

# QUETTA VOICE

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Wednesday November 15,2023

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## Nawaz Gains Electable Support, Meets JUI, PKMAP, NP for Key Alliances

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a strategic move, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has gained the support of over two dozen electables, including former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan, as part of his election strategy.

During his two-day visit to Quetta, Sharif held crucial meetings with key political players, including the Baloch nationalist party National Party (NP), Jamiat ul Ulema Islam (JUI), Pashtoonkhwah Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), aiming to secure their backing for the upcoming general elections.

### Bilawal Suggests PML N To Focus On Lahore Instead Of Quetta

Sharif's visit comes after Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), suggested that the PML-N leader focus on Lahore instead of Quetta. While all mainstream political parties vie for the support of electables in Balochistan, PML-N appears to have secured a significant share.



The inclusion of key electables from the former ruling party BAP, such as Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Muhammad Khan Lehri, Mir Ghafoor Lehri, and others, strengthens PML-N's position, potentially making it the largest parliamentary party in Balochistan.

### Nawaz Gains Support Of BAP, PKMAP, NP, and JUI

Notably, meetings with

JUI, NP, PKMAP, and BAP indicate a strategic effort by PML-N to maximize support in Balochistan for the upcoming general elections.

The NP and PKMAP, both nationalist parties, had an alliance with PML-N after the 2013 elections when Dr. Malik Baloch served as the Chief Minister of Balochistan for two and a half years. Despite having a majority in the house, the PML-N decided to appoint Dr. Baloch as CM. However, Nawab

Sanaullah Zehri took over for the remaining period, only to be removed through a vote of no confidence by

Mir Qudus Bizenjo, leading to the establishment of BAP and dealing a blow to the PML-N.

As of this report, no delegation from the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) has contacted the former premier. These developments provide a clear snapshot of party positions in the upcoming general elections in Balochistan.

## Bilawal advises Nawaz to 'focus on Lahore' as PML-N supremo arrives in Quetta to woo electables

MITHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday advised PML-N party supremo, Nawaz Sharif to "focus on Lahore" for the upcoming general elections and try to remedy the city's woes as the ex-premier arrived in Quetta in an effort to form strategic alliances in all provinces ahead of the Feb 8 polls.

The PML-N has been engaging Sindh-based political parties in what appears to be an attempt to create an alliance against the PPP in the province. At a recent meeting, the PML-N had agreed to a demand of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) to support a constitutional reform package that would include a legal cover for the local government and disbursement of funds to districts through a provincial finance commission. In response, the PPP has mainly targeted the MQM-P for demanding changes to the Constitution and warned the PML-N to not expect loyalty from those who had betrayed their founder. Questioned about the PML-N's outreach during a press conference in Mithi today, Bilawal said everyone had the right to go to every province and conduct their politics. "I think Nawaz has been advised that because there have been difficulties created for the PML-N in Lahore, so he has been pained to go to other provinces for seats. My advice would be that he should focus on Lahore and he should try and address the problems there."



"We welcome them. Our whole contention with them was that they did not come here," he said in response to a question regarding Nawaz's visit to different provinces to woo politicians. Bilawal said no party would oppose different political parties visiting different provinces, however, he added that PML-N should still try to have confidence and get the MQM-P for demanding changes while carrying out these visits. "Do politics through your own party, do not ask other institutions to carry out your politics for you and create space for you. The right thing would be that PML-N does politics on its own weight, be it here or in Balochistan," he said. Bilawal concluded his media talk by saying that he was "proud" to contest the upcoming elections on the basis of his performance as a leader. He mentioned Shehbaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar, Khuram Dastgir, Saad Rafique, Ayaz Sadiq and Ahsan Iqbal — are they ready to contest on their performance over the last 15-16 months? NEWS DESK

Maybe that'll bring better results for him," he said. Bilawal said that he had no difference with any political party or a "fight" with any institution.

## Nawaz Returns to Quetta After 6 Years, Gains Support from 20 Electables

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: After a six-year absence, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif made a strategic return to Quetta, aiming to bolster his political influence.

On Tuesday evening, accompanied by key leaders, including

Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the PML-N leader sought the support of over 20 influential figures from Balochistan.

