

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

Tuesday November 07,2023

dquettavoice@gmail.com

## More Than 61,000 Afghan Refugees Repatriated Via Chaman Border

Sardar Muhammad Khondai:

QUETTA: The operation to repatriate foreign immigrants detained in Quetta continues, with the Chaman holding camp serving as a key center for deportation. Deputy Commissioner of Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas, reported that more than 61,000 Afghan citizens have been returned to their home country through the Pak-Afghan border.

This concerted effort aims to address the issue of illegal immigration, extending its reach throughout the province. The government has launched a countrywide crackdown against illegal immigrants from November 1st.

### Hundreds of Illegal Immigrants Arrested In Quetta

As part of this operation, authorities have arrested a significant number of illegal immigrants across various divisions of Quetta. Specifically, 620 individuals were detained in Quetta, 116 in the City Division, 62 in the Quaidabad Division, 323 in the Sadar Division, and 119 in the Sarayab Division. These individuals, who were foreign immigrants, were subsequently transferred to the Chaman holding camp for deportation to Afghanistan.



Deputy Commissioner Raja Athar Abbas emphasized that the Pak-Afghan border remains open for the deportation of foreigners until midnight each day.

### Chaman Holding Camp Serves Crucial Place

This ongoing operation seeks to address the issue of illegal immigration, ensuring the return of those who have been residing in Pakistan without the proper documentation.

The cooperation between the authorities and the Chaman holding camp serves as a crucial step towards managing this situation effectively.

## Congo Virus Outbreak in Quetta: Cases Surge Among Healthcare Workers

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: In a concerning development, the number of confirmed Congo virus cases among healthcare professionals in Quetta, Balochistan, is on the rise. Health department spokesperson, Dr. Waseem Baig, reported that two more doctors at the Civil Hospital Quetta have tested positive for the Congo virus, bringing the total number of affected doctors to 11. Additionally, a nurse, a paramedic, and a pharmacist have also succumbed to this deadly virus.

### Virus Originated From A Patient From Harnai District

According to Dr. Waseem Baig, preliminary evidence suggests that the virus originated from a patient from Harnai who was admitted to the Civil Hospital.

This alarming situation has prompted the authorities to take immediate action. A meeting, chaired by caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Ali Mardan Domki, was convened to address the Congo virus outbreak. In this meeting, health officials discussed the gravity of the situation and outlined measures to contain the virus's further spread.

### Heightened Vigilance In Hospitals

The surge in Congo virus cases among healthcare workers underscores the pressing need for stringent



safety measures and heightened vigilance in hospitals and medical facilities across the region.

Local authorities are working tirelessly to investigate the source of the virus, trace its transmission, and implement robust preventive measures to protect healthcare professionals and the public. Public awareness campaigns are being launched to educate residents about the virus and ways to minimize their risk of exposure.

### Increasing Number Of Cases A Stark Reminder About The Importance of Public Health

The increasing number of cases serves as a stark reminder of the importance of public health and safety, and it highlights the need for immediate intervention to control this outbreak. As the situation evolves, healthcare professionals, government authorities, and the public must remain vigilant and united in their efforts to combat the Congo virus and protect the health of the community.

## Death toll from Israeli strikes in Gaza surpasses 10,000

GAZA: It has been one month since the siege of Gaza began. The Palestinian death toll nears 10,000 with countless others injured. The world, however, is doing next to nothing. And by the world, we mean those in governments and those with public platforms. You may wonder why we're focusing on celebrities — people who are often there to entertain, not educate. Here's why — they are the original 'influencers'. And when millions of people across the globe are making themselves seen and heard, celebrities need to join them instead of avoiding the public eye. Celebrities have a great sway over public opinion. You may not always value their opinion or their words, but there are a lot of impressionable people around the world who look up to them enough to believe what they have to say and be influenced by it. At a time when a people are being massacred, for so many celebrities with such huge followings and public sway to be silent is criminal.

### Nurse describes how of Gaza ambulance convoy hit by Israeli strike

Palestinian nurse Abdelsalam Barakat has said that he was inside an ambulance trying to transport patients with skulland chest fractures out of north Gaza when explosions struck at various times, Reuters reports. "The ambulance was shaking so much," he said of the terrifying Israeli air strikes on Friday that hit around him and his charges from Al-Shifa Hospital. "I placed them between



life and death but we couldn't do anything about it." However, the Health Ministry, a hospital director, and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society all said the convoy of five ambulances was evacuating wounded to supposedly safer south Gaza prior to possibly crossing the border to Egypt. The first strike, at a roundabout a few minutes away from the hospital, injured a paramedic and a passenger in one of the ambulances, Barakat said. The second, near the hospital gate as the convoy was returning there having abandoned the attempt to drive south, hit an ambulance ahead of his, killing a paramedic and others nearby, he added.

