

QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

Thursday October 19 ,2023

dquettavoice@gmail.com

2m children out of school in Balochistan as learning quality declines

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In Balochistan, over 2 million children are out of school despite repeated enrollment campaigns by the provincial education department, political parties and non-governmental organizations. Learning quality in government-run schools continues to decline as teachers are recruited on a political basis with no proper training to teach students.

During the middle-level examination for the year 2019-20, only 0.8 percent of students secured an A+ grade across the province. This simply exposed the declining quality of education in government-run schools.

322 students out of a total of 42,823 got A+ grades in the middle examination

Only 322 students got A+ grade out of a total of 42,823 candidates in the middle-level examination, statistics of the Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission (BAEC) revealed. This painted a bleak picture of declining and poor quality of education.

The documents showed 122 students got an A grade during the examination conducted in the province. In 9 districts including Barkhan, Harnai, Kachi, Kharan, Musakhali, Nushki, Sherani, Killa Abdullah, and Sikandar Abad, no student achieved an A+ grade.

The literacy rate in Balochistan is 46%

The literacy rate in Balochistan is 46 percent as per statistics obtained from the education department with 61 percent male and 29 percent female. The province has not conducted any survey to assess the learning quality of students studying in



over 15,000 government-run primary, middle and high schools across Balochistan. As per a confidential report obtained by Daily Quetta Voice, still over 2 million children are out of school.

Similarly, the number of enrolled students in government schools is 1,119,925, the report mentioned. The students studying in private schools are in addition to this. However, no data about the private schools' enrollment is available.

47% of children are out of school in Balochistan

The report mentioned the percent of the out of school children stands at 47 percent. It means half of the children of Balochistan are deprived of education. Those who are going to government schools are unable to read a sentence in English.

The main focus of the Balochistan government in general and the education department, in particular, is on salaries and the construction of new buildings for schools. In every budget, schools are

upgraded and strategy is evolved to impart required training to teachers. The provincial teachers training institute remains symbolic and nominal with staff just drawing salaries.

Huge amounts pumped but with no results

The Balochistan government allocated Rs 15 billion to the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the year financial year 2023-24. However, not a single penny has been allocated for the training of teachers and improving curriculum to improve the quality of education in government schools.

European Union provided 18 million euros, World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education have been pumping huge amounts to improve literacy rates and ensure the enrollment of school children. Nevertheless, still 2 million children remain out of school and the quality of education continues to decline.

Tabadlab making some positive strides in this regard

Tabadlab's Centre for Education Skills & Youth (ESY), is committed to raising awareness about the reading challenges faced in Pakistan. Our goal is to chart a course towards swift progress and development in learning. Your involvement as a reporter/ education activist is of paramount importance to amplify our message. By doing so, we aim to engage a wide audience capable of propelling the momentum for a transformative shift in foundational education. In this whole scenario, the government, political parties, NGOs, and civil society should put their heads together and work on a war footing basis to ensure the enrollment of out-of-school children and improve the quality of education.

1,000 Afghan refugees' families repatriated through Pak-Afghan border Chaman: Achakzai

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan's Caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai, made a significant announcement regarding the repatriation of Afghan refugees through the Chaman border. Over 1,000 Afghan refugee families have been repatriated as part of the Pakistani government's efforts to address the issue of illegal immigrants.

This initiative has gained momentum in the wake of the Federal Government's set deadline.

Deadline set for all illegal immigrants, not only Afghan refugees

Minister Achakzai emphasized that the deadline, set for November 1st, applies not only to Afghan refugees but to all illegal immigrants.

He urged "some political parties" to refrain from politicizing the refugee issue, emphasizing the importance of focusing on humanitarian efforts over political scoring.

Minister suggests political parties avoid politicizing the issue

However, he suggested that "some political parties" avoid politicizing the refugee issue and stop political scoring in this regard.

The Minister revealed that the special branch of police was tasked to spot refugees who have been hiding since the announcement of repatriation.

"Our effort is to ensure respectful repatriation of refugees", Jan Achakzai stated.

The government has taken hard on smugglers

Mr. Achakzai mentioned that for the first time in the history of the country, the government has taken hard on the elements involved in smuggling in Balochistan.

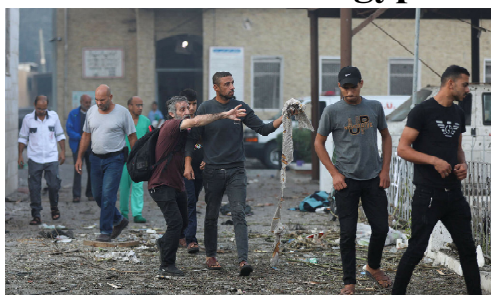
Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir has issued strict instructions in this regard, he elaborated.

The Minister stated that terrorists and their facilitators would not be spared rather strict action would be taken against them. "No room for terrorism here", Mr. Achakzai warned.



