

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

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Anti polio drops being administered to a child in Balochistan

## Balochistan Geared Up: Preparations Set for Anti-Polio Campaign

Health Desk:

QUETTA: In a decisive move to fortify its polio-free status, Balochistan embarks on a sweeping anti-polio campaign today, poised to reach over 2.5 million children below the age of five. The ambitious initiative orchestrates the efforts of 11,000 dedicated teams strategically positioned across the province, symbolizing a collective front against the poliovirus.

While the campaign was initiated in high-risk districts three days ago, its full-scale implementation today underscores the region's unwaver-

ing commitment to eradicating polio. Syed Zahid Shah, Chief of the Emergency Operation Cell, passionately calls upon parents to actively cooperate, ensuring their children receive the indispensable anti-polio drops.

### Environmental Samples Found In Quetta, Chaman, Hub And Dera Bugti

He said that poliovirus is present in the environmental samples of Balochistan. Poliovirus was confirmed in the en-

vironmental samples of Quetta, Chaman, Hub and Dera Bugti. He said that all resources should be used to ensure the complete eradication of polio. They are determined to fight against polio, he said referring to the dedicated polio workers battling the virus at the cost of their lives?

This monumental endeavor epitomizes the collaborative spirit of the government, UNICEF, WHO, and various organizations. Together, they strive to preserve Balochistan's polio-free legacy, meticulously upheld for over two years.

## Christian Community Protests Graveyard Occupation, Alleges Land Mafia in Quetta

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Christian community in Quetta staged a protest demonstration against the alleged occupation of an ancient graveyard by a land mafia.

Community leaders passionately declared that the sacred site, with roots dating back a century, stood as a testament to their history and identity.

The leaders lamented the intrusion into the graveyard, revealing that it housed 480 graves belonging to the Christian community. These final resting places, they emphasized, held deep cultural and historical significance for the community, tracing their roots to the establishment of Paki-



### Protesters Were Carrying Placards And Banners

The protesters passion-

ately asserted that the Christian community had played an integral role in the foundation of the nation, underscoring their commitment to its progress and prosperity. Women, a significant part of the community, also actively participated in the demonstration, raising their voices in solidarity.

Amidst banners and heartfelt chants, the protesters

called for immediate action against the encroachment on their sacred grounds. Their plea echoed through the streets, demanding justice and protection for the historical legacy embedded in the ancient Christian graveyard.

The community's resilience and determination shone through as they stood united in defense of their cultural heritage.

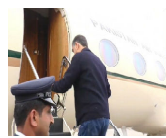
## PM Kakar lands in UAE for bilateral visit

DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar landed in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday for a bilateral visit.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on social media platform X, PM Kakar was welcomed at Abu Dhabi's Al-Bateen airport by UAE Justice Minister Abdulla Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi and Pakistani diplomatic officials.

According to the PMO, the premier will meet UAE President Sheikh Mohamed Zayed during his visit from November 26 to Nov 28.

In a statement released earlier today, the Foreign Office (FO) said that the visit would provide



the sectors of energy, port operations projects, waste water treatment, food security, logistics, mining, aviation, and banking and financial services, the FO said.

"Pakistan and the UAE enjoy warm and long-standing fraternal ties that have stood multiple tests of time," it added.

Kakar would also later plead Pakistan's case at a key session of the upcoming 28th Conference of Parties (COP-28) scheduled to be held in the UAE on Dec 1-2.

In a meeting earlier this week, the interim PM had directed the authorities concerned to make full preparations for presenting Pakistan's stance during the COP-28 on climate finance and other issues effectively. NEWS DESK

## Killing reported in Gaza refugee camp as third group of hostages, prisoners expected to be released

GAZA: Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry received a call from US State Secretary Antony Blinken to discuss obstacles threatening Israel's truce with Hamas and ways to reach a comprehensive ceasefire, Egypt's foreign ministry said, Reuters reports.

During the phone call, Shoukry stressed the need to implement the United Nations Security Council resolution issued on Nov. 15 which calls for humanitarian pauses that can allow aid into Gaza, the ministry said in a statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made his first to Gaza since Tel Aviv began bombarding the enclave following the Hamas attack on Oct 7, telling soldiers there that Israel will continue until it wins, AFP reports.

"We continue until the end — until victory," footage posted online by his office showed him saying. "Nothing will stop us, and we are convinced that we have the power, the strength, the will and the determination to achieve

all the war's goals, and we will," he said.

Egypt's Al Qahera TV has said that the Red Cross has begun receiving a new group of 13 Israeli hostages and five other foreigners from Hamas, AFP reports.

Egyptian security officials are also beginning procedures for the hostage exchange, Al Qahera added.

Thousands of demonstrators against anti-Semitism marched in London to protest the rise in hate crimes against Jews since the attack by Hamas on Israel in October and Israel's subsequent bombardment of Gaza.

According to Reuters, protesters carried placards with the message "Shoulder to shoulder with British Jews" and "Zero tolerance for anti-Semites."

Others showed the faces of Israeli hostages held by Palestinian group Hamas. Some people sang in Hebrew while others chanted "Bring them home" in reference to the hostages.

Demonstrators held placards at a march against anti-Semitism, during a temporary truce between

Hamas and Israel, in London, Britain November 26, 2023. — REUTERS

Police arrested a far-right activist, Tommy Robinson, at the start of Sunday's march after he refused to leave the area at the request of police officers. Organisers of the demonstration had asked Robinson not to attend because of the distress his presence was likely to cause.

Police estimated 45,000 people marched in the demonstration on Saturday. They did not immediately have an estimate for the size of Sunday's march.