### Tourism to Israel drops sharply in October amid conflict with Hamas

Israel's bombardment of Gaza has led to a steep decline in tourism to Israel in October, official data showed, Reuters reports. Nearly 99,000 visitors, most designated as tourists, came to Israel in October, versus 369,000 in October 2022 and 485,000 in pre-pandemic October 2019, the Central Bureau of Statistics said. Some 72.2 per cent of those who came last month arrived for the Jewish festival of Sukkot in the first week of October, which ended on October 7. NEWS DESK

## Healthcare Crisis in Balochistan Favors Karachi as Patient Destination

Syed Ali Shah:

Quetta: The recent exodus of Congo virus patients from Quetta to Karachi has unveiled the alarming



state of government-run hospitals in Balochistan. The tragic loss of Dr. Shakarullah Baloch, who succumbed to the deadly virus en route to Karachi, serves as a poignant reminder of the dire situation.

### 11 Doctors Tested Positive For Congo Virus

Most of the nearly dozen patients, including 11 doctors, have sought refuge in private hospitals in Karachi in their desperate fight for survival. This raises a crucial and deeply troubling question: when healthcare professionals themselves lack confidence and trust in Balochistan's healthcare system, how can we expect the general public to place their faith in it?

### Investigation Into Outbreak of Congo Virus Is Imperative

First and foremost, a comprehensive investigation into the outbreak of the Congo virus within the Civil Hospital's trauma center is imperative. It is vital to understand how and why approximately two dozen healthcare professionals fell victim to this deadly virus. We must examine whether standard operating procedures for treating Congo virus patients

were followed and determine whether the government has initiated an inquiry to address this critical matter.



Furthermore, the destination for Congo virus patients was intended to be the Fatima Jinnah Chest and TB Hospital, yet the patient was inexplicably admitted to the trauma center of the Civil Hospital. These discrepancies warrant a thorough review.

### Time Has Come For Complete Overhaul of Health Care System

It is disheartening that despite a substantial investment of over Rs. 50 billion in Balochistan's healthcare sector and a significant number of medical professionals, patients continue to be referred to Karachi for medical treatment.

This trend underscores a lack of trust in the healthcare system within the province, and corrective measures are urgently required.

The time has come for a comprehensive evaluation and overhaul of Balochistan's healthcare system to regain the trust of both healthcare professionals and the general public. Only by addressing these critical flaws can we hope to build a robust and dependable healthcare system that serves the needs of the people.

## Pakistan 'appalled' by Israeli minister's Gaza nuclear 'option' comment

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) said on Monday that Pakistan was "appalled" at the remarks made by an Israeli minister wherein he suggested dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza.



Israeli Heritage Minister Amichay Eliyahu, an ultra-nationalist politician part of Netanyahu's ruling coalition, had told Israel's Kol Barama radio that he was not entirely satisfied with the scale of Israel's retaliation in the Palestinian territory.

When the interviewer had asked whether the Israeli minister advocated dropping "some kind of atomic bomb" on the Gaza Strip "to kill everyone", Eliyahu had replied: "That's one option".

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office had said that Eliyahu was suspended from government meetings "until further notice". His office had described Eliyahu's remarks as "disconnected from reality" and added that Israel was trying to spare "non-combatants" in Gaza.

"Eliyahu's statements are not based in reality. Israel and the IDF (military) are operating in accordance with the high-

est standards of international law to avoid harming innocents. We will continue to do so until our victory."

Despite the immediate reprimand, the junior minister's inflammatory comments drew wide condemnation from within Israel and across the Middle East. In a post on social media platform X today, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said, "We are appalled by statement of an Israeli minister threatening nuclear force against Palestinians". She said the remarks reflected an "intention for ethnic cleansing and genocide". "This is a wake-up call for the international community to the threat posed by Israeli aggression to regional peace, security and stability," she said.

Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit had said Eliyahu's remarks revealed that "Israel possesses nuclear weapons, which is an open secret".

"But it confirms the truth of the racist view Israelis hold against Palestinians. This is the true face of the occupation government." NEWS DESK

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, however, 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 mentions. 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 panacea to this issue. The Chairman of Balochistan also needs to ensure 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.

Building bridges

By Neda Mujli:

ORAL storytelling is an ancient art form and has been a powerful tool in education since time immemorial. The first schools were built on the foundation of telling moral stories, thinking about life, and discussing problems of society. Later, as stories were transcribed, formal brick-and-mortar schools continued with this tradition. From Socrates to Aristotle, the art of storytelling led to intense discussions and deeper thought into life's existential problems.

Today, storytelling remains an indelible gateway to learning and can be used across all curriculum subjects. From sparking imagination and creativity to feisty discussions and critical thinking, storytelling can bring books to life, building bridges for key learning from textbooks. A story of volcanoes and their formation or the cause of earthquakes can help students retain important information in their minds as they tell their stories.

In math, many concepts become clearer if narrated as a story. In science it can be used alongside experiments to start with a prediction of what will happen, struc-

ture thought processes, and summarise the findings at the end. In social studies, stories about our nation's history and culture, its movers and shakers and its struggles can instill a spirit of patriotism.

