

QUETTA VOICE

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Israel imposing 'total' Gaza blockade as dozens of Palestinians killed in strikes on refugee camp

HAMMASIsrael is escalating measures against the Gaza Strip to a "total blockade" including a ban on admitting food and fuel. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday, after Hamas stunned Israel with surprise offensive.

Gaza's health ministry said there were dozens of Palestinians killed and wounded in Israeli air strikes on the Jabalia refugee camp. Israel has launched hundreds of strikes on Gaza since Saturday, when Hamas fighters launched attacks in Israel and fired thousands of rockets at the country.

The Hamas-controlled ministry said "570 people were killed and another 2,900 injured" in the fighting that began on Saturday after Hamas fighters fired thousands of rockets in Israel in a surprise dawn offensive.

More than 123,000 people have been displaced in the Gaza Strip since fighting began, the United Nations said. "Over 123,538 people, have been internally displaced in Gaza, mostly due to fear, protection concerns and the destruction of their homes," said the UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA.

More than 73,000 are sheltering in schools, OCHA said, some of which have been designated emergency shelters.

Adnan Abu Hasna, a spokesman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), said he expected the numbers to rise further.

"There's electricity in these schools, we provide them with a meal, clean water, psychological support and medical treatment," he told AFP. Rescuers remove a casualty on a stretcher from



under the rubble of a house destroyed in Israeli strikes, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip October 9, 2023. — Reuters

Gaza is home to 2.3 million Palestinians, who have lived under a crippling Israeli blockade imposed after Hamas took power in 2007.

At least seven Palestinians were killed in two Israeli air strikes on two houses in Gaza, according to medics. Israeli planes also carried out dozens of air strikes, many in the northern town of Beit Hanoun. The Associated Press reported that 19 members of a single family were killed in one such strike. "The price the Gaza Strip will pay will be a very heavy one that will change reality for generations," said

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant in the town of Ofakim, which suffered casualties and had hostages taken. To that end, Tel Aviv is escalating measures against the Gaza Strip to a "total blockade" including a ban on admitting food and fuel, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said, describing this as part of a battle against "heavily people".

Chief military spokesperson Rear-Admiral Daniel Hagari said Israel has drafted a record 300,000 reservists and is "going on the offensive".

Hagari said control of border villages and towns in which there were Palestinian fighters had been re-established but that isolated clashes continued as some gunmen remained active.

"We are now carrying out searches in all of the communities and clearing the area," he said in a televised briefing.

Military officials had previously said that their focus was on securing Israel's side of the border before carrying out any major escalation of the counter-offensive in Gaza. Hagari said 300,000 reservists have been called up by the military since Saturday, a number suggesting preparations for a possible invasion - though any such plans have not been officially confirmed.

"We have never drafted so many reservists on such a scale," he said. "We are going on the offensive." Hagari confirmed media reports that 700 people had been killed on Israel's side of the border, including 73 confirmed members of the security forces. He said Israel's military had killed hundreds of Palestinian gunmen. **NEWSDESK**

Government, UNICEF Join Hands to Transform Education in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a groundbreaking meeting at his office, the Caretaker Provincial Minister of Education, Prof. Dr. Qadir Baloch, engaged in a fruitful discussion with UNICEF Pakistan's representative, Abdullah Fadel, and his delegation. The purpose of the meeting was to apprise Prof. Dr. Baloch of the ongoing education projects being undertaken by UNICEF in the province.

Detailed Briefing:

During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was provided to Prof. Dr. Qadir Baloch regarding UNICEF's relentless efforts to uplift the education sector in Balochistan. The Caretaker Provincial Minister, in response, expressed his unwavering commitment to addressing the education challenges that the province faces.

Acknowledging Progress:

Prof. Dr. Baloch commended UNICEF's noteworthy contributions to improving education, particularly in the remote and underprivileged regions of the province. He emphasized that the partnership between the provincial government and UNICEF has played a pivotal role in resolving educational issues, as indicated in a recent UNICEF report.



Key Challenges:

The report shed light on pressing challenges in the education sector, including the absence of washroom facilities in approximately 4,000 schools, a majority of which are girls' schools. Additionally, a staggering 6,700 schools in the province have only one teacher, severely affecting the quality of education provided.

UNICEF's Vital Role:

Prof. Dr. Qadir Baloch underscored UNICEF's pivotal role as a significant donor agency in Balochistan's education sector. He expressed optimism that through enhanced coordination between the Department of Education and UNICEF, the number of schools lacking essential facilities could be reduced to 3,600. He also pledged to expedite efforts in this direction.

The collaborative efforts of UNICEF and the Caretaker Provincial Minister of Education, Prof. Dr. Qadir Baloch, are set to usher in a new era of educational transformation in Balochistan. With a shared vision and concerted actions, the province looks forward to providing quality education and essential facilities to its students, paving the way for a brighter future.

"Our goal is transparent elections", CM Domki told Governor Sindh

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Ali Mardan Domki reiterated on Monday that the goal of the interim government was to ensure transparent elections. He expressed these views while talking to Governor Sindh, Kamran Tesori.