### Jam Kamal To Join PML N

Among them, former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan declared his decision to join PML-N, stating, "I have decided to join PML-N," during a press interaction at a private



hotel. Other notable figures, such as Dostan Khan Dorniki and Rameen Muhammad Hassani, joined the procession

of electables aligning with the former ruling party.

A formal announcement of their allegiance to PML-N is

scheduled for later this evening, marking a significant development in the regional political landscape.

## Moving vulnerable patients from Gaza's Al-Shifa hospital 'impossible task': WHO

GAZA: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has said Israel is committing the "equivalent of terrorism" in Gaza by killing innocent women and children in its military campaign on Hamas, AFP reports.

The veteran leftist had previously condemned as a "terrorist attack" the October 7 assault on Israel by the Palestinian group.

But the leader of Latin America's biggest country said the group's actions do not justify Israel's military response in Gaza, where more than 11,200 people, also mostly civilians, have been killed, according to health officials.

"Israel's attitude toward children, toward women, is the equivalent of terrorism. There's no other way to put it," Lula said in his weekly social media address.

Heavy rain in Gaza has brought new concerns and challenges for Palestinians, many of whom are homeless and living in makeshift tents after weeks of Israeli bombardment, Reuters reports.

The start of the rainy season and the possibility of flooding increased fears that the densely populated enclave's sewage system would be overwhelmed and disease would spread.



At a UN shelter in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, the rain brought dismay for displaced people who woke to find the clothes they put out to dry the night had been drenched by rain.

"We were in a house built of concrete and now we are in a tent," said Fayeza Stour, who sought safety in the south after Israel began its military offensive. "The nylon tarps, the tent and the wood will not resist any flooding... People sleeping on the floor, what will they do? Where will they go?"

Another displaced Gazan, Karim Mresh, said people at the shelter were praying for the rain to stop. "Those children, those women, those elderly pray to God that it doesn't rain," he said. "If it does it will be very difficult and words will fail to describe our suffering." The Red Cross has not met any of the hostages being held by the Gaza Strip, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said after meeting the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) president, AFP reports.

"Until today, none of our hostages met the Red Cross [...] we don't have any proof of life," Cohen told a press conference at the United Nations in Geneva.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres does not deserve to

lead the United Nations, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said, according to AFP.

"Guterres does not deserve to be the head of the United Nations. Guterres did not promote any peace process in the region... Guterres, like all the free nations, should say clearly and loudly: 'Free Gaza from Hamas,'" Cohen told a press conference at the UN in Geneva.

A Hamas official has said that Israel's bombardment and ground invasion of the Gaza Strip had put 25 of the besieged territory's 35 hospitals out of use, Reuters reports. "It has also destroyed 94 government buildings and 253 schools," Osama Hamdan, a Beirut-based Hamas official, told a news conference in the Lebanese capital.

The families of Israelis being held hostage by Hamas in the Gaza Strip have kicked off a five-day march from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem held hostage by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Reuters reports. "I demand from Benjamin Netanyahu and the cabinet to give us answers and actions," said Shelly Shem Tov, whose 21-year-old son Omer was dragged into Gaza five weeks ago.

Family members, friends and supporters of Israelis and other nationalities who were taken hostage on October 7 by Hamas during a deadly attack, march at the outskirts of Tel Aviv after they had a few days march towards Jerusalem, November 14, 2023. - Reuters "Where are you? Where are you?" she said, addressing the government in an impassioned plea at the start of the march. NEWS DESK

## IHC stays trial court proceedings against Imran in cipher case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday halted proceedings against PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the cipher case, stressing the need for the court to be informed about the "circumstances" that prompted the trial to be conducted in jail.

The IHC division bench, comprising Justice Mian-gul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Intiaz, passed the orders on the ex-premier's intra-court appeal against a single-member bench's decision that had approved Imran's jail trial.

The cipher case pertains to a diplomatic document that the Federal Investigation Agency's charge sheet alleges was never returned by Imran. The PTI has long held that the document contained a threat from the United States to oust Imran as prime minister.

The former premier and his aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who is also behind bars, were indicted in the case on Oct 23. They have pleaded not guilty.