It is a powerful teaching tool that helps develop verbal fluency, intonation and voice modulation. Besides, storytelling has a powerful role in teaching positive social values and breaking destructive norms such as gender biases and stereotypes. Stories of heroism have long captured audiences and inspired moral action. Themes in many textbooks teach social and ethical values which are more palatable for students when they are packaged as stories.

A book remains only a book until a great teacher uses storytelling skills to help students access learning. Digital storytelling is the most recent form of learning and is fast evolving into a massively popular form of learning. Stories across multi-media are so compelling that it is becoming increasingly hard to distinguish between the authentic and fake news. It is this very aspect of storytelling that can be leveraged in current pedagogy to package content in a compelling and accessible way for learners.

worth a thousand words" to validate her strategy. Books have many lovely pictures that can be used to get children talking and practicing those necessary language skills. As students build stories, they learn to use language through usage. Develop verbal fluency, intonation and voice modulation. Besides, storytelling has a powerful role in teaching positive social values and breaking destructive norms such as gender biases and stereotypes.

Stories of heroism have long captured audiences and inspired moral action. Themes in many textbooks teach social and ethical values which are more palatable for students when they are packaged as stories. A book remains only a book until a great teacher uses storytelling skills to help students access learning. Digital storytelling is the most recent form of learning and is fast evolving into a massively popular form of learning.

Stories across multi-media are so compelling that it is becoming increasingly hard to distinguish between the authentic and fake news. It is this very aspect of storytelling that can be leveraged in current pedagogy to package content in a compelling and accessible way for learners.

Balochistan in the Eye of Climate Change Storm: Calls for Resilient Climate Policies Surface

Chandni Kakar:

In the global battle against climate change, Balochistan, Pakistan, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for climate resilience. The province is experiencing increasingly severe weather events, a consequence of human-induced climate change. However, many residents mistake these extreme weather occurrences for regular fluctuations, hindering recognition of the escalating climate crisis.

Balochistan becoming unbearably hot

Balochistan is becoming unbearably hot, with rising temperatures transforming heatwaves into a year-round threat. These heatwaves pose severe health risks, including heat stress, dehydration, and even fatalities. In 2017, Turbat re-

corded a scorching 53.5°C (128.3°F), setting a record for Pakistan. Unfortunately, forecasts suggest that temperatures will continue to rise. However, the climate challenges in Balochistan extend beyond the relentless heat waves. The province grapples with devastating droughts and floods, both of which wreak havoc on homes and infrastructure.

The floods of 2010 and 2022 left nearly 4 million people displaced, disrupting lives and triggering food shortages and price spikes due to their impact on the agriculture sector.

The 2022 flood in Balochistan underscores the looming climate change threat

The 2022 flood underscored the looming threat of climate change

over Balochistan. Driven by intensified and increasingly frequent monsoon rains, the full extent of the damage is yet to be comprehended. However, it exposed the province's vulnerabilities and highlighted the urgent need for effective management strategies.

Balochistan's annual rainfall of just 200 mm rarely meets the needs of its parched population. This water scarcity adversely affects food production, access to drinking water, and livestock numbers, exacerbated by climate change. The severe droughts of 1997-2003 and 2014-2017 forced migrations to water-rich areas.

CC affects economy

Climate change also decimated the region's economy

through the loss of livestock. Between 2010 and 2022, over 1.5 million livestock were lost, costing over \$1 billion and displacing over 100,000 people, particularly in districts like Quetta, Pishin, Turbat, Pajpore, and Khuzdar.

However, Balochistan need not accept this grim fate. It requires comprehensive strategies tailored to its unique challenges. The provincial government must implement robust climate change policies, emphasizing water resource management and disaster preparedness. Learning from the tragic dam collapses of 2022, preventive measures, such as effective water reservoirs and early warning systems, are imperative. Spreading awareness about climate change and promoting sustainable agricultural practices are

Tree plantations could mitigate sweltering temperatures

In a province where tree planting could mitigate sweltering temperatures and climate change impacts, government initiatives should engage younger generations in green initiatives. Achieving a resilient future necessitates a collaborative effort involving government, local communities, civil society, and the commercial sector. Balochistan's path towards resilience begins with a symphony of collective action. By addressing these critical issues, Balochistan can better adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring a more secure and sustainable future for its residents.

Constitution or no Constitution?

By Anwar Mansoor Khan:

THE Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, makes Pakistan a democratic state. It is categorically provided in the Constitution, that "Wherein sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone and the authority which He has delegated to the State of Pakistan, through its people for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust."

It further provides, that the power and authority of the state shall be exercised through the chosen representatives of the people where "the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance, and social justice as enunciated by Islam shall be fully observed."

