

QUETTA VOICE

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Khetran, Dumar, Luni, Lehri, Uthmankhail Likely To Join PML N

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: A significant development is underway in Balochistan's political landscape as a group of influential figures, including nearly a dozen electables from the former ruling Balochistan Awami Party

(BAP) and other political groups, are reportedly on the brink of joining the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the province. Former provincial ministers from BAP, such as Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran,

Noor Muhammad Dumar, Sardar Masood Luni, Toor Uthmankhail, and Dr. Rubaba Buledi, met with the former Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in Quetta on Thursday night.

General Elections On Feb 8, 2024 Across The Country

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has announced to hold the general elections on February 8, 2024 across the country.

The electoral body's counsel, Sajel Swati, said the process of drawing constituencies would be completed by Jan 29 paving the way for polls. He made this revelation as the apex court resumed hearing a set of petitions calling for holding elections within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly and the provincial legislatures.

A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah took up the pleas moved by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), the PTI, Munir Ahmad and Ibad-ur-Rehman.

He directed Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan to arrange the meeting, provide Ahi with the court order and be available to render assistance.

"We expect that the matter of appointing a date for holding general elections shall be settled, and this court will be informed tomorrow (Nov 3)," Justice Isa added.

The order was issued after a three-judge bench comprising the CJP, Jus-



ice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah heard a set of petitions calling for holding elections within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly and the provincial legislatures.

At the previous hearing, the court had issued notices to the election commission and the federal government for their input on polls within 90 days.

During today's hearing, Justice Isa sought a clear stance from the electoral body on polls to which the ECP lawyer said there was a 54-day schedule after the delimitation process.

"All arrangements including the drawing of constituencies will be completed by Jan 29," Sajel Swati said, adding that the final list of constituencies will be published on Dec 5.

CM Balochistan Directs Police To Ensure Respect Of Every Illegal Immigrant

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, paid a visit to the Data Command and Control Center in Quetta. This visit showcased his commitment to ensuring security and effective management in the region. During his visit, he was briefed about various measures being taken to maintain law and order, particularly in border areas.

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki expressed his satisfaction with the strategic efforts of the police in handling the process of returning illegal immigrants. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the well-being of women, children, and young people throughout the entire process and providing them with necessary support.

Computerized FIRA Vital Step

One notable highlight of the discussion was the role of technology in enhancing the province's crime prevention mechanisms. The implementation of a computerized FIRA (First Information Report) system, replacing the manual process, was discussed as a vital step towards delivering justice to victims more efficiently.

Finance minister briefs IMF mission on govt's measures to 'improve economic situation'

ISLAMABAD: The finance ministry said on Thursday that interim Finance Minister Shamsah Akhtar briefed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission visiting Pakistan on the steps being taken by the government to "improve the economic situation".

The IMF delegation is visiting Pakistan to review progress on targets set in a \$3 billion programme approved in July this year to bail out the struggling economy.

The IMF executive board had approved the much-needed nine-month standby arrangement (SBA) with Pakistan "to support its economic stabilisation programme". The approval had allowed for an immediate disbursement of \$1.2bn, with the rest to be phased over the programme's duration — subject to two quarterly reviews.

If the second quarterly review is successful, it will allow for the release of the second tranche worth \$710 million. A statement issued by the Ministry

plauded the commendable record-keeping system that ensures up-to-date information, contributing to effective law enforcement. He also took a moment to pay tribute to the brave martyrs of the Balochistan Police, who have tirelessly worked alongside other security forces to restore peace in the region.

Resources and equipment Be Provided To the Police

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki pledged to provide the necessary resources to modernize and equip the police with the tools and technology required to meet contemporary security challenges.

The dedication of the Balochistan Police and their sacrifices in the pursuit of peace were recognized and appreciated. The police personnel from Dua's Police Chalk and Choband squad saluted the Caretaker Chief Minister in a show of respect and appreciation.

Accompanying the Chief Minister during this visit was the Caretaker Interior Minister, Mir Zubair Khan Jamali, Additional Chief Secretary Interim Zahid Saleem, and other high-ranking officials, signifying the collective commitment to ensuring security and peace in the Balochistan region.

The finance minister briefed the IMF mission on the steps being taken by the government to improve the economic situation, including the implementation of the SBA and the release of the second tranche.

The minister also discussed the government's strategies to address the circular debt issue.



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Growers Block Highways in Balochistan Against Power Outages

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Growers blocked all main highways across Balochistan against unannounced and prolonged load shedding on Thursday morning.