Governor Sindh calls on CM

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tesori extended congratulations to the newly-appointed Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki. They discussed various social issues and the unique challenges facing Balochistan, emphasizing the importance of transparent elections and timely completion of development projects.

Governor Sindh congratulates Domki



In a recent meeting at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Quetta, Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tesori extended warm congratulations to the newly-appointed Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan

Domki. The meeting, held on a Monday, provided an opportunity for the leaders to engage in fruitful discussions on matters of mutual interest, including pressing social issues.

Balochistan facing unique circumstances as compared to other provinces

Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki acknowledged the distinctive challenges that Balochistan confronts, underscoring the province's unique circumstances compared to other provinces of the country.

Despite these challenges, the leadership in Balochistan remains resolute in their commitment to establishing peace and order, implementing decisions from the apex committee, and ensuring the provision of basic necessities such as education, healthcare, and clean water to the people, CM Domki elaborated.

"Impartial elections, our goal", CM

"Our goal," he emphasized, "is to conduct transparent and impartial elections, while also striving for the timely completion of ongoing development projects in the province. We aim to ensure that the resources allocated for the betterment of our people truly benefit the common man and alleviate some of the challenges they face daily."

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tesori commended the priorities set forth by the Balochistan Caretaker Government and expressed his good wishes for the province's progress.

In a gesture of goodwill, Governor Tesori extended an invitation to Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki to visit Sindh, an offer graciously accepted by the Balochistan leader.

2 soldiers martyred, 5 terrorists killed in Zhob Balochistan: ISPR

News Desk:

QUETTA: Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the general area of Sambaza, Zhob District, on the reported presence of terrorists, the military's media wing said.

During the conduct of the operation, terrorists were surrounded and after an intense exchange of fire, five terrorists were sent to hell, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Monday evening.

Major Syed Ali Raza Shah embraced martyrdom

However, in the ensuing exchange of fire, Major Syed Ali Raza Shah (Age 31 years, resident of Sarogha District), who was leading the operation from the front, and Havakdar Nisar Ahmed (Age 38 years, resident of Vehari District), having fought

gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

Security forces of Pakistan are indebted & proud of our brave men and pay homage to their chivalry and sacrifices for the motherland, which further strengthens our resolve to uproot the menace of terrorism from the country. Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

CM Balochistan condemns the attack

Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Ali Mardan Domki strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Zhob district of the province. In a condemnation statement, the CM said security personnel have embraced martyrdom during their fight against



terrorists. He said the perpetrators of the terrorist attack would be brought to justice.

THE PUBLIC VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Urgent plea to PM: Restore suspended passenger trains for Balochistan

ditorial:

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 passengers buses and planes. Passenger buses traveling on Quetta Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad highways almost 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 and is well aware of the suffering of its people.

The caretaker prime minister, Anwar 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.

Summan Ismail:

The Ziarat Juniper Forest, nestled in Pakistan's Balochistan territory, stands as a testament to nature's splendor and history's embrace. This ancient forest is renowned for its towering, thousand-year-old Juniper trees, which rank among the world's oldest and tallest.

This article explores the profound significance of the Ziarat Juniper Forest, its historical roots, ecological importance, and the pressing need for conservation efforts.

A Glimpse into History

The story of the Ziarat Juniper Forest is a journey through time. Once inhabited by nomadic tribes, these Juniper trees served as versatile resources. They provided fuel, construction materials, and medicinal remedies, ingraining themselves in the local culture. Over generations, the forest became a cherished asset, safeguarded by tribal elders.

A Global Ecological Gem

In recent years, the Ziarat Juniper Forest has garnered international recognition for its unique and vital ecosystem. It is an integral part of the region's biodiversity, hosting a diverse array of plant and animal species. Furthermore, the Juniper trees themselves offer a rich source of genetic information, fueling discoveries in ecology and herbal science.

The Dark Side of Progress

While the past decade has brought comfort and progress to the region, it has come at a steep price. One industry that has thrived

at the expense of the forest is the furniture sector, leading to extensive deforestation. These ancient woodlands, found mostly at altitudes above 2000 meters, are under severe threat. The Ziarat region, home to approximately 5000-year-old Juniperus species, faces rampant deforestation due to domestic fuel consumption, agricultural expansion, construction, medicinal use, and furniture production.

Alarming Trends: A Deforestation Study

A recent report titled "Observing Carbon Stock and Land Use Change in 5000-Year-Old Juniper Woods Stand of Ziarat, Balochistan, through a Synergistic and Collaborative Approach" contains a comprehensive

analysis of the forest is the furniture sector, leading to extensive deforestation. These ancient woodlands, found mostly at altitudes above 2000 meters, are under severe threat. The Ziarat region, home to approximately 5000-year-old Juniperus species, faces rampant deforestation due to domestic fuel consumption, agricultural expansion, construction, medicinal use, and furniture production.

Protecting Wildlife and Promoting Sustainable Tourism

Conservation efforts are underway to protect the diverse wildlife within the Ziarat Juniper Forest. Endangered species such as the Asiatic Mountain Bear, Snow Leopard, and Markhor call this forest home, and preserving their habitat is paramount.

