

QUETTA VOICE

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Tragic Loss of Young Doctor to Congo Virus in Quetta as Two Female Doctors Test Positive

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a devastating turn of events, a young doctor lost his life after contracting the deadly Congo virus in Quetta's civil hospital. This outbreak has affected a total of eight health professionals, comprising five doctors and three nurses.

Dr. Shakarullah Baloch Lost Life

The victim, Dr. Shakarullah Khan Baloch, a dedicated post-graduate doctor serving patients, succumbed to the virus while in the line of duty. Meanwhile, two more female doctors have also fallen prey to this deadly virus.

These healthcare heroes, all in serious condition, have been urgently transported to Karachi in an ambulance for specialized medical treatment.

2 Doctors Critical

The condition of the two infected doctors is reported to be critical. Their exposure to the virus occurred at the Trauma Center of Civil Hospital Quetta.

The Medical Superintendent of the Civil Hospital and the Chief of the Trauma Center have fervently requested patient attendants to refrain from visiting the Trauma Center to prevent further transmission of the virus.

In response to the crisis, Chief Minister Balochistan, Ali Mardan Domki, has issued directives to ensure the provision of the best available medical treatment for all infected doctors at the government's expense.

An Emergency Meeting Held

An emergency was declared in all



government-run hospitals of Balochistan to tackle the situation. Secretary of Health Balochistan.

Abdullah Khan chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements. All senior officers from the health management cadre participated in the meeting.

"The health department is prepared to tackle any emergency situation", Abdullah Khan told the meeting. He directed all health professionals to adopt maximum precautions to avoid the spread of the virus.

17 People Lost Lives This Year

Panic prevailed among all health professionals after a young doctor lost his life because of the Congo Virus.

Most of the health professionals took to social media networks and expressed serious concern over the spread of the virus.

As per the statistics shared by the Balochistan health department, so far 17 people have lost their lives as a result of the Congo Virus in the province this year.

Number of Congo Infected Doctors Surges To 16 in Quetta

Health Desk:

QUETTA: In a developing crisis, the number of Congo-infected patients in

government's lack of cooperation in providing essential health facilities, aggra-



Quetta has surged to 16, as confirmed by a spokesperson for the Young Doctors Association.

Dr. Arif on Sunday evening. A dedicated healthcare professional, Dr. Shakarullah Khan Baloch succumbed to the virus on Sunday morning.

The YDA activists were addressing a press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Sunday.

Ambulance Waited for Hours On Way To Karachi: YDA

However, the situation took a distressing turn when a convoy of 5 ambulances en route to Karachi from Quetta was unexpectedly halted at

Winder Coast Guard for three long hours, according to the Young Doctors' spokesperson.

Amid these challenges, Dr. Arif expressed deep concerns over the

Secretary Health Appreciates Doctors

Balochistan's Secretary of Health has lauded the successful efforts to prevent the spread of the Congo virus in the province, attributing this success to the dedicated work of various stakeholders, including the MSs of Treasury Care Hospitals, the Integrated Emergency Response Team, WHO, and the Department of Health.

Recognizing the unique and challenging conditions on the ground in Balochistan, the proactive measures have proven to be effective in keeping the Congo virus at bay. Thanks to the timely and coordinated response, the province has managed to control the spread of the virus, ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents.

Achakzai Calls for Round Table Conference to Address Current Crisis

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Chief of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has called for a round table conference to address the prevailing national crisis. Addressing a press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Sunday, Mr. Achakzai said a round table conference comprising all political parties, judges, intelligentsia, and people belonging to various walks of life to save the country should be convened.

Crackdown Against 'Afghan Refugees' Condemned

The PKMAP Chief condemned the ongoing crackdown against what he called Afghan refugees in the country. He claimed Afghan refugees were specifically the target of the recent crackdown across Pakistan.

"Afghan refugees should not be separated from the refugees of the globe", he mentioned. He urged the government to avoid any confrontation with Afghanistan and address the concerns about the ongoing crackdown against illegal immigrants.

Locals Pashtoons Also Arrested

Mr. Achakzai claimed that police had arrested indigenous people in Sindh and Punjab under the garb of Afghan refugees. Since they could not speak Urdu, police also picked them up, he lamented. Regarding the prevailing national



crisis, he suggested all stakeholders exercise restraint and patience and address all longstanding issues faced by the country.

Former Premier Nawaz Sharif Can Play A Due Role

Mehmood Khan Achakzai called for fair and transparent elections in the country to pave the way for a strong democracy. "Only supremacy of constitution and a strong democratic system guarantees the stability of the country," he re-

erated. The PKMAP Chairman stated former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has learned through a troubled political journey and he can play a due role to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions.

