

QUETTA VOICE

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Key Electables To Join PML N On The Eve of Nawaz's Visit To Quetta

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: In a strategic political move, former Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Muslim League-N, is scheduled to embark on a two-day visit to Quetta on Tuesday.

This visit marks a significant development as Sharif is expected to officially announce his alignment with the Muslim League-N during his stay.

Accompanied by prominent leaders including Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif,

Maryam Nawaz, and Khawaja Saad Rafiq, the delegation will arrive in Quetta this afternoon via a special plane.

The visit aims to forge alliances with like-minded political parties in the region, including the National Party, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Balochistan Awami Party, and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam.

Jam Kamal, Khetran, Others Likely To Join

Notable political figures, such as former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, Sardar Abdul Rahman Khetran, Sardar Masood Loni, and others, are anticipated to join Mian Nawaz Sharif during his visit. A series of meetings with district officials of the Muslim League-N are scheduled, culminating in an address by Sharif on Wednesday.

This announcement comes after Mian Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan on October 21 and follows a series of political engagements.

The last time, Nawaz visited Quetta was at Ayub Stadium on December 2, 2017. The visit is poised to strengthen the political landscape in Balochistan and consolidate support from various

political factions.

Ayaz Sadiq Meets Lashkari Raisani

Former Speaker of National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq, who arrived in Quetta a day earlier, ensured the meticulous finalization of arrangements for this politically significant visit. Ayaz Sadiq also called on Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisan as part of ongoing political engagements in the provincial capital. Lashkari is expected to join the party. However, a formal announcement is yet to be made. After the culmination of events on Wednesday, Nawaz Sharif and the delegation will return to Lahore. This strategic political maneuver is poised to have far-reaching implications, shaping the political narrative in the region.

2 soldiers martyred in exchange of fire with terrorist in North Waziristan: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers were martyred while one terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire between security forces and militants in the Mir Ali area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan District, the military's media affairs wing said on Monday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that last night, troops "effectively engaged the terrorists' location". As a result, one terrorist was "sent to hell".

The ISPR further said 25-year-old Sepoy Abdullah and 19-year-old Sepoy Muhammad Sohail embraced martyrdom during the exchange.

"Sanitisation of the surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralise any terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

Last week, a Pakistan Army officer and three soldiers were martyred in an intelligence-based operation in the Tirah area of KP's Khyber district while terrorists had attack-keed the Pakistan Air Force's



(PAF) heavily guarded M.M. Alam Base on Nov 4.

On Nov 3, 17 security personnel were martyred in an ambush, bomb blasts and security operation in Gwadar, Dera Ismail Khan and Lakki Marwal.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in recent months, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the banned militant Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year. In September, data compiled by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) said the number of militant attacks in August was the highest tally for monthly strikes in almost nine years. **NEWS DESK**

LHC orders closure of schools on Nov 18, recommends 2-day remote work to curb smog



LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Monday ordered all schools and colleges in Punjab to remain closed on November 18 to curb smog, as it recommended a two-day remote work for employers.

The Punjab caretaker government imposed a "smog emergency" on Nov 1 in the province following the LHC's directive to take immediate measures to rein in the hazardous air quality, which is in the 'poor' rating bracket.

In that hearing, Justice Shahid Karim said the government is responsible for the current state of smog.

Eastern Punjab has lately been plagued with a smog crisis, with Lahore's Air Quality Index at 134.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is used to report daily air quality. It tells how clean or polluted the air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for people. Currently, Karachi's AQI is 158 and Peshawar's AQI is 194.

Today, while hearing a petition about smog, Justice Karim said: "All schools and colleges will remain closed on Saturday." Work from home policy should be followed twice a week," Justice Shahid Karim said.

Justice Karim stated that Commissioner Lahore has been unable to control the smog in the city. "Whenever Commissioner Lahore comes here, he makes promises that he cannot keep," Justice Karim said.

The judge ordered District Commissioner Jhang, Hafizabad, Khanewal, Nankana, Bahawalnagar and Sheikhupura to be replaced immediately, adding that the videos of crop residue burning were upsetting.

"Chief Secretary Punjab should issue notification to transfer these officers," Justice Karim said.

The judge also recommended to the government to provide electric motorcycles for their local staff.