The IHC has endorsed Imran's indictment, disposing of his plea against the same, but had also instructed the special court judge to ensure a "fair trial". During the hearing today, PTI chief Imran Khan's lawyer, Salman Akram Raja, and the Attorney General Mansoor Awan were present in the court.



At the outset, Awan informed the bench that the federal cabinet had approved Imran's jail trial, adding that a copy of the relevant notification would be presented.

Justice Aurangzeb said the court would scrutinize the notification, questioning the "extraordinary circumstances" that led to the trial being conducted in its current manner. "We want to know the actual events; you have to inform us," the judge observed.

The court also sought clarification on the reasons behind the federal cabinet's approval of the jail trial. "The most important question lies in determining the status of court proceedings preceding the cabinet's approval," Justice Aurangzeb asked.

The judge also referred to former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi's jail trial, saying, "It was conducted at Thar Jail where media was not allowed. Similar to that scenario involving a former premier, this case also involves the ex-PM." NEWS DESK

## Balochistan PCS Exam: 17,000+ Candidates Begin Pursuit of Civil Services Success

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a much-anticipated event, the Balochistan Provincial Civil Services (PCS) examinations commenced with over 17,000 candidates competing for 122 coveted government posts. Amidst stringent security measures, the examination is a significant milestone for the region, marking the first time in years that the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) has advertised a substantial number of vacancies.

### Candidates Testing Muscles For 122 Posts

Candidates are vigorously testing their mettle for 50 assistant commissioner positions, 29 section officer roles, and 43 deputy superintendent of police (DSP) positions. The unprecedented number of vacancies is expected to have a profound impact on the governance landscape of Balochistan.

### BPSC Conducting Tests And Interviews



The BPSC, responsible for conducting tests and interviews for these positions, has emphasized its commitment to upholding merit and transparency throughout the recruitment process. The move is seen as a positive step towards ensuring a fair and competitive selection of candidates for key administrative roles in the province.

The increased number of advertised positions reflects a strategic effort to address personnel gaps and enhance the efficiency of governance structures in Balochistan. As the examinations unfold, candidates and stakeholders are keenly observing the proceedings, anticipating a transformative impact on the region's administrative landscape.

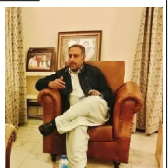
## Saleem Khoso Resigns from PPP in Protest Against Provincial President

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Saleem Khan Khoso, the former Balochistan Minister resigned from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in protest against the provincial president Mir Changaz Jamali. "The Provincial President has really disappointed me," Mr. Khoso said in a statement issued to the press.

The former minister's resignation came a day after the party held a day's meeting in Karachi under the chairmanship of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to evolve a political strategy regarding the upcoming general elections.

As a sitting MPA of the former ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), I had announced joining the PPP, he recalled. "I risked my MPA ship and joined



the PPP," he said.

Now the elders of my area asked me to resign from PPP after unwanted interference from the PPP Balochistan president, he said.

OPINION

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Health Card Initiative: A Lifesaving Revolution

Editorial: The Balochistan government is on the verge of launching a highly anticipated health card system aimed at addressing the healthcare needs of the region's population.

An Inclusive Program: The eligibility criteria are quite inclusive, as anyone possessing a national identity card with a Balochistan province address can easily take advantage of this service.

Over 2 Million Families To Benefit: The potential impact is substantial, as over 2 million families in Balochistan stand to benefit from this healthcare initiative.

Govt Hospitals Paint A Bleak Picture: In Balochistan, government-run hospitals have long struggled to provide adequate health facilities and access to healthcare professionals.

Govt Hospitals Paint A Bleak Picture: In Balochistan, government-run hospitals have long struggled to provide adequate health facilities and access to healthcare professionals.

Valuing migrants: strip them of all empathy, and pin terrorist acts on them. Which ones, we aren't told. I don't recall Afghans being named right after a recent attack that shuns migrants.

Valuing migrants

By Dr Niaz Murtaza: I WAS in Afghanistan last week. I have worked in many rebel-held areas globally.

Long poor, the Israeli treats the Palestinians? We may push Afghans into the enemy's arms. Long poor, the Israeli treats the Palestinians? We may push Afghans into the enemy's arms.

Our logic is bad — legally, morally, economically and politically. We say we only evict those who are 'illegal'. This is simply state spin to criminalise and dehumanise them.