Pakistan has become a playground for the police and other law-enforcement agencies who act with impunity in violating the fundamental rights of the people as prescribed by the Constitution. Torturing citizens has become the order of the day and is accepted as an inevitable part by the law enforcement in Pakistan.

Unholy war

By Zarrar Khurro:

FOR the third time in the past three weeks, Benjamin Netanyahu — PM minister of a nuclear-armed nation supported and funded by all major Western capitals — has invoked the apocalyptic and used religious justifications for waging a genocidal war on Palestinians. While bombing hospitals, he spoke of the prophecy of Isaiah, which calls for the land to be cleansed of evil. While murdering children in their thousands he referred to the Biblical call to destroy the people of Amalek down to infants and household pets. Now he has invoked the name of Joshua, who destroyed the people of Canaan in near-genocidal campaigns.

All this has been dutifully ignored by the Western media, and think tanks and rights organisations in the West who never fail to lecture the Muslim world on extremism every time a mullah gives a controversial sermon. Does Netanyahu believe all

persons shall be taken except in accordance with law." An arrested person cannot be detained in circumstances despite serious ongoing security threats due to terrorism.

In April 2017, the Initial Report was taken up by the CAT. Pakistan was severely criticised for not proceeding in the manner as required under the convention, especially Article 1, which defines 'torture', and Article 4 which provides that the state shall ensure elimination of torture, and that offences under its criminal law shall be acted upon. The report further highlights the non-implementation of Article 4.

The report admitted the above facts, stating that all legal frameworks in Pakistan criminalise and prohibit torture committed by anyone whether at the public or private level.

The report categorically stated that the state does not allow or condone the use of torture as a tool of the state's law-enforcement

ing the review of Pakistan's human rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights required amendments to laws regarding the crime of torture, ill treatment, coerced confessions and the training of judges, prosecutors, police, the military and security forces.

Similarly, in 2018-2020, in the GSP-Plus reports from 2016-2019, the European Commission echoed concerns and reiterated the recommendations of the CAT committee, while in 2020 the European Commission categorically stated that Pakistan's legislation fell short of legally defining 'torture' and that the country had failed to criminalise torture as required by the CAT A draft Torture and Custodial Death Bill, 2019, was presented in the Senate, which remains pending.

The Constitution provides for the protection of law and the elimination of all forms of exploitation. No action detrimental to life, liberty, reputation or property of any person can be taken except in accordance with the law. Fundamental rights of persons provided in a final act as enshrined in Article 10A.

Unfortunately, the violation of the fundamental rights of citizens are ensured by the state, or the enforcers of the law. Where is the dignity of

man and the privacy of home, which is inviolable, and why is torture the norm for extracting evidence? Why is the freedom of movement or peaceful assembly being restricted? Is this subversion of the Constitution?

My question will always be this: Is it contrary to the Constitution when people are taken into custody without being given rights provided by the law when they are removed from sight and held against their will without their location being disclosed, without legal recourse, without being allowed legal representation, without being referred to a court of law and without being given access to family members?

The Constitution is a sacred document, which is why Article 6 has been provided, wherein any provision, abrogates or subverts or suspends or holds the document in abeyance by use or show of force, or by any other unconstitutional means, is guilty of high treason.

In the wake of the aforementioned provisions of the Constitution and international conventions, to leave to the people of Pakistan to determine for themselves, whether there is any violation of the Constitution and if so, whether it has been violated, subverted or held in abeyance.

War, hypocrisy and tragedy

By Malecha Lodhi:

HOW has the world responded to Israel's continuing war on Gaza and the humanitarian catastrophe there? Clearly, the UN Security Council failed in its duty to stop hostilities. This from a world body whose primary responsibility is to maintain international peace and security.

So far, Balofur was not just a question of creating an allied European colonial buttress in the Middle East, he also wanted to play a role in the fulfillment of prophecy.

That belief prevails today, and among the politically powerful, well-funded and religiously extremist evangelists of Eastern Christianity, it is what informs their support for Israel. It's not that they like Jews — quite the contrary. It is that they need Israel to play its role so that the Rapture can take place, after which all who do not believe as they do — Jews included — will either be converted or killed.

resolution has moral and political weight and aimed to mount diplomatic pressure on Israel and its backers, it is non-binding. Therefore, it could do nothing to end Israel's war on Gaza.

These developments demonstrated America's increasing diplomatic isolation as several of its Western allies have joined the international community to back an immediate ceasefire. While some European countries shifted their position to voice concern for the humanitarian crisis and the lives of Palestinian civilians, Washington refused to ask Israel to cease its bombardments or lift the curfew in Gaza, showing indifference to the devastating humanitarian consequences of Israeli action.

The Security Council's inaction led to an emergency session of the General Assembly, which approved a resolution calling for a ceasefire. Only the US and a handful of countries voted 'no'. While this

characterised Russia's "attacks on civilian infrastructure" that aimed to deprive people of water and electricity as "acts of aggression." But neither the nor any Western leader chose to describe Israel's action of cutting off electricity, water, food and fuel supplies to Gaza in a similar way. Nor did Israel's use of white phosphorus in indiscriminate artillery attacks.