After days of bombardment, Israel agrees to allow aid into Gaza via Egypt

GAZA: Saudi Arabia has called for all its citizens to leave Lebanon "immediately" as tensions mount along Lebanon's southern border with Israel, Reuters reports. The Gulf kingdom's embassy in Beirut said it was "closely following the developments" in southern Lebanon, where at least 18 people have been killed in exchanges of fire between Hezbollah fighters and Israel. After a rocket strike on a Gaza hospital killed hundreds on Tuesday, Hezbollah called for a "day of rage". Hundreds of Hezbollah supporters gathered in Beirut's southern suburbs to protest the strike. The Saudi embassy statement said citizens remaining in Lebanon should "exercise caution and stay away from places where gatherings or demonstrations are taking place". Kuwait this week also warned its citizens against travelling to Lebanon. United Nations relief chief Martin Griffiths held a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry to discuss the dire need for humanitarian conditions in Gaza and aid access to the Palestinian people. French court rules pro-Palestinian protests should be banned case by case France's highest administrative court has said pro-Palestinian protests must be banned on a case-



by-case basis, while upholding the validity of an instruction from the French interior minister banning all pro-Palestinian protests. In a note sent to regional police authorities, dated Oct 12, the interior minister had ordered that "pro-Palestinian protests, because they are likely to generate disturbances to public order, must be banned". Reuters reports. The appeal on the blanket ban instruction was brought by the organisation Comité Action Palestine, arguing that a total and absolute ban is not justified and encroaches on freedom of expression and assembly. The Conseil d'Etat upheld the validity of the note but said that local authorities could not ban a protest based solely on the note or the fact that a protest is in support of Palestinians. "Imagery, intercepts" show Israel not behind Gaza strike: White House US intelligence based on aerial images and intercepted communications shows Israel was not to blame for a strike on a Gaza hospital that killed hundreds, the White House has said. "While we continue to collect information, our current assessment, based on analysis of overhead imagery, intercepts and open source information, is that Israel is not responsible. NEWS DESK

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

12 DAYS REMAINING

12

© 2023 Quetta Voice

IHC issues notices to NAB on Nawaz's pleas seeking protective bail in Avenfield, Al-Azzia cases

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday issued notices to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on two petitions filed by PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif seeking protective bail in the Avenfield and Al-Azzia cases.

Nawaz, who is expected to return to Pakistan on Saturday, was convicted in the Avenfield and Al-Azzia references and was declared a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana vehicle case, pending before an accountability court in Islamabad. He was on bail in these cases when he proceeded to the UK in 2019 for medical treatment.

A two-judge IHC bench, comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb took up Nawaz's pleas, which were filed earlier today. The PML-N leader's lawyer, Amjad Pervez, told the court that his client was seeking protective bail. Referring to previous judgements,

he said that in the past, absconders were granted protective bail in order to surrender before the court.

"The court provides an opportunity whenever someone wants to surrender before it," Pervez said, contending that Nawaz had not taken undue advantage of his bail. The lawyer noted that the court had also provided PTI Chairman Imran Khan with protective bail earlier. Pervez also said that Nawaz's conviction was handed down when he was not in the country. At one point during the hearing, the NAB prosecutor said that the bureau did not have any objections if Nawaz wanted to come back.

At this, Justice Aurangzeb said, "You have no objection to granting protective bail. Tomorrow you will say that the judgement should be struck down. Then you should also ask the NAB chairman and let us decide the appeal [against Nawaz's conviction] today." However, the NAB prosecutor said



that the watchdog would give its arguments when the appeal would be fixed before the court.

The hearing was subsequently adjourned till tomorrow. NEWS DESK

Balochistan's Climate Crisis: Impact, Causes, and Solutions

Balochistan Green Medicine Boxes Initiative Targets End of Official Drug Sales

In a groundbreaking move, the Balochistan Government has launched an initiative to put an end to official drugs' sales within the province...

Fighting Malpractice and Corruption: As of now, the health department has succeeded in placing 58 out of 218 total items into these green boxes...

A Stark Reality: However, a bitter reality persists, as ordinary citizens continue to struggle with a lack of access to official drugs...

Alarming Resources: Despite the financial constraints, the provincial government allocated a substantial budget of Rs. 6 billion, along with more than 70 crore rupees for the purchase of medicines in Balochistan...

A Beacon of Change: Secretary of Health Balochistan, Asfandiyar Khan, deserves commendation for championing the initiative...

Urgent Call to Action: The crux of the matter is this: it is imperative that the government moves beyond rhetoric and takes concrete steps to ensure the implementation of these vital reforms...

Ziarat Juniper Forest in Peril: Ancient Trees Face Deforestation Threat

The Ziarat Juniper Forest, nestled in Pakistan's Balochistan territory, stands as a testament to nature's splendor and history's embrace...

A Global Ecological Gem: In recent years, the Ziarat Juniper Forest has garnered international recognition for its unique and vital ecosystem...