Simultaneously, initiatives aim to promote sustainable tourism, allowing visitors from around the world to appreciate the forest's natural beauty and ecological significance.

The Call to Action

The allure of the valuable Juniper wood has led to its exploitation, with reports even implicating authorities in the illegal trade. To secure the future of this ancient forest, immediate action is essential. It is imperative that we collectively embrace sustainable practices, raise awareness, and curb deforestation. Only by doing so can we ensure the preservation of this unique species and its vital role in our natural world. Together, we must act responsibly to safeguard the Ziarat Juniper Forest for generations to come.

Equitable mental healthcare

By Asma Humayun:

A CASE was recently reported from Mardan on the Ministry of Planning's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPPS) portal. The case described a 65-year-old male citizen who had developed depressive symptoms after a spinal surgery in 1994.

Subsequently, he began taking an addictive sleeping tablet, Zolanzepam. In 2020, he had a relapse of his symptoms, this time after a prostate surgery. He consulted a psychiatrist who prescribed an anti-psychotic medication. He has been, unnecessarily, on these medicines for the past two decades without further psychiatric review. October is the World Mental Health Day, and the theme this year is 'Mental health is universal human right'. The World Health Organization (WHO) Mental Health Report (2022) identified major gaps in governance, services and information in countries like Pakistan where mental health systems are fragmented. Except for its launch, no progress report is publicly available. Despite the programme's undeniable importance,

an inflection point, as it was accompanied by an unprecedented humanitarian response for MHPPS from local and international organisations. However, these efforts were disorganised and lacked meaningful impact. At that point, the unpreparedness was perhaps to be expected; mental health services were almost nonexistent outside psychiatric hospitals.

The sad part is that not much has changed since. The goal of reorganising the mental health system is to respond to emerging needs and expectations. The on-ground reality is that the current system is neither able to respond to routine mental health needs nor to the additional burden that transpires due to the ongoing crises faced by the country. The World Health Organization (WHO) initiated a pilot implementation of the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (MHGAP) in pilot districts across each province in Pakistan. This programme is critical for integrating mental health in primary healthcare, and is strongly recommended for Pakistan to address unmet mental healthcare needs in low- and middle-income countries. Except for its launch, no progress report is publicly available. Despite the programme's undeniable importance,

and after six years, key interviews in relevant districts are not able to confirm much success outside a few ad-hoc training activities. Serious questions arise about the lack of a system's approach, the contextualisation of these guidelines, processes of training and supervision, and, of course, monitoring and evaluation. Recently, a survey on mental health application was launched by the federal government as a solution to unmet mental healthcare needs in the country. The interest of the political leadership behind this initiative was most encouraging. Sadly, lack of scientific attention and planning led to its failure.

Health specialists were as well as its introduction. Secondly, services gaps are evident from the fact that millions of Pakistanis lack access to equitable, rights-based mental healthcare. Specialist services in the public sector are limited to tertiary care hospitals and a handful of district hospitals where thousands of unwell citizens seek help on a daily basis. But each treatment is the result of a brief consultation and little-to-no psychological care. Private-sector services, meanwhile, are largely unaffordable and almost entirely unregulated. Unfortunately, these gaps also exist in nationally funded initiatives. As an example, Unicef launched a MHPPS project in 2021 and reported that 22,000 citizens benefited from psychosocial support and mental health services. Despite the report, there has been little evidence of the impact of these services. Tundly, a vital gap in the country's resources exists because of a severe shortage of mental health specialists. Pakistan says it is committed to the goal-based targets outlined by the WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan (2013-2030), which provides evidence-based guidance on community-based care and building capacity of a mental health workforce to overcome the resource gaps. Regret-a-bly, we don't seem to have an action plan to get there.

By Zarrar Khuhro:

THE Indian Ocean has been a critical trade route but has arguably never been as strategically important as, say, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

The latter two have been the staging grounds for many a war over a decade now, with the rise of China, and the ongoing efforts to contain that rise, has increasingly made the Indian Ocean a playground for regional strategic rivalries and indeed a centre of gravity in overall global geopolitics. For China, this ocean is the route that critical raw materials and energy supplies that help fuel its growth through the chokepoint of the Malacca Strait. Another equally critical chokepoint is the Strait of Hormuz and then there's the Djibouti Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean.

The Indian Ocean region is also home to a rising number of military and naval bases, with the US base in Diego Garcia and the Chinese presence in Djibouti being just two. And then,

of course, there are the critical ports that span all the way from Myanmar's Kyaukpadaung to Gwadar in Pakistan, and beyond. Truly, the developments in the past few years have proven the sagacity of American naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan who said over a century ago that "whoever controls the Indian Ocean will dominate Asia, the destiny of the world will be decided on its water".

It is in this context, and specifically in the context of the Sino-Indian tug-of-war that the recent political developments in the Maldives — an island nation of 500,000 souls — must be viewed.