The hearing was adjourned till Wednesday. **NEWS DESK**

Shovel-Wielding Protest Erupts as Growers Demand an End to Power Outages

Manan Mandokhail:



QUETTA: In the dusty streets of Quetta, frustration simmered beneath the scorching sun as citizens took to unconventional means to voice their discontent.

Armed not with weapons, but with shovels, they embarked on a unique protest against the unrelent-

ing scourge of unannounced electricity load shedding in Balochistan. Roads, once bustling with activity, now bore the weight of their collective defiance.

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100,000 Afghan Refugees Repatriated Via Pak Afghan Border Chaman

Sardar Muhammad Khondai:

QUETTA: So far, over 100,000 Afghan refugees have been repatriated via the Pak-Afghan border Chaman border.

This was revealed by Jan Achakzai, the Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister while addressing a press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Monday.

He informed that over 30,000 refugees who arrived from Sindh province had been repatriated via the Chaman border.

Police Detain Over 1,500 Illegal Immigrants

The repatriation of the refugees came after the federal government launched a countrywide crackdown against the illegal immigrants.

Mr. Achakzai also informed that around 1500 illegal immigrants were also detained by police during the crackdown. Various points have been established at the border to facilitate the refugees leaving Pakistan, he informed.



Additional Points Established At The Border

Additional points were established at the border to facilitate the repatriation of refugees, he elaborated.

The Minister asked the Afghan officials to provide shelter to their refugees rather than leveling accusations against Pakistan. "We have valid documents that Afghan citizens are involved in acts of terrorism", Mr. Achakzai said.

Afghan Leaders Should Put Their House In Order

Although, he said Pakistan has the right to maintain peace and the country would not further tolerate any interference. Afghan leaders should stop leveling blame since it was Pakistan's principled right to repatriate the refugees, he added. In response to a question about the blockade of NICs, the minister informed that over 50,000 cards were blocked only in Quetta city. "Investigation is underway by the NADRA regarding blocked cards", he said.

THE VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Urgent plea to PM: Restore suspended passenger trains for Balochistan

Editorial:

The continued suspension of six trains for Balochistan has plunged countless passengers into a harrowing ordeal, a disconcerting disruption that underscores the fragile state of our transportation infrastructure. As commuters grapple with the unforeseen halt in their daily routines, it becomes increasingly evident that the ramifications extend far beyond mere inconvenience.

Six out of a total of seven passenger trains have been suspended for Balochistan by the Pakistan Railways without citing any reasons. The provincial government is yet to ask the federal government and the railway ministry to restore the suspended six trains for Balochistan, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

Only Jaffar Express operates for Balochistan

Instead of improving and increasing passenger trains, the government has suspended most of the trains. Only Jaffarabad Express operates that too in a miserable condition.

People prefer to travel by train since they are economical and safe as compared to passengers buses and planes. Passenger buses traveling on Quetta Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad highways always meet deadly road accidents that claim precious human lives.

The blockade of these highways by protesters is also the order of the day. Road blockades caused the suspension of trains for hours and women, aged people and children remained the worst sufferers.

Except for a handful of elites, people cannot afford the skyrocketing fares of planes. To be precise, they are out of the reach of the common man.

Caretaker PMs should direct railway ministry to restore suspended trains. The caretaker prime minister, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar belongs to Balochistan and is well aware of the suffering of its people.

Balochistan has now considerable representation in Islamabad, therefore, it is the best opportunity to restore the suspended passenger trains and address the grievances of the masses.

Balochistan also deserves fair treatment since its people have suffered a lot. The Prime Minister should direct the railway ministry to restore the suspended six trains on an emergency basis.

Why we should care

By Umair Javed:

PAKISTAN'S

official position on the Pales-tinian struggle has been relatively consistent since 1948. Despite occasional recent murmurs about a softening towards Israel, no actual step was taken. Part of this consistency is explained by the unity of support for Palestine across Pakistan's political and cultural spectrum. And this political agreement stretches back through different time periods in the country's history.

The bulk of Pakistani society's support for Palestine comes from ideals of pan-Islamic nationalism and Muslim religious and cultural affinities. In its simplest form, the sentiment can be explained as empathy for an oppressed Muslim population. It gains further encouragement by similar shared sentiments for the Kashmiri population, which is a closer and politically more salient issue for the country. Within this type of solidarity for Palestine (as with Kashmir), there are two parallel trends.