Alarming Trends: A Deforestation Study conducted by the Forest Department revealed a significant decline in the Juniperus tree population from 71,005 hectares in 1988 to 50,311 hectares in 2018...

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...

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...

Protecting Wildlife and Promoting Sustainable Tourism: 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...

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...

Health Implications During Severe Droughts: Past severe droughts in Balochistan, such as the one from 1997 to 2002, resulted in widespread health issues, including diseases like Congovirus, famine, TB, malaria, and hepatitis...

Impact on Agriculture: Impact on Agriculture and Water Resources: Climate change has negatively impacted agriculture, causing fruits and crops to suffer. Decreased rainfall and snowfall have led to a significant drop in the underground water level...

Migration and Economic Consequences: The scarcity of water and extreme heat have driven people to migrate to urban centers like Quetta in search of employment opportunities. Reduced agricultural income from fruit sales has further strained the region's economy...

Deforestation and Substandard Fuel: Primary Causes Experts attribute large-scale climate change in Balochistan to deforestation, especially the cutting of juniper forests in Ziarat, and the use of substandard fuel in winter...

Overexploitation of Tubewells and Falling Water Levels: Balochistan faces the challenge of over 1990 tubewells extracting large quantities of groundwater daily, leading to a steady decline in underground water levels, exacerbating the water crisis...

Global Climate Change and Balochistan's Rising Temperatures: Provincial Secretary of Environment and Climate Change, Niaz Ahmed, emphasizes that climate change is a global problem. Balochistan is experiencing rising temperatures, with Quetta reaching up to 41 degrees Celsius...

Multiple Factors and the Way Forward: Balochistan's climate crisis is a result of multiple factors, including infrastructure weaknesses, population growth, poverty, and political instability. Addressing these challenges and implementing effective climate change mitigation strategies are crucial for the region's future...

Conclusion: Balochistan's unique ecosystem and geographical characteristics have made it particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Deforestation, overexploitation of water resources, and rising temperatures are exacerbating the crisis...

Health Implications During Severe Droughts: Past severe droughts in Balochistan, such as the one from 1997 to 2002, resulted in widespread health issues, including diseases like Congovirus, famine, TB, malaria, and hepatitis...

Impact on Agriculture: Impact on Agriculture and Water Resources: Climate change has negatively impacted agriculture, causing fruits and crops to suffer. Decreased rainfall and snowfall have led to a significant drop in the underground water level...

Migration and Economic Consequences: The scarcity of water and extreme heat have driven people to migrate to urban centers like Quetta in search of employment opportunities. Reduced agricultural income from fruit sales has further strained the region's economy...

Deforestation and Substandard Fuel: Primary Causes Experts attribute large-scale climate change in Balochistan to deforestation, especially the cutting of juniper forests in Ziarat, and the use of substandard fuel in winter...

Overexploitation of Tubewells and Falling Water Levels: Balochistan faces the challenge of over 1990 tubewells extracting large quantities of groundwater daily, leading to a steady decline in underground water levels, exacerbating the water crisis...

Global Climate Change and Balochistan's Rising Temperatures: Provincial Secretary of Environment and Climate Change, Niaz Ahmed, emphasizes that climate change is a global problem. Balochistan is experiencing rising temperatures, with Quetta reaching up to 41 degrees Celsius...

Multiple Factors and the Way Forward: Balochistan's climate crisis is a result of multiple factors, including infrastructure weaknesses, population growth, poverty, and political instability. Addressing these challenges and implementing effective climate change mitigation strategies are crucial for the region's future...

Conclusion: Balochistan's unique ecosystem and geographical characteristics have made it particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Deforestation, overexploitation of water resources, and rising temperatures are exacerbating the crisis...

The worm turns

BY Muhammad Ali Siddiqi: The Palestinians cannot be called worms. They aren't oil-rich. They have proved repeatedly that they are made of sterner stuff...

Assuring Israel of US support was a useless retention, given the existence of what is known as the president's 'drawn down authority' under which the American leadership announced it was going to provide aid to an enemy country in a given country...

Translating this means that the world is quite literally turning into a hot and messy hellscapace and those who could stop it have utterly failed to do so. Considered against the backdrop of this situation, the entire series of COP summits seems a ridiculous waste of time. To the extent that countries are willing to commit to reducing emissions — in whatever way they promise — it is obviously too late and not enough.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Not only are temperatures rising, but the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also increasing. In 2019, the United States experienced a record number of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In Europe, there were record-breaking heatwaves and droughts. In Asia, there were record-breaking typhoons and floods.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Not only are temperatures rising, but the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also increasing. In 2019, the United States experienced a record number of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In Europe, there were record-breaking heatwaves and droughts. In Asia, there were record-breaking typhoons and floods.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Not only are temperatures rising, but the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also increasing. In 2019, the United States experienced a record number of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In Europe, there were record-breaking heatwaves and droughts. In Asia, there were record-breaking typhoons and floods.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Not only are temperatures rising, but the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also increasing. In 2019, the United States experienced a record number of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In Europe, there were record-breaking heatwaves and droughts. In Asia, there were record-breaking typhoons and floods.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Not only are temperatures rising, but the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also increasing. In 2019, the United States experienced a record number of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In Europe, there were record-breaking heatwaves and droughts. In Asia, there were record-breaking typhoons and floods.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Not only are temperatures rising, but the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also increasing. In 2019, the United States experienced a record number of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In Europe, there were record-breaking heatwaves and droughts. In Asia, there were record-breaking typhoons and floods.