President Joe Biden even questioned Palestinian casualty figures when he said he had "no confidence in the numbers the Palestinians are using." When Washington began to voice concern for civilian deaths it was too little, too late especially as it continued to endorse a ceasefire.

These developments had bare the US-led West's hypocrisy. While Western leaders denounced Russian military actions and targeting of civilians in Ukraine, they refused to apply the same principle to Gaza. The EU Council's display of double standards was not new.



## Pakistani handicrafts debut at China International Import Expo

SHANGHAI (INP) Pakistani exhibitors present new handicrafts at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) taking place in Shanghai from Nov. 5 to 10, set to attract and amaze strings of visitors from China and other parts of the world.

Camel skin lamps, made from the skin of sacrificial camels from Eid ul Adha and Eid ul Fitr, shine at CIIE with their attracting luster, exquisite patterns, and rich cultural connotations, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

With a history of 900 years and having been recognized by 25 countries, this intangible art and craft of Pakistan is sold at a lucrative price of RMB 50-200 at CIIE. Habib Ur Rehman, an exhibitor at the booth, told CEN reporter this was his second time at this grand expo. "Last time in 2021, our Himalaya Salt Lamps were warmly received by Chinese consumers, which made us realize the huge potential of Pakistani handicrafts in the Chinese market", Habib said. Around the world, camel skin lamp only exists in Pakistan. "There is a group of only 30 to 60 people who are making this in Pakistan", Habib told CEN reporter, adding, "normally it takes about ten days to make such a lamp from the very first process of cleaning the skin, drying the skin, modeling till the painting of the patterns on the lamp". "If we don't utilize the skin of sacrificial camels, they will also be used for other purposes, like for storage, or become waste", Habib explained. "I hope by introducing these lamps to more people, we can support Pakistan's home cottage industry and encourage more and more young people to enter this industry", Habib said. It is learned that the 6th China International Import Expo has attracted over 20 Pakistani enterprises to showcase their products in one of the most bustling markets in the world, ranging from food, carpet and clothes, jade and jewelry, stone and bronze handiwork, football, wooden furniture, etc.



RAWALPINDI: Nicolas Gales, Ambassador of France called on Minister for Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Anwar Ali Hyderin Ministry of Defence.

## Efforts of Commerce Minister for economic stability laudable: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP) Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and an AIJ Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has lauded the commitment of Caretaker Commerce Minister Gohar Fiaz for stability of economy in the country.

Speaking to business community on Monday, he said that the growth in the stock market after several months was welcome, as it has crossed 53500 points, while the prices of essential commodities were also decreasing due to strict control on smuggling by the government.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that after a decline in textile exports in the last 12 months, October has seen an increase of five percent, while exports have seen an overall increase of 14 percent.

Foreign remittances have also increased by five percent following the crackdown on illegal dollar trade, he added.

The cotton production was also expected to be 11 million bales, which was double that of last year, but for long-term results, the government will have to get rid of the failed state-owned companies that were losing Rs 1200 billion annually.

The business leader

said that power companies were also losing 1000 billion rupees annually, and the IMF delegation has asked for a fresh report on the losses of government-owned companies.

It was the time to get rid of all these losses and provide relief to the people, he said adding that apart from general inflation, house and shop rents were also rising faster than people's income, which needs to be regulated.

Traders doing business in rental shops and millions living in rented houses are worried about rising rents. The income of the businessmen and people was continuously decreasing, but the expenses and rents were continuously increasing, which has taken away their peace of mind.

In order to improve the situation, an effective and efficient system of rent control should be introduced in the country.

There was a need for reforms in the power sector, a push for import substitution, and to increase the share of solar power and wind power in the energy basket while reforming the agricultural sector and corporate farming. The import of palm oil should be reduced through sunflower production, he said.

## Eyewitnesses identify MQM target-killer in Tahir Plaza fire case

KARACHI (INP) In an important development, two eyewitnesses Monday identified three terrorists including Mutthahida Quami Movement's (MQM) notorious target-killer Saeed Baram in the Tahir Plaza fire case.

"Saeed Baram and his accomplices opened fire and set ablaze the lawyers' offices in the plaza in Karachi," the eyewitnesses stated in their testimonies during the hearing of the case in an anti-terrorism court (ATC).

Statements of eyewitnesses, witnesses, the rickshaw-driver and

the gunman of the murdered lawyer were also recorded.

"On the day of the incident, I was near Tahir Plaza," the rickshaw-driver said.

"Suddenly, there were gunshots and a stampede. I myself saw Saeed Baram and other accused firing shots," he added.

"I had also identified them during the identification parade in front of the judicial magistrate," he stated.

"Saeed Baram and other accused had entered Tahir Plaza. These are the same suspects who had set fire to the lawyers' offices in Tahir Plaza. I had seen them setting fire to the lawyer's office with my own eyes," he added.