The first is found in the politics of Islamist political actors and supporters, such as the Jamat-i-Islami, which see the struggle as a religious one, veering into a civilisational clash against enemies of Islam (the West, Zionism etc). This is probably the dominant strain within the country now, popularised since the 1990s through a large apparatus of religious and social organisations. Most Pakistanis today

interpret the conflict through this lens.

An earlier form of Muslim solidarity can be found in the musings (and fantastical writings) of the first generation of Urdu-language intellectuals and officials, especially between the 1950s and 1970s. Exchanges between Qudratullah Shahab and Mumtaz Mufti, about the former's 'secret mission' in a fake Iranian passport to Israel, and a night spent in Masjid Al-Aqsa dreaming about Palestinian liberation, are good examples of this. Over the years, this form of Muslim modernism (modernist, statecraft with a Muslim cultural touch) has diminished, replaced by civilisationalism (the conflict popularised by Islamist actors).

But throughout the preceding seven decades, Pakistani leftists and progressives maintained their own tradition of support for the Palestinian struggle. In a recent online collation, Haider Shahab listed a number of Urdu-language publications from prominent progressive thinkers, such as Fahmida Riaz, Kishwar Naheed, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and Anjand Khan. Through these civilisationalist clash against enemies of Islam (the West, Zionism etc). This is probably the dominant strain within the country now, popularised since the 1990s through a large apparatus of religious and social organisations. Most Pakistanis today

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Summan Ismail:

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

This ancient forest is renowned for its towering, thousand-year-old Juniper trees, which rank among the world's oldest and tallest.

This article explores the profound significance of the Ziarat Juniper Forest, its historical roots, ecological importance, and the pressing need for conservation efforts.

A Glimpse into History

The story of the Ziarat Juniper Forest is a journey through time. Once inhabited by nomadic tribes, these Juniper trees served as versatile resources.

They provided fuel, construction materials, and medicinal remedies, ingraining themselves in the local culture. Over generations, the forest became a cherished asset, safeguarded by tribal elders.

The Dark Side of Progress

While the past decade has brought comfort and progress to the region, it has come at a steep price. One in-

terrupt elections offers a cautionary tale about the destabilising consequences of electoral exercises marked by irregularities and ballot fraud. If the February election becomes controversial in another exercise in what is euphemistically called 'political engineering' it will undermine political and economic stability, whether in Pakistan or elsewhere.

A Global Ecological Gem

In recent years, the Ziarat Juniper Forest has garnered international recognition for its unique and vital ecosystem.

It is an integral part of the region's biodiversity, hosting a diverse array of plant and animal species. Furthermore, the Juniper trees themselves offer a rich source of genetic information, fueling discoveries in ecology and herbal science.

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By Maleeha Lodhi:

With general elections scheduled for Feb 8, the coming weeks will see political parties vying to rally support for the contest ahead. The announcement of an election date ends the prolonged political uncertainty in the country. But doubts persist about whether the election would be free and fair.

It is unclear if the polls will be inclusive and whether there will be a level playing field for everyone to contest freely. Doubts have been reinforced by the renewed, ongoing wave of arrests of members of Imran Khan's PTI. Nearly 40 of its top leaders are now in jail. The party has conveyed a list of obstacles to the Election Commission of Pakistan which it argues will constrain its ability to freely conduct its election campaign.

An opinion survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan in June 2023 found only a quarter of Pakistanis expressed enough confidence in the fairness and transparency of the upcoming election.

The majority of respondents had little faith in the integrity of the polls. This kind of public scepticism can deter voter participation and contribute to a low voter turnout, which can undermine the election's legitimacy. That makes it imperative for the election to be credible and transparent.

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It is unclear if the polls will be inclusive and whether there will be a level playing field for everyone to contest freely. Doubts have been reinforced by the renewed, ongoing wave of arrests of members of Imran Khan's PTI. Nearly 40 of its top leaders are now in jail. The party has conveyed a list of obstacles to the Election Commission of Pakistan which it argues will constrain its ability to freely conduct its election campaign.