As cursing won't help, try reason

By Jawad Naveed: CURSING the enemy is a heritage of many belief systems, designed as a hex in some and simply venting the spleen in others.

By a huke, however, cursing did seem to do the trick for Iran on two key occasions, giving it a new lease of life. Israel, a former ally of Iran, has its own quota of cursing cultures as part of an ancient tradition.

Through most of the 19th century, the Jews were arrested in Jerusalem for spitting at a Christian procession. The Haaretz expressed its anguish thus: "Although the phenomenon by Ashkenazi Jews of spitting near a church or priests isn't new, it has become an act of public

By Masood Lohar

PICTURE yourself residing in a lavish mansion, boasting a multiple-digit price tag, in the heart of the city's most exclusive neighbourhood. Despite the opulence, the very essence of life for you and your family is being gradually eroded.

While Lahore and Delhi have been in a fierce competition, not just this week but throughout the past month, to claim the top spot on the World Quality Index of the world's worst air quality, Karachi hasn't been far behind.

Incomplete victories

By Arifa Noor: IN a recent interaction, someone commented that none of the political parties had any plans to fix the economy.

Will the eligibility stand or will the disqualification? What if the younger brother, as everyone in the country is whispering? What if he was the election for his party, only to be deprived of the major slot at the last moment?

Here, it seems as if all our main players are deeply flawed characters stuck like Garcia Marquez's patriarch in a state of isolation and paranoia.

Climate adaptation

By Huma Yusuf: WORLDWar II will get us before climate change. This is an increasingly common refrain.

Facing failure in the face of this key target, global climate leaders are seeking success elsewhere. Attention is turning to climate adaptation.

Rehman, Pakistan alone needs \$348bn by 2030 to build climate resilience. But as of November 2022, the country had only received \$86.2 million.

air pollution, leading to smog that obscures the city's skyline. Typically, the smog season extends from the beginning of November to the end of February — a third of the year.

Despite being a coastal city with marine ecosystems, Karachi should ideally be free from air pollution due to its potential for 'blue carbon' — carbon sequestered through mangroves.

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## PUVC stresses measures to promote Islamic banking in country

LAHORE (INP): Punjab University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood has called for additional measures for the promotion of Islamic banking in the country. He was addressing the opening ceremony of three-day research week organized by Punjab University Hailey College of Commerce.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Baba Gurunank University Prof Dr Muhammad Afzal, Dean Faculty of Commerce Prof Dr Mubbsher Munawar Khan, General Manager National Bank of Pakistan Hasan Raza Khan, Muhammad Mustafa Mahood from Saudi Arabia, Principal HCC Prof Dr Hafiz Zafar Ahmed,

delegates from Pakistan and other countries, researchers, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

Speaking to the participants, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that a graduate of Hailey College of Commerce can easily make his place in the market. He said that holding such events helps in making ideas into reality. He congratulated the organizers for organizing an excellent event and hoped that it would help to promote business in the country in accordance with Islamic principles.

Dr Muhammad Afzal said that the increase in the number of students in Punjab University Hailey Col-

lege of Commerce every year shows that the teachers are hardworking and competent.

Prof Dr Mubbsher Munawar Khan said that there is a need to promote research that benefits the society. He said that research work should not be done only for increasing the quantity but for practical benefit in business. He said that it is possible to improve the economic situation of the country through research based on solving the problems faced by industry and business.

Hasan Raza Khan said that the National Bank of Pakistan is working in the right direction, the results of which will be revealed

soon. Muhammad Mustafa Mahmood said that we have to work together to move forward, for that the education is the best source. He said that exchange of student delegations will promote international relations. Prof Dr Hafiz Zafar Ahmed said that the students of Punjab University HCC are given skills along with education. He said that our teachers are serving in other countries including Turkey and Cyprus. He said that a three-day research week is being organized for the first time under the auspices of HCC in which two international conferences, thesis competitions, seminars and other research activities will be held.



CHINA: Photo taken at the opening ceremony of the "Peace and Friendship" 2023 joint military exercises in Zhangjiang, eastern Guangdong province.

## Egypt captain Salah leads African stars into World Cup qualifying

JOHANNESBURG (INP): Prolific Liverpool scorer and Egypt captain Mohamed Salah will be among the stars in action this week when 2026 World Cup qualifying in Africa kicks off with two matches.