The court summoned other witnesses in the case at the next hearing.

"MQM's Saeed Baram, Imran Saeed, and Faisal Javed alias Mama are arrested in the case," police said.

"Imran Saeed confessed to setting Tahir Plaza on fire in his 164 statements and the statements he recorded in the joint investigation team (JIT)," they added.

"The accused set fire to Tahir Plaza at the behest of MQM Karachi Tanzeemi Committee (KTC) In-charge Hammad Siddiqui," they stated.

In front of the magistrate, Imran Saeed confessed to setting fire to the plaza at the behest of Hammad Siddiqui and Saeed Baram," they added.

According to police, the accused also disclosed his involvement in the Tahir Plaza fire incident during the police interrogation.

Accused Faisal Mama was arrested in 2021. On April 9, 2008, six people, including Altaf Jafri Advocate, died in a fire in Tahir Plaza. The case of the incident was registered at Rasala police station.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ahmed Bin Salem Al Amri, President of the Riyadh's Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malleh, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan and President International Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotabi met with the Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi.



ISLAMABAD: A sixteen-member delegation of the American Pakistan Public Affairs Committee led by Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly Phil Ramos called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

## ICCI donates Rs2m to support oppressed Palestinian people

ISLAMABAD (INP): A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Monday visited the Palestine Embassy and showed solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari presented a cheque of Rs.2.0 million on behalf of ICCI as a token of support for the people of Gaza who have been destroyed by the Israeli bombardment.

community should make collective efforts to protect the Palestinians from the brutalities of Israel. Ahsan Zafar said that the genocide of the innocent Palestinians is not acceptable at all and stressed that the world powers should come forward to stop Israel from such brutalities. He said that Pakistan supports the right of self-determination and establishment of a secure & sovereign Palestinian state to end this conflict. He assured that the business community of Pakistan is always ready to extend all possible support to the Palestinian brothers and sisters to mitigate their sufferings.

Speaking on the occasion, the ICCI Vice President Faad Waheed said that he is very concerned over the cruelties being committed by the Israeli forces against the innocent Palestinian. He said the whole Muslim Ummah is standing along with the people of Palestine and urged that the Muslim rulers should be martyred so far by the Israeli forces in Gaza and other places out of which 80 percent are children and women.

The Palestinian Ambassador said that out of total 25 hospitals, 11 hospitals have been destroyed and Israeli forces are threatening Palestinians to evacuate the rest of the hospitals otherwise, they would also be killed. He termed it a brutal genocide of innocent Palestinians, which needs to be stopped by the world powers. He thanked the ICCI delegation for showing solidarity with the Palestinians in this difficult time.

Senior ICCI Members including Maqsood Tabish, Hamayun Kabir, Amir Hussain, Muhammad Rizwan Chhena, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Malik Jali Ahmed Usman, Khalid Mehmood and others were in the ICCI delegation.



QUETTA: People on the way during rain in provincial capital.

## Mariculture Workshop Inspires Gwadar Aquaculture

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 2023 International Training Workshop on Mariculture Technologies, held in Qingdao last week has inspired Pakistani scholars to develop sustainable aquaculture practices in Gwadar.

Focusing on advanced aquaculture techniques, the workshop provided scholars from various countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan and Ghana, with valuable knowledge and expertise, enabling them to contribute to the growth and sustainability of aquaculture in the region, Gwadar reported on Monday.

Aidah Baloch, a PhD scholar at the Ocean University of China, completed her Fisheries Resources and with a passion for promoting sustainable aquaculture practices in Pakistan, was selected

to participate in the workshop. During the workshop, she actively engaged in various sessions and discussions with renowned experts, particularly those from the Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the practical training sessions, during which participants had the opportunity to visit mariculture facilities and observe the implementation of different technologies.

Along with other participants, Aidah took part in the China-ASEAN Fisheries Cooperation Forum & 26th China International Fisheries Expo and visited mariculture enterprises and research and development bases, gaining valuable experience and insights into the practical aspects of mariculture.

During the workshop, Aidah was exposed to various mariculture technologies, including fish breeding, feed management, disease control, and water quality monitoring.

The comprehensive training provided her with an in-depth understanding of the latest advancements and best practices employed in China's highly successful aquaculture industry.

Aidah pointed out that many people's livelihoods in the coastal belt of Balochistan were connected with the fisheries sector, and there were numerous challenges, such as non-seasonal fish catches and incomplete market size due to a lack of knowledge and awareness.

Inspired by the knowledge gained during the workshop, Aidah is dedicated to applying the skills and knowledge she acquired to further her research and implement sustainable aquaculture practices, leveraging the rich coastal resources of her hometown, Gwadar, after graduation.