The dispossessed

BY Mahir Ali: LAST Saturday, a majority of Australian voters decided to disallow the descendants of their continent's original inhabitants constitutional recognition via a 'voice to parliament'...

Opinion polls had predicted the result, though perhaps not the proportions of the defeat of a relatively straightforward proposition. It entailed the recognition of the historical status of indigenous Australians — whose ancestors had dwelt on the land for some 60,000 years before Europeans 'discovered' it and the British colonised it — and setting up a representative body to advise parliament and the executive government on matters affecting Aboriginal people.

Their disadvantages in metrics ranging from health and education to housing, life expectancy and juvenile incarceration rates are appalling, and usually recognised. What could be done about this remains controversial. Even this proposal for indigenous Australians having a say in relevant policymaking came from the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, based on extended community consultations, and was initially rejected by the broader political class.

When the Labor Party embraced it ahead of last year's election and then proposed a referendum after gaining power, the majority appeared to back the idea. But the support rapidly waned once the main opposition parties launched a campaign against the notion that embraced the rejectionism of the far right and unleashed a flood of misinformation, disinformation and abuse that reflected the Brexit and Trump phenomena. Inevitably, a lot of latent racist sentiment surfaced during a lopsided national debate in which much of the media knowledge unfolded in Gaza as textbook case of 'intent to commit genocide' and 'shameful use' of force.

The West's reaction to the Middle East explosion has unequalled support for the oppressor and despotic attempts — from Europe and the US to Australia — to shut down public and academic support for the oppressed. It's not just appropriate but essential to condemn the sultans, and was committed to Oct 7.

They were under way 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 heat is on

BY Rafia Zakaria: It was a hot one. In fact, climate scientists who study Earth's temperature have found that September 2023 was perhaps the hottest September ever recorded.

According to The Washington Post, the scientists' early analysis revealed that global temperatures 'surged' last month by over half a degree Celsius. While scientists have long known and forecast Earth's rising temperature, the fact that it rose so much in just one month suggests that most of us are already aware of that the various governments and transnational organisations pretending to be good as climate change will not be able to stop it.

Given this most recent report, the temperature rose from 1.7°C to 1.8°C warmer than it was prior to the Industrial Revolution. Copernicus — the European Union's Earth Observation Programme — is predicting that the average temperature this year will ultimately be 1.4°C warmer than before industrialisation, shattering records that are thousands of years old.

In addition to global warming by the rampant and unchecked use of fossil fuels, the El Niño weather system is also putting pressure on the planet. The Peruvian out that besides global warming induced by the greenhouse effect, El Niño is adding to the temperature increase.

It is difficult not to feel a sense of gloom. Forboding over this worsening state of affairs that has already unleashed catastrophic weather events all over the world. Pakistan is still reeling from the after-effects of the floods that devastated the country last year, while other states are dealing with hurricanes, storms, and avalanches.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

The worm turns

BY Muhammad Ali Siddiqi: The Palestinians cannot be called worms. They aren't oil-rich. They have proved repeatedly that they are made of sterner stuff...

Assuring Israel of US support was a useless retention, given the existence of what is known as the president's 'drawn down authority' under which the American leadership announced it was going to provide aid to an enemy country in a given country...

Translating this means that the world is quite literally turning into a hot and messy hellscapace and those who could stop it have utterly failed to do so. Considered against the backdrop of this situation, the entire series of COP summits seems a ridiculous waste of time. To the extent that countries are willing to commit to reducing emissions — in whatever way they promise — it is obviously too late and not enough.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Not only are temperatures rising, but the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also increasing. In 2019, the United States experienced a record number of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In Europe, there were record-breaking heatwaves and droughts. In Asia, there were record-breaking typhoons and floods.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Not only are temperatures rising, but the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are also increasing. In 2019, the United States experienced a record number of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. In Europe, there were record-breaking heatwaves and droughts. In Asia, there were record-breaking typhoons and floods.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperature, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent. One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara where the average temperature reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent in 2019. The average temperature in national cities increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have increased by 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Japan provides 5.3 million USD for Reconstruction of Educational Facilities in Flood-Affected Areas

