

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

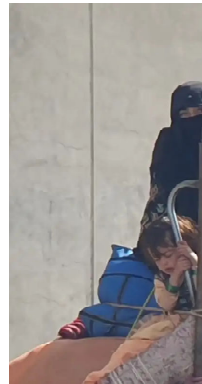
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dquettavoice@gmail.com

## Crackdown Launched, Over 500 Illegal Immigrants Detained in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province, the government has launched a major crackdown on illegal immigrants, resulting in the detention of more than 500 individuals following the November 1st deadline expiration.



Afghan nationals make up the majority of those detained, as confirmed by a senior police official speaking to Daily Quetta Voice on Wednesday night. He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media.

### Operation To Be Intensified: Jan Achakzai

The operation against illegal immigrants is set to intensify across the entire province, according to Caretaker Balochistan Information Minister Jan

Achakzai, who addressed the media at the Quetta Press Club. Commissioner Quetta Division,



Hamza Shafaqat, was also present during the announcement. Over 35,000 Repatriated at Pak Afghan Border Chaman

The Information Minister shared that approximately 35,000 Afghan refugees have already left for their home country via the Pak-Afghan border in Chaman. The Minister predicted that the number of illegal immigrants departing Pakistan would rise in the coming days due to the ongoing crackdown.

In response to inquiries, the Commissioner of Quetta Division reported that six holding sites have been established in Quetta to temporarily detain il-

legal immigrants. The primary goal is to facilitate their repatriation, ensuring a timely process.



### Crackdown Not Against Any Specific Ethnicity: Achakzai

However, Caretaker Minister Balochistan, Jan Achakzai, emphasized that the crackdown is comprehensive, targeting all illegal immigrants without bias towards any specific community.

Mr. Achakzai revealed that the crimes branch and special police units possess significant information about local individuals adding illegal immigrants.

Consequently, action will be taken against these facilitators who provide illegal shelter. The Minister also called upon political parties to refrain from politicizing the issue for their own gain.

## CM Visits Sandeman High School Quetta, Accountability Initiatives Unveiled

Education Desk:

QUETTA: In a significant visit to Sandeman High School, Quetta, Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki took a proactive step towards improving the educational landscape in the province.



During his visit, he inspected school classrooms, interacted with students, and received a comprehensive briefing from the school's Principal.

Dr. Naseer Shah, the Chief Minister's visit marked a pivotal moment for Sandeman High School, as it was announced that the school will implement the CGPA grading system starting in 2025, aiming to enhance the educational standards and evaluation processes.

### CM Impressed By School's Principal, Teachers

Impressed by the school's facilities, the Chief Minister personally inspected the computer lab and science lab, highlighting the school's commitment to providing a well-rounded education to its students.

Describing Sandeman High School as an exemplary government institution, the Caretaker Chief Minister emphasized the need for standardizing all government schools in a similar manner, ensuring quality education is accessible to students across the region.

### CM Directs Secretary Education To Visit Schools In Rural Areas

Furthermore, the Chief Minister is-



sued a directive for the Secretary of Education to conduct visits to government schools in rural areas, emphasizing the importance of maintaining consistent standards of education throughout the province.

He also emphasized the importance of teachers being present and fulfilling their duties in their assigned areas, urging action against those who are absent from their place of posting.

### Govt Committed To Enhance Education Quality

In a show of appreciation, the Caretaker Chief Minister commended the exemplary performance of the school's Principal, Dr. Naseer Shah, recognizing his dedication to improving the educational environment.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki's visit to Sandeman High School and his directives underline the government's commitment to enhancing the quality of education and ensuring accountability in the education system, setting a positive precedent for the province's future.

## Faizabad sit-in: CJP Isa asks if electoral watchdog is sincere with country

FAIZABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Wednesday asked if the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was sincere with the country as the Supreme Court took up a set of petitions against the Feb 6, 2019 judgement in the Faizabad drama case.