The members of the Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee blocked highways and staged protest demonstrations against power outages.

"Growers have suffered huge financial losses because of power outages", Haji Abdul Rehman Buzai, the leader of the Zamindar Action Committee said. He said despite repeated assurances, the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) had failed to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the growers community in Balochistan.

Women, Children, Patients Suffered

Passengers traveling on highways remained the worst sufferers as a result of the blockade. Especially, women, children, patients, and aged passengers faced a lot of difficulties because of the blockade.

They were forced to wait for hours for the reopening of the highways.

The growers blocked highways at the main Kalak Pass, suspending traffic between Quetta and Karachi.

They also blocked the Quetta-Chaman highway at Syed Hameed Cross in the Killa Abdullah district to vent their anger against the QESCO authorities.

Growers Claim Power Outages Causing Financial Loss

Long queues of vehicles were witnessed on all highways because of the growers' community's protest.

However, no untoward incident was reported from any part of the province on the eve of the protest.

UN experts say time 'running out to prevent genocide' in Gaza

GAZA: French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu has said that Lebanon "doesn't need a war" with Israel and warned against a regional escalation, AFP reports.

Lebanon's southern border has seen near-daily exchanges of fire, mainly between Israel and Hamas ally Hezbollah, since October 7.

"Lebanon doesn't need a war, that's the least we can say," Lecornu said during a visit to French peacekeepers in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Such a war "could have major escalatory effects on the whole region," he added.

UK's responsibility to correct 'historic injustice' of Balfour Declaration: Palestinian ambassador

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said that Israel "must take concrete steps" to minimize harm to civilians in Gaza as he left on a "broad as-
sault" to the Middle East, AFP reports.

But in line with a subtle shift in tone by President Joe Biden, Blinken emphasised sorrow over the killings of Palestinians which have outraged much of the Arab world. Israel army hits



"We want the proper power supply to save our orchards and standing crops", Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani, another Zamindar Action Committee leader demanded. He said the growers' community had suffered financial losses of billions of rupees because of the prolonged and unannounced load shedding in Balochistan.

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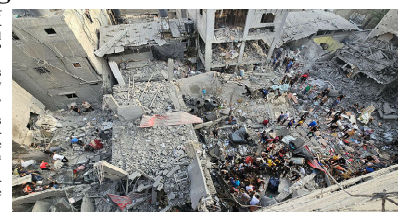
However, no untoward incident was reported from any part of the province on the eve of the protest.

Over Rs. 417 bs Outstanding Against Agri Consumers: QESCO

The QESCO officials however stated there were outstanding of Rs 417 billion against the growers across Balochistan.

They claimed that despite repeated notices, the agriculture consumers were reluctant to pay their bills.

The growers then reopened all highways in view of masses troubles on Thursday evening and the traffic was restored.



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Lebanon's Hezbollah with 'broad assault' The Israeli military said it targeted Lebanon's Hezbollah with a "broad as-
sault", as the militant group said it had attacked 19 Israeli positions simulta-
neously, AFP reports. Israeli warplanes and helicopters attacked in recent hours targets of the Hezbollah terror organisation in response to fire from Lebanese territory earlier today, together with attacks with artillery and tank fire.

Israeli military statement said, Gaza health ministry says 27 killed in Israel strike near UN school The Gaza health ministry has said at least 27 people were killed in an Israeli strike near a UN school in the Jabalia refugee camp, AFP reports. "The bodies of 27 martyrs were recovered and a large number of wounded," said ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra. NEWS
DESK

THE EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Lost potential: Exploring the plight of out of school children in Balochistan

Editorial:

Despite the allocation of more than 90 billion rupees for the education sector in the budget for the year 2023-24, still more than 2 million children are out of school in Balochistan. Much has been said and repeated promises have been made by successive governments, nevertheless, the number of out-of-school children has grown. The alarming rise of out-of-school children means the potential of a generation is lost and the future of out-of-school children is at stake.

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.

Balochistan's Silent Crisis

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. It has been evident that the law and order situation always overshadows the education issue.

Caretaker Education Minister Balochistan, Qadir Baksh Baloch revealed that there was no toilet facility in 5716 government-run schools of the province. Such data has been repeatedly shared by every new education minister.

Enough is enough, the rulers must go beyond statements and translate their words into action.

Breaking the chains of illiteracy

The literacy rate in Balochistan is 46 percent as per statistics obtained from the education department with 61 percent male and 29 percent female. If our government and policymakers are committed to breaking the chains of illiteracy, then, they have to make sure the enrollment of every child in school and every teacher in class. This strategy offers the most promising solution.