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PML-N Leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq meeting Haji Lashkari Ressani

QUETTA/LAHORE (INP): Senior PML-N leader Ayaz Sadiq on Monday reached Quetta, just a day before former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is scheduled to land in the provincial capital for his first visit since returning to Pakistan after years-long exile. Sadiq – the former National Assembly speaker – has been assigned the task to reach out to the political leaders in smaller provinces, thus paving the way for a broader electoral cooperation in the February 8 polls. It is his second visit to the country's largest province in recent weeks after being a part of the PML-N's chief organiser will accompany him for his three-month-long stint. The planned agreement with where he is expected to close a seat-adjustment

deal with the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) which is now led by Khalid Mehsud. The Balochistan-based party had parted ways with the PTI-led ruling alliance, paving the way for the success of a no-confidence motion which propelled Shehbaz to the prime minister's office for a 16-month-long stint. The planned agreement with the BAP comes after the



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Indian man stuck in Pakistan after Delhi sits on his bride's visa

GURANWALA (INP): A man who came from India and got married in Pakistan is facing a visa problem to take his bride back to his country, reported on Monday. The Indian national, Muhammad Rizwan, belonging to Uttar Pradesh came to Pakistan along with his mother and grandmother to get married to his cousin, Sidra, in Guranwala. However, after his marriage with his Pakistani cousin, he is facing visa problems for his bride. The newlyweds wanted to go back to India but the High Commission is not responding to the visa ap-

plication of Rizwan's wife. It has been many days since they have applied for the visa but the consulate in Guranwala has not responded. Rizwan told that he wanted to go back to India and waiting for his wife's visa. "We will leave Pakistan as soon as we get the visa," he said. From Rajasthans's Alwar district and got married to her Facebook Pakistani friend Nasrullah in another cross-border marriage, a Pakistani national Seema Haider sneaked into India to marry Sachin Meena who belongs to Jodhpur (Rajasthan) in August.

World Cup being played there, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had sent numerous reminders and even filed complaints to the International Cricket Council (ICC) but the visas were never issued. In July, an Indian woman Anjuralvel to Upper Dir in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. From Rajasthans's Alwar district and got married to her Facebook Pakistani friend Nasrullah in another cross-border marriage, a Pakistani national Seema Haider sneaked into India to marry Sachin Meena who belongs to Jodhpur (Rajasthan) in August.

Sacked judge Shaukat Siddiqui again requests court for early hearing of his appeal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former sacked judge of Islamabad High Court Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui has submitted a second application to the Supreme Court seeking an early hearing of his appeal against his dismissal, reported on Monday. The former IHC judge requested the court to fix the hearing of his petition on Nov 15 or on any day of the week starting from Nov 13.

Ex-Judge Siddiqui said that his case has been pending in the Supreme Court since 2018. He said that the last hearing on his petition was held on June 12, 2022. In October 2018, President Arif Alvi recommended Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui as a judge of the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The president took the decision after the Judicial Council (SJC) recommended his removal. The SJC comprising five SC judges had said it found Justice Siddiqui guilty of misconduct over a speech

he delivered in July earlier this year before the Rawalpindi District Bar Association. "The council is not satisfied with the opinion that in the matter of making his speech before the District Bar Association, Rawalpindi on July 21, 2018 Mr. Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui [...] had displayed conduct unbecoming of a judge of a high court and was guilty of misconduct and he is, therefore, liable to be removed from his office under Article 209(6) of the Constitution," the SJC said. While addressing an audience at the Rawalpindi bar, Shaukat Siddiqui had claimed that personnel of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) were interfering in the judicial proceedings. He had further claimed that the intelligence agency had approached IHC Chief Justice Muhammad Anwar Khan Kasi asking him not to let Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, Maryam Nawaz, stand on the stage until the elections. The agency also asked the IHC CJ to not include Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui on the bench hearing appeals of the Sharifs.

ICCI, KATI call for promoting ease of doing business to revive economy

ISLAMABAD (INP): President, Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Faraz ul Rehman has said that Pakistan's exports have dwindled by 5% during July-September this year compared to last year while the country needs a substantial increase in exports to revive the economy. He stressed that the government should address the key issues of the export sector enabling it to play an active role in steering the economy out of crisis situation. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Prominent businessmen of the city including Atif Iqbal Sheikh, President of Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, were also present on this occasion. Faraz ul Rehman stressed that the export sector needs easy credit to expand & grow, but the 22 percent reforms in the tax system is a major obstacle in its development, due to