That archipelago state has been a hotbed of tension between India and China for over a decade now, with former president Abdullah Yameen who ruled the Maldives from 2013 to 2018, tilting towards Beijing. Yameen's tenure saw the Maldives move closer to Beijing's orbit, with investment flowing in from China and India being kept at a relative distance. This campaign, playing when Yameen lost power to Solih in 2018 and championed an Indian

first policy. While China did continue to try and woo Solih, his inclination towards New Delhi — which has historically had close relations with the Maldives — was pronounced. But now, Yameen's next to Muhammad Muizzu, a close ally of the former president Yameen, who was jailed on corruption charges last year.

The mayor of Malé, Muizzu took advantage of a split in Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party, to sweep into power, and almost immediately announced that he would force all foreign Indian military personnel to leave the Maldives. That, of course, means India, which maintains a very small military presence on the islands. This presence is linked to a fleet of few reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters by the Indian government to the Maldives, which also included the stationing of 75 or so Indian troops purportedly to assist in the operations of the air-craft.

This was admittedly turned into an election issue by Yameen's party, that launched an 'India Out' campaign, playing on nationalistic feelings and the feat of losing sovereignty to India.

Future in jeopardy

By Arif Hasan:

I HAVE written earlier about the Pakistan Quarters when a proposal for its development was made in 2018 under very different political circumstances. At that time, the Sindh government had some control over land in the city. However, today, developers have completely taken over land-use decisions due to the policies of the previous government. The Pakistan Quarters consist of Martin East, Martin West, and Jahangir Quarters. To avoid the misuse of land as in the case of Bahria Town and to avoid creating homelessness and misery as in the case of the KCR-related evictions and the Gujjar and Mahmooodabad nullah demolitions, a rehabilitation process should be guaranteed, that will not result in homelessness and hunger or force people to live under the sky without water, electricity, schools, and employment on the rubble of their homes for years.

The Pakistan Quarters on which the government wishes to build a low-cost, restructured apartments consist of about 335 acres and have a population of around 90,000 or 13,000 households. There are

five types of offenders in the Quarters: i) there are the original allottees. Most of them are probably dead; ii) there are the children and grandchildren of the allottees; iii) there are those who have rented out their homes to others; iv) there are those who have not paid their dues to the state; v) there are those who have sold their houses and have left. All these categories need to be identified, and their numbers worked out so that a just and equitable system of rehousing, relocating, or removal can be worked out. This working could be handled by a Karachi-based academic institution of architecture and planning. The first step is to conduct a better understanding of design and planning-related problems of such a large nature as the proposed Pakistan Quarters is undertaken, it can be an asset to the city if it is aesthetically planned and executed. For this, it is necessary that there should be no nepotism in the appointment of the architect. I would even suggest that a national competition for the design be held and judged by an international jury. Martin Quarters also contains the first residential accommodation that was undertaken by the government in Karachi after partition, therefore, it also has historic importance.

So far in Karachi, the 'rehabilitation' processes have been very poor and court judgments have supported the demolition of homes and settlements, saying that rehabilitation should be provided one year after the demolition of their homes has been ignored. Even then, after more than four years the rehabilitation of demolished homes, there has been no programme for rehabilitation, and the courts have failed to force the government to comply with their judgments.

By Malecha Lodhi:

PAKISTAN'S checkered political history holds many lessons that need to be learnt if the country is to escape from its troubled past. Some have been learnt but most have not. The power struggles became fatal distractions from governance and meeting public needs. What were essentially intra-elite squabbles over power and patronage, not the conditions for the military to intervene and return to the political arena.

The repeatedly ignored lesson was that compromise and consensus are essential to achieve civilian supremacy and strengthen democracy. Also overlooked was the risk that endless power tussles would open space for the military to ultimately seize control of the political system. There were always political parties ready to encourage military interventions to remove their opponents. The military for its part always found political allies to oust civilian governments and add its takeovers of power. This brings up an unlearned lesson relating to military interventions: Pakistan has spent over 30 years of its life under direct military rule and since

to engage with the opposition, while those in opposition almost always tried to actively destabilise the government of the day. These power struggles became fatal distractions from governance and meeting public needs. What were essentially intra-elite squabbles over power and patronage, not the conditions for the military to intervene and return to the political arena.

The repeatedly ignored lesson was that compromise and consensus are essential to achieve civilian supremacy and strengthen democracy. Also overlooked was the risk that endless power tussles would open space for the military to ultimately seize control of the political system. There were always political parties ready to encourage military interventions to remove their opponents. The military for its part always found political allies to oust civilian governments and add its takeovers of power. This brings up an unlearned lesson relating to military interventions: Pakistan has spent over 30 years of its life under direct military rule and since

2018 under hybrid 'democracy', in which the military has had an expansive role in governance.

Despite widespread public respect for the military in its professional role, its political interventions have lacked public legitimacy. The lesson from long bouts of military rule is that these constitutional transgressions neither found public acceptance nor could they be promised — political stability and economic progress. Instead, they have resulted in deleterious consequences for the military's reputation. That is why today the military acknowledges that military rule is neither an option nor a 'so-called' hybrid system is also problematic. The lesson of the hybrid experience, that further skewed civil-military balance and involved democratic regression, is that it is inherently unable to provide coherent and effective governance.