Children of Balochistan also deserve better and the government must launch a practical education emergency to enroll all out-of-school children in the province. Otherwise, the impact of out-of-school children is huge for the country and nation.

A grim future

By Tania Saade:

THE recent decision of

the interim government

to deport all 'illegal im-

migrants' from Pakistan

after Nov 1 has created a

humanitarian crisis for

refugees and asylum

seekers, in particular for

Afghan refugees.

Going by UN figures,

nearly 1.3 million Afghan

refugees with Proof of

Registration (PoR) cards,

and another 850,000 have the

legal right to remain in

Pakistan, while 1.73m, ac-

cording to the interim

minister, are 'unregist-

ered' and 'illegal' in the

country.

What the interim

government fails to ac-

knowledge is that this 'il-

legal' category includes

families who have ap-

plied for legal status,

those waiting for visas to

third countries, those

with expired PoR cards

but no recourse for re-

newal, and many 'were

children with 15pc four

years or younger. Sev-

enty-six per cent include

orphan children and

older individuals. Similar

concerns may also exist

among the 'illegal' Af-

ghan migrant population.

In my work as a soci-

ologist of education, I

have met refugee stu-

dents, their Afghan teach-

ers who despite innum-

erable difficulties are

committed to education.

In a recent interview

on a local TV channel, the

interim interior minister

spoke about the next

stages of refugee repa-

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phase, 'illegal immig-

rants' would be de-

ported, while the second

and third phases would

be for repatriation to

countries of origin and

for those who are not

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holders and PoR card

holders. This decision

has even greater impli-

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than four decades, with

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stan their home. They

have experienced xen-

ophobia and have been

scapegoated for terror-

ist attacks. They have

limited rights, but they

have also built commu-

nities and friendships.

According to UNHCR,

the UN refugee agency,

in 2022, "more than

half (52 per cent) of the

registered refugees in

Pakistan were children

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In a recent interview

on a local TV channel, the

Chandni Kakar:

Throughout history,

crisis situations, be it

war, natural disasters,

or extreme economic

downturns, inevitably

unmask the ugly face of

social inequality.

Among the different

types of inequality,

gender-based violence

(GBV), often considered

a shadow pandemic, re-

grettably seizes these

crisis situations as a

breeding ground, lever-

aging elements of fear

and uncertainty.

Strikingly, in the

windswept terraces of

Balochistan, a menacing

overlap of climate

change and GBV rises

like a monstrous specter,

particularly in the flood-

prone areas.

Catastrophic Climate Events and GBV- Mysterious Puppets on the Same Stage

Here's the curious

case: aggravated climate

change, leading to in-

creased flood events,

and a rising tide of GBV

are not isolated in-

stances of social trauma

but deeply intertwined

phenomena in

Balochistan.

Official reports

show a disturbing trend

of 157 cases of domestic

violence were reported

in Balochistan in 2022,

with 35 individuals being

killed on the pretext of

Karo Kari, half of whom

were women, and 40

women became victims

of sexual abuse.

Before this, in 2021,

the number of reported

cases of domestic

violence was 127, with 30

women being

victims of sexual

violence.

In 2021, according

to the Balochistan

Gender-Based-Violence

Case Management

System, close to 300

3726 cases of GBV were

reported.

The following year,

in 2022, this fig-

ure swelled to 4082, il-

lustrating a staggering

increase of nearly 9%.

Digging deeper re-

veals a chilling picture.

An upward trend

in extreme climate

events in the same

timeline correlates

with this rise, painting

a chilling picture.

This correlation

isn't incidental but

consequential, a

nexus amplified by the

continuous environ-

mental and socio-economic

fallout they induce.

Climate Change in Balochistan: More Than Just an Environmental-Tale from Naserabad

Consider the heart-

wrenching drama that

unfolded in Naserabad.

Amidst the devastating

floods, several women

and girls reported being

victims of horrific violence

when they went out

to collect clean water

or seek shelter.

A specific case that

sounds alarm bells was

that of a seventeen-year-

old girl, who, seeking

refuge during the floods,

was brutally assaulted.

The Future: Deciphering the Complex Jigsaw Puzzle

So, how do the con-

tinued coqs of climate

change and GBV work in

unison?

A deeper scrutiny sug-

gests, that with rising en-

vironmental instability,

women are forced into

vulnerable situations, esca-

lating GBV rates. Addition-

ally, the diversion of re-

sources and law enforce-

Pakistani education consultancy unlocks new opportunities to study in China

BEIJING (INP). In a bid to provide Pakistani students with enhanced educational opportunities, local education consultancy firms are actively working to unlock the doors for students to study in China.