which, during July-October this year, the credit to private sector has shrunk by over 200% compared to the same period of last year. The KATI President said that only the business sector can bring the economy out of the current troubles, however, it needs lower production cost and ease of doing business to put the economy on the path of sustainable growth. He resolved that KATI will play its role in cooperation with ICCI to promote the interests of the business community. President ICCI, Anas Zafar Bakhtawari said that the IMF has assured the IMF to bring 1.5 million new taxpayers into the tax system by the end of June 2024. However, the current tax system of the country is creating problems for taxpayers instead of facilitating them due to which the potential taxpayers shy away from this system. The ICCI President urged that the government, in consultation with the stakeholders, should key issues of the business community and the tax system to make it business friendly, which will sig-

nificantly increase the country's tax revenue. He said that appointment of more tax officers in the RTOs is not the real solution to the problem, rather reduced tax rates and a simple tax system can attract more taxpayers. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader of ICCI, said that the business community is driving the economy and the government should consult them to formulate short- and long-term policies for revival of the economy. Former president ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan, Zafar Bakhtawari said that the United Business Group has nominated a young and emerging industrialist from Islamabad as its President candidate for FPCCI and hoped that after winning, he would set new standards of serving the cause of the business community. Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI, Atif Iqbal Sheikh resolved that if he wins the FPCCI election, he will work closely with the government to address the key issues of the business community and facilitate them in business promotion.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Rear Admiral Saqib Bin Rafeed Al-Enezi, Eastern Fleet Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces at Naval Headquarters.

Businesses to stabilize amid political stability after general elections: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the political situation has started to normalize after several months of turmoil. In a statement issued here, he said that the business community was optimistic about the upcoming election and the prospect of a stable, elected government as a result.

People hope that the elected government will be able to get the country out of its economic problems with the help of a public mandate, he added. Mian Zahid Hussain said that apart from the election, satisfactory news is coming from many sides. The IMF review is also expected to be completed soon, as a result of which Pakistan will be able to get a tranche of \$710 million. The stock market has crossed 56 thousand points, and a five percent export increase has also been noted in

the last month. Remittances increased in October after a long period of decline. The volume of remittances last month was 2.5 billion dollars, 9.6% higher than September and 11.5% higher than October last year. The business leader said that the increase in remittances was not unexpected. The dollar gap in the open and inter-bank markets has narrowed, so many people are now sending money through banks instead of Hoards. If the operation against dollar smugglers and hoarders is continued in the same way, the

situation will improve further. Mian Zahid further stated that for the six months before October, the volume of remittances was 2 to 2.2 billion dollars, after which there has been a clear change in the situation. He attributed the improvement to the migrants from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He further said that the stabilization of the value of the rupee and reforms in the rules of exchange companies by the central bank have also had a positive impact on the situation.

ITP world's best force, distinction among VVIP, common man to be removed: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti termed the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) as world's best force as said that no one was above law. While addressing the inauguration ceremony of the new building at the traffic police headquarters on Monday, he said that discrimination between VVIP and the common man would be removed. The event was attended by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO)

Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, senior police officers and other officials. A smart contingent unit of the police force presented a guard of honor to the chief guest. The newly established Traffic Police Office aims to streamline traffic-related affairs and facilitate the citizens of the federal capital. Sarfraz Bugti emphasized the importance of upholding the law without any political interference, urging the officers to prioritize public ser-

vice. He commended the dedication of the ITP officers for maintaining smooth flow of traffic in the capital during challenging weather conditions and public events. The minister stated, "Law is equal for everyone, ensure its enforcement without any bias. Let your commitment to public service be your motto. You have been chosen by Allah for this service; take pride in your responsibilities." Speaking on the occasion, ICCPO Dr. Akbar

Nasir Khan highlighted the achievements of the ITP for managing traffic efficiently during adverse weather conditions and construction activities. He praised the use of modern technology, including city surveillance cameras, to enforce traffic laws and issue e-challan for the violations. The ICCPO said that the Islamabad Traffic Police, with 600 officers and officials were currently handling the city's traffic.



QUETTA: Activates of Zameendar Action Committee hold protest rally.