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Government of Japan has agreed to provide new grant assistance worth 794 million Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 5.3 million USD/around 1,530 million PKR) for reconstructing educational facilities in flood-affected areas in Sindh. On October 18, 2023, a signing ceremony for the assistance was held at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad. H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. K. I N O S H I T A Yasumitsu, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and other officials from

both countries attended this ceremony. Since June 2022, heavy monsoon rains have intermittently caused flooding that has submerged one-third of the country, resulting in more than 1,700 deaths and 33 million people affected. Damage in Sindh province has been severe, accounting for 66% of the total damage in the education sector. As medium- and long-term measures, the rapid reconstruction of damaged educational facilities are important to ensure that children have safe learning opportunities. This is the fourth grant aid through which the Government of Japan supports the improvement of educational facilities in Sindh province. It has been reported that the school buildings assisted by Japan in the past projects suffered less damage and destruction from the rainfall and flooding in 2022 because they were designed and constructed based on analysis of the 2010 floods. The new project will also incorporate the concept of "Build Back Better" to reduce vulnerability of the target schools to future disasters and build resilience of communities where the schools are located. Mr. KINOSHITA, while speaking at the event said "we believe that the new grant aid project will build not only school buildings, but also it will build brighter and more resilient future for the next generation of Pakistan."



CHINA: Delegates exchange documents during a signing ceremony at the Belt and Road CEO Conference in Beijing, capital of China.

World reacts to brutal Gaza hospital bombing

ISLAMABAD (INP): World reacts to brutal Gaza hospital bombing Gaza after Israeli strikes in the deadliest attack since Israel initiated a bombing campaign in response to the October 7 Hamas cross-border attack, approximately 500 Palestinians were killed in a hospital blast in Gaza City on Tuesday. Israel's military denied responsibility, stating that military intelligence was misled. The hospital was hit by a failed rocket launch by the Palestinian Islamic militant group in the enclave. Following are the reactions to the assault from around the world. "Strongly condemn the Israeli attack on Al-Ahly Al-Mamadyani Hospital in Gaza, causing immense civilian casualties. Targeting a hospital, a sanctuary for those in need is an indefensible act of inhumanity. International humanitarian law give protection to hospitals and medical personnel. We demand an end to this indiscriminate targeting and urge the international community to act swiftly to stop the violence and hold those responsible accountable. In my interaction with UN Secretary Gen-

eral short while ago, I urged him that global community should ask Israel to stop killing innocent Palestinians." PML-N president, ex-PM Shehbaz Sharif said "Terrorist beyond words. Shell-shocked by the martyrdom of over five hundred innocent Palestinian lives, mostly women & the elderly in a barbaric Israeli attack on a hospital. The apartheid State of Israel is committing the worst kind of genocide of Palestinians without any regard for the international law. Those emboldening it to commit war crimes are equally culpable in this massacre. History will never forget them." "I am outraged and deeply saddened, women & the elderly in a barbaric Israeli attack on a hospital. The apartheid State of Israel is committing the worst kind of genocide of Palestinians without any regard for the international law. Those emboldening it to commit war crimes are equally culpable in this massacre. History will never forget them." "I am outraged and deeply saddened, women & the elderly in a barbaric Israeli attack on a hospital. The apartheid State of Israel is committing the worst kind of genocide of Palestinians without any regard for the international law. Those emboldening it to commit war crimes are equally culpable in this massacre. History will never forget them." "I am outraged and deeply saddened, women & the elderly in a barbaric Israeli attack on a hospital. The apartheid State of Israel is committing the worst kind of genocide of Palestinians without any regard for the international law. Those emboldening it to commit war crimes are equally culpable in this massacre. History will never forget them."



WASHINGTON DC: Ambassador Masood Khan witnessing ceremony of extension of agreement on Science and Technology cooperation between Pakistan and United States of America at Embassy of Pakistan Washington DC.

Text of Speech- President Xi Jinping at the Third BRI Forum for International Cooperation

BEIJING (INP): Respected Heads of State, Government Leaders, Heads of International Organizations, Representatives of Countries, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends, Today, we gather here for the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road International Cooperation Forum. On behalf of the Chinese government, the Chinese people, and personally, I extend a warm welcome to all our esteemed guests! This year marks the 10th anniversary of the proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative. The initial idea behind this initiative was to draw inspiration from the ancient Silk Road, focusing on connectivity. It involves strengthening policy coordination, improving infrastructure connectivity, promoting unimpeded trade, enhancing financial integration, and fostering people-to-people bonds. It aims to inject new impetus into global economic growth, create new space for global development, and establish a new platform for international economic cooperation. Over the past 10 years, we have remained true to our original aspiration and worked together to transform the Belt and Road interna-

tional cooperation from a concept to a vibrant reality, achieving fruitful results. The Belt and Road cooperation has extended from Asia and Europe to Africa and Latin America, with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations signing agreements to jointly build the Belt and Road. We have hosted three Belt and Road International Cooperation Forums and established over 20 multilateral cooperation platforms in various professional fields. Belt and Road cooperation has evolved from the planning stage to implementation, with a substantial number of landmark projects and "small but beautiful" initiatives taking root. Belt and Road cooperation has expanded from physical connectivity to soft connectivity. The principles of consultation, cooperation, and shared benefits, openness, green, and clean development, as well as high standards and sustainability, have become important guiding principles for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Over the past decade, we have been committed to building a global network of connectivity, with economic corridors as its backbone, comprised of