A three-member Supreme Court bench comprising the CJP, Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Athar Minallah heard challenges to the ruling pertaining to the Faizabad sit-in. Authored by Justice Isa years before he took oath as the chief justice, the scathing judgement had instructed the defence ministry and the Ir-services chiefs to penalise personnel under their command who were found to have violated their oath.

It had also directed the federal government to monitor those advocating hate, extremism and terrorism and prosecute them in accordance with the law.



### First ambulances carrying wounded foreigners from Gaza enter Egypt

GAZA: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned Israel's air strikes on the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, his spokesperson said, AFP reports.

"The secretary-general is appalled over the escalating violence in Gaza, including the killing of Palestinians, including women and children in Israeli airstrikes in residential areas of the densely populated Jabalia refugee camp," spokesman Stephane Dujarric has said.

### Palestinian death toll rises to 8,850 in Gaza, West Bank: foreign ministry

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that according to the health ministry, at least 8,850 Palestinians have been killed and over 24,000 injured in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank since Israel launched its bombardment of the besieged enclave on October 7.

### UN denounces 'latest atrocity' after strikes on Gaza refugee camp

The United Nations has decried strikes on Gaza's largest refugee camp that killed scores of people in attacks that Israel said targeted a Hamas commander. "This is just the latest atrocity to befall the people of Gaza where the fighting has entered an even more terrifying phase, with increasingly dreadful humanitarian consequences," Martin Griffiths,

the UN humanitarian chief, said in a statement. He said "the world seems unable, or unwilling, to act," adding that "this can-



### Jordan says will recall ambassador from Israel

Jordan has said it would "immediately" recall its ambassador to Israel in protest of Israel's bombardment of Gaza, triggered by a surprise attack by Hamas on October 7, AFP reports.

"Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi decided to immediately recall

Adverse observations were also made against several government departments for causing inconvenience to the public as the 20-day sit-in paralysed life in both Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Pleas were subsequently moved against the verdict by the Ministry of Defence, the Intelligence Bureau, the PTI, Pemra, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Rashid and Ijazul Haq.

However, most of the petitioners — including the government, IB, Pemra and PTI — withdrew their pleas, prompting the CJP to ask "why is everyone so afraid to speak the truth?" At the last hearing, the SC had sought fresh disclosures from anyone regarding the protest by a religious group that had brought the capital and the garrison city to a grinding halt for 20 days. Justice Isa had said anybody who was affected by the protest, could approach the apex court to submit affidavits revealing new information but in-

writing. In response, former Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) chairman Absar Alam submitted a statement in the SC a day earlier wherein he pointed fingers at a former head and officers of an intelligence agency for "manipulation" of TV news channels and explained the dire consequences of not acceding to their instructions.

He claimed that then ISI Director General Major General Fiaz and/or his subordinates controlled the policies of TV channels through unlawful means by changing their numbers and moving them to the tail end of cable networks if they refused to follow the instructions.

Today, the bench heard arguments from Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan, Absar Alam, the Election Commission of Pakistan and Pemra. In an order announced later in the day, the court dismissed review pleas filed by the IB, PTI, the defence ministry, MQM and Ijazul Haq on grounds. NEWS DESK

### Hamas chief accuses Israel of 'massacres' to cover its 'defeats'

The leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, has accused Israel of committing "massacres" in the Gaza war to cover its own "defeats", AFP reports.

Israel is "committing barbaric massacres against unarmed civilians," he said in a speech broadcast by Al Jazeera, adding that "its villainy will not save them from surrounding defeat".

### WHO says thousands in Gaza need medical help

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has welcomed the first evacuations of wounded patients out of the Gaza Strip, but stressed that thousands of injured civilians and people with chronic illnesses also needed treatment, AFP reports.

"The WHO welcomes Egypt's deci-

sion to accept 81 injured and sick people from the Gaza Strip for treatment," the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean regional branch said in a statement.

The WHO said Al-Arish Hospital, in the closest major city to the border, would be the main first referral hospital. "It has fully equipped resuscitation and intensive care facilities, and a range of surgical teams to manage severe injuries, including major trauma and burns," the organisation said. Onward referral arrangements to second-line hospitals in Egypt are also in place, it added.