US Dollar sees sharp rise against Pakistani Rupee

ISLAMABAD (INP): On Monday, the US Dollar opened with a value of Rs287.50, as the inter-bank exchange rate saw a notable rise of 47 paisas. The American currency has continued its sharp upward trend over the past couple of weeks, as Pakistan engages in crucial talks with the International Monetary Fund to clinch the next instalment of over \$700 million from a billion-dollar loan program. On the last day of the trading session on Friday, the US dollar continued to gain value against the local currency with an increase of 60 paisas in interbank market. The new price of

the US dollar reached Rs287.50 in the inter-bank. At the closing trading, the US dollar increased Rs287.03 after an increase of 13 paisas against the PKR. As per the Forex traders, the rupee depreciation continued on the last trading day of the current business week. The local value continued to lose its value against the mighty US dollar despite its best performance in September this year after the crackdown and short-term measures to lift the local economy and to re-gain the lost value of the rupee i.e. arresting the persons involved in hawala/hundi business across the country.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA QOB. The Director General Health Services invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender No: 1098- TBE224158/183

S.No.	Name of Works	E.Cost	Bid Security
1	Repair & Renovation of 20 Bedded Hospital Police Line Quetta	3,000,000	100,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 2,100,000 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of amount 100,000 PKR, specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Through Green Channel Health & Other Receipts (C2971) Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 27 November, 2023 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 27 November, 2023 at 11:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:30 PM Address: DG Health Services Quetta. Phone no: 0819211549. Email: dghealthbalochistan@gmail.com

PRO No.962/13-11-2023
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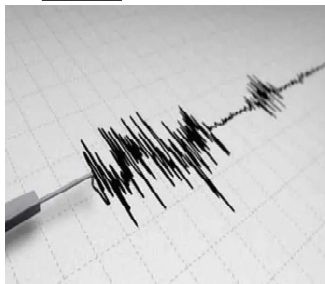
DIRECTOR GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES BALUCHISTAN QUETTA

Breaking: Ziarat and Surrounding Regions Rocked by Earthquake

News Desk:

QUETTA: In a seismic event, Balochistan experienced a 3.3 magnitude earthquake, with the epicenter located 58 km northeast of Khuzdar. Tremors were felt in Khuzdar, Ziarat, and adjacent areas, causing momentary panic. Witnesses reported residents pouring out of their homes, reciting Kalima Tayyaba.

No Casualties Reported Fortunately, no casualties or financial losses have been reported, alleviating initial fears. The quake, reaching a depth of 25 km, highlights the region's vulnerability to seismic activity. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation, emphasizing prepared-



ness. Stay tuned for updates on safety measures and the aftermath of this recent natural event.

Achakzai Sets Terms for Alliance with Nawaz Sharif

From Our Correspondent:

LORLALAI: Mahmood Khan Achakzai, the Chief of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) underscored the significance of upholding constitutional principles, stressing that the Party will align with Nawaz Sharif as long as he adheres to the supremacy of the constitution, parliamentary sovereignty, and federation with autonomous units. During his addresses in Lorlai as part of a people contact campaign, Achakzai critiques the global imbalance in resource distribution and highlights a similar issue within Pakistan.

Achakzai expressed regret over the unequal distribution of resources among different regions in Pakistan, asserting that the challenge lies not only in a concentration of resources in the hands of a few, which is called elite capture, but also in the imbalanced allocation



across regions.

He points out the double challenge faced by Pakhtuns, who, despite being endowed with natural resources, lack control and autonomy to exploit them for their well-being. Consequently, they are compelled to seek employment in other parts of the country.

Achakzai bemoans the loss of livelihood opportunities, especially in the form of loss of labor market, for Pakhtuns due to racial profiling, particularly in the aftermath of the so-called war on terror. He notes that this profiling has made them vulnerable, jeopardizing their lives, honor, and property.

Experts warn of enhanced risk of flooding in KP due to massive deforestation

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Experts on Monday warned of enhanced risk of flooding and other natural catastrophes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) due to massive deforestation in the province at the hands of timber mafia.

A seminar titled "Walking into Disaster: Massive Illegal Deforestation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" was jointly organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Sarhad Conservation Network (SCN).

Chairperson, Board of Governors, SDPI Ambassador (R) Shaqat Kakahel in his vote of thanks extended his gratitude to the speakers and guests. He commended the effort of the SCN for collaborating with the Institute on a provincial issue as the latter had most of its focus on the federal level. Ambassador Kakahel said the climate change impacts will be felt in the provinces and we must unite on behalf of communities for their own wellbeing. Forests, he said, are an integral part of the discourse on climate change as it has its impacts on cross-sectoral areas from sea level rise to heatwaves and forest fires. "Pakistan is a forest-deficient country due to its soil and less rainfall. The model of Iran for conservation of lakes, wetlands and water bodies which is appreciable as it is a water deficient country, should be replicated for forest conservation," he added. While moderating the discussion, Convener, SCN, Dr Adil Zareef said

the issue of deforestation has been pronounced since June 2023 after the caretaker government came into power in the province. He said the situation was disturbing in newly merged and settled districts due to increased tree cutting leaving the lush green forests denuded and the future of generations compromised.