It fragments the governance system, creates confusion about lines of authority and also distracts the military from its professional role, especially when the

security situation needs its undivided attention. The hybrid experiment 2018-2022 hardly built economic or political stability, quite the opposite in fact. Continuing this 'model' will not yield an outcome different from the past.

The third lesson is that unless the country undertakes wide-ranging reforms to address its long-standing structural economic problems, it cannot escape from the trap of chronic fiscal deficits, balance-of-payments problems, high inflation and macroeconomic instability, which have necessitated repeated financial bailouts. The reliance on outsiders — 'friendly' countries and IMF — for bailouts has been a short-term fix, not a solution. For decades, dysfunctional economic management by both civilian and military governments evaded reform and resisted mobilising adequate domestic resources. Instead, resort to excessive borrowing at home and abroad mined Pakistan in unsustainable debt and perpetual financial crisis. The country's foreign alignments were frequently leveraged to secure financial help — of-

ten dubbed geopolitical rent — to overcome the crisis of the day.

So serious is Pakistan's economic and political crisis today that the lesson it offers can be ignored only at great peril to the country. The old way of managing public finances is no longer tenable. There is an urgent need to deal with the structural sources of persisting financial imbalances: a narrow and inequitable tax regime, limited export base, energy sector's circular debt, bankrupt public-sector enterprises, burgeoning foreign debt and low savings and investment.

The fourth lesson has to do with the failure to invest in human capital. This has left the country with deteriorating quality of human capital. At the bottom of global human development rankings, Pakistan is illiterate, 22 million school-age children are out of school, poverty has risen to almost 40pc while health indicators including malnutrition levels remain grim. Pakistan cannot achieve economic growth and progress by failing to invest in its people.

Pakistan to send medical teams to aid quake-hit Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The caretaker government on Monday decided to send a medical team from Pakistan to provide relief to the victims of the earthquake in Afghanistan, sources said.

Sources within the Ministry of Health claimed that a 10-member special medical team will soon leave for Afghanistan to aid the citizens injured in the earthquake.

According to the reports, a medical team from Islamabad will leave for Afghanistan in the first phase, while in the second phase, the medical team from Peshawar and Quetta will travel to Afghanistan to give medical assistance to

the injured citizens.

Sources suggested that the special medical team traveling to Afghanistan will be headed by the neurosurgeon Dr. Faiz Achakzai from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences - PIMS Hospital, Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the 10-member medical team consists of five nurses and five doctors from the department of Neurosurgery, General Surgery, and Bone and Joint specialties.

Sources close to the development stated that a cargo of medicines will also be sent to Afghanistan along with the medical team, however, the arrangement of medi-

cines for quake-hit Afghan citizens is done by the Federal hospitals.

It is pertinent to mention here that, more than 2,400 people were killed in earthquakes in Afghanistan, the Taliban administration said on Sunday, in the deadliest tremors to rock the quake-prone mountainous country in years.

The Saturday quakes in the west of the country hit 35 km (20 miles) northwest of the city of Herat, with one of 6.3 magnitude, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said.

They were among the world's deadliest quakes this year after tremors in Turkey and

Syria killed an estimated 50,000 in February.

Janan Sayeeq, spokesman for the Ministry of Disasters, said in a message to Reuters that the toll had risen to 2,445 dead, but he revised down the number of injured to "more than 2,000". Earlier, he had said that 9,240 people had been injured.

Sayeeq also said 1,320 houses had been damaged or destroyed. The death toll spiked from 500 reported earlier on Sunday by the Red Crescent.

Ten rescue teams were in the area, which borders Iran, Sayeeq told a press conference.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong meets with Caretaker Planning Minister for Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saad.

May 9 Jinnah House attack trail to be completed in jail: Punjab Govt

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Special Prosecutor Syed Farhad Ali Shah said that the Home Department has issued a notification according to which trial of May 9 cases will be conducted in jail.

Farhad Ali Shah said: "Jinnah House trial will be completed in one to one and a half months."

Farhad Ali said that the challan has been submitted to the court. According to the notification Askari Tower, Shadman police station, the trial of arson and siege cases

will also be held in the jail.

Justice Ali Baqir Najfi of the Lahore High Court (LHC) Monday directed Punjab government prosecutors to apprise the court in the Khadija Shah case after taking directions from the government.

The petitioner through a lawyer pleaded she was unduly implicated in the May 9 riots incidents and Gulberg police station had illegally involved her in the case against the facts.

"The Anti-Terrorism Court dismissed

the bail by ignoring the facts," Khadija Shah pleaded via her lawyer in the provincial apex court.

Earlier, LHC conditionally dismissed the register's objections to Khadija Shah's bail plea. The court decided to remove the objectionable documents from the bail application and dismissed the objection.

Earlier, in a recent development, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) ordered the release of prominent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist, Sanam Javed

Khan, and eight other party members in connection with the Jinnah House attack case. This decision comes after a series of legal proceedings surrounding the incident that took place earlier this year.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed, presiding over the case, announced the verdict, granting bail to the nine suspects implicated in the Jinnah House attack. The court approved their bail pleas against surety bonds worth Rs 0.1 million each, paving the way for their release.