Palestinian health ministry ambulances cross the gate to enter the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip before crossing into Egypt on November 1, 2023 — AFP

### Gaza's only cancer hospital goes out of service: health officials

The only cancer treatment hospital in the Gaza Strip has gone out of service after it ran out of fuel, health officials said, according to Reuters.

The director of the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital told a press conference after Al Jazeera TV that the hospital, which mainly treats cancer patients, had used up its fuel and was now out of service.

### WHO says thousands in Gaza need medical help

"We tell the world don't leave cancer patients to a certain death due to the hospital being out of service," the director, Subhi Skalk, added.





## Govt initiates nationwide operation to deport illegal foreign nationals

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has initiated a nationwide operation to deport illegal foreign nationals including Afghans after the expiry of the deadline.

The Interior Ministry, for the first time in country's history, has issued instructions to all provinces to deport illegal foreigners under the Foreign Act 1946. The caretaker government has warned of strict legal action if any Pakistani is found to be involved in harbouring illegal foreigners.

The repatriation plan will apply to all foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan. No country or nationality will be taken into account in the application of the plan. The security forces have com-

pleted the process of identifying illegal Afghans by mapping and geo-fencing. Identification process of 200,000 illegal foreigners residing in Sindh has been completed.

Of the 300,000 Afghans citizens residing illegally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, individuals who do not leave voluntarily will be shifted to detention centers.

In Punjab and Balochistan, operation has also been started to deport illegal Afghans and their data is being checked by scanning. Thousands of Afghans refugees and migrants in Pakistan rushed to the border to return home as deadline for undocumented immigrants, including Afghans, to return to their

countries on a voluntary basis expired on Tuesday. The government has said it would begin arresting undocumented Afghans and taking them to new holding centres from today (Wednesday), from where they will be processed and forcibly returned to Afghanistan.

More than 200,000 Afghan immigrants have voluntarily gone back to their countries from the Torikham border crossing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Chaman crossing in Balochistan provinces this month.

Thousands of Afghans refugees are waiting for their turn in vehicles, lorries, and trucks, and the number continues to grow. Pakistan has said

the deportations are to protect the "welfare and security" of the country, where anti-Afghan sentiment has been growing amid prolonged economic hardship and a rise in cross-border militancy.

The government says more than four million foreigners live in Pakistan, a vast majority of them Afghan nationals who sought refuge over the last four decades after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

More recently, after the Taliban regained power in 2021, Pakistani officials say between 600,000 to 800,000 Afghans migrated to Pakistan. The Pakistani government claims nearly 1.7 million of those Afghans are undocumented.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah Speaks during a press conference regarding upcoming Lok Mela at Lok Virsa.

## Saudi Arabia condemns Israeli strike on Gaza camp 'in strongest terms'

RIYADH (INP): Saudi Arabia on Wednesday roundly condemned a deadly Israeli bombing of Gaza's largest refugee camp that killed dozens of people -- including Israel says, a Hamas commander.

Israel said it had targeted a Hamas training complex under the densely populated Jabalia camp on Tuesday, killing local battal-

ion commander Ibrahim Bian, who it believes was involved in the militant group's October 7 attacks.

Witnessed said at

least 47 bodies being recovered from the scene. Saudi Arabia denounced the strike "in the strongest terms possible," decriing the "inhumane targeting" of the refugee camp "by the Israeli occupation forces".

The attack, Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry said had "caused the death and injury of a large number of innocent civilians". The statement in the latest sign the Israel-Hamas war has fractured efforts to normalise relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. Before the

Hamas attacks, the United States had been close to brokering a deal that would have seen Saudi Arabia -- home to Islam's holiest sites -- recognise Israel for the first time.

Supporters of the deal believe it could have transformed the Middle East, after decades in which Israel had very limited diplomatic, commercial and security ties with its neighbours.

In October, Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry, stoking anger across the Arab world, including in Saudi Arabia.

normalisation".

Saudi Arabia had previously warned Israel against any further ground operations in the Gaza Strip.