His two Premier League goals against Brentford at the weekend raised his total to 200 in English football, and he is now set to shine against Group A rivals Djibouti and Sierra Leone. Salah was the second highest ranked African in the Ballon d'Or last month behind Napoli and Nigeria forward Victor Osimhen, who misses the first matches due to an injury. Omar Marmouh of Eintracht Frankfurt and Mostafa Mohamed of Nantes are other Egyptians who have been scoring regularly in major European leagues this season. Djibouti, who face Egypt in Cairo on Thursday, are among the weakest African national teams and have twice suffered eight-goal hidings in World Cup qualifiers. Sierra Leone will be handicapped at having to stage a home fixture against Egypt on Sunday in Liberia be-

cause they lack an international-standard stadium. Egypt have won the Africa Cup of Nations a record seven times, but struggle in World Cup qualifying, reaching the finals only three times, compared with eight appearances by Cameroon.

The strongest challenge to Salah and his teammates could come from Burkina Faso, ranked 10th in Africa, five places below Egypt. Guinea-Bissau and Ethiopia are the other Group A contenders.

Nigeria must do without Osimhen, one of the favourites to win the CAF Footballer of the Year award next month, and injured AC Milan winger Samuel Chukwueze against Lesotho and Zimbabwe. But Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro has many talented replacements to choose from, including Victor Boniface of Bayer Leverkusen and Talno Awoniyi of Nottingham Forest. There are concerns, however, about the Super Eagles' defence with Cyprus-based goalkeeper Francis Uzoho coming under fire for his performances in two recent friendly matches.

Zimbabwe are back in international football after a FIFA ban for government interference prevented them competing in 2024 Cup of Nations qualifying.

They are among 17 African countries who cannot play at home either because of sub-standard stadiums or safety concerns and will host Nigeria in the Rwandan city of Butare. South Africa are considered the biggest threats to Nigeria in Group C, but will tackle Benin at home and Rwanda away minus star Lyle Foster.

The Burnley forward and only South African in the Premier League has been sidelined by the recurrence of a mental health issue. Former Premier League manager Chris Hughton admits he is under pressure as Ghana coach ahead of qualifiers at home to Madagascar and away to the Comoros. "They are two games we must do well in," he said amid media calls for his dismissal after a four-goal friendly hiding by the United States last month. Veteran Andre Dede Ayew, who joined Ligue 1 outfit Le Havre last week-

end, has been recalled, but an injury rules out another midfielder, Thomas Partey from Arsenal. Last December in Qatar Morocco became the first World Cup semi-finalists from Africa, but they will not be involved in matches on as opponents Eritrea withdrew without an explanation.

So Saudi Arabia-based goalkeeper Youssef Al-Nasser, Paris Saint-Germain defender Achraf Hakimi and Sevilla forward Youssef En-Nesyri go into action for the Atlas Lions only next Tuesday. Their belated entry into qualifying will be away to Tanzania in Group E, which also includes resurgent Zambia, Congo Brazzaville and Niger, who are set to hire Moroccan coach Badou Zaki. The nine group winners after 260 qualifiers that stretch to October 2025 qualify for the record 48 nation finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico. There could be a 10th African qualifier as the best four runners-up enter a mini-tournament and the winners advance to inter-continental play-offs with two finals places up for grabs.



NEWSHERA, Afghan refugees are registering at UNHCR's refugee camp and repatriation center.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with delegation of Oxford Alumni at aiwan-e-sadr. INP

## China opens new opportunities for Pakistani value-added dairy products

ISLAMABAD (INP): China has opened new opportunities for Pakistani value-added dairy products. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has issued a bulletin regarding the inspection and quarantine requirements for imported Pakistani dairy products.

The bulletin states that Pakistani dairy products that meet the necessary requirements are now permitted to be imported to China as of November 6.

As agriculture and poverty alleviation remain among the targeted sectors during the phase-II of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the access of dairy and meat products to China represents a significant stride towards promoting economic development and creating more job opportunities in Pakistan.

China and Pakistan have been collaborating in developing dairy industry for many years, specifically in the production of high milk yielding cows. In 2022, the Royal Group of

China has established a laboratory in Lahore to develop buffalo embryos of elite animals.