Dr Zareef said forest was a devolved subject after the 18th Amendment but it is a transboundary issue affecting locally, regionally and internationally as the country is ranked fifth most vulnerable on the Global Climate Index. He added that the forum intended to garner workable suggestions from this seminar to pass it on to the relevant forums. He warned that deforestation can cause serious consequences during flooding. A small video montage by Sarhad Conservation Network and SDPI based on over 100 images highlighting the forests of KP and its rapid deforestation was presented to the participants.

In his opening remarks, Mohammad Rafiq, former Country Head of IUCN and an expert environmentalist said despite its lower emissions Pakistan is mostly exposed to climate disasters. He opined that deforestation is not new but rather it started from the British Colonial era when they raised the teak forests for its timber supplies. The British to serve their purpose introduced malicious legislation that divided the forests into protected and guzara forests dividing it between the

state and the communities, he said. He regretted that the deforestation has increased backed by the timber mafia deeply aligned with forest service. However, the benefits did not reach the forest owners as the local masses cannot access the decision-making forums which give room to the exploiters (timber mafia) to exploit the forests. He recommended that the forest needs to be managed under approved working of management plans which indicate the entire progress of the forest. Muhammad Rafiq further added that a completely independent management should be done. Moreover, an irreversible policy decision to stop the commercialization of state forests forever should be taken as forests standing are more valuable than forest cut, he added. Former Senator Afrasiab Khattak, President of Roshan Democratic Institute said the problem in KP is that tribal expansion has been overextended into our areas. "We had a very difficult geography that put us at the receiving end of the Russia-British colonial era contestation and also the region has been ravaged by the global war on terror," he added. Khattak said the prolonged domination of feudal gentry owning the land in KP impacted the forest sector as well who wanted to become capitalist elites through shortcuts.



KOTRI: Officials of Kotri police investigate the illegal Afghan immigrants and arrest them during a raid in Khuda ki Basti Kotri, 14 Afghan people arrested.



KARACHI: Commodore Asim Sohail Malik from Pakistan Navy along with Chinese Senior Captain Qi Jian brief media about Exercise Sea Guardian 2023 during press conference.

Pakistan to promote agricultural machinery coop

ISLAMABAD (INP): Asif Shah, Honorary Consultant of Pakistan Luban Workshop and Executive Board Member of Punjab Agricultural Research Board, visited Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College (TMVTC) and participated in a seminar on the integration of industry and education of Pakistan Luban Workshop agricultural machinery training project.

As the honorary consultant, Asif actively promotes the development of agricultural machinery project in vocational education of the two countries, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

He also advocates for the seamless integration of the training project with local agricultural talent training in Pakistan. During the seminar, Asif mentioned that

the training project addressed the pressing need for technical expertise in the development of local agricultural mechanization in Pakistan.

He emphasized that the project played a crucial role in promoting Pakistan's agricultural development and received high acclaim from experts, scholars, and local farmers in the fields of agriculture and education.

While attending the "China Luban Workshop agricultural machinery Exhibition 2023" in Wuxian, Asif commended the several enterprises to explore the potential for future cooperation in the agricultural machinery training program. He gained a comprehensive understanding of China's achievements in the entire industrial chain of agricultural mecha-

nization. In recognition of TMVTC's contribution in the field of agriculture in Pakistan, Asif also delivered a letter of thanks to Mr. Kang Ning, Party Secretary of the college.

The letter was signed by Prof. Ali, Vice Chancellor of MNS Agricultural University, the partner of the agricultural machinery training project.

In the next step, the Pakistan Luban Workshop agricultural machinery training project will gradually offer courses on the automation and intelligentization of agricultural machinery manufacturing. This initiative aims to assist in the transformation and upgrading of agricultural mechanization in Punjab Province, as reported by TMVTC.

ICC announces match umpires for CWC semifinals

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the umpires for the cricket world cup.

According to details, during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 semi-final between India and New Zealand, Rod Tucker would stand in his 100th one-day international (ODI). The Australian and Richard Illingworth of England would be the on-field umpires for the Mumbai clash between the host nation and the 2019 runners-up, who beat India at the same stage four years ago, said a press release.