On October 7, Hamas launched a wave of cross-border raids into Israel killing an estimated 1,400 people, including many Israeli civilians.

Israel's retaliatory strikes have killed more than 8,500 people, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry, stoking anger across the Arab world, including in Saudi Arabia.

## Rs5 per liter hike announced in levy on high speed diesel

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ahead of the first round of review talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the caretaker government has increased the levy on high speed diesel (HSD) by Rs5,

thus depriving masses of much-needed relief on Wednesday.

Consequently, the levy which previously was Rs55 per litre has now risen to Rs60 per litre. On the other hand, petroleum levy

on each litre of petrol remains unchanged at Rs60.

Had the government not increased the levy, the HSD's price could have come down.

Denying relief to consumers, the caretaker government on Tuesday announced that the prices of petrol and diesel would remain unchanged for a fortnight. The prices of petrol and high speed diesel will remain at

Rs283.38 and Rs303.18 per liter, respectively.

However, the government slashed the prices of kerosene oil and light diesel.

The govt slashed the price of kerosene oil by Rs3.82 per litre and the new price of kerosene oil is fixed at Rs211.03 per litre.

Similarly, the price of light diesel was slashed by Rs3.40 per liter as the new price of light diesel was

fixed at Rs189.46 per liter. The finance division issued a notification of the new prices of petroleum products.

As per the notification, owing to the decreasing trend of petroleum prices in the international market and due to the appreciation of the Pak Rupee against the US dollar, the government decided to revise the existing consumer prices of petroleum products.



QUETTA: Afghan national gathering outside Afghan consulate.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak A.E. Al-Khatir, presenting his diplomatic credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Bolivia cuts ties with Israel over Gaza strikes

LA PAZ (INP): Bolivia on Tuesday said it was severing diplomatic ties with Israel over the "disproportionate" attacks in Gaza, as two other Latin American countries recalled their ambassadors over the mounting humanitarian crisis.

Bolivia "has decided to cut diplomatic relations with the State of Israel, in repudiation and condemnation of the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive being carried out in the Gaza Strip," deputy foreign minister Freddy Mamani told a press conference.

Minister of the Presidency Maria Nela Prada also announced the country was sending humanitarian aid to Gaza. "We demand an end to the attacks" in

the Gaza Strip "which have so far caused thousands of civilian deaths and the forced displacement of Palestinians," she said at the same press conference. The government of leftist Luis Arce is the first in Latin America to cut ties with Israel since the divisive conflict erupted with the Hamas attacks on October 7, which Israeli authorities say killed more than 1,400 people. Bolivia only announced it was restoring ties with Israel in 2019, a decade after they were cut over previous attacks on the Gaza Strip.

Hamas hailed Bolivia's decision on Tuesday, saying it "holds it in high esteem" while urging

Chile, which has the largest Palestinian population outside the Arab world, also said Tuesday it was recalling its ambassador to Israel in protest against Israel's "unacceptable violations of international humanitarian law." Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council, has urged a ceasefire. He said the "terrorist attack" by Palestinian militants against Israel did not justify killing "millions of innocents" in Gaza.

"Just because Hamas committed a terrorist attack against Israel doesn't mean Israel has to kill millions of innocents," he said in a live address on social media.

## SHC orders police to submit report on Mari Jalbani killings

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Wednesday ordered police to submit its progress report on Mari Jalbani village killings within two weeks.

The high court also summoned the case record, investigation officers, complainant of the case and heirs of the deceased.

The court also given time to the Rangers and the Sindh gov-

ernment to submit their reply about the killing incident.

The bench heard a petition seeking judicial inquiry and arrest of culprits of killings in Mari Jalbani village near Sakrand.

Four villagers were killed and scores of others including women were injured in the firing incident in Mari Jalbani village in Nawabshah district.

The petition, filed by Advocate Tahmasp

Rasheed Razvi, had pleaded to the court to appoint a high court judge to oversee the investigation, aiming to ensure transparency and impartiality in the proceedings.

Four men were shot dead and at least five others including women sustained injuries in a raid by the law enforcement agencies in Mari Jalbani village on September 28.