Russia asks UNSC to implement its resolutions on Palestine

MOSCOW (INP): The closed-door emergency session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) amid the war between Israel and Hamas failed to achieve the unanimity needed for a joint statement.

The session failed to meet the consensus needed for a joint statement after Russia did not agree with other members of the UNSC and urged the forum to ensure the

implementation of its earlier resolution on Palestine. At least 1,100 people have already been killed since May 9 riots incidents and the Palestinian group that controls the blockaded Gaza Strip, launched an assault on Israeli towns on Saturday and took hundreds of people hostage. Israel retaliated by declaring a state of war and pounding densely populated Gaza, killing hundreds of people.

The result of unresolved issues," he said. Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden has ordered "additional support for Israel in the face of this unprecedented terrorist assault by Hamas".

At least four US citizens were killed in the attack, US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement after a briefing, adding that the toll was likely to rise.



PESHAWAR: Motorcyclist passing through accumulated rain water during rain in Provincial capital.



ISLAMABAD: Newly-appointed Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Gas cylinder blast injures two in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): At least two people were injured when a gas cylinder exploded in a shop located at Karachi's Maskan Chowringi on Monday.

According to initial information from police, two cylinders exploded inside a fast-food shop, which was closed. Due to the intensity of the blast,

two passersby were injured. Several vehicles and motorcycles were also damaged in the blast. The injured have been moved to the nearest hospital, the police said.

Meanwhile, three people including the shop owner have been arrested by the police. The arrested have been shifted to the police station for legal action.

In November last year, two women lost their lives and 13 others, including women and children, sustained injuries in a gas cylinder explosion in a residential apartment in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar area.

The blast took place due to a gas leak in a residential apart-

ment near Rado Bakery, killing two women and injuring 13 others. Three more adjacent flats were also badly affected due to the explosion.

The two women — who were identified as mother and daughter — succumbed to injuries in Civil Hospital's burns ward. Pakistani Rupee continues to rise against US Dollar

Pakistani Rupee continues to rise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (INP): On Monday, the current rate for US Dollar stands at Rs 282.60, as the interbank exchange rate saw a notable 9 paisa drop today. In a report from currency dealers, it was revealed that on the first day of the business week, the interbank rate for the US dollar saw a reduction of 9 paises, bringing the exchange

rate to Rs 282.60. Over the past week, the interbank rate for the US dollar had already seen a significant overall decrease of more than Rs 5.

The interbank exchange rate for the US dollar dropped by Rs 5.05, resulting in the US dollar being valued at Rs 282.69.

The dollar rate has plummeted to as low

as Rs 24.41 after previously reaching an all-time high in the interbank market.

Meanwhile, in the open market, the US dollar also experienced a substantial decline of Rs 5.50, reaching a rate of Rs 282.50. This decrease in the open market has brought the US dollar to its lowest level in recent times, marking a notable drop of Rs

50.50 from its peak. Moreover, Pakistani Rupee (PKR) has emerged as the world's top-performing currency against the US Dollar over the past month, with a remarkable appreciation of 9.67%.

Experts emphasize the need for continued economic reforms and wise fiscal policies to sustain this momentum.



ISLAMABAD Federal Minister for Power Muhammad Ali called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Israel, Gaza reel as death toll soars above 1,100 in war

GAZA (INP): The death toll from the war with Hamas and Israel surged above 1,100 on Monday, the third day of clashes. Hamas launched a surprise assault from Gaza over the weekend, firing a barrage of rockets and sending a wave of fighters who gunned down civilians and took over 100 hostages.

More than 700 Israelis have been killed since Hamas launched its large-scale attack, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Monday. Another 1,200 people have been wounded, many critically. In retaliation, Israeli air strikes hammered an estimated 800 targets in the impoverished and blockaded Gaza Strip, an enclave of 2.3 million people, with officials there reporting at least 413 Palestinian deaths. IDF spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conrath estimated around 1,000 Palestinian fighters had participated in Hamas's as-

sault on Saturday, which he called "by far the worst day in Israeli history". "This could be a 9/11 and a Pearl Harbour wrapped into one."

Around 100,000 reserve troops have been deployed to the south as the IDF battles to expel Hamas fighters from Israeli territory, he said, adding that a "very large amount" of Israeli civilians and soldiers were being held inside Gaza.

Israel's Defense Forces vowed to remove Hamas from governance of besieged Gaza enclave. US President Joe Biden ordered "additional support for Israel in the face of this unprecedented terrorist assault by Hamas". At least four US citizens were killed in the attack, US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement after a briefing, adding that the toll was likely to rise. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Washington "will be rapidly providing the Israel

Defense Forces with additional equipment and resources, including munitions".