Mehmood Achakzai recalled that martial laws have inflicted heavy loss on the country and nation and that the country cannot afford further engineered and rigged elections. "We demand fair elections without fear and favor", he demanded.

Nawabzada Khalid Magsi Elected As President BAP

Manan Mandokhail:

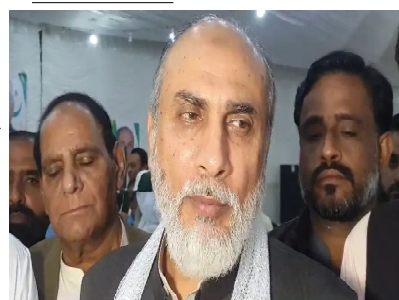
QUETTA: Nawabzada Khalid Magsi was elected as the central president of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) on Sunday evening.

Mr. Magsi was elected as the president of BAP during the central council session of the party in Quetta.

All central leaders including Senator Saeed Ahmed Hashmi, Sardar Saleh Bhootani, chairman senate Sadiq Sanjrani, speaker Balochistan Assembly,

Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali and others also participated in the session.

"This is a Balochistan based party", Mr. Magsi told



reporters after his election. He said Balochistan had no proper representation in the National Assembly.

JUI-F chief meets Hamas leaders in Qatar as latter call on Muslim world to 'unite against Israeli injustices'

QATAR: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday met the leadership of the Palestinian group

countries' were stained with the blood of innocent women and children. "Palestinians are not only fight-



Hamas in Qatar during which the latter said that it was the duty of the Muslim world to "unite against Israeli injustices" as Tel Aviv continues to bombard the Gaza Strip.

On October 7, Hamas had launched a surprise attack on Israel from Gaza and killed 1,400 people, according to officials, while also taking more than 200 hostages.

In retaliation, Israel launched a brutal air and ground assault on Gaza, which has since killed more than 9,700 people, including at least 4,800 children, according to the health ministry.

Since Israel began striking the Palestinian enclave, protests have taken place in Pakistan and across the world demanding a ceasefire and condemning Israeli atrocities against Palestinians.

A statement issued by the JUI-F on social media platform X said that the Maulana met Hamas leaders Khaled Meshaal, the group's former chief, and Ismail Haniyeh, its political head, in Qatar.

The statement quoted party spokesperson Aslam Ghauri as saying that Rehman had arrived in Qatar alongside a delegation on Saturday. During the meeting, there was a detailed exchange of views on the issue of Palestine, he said.

"Israel is attempting to change the status quo in Palestine through oppression and injustice, trying to alter the status of Al-Aqsa Mosque," the Maulana said. He stated that the hands of the "advocates of developed

ing for their land but also waging a battle for the freedom of Al-Aqsa, fulfilling the duty of the Muslim Ummah," he said.

"The time has come for the Muslim Ummah to stand shoulder to shoulder with Palestinian brothers in the field," he added.

On the occasion, Haniyeh said that it was the "duty of the Muslim Ummah to unite against Israeli injustices".

"Countries advocating for human rights are sailing ships filled with weapons to Tel Aviv," the JUI-F statement quoted him as saying. "The Muslim Ummah should be in the field to support their Palestinian brothers, helping their mothers, sisters, and brothers," he said.

Meshaal, meanwhile, was quoted as saying that the Kashmir and Palestine issues had long been "a litmus test for the advocated of human rights". Both the leaders were quoted as saying that the Maulana was "playing the role of Pakistan's ambassador to Palestine".

In a separate post on X, the Maulana said he expressed condolences and solidarity with the Hamas leadership, on behalf of Pakistan and the party, for the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza. He said that he assured them that "we stand by your side in every moral, political, and diplomatic field".

"Haniyeh and Meshaal conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the people of Pakistan and JUI workers for their full support to Palestinians," he said.

Inflation, debt and ML-1

Editor: Asim Khan

Floods expose construction quality of dams in Balochistan

Flash floods unleashed by torrential rains exposed the construction quality of dams across Balochistan. Heavy rainfall wreaked havoc in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan recently. Floods swept away dozens of small dams and check dams in different parts of the province. Over the years, the provincial and federal governments constructed hundreds of dams to check the wastage of rainy water. Successive governments merely celebrated the completion of projects rather than focusing on the construction quality of dams. Although, the dams and lakes constructed by British colonial rulers in different parts of Balochistan are still intact even after more than a century.