QUETTA: Vice-Chancellor BUTIMS Prof. Dr. Abdul Hafeez is addressing the introductory session organized for the New students of University.

## Karachi launches full-scale operation against illegal immigrants

KARACHI (INP): Karachi police have launched a full-scale operation against illegally staying foreigners in the city.

According to media reports, the operation began on the night of November 1 and is targeting a total of more than 165,000 illegal immigrants residing in the seven districts of the city.

Law enforcement agencies are prepared for resistance in the Superhighway, especially in Sohrab Goth and surrounding communities.

In the first phase of the operation, the police arrested 4 foreign (Afghan) residents. The arrested persons have been moved to a holding camp for foreigners in Sultanabad.

In the second phase, the police will arrest and deport illegal documents holders to 7 thousand 7 in District Central, South, 13 thousand 139 in District Malir and 8 thousand 946 in District Kemari. In Gulzar Hijri alone, 65 thousand 888 foreigners have settled by forming illegal societies.

Foreigners are working in different societies and neighborhoods including Gulshan Iqbal, Gulistan Johar, Scheme 33, collecting garbage from houses, driving Jamdari, Suzuki pickup, Shehzor and Mazda trucks.

In many areas, foreign residents are partners of junk shops, ovens, tea, etc. hotels, retail shops, small and large bags of cement and gravel, besides the construction works in

the New Vegetable Market, they also invest large capital and contributions in other

Foreigners who have settled for the past several years currently own bungalows worth crores of rupees in posh areas of Karachi, including Defence, Clifton, Gulshan Iqbal and Gulistan Johar.

They also own shops worth crores and billions of rupees in most markets across the city and carry on other businesses including smuggled clothes.

Police officials said that most of them are foreign nationals who have not only performed Hajj and Umrah on Pakistani passports but often go to many countries including Dubai for business purposes.

## Faizabad sit-in: SC rejects govt's fact-finding committee

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan rejected on Wednesday the government's fact-finding committee, formed to ensure compliance with the top court's verdict on the 2017 sit-in by the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) at Islamabad's Faizabad Wednesday.

A three-member bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Athar Minallah took up a set of review petitions against the apex court's Feb 6, 2019 judgement in Faizabad sit-in case.

The federal government constituted fact-finding committee on Friday to determine those responsible for the Faizabad sit-in. The top court in its detailed four-page written order invited all the concerned parties to clarify their positions in the Faizabad sit-in case.

At the outset of the hearing today, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan read out the order of the previous hearing.

"The apex court wants to know who was behind the

Faizabad sit-in," Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked, expressing annoyance over the decision not being implemented since its issuance on February 6, 2019.

He also ordered the Attorney-General for Pakistan, Mansoor Usman Awan, to form a new inquiry commission soon pertaining to the implementation of the apex court verdict in the Faizabad sit-in case.

Faiz Hamid pressurized PEMRA during Faizabad sit-in. Ex-chairman of the media regulatory body said that former ISI chief Faiz Hamid pressurized Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) during Faizabad sit-in.

As per details, former chairman of PEMRA, Ahsan Ali, submitted his statement to Supreme Court in Faizabad sit-in case.

Ahsan Alam stated that Ex-ISI chief General retired Faiz Hamid pressurized him to take action against senior journalist Naeem Siddiqui and the former US ambassador Husain Haqqani however his demands were not met. In his statement, the former

chairman of the media regulatory body said that a letter was also written to ex-prime minister and Chief Justice of Pakistan in April 2017 regarding the pressure on the TV channels by Faiz Hamid and officers working under his command. Ahsan Alam stated that he held a press conference to expose the threatening calls he was receiving and the harassment of PEMRA officials.

He added that one channel was banned for violating the PEMRA rules during the Faizabad sit-in but the ex-ISI chief demanded to ban more channels meanwhile on November 25, 2017, Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) Marriyum Aurangzeb asked the media regulatory body to ban all TV channels.

Back in November 08, 2017, Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) organized a sit-in at Faizabad interchange against the amendments in the Election Bill 2017, changing the word oath to declaration. The protesters demanded the resignation of Minister for Law and Justice Zahid Hamid to "protect the identity of the country".