With its rich cultural heritage, world-class universities and emerging global influence, China has become an attractive destination for Pakistani students seeking higher education options abroad. Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

Muhammad Sajjad, founder of Hussain Education Consultants Pvt Ltd, recently attended the highly anticipated 2023 China Annual Conference and Expo for International Cooperation held recently in Beijing.

This significant event, renowned for its emphasis on fostering global partnerships and knowledge exchange,

brought together 500 international influential figures from the education industry, government officials, and experts from around the world exchanged cutting-edge ideas, innovative ideas and latest practices on key issues of common concern to the world, such as international talent training, international mobility of students, and training of talents studying in China, etc.

With the aim of producing internationally qualified professionals to address the shortage of skilled experts in Pakistan, Mr Sajjad works with over 400 Chinese universities. He said that the conference and expo provided a platform for the engaged in meaningful discussions with Chinese and international education stakeholders.

"We had the chance to exchange ideas, ex-

ploring potential collaborations, and strengthen our ties with even more educational institutions in China," he added.

During his participation, Mr Sajjad shared his insights, focusing on promoting Chinese universities as an attractive destination for Pakistani students seeking higher education opportunities.

China's rapid economic growth and increasing global influence have led to the establishment of numerous scholarship programs and exchange initiatives specifically designed to attract international students.

Another key advantage of studying in China is the wide range of academic disciplines available, including computer science and social sciences, giving Pakistani students with

diverse options to pursue their desired career paths.

He highlighted that educational cooperation between China and Pakistan is of paramount importance as it facilitates cultural exchange, knowledge transfer and economic growth. Not only does this collaboration enrich students with diverse perspectives, it also enhances diplomatic ties and fosters international goodwill.

Hussain Education Consultants aims to discover and nurture talented individuals in Pakistan through their 1000 Scholarships programme, focusing on medical and engineering fields taught at the advanced level in Chinese universities.

"We want to work with more Chinese universities to offer a wider choice of subjects and make education more diverse."



QUETTA: PML-N Leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with EX Senator Haji Laskhari Resani addressing a press conference.

Israel's strikes on Jabalia refugee camp kill more than 195 people

GAZA (INP) More foreign nationals are preparing to leave the besieged Gaza Strip as the enclave's government said at least 195 Palestinians died in Israel's attacks on the Jabalia refugee camp.

Hamas media office said that at least 195 Palestinians were killed in the two Israeli attacks on Jabalia on Wednesday, with 120 still missing under the rubble. At least 777 more were wounded, it said in a statement.

"Given the high number of civilian casualties and the scale of destruction following Israeli strikes on Jabalia refugee camp, we have serious concerns that these are disproportionate attacks that could amount to war crimes," the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote on social media site X.

Passport holders from Australia, Austria,

Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, the United Kingdom and the United States were evacuated.

Gaza officials said the Rafah border crossing would reopen on Thursday so more foreigners could exit. A diplomatic source said some 7,500 foreign passport holders would leave Gaza over about two weeks.

Pressing an offensive against Hamas militants, Israel has bombed Gaza by land, sea and air in its campaign to wipe out the Iran-backed Islamist group after its cross-border rampage into southern Israel on Oct. 7.

Israel said Hamas gunmen killed 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and took more than 200 hostages.

The Gaza health ministry says at least 8,796 Palestinians in the

narrow coastal enclave, including 3,648 children, have been killed by Israeli strikes since Oct. 7. Explosions were heard in the early hours of Thursday as Israeli tanks and heavy artillery shelled al-Quds hospital in densely populated Gaza City, the Palestinian Red Crescent said. Israeli authorities had previously warned the hospital to evacuate immediately, which UN officials said was impossible without endangering patients.

The Israeli military announced the death of another soldier in Gaza fighting, bringing to 17 the number killed since ground operations were expanded on Friday.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was due to depart on Thursday for his second visit to Israel in less than a month. He plans to meet Israeli officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on

Friday to voice solidarity but also to reassert the need to minimize Palestinian civilian casualties, his spokesperson said.

Blinken will also stop in Jordan, one of a handful of Arab states to have normalised relations with Israel. On Wednesday Jordan withdrew its ambassador from Tel Aviv until Israel ends its assault on Gaza, Israel said it regretted Jordan's decision.

In Jordan, Blinken will underscore the importance of protecting civilian lives and reiterated a U.S. commitment to ensure Palestinians are not forcibly displaced from Gaza, a growing concern in Arab nations, the spokesman said.