Breaching of dams not only failed to save rainy water rather it also put human lives at peril in Pishin, Barkhan, Lasbella, Kohlu, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah and other districts of the province. Rains-related incidents have claimed 65 lives so far this year. This is simply disastrous and a failure from all concerned quarters.

Flash floods also swept away poorly constructed roads and standing crops in various parts of the province. This all needs a thorough investigation. Irrigation Commission Works (C&W) departments are known for commission and corruption.

Commission, corruption common word in C&W and Irrigation departments. This is a good opportunity for those at the helm of affairs to make sure transparency in the utilization of funds by two departments. Since work commission is an open secret in the two departments, the Chief Secretary of Balochistan should form a high-powered committee comprising committed and honest retired and serving officers to probe into the breaching of dams.

The quality of construction of roads in Quetta and all districts of Balochistan should also be probed to improve socio-economic conditions. The irony with Balochistan is that first the province has mercurial resources and second they too are ruthlessly used/ swallowed. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo and his coalition partners must go beyond words and launch an inquiry into the breaching of dams and damage to roads.

Pressing on

By Muna Khan:

DON'T you get tired writing about the same thing, asked my friend ST, after she read through several of my old columns—her usual, not mine, we were reconnecting after a decade. "You're always writing about what's wrong with journalism but you're still in it. Maybe you need to move on," she said. "The news media is dead." I thought asking industry insiders to take remedial steps to fix broken parts of the news ecosystem was me sounding an alarm bell, not the death knell. ST explains me sounding the alarm bell, not the death knell. ST explains me sounding the alarm bell, not the death knell. ST explains me sounding the alarm bell, not the death knell. ST explains me sounding the alarm bell, not the death knell.

NDTV featuring well-reported stories that did not get coverage on other outlets, the documentary was sounding alarm bells on what is evident across Indian media now. News and analysis draped in hyper jingoistic, often inflammatory, language with anchors like Arnab Goswami ready to label any dissent as anti-India. Kumar is the direct opposite. He comes off as measured, despite the clear level of pressure he's under. Goswami is a staff member explaining why they have no choice but to resign or when he's answering abusive, threatening calls from audience members enraged by his programme, he remains calm. Goswami and his type—we have similar ones on our screens too—have shown that drinking the nationalism KoolAid brings in higher ratings. But it's for Kumar that I've followed that path and help NDTV out of its financial straits. Kumar has since migrated to YouTube where he has an impressive following of 7.6 million subscribers. It's ironic that he eventually got the "ratings" his British counterpart lost. In this case, credible journalism on TV is the loser, though I doubt Adani sees this way.

The caretaker government is hard at work on all matters economic. Its resuscitation efforts include reviving the Karachi to Peshawar railway line (ML-1), a project to be supplied and financed by China for \$6.7 billion that will cut travel time between these two cities to 18 hours. Assuming a three per cent interest rate, a 2pc insurance cost and a 20pc overhead period, annual payments come to \$530 million. The question our government must ask can we afford such an expenditure in foreign currency at this time? Should we not consider a cheaper solution of buying a new signalling system for \$150m that will increase average train speed and track capacity by 20pc?

A mistake our government has made over the years is to not determine the foreign currency or external viability of projects and policies. So, for instance, we build power plants or bridges with foreign loans, but without examining whether that particular project is feasible only in rupee terms or will also generate (directly or indirectly) enough foreign currency for us to be able to service the debt. Or when we enact a policy of, say, giving a tax exemption to a sector, we don't consider what effect that policy will have on foreign exchange. Our ignoring the external viability has meant that over the years we have proposed policies and projects that have resulted in external debt and liabilities of \$125bn with little to show for it in terms of foreign earnings.

For instance, the amnesty given to the real estate sector in 2020 allowed property tycoons to park their tax-evaded billions in real estate and construction. However, the government never undertook an analysis of what would happen to the current account deficit as money diverted to real estate and construction would result in more imports and hence a negative impact on exports. It also didn't consider the effect on tax revenues or the manufacturing sector which exports and pays higher taxes. Wanting to spur growth at any cost, the government took over imports to unsustainable levels by 2021. Also, consider, between 2013 and 2018, we doubled our electricity production capacity, did we study if those projects were externally viable given that an overwhelming proportion of our electricity is used in houses and little for industrial production? Or did we undertake policies that rendered them valueless? In fact, because of a fixed exchange rate policy in those years, our exports declined from 13.8pc of total national output to 8.9pc, our import bill shot up and today we are facing difficulty in paying for those imports.