Biden's visit to Jordan cancelled after Israeli air attack on Gaza hospital

WASHINGTON (INP): US President Joe Biden's wartime trip to Israel and Jordan faltered before it got off the ground Tuesday after the Amman visit was cancelled following an Israeli air strike on a Gaza hospital that killed hundreds of people. The trip was always set to be the riskiest of Biden's presidency as he tried to juggle support for Israel after the October 7 Hamas attacks with efforts to prevent a humanitarian disaster in Gaza and to avert wider war. But his regional balancing act came undone Tuesday as the White House said Biden was due to meet the other leaders, while in Tehran hundreds rallied outside the French and British embassies. Lebanon's Iranian-backed Hezbollah called for a "day of rage" over the strike to coincide with Biden's arrival, fueling fears of the very escalation by Tehran and its allies that Biden's visit is supposed to warn against. The White House said Biden would stand in solidarity with Israel after Hamas burst through its heavily fortified Gaza border, shooting, stabbing and burning some of those killed and missing in the attacks, it said. Kirby insisted however that Biden would ask Netanyahu "tough questions" about his plans for the war. The NSC spokesman added that he was "pleased" that aid would start to stricken

Gaza. The Democratic president deliberated carefully before accepting the invitation to visit right-in-winger Netanyahu, who has ordered the preparations for what is expected to be a bloody ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza.



HYDERABAD : Workers of PPP candle light for the martyrs of Karsaz tragedy.

TENDER NOTICE

The Director General Levies invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-2241037391

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1.	Security Equipment, Ammunition, Protective Clothing & related items. (Total Items Count: 21)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 300,000,000 in Previous. Turn over of at least 400,000,000 PKR in 5 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List, Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required bidding document Fee the bidder / participating firm shall have authorization from Principal Manufacturer of security equipment within Pakistan for sale and supply of security equipment manufactured by principal manufacturer for Law enforcement agencies The security equipment, offered by the participating bidders/ firms, must have successfully passed rigorous testing and trials, demonstrating their suitability and reliability for military applications. These assessments encompassed comprehensive evaluations of various performance metrics, including durability, compatibility, and safety. The successful qualification of these security equipment for use of Law enforcement agencies to meet the stringent demands and operational requirements of armed forces, thereby ensuring their effectiveness and dependability in safeguarding national security and defense objectives of procuring agencies it shall be responsibility of the participating bidders/ to arrange all permits and licenses, including NOCs required for import of security equipment. Testing of all products shall be carried out by the technical committee in presence of authorised representative of participating firms to gauge whether offered item (s) meet laid down specifications Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, 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.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 06 November, 2023 till 04:30 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 05:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Directorate General, Balochistan Levies Force, Chaman Pathak, Joint Road, Quetta. Phone no: 0912021753 Fax no: 0816201356 Email: mbs@baloch.gov.pk

PRC No. 784/18/10/2023

DIRECTOR GENERAL BALOCHISTAN LEVIES FORCE QUETTA

www.bppra.gov.pk | @bprg | @bprg | @bprg

Palestinian singer Dalal Abu Amneh arrested by Israeli police over Gaza post

Jerusalem (INP): Palestinian singer Dalal Abu Amneh was arrested by Israeli police for "incitement" after posting on Facebook in support of Gaza.

The post featured a Palestinian flag with the caption: "There is no victor but God". It was published last Saturday by the artist's media team, according to her lawyer Abeer Bakr.

Bakr added that the artist "is still subject to investigation and at this moment no (official) decision has been taken to extend her detention". She stressed that "this is the intention of the police (to arrest her), even before they interrogate her", according to the Arab 48 newspaper. Israeli police arrived at the artist's house to arrest her after filing complaints against Israeli settlers for harassment.

Shai Glick, director of the Israeli right-wing activist group, demanded that the President of the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology), Uri Sivan, remove alleged supporters of Hamas, including Abu Amneh, from the institute. Abu Amneh is a research doctor in brain sciences and neurophysiology at the Technion, and has no links to the Islamist movement.

She has been praised for reviving traditional Palestinian heritage and folk music through her music videos that are currently produced by and aired on AlAraby 2 TV, a sister channel of The New Arab.

She is vocal in her support for Palestine, both through her songs and outside music. She boycotted Dubai's EXPO 2020 due to the UAE's recent normalisation with Is-

rael. Israeli police have launched a series of arrests within the Palestinian community, since the beginning of Gaza war. Most of these arrests are related social media posts. Job terminations, and threats of expulsion from universities have also been recorded among Palestinians in Israel due to posts condemning the attacks on Gaza.