SAUDI ARABIA: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchange views with Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahd Bin Abdullah al-Ghufaly at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters during an official visit to Saudi Arabia.

## Court directs authorities to implement smog emergency in Lahore

LAHORE (INP) In order to address the persisting issue of smog, the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday directed authorities to implement smog emergency in the provincial capital.

According to the details, the court directed the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to be involved in the smog emergency response.

The court has decided that Commissioner Lahore and other officials to personally visit schools and colleges to raise awareness among the students. Commission Lahore in the court claimed that the wide smog remediation operations are now underway. Authorities have started taking action against the smoke-emitting vehicles.

The Lahore High Court has taken a strong stance on factories emitting black smoke, declaring that such facilities should not be allowed on an immediate basis.

The court, in an effort to engage the community, has now instructed students from schools and colleges to actively report factories and vehicles that release black smoke in their localities.

Justice Shahid Karm, who presided over the case, expressed his dissatisfaction with the current smog situation, emphasizing that the government holds a substantial responsibility for the ongoing crisis. He pointed out the deteriorating state of the city and noted that in previous years, smog typically emerged toward the end of November and December. However, the onset of smog

as early as October this year has heightened concerns.

Earlier this, the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has said that the Punjab government of taking up the issue of the smog caused by the burning of crops with India at the diplomatic level.

PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar, who chaired the meeting of the Punjab cabinet, was told by Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi that the main reason for the spread of smog in Lahore was the burning of residues of crops in Indian Punjab, the state news agency reported.

The meeting was briefed about the steps taken by the caretaker Punjab government in health, communication, education, and other sectors.

## Thar Foundation reaches 850 Thari women for breast cancer awareness

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Thar Foundation, in its Breast Cancer Awareness sessions in October, reached out to and engaged around 850 women from the local community of Tharparkar.

Gwadar Pro quoting a statement from the Thar Foundation reported on Wednesday that thirty-five sessions were organised throughout the month to actively engage the women of Tharparkar in the comprehensive awareness program.

"The campaign's primary goal was to make a lasting impact on breast cancer awareness and prevention," reads the official statement. During the drives, doctors provided valuable insights on self-screening, emphasizing the importance of regular self-checks

to detect any changes promptly. In Pakistan, the annual reported cases of breast cancer surpass 83,000, leading to the loss of approximately 40,000 women each year due to this alarming health issue.

The rural areas of the country continue to grapple with a lack of awareness, resulting in numerous preventable deaths among women. Early detection and a comprehensive screening campaign, particularly in underserved regions, are imperative to bridge the gap in breast cancer awareness and prevention.

Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) and Engro Powergen Thar Limited (EPTL) through the Thar Foundation, are dedicated to enhancing the socio-

economic well-being of the Tharparkar community.

Their focus lies on sustainable interventions in health, safe drinking water, local women's empowerment, and livelihood, aimed at improving local living standards.

Due to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the people of Tharparkar have already started to reap the benefits of the Thar Coal project, and their standard of life has started improving.

With SECMC's initiated schemes, Tharparkar has started thriving on the socioeconomic front, attracting people from other areas to come for the large-scale potential livelihood opportunities offered by the area courtesy of Thar Coal.



QUETTA: PML-N leaders Ayaz Sadiq, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and Jamal Shah Kakar addressing a press conference.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Upholding interest rate in current economic situation disappointing: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Under the current economic circumstances, there was scope for reducing the interest rate, but it was maintained, which was disappointing.

This was stated by the Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain while talking to business community on Wednesday.

He said that along with the decrease in the value of the dollar in Pakistan, oil was becoming cheaper in the international market, but the price of petrol and high-speed diesel has not been reduced.

The business leader said that the price of kerosene and light diesel has been reduced slightly, and if the price of petrol and diesel was reduced, people would get some relief.

Due to the low price of oil in the international market, people expected a reduction in the price of petrol and diesel by almost Rs 18, but the prices were maintained, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that diesel plays a fundamental role in economic activities and the transportation of essential goods, so the reduction in its price leads to a reduction in inflation, which should be considered by the authorities.