Similar mistakes were made throughout our history where successive governments failed to consider the long-term implications of policies, and these ill-conceived policies have come back to haunt us. Today, our government is reeling under huge domestic and external debts. Since the passage of the seventh NFC Award, another ill-considered policy, the federal government's deficits have increased exponentially and this year rate forecasts by the federal government, after paying the provinces, will be less than the interest we have to pay on debt. We are therefore borrowing even to pay the interest.

Because of this adverse situation, our governments have to struggle to borrow dollars to service our foreign debt and the State Bank has to create new money, through buying of bank securities, to finance the insatiable debt-servicing appetite of the federal government. This policy has created a vicious cycle where the government is not able to do so in the short run—the government itself borrows, forcing the State Bank to print more money. The resulting increase in money supply causes more inflation.

The economy is in a Catch-22 situation where the State Bank's contractionary monetary policy is swamped by the federal government's expansionary fiscal policy, caused by its large budget deficit. Although there are no easy solutions, the best course for the caretakers in my view is to reduce Public Sector Development Programme and provincial Annual Development Programme spending on an emergency basis to reduce the aggregate federal and provincial deficit. Once the deficit is reduced, monetary policy will start to become more effective and inflation will come under control.

However, until we have consolidated our fiscal situation, we should pursue growth and investment decisions that result in exports. For now, we shouldn't pursue investment decisions that result in domestic consumers. Therefore, we should defer the ML-1 project for a few years until it would be like buying a corporate jet for the CEO of a deeply indebted, loss-making company. The jet may be convenient for corporate managers, but it's not a luxury the company can afford. Similarly, we can't afford the new railway line.

Two struggles

By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry:

THE year 1947 witnessed the emergence of two disputes—Palestine and Kashmir. Both remain unresolved. At the time of the Partition of India in 1947, the UN was the only international body that had the right to resolve the dispute. Both are disputes that have not been resolved. Both are disputes that have not been resolved. Both are disputes that have not been resolved.

As for Kashmir, the government has consistently refused to abide by the UN resolutions, and is not ready to accept a third party mediator to resolve the conflict bilaterally. The similarities between the two cases are striking because both disputes have territorial aspects and have involved the occupying powers. Both cases have territorial aspects and have involved the occupying powers.

The Indian government has embarked on a project of changing the occupied territory's demographics by pulling in non-Kashmiris from different parts of India and offering them domicile and voting rights. This has led to the displacement of many Kashmiris and has caused a humanitarian crisis. The Indian government has embarked on a project of changing the occupied territory's demographics by pulling in non-Kashmiris from different parts of India and offering them domicile and voting rights.

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Backdoor delimitation Mental health and justice

By Tahir Mehdi:

GENERAL election 2013 was held in constituencies demarcated in 2002. For the 2018 elections, boundaries were defined at least on the basis of Census 2017's provisional results. A new census in 2023, the ECP is again redrawing constituencies for the 2024 polls. So we will have three consecutive general elections held in three differently demarcated constituencies. This frequent moving of goal posts is problematic. Combine it with the delimitation methodology limiting constituency boundaries and it becomes a board game where a right move can checkmate your opponent way before Election Day. The move is to redraw the constituency boundaries in the creation of a new district.

Lasbela district, Balochistan, illustrates the problem. It has had two provincial seats since 1972 and one national shared at times with Awaran and other

By Ali Burhan Mustafa:

replacing their death sentences with life terms. It also spotlighted the increasing indispensability of mental health evaluations in the justice process. Justice Manzoor Malik's legal insights, combined with the expertise of Prof Mowadd Hussain Khan, addressed mental health in the growing confluence of law and psychiatry. The Safia Bano case marked a pivotal moment in Pakistan's forensic psychiatric history, serving as a testament to the groundwork for the future of forensic mental health services. Following this, the significant Inadad Ali case reinforced the Supreme Court's unwavering recognition of the importance of mental health and physical health in the legal domain. The court drew from an array of definitions and guidelines, highlighting the need for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to mental health issues within the legal domain.

contexts. Similarly, Mughal's macabre crimes, in-solving the calculated murders of 100 boys, underscored the pressing need for robust forensic psychiatric practices to navigate the intricacies of such brutalities. Additionally, Noor's tragic and brutal murder by Zahir Jaffer, which shockingly involved a "mansoonness of mind" from legal texts, promoting the use of more modern and empirical terminology, not recognising Israel, we have become a target of Jewish lobbies in the US. Another argument is that the Indo-Israeli nexus is working against the interests of Pakistan and Kashmiris. However, no government in Pakistan has accepted the call for recognition of Israel, and remains firmly committed to the two-state solution and the right of Palestinians to self-determination. There is, however, an expectation in Pakistan that our strong support for the Palestinian cause should be reciprocated by Arab support to the Kashmiris, because both are cases of the struggle for the right of self-determination and both are suffering brutalities and atrocities of occupying powers. As to how the future would unfold, it is self-evident that victims of oppression cannot be subjugated forever. In a world where there has been fought and several peace attempts made. Both peoples have shown resilience and perseverance to pursue their respective cause.

