

QUETTA VOICE

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Religious scholars in a meeting with COAS, General Syed Asim Munir

Terrorist Sanctuaries In Afghanistan A Permanent Threat To Pakistan: Minister Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai said the terrorist sanctuaries in neighboring Afghanistan were posing a serious threat to peace in Pakistan.

He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Friday.

"Afghan Taliban have been repeatedly asked about this terrorist threat", he said.

The minister reiterated that Pakistan stands for peace in the region and strives for the respectable repatriation of all illegal immigrants.

Terrorists Planning To Target Chaman Sit-In: Achakzai

About the ongoing Chaman sit-in, the Minister revealed that terrorists near Zhob were planning to carry out a terrorist attack and target the participants of the sit-in.

This was an attempt on the part of the terrorists to turn masses against the state of Pakistan, he mentioned.

Jan Achakzai said the government has decided in principle to repatriate all illegal immigrants.

He said a crackdown would also be launched against the registered refugees after January 2024.

Islamic Scholars Condemn Extremism, Terrorism in Meeting with COAS

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: Leading Islamic Scholars (Ulema o Mashaiikh) of all schools of thought interacted with General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ on Friday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Ulema and Mashaiikh unanimously condemned extremism, terrorism, and sectarianism and pledged their continued support for the untiring efforts of State and security forces to bring tolerance, peace, and stability to the country.

They underscored that Islam is a religion of peace and harmony and any skewed and distorted interpretations of religion by certain entities are for their vested interests only and have nothing to do with Islamic teachings.

Religious Scholars Urged To Reject Misleading Propaganda

COAS while lauding 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' Fatwa by religious scholars to nullify misleading propaganda disseminated by extremists and terrorists called upon Ulema o Mashaiikh for its propagation and implementation in letter and spirit and shun internal schemes.

COAS signified the role of Ulema in harnessing youth towards understanding of Quran and Sunnah and character build-



Islamic Scholars Condemn in Meeting with COAS

ing alongside other academic knowledge and technical skills. COAS said there is no space for intolerance and extreme behavior by any entity against anyone, particularly against minorities and vulnerable segments of society. The forum unanimously supported the Government's measures to harden the State including repatriation of illegal foreigners, implementation of the One Document Regime, anti-smuggling and hoarding measures, and anti-power theft drive. It also fully acknowledged Pakistan's position and concerns on terrorism emanating from Af-

No Place For Intolerance, Extreme Behavior: COAS

ghan soil and urged serious actions by Afghanistan to address Pakistan's concerns.

The Forum Condemns Atrocities Against The Voiceless Palestinians

The forum also expressed anguish on the ongoing conflict in Gaza and atrocities being committed against the hapless people of Gaza and termed them as crimes against humanity.

"Pakistan belongs to all Pakistanis without any religious, provincial, tribal, linguistic, ethnic, sectarian or any other distinction. Use of force and armed attack against the innocent people of Gaza and termed them as crimes against humanity," COAS concluded.

Quetta: Accused Sentenced to Life Imprisonment and 5 Lakh Fine in Murder Case

Syed Kaleem Shah:

QUETTA: In a significant legal development, Additional Sessions Judge Sariab-1, Mr. Aurangzeb Ghamman, has pronounced a life sentence and imposed a fine of 5 lakh rupees on Abdul Samad for the murder of Abdul Qayyum, also known as Muhammad Naeem.

The incident occurred during a heated altercation within the jurisdiction of Shaheed Manzoor Tareen police station, resulting in the tragic death of Abdul Qayyum and injuries to his son, Muhammad Usman.

Verdict Delivered After Completion Of Arguments

The verdict was delivered after the completion of arguments from both sides during the last court hearing.

Following the conclusion of the proceedings, Judge Sarab reserved the decision, which has now been unveiled, sealing the fate of the accused.

Abdul Samad, found guilty of stabbing Abdul Qayyum with a sharp instrument, will face life behind bars, coupled with a substantial fine. The accused has



Prosecutor Behram Lashari Represented Govt

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Prosecutor Behram Lashari, representing the government, skillfully presented the case, leading to the successful conviction of the accused. The sentencing marks a pivotal moment in the pursuit of justice for the victim's family and serves as a stern warning against acts of violence within the community.