Illingworth was also an on-field umpire on that occasion, when New Zealand won by 18 runs in a weather-affected match spread over two days at

Old Trafford, while Tucker was the third umpire.

Tucker stood in his first ODI in January 2009 and he was set to be joined for his landmark match by third umpire Joel Wilson.

Another milestone achieved during the World Cup was Ahsan Raza's 50th ODI, in the match between England and the Netherlands in Pune on November 8. ICC Manager of Umpires and Referees Sean Easey congratulated the match officials for their efforts and said, "We are happy to announce the match officials for the semifinals of the World Cup. The officiating team has performed to a high standard to this point of the event, and I wish those in the knockouts all the very best."

Republican Tim Scott withdraws from US presidential race

NEW YORK (INP): US Senator Tim Scott announced Sunday that he is withdrawing from the US presidential race, saying voters had given him a clear message of "not now."

The South Carolina lawmaker, who was running to become the first Black Republican president, had been struggling to rise above the pack in the party's crowded field.

polling in sixth place among Republican primary candidates, the 58-year-old had only 2.5 percent of the vote, according to the RealClearPolitics average of recent major opinion polls.

"I am suspending my campaign. I think the voters who are the most remarkable people on the planet have been really clear that they're telling me, 'Not now Tim,'" he told the Fox News program "Sunday Night in America."

Scott officially announced he was running for the Republican nomination in May after spending months visiting the states considered crucial to gaining early momentum in the contest.

During his campaign he frequently undermined his Christian faith and the conservative values he espoused growing up in a poor, single-parent household.

Scott was one of five Republicans appearing in the third televised Republican debate last Wednesday as challengers for the party's nomination sparred over Ukraine, China, abortion and the future path of the party.

Notably absent from the stage was former president Donald Trump, who is leading the field by leaps and bounds with 58.5 percent of the vote, according to RealClearPolitics.

Scott said he had no interest in becoming a running mate to any of the remaining candidates. "Being vice president has never been on my to-do list for this campaign, and it's certainly not there now."

He also stopped short of throwing his support behind any of the remaining contenders.

"I'm going to recommend that the voters study each candidate and their candidacies and frankly their past and make the best decision for the future of their country," he said.

"The best way for me to be helpful is not weigh in on who they should endorse."

Concluding ceremony of 3-day 'Seerat-e-Tayyaba Expo' held at Capital

ISLAMABAD (INP): The concluding ceremony of a three-day educational 'Seerat-e-Tayyaba Expo' was held in the Federal Capital on Monday.

The expo, which highlighted the importance of being fully aware and guided by the biography of Holy Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him).

Under the auspices of US International Schools at Multi Garden B-17, the expo was held at PIPS Schools B-17 Campus Islamabad from November 11 to 13.

A large number of people from various strata of the society, including teachers, students, parents, and political, social and academic personalities from different cities, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, visited the exhibition to show their love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

According to the organizers, the main objective of the exhibition was to highlight the various aspects of the Holy Prophet's life so that the people,

particularly the youth, could follow his footsteps.

Director of US International Schools Dr Sumira Gull said the expo was a great initiative which highlighted the importance of being fully aware and guided by the biography of Holy Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him).

The Makki and Madani periods of the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) life, Ghazwat, Hajjatul Wida, Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, Hiraat (Migration), Miraj-ul-Nabi, Ghar-e-Hira and Ghar-e-Sor were particularly highlighted through presentations and research papers, she added.

An important part of the exhibition was to present in a practical and visual manner the intricacies of the Prophet's blessed life through a number of unique models, Dr Sumira said.

All Pakistan Colleges and Academies Association Chairman Rana Nasr Mahmood, at the concluding ceremony, appreciated the organizers for

holding a unique exhibition, which was a good effort to make the new generation aware of the Seerat-e-Tayyaba.

He said following every aspect of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) would bring about a significant change in an individual's personal life as well as the country's development.

The characteristics like tolerance, patience, struggle, honesty, truthfulness and above all the fear of the Almighty should be imbibed by all for success in the life here and hereafter, he added.

Rana Nasr Mahmood said the Holy Prophet (PBUH) through his teachings and practical life revolutionized the lives of the people of a corrupt Arab society and transformed them to rule the world.

Various placards and posters were also displayed at the exhibition to highlight the Palestine issue and the current situation in Gaza, whose residents were suffering from the worst Israeli bombardment.