Blinken will also pursue talks led by Egypt and Qatar on securing the release of all of the hostages held by Hamas.

BAP leaders, others from Balochistan likely to join PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP). Scores of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) leaders and some other distinguished Baloch leaders will likely to join the PML-N, sources said on Thursday.

Some leaders of the BAP had met former speaker and PML-N

leader Ayaz Sadiq in Quetta, sources said. "Balochistan leaders have put condition of the arrival of top PML-N leadership for their joining the party," sources said. Sources said that Ayaz Sadiq trying for a telephonic conversation with Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif or Marayam Nawaz to

Quetta. P M L N Balochistan's President Chaudhry Ghulam Mustafa Khan is expected to join the PML-N, sources said. The BAP leaders who called on Shehbaz Sharif included then provincial ministers, senators and MPAs.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in meeting with Mayor of the London Borough Of Hounslow Council Afzal Kiyani.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the 26th Convocation ceremony of the COMSATS University.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi shifted to hospital as health worsens

ISLAMABAD (INP). Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was shifted to hospital after his health deteriorated in Adiala jail on Thursday.

According to details, Qureshi's condition worsened in jail, after which the jail administration sought permission from Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain to transfer him to PIMS.

The jail adminis-

tration appealed to Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain that medical tests have to be conducted of Shah Mehmood Qureshi should be allowed to move to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) hospital following the advice of jail doctor.

Judge Abul Hasnat accepted the request and allowed the former foreign minister to be shifted to the hospital.

It is pertinent to note that Shah

Mehmood Qureshi is imprisoned in Adiala Jail after his arrest in cipher case. A special court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of cipher case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and Vice-Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi till November 7.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain heard the case in Adiala Jail under the Official Secrets Act 2023.

The first information report (FIR) was registered on August 15 under the Official Secrets Act. It was registered on the complaint of the Home Secretary.

Former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi were nominated in the report, while names of former principal secretary Azam Khan and former planning minister Asad Umar were also mentioned.

Govt playing key role to promote country's soft image effectively: Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (INP). Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah Thursday said that the interim government was playing a key role in promoting the country's soft image effectively at the international level and connecting people of various countries with their rich cultures.

"Pakistan nation is hospitable and has cultural values which we need to highlight to extend our possible support for the provinces

and international level," Jamal Shah said while talking to a private news channel. Pakistan has a rich and diverse cultural heritage which can be promoted to attract maximum tourists, he said, adding that there is a dire need for complete mapping and categorization of cultural sites including those of religious to ensure their preservation.

The Federal government is ready to extend all possible support for the provinces

on this matter, he said. He further explained that our regional languages, literature, culture and art defined the identity of a nation and the government had been in the state to attract more tourists, including improving the infrastructure and drama theatres.

He said the government has planned to spend all available resources to open new museums, restore archaeological sites and promote its rich culture for not only educating the fu-

ture generation but also promoting tourism at the global level. Replying to a question, he said we will increase our efforts to make and preserve the heritage sites in the state to attract more tourists, including improving the infrastructure and drama theatres.

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UN Security Council must act, fulfill its responsibility of upholding peace in Gaza: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP). Pakistan on Thursday stated that UN Security Council must act and fulfill its responsibility of upholding peace in Gaza.

Expressing concerns over the dire situation in Gaza, the Foreign Office (FO) protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian corridors for provision of uninterrupted essential supplies to the beleaguered people of Gaza.

"World body must call for lifting the siege, protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian corridors for provision of uninterrupted essential supplies to the beleaguered people of Gaza," she reiterated. Responding to a question, he stated that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will embark on an official visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan to participate in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit commencing on Wednesday next.

After her weekly news briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the Prime Minister's commitment to ECO vision 2025 and promotion of cooperation in the areas of trade, transport, connectivity, energy, tourism and economic growth and productivity. The Prime Minister will present Pakistan's vision for the future work of the organization and promo-

tion of regional connectivity and mutual prosperity.

The Prime Minister will also engage in bilateral discussions with the leadership of Uzbekistan and other participating leaders. Alluding to the 'saal-for-saal' repatriation plan, the foreign office spokesperson said this applies to all foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan irrespective of their nationality and country of origin.

She said this process will continue in an orderly and phased manner. She said this decision is in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws and compliant with applicable international norms and principles. She also clarified that it does not apply to individuals who enjoy refugee status. When asked about the death sentence awarded to the retired Indian Naval Officers by a court in Qatar, the spokesperson said this testifies the presence of India's network of espionage which has gone beyond South Asia.