Besides Buffalo Embryos Laboratory Project, Royal Group also plans for deep processing of buffalo milk (milk powder, cheese, fresh milk, etc.).

It will not only increase the added value of milk products in Pakistan but also create thousands of jobs for the locals, according to sources with the company. According to GACC's announcement, the package of milk products allowed to be

exported to China refers to food items that come from Pakistan and are made from cow's or camel's milk.

These products include milk powder, whey powder, whey protein powder, colostrum powder, sterilized milk, fermented milk, cheese and processed cheese, thin cream, butter, and anhydrous cream, among others. Pakistan and China issued a joint press statement on October 20.

The two sides noted the signing of protocols for the export of heated beef and dried chili from Pakistan to China.

## PRCS provided assistance to 2.7 mln flood affectedes: Shahid Laghari

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Sardar Shahid Laghari has said that the society benefitted over 2.7 million flood

affected people through the provision of tents, food, non-food items, shelter, cash assistance, and essential household items.

him during his meeting with the Ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Dilsad Senol, who called on him on Tuesday.

Sardar Shahid Laghari further stated that PRCS has benefited families through its active assistance in 55 districts. The chairman PRCS provided a comprehensive overview

of the society's programs and its initiatives to the Ambassador regarding rescue, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction following the recent floods in Pakistan.

He extended an invitation to Ambassador Dilsad Senol to visit the PRCS National Headquarters. The ambassador praised the exceptional services of

PRCS during natural disasters and emergencies, specifically acknowledging their recent humanitarian assistance to flood-affected families; assured cooperation with the Red Crescent to ensure uninterrupted service to humanity. Chairman Shahid Laghari presented a commemorative shield from PRCS to the ambassador.



ISLAMABAD: Newly elected office bearers of students council of Model College F-6/2 pose for group photo with chief guest Additional Secretary Education Syed Junaid Ishaq and Principal Prof Aliya Durrani in oath taking ceremony held on Tuesday.

## Symposium on BRI Bio-health Agriculture held in Northwest China

BEIJING (INP): The 4th International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health Agriculture and Technology Demonstration Park Construction Forum was held at Northwest A&F University (NWAU), China and online from Nov. 12 to Nov. 16.

Co-organizers include the Silkroad (Yangling) Biohealth Agricultural Industry Alliance (SBHIA). The Sino-Pak Research Center for Agro-Biological Resources, The Sino-Pak Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Center, Pakistan Branch of China Machinery Industry Engineering Group Co., Ltd. (Sichuan Litong Food Co., Ltd. (Puji Holdings Group), The University of Harbin, Sindh Agriculture University,

Bahauddin Zakariya University, etc. Professor Muhammad Ashraf, Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Science and Engineering (CAE) and Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), served as the conference consultant. Two other famous Pakistani scholars, Professor Shaif Ur Rehman, President of Harpur University and Professor Fath Muhammad Mari, President of Sindh Agricultural University, also addressed the conference. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. At the symposium, a total of 18 keynote reports will be delivered on different field including comprehensive utilization of agricultural, forestry and aquatic wastes, healthy animal breeding and environmental protection, healthy grassland and ecological restoration,

and high-quality agricultural production involving the sustainability of soil, plant, animal, human and ecosystem health, reducing or excluding external agricultural inputs, especially pesticides and synthetic fertilizers or other hazardous/toxic chemicals. During the five-day period, a sub-forum on healthy aquaculture and waste resource utilization will also be held, and an academic report on the application of modern biotechnology will be released. Participants are going to visit the Xi'an ground breeding base of the Shaanxi Provincial Aerospace Breeding Engineering Technology Research Center, local biological health vegetable bases, and the Yangling Demonstration Zone Agricultural Science and Technology Industrial Park, and hold exchange meetings with local enterprises.

More than 200 domestic and foreign representatives from Pakistan, Czech Republic, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and other countries, as well as the Institute of Dry Land Agriculture of Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Pakistan Branch of China Machinery Industry Engineering Group Co., Ltd. (Sichuan Litong Food Co., Ltd. (Puji Holdings Group)) and other more than 20 units attended the forum.