Reflecting on her experience, Aidah expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the workshop. She stated, "The training workshop in Qingdao has been an incredible learning experience for me. I have gained valuable knowledge and practical skills in mariculture technologies that will greatly contribute to my research and future endeavors." I hope this workshop can serve as an inspiration for other researchers and scholars in Pakistan to explore opportunities for international collaboration and knowledge exchange in the field of marine sciences, she added.



### Nawaz Sharif starts political activities, visits party secretariat after four years

LAHORE (INP): PML-N supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif arrived at party's secretariat in Model Town on Monday morning after more than four years.

The elder Sharif reached the PML-N secretariat with his daughter and party's senior vice president Maryam Nawaz.

According to sources, a special office has been made for Nawaz Sharif in the central secretariat as the former PM is all set to start his political activities this week.

Anusha Rehman, former federal minister and in-charge of PML-N secretariat, would give detailed briefing to former premier regarding the working of different departments in the party office.

According to sources, Nawaz Sharif would chair an important meeting regarding the issuance of party tickets for the general elections.

Senior PML-N leaders including party President Shehbaz Sharif, Kh Asif and Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also reached Model Town to attend the meeting.

### Imran Khan, Qureshi's bail pleas adjourned without any hearing

RAWALPINDI (INP): An anti-terrorism court on Monday postponed the hearing of bail pleas filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan in three cases of vandalism registered against him under the provisions of terrorism till November 14 without conducting court proceedings.

The court also adjourned the bail petitions submitted by PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi till November 14.

ATC Judge Abul Hasanat Muhammad Zulkarnain heard the cases.

PTI lawyers Khalid Yousaf, Sardar Mastroof, and Mirza Asim Baig appeared in the court.

However, the prosecutor did not appear as he was on leave. Due to the absence of the prosecutor, the court adjourned the hearing till Nov 14 without conducting proceedings.

The Islamabad High Court has restored Imran Khan's bail pleas in these cases.

The high court directed the trial court to again hear the PTI chairman's bail applications.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding issues related to ICT.

### Maximum facilities, swift visa issuance to Sikh Yatrees must be ensured: PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has directed the authorities concerned to extend maximum facilities to the Sikh Yatrees intending to attend their religious festivals in Pakistan. Chaining a meeting held here on Monday to review the visa facilities being provided to the Sikh Yatrees by the Government of Pakistan, he said the Sikh pilgrims coming to the country to visit their holy places were the guests in Pakistan.

Premier Anwaar-ul-Haq was briefed on the Sikh festivals being held throughout the year and the facilities for issuance of visas provided to the pilgrims. He instructed the relevant authorities to extend all-out facilities to the Sikh Yatrees for carrying out their religious rituals and visiting their holy places. The prime minister also directed to accelerate the visa issuance process while ensuring the transparency in the system. He said the Sikh Yatrees coming to Pakistan via Kartarpur Corridor must be provided with the facilities of international standards.

The interior ministry briefed the meeting on the visa facilities for Sikhs, time duration required for visa issuance, administrative affairs of Kartarpur Corridor and annual festivals of Sikhs.

PM Kakar also instructed the authorities to present a comprehensive strategy for facilitation of Sikh pilgrims coming via Kartarpur Corridor or from other countries.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnesses a ceremony of the signing of letters of understanding between WHO and the Government of Pakistan on Universal Healthcare.

### 'Pakistan's debt burden mounts to \$63.966 bln'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's International debt burden continued to rise and reached a whopping \$63.966 billion, at the end of August in FY2023-24, sources said on Monday.

According to media reports a briefing session related to the country's debt was held, during which it was revealed that the foreign debt had surged to \$24.174 billion by the end of August, while the local debt had reached Rs 39,791 billion by the same period.

The data presented in the briefing showed that, over the past year, the total loans had witnessed a massive increase of Rs 14,506 billion.

It is pertinent to mention here that, in August 2022, the volume of loans was a comparatively modest Rs 49,571 billion. However, the foreign debt of the country stood at \$18 trillion, meanwhile, the local debt was stood at Rs 32,152 billion during the same time period. Earlier to this development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded tax collection plan of Rs 6670 billion till June 2024 from Pakistan.

An IMF review mission reached Pakistan on Wednesday night to review the country's economic performance during the first three months of the current fiscal year—from July to September.

The lender has demanded tax collection report of all sectors in its projection report.

The talks for the next installment of \$700 million tranche began on Thursday. Sources said that the IMF team has stressed that "the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) will avoid shortfall tax collection revenue targets."

The IMF team has also submitted report on Monday from the FBR over progress in tax cases pending in courts, sources said.

The FBR has shared details of one million new taxpayers in the tax net with the IMF team. The IMF has demanded details of tax the FBR collecting from each sector.

The taxation officials also discussed increasing number of taxpayers to 10 million from 4.9 mln.

### FIA recovers Azerbaijan women being exploited sexually in Islamabad

RAWALPINDI (INP): In a major operation, the FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle, Rawalpindi has recovered seven foreigners including four women and three children from a house in Islamabad on Monday. The victims belong to the Central Asian state of Azerbaijan.