Israel has launched a wave of arrests and raids in the occupied West Bank since 7 October, when 1,300 Israelis were killed by Hamas gunmen. Around 61 people have been killed and 700 detained in the West Bank, including 200 suspected members of Hamas. Israeli retaliatory strikes on Gaza have killed at least 2,800 Palestinians, including over a thousand children.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Oct 18, 2023 departed for Korea to represent Pakistan in Migrant Multicultural Festival to be held from Oct 20 to 22, 2023.

Chinese enterprise eyeing enhanced 'soft connectivity' with Pakistan and others

BEIJING (INP): "Having established cooperation with 157 countries in the world including Pakistan, we aim to take a step further to leverage our advantages in the whole infrastructure industrial chain and promote the 'soft connectivity' of rules and standards and people-to-people exchanges with the Belt and Road countries". This was stated by Wang Tongzhou, Chairman of China Communications Construction in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN) after the Belt and Road CEO Conference held here. Wang Tongzhou, Chairman of China Communications Construction in an interview with the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (Photo/China Economic Net) The construction company has undertaken a series of major infrastructure projects in Pakistan, including the KKH Phase-II, Gwadar Port, Eastern Express Way etc., upgrading facilities for Pakistani people and breaking local technical boundaries.

"As iron brothers, we have full confidence in our cooperation with Pakistan", Mr. Wang told CEN. For him, technology transfer is of critical importance in enhancing soft connectivity. "On one hand, frontier technologies such as IoT, big data, AI, etc. will be more widely employed. Through digital connectivity, more smart transportation projects will be built", he said. "In addition, green, low-carbon technologies are ex-

pected to be applied throughout the process of as many projects as possible to empower Belt and Road countries to achieve energy conservation and emission goals as the world is moving towards green, low-carbon, intelligent development", he added. By transferring technologies, standards are shared and chances for people-to-people connections are created. According to Mr. Wang, all of the six projects for which agreements have been signed at the Belt and Road CEO Conference put priority on people-to-people connectivity and green technologies. The Conference was the first official event of the ongoing Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Nearly 300 Chinese and international delegates signed agreements at the conference, involving 68 countries and covering projects in infrastructure, clean energy, artificial intelligence, financial services, modern agriculture, rail transit, etc. As of June 2023, China had signed 107 documents with standardization bodies in 65 countries and also with regional and international organizations, in areas covering civil aviation, climate change, agri-food, building materials, electric vehicles, oil and gas pipelines, logistics, small hydropower stations, oceanography, and surveying and mapping, according to a white paper on Belt and Road Initiative released last week.

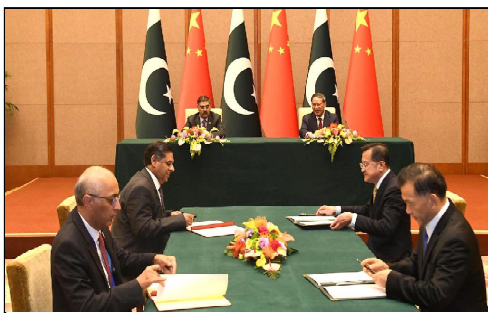
28mn children out of schools in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The count of children in Pakistan who are not enrolled in school has surged to 28 million, surpassing the highest percentage of out-of-school children globally, says a report on Wednesday. The caretaker Federal Education Minister - Madad Ali Sindhi - expressed his concerns in a letter to the Punjab Education Minister, revealing that about 28 million children are out of school in the country, which was 18.7 million back in 2021.

According to the previous estimation, the number of Out-of-School Children was 22 million, meanwhile, in 2021 the cabinet was told that the number of Out-of-School Children was 18.7 million, while every four out of one child was out of school at that time which now increased drastically.

The data disclosed that Pakistan has the highest percentage of Out-of-School Children in the world. The letter urged all provincial education ministers to share a concise working document that includes relevant statistics, administrative and financial obstacles, as well as strong recommendations for a lasting solution to the issue.

On the other hand, sources close to the development revealed that a total of 1.7 percent of the country's GDP is spent on education, however, for improvement in the education sector the government needs to reserve at least 4 percent share.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese Premier Li Qiang witnessing the signing of MoUs between China and Pakistan to enhance cooperation in diverse fields, Beijing on.

PM Kakar, Putin review bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors

BEIJING (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further expand and strengthen bilateral cooperation with Russia in the areas of trade and investment, energy, connectivity, defence, intelligence sharing and counterterrorism.

He expressed the commitment while talking to Russian President Vladimir Putin in Beijing on Wednesday on the sidelines of Belt and Road Forum.