She said this also shows India's reckless and irresponsible conduct in clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty.

She said it calls into question India's reliability as a credible partner. Referring to the arrest of an Indian naval officer in Balochistan, the spokesperson said Pakistan has remained a target of India's state sponsored terrorism, subversion and espionage for a long time.

As regards the situation in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and

Kashmir (IOJK), the spokesperson said Indian occupation forces continue to commit human rights violations in the month of October.

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Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat invites electronic bids as per Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) Rules, 2014 from well reputed and established Firms/Companies/Contractors having registration and active status of NTN and GST with Federal Board of Revenue for "PROCUREMENT OF UNIFORM/LIVERY ITEMS" entitled in bidding document on following terms & conditions: - 1. The bidder shall not be blacklisted by any of Provincial or Federal Government Department, Agency, Organization or Autonomous Body or Private Sector Organization anywhere in Pakistan. 2. Single stage two envelope bidding method shall be used as per Rule 41(1) of the BPPRA Rules, 2014. 3. Contract will be awarded on item-wise basis to the lowest evaluated bidder(s) as per the requirements of BPPRA Rules, 2014. 4. Detailed eligibility criteria can be viewed electronically on B-PBPA-e-procurement portal. 5. The bidders shall submit their bids electronically on or before Monday the 20th November, 2023 11:00 am through B-PBPA e-procurement portal after submitting tender fee of Rs. 1000/- in National Bank of Pakistan through Green Deposit Challan in favor of Secretary Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat, Quetta. (Head of Account CO-3870 and DDO Code QW-7022). 6. Bids will be electronically opened on Monday the 20th November, 2023 12:00 pm in the presence of the participating firm(s) or their authorizing representative in the Committee Room # 05 Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat. 7. Bidders shall quote their rates, inclusive of all applicable taxes, duties and other ancillary costs associated with supply of items. 8. The bids must accompany Bid Security of Rs. 300,000/- in the shape of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee issued from a scheduled bank in favor of Secretary Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat. 9. Bidder's Personal/Professional/Company Seal. 10. 01-4903010-Est.-308-375 Fax Number: 081-9202575 Email: bppsprocurement@yahoo.com

Procurement Cell Balochistan
Assembly Secretariat Zarghoon
Road Quetta

PRO No. 89/02-11/2023
GSM No. 89/02-11/2023

SCHOOL OF INFANTRY & TACTICS QUETTA CANTT

Following quotations are invited upto 18 Nov 2023 at 1000 hours out of Foreign Training Grants FY 2023/24 for officers Friendly Countries. Collect List of items from office. The bill will be liable to pay all taxes i.e GST, IT and DST:-

- Construction of indoor badminton court for officers friendly countries.
- Re-routing of loose wiring in lobbies and outer perimeter for officers friendly countries.
- Contact: 0345-5235788.

Negative impacts of climate change can be lessened via joint efforts: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said that negative impacts of the climate changes can be minimized through collective efforts.

While addressing the "Pre COP28, Paris to Dubai" seminar in Islamabad on Thursday, he said that the future of the coming generations must be secured.

International community needs to come forward for playing role in the countries adversely affected by climate change, he urged.

Murtaza Solangi said that the planet faced the dangers of climate change and the government, or any department alone could not solve this problem.

"We need a strategic vision to tackle the challenge of climate change," Murtaza Solangi maintained. The whole society has to realize about climate change issue, Murtaza Solangi said adding, "We are facing many social problems to deal with climate

change". Solangi said without bringing about change in society, the dangers of climate change could not be addressed.

Parents, teachers, film, television drama writers, poets, elders in the society must discuss the harms of climate change and there was a need to change the whole culture system.

He also said that media must play its role in highlighting climate change issue.

For combating climate change, everybody will have to actively participate in plantation campaigns as climate change was a threat to the human existence. The information minister said that Pakistan was one of the most affected countries by climate change although it had very small role in causing climate change. He said that the present generation had a responsibility to take urgent steps to protect the planet from the negative impacts of climate change for the sake of future generations.

"Do we want to be known

in human history as the generation that was so selfish and self-centered that we want to deplete and destroy planet earth and leave nothing for our future generations", he remarked. He said that protecting the planet for the negative effects of climate change was an existential question for humanity.

Stressing the need for media role in the creation of awareness among the masses over environmental issues, the minister said that Pakistan Television would establish a special desk for climate change with dedicated staff filing reports on environmental issues. He urged all media houses to come forward and play a proactive role in highlighting environmental issues on their screens and newspapers.