Pakistan gets golden chance promoting trade in Canton Fair

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan gets golden chance promoting its trade in Canton Fair, said Safdar Fayyaz, Chief Manager Exports, Piano Exports FZCO, Pakistan.

"Business is good this time. I'm here to find out more possibility of doing business with China as well as the whole world," he said while talking with China Economic Net.

He was in Guangzhou, China to attend the 134th China Import and Export Fair: The China Import and Export Fair - known as Canton Fair - kicked off on October 15 and entered its

third and final phase on October 31. The event, which ended on November 4, has attracted exhibitors and buyers from across the globe. It is Fayyaz's 2nd time attending the fair. This year he had dazzling stationery products with price & quality combination with him. He told CEN that they have some unique colored pencils from Pakistan that might interest international buyers.

According to the organizer, during the first two phases, a total of 157,200 overseas buyers attended the fair, representing an increase of 53.6 percent compared with the same period of last year. Among them, more than 100,000 buyers were from Belt and Road countries and regions, accounting for 64 percent of the total, witnessing an increase of 69.9 percent year-on-year.

The number of buyers from Europe and the United States saw an increase of 54.9 percent compared with the 133rd event. On top of increasing buyer traffic, the event attracted more exhibitors, too. Compared with the previous edition, the exhibition area for the

134th fair is expanded by 50,000 square meters and the number of exhibition booths also increased.

More than 28,000 exhibitors participated in the event, with 650 enterprises coming from 43 foreign countries and regions. Famous Pakistani textile brands including Gohar Textile Mills Pvt Ltd. and M.K. Sons (Pvt.) Ltd., and so on are here to fortify ties with business partners and tap into the Chinese market. Launched in 1957 and held twice yearly, the fair is considered a major gauge of China's foreign trade.



KARACHI: Activists of the Imamiya Students Organization hold a protest against Israeli aggression on Palestine.

Reliance on indirect taxes must be reduced for national development: Atif Ikram

LAHORE (INP): Presidential candidate of Federal of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram, Sheikh has said that reliance on indirect taxes should be reduced to push the country towards rapid development.

Dependence on direct taxes is necessary for national development, but progress towards this is very slow, he said in a statement issued on Sunday.

Atif Ikram, who has also served as NP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA, and President ICICI, said in a statement issued here today that reforms should be introduced in the tax administration to improve its

workings. Reliance on indirect taxes and withholding taxes are damaging; therefore, basic structural changes are needed for documenting the economy to increase revenue, he said.

The business leader stressed that the policy measures would expand the tax base, eliminate tax gaps, and enhance the efficiency of the tax system.

Many hurdles in tax collection can be overcome by employing technology, as is being practised in other countries where tax collection is satisfactory.

The use of information technology is necessary to maximize tax compliance, enforcement, tax base broadening, facilitation, and transparency, he said.

He noted that indirect taxes disproportionately impact vulnerable segments of the population. They take away a larger proportion of income from lower-income individuals compared to those with higher incomes.

Direct taxes contributed 37.2 percent of total FBR tax collection, while indirect tax contribution was 62.8 percent, and within total FBR collection, sales tax remained the top revenue-generating source with a 41.2 percent share, customs duty 16.4 percent, and FED 5.2 percent, respectively.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that a substantial

portion of the population is engaged in the informal economy, where incomes are irregular and often insufficient.

Indirect taxes, being consumption-based, affect these individuals more because their entire income is spent on necessities, and they may not have the financial buffer to absorb the impact of increased prices.

Indirect taxes can limit the capacity of the poor to save and invest in income-generating opportunities. With a significant portion of their income going towards indirect taxes and basic expenses, they have less room to save and invest in education, skills development, or small businesses.

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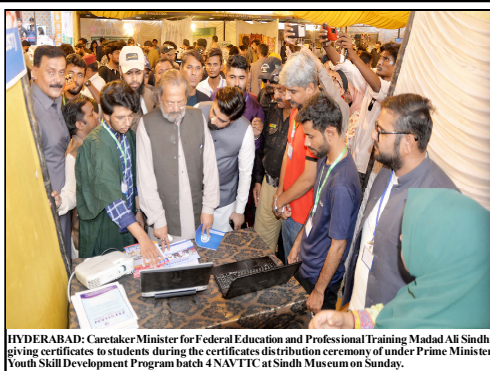
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HYDERABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi giving certificates to students during the certificates distribution ceremony under Prime Minister Youth Skill Development Program batch 4 NAVTTC at Sindh Museum on Sunday.