The accused, Abdul Samad, has been promptly sent to jail following the sentencing. This verdict not only brings closure to a tragic chapter but also sends a clear message about the legal consequences of such actions in society.

Caretaker govt challenges SC verdict on military trials of civilians

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court on Friday against the decision of a five-member bench that had declared the trials of civilians under the Pakistan Army Act 1952 as unconstitutional.

Former chief justice Jawwad S. Khawaja, one of those who successfully petitioned the Supreme Court against the military trials of civilians, the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, through their respective chief secretaries, and the government, through the secretary of the defence ministry, were named respondents in the case.

In the widely praised Oct 23 ruling, the bench, comprising Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Munib Akhtar, Yabva Afridi, Syed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Ayesha Malik had declared that trying civilians in military courts for their alleged role in attacks on army installations during the riots that followed PTI chairman Imran Khan's arrest was ultra vires the Constitution. The bench had also expressed concern that the cases of the suspects involved in the vandalism would proceed before criminal courts.

The federal government's appeal comes on the heels of a similar plea filed by the Sindh government. The fresh appeal has not yet been accepted for hearing.

The appeal filed by the Centre, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, said that the incidents of May 9 involved "targeted attacks" on military installations and establishments in an "organised and coordinated manner", adding that they were "neither localised nor isolated".

The plea said that several first information reports (FIRs) were registered in the aftermath. It noted that several of the FIRs did not mention provisions of the Act but argued that the SC had previously held that the contents and not a particular statutory provision determined the nature of offences.

It said that the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act was declared ultra vires the Constitution and had taken effect since their separation of judiciary from the executive. NEWS DESK

ity, it is submitted with reverence that the constitution of the bench [...] is in contravention to the procedure prescribed under Section 2 and 3 of this Act," it said.

"Therefore, the judgement is liable to be set aside for having been rendered coram non iudice [without jurisdiction] and thus a nullity in the eye of law," the appeal said. It further said that the petitions were not maintainable before the top court in its original jurisdiction under Article 184(3).

It said that the challenges raised in the petitions could have been adjudicated by the high courts in their original constitutional jurisdiction under Article 199. The appeal argued that the petitions fell outside the purview of "the contours that this court had determined for the exercise of its original jurisdiction".

The appeal said that the trial of accused persons, whether military personnel or otherwise, could not be challenged for being in violation of any of the fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 9, 10-A and 25.

It said that offences under Section 2(1)(d)(ii) included those offences under the Official Secrets Act which "related to works of defence or naval, military or air force affairs, which may be prejudicial safety, interest, defence, sovereignty, and sanctity of Pakistan [...]".

"It is clear from the nature of these offences that despite being committed by persons who are not members of the armed forces, they are closely related to the proper discharge of duties of such members," the appeal said.

It contended that Sections 2(1)(d) and 59(4) of the Army Act were "constitutionally insulated from a challenge on the touchstone of fundamental rights and the impugned order/judgement, to the extent that it has failed to appreciate this, has erred in law. Therefore, on this count, the impugned order/judgement is liable to be set aside," it said.

The appeal said that the judgement, to the extent of finding the provisions of the Army Act unconstitutional on account of Article 175(3) and the requirement therein of separation of judiciary from the executive. NEWS DESK

BNP Mengal Stages Protest Against Gas Load Shedding

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: The Balochistan National Party (Mengal) orchestrated a compelling protest against the persistent and unannounced gas load shedding plaguing Quetta and various regions of the province.

The demonstration unfolded on Friday as fervent supporters of the BNP flooded outside the office of the

Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) to voice their frustration and demand immediate rectification of the energy crisis.

Protesters Wielded Banners And Banners

Mir Ghulam Nabi Marri led the flags-waving supporters of the BNP Mengal.

Amidst the protest, impassioned participants wielded placards and banners adorned with poignant slogans, specifically target-



BNP Mengal staging a protest demonstration against gas load shedding.

ing the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) as the focal point of their grievances.

The atmosphere was charged

with a palpable sense of urgency, as the crowd collectively denounced the prolonged and arbitrary nature of the gas shortages.