Murtaza Solangi said that the resolution of disputes between the countries of the world and peaceful coexistence was also vital as wars played havoc with the environment and pushed the entire region into chaos and destruction.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a meeting with Air Vice Marshal Zafar Aslam.

New York lawmaker set to arrive Pakistan on Saturday

ISLAMABAD (INP): A milestone in the US-Pakistan relationship is being set as Deputy Speaker of the State of New York Phil Ramos is scheduled to arrive Pakistan on Saturday.

It's history in the making as no US State lawmaker has ever embarked on a mission with such a vast agenda.

Why is Phil Ramos visiting Pakistan?

The primary focus of his visit is to explore the possibilities of declaring Sindh and Punjab as sister states of New York.

This relationship helps build collaboration between the two respective regions in various sectors including agriculture, education, health, trade, and culture.

Sources told INP that moreover, Ramos will try to facilitate Pakistani Americans getting medical insurance in Pakistan. Till now, they have to pay through their own pockets if they get medical treatment in Pakistan despite paying costly bills for health insurance in the US.

If the issue is resolved, both countries will equally reap the monetary benefits of this development. For the United States, it will lower the burden on already strained and un-

derstaffed hospitals. Moreover, American insurance companies will benefit by paying relatively less amount to their customers as medicines and treatment is relatively cost-effective in Pakistan.

For private Pakistani hospitals, it will be an additional source of income as Pakistani Americans prefer to go back to the US to avoid paying here unnecessarily when they already have spent on health insurance.

This step will be a blessing in disguise for old, retirees, and special people who want to stay longer with their families in Pakistan but can't afford their medical bills.

The idea of providing medical insurance in Pakistan was coined by Ramos as he hails from New York — home of almost a hundred thousand Pakistani Americans. Hence, in order to facilitate constituents, Ramos intends to take a step for the benefit of all Pakistani American families. Earlier, Ramos had discussed this idea in a Zoom meeting with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Ishag Dar, when he had the portfolio of federal minister.

Now, this visit will give Ramos a chance to

meet Senator Dar face-to-face and discuss some other initiatives as well.

However, on the first leg of his visit, the deputy speaker will meet Dr Gohar Ejaz, the caretaker minister of industries and production who happens to be a prominent entrepreneur, philanthropist, and leading industrialist of Pakistan as well.

This interaction falls in line with the main focus of his trip as Phil wants to enhance economic ties.

Dr Ejaz is looking forward to meeting and exploring ways to strengthen and improve economic relations.

Next, a meeting is planned at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry where Ramos will encourage small and medium business community leaders to directly engage with the traders in New York.

Ramos had earlier worked on this idea with Al Salvador — a country in Central America. And during his meetings with LCCL, KCCL, and FPCCI, he will talk about replicating the very idea in Pakistan.

During the day, Ramos is also expected to meet caretaker ministers to explore the idea of declaring Punjab and New York as sister

states.

To enter into a sister-state relationship, both regions must pass a number of laws and then table resolutions in the respective assemblies. Finally, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) is signed in this regard.

With the caretaker government in office, this interaction will be limited to exploring ways where both Punjab and New York can cooperate. A concrete step will only be taken once an elected government comes into power.

Ramos is visiting Pakistan at a time when the country has recently witnessed horrific mob violence against the Christian community in Jananwala, Punjab.

Back in August, the homes of one of the most peaceful communities in the country were looted and burnt. The churches and graves of Christians were desecrated. The incident shocked not only the Pakistanis but also the expatriates living across the globe.

American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), which is arranging this visit, has vowed to extend its hand of support to their Christian brothers. In this regard, Ramos will meet Bishop Indira Joseph Rehmat of Faisalabad.



QUETTA: PPP Balochistan President Mir Changaiz Khan Jamali addressing a press conference. INP PHOTO by Ahmed Bhatti



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Broadcasters' Association called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Health Minister inspects FGSH's expansion project

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Thursday inspected the Federal Government Services Hospital (FGSH) (Polyclinic hospital's) expansion project.

On the occasion, the minister was briefed by the concerned authorities about the project.

Dr. Nadeem Jan reviewed the construction work of Polyclinic G-11/3 expansion project-II. The expansion project consists of 300 beds. This project will be completed in three years. However, the minister directed to complete the project in two years.

He said that slowness and delay in construction work will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that such public welfare projects should be completed on time. The construction of the hospital will not only benefit the citizens of Islamabad and surrounding areas but also the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan will also be able to benefit.