President directs SLICP to pay insurance claim to heirs of deceased policyholder

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday directed the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to pay death insurance claim worth Rs 300,000 along with a profit to the family members of a deceased policyholder, who were not being paid the claim for almost three years.

He further asked the SLICP to form a panel of doctors for devising a policy on pre-insurance tests of proposed policyholders.

Dr Arif Alvi issued the orders while rejecting a representation filed by SLICP against the order of the Waafaq Mohtasib, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The complainant Saad Tabher had alleged that his father had purchased a life

insurance policy from the agency in 2013 for the sum assured of Rs 300,000, with annual premium of Rs 18,406. His father died in 2020, and he filed the death insurance claim which was repudiated by SLICP on the ground that the deceased had a pre-insurance ailment of hepatitis-C, which he had deliberately hidden. Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Waafaq Mohtasib which asked SLICP to reconsider the matter and provide appropriate relief to the nominees of the deceased policyholder.

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KARACHI: A voter casting his vote in a polling station during the local Government by-election in the metropolis.

Thousands sleep under sky in Nepal after earthquake kills at least 157

KATHMANDU (INP): Thousands of villagers in the mountains of northwestern Nepal slept outdoors Saturday night in the bitter cold after an earthquake killed at least 157 people and damaged or destroyed most homes. Most of the houses in villages in Jajarkot district either collapsed or were severely damaged by the sudden earthquake Friday night, while the few concrete houses in towns were also damaged.

While rescuers were scrambling to rush aid operations were hampered by the fact that many of the mountainous regions could only be reached by foot. Roads were also blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake. Soldiers could be seen trying to clear the blocked roads. The government is trying to get aid to the affected areas, Deputy Prime Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha said on Saturday. Tents, food and medicine were flown

to set up shelter for the night, using plastic sheets and old clothes to keep them warm. Most people have been unable to retrieve their belongings from under the rubble.

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HYDERABAD: Members of the Pakhtoon Qabail Movement hold a rally against harassment from police in the shadow of Afghan Refugees, in Hyderabad.

Quetta on High Alert as 8 Cases of Congo Virus Emerge at Local Hospital

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a recent PCR testing initiative at Fatima Jinnah Hospital, Quetta, 8 cases of Congo Virus have been detected among the medical and non-medical staff.

This alarming discovery has prompted a thorough investigation by the Department of Health's Integrated Health Monitoring and Emergency Response Team to prevent the further spread of the disease.

5 Doctors Tested Positive For Congo Virus

Fatima Jinnah Hospital, Quetta, has taken swift action to address the situation by implementing stringent testing protocols.

All 18 medical staff and non-medical staff were screened for the presence of Congo Virus, with 5 doctors and 3 non-doctors testing positive for the disease.

This development has raised concerns within the healthcare community, as Congo Disease is a serious and potentially life-threatening illness.

It is essential to contain the outbreak to protect both the hospital staff and patients.

Congo Virus Sends Alarm Bells Among Health Professionals

As part of the hospital's proactive approach, all necessary ar-

rangements for testing and containment have been completed. The hospital staff is working



closely with health authorities to ensure a rapid and effective response.

The Department of Health's Integrated Health Monitoring and Emergency Response Team is leading the investigation into the outbreak.

Their expertise and experience in handling health emergencies will be crucial in understanding the source of the outbreak and devising a comprehensive plan to manage and prevent further spread.

It is essential to contain the outbreak to protect both the hospital staff and patients.

Public Urged To Stay Informed

The public is urged to stay informed about this situation and

follow recommended health guidelines to prevent the transmission of Congo Disease. As the



investigation continues, updates will be provided to keep the community well-informed and safe.

The outbreak of the virus prompted the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Ali Mardan Domki to take notice. On his instructions, the Secretary of Health Balochistan, Abdullah Khan paid a visit to the civil hospital Quetta and reviewed all necessary arrangements to battle the virus.

Mr Khan also inquired about the health condition of doctors and para-medics infected by the virus in the hospital.

It is essential to contain the outbreak to protect both the hospital staff and patients.

Secretary Health Abdullah Khan Visits Hospital

The public is urged to stay informed about this situation and

Dar's leading role in senate leaves PPP concerned

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has voiced its concern about Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Ishaq Dar's role as leader of the house in the Senate.