SSGC Urged To Address The Issue

The protest not only served as a manifestation of public displeasure but also as a poignant call to action, urging authorities to address the issue promptly.

The BNP's stance against the gas load shedding reverberated through the streets, amplifying the voices of those affected by the energy crisis.

As the demonstration unfolded, it underscored the depth of the ongoing energy challenges faced by the residents of Quetta and beyond.

No way out of IMF loans anytime soon, says Finance Minister Shamshad

ISLAMABAD: The government has deferred its plans to issue a \$1.5 billion international bond, Caretaker Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar said on Thursday, stressing that the country will have to go for more IMF loan programmes for some time as the economy remains fragile.

Her remarks came a day after the government reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a nine-month bailout package. During a press briefing, Dr Akhtar outlined

key aspects of the IMF agreement, affirming the government's commitment to regular tariff adjustments, including a planned gas price hike in January to prevent the accumulation of circular debt in both the gas and power sectors. The electricity and gas rates would be "continuously revised" and their costs controlled besides transferring their management to the private sector as soon as possible and institutionalising ongoing campaign against power and gas theft, she said.



She said Pakistan would also need to adhere to the market-determined exchange rate completely, remain responsive through adequate monetary policy adjustment, particularly to competition, and bring more state-owned enterprises in line with the financing and governance template of the newly approved SOEs. These four state firms include the National Highway Authority (NHA), the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), the Pakistan Broad-

casting Corporation (PBC), and the Pakistan Post. Dr Akhtar also tried to allay concerns regarding the external financing gap, expressed confidence over the achievement of the tax collection target and said the government would remain committed to fiscal consolidation for macroeconomic stability and balanced growth. She said that unlike in the past, no prior action was required by the IMF management this time before approving the staff-level agreement. NEWS DESK

Business areas' traffic issues to be resolved on priority basis: SSP Traffic

ISLAMABAD (INP): SSP Traffic Police Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk along with SP Chaudhry Abd and DSP Tariq Mehmood visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Friday and discussed with the business community various options to resolve the traffic issues in the Capital.

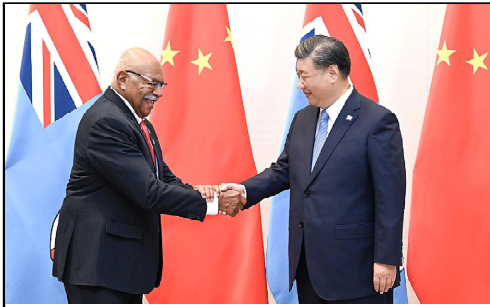
Speaking on the occasion, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that traffic accidents were increasing, so a police-citizen committee should be formed to work together to address this issue. He said that appropriate measures should be taken to tackle the issues of over speeding and violation of traffic rules. Minor children should

be banned from driving, seat belts should be strictly enforced, one-wheeling and other violations of traffic rules should be curbed, which will reduce accidents and improve the traffic system in the city. He said that Islamabad was expanding rapidly and the current traffic police force was proving insufficient. IG Police Islamabad should increase the strength of traffic police to control the traffic issues in business areas and other busy places. He highlighted the need of improving the traffic system at the entrances of Islamabad like Rawat, Tarnol, Bhara Kahu as the business hubs located in these areas are facing the worst traffic problems. Ahsan Zafar said

that lane marking has not been done in busy areas for a long time due to which traffic discipline has weakened. Traffic Police should work on it in collaboration with ICCI. He said that CDA should transfer the traffic engineering department to traffic police. He said that ICCI is ready to conduct awareness campaigns in collaboration with traffic police to improve the traffic system in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Traffic Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk emphasized for close cooperation between the business community and the traffic police to address issues and promote disciplined traffic in the city. He said that a special mechanism has been made to enhance traffic police in big commercial centers to maintain smooth traffic flow.

The SSP underscored the need to install cameras in all the markets to control car theft and other incidents. He said that despite the lack of resources, the traffic police was trying to perform better. He said that ICCI should cooperate with the traffic police in awareness programs to educate the citizens about the importance of disciplined traffic. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI, said that the police should arrange training programs on traffic rules for the citizens. He said that the issue of excessive e-challans should be looked into.