"Biohealth Agriculture" (BHA) was put forward by Professor Zhang Lixin, NWAU in 2017 at the first International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health. It refers to the use of biological means for safe

## Pakistan, IMF talks continue, UAE assures external financing investment

ISLAMABAD (INP): Policy-level talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) review mission continued on Tuesday, with a focus on reforms in government institutions, privatization, revenue, expenditure, dollar inflows, institutional reforms, non-subsidy in the energy sector during the debt program, measures to reduce the budget deficit, power sector and petroleum sector.

According to media reports, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has assured Pakistan of external financing and investment, according to sources who attended an important meeting between the IMF Review Mission and the Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan. The meeting discussed the assurances to be given by friendly countries on external financing by Pakistan.

The IMF has not demanded any new taxes from

Pakistan, but has demanded that the country achieve its tax target for the current fiscal year. Pakistan is hopeful of a successful completion of the first review of the IMF's loan program.

According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, Pakistan has provided the IMF with a written plan for achieving the tax target of Rs 9415 billion. The plan also includes measures to eliminate tax evasion from the real estate sector.

The Pakistan team, led by caretaker Finance Minister Shamsud Akhtar, also briefed the IMF on reforms in government institutions, the progress of the privatization program, and the National Clean Air Policy, National Climate Change Strategy, exchange rates, Sukuk bonds for new debt, T-bills, and issuance of investment bonds.

The talks between Pakistan and the IMF are likely to

continue till November 15. If successful, Pakistan will get the next installment of about \$71 million from the IMF's loan program. Final approval in the case of a staff-level agreement will be given by the IMF's Executive Board.

The UAE has not disclosed the specific amount of external financing and investment that it has assured Pakistan, but the support is likely to be significant. The UAE has a close relationship with Pakistan and has been a major investor in the country in recent years.

The UAE's support is significant for Pakistan as it comes at a time when the country is facing economic challenges. The IMF's loan program is crucial for Pakistan to meet its external financing needs and to stabilize its economy. The UAE's support will also help to boost investor confidence in Pakistan and attract more foreign investment.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister Food and Security & Research meeting with the Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister on Trade and Investment Jamshaid Khodjaev.

## ANF seizes 960kg narcotics worth US\$27.064m, arrests 32 in countrywide operations

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 960,981 kilogram drugs and 102 liters Hydrochloric Acid Chemical (HCL) worth US\$ 27.064 million, arrested 32 accused including two women & a foreigner (Japanese National), impounded 14 vehicles while conducting 33 counter narcotics operations throughout the country.

The seized drugs comprised 266.22 kg opium, 121.137 kg Heroin, 470.408 kg hashish, 7.576 kg Methamphetamine (ice), 660 grams Ecstasy Tablets (1000 x Tabs) and 95 kg Morphine.

The ANF Balochistan recovered 435 kg drugs & 102 liters Hydrochloric Acid Chemical (HCL) in six operations while arrested two accused persons in drug smuggling.

The ANF Sindh recovered 10,860 kg drugs in three operations while arrested three accused persons including 1 foreigner (Japanese National) in drug smuggling. The seized drugs comprised 6,600 kg Hashish and 4,260 Methamphetamine (ice).

The ANF North recovered 231,103 kg drugs in eight operations while arrested 10 accused including a woman arrested in drug smuggling and impounded four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 108 kg Opium, 1,687 kg Heroin, 119,600 kg Hashish, 1,816 kg Methamphetamine (ice) and 1 x Pistol.

All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 (Amended 2022) and further investigations are under process.

## PMD predicts dry weather in most, cold weather in upper parts of country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted dry weather in most parts and cold weather in upper parts of the country.

"Mainly dry weather is expected in most parts of the country, while cold in upper parts," it said.

According to PMD, fog was likely to occur at a few places in plain areas of Punjab, upper Sindh and Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa during morning hours. Temperature of major cities recorded on Tuesday morning were:

Islamabad eleven degree centigrade, Lahore fifteen, Karachi twenty, Peshawar twelve, Quetta five, Gilgit two, Murree eight and Muzaffarabad ten degree centigrade.

According to weather forecast for Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, cold and dry weather was expected in Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag, Baramulla, Jammu, while very cold and dry weather in Leh.