The party, according to a report on Sunday, sought clarification from the interim government regarding Dar's capacity in which he is functioning as the leader of the upper house, arguing that the said situation reflects an alliance between the PML-N and the caretaker set-up.

PPP Secretary-General Syed Naveed Hussain Bokhari questioned why the said independent senator was not appointed for the role by the interim administration to represent the leader of the house in the Sen-

ate, as is customary.

The Leader of the House in Senate is the representative of the prime minister in the upper house and he can hoist the flag on his car and his house and why the caretaker government did not appoint any independent senator to represent as the Leader of the House in the Senate," the senior politician asked.

The PPP veteran also pointed out the close association between caretaker Federal Minister Ahad Cheema, Fawad Hasan Fawad, and PML-N leaders including Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, as well as the Punjab governor's affiliation with the PML-N. He said that it is responsibility of the establishment, Election Commission of

Pakistan and the caretaker government to ensure free, fair and transparent elections.

"The Election Commission of Pakistan and the caretaker government have to prove their impartial attitude and conduct for holding free, fair and transparent elections," he said, adding that the political and economic stability is linked to free, fair and transparent elections.

The PPP's secretary general said the negotiations can be held with every party registered with the Election Commission, but the negotiations cannot be held with the enemies of the state. He said the PPP believed in the reconciliation and even made alliance with political opponents for the sake of Constitution and democracy.

Thousands march in Washington, London, Paris and Berlin for Palestinians

LONDON (INP): Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters rallied in London, Paris and Berlin on Saturday calling for a ceasefire in Gaza after Hamas took to the streets against the United States and Israel.

Amid ongoing bombardments by Israel after the deadly Hamas attack on its territory last month killed 1,400 people, the British capital saw a large turnout in support of Palestinians for the fourth consecutive week.

Israel's bombing campaign since the October attack by Hamas has killed nearly 9,500 people, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry in the Gaza Strip.

Police estimates that about 30,000 attended the rally in Trafalgar Square, central London.

They said it had arrested 11 people, including one for displaying a placard that could incite hatred. One group carried a bundle of fabric, representing a dead baby killed during the Israeli bombing campaign. Sama Dababneh, 26, a Jordanian business consultant said she was tired of all upsetting images from Gaza.

"We came here to support the ceasefire," she said. "We spend the whole week consu-

ing the news and this is very draining, so this is our only form of outlet."

Pro-Palestinian protests also took place in cities across the United Kingdom on Saturday, including in Sheffield, Manchester and Glasgow.

Thousands of protesters in the US capital Washington called for a ceasefire in Gaza, with some slamming President Joe Biden's support for Israel.

It was the largest protest in Washington since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas conflict on October 7.

"This is a massacre, a genocide... a stain on our history, and I cannot accept as a citizen that my taxes are funding this," said 24-year-old Amanda Eisenhart of Virginia.

French authorities said 19,000 people demonstrated in Paris, while the CGT communist-led trade union put the numbers at 60,000. "Free Palestine" placards proliferated in the French capital, where slogans were heard calling for a boycott of Israel along with shouts of "Israel terrorist state".

Legal assistant Leila Gharbi, aged 46, held a Palestinian flag and demanded "an immediate

Her 21-year-old student daughter Ines wanted "the barbary to stop".

Retired 75-year-old Algerian Keltoum Alouache said she turned out "for the children of Gaza and Palestine".

Around forty other demonstrations were called across France, with 5,000 people turning out in the city of Lyon, according to a police estimate.

Berlin and Duesseldorf also saw thousands march in solidarity with the Palestinians. "Stop genocide" and "Ceasefire" were emblazoned on placards and Palestinian flags were carried aloft.

German police estimated the crowd at 17,000 in Duesseldorf and 9,000 in the capital Berlin, where some 60 arrests were made including on suspicion of incitement to hatred. In Tehran, demonstrators gathered in front of the former US embassy chanting "Down with USA" and "Down with Israel". They set ablaze an effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as well as the US and Israel flags in front of flag-waving crowds. The demonstrations come on the Islamic republic's "day of the fight against global arrogance".



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Jan Achakzai speaks during a press conference along with Commissioner Hamza Shafaqat.



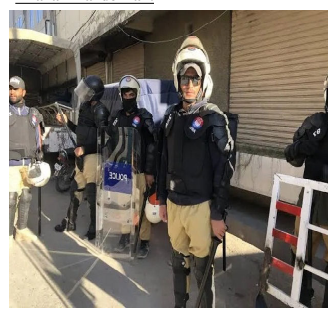
KARACHI: Commander Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem in a group photo with participants team of 4th FN International Nautical Competition (INC) at Naval Academy.