USA: Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting with Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in San Francisco.

Xi-Biden meeting drew up a blueprint for sound China-USA ties: Spokesperson

BEIJING (INP): The Xi-Biden meeting identified the direction and drew up a blueprint for the sound, steady and sustained development of bilateral ties.

It was a positive, comprehensive and constructive meeting of strategic and far-reaching significance.

The international community has been closely following the summit meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden in San Francisco.

Commenting on the outcome of the meeting, she said the two heads of state had a candid and in-depth exchange of views.

They held further discussions about the right way for China and the US to get along, clearly outlined the shared responsibilities of our two major countries, and came up with a future-oriented "San Francisco vision".

President Xi elaborated on China's position on stabilizing and improving China-US relations.

He pointed out that both sides need to work together to form a correct perception, effectively manage differences, advance mutually-beneficial cooperation, assume due responsibilities as major countries, and promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

In this way, we will be building five pillars for the stable growth of bilateral ties and embracing a new vision for our relationship.

This major event in international relations today will no doubt go down as a milestone in China-US relations.

The international meeting with over 20 common understandings in political, diplomatic, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, global governance, military, security and other fields.

These important common understandings and deliverables further attest to the wide-ranging common interests shared by China and the US.

They also prove that mutual benefits is the defining feature of China-US relations and dialogue and cooperation is the only right choice for both sides.

It was an important opportunity for the two sides to build trust, clear up misgivings, manage differences and expand cooperation and an important meeting that adds certainty and stability for a world going through turmoil and changes.

San Francisco can be a new starting point for stabilizing China-US relations. Both sides need to make renewed efforts to translate the new vision into reality, further consolidate the foundation of bilateral ties, build pillars for peaceful coexistence, and realize the sound, steady and sustained growth of our relations.

Question: After talks in San Francisco, China and the US announced reestablishing military-to-military mechanisms which were canceled after Pelosi's visit last year to Taiwan.

Question: The White House has released an official statement about President Xi and President Biden's meeting. Regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict, the President reiterated US support for Israel's right for defending itself against terrorism and emphasized the importance of all countries using their influence to prevent escalation and expansion of the conflict. But the statement does not mention the violation of international law and international humanitarian law or helping the Palestinian people.

Does China have any comment on this?

President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed preventive rather curative approach to prevent cardiovascular diseases. He said that dietary and lifestyle changes hold key importance in this regard.

In his video-link address to the 12th biennial conference of the Pakistani Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons held in Peshawar on Friday, he said preventive measures not only decreased the risk of disease but also reduced the burden on the national healthcare system.

Dr Arif Alvi said cardiovascular diseases were also being diagnosed in young people and mentioned that the lengthy treatment and surgery of cardiac diseases had become unaffordable for the patients. Therefore, he



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi virtually addressing the 12th biennial conference of the Pakistani Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons held in Peshawar. From Awan-e-Sadr.

Pakistani rupee consolidates gain against US dollar in interbank

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani rupee consolidated its position against the US dollar on Friday, a day after breaking 17-day losing streak.

According to the figures obtained from the forex dealers, the local currency appreciated by 88 paisas and was currently being traded at Rs286.50.

On Thursday, the Pakistani rupee had appreciated 0.26% against the US dollar, setting for

the day at Rs287.38, an increase of Rs0.76. Experts said that the reversal in the rupee's trajectory comes as Pakistani authorities and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff on Wednesday struck a staff-level agreement on the on the first review under the nine-month \$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).

The agreement is subject to approval by the IMF's Executive Board. Upon approval, Pakistan will have access to SDR 528 million (around \$700 million), bringing total disbursements under the programme to almost \$1.9 billion. Meanwhile, the total liquid foreign reserves of the country Thursday stood at US\$ 12,535.5 million while the central bank held the reserves of \$ 7,396.7 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here informed that SBP's reserves decreased by \$115 million to \$ 7,396.7 million due to debt repayments during the week ended on November 10, 2023. Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5,138.8 million, it added. Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ending on November 3, 2023, were US\$ 12,614.2 million. Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were \$ 7,511.5 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were \$ 5,102.7 million.