Speaking on the occasion, he stressed the need for enhanced regional integration for economic development of the

entire region. He said both countries have convergence of interests especially on the issue of terrorism. He termed bilateral cooperation as vital for the establishment of economic cooperation between the two nations.

The Prime Minister said we will welcome Russian investment in the energy sector. In his remarks, the Russian President said stability is inevitable for ensuring economic progress. He said the potential of economic cooperation between both countries is much bigger. The Russian President vowed to take additional steps for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Highlighting the steps taken to ensure the food security in international level, he said that Russia has planned to provide cereals to the under-developed African countries. Both leaders discussed the prospects of enhancing Eurasian connectivity and Pakistan's pivotal role in regional integration through rail, road and energy corridors.

They also exchanged views on regional and global developments including the evolving situation in the Middle East. It is pertinent to mention that this year, Pakistan and Russia are commemorating the 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

Three robbers shot dead in encounter with Karachi police

KARACHI (INP): Three 'robbers' were killed allegedly in a police encounter in Karachi, police said on Wednesday.

According to SSP City Amjad Hayat, two police personnel of Eidgah police station were patrolling the area on a motorbike when they came face to face with three street criminals. "Police are trying to identify them," he said, and added, "The bodies have been shifted to Civil Hospital." On the other hand, the police arrested two 'most wanted' criminals in Gazi area of Karachi. According to SSP South Imran Qureshi, those arrested were wanted in different cases of street crimes.

Giving further details, the official said that three rounds were also recovered from the slain street criminals. "Police are trying to identify them," he said, and added, "The bodies have been shifted to Civil Hospital." On the other hand, the police arrested two 'most wanted' criminals in Gazi area of Karachi. According to SSP South Imran Qureshi, those arrested were wanted in different cases of street crimes.

sorted to firing at the police," SSP Qureshi said, adding, "The police retaliated. Residually one of the robbers was injured. A 30-bore pistol was also recovered from their possession."

The robbers were identified as Kashif alias Kashi and Faisal Qalandar s/o Qalandar Ali. In yet another police action, a man supplying 'Chalva', a banned item, to interior Sindh was arrested in the jurisdiction of Steel Town police station.

Police said a large quantity of 'Chalva' valued at Rs1 million was recovered from the man's possession. They further said that a case had been registered and investigation was underway.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai along with VCIT University Pro Dr Andul Hafeez addressing a press conference.

Pakistan disappointed over UNSC's failure to adopt Russia's draft for Gaza ceasefire

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan, which along with many Arab and OIC countries co-sponsored the Russian draft resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, expressed disappointment that the UN Security Council did not approve the balanced text.

The most urgent need at this stage is a ceasefire," Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN said.

It is, therefore, disappointing that the Russian draft resolution, which called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, was not adopted," he added.

The draft did not secure the required number of nine votes for adoption. The final vote tally was 5 in favour (China, Gabon, Mozambique, the Russian Federation and the United Arab Emirates), 4 against (France, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States), and 6 abstentions (Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, Ghana, Malta and Switzerland).

The Arab and OIC countries, which co-sponsored the Russian draft resolution, were:

Pakistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Lebanon, Yemen, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritania, Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea and Mali. Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, and Venezuela were also among the co-sponsors.

Diplomats noted that the State of Palestine also supported the Russian draft.

After Monday night's vote, Russia's UN Ambassador Vasily Nebenzia expressed regret over the Security Council's failure to adopt the resolution, blaming the "selfish intention of the Western bloc".

He said that the Western countries' delegations "basically stomped" on global hopes for the Council to put an end to violence.

Western countries opposed the resolution on the ground that it not mention Hamas, US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that her country could not support the Russian draft resolution as it ignored Hamas' terrorism and 'dishonoured' victims.

Special court allows PTI chief to talk to his sons on phone

ISLAMABAD (INP): A court established under the Official Secrets Act has ordered superintendent Adiala Jail to allow PTI chairman to talk to his sons on phone.

Special court judge Abul Hasnain Zulqarnain conducted hearing of the PTI chairman's plea seeking directions for superintendent to allow him to talk to his sons on phone. After the break as the proceedings started, Judge Abul Hasnain said according to SoPs the accused was not allowed to talk to someone on phone. He however said that the court would see the matter keeping in view the jail manual. Defence counsel Sheraz Ranjha said as per Official Secrets Act the accused was allowed to talk to his family over the phone.

The accused, under the Prisoners Rules could avail facility to meet his family in jail, he said. The other accused were also allowed to talk to avail facility of phone.

The judge asked the defence counsel to show the court permission for an accused to talk to his family members abroad. Upon that, Ranjha said Jail Manual did not allow accused to do so, but Federal Shariat Court (FSC) had issued a ruling in this regard. He also submitted the FSC ruling in the court.



ISLAMABAD: The notes of the project "The Programme for Reconstruction of Educational Facilities in Flood affected Areas in Sindh" were signed and exchanged by Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary EAD and IWADA Mitsuhiko, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan at EAD.