One Robber Killed, 2 Arrested in Injured Condition in Quetta: Police

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: At least one robber was killed and another two were injured during an exchange of fire with police in the Satellite Town area of the city on Saturday afternoon. Police sources said two robbers were arrested in injured condition.

The robbers were trying to loot a shop in the Satellite Town area of Quetta when the police party reached the spot. There was an intense exchange of fire between police and robbers. Subsequently, one robber was killed and



another two were injured and arrested, police said.

Senior police officials reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

Over 167,774 Afghans immigrants return home: officials

KHYBER (INP): Around 167,774 Afghan nationals illegally staying in Pakistan, have returned to home till now, Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees here said.

In last 24 hours 7,135 Afghan citizens returned to Afghanistan from Torkham border crossing, Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR), has said in a statement.

According to the CAR, NADRA officials collecting data of the people returning back to their country.

"Since October 1st, 167,774 Afghan citizens who were illegally staying in Pakistan, have returned to home till now, the Commissionerate has said.

On October 3, an apex committee of the National Ac-

tion Plan (NAP) meeting chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave all foreign nationals living illegally in the country until October 31 to leave voluntarily or face deportation.

After the expiry of the deadline, the caretaker government has swung into action against illegal immigrants.

Mostly Afghan nationals staying in Pakistan as undocumented illegal immigrants. Repatriation of the illegal Afghans through the Chaman and Torkham borders has been underway.

The FC and the Afghan government have agreed to keep the Torkham border till 11 at night to ensure smooth repatriation of the illegal Afghan immigrants.

Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti directed the authorities concerned to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the repatriation of foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan.

During a meeting, the caretaker interior minister vowed to tackle the illegal immigration issue and provide foolproof security to foreigners.

The minister said that maintaining law and order was the top priority of the government and that miscreant activities by any individual or group would not be tolerated.

He directed the authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the return of foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan.

PIAF chairman stress structural reforms for sustainable economic growth

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Faeheem Rehman Saigol has said the real answer to country's problems lies in the structural reforms, as there are a number of inefficiencies in tax collection, which must be removed.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he observed that the tax compliance should be improved and tax base should be enhanced, which cannot be achieved with a single policy change, but through a systemic approach.

Faeheem Rehman Saigol said that businesses are not only the backbone of the economy but also promote trust deficit between the government and the business community. He said that in the past instead of focusing on controlling under-invoicing, curbing smuggling and expanding the tax net, the government has been busy creating fictitious cases for recovery of outstanding dues to meet revenue target.

The PIAF Chairman also called for building a structure in the country, which is in accordance with the requirements of time, as it is easy to weaken institutions but it takes a long time to rebuild them.

Whatever appointments government makes to the heads of the institutions should be based on transparency and merit, he said.

He said that the economy has just come out of the dark shadows but it is still facing the aftershocks and the businessmen are doing their best to make up the losses incurred during that period, he said.

Faeheem Saigol said that only direct taxes can improve tax collection, as the existing tax system is heavily skewed toward indirect taxation. He said the registered businesses are required to comply with various departments involving a lot of financial and time resources, whereas unregistered businesses are free from all such hassles, he maintained. He also emphasized that structural reforms require registered taxpayers, who are already suffering due to a high rate of sales tax, income tax, and custom duties by creating fictitious cases for recovery of outstanding dues to meet revenue target.

The PIAF Chairman also called for building a structure in the country, which is in accordance with the requirements of time, as it is easy to weaken institutions but it takes a long time to rebuild them.

economic growth, recommending the government to raise exports to double digit of the GDP, as Pakistan's exports have declined back after witnessing a boom.

The PIAF chairman said that consistent borrowing by developing economies to shore up its reserves in desperate times is only to lead towards a debt trap. He said that borrowing from friendly countries should only be seen as a short-term solution to prevent reserves depletion and consequent further depreciation of the currency. He stressed that focus should be on promoting exports and restricting imports alongside making domestic industry more competitive and subsequently expand its export market.

He said that exports of goods and services are an injection into the circular flow of income leading to a rise in aggregate demand and an expansion of output, helping raise per capita incomes and reduce extreme poverty especially in developing economies like Pakistan. Faeheem Saigol observed that the donor agencies should be considered as a stop-gap arrangement, which may have forced excessive devaluation, steep monetary tightening, cut in development and defence expenditures. Loans simply serve to bridge the gap until the effects of the reforms take effect. He stressed the need for reform, with a keen focus on value-addition for a sustainable