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through e-Tender or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of EPPPSA.GOB. Tender Fee Rs 3000/- The offer called NIT No: TSE 22240955473 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances. RE-Tender is invited. The Project Director Raising of Balochistan Constabulary invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023

TSE-22240955473

S.No	Name of Works	Est/Coat	Bid Security
1	Construction of Wing Headquarters along with Boundary wall, Nasserabad Division at U.A. Year	65,071,000	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two 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 undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bobza.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Concrete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.eppps.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submissions: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 15 October, 2023, at 12:00 PM through supplier computer. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System. Address: Zarghoun road house no 89-36 Quetta cantt. Phone no: 0915010387. Email: projdir@balochistanconstabulary@gmail.com

Project Director Raising of Balochistan Constabulary

AB No.145/09-10/2023
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Protest Erupts as Female Students Reject Fee Hike at SBK University

Education Desk:

In a fervent display of discontent, female students at Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University in Quetta took to the streets in protest against the recent fee increases imposed by the university administration. The demonstration, marked by passionate slogans and unified voices, led to the suspension of all classes, highlighting the gravity of the situation. Allegations of intimidation tactics by the administration to quell the protest further fueled the students' determination to be heard.

Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, a reputed institution for female education in Quetta, is currently at the center of controversy as its female students have risen in protest against substantial fee hikes.

Fee Increases Across the Board

According to the students, the university has implemented semester-wise fee hikes across all classes, ranging from 8 thousand to a staggering 17 thousand rupees. This drastic escalation in educational costs has left many students and their families grappling with financial burdens.

Admission Fees Surge

Adding to their grievances, the



students claim that the university administration has increased the admission fee from 30 thousand to 40 thousand rupees.

Student Outcry and Campus Disruption:

In a unified voice, the female students expressed their frustration with the administration's decision, chanting slogans against the fee hikes and demanding transparency in the university's financial decisions.

The protest was so intense that all classes were suspended, causing

disruption to the normal academic activities on campus.

Allegations of Intimidation

Shockingly, the students also alleged that university administration resorted to threats in an attempt to quash the protest. Such allegations have raised concerns about the administration's approach to student grievances and freedom of expression within the institution.

Daily Quetta Voice will continue to provide you with the latest updates on this significant development in the SBK Women's University. Your trusted source for breaking news and in-depth coverage.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Mian Zahid calls for low-cost electricity for people, industries in winter

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the production capacity of electricity in the country is 40 thousand megawatts while consumption is only 10 to 12 thousand megawatts in winter.

In a statement on Monday, Mian Zahid Hussain said that people and businesses were forced to pay even though some industries were shut down in the winter and do not use electricity.

Instead of shutting down the electricity-generating plants during the four or five months of winter, they should be operated, and this electricity should be sold to cover operating costs only, he added.

He said that low-cost electricity should be provided to the public, commercial establishments, and agricultural and industrial sectors to increase economic ac-

tivity. Providing cheap power to industries will increase production, employment, export earnings, improve foreign exchange reserves, and thereby provide additional resources to the government for capacity payments.

The business leader said that supporting the industrial sector will increase production and reduce the price of various commodities, which will benefit the people. The government should finalize this matter as soon as possible and get permission from the IMF so that the same can be put into practice.

He said that electricity and gas have been made very expensive, due to which production costs and exports were affected. Implementation of this proposal will result in people benefiting from cheaper electricity in winter as natural gas was not available everywhere and LPG was very expensive.

He further said that according to an estimate, by making elec-

tricity cheaper, its use will increase by 25% across the country and up to 35% in Karachi, and the demand for natural gas will decrease accordingly.

Mian Zahid Hussain noted that efforts have been made to privatize electricity distribution companies for the past several decades, but there has been no success because, firstly, their size and losses were very high, and secondly, the employees were against privatization.

There was a monopoly of these companies in the country, due to which there was a lot of incompetence and corruption in them. The only solution to these problems was to involve the private sector in this sector by providing specific areas for electricity supply.

In this way, the private sector will enter the electricity market and an era of competition will begin, which will reduce inefficiency and corruption and provide better service and affordable electricity to consumers.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Gov't initiatives strengthening rupee against \$US: Atif Akram

KARACHI (INP) President Candidate FPCCI, Atif Akram Sheikh has said that the efforts of the government are continuously strengthening the rupee against the dollar, which is a great achievement.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that due to the initiatives of the government, the prices of various commodities were decreasing in the market, which was providing relief to the public and the business community. Atif Akram Sheikh, who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA, and President ICICI lauding the efforts of the government said that the only way to stabilize the rupee on a permanent

basis was to increase exports and discourage unnecessary imports. Remittances bring huge foreign exchange to the government, but they also encourage unnecessary consumption, he said.

The business leader said that consumerism has also been on the rise for decades, and investors have been attracted to non-productive sectors rather than industries where profits are high.

Our economic model was disproportionately dependent on consumption. Pakistan over the last ten years has been maintaining consumption in excess of 80 percent of GDP, and more recently, its contribution to GDP has been as high as 90 percent in FY22 and

88 percent in FY-23.

Reliance on consumption has led to a scenario where consumption is effectively driven by imports. GDP growth was fueled by consumption, which was inadvertently fueled by imports.

The dollars required to fund these imports are provided by a mix of exports, remittances, and external debt. As consumption continues to take up a significant component of imports, sufficient resources are not available to utilize imports for investments, resulting in a slowdown. Unless the export sector is made the most profitable, investment in it will remain low, and foreign investment will also be less than desired.