The business leader said that the inflation in the country was increasing more than the estimates of the State Bank, which should be stopped.

The IMF had estimated inflation to be 25.9 percent during the current year, while the central bank had predicted inflation to be 20 to 22 percent during the current financial year, but this did not happen, and it reached 31.4 percent in September.

The State Bank believes that inflation will gradually come down, but how will this be possible after the 192% increase in gas prices? In the month of August, the value of the Pakistani rupee fell sharply, but after that, a crackdown was started on illegal currency trading, which started to restore its value, he observed.

He informed that Pakistan has to pay billions of dollars, for which huge investments are expected from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates under the SIFG, while other countries and international organizations are expected to provide aid and loans after the 2022 floods.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community is hopeful that the review of the IMF in November will be successful, as a result of which Pakistan will not only be able to get the installment of 710 million dollars of debt but also the rollover of old loans.

## GB offers thrilling weather, eye-catching scenes to national, int'l tourists: Asif Ullah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Secretary Tourism Gilgit-Baltistan Asif Ullah Khan has said that Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) offers mesmerizing weather with the eye-catching mountainous terrain of the valley to the national and international tourists.

Talking to PTV News on Wednesday, he said that GB was unique and diverse in terms of its landscapes and offers a variety of activities and attractions for tourists of all shades, adding, besides developing modern facilities for tourists, the government's policy in GB was also ensuring a sustainable

and eco-friendly atmosphere for foreign tourists.

Asif Ullah Khan highlighted that the Gilgit-Baltistan today was celebrating its 76th Independence Day with great fervor where people of this region had organized various processions, rallies, and special events.

"The government of GB is paying special attention to the development of the manufacturing and tourism sectors, as well as attracting more foreign and local investment, in order to revive the country's economic growth," he added.

The Secretary Tourism said that the government has also introduced a winter tourism policy to facilitate tourists in the province throughout the year. Tourists have not seen such hospitable people in any other region of tourist spots in the world, he mentioned.

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) was a very sparsely populated and high-mountain area in the north of Pakistan, he said, adding that its natural environment was usually described with superlatives: longest glaciers outside of the polar region.



ISLAMABAD: A high powered delegation led by the Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Paçacı called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindi at his office.

## Pakistan's economy starts showing positive indicators

ISLAMABAD (INP): The steps taken by the federal government to address the country's economic crisis have begun to yield positive results in the first quarter of the current financial year (July to September).

According to media reports, a significant reduction in the current account deficit has been reported. The current account deficit has been reduced by 30%, with 499 billion rupees distributed in agricultural loans. On a monthly basis, the growth rate was 8.4%.

Global prices of food grains, including dairy products and edible oil, decreased, while the prices of some commodities, including sugar and cereals, increased.

According to the report, the value of the dollar has increased by 77 rupees in a year, going from 220 to 279 rupees, while the policy rate has increased from 15% to a high level of 22%.

According to the Ministry of Finance, remittances decreased by 19.8% to 6.3 billion dollars during the three months, while exports decreased by 5% to 7 billion dollars. Foreign imports decreased by 23.8% to \$12.5 billion from July to September.

## Police recovers youth kidnapped from Lahore

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab police on Wednesday arrested two accused and recovered the student from Shekhpura who was abducted from Sattou Katla, Lahore.

On Tuesday, a CCTV video went viral on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, in which some armed individuals can be seen torturing and abducting a student, named Arham, in a car in front of his college in a broad daylight. In the CCTV footage of the incident, it can be seen that seven-year-old Arham was on a bike and talking to his friend when a motorcycle coming from behind hit him, after which the other accused tried to abduct the boy in a car.

On resitting, Arham was subjected to torture by the accused, dragged, and then threatened with a pistol on his neck, put him hostage, and fled.

The kidnapper's cousin revealed that his aunt was killed in 2017 by a man named Mustafa Khokhar. The police said that after eleven hours of the incident, Arham was rescued and handed over to his parents.