1,890 more illegal Afghans left Pakistan in last 24 hours

ISLAMABAD (INP): The repatriation of illegal Afghans and other foreigners continues as 230,446 people returned to their countries during the countywide operation.

The apex committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) in a meeting on October 31, chaired by Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave a deadline to all foreign nationals living illegally

in the country until October 31 to leave voluntarily or face deportation.

According to official data, 325 families have returned to Afghanistan in 186 vehicles during last 24 hours.

The government of Pakistan is facilitating the repatriation process at the Torkham and Chaman borders.

So far, 230,446 illegal Afghan nationals have returned to their country after the deadline for voluntarily returning expired on October 31.

Earlier, Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti rejected any 'manhandling' of illegal immigrants in Pakistan's repatriation process.

"Prime Minister [Anwaarul Haq Kakar] has given very clear instructions that there should be no manhandling of illegal

immigrants during the repatriation process," the interior minister said while speaking on the Senate floor.

Sarfraz Bugti also assured the House that any mismanagement on the borders would be checked and suggestions from the political leadership in this regard would be welcomed.

"No Afghan refugee having legal documents has been touched," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry, Federal Secretary Ministry of Education, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), Jemal Bekor Abdula along with other dignitaries pose for a photo with the book 'Generation Medemer' Book authored by H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Prime Minister of FDR Ethiopia at the Embassy of Ethiopia.

Dietary, lifestyle changes crucial to prevent cardiovascular diseases: President

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed preventive rather curative approach to prevent cardiovascular diseases. He said that dietary and lifestyle changes hold key importance in this regard.

In his video-link address to the 12th biennial conference of the Pakistani Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons held in Peshawar on Friday, he said preventive measures not only decreased the risk of disease but also reduced the burden on the national healthcare system.

Dr Arif Alvi said cardiovascular diseases were also being diagnosed in young people and mentioned that the lengthy treatment and surgery of cardiac diseases had become unaffordable for the patients. Therefore, he

said, consuming a healthy diet and quitting a sedentary lifestyle and smoking had positive effects on the control of cardiac diseases.

He recalled that the country made relentless and coordinated efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic extremely well. He emphasized adopting similar passion and targeted action to prioritize the prevention of CVDs.

The president stressed investment in the training and professional development of healthcare practitioners specialized in cardiovascular and thoracic care.

He highlighted the importance of telemedicine and technology to facilitate remote consultations, diagnostics, and monitoring.

This, he said, would be especially crucial for patients in remote and rural areas of the country who faced challenges in reaching out to healthcare facilities.

He said cases of malnutrition and obesity were being reported in the country side by side and termed it the responsibility of the State to raise awareness about the intake of healthy diet instead of junk food.



DERA GHAZI KHAN: Brig. (Retd.) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, Chairman, PMIC along with Muhammad Saleh Narejo, Director, PMIC visited Punjab and Sindh and took briefings from the respective departments pertaining to hill Torrance and the clearance of natural routes of Kachhi Canal Project at Dera Ghazi Khan.

LAND ACQUISITION

Whereas it appears to the Deputy Commissioner/Collector District Khuzdar that the land measuring 09-Acre 02-Rod 18-Pol bearing different Khassara numbers Situated in MOJAZAS AWAKRO, JHARBULO & KARZ JALAL SHAH Taluk District Khuzdar, is required to be acquired by CWP&H Department (Government of Balochistan) for the government purpose namely construction of Khuzdar Airport to S3 Division Road Project With-60 Feet Length 4579 KM" it is hereby notified that the land in locality (details can be seen obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours is liable to be acquired for the aforesaid purpose. 2. This declaration is made under section 4 of Land Acquisition Act-1894 to all whom it may concern. 3. In exercise of the powers conferred by the said section, The Deputy Commissioner/Collector, District Khuzdar is pleased to authorize the officers, their servants and workman for the time being engaged in work on the subject land to enter upon and survey the land in the locality and do all other acts, required or permitted under the said law. 4. Any person having interest in the land who has any objection to the Acquisition of the above mentioned land, as given under section 5 (A) of the said Act, file objection in writing before the Deputy Commissioner/Collector, District Khuzdar, Within Thirty Days (30) of the publication of this notification.