Reportedly, some human smugglers brought the Azerbaijan women to Pakistan on the pretext of giving them employment. But the accused were found involved in the sexual exploitation of the foreign women.

The victim women came to Pakistan on visit visas.

The visas of the victims had expired and they were residing illegally in Pakistan.

The FIA team raided a flat situated in Islamabad's E-11 area and recovered the foreigners. It also recovered the passports of the Azerbaijan women.

The FIA Anti Human Circle, Islamabad registered a case against three human traffickers.

Raids are being conducted in different areas to arrest the accused.

Special raiding teams have been formed to arrest the human smugglers. The government has launched a strict crackdown against illegal aliens residing in Pakistan.

### PRCS AJK distributes relief items among fire affectees of refugee camp

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Pakistan Red Crescent Society Azad Jammu and Kashmir (PRCS AJK) with the generous support of PRCS National Headquarters Islamabad and in collaboration with its dedicated volunteers and staff members, has swiftly mobilized relief efforts to provide support to the affected families of Ambore Refugee Camp.

A devastating fire broke out in the Refugee Camp in Ambore on November 02, causing significant damage to the camp and leaving 25 families homeless.

According to initial report of PRCS AJK Disaster Management Department 13 houses have been destroyed as a result of devastating fire outbreak. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, PRCS AJK immediately initiated a relief operation to address the immediate needs of the affected population.

The relief operation involved the distribution of essential relief items, including tents, shelter tool kits, blankets, hygiene kits, water Filter coolers, shelter materials, lamps and tarpaulin sheets.

In this context, a distribution ceremony was held here at Deputy Commissioner Office Muzaaffarabad.

The Secretary PRCS AJK State Branch Gulzar Fatima, Deputy Commissioner Muzaaffarabad Rajan Kumar was also present and distributed relief items among affected families.

These items were distributed in a well-organized and efficient manner, ensuring that the most vulnerable individuals received priority assistance. On this occasion, Program & Disaster Management Manager Naveed Akhtar Awan, Spokesperson PRCS AJK and volunteers were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PRCS AJK State Branch, Ejaz Raza expressed his deep concern for the affected families and conveyed the organization's commitment to providing timely and effective relief. He commended the dedication of PRCS AJK volunteers and partners who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth execution of the relief operation.

"PRCS AJK remains resolute in its commitment to providing humanitarian aid and support to those in needs, and will continue to monitor the situation in Refugee Camp Ambore and respond as necessary," added Ejaz Raza.

The Chairman PRCS AJK also expressed gratitude to Pakistan Red Crescent Society National Headquarters Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari for swift response and generous support.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali.

### Feb 8 sun will rise with PPP's victory, say Zardari and Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): The PPP chairman and co-chairman have extended congratulations to the party candidates who won the local body by-elections in different cities of Sindh.

In a post uploaded on X platform on Monday, PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari expressed his gratitude to the people for party's victory in the LB by-elections in Karachi and other parts of the province.

The heart of Sindh also raised the slogan of Jeay Bhutto, Zardari said, adding the success of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Abdullah Murad is a special message for PPP's rivals in Karachi.

Asif Zardari paid rich tributes to party workers for victory in by-elections, saying "Every PPP worker should start the election campaign by becoming the ambassador of Ms Benazir Bhutto Shaheed." Zardari said the sun of February 8 will rise with the message of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's victory. "There are few days left and PPP will end people's problems," he added. In his tweet, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also extended congratulations to the successful candidates in the LB by-elections, showing praise on Karachi Mayor and Deputy Mayor Murtaza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad, and Deputy Mayor Sakkar Arshad Mughal on their success in the elections. Bilawal said the entire Sindh including Karachi has once again defeated the politics of hatred and divisions. The people have made their decision, now, God willing, the victory of Pakistan People's Party is written on the wall on February 8, Bilawal added. The Pakistan Peoples Party of Murtaza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad are among the winners who won a Union Committee Chairman seat each in Saddar and Gadap towns to meet legal requirements for retaining their respective offices.

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Monday heard petition with regard to prisoners remaining in jail over non-payment of paltry fine or Diyat. Justice Amjad Ali Suelto heard petition of Shahab Otoo Advocate with regard to plight of the prisoners, who failed to pay small fines or Diyat over non-payment. The bench expressed resentment over non-payment of the money despite court orders. "Don't you feel how people suffer in each and every moment in jail," Justice Suelto asked. "Sindh government has already paid fines of prisoners to the Nazir Sindh High Court in 2019," Additional Advocate General said. "Four inmates were released after the amount paid by the government," AAG further said. The high court bench summoned the Nazir SHC and the jail superintendent. Petitioner had pleaded to the court that thousands of poor prisoners have been imprisoned for years over non-payment of fines or diyat amount despite their release orders.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari giving shield to Turkey Red Crescent head in Pakistan Ergest Limka.