The minister said that the hospital will provide facilities for diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, maternity care, allergies, bone and joint problems, chest and heart diseases, and skin issues. He said that we were making progress in the short-term mission of reforms. Progress in the health sector was not possible with-

out reforms, he added.

He pointed out that along with the growth of the population, diseases were also increasing, and resources were limited to tackle them. In this context, a revolutionary project has been initiated to reduce the burden on large hospitals, he added.

Dr Nadeem Jan said 460 primary health centres will be revamped across the country. The foundation of a robust healthcare system has been laid under the agenda of Global Health Security to prevent the spread of cross-border diseases. He said that the Pharma Pakistan project will enhance the provision of medicines permanently. He said a plan was in place to promote vaccine production in Pakistan. He said that merit and transparency were being promoted in the field of medical education and the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) was mandated to ensure this.

The minister said reforms were underway in the Pakistan Nursing Council. Strict actions were being taken to promote merit and transparency in the PMDC. An online system has been introduced to ensure transparency in PMDC, he added. He said that a mechanism has been established to monitor the functionality of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). He said that a mobile application has been

launched for the resolution of public complaints. A comprehensive plan has been devised to eliminate counterfeit and unregistered drugs, the minister said.

Dr Nadeem Jan informed that the National Health Task Force was fully active across the country. "Strengthening the Universal Health Coverage is my top agenda." In this context, the Health Card system has been expanded, he added. He mentioned that the pharmacy system in hospitals was being computerized. A specialized and general medicine department has been formed to control and prevent communicable and non-communicable diseases. He said that efforts were being made to strengthen the health system through the National Health Support Program.

The minister said a comprehensive plan has been formulated to prevent Hepatitis C. He said that for the betterment of the health sector, the Health Advisory Council has been established. "We are strengthening the Border Health Service to keep the public safe from diseases."

Dr Nadeem said that effective measures were being taken to uplift Pakistan's dignity in the field of health internationally. He said that projects have been initiated in a short period that will be remembered for centuries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan visited G-11/3, Islamabad and received a briefing regarding the construction of Poly Clinic hospital expansion project.

SHC dismisses plea against Murtaza Wahab's UC election

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Thursday heard a petition seeking restraining order against Mayor Murtaza Wahab's contesting elections from various UCs.

The high court directed the petitioner to take the matter to the election tribunal.

Acting Chief Justice Aqeel Abbasi also directed that the tribunal must look into the objections and decide the matter urgently. "Election is a key issue. These cases should be heard on daily basis," Justice Abbasi observed.

"The matters with regard to the legal law, should be heard on priority," court observed. "Unfortunately, election cases used to be heard for years until the time comes for next election," Justice Abbasi said.

"Even Supreme Court's instructions with regard to the local elections are not being followed," he said.

Jamaat Islami's lawyer earlier said that Murtaza Wahab contesting elections from irrelevant constituencies. "It is mandatory that the chairman candidate

belongs to the same UC. Murtaza Wahab has not been registered as voter in Ibrahim Hydri or Keamari UCs," JI lawyer Usman Farooq said.

"Mayor Karachi using government machinery for his election campaign," he further argued. Advocate General Sindh argued that the petition was non-maintainable as only a candidate could object over the matter.

The court dismissed the plea on the basis of petitioner's withdrawal of the case.

Pakistan People's Party's Murtaza Wahab has recently won a UC chairman seat to retain his position as Karachi Mayor. In the by-polls, Wahab was elected unopposed as the UC Ibrahim Hydri's chairman.

He is also contesting polls from Giza and Keamari areas.

The PPP leader had been directly nominated and elected as the Karachi Mayor by the majority of LG representatives in June. However, it was mandatory to win UC election within six months to retain his mayoral position in accordance with the amended Sindh LG Act.

6.1-magnitude quake hits Indonesia's Timor island: USGS

JAKARTA (INP): A 6.1-magnitude quake hit the eastern Indonesian island of Timor on Thursday, shaking the provincial capital and forcing residents to run outside, US seismologists said.

The quake struck at a depth of 36.1 kilometres (22.5 miles) on the west of Timor island near the city of Kupang, according to the US Geological Survey.

Indonesia's geophysics agency, or BMKG, said the quake had a higher magnitude of 6.6.

The tremor was strongly felt in Kupang on the island split between Indonesian territory in the west and the sovereign state of East Timor in the east, but no casualties were reported.

Debris had fallen from buildings in the city and some residents were forced to evacuate their homes.

"I was dizzy and at first I thought it was because I was running in the morning," said 40-year-old Kupang resident Yeri, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

"I was shocked to see several residents running out of their houses because the earthquake was so strong."