PRQ No. 1005/17-11-2023 Deputy Commissioner/Collector District Khuzdar
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LHC orders traffic Police to arrest un-licensed drivers

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice Ali Zia Bajwa has issued a directive for an immediate crackdown against individuals driving vehicles without a valid license and emphasized drivers without a license should be arrested. He was hearing a case regarding the legal protection request of the accused in a defense accident, in which six members of a family were killed by an underage driver, who is now behind bars and facing Police investigations. The victims were identified as Rukhsana, 52; Anabia, 3; Huzefa, four months; Muhammad Hasnain, 28; Sajjad, 26; Ayesha, 22.

During the proceedings, Justice Ali Zia Bajwa expressed his concern over the prevalence of car accidents, describing them as deeply unfortunate incidents.

The provincial apex court highlighted the alarming discrepancy between the number of vehicles on the road and the issued licenses, noting that out of 1,000,000 vehicles, there are only 200,000 licenses.

Lahore Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) apprised the court that there are 7.3 million vehicles on the road, but only 1.3 drivers have licenses.

The court sought clarification on the actions being taken against unlicensed vehicles, particularly in light of the recent accident under discussion.

The LHC directed for accountability, asking the CTO to report on the steps taken in the aftermath of the incident.

The CTO apprised the court that a crackdown had been initiated in the last three days. However, the court raised concerns about potential discrimination in enforcing traffic regulations, highlighting instances where individuals claim special privileges due to their connections.

Justice Bajwa highlighted that such crimes often occur in more posh areas.

The court further inquired about the measures being taken against individuals who allow their minor children to drive, to which the CTO assured that existing laws are enforced, and appropriate actions are taken against such cases.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Govt to modernise fisheries in Gwadar via professional training: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that the government was committed to pave fisheries in Gwadar on modern lines for which they were provided training to bring their working at par with international standards by utilising the modern machinery and boats equipped with engines and navigation systems.

Speaking during a meeting with a delegation of Gwadar Shipping and Clearing Agents Association, the prime minister said that the government would fully exploit the exports potential of fisheries in Gwadar.

The delegation comprised President of the Association Abdul Raheem Zafar, Secretary General Hameed Baloch, and Faisal Dashti.

The delegation members requested the prime minister to initially allow the import of a certain chunk of government's cargos through the Gwadar Port before making it fully operational.

Premier Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed the authorities concerned to present a comprehensive report in this regard. Calling Gwadar a future hub of sea trade, the prime minister said the government was taking measures to establish industries at the Port besides building communications infrastructure to link the industrial areas.

Provision of employment opportunities and facilities of international standards to the people of Gwadar was inevitable for the progress of the Port, he added.

The delegation members apprised the prime minister of the problems facing the shipping clearing agents as well as the fisheries.

PM Anwaar-ul-Haq assured the delegation members to resolve their issues on priority basis.

The delegation also appreciated the measures taken by the government for provision of employment and professional training to the fishermen besides addressing the overall problems of the Gwadar city.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Jemal Bekir Abdula addressing during the launching ceremony of the book 'Generation Medemer' authored by H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Prime Minister of FDR Ethiopia at the Embassy of Ethiopia.

FPCCI Elections: BMP officially finalizes candidates for all slots

ISLAMABAD (INP): The ruling group of Businessmen Panel (BMP) in the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has officially finalized its all candidates on all slots.

The BMP has nominated Muhammad Ali Shaikh as the presidential candidate for the FPCCI annual elections for 2024, and Abdul Ghani Usman from Karachi for the vice presidency, Tauqeer Malik, Rafiq Sulaiman and Muhammad Imran Khan from Associate Class, Aoun Ali Syed from Haripur Chamber (KPK) and Mehboob Nasir from Punjab Chamber (Bahawalpur) were nominated for Vice President respectively.

Addressing an introductory ceremony here on Friday, Central Chairman BMP Mian Anjum Nisar said that the work of the last three years is in front of everyone, as before we will fulfill the trust of the business community.

We have shown the work, we have advocated the issues of traders and industry, he noted.

If the policies are right, then the economic affairs will be right, the government should reformulate the policies, as export-based policies should be made instead of imports, he added.