Dr. Abdul Raheman assumes charge as Vice President Academics IIUI

ISLAMABAD (INP) Vice President Academics International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr. Abdul Raheman who assumed charge of office on Monday was warmly welcomed by the officers and staff who were overwhelmed on his appointment.

They thanked President IIUI for appointing Dr. Abdul Raheman as Vice President Academics and termed it as another positive step towards university's progress.

After assuming duties at his office, Dr. Abdul Raheman visited the new academic block and the Students Facilitation Centre (SFC) where he reviewed the day to day affairs while he was briefed on the nature of work and overall performance of the various offices.

On his maiden day remarks, Vice President Academics said that as per vision of President IIUI H.E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotabi, students' facilitation was top pri-

ority. He said every possible step will be ensured to facilitate the students under one roof on a priority and with the use of modern and digitized approach.

He directed that the issues of students must be solved with dedication and priority. He hoped that campus management system's implementation will be the main goal to rule out many issues in academic related matters. He further stated that his office will be active to strengthen the faculties and academic excellence would be given due importance. The IIUI Vice President met the students in various sections of the academic block and students facilitation centre, where he listened to their problems and feedback. During the visit, respective incharges of all the sections apprised Dr. Abdul Raheman about the nature of work and new approach.

Speaking to the officials, he

said no task must be in the pending list and applicants of various cases must be updated via telephone or other means about the progress of their cases. He directed that officials to be courteous to the students and they must be guided appropriately.

The IIUI Vice President was also accompanied by director Academics Dr. Muhammad Khan and incharges of various sections. He also directed that students must not face any issue regarding the academics related affairs and this must be ensured that they will not visit any other office for their matters. The Vice President also visited the cafeteria in the building and took feedback from the students. At the end of the visit, he also inspected the newly established booth of bank and desired that all digital banking options must be available in the facility.

PM, Minister discuss issues relating energy, petroleum division affairs

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was called on by Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali on here on Monday.

Premier and caretaker federal minister discussed matters relating to energy and petroleum

division's affairs during the meeting. Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was briefed on measures being taken to promote foreign investment in mineral sector in Balochistan and other parts of the country under Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The meeting was also briefed on energy reforms measures and crackdown against the power thieves.

The caretaker prime minister appreciated the energy ministry and law enforcement agencies for launching operation against the power thieves.



CAIRO: Federal health minister Dr. Nadeem Jan meeting with Saudi Arabia Health minister Fahad bin Abdul Rehman Aljalajel in Cairo on side lines of 70th WHO Regional committee meeting.

Senate Body recommends to send all employees to their parent depts.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training on Monday unanimously recommended to send all the employees back to their parent departments who were initially recruited as teachers and holding administrative posts at various ministries.

Chairing the meeting of the Committee, Senator Irfan Siddiqui categorically directed to revert all the teaching staff on deputation holding administrative assignments in Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to their parent departments with immediate effect.

The Senate Body debated that all such employees were politically powerful, blue eyed individuals and does not like to renounce their services as teachers and therefore manage to be posted on various administrative post through influence. The committee observed that this practice was badly affecting the quality of education. The Chairman Committee Senator Irfan Siddiqui concluded that all the teachers on deputation be sent back to their respective educational institutes immediately. The caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Mr. Madad Ali Sindhvi agreed with this view point and

assured the committee that immediate action will take place on committee recommendations.

The committee also discussed at length the progress on extension of time and details of proceedings of the Ministerial Committee constituted under Dr. Niaz Ahmed Vice Chancellor Quaid-e-Azam University for regularisation of daily wagers teachers and increase in their salaries.

The minister said that the list of employees recommended by the FPSC will be issued appointment letters within this week. Similarly the matter regarding daily wagers will be discussed in the same committee to permanently resolve this long standing issue and the report in this regard will be submitted to the committee by 13th Oct 2023.

The committee was told that since the salary of daily wagers is being enhanced as per committee recommendations from 25000/ps to 32000/ps per month, the case is under AGIPRS consideration, on which the chairman committee directed the Director General FDE to make sure that the salaries are paid immediately at the previous rates and the enhanced amount may be paid once the budget is approved. The chairman commit-

tee senator Irfan Siddiqui asked the HEC officials to invite the representatives of affected daily wagers to have their view point.

The committee also discussed in detail report on the implementation of effected daily wagers and the Ministerial Technology Council Act and Service Structure of technologist. The chairman committee strictly inquired as to why the act is pending before the ministry for 7 months. It was stated by the HEC representative that the committee constituted to look into this matter has been officially notified as directed by the Senate Committee in its last meeting and sought time to finalise the recommendations.

It was also apprised that the act has been returned from the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) with certain observations. The committee chair directed to finalise report on the matter and submit within 15 days. The meeting was attended by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, Fawzia Arshad, Engr. Ruksana Zuberi, Molvi Faiz Muhammad and Senator Falaz Naz. The Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and a professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi and other senior officials of related departments were also in attendance.



ISLAMABAD: Interim Federal Minister of National Heritage & Culture, Jamal Shah taking round of a week-long Wildlife Art Exhibition, depicting the living jewels of Pakistan at PNCA.