Temperature recorded in IIOJK on Tuesday morning: Srinagar and Shopian five degree centigrade, Jammu fifteen, Leh minus four, Pulwama, Anantnag and Baramulla four degree centigrade.



QUETTA: EX Senator Haji Lashkari Resani addressing on Taqadus Al Qudus conference.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## King's Day: Belgium Embassy announces various events

ISLAMABAD (INP): To mark the King's Day in a befitting manner, the Embassy of Belgium in Pakistan has declared the grand opening of Belgian Week in Pakistan, kicking off with the celebration of the day on November 15.

It should be mentioned here that the Belgians give special importance to the King's Day, symbolizing unity and reinforcing national pride, celebrating the enduring monarchy that has been integral to the nation's history. In Belgium, the monarchy is constitutional, with the monarch serving as a symbol of continuity said a news release of the embassy.

Nevertheless, each of the seven kings since the country's independence in 1830 has managed to establish a strong personal relationship with the Belgians. This tradition continues in 2023, as King Philippe celebrates the 10th anniversary of his oath-taking.

The King's Day celebration in Islamabad will be marked by a reception at the Residence of Belgium, also commemorating 75 years of strong and enduring diplomatic ties between Belgium and Pakistan.

This event sets the stage for Belgian Week 2023, featuring cultural, culinary, and diplomatic events. While sharing the program, the embassy announced a recital of French songs by Belgian artist Stan Pollet at the Belgian Residence on November 17, in partnership with Pakistani musicians Wajid Nizami and Irfan Khan.

From November 18 to 20, a Belgian Culinary Festival will take place in partnership with Ter Groene Poote of Bruges, followed by Stan Pollet's recital at Alhambra Concert House, Lahore, on November 22, in collaboration with Alliance Française de Lahore. On November 24, the Theater Wallay group will perform Maurice Maeterlinck's theatre play in Urdu at the Pakistan National Center of Arts, Islamabad. Additionally, on December 9, a picture exhibition by photographers Wendy Marjussen and Maika Abbas will open at the VM Gallery in Karachi.

The Belgian Week 2023 aimed to highlight the enduring friendship between Belgium and Pakistan through events symbolizing bilateral partnerships and cultural exchange.

The chief minister welcomed



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Commerce Dr. Gahar Ejaz co-chairing the trilateral trade meeting along with Afghanistan Trade Minister Nooruddin Aziz.

## Israeli military claims hostages were held in Gaza hospital

JERUSALEM (INP): The Israeli military shared video and photographs showing what it said were weapons stored by Hamas in the basement of a children's hospital in Gaza where it also said hostages appear to have been held.

Military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said troops had found a command centre with an armory of weapons including grenades, suicide vests and other explosives stored by Hamas fighters in the basement of Rantissi Hospital, a paediatric hospital with a speciality in treating cancer patients.

"And we also found signs that indicate that Hamas held hostages here," he told a televised briefing. "This is currently under our investigation. But we also have intelligence that verifies it." He showed footage of what appeared to be rudimentary living quarters, including a small kitchen, as well as a nearby tunnel shaft which he said led to the house of a senior Hamas naval commander.

"Hamas took all this area under its control and conducted its war against Israel from this hospital," he said.

In addition, troops found a motorcycle with gunshot marks which he said appeared to have been used to bring hostages to Gaza after the surprise attack on Oct. 7 when Hamas gunmen stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people and seizing around 240 captives, according to Israeli authorities. In retaliation, Israel has launched an intense bombardment of the Gaza Strip and followed up with a ground operation that has seen troops push deep into the enclave. More than 11,000 people have been killed in Gaza, according

to Palestinian health officials. On Monday, Israeli tanks were positioned outside the gates of Al Shifa hospital, the main hospital in Gaza where hundreds of patients were still waiting to be evacuated. As the invasion has proceeded, Israel has accused Hamas of using hospitals and other civilian infrastructure to hide command centres and weapons positions and of using civilians and hospital patients as human shields. Hamas and hospital authorities in Gaza have denied that health facilities have been used in this way. There was no immediate comment from Hamas on the latest Israeli statements. The United Nations has called for a halt to attacks on healthcare in Gaza. Israel says it is allowing the evacuation of patients and civilians.