He said that increasing the price of electricity and gas every time was not the solution to the problem and instead the theft of electricity and gas should be stopped and distribution of free electricity to some particular areas and classes should be stopped. He said that good governance and accountability should be adopted.

There was a need of work to exploit natural resources of wind, solar and green energy, he noted.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that the BMP-nominated candidates are experts in their fields, educated, experienced and aware of the issues of the business community.

They understand the solution and have the ability to look into the eyes of the rulers instead of reading odes in praise of the rulers, like the opposition group.

FPCCI President candidate Muhammad Ali Shaikh said that we will make the FPCCI further better. I will not get any personal benefit for myself or for any of my friends like in my previous periods and I will solve the problems of the business community across the country including small towns, he added.

Pakistan, Russia for collaborative efforts to combat terrorism

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Russia have reiterated to strengthen collaborative efforts for effectively combating terrorism, underscoring the mutual benefit of the cooperation.

It was agreed at the 10th meeting of Pakistan-Russia Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and Other Challenges to Security in Islamabad.

Additional Foreign Secretary Syed Haider Shah and Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Vershinin co-chaired the meeting.

The two sides expressed highlighting the importance of resolving to work together in combating financing of terrorism and in other key areas of global and regional terrorism.

The two countries also discussed the various forms of radicalization, the spread of terrorist ideologies, and the misuse of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes. They agreed on the need for comprehensive strategies to counter these challenges.

They recognized the importance of their partnership in maintaining regional and global security. The upcoming meeting of the Working Group will be held next year.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kenya in Pakistan, called on Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Staff-level agreement with IMF gov't's remarkable achievement: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the staff-level agreement with the IMF was a remarkable achievement of the Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamsah Akhtar and the incumbent government.

Interacting with business community on Friday, he said that tough decisions were necessary to save the country, from which the economy shrank, compounding problems for the masses and the business community.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the condition of Pakistan's economy was now improving. Still, it needs to remain under IMF supervision for at least two years so that funds were well-spent. The current IMF program should be completed in accordance with the professional recommendations of the IMF, and preparations for the new program should be initiated, he added.

The business leader said that the IMF will soon pay seven hundred million dollars to Pakistan after the approval of its board, which will improve the value of the rupee and increase the confidence of investors. In comparison, the other three international organizations will soon pay 950 million dollars to Pakistan, he added.

These include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, which were awaiting the IMF's decision to disburse the loan.

Apart from this, commercial loans of three and a half billion dollars are also being arranged, which will improve the financial situation of the country. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the government should stop theft, default, and line losses in the electricity and gas sectors so that their prices can be reduced. It has become difficult to continue business at current prices, while interest rates are also skyrocketing.

He noted that legislation should be enacted to stop the loss of funds; otherwise, the country will be in the same situation after a few years.

The business leader noted that the decision to increase gas prices once again is expected, which will prove disastrous for the people and the industrial sector. In order to eliminate the circular debt of the electricity and gas sectors, instead of continuously increasing the tariff, changes in the energy basket, reforms in capacity charges, and other options should also be explored.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that if the economic indicators continue to improve, Pakistan's global ranking will also improve, which will make it possible to get relatively cheap loans.

بلوچستان شہداء فورم

President Alvi sympathizes with families of martyred Pakistan Army soldiers

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday telephoned the families of soldiers of Pakistan Army martyred in various terrorist incidents and expressed sympathies with them.

According to details, the President interacted with the family members of the soldiers martyred in the attacks that took place on November 6, and October 18 and 29 respectively in different parts of the country. On behalf of entire nation, he paid tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country. "The whole nation owes to the families of the martyrs for sacrificing their dear ones for the homeland," he remarked.

President Alvi thanked the family of Lt. Col Muhammad Hassan Haider, who was martyred in an attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on November 6. He talked to the families of Naik Khushdil Khan, Lance Naik Abdul Qadeer Khan and Raftiq Khan. The president also telephoned the family members of Naib Subedar Asif Imran and Sepoy Irfan Ali, who embraced martyrdom in Awaran district of Balochistan on October 29. He also spoke to the family members of Sepoy Farnan Ali, who sacrificed his life in an attack on October 18 in South Waziristan.

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