments.

Need to encourage solar energy to avoid expensive electricity: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP) Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi: Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has called for encouraging solar energy to avoid expensive electricity.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that due to line capacity payments, and other factors, electricity was becoming more expensive.

Forcing people to avoid alternatives and use expensive electricity was a violation of their fundamental rights, so this practice

must be stopped, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that it was important to attract consumers towards solar energy, make its equipment cheaper, and provide long-term interest-free loans to people, enabling them to use the solar energy.

He said that Pakistan was among the top countries in the world in terms of solar power potential. According to international experts, Pakistan can get 40% of its electricity requirement through solar energy, but instead of using this sector for public welfare, it is being used as a source of profit.

Other sources of renewable energy are adopted along with solar energy, there will be no need to generate electricity from imported oil, gas, or coal, and the country will also be able to export electricity. The business leader said that people whose businesses are related to oil, gas, coal, and expensive electricity will never accept renewable energy.

The oil, gas, and coal mafias reemerged in Pakistan in dozens of countries, but the governments took decisions according to the public interest, which brought relief to the people and reduced environmental pollution, he informed.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired a Privatisation Commission (PC) Board Meeting.

Trump endorses Jim Jordan to be House speaker

WASHINGTON (INP): Donald Trump is endorsing Congressman Jim Jordan to replace ousted US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, the former president said on Friday, as the chamber's fractious Republicans try to unify in the aftermath of McCarthy's historic fall.

"He (Jordan) is STRONG on Crime, Borders, our Military/Vets, & 2nd Amendment. Jim, his wife, Polly, & family are outstanding - He will be a GREAT Speaker of the House, & has my Complete & Total Endorsement!" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social app.

The post follows earlier news that Trump, the frontrunner for the 2024 Republican nomination to challenge Democratic President Joe Biden, might agree to replace McCarthy for a short time. Fox News also reported that Trump was close to endorsing Jordan.

Two Republican lawmakers are campaigning for the speakership: Representative Steve Scalise, who was second to McCarthy on the lead-

ership ladder, and Jordan, an outspoken conservative from Ohio who has led investigations into the Biden administration.

Republicans, who control the House of Representatives by a narrow 221-212 margin, are due to hold a closed-door forum for candidates seeking the speakership on Tuesday, a meeting that the former Republican president said he could attend. A vote is expected the next day.

But acrimony and resentment over McCarthy's ouster could make nominating a new speaker a challenge for House Republicans.

Although House rules do not require the speaker to be a member of Congress, Trump already has a lot on his plate as he faces four upcoming criminal trials, two related to his attempts to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

House Republican rules prohibit a speaker who is under felony indictment.

Trump spent much of the start of the week in New York, where his civil fraud trial was getting under way, with the

former reality TV star drawing the spotlight over repeated verbal attacks on the US legal system, drawing a gag order from the judge.

Trump's pull with House Republicans has been tested at times this year. Republicans initially did not respond to Trump's call to elect McCarthy as speaker, waiting three days before doing so and subjecting McCarthy to a grueling 15 rounds of voting.

Trump has been indicted on 91 felony counts in four separate criminal cases including two that accuse him of illegally trying to subvert his 2020 presidential election loss.

Republican congressional leadership sources either did not respond to a request for comment or declined to comment on the possibility of Trump's becoming speaker.

The meeting on Tuesday would be Trump's first visit to Capitol Hill since his supporters attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, to try to prevent lawmakers from certifying his 2020 White House loss to Democrat Joe Biden.