Under a night sky illuminated by moonlight rather than flares and explosions, Gaza resident Ibrahim Kaninch sat by a small bonfire outside his partially destroyed house, feeding the flames with bits of cardboard as he heated up water for tea, Reuters reports. The peaceful scene, on the second night of a temporary truce between Israel and Hamas, was a moment of respite and reflection for Kaninch, who like other Gazans has endured fear and hardship since the conflict began on Oct 7. NEWS DESK

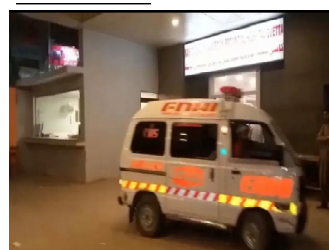
## Gas Leakage Quetta: Two Injured in Devastating Explosion

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: In Quetta's Kasi Road, Street Number 8 area, an ordinary evening took a harrowing turn when a gas leak triggered a devastating explosion in a home. The flames danced wildly, leaving chaos in their wake as two souls grappled with the inferno that engulfed them. In the midst of the crisis, neighbors rushed to the scene, frantically calling for help.

Swiftly responding paramedics arrived with an ambulance to rescue the victims. The injured, their bodies marked by the unforgiving flames, were carefully loaded into the ambulance, which sped through the streets, racing against time. At the hospital, a team of dedicated medical professionals worked tirelessly to tend to the burns, offering a glimmer of hope to those affected.

Amidst the charred remnants of what was once a home, the re-



silience of the community emerged. Neighbors banded together, offering support and comfort to the families affected by the tragedy.

Gas leakage blasts are a common phenomenon in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan because of prolonged and unannounced load shedding.

# دو قطرے،

## صحت مند مستقبل کے لیے

27 نومبر سے قومی پولیو مہم کا آغاز

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

### Environmental Samples: Urgent Call to Safeguard Balochistan's Polio-Free Status

#### Editorial

In a crucial stride to fortify its polio-free status, Balochistan launched an ambitious anti-polio campaign, reaching out to over 2.5 million children below the age of five.

The dedication of 11,000 teams strategically positioned across the province symbolizes a collective determination to combat the poliovirus.

However, amidst this proactive effort, unsettling news surfaces. Environmental samples from Quetta, Hanoi, Dera Bugti, and Chaman test positive for the virus, casting a shadow on the region's hard-won progress.

This alarming development is a stark reminder that the fight against polio is far from over.

**Polio-Free Balochistan, A Hard-Won Progress**  
Syed Zahid Shah, Chief of the Emergency Operation Cell, passionately calls upon parents to actively cooperate, underscoring the urgency of ensuring that their children receive the indispensable anti-polio drops. It is imperative for every citizen to recognize their role in this monumental endeavor.

The collaborative spirit demonstrated by the government, UNICEF, WHO, and various organizations is commendable.

However, the recent environmental samples pose a looming threat, demanding intensified efforts and collaboration. It is crucial for these entities to join hands in a unified front against the crippling virus.

**Govt And Orgs Should Intensify Their Efforts**

This editorial urges the government and relevant organizations to intensify their efforts, pooling resources and expertise to confront and eliminate this newfound challenge.

The preservation of Balochistan's polio-free legacy, meticulously upheld for over two years, demands immediate action.

The time to act is now, to secure the health and future of Balochistan's children, ensuring a polio-free landscape for generations to come.

## Lone 'rager'

By Muna Khan:

IN 2009, as I was planning my return home from Hanoi, I told a group of friends I wanted to become active in politics, maybe eventually contest elections. I had to be part of the system if I wanted to change it, I said. From that group, my dearest friend Duc was the most upset to hear this. On my last night in Hanoi, Duc handed me a typewritten note, listing 20 terrible things about politicians.

"Politicians think big because they're small," it said. Another was, "Politicians put monks and writers in jail." Also, "Politicians cheat, lie, steal and they like doing those things." And the one that mattered most: "Politicians don't like journalists." We agreed and not just because we were both journalists, albeit limited in our practice of it in Vietnam, which, in 2009, ranked 166 in the World Press Index, the bottom 10. Pakistan ranked 159. Last year, Vietnam ranked 174 and Pakistan 150.

Duc and I knew the system in our respective countries and how to work in it, when to push, when to retreat. Duc knew more about survival than I ever will. His life changed overnight when the US offensive began in 1968 and his father was captured by the Viet Cong and imprisoned for over a decade. His mother was barred from teaching and had to sell noodles on the street. Duc escaped to the US

as a teenager. He wrote his family's story of loss and reunion and longing for his homeland in his memoir *Where the Ashes Are*. He returned to Vietnam in 2006 and opened Tadito, a bar, cafe and art space which became a refuge for nomads and creatives. It was a vibrant space where people could express themselves openly, which caused some discomfort in some quarters.

I saw Duc get angry about the harassment and intimidation he faced but never deterred him from continuing his mission. He often told me I needed to get angry. Anger, he said, was a catalyst for change. He spoke about how he believed soloist made a compelling statement about protest and spoke volumes about why no one joined in the early days of the new Palestine Solidarity Committee which is planning a protest tomorrow.

There are many other examples of solo acts of defiance. A young Afghan girl stood outside Kabul University last year protesting against the Taliban's ban on education. Greta Thunberg started her climate justice movement as a solo protester when she was 15. Malala Yousafzai began her activism with her father's support. Remember the image of the still unknown man who stood in front of tanks in Tianmen Square in 1989? Solo protesters are fuelled by courage and conviction.

email to me in 2020.

I have been thinking of anger as an agent for change since hearing the news of Duc's passing from cancer in Hanoi a few days ago. I'm not talking about politicians' anger, but a good electoral strategy but bad for the country's stability. I'm not talking about the country uniting in anger against an enemy either. I'm talking about the anger that has the power to create a ripple effect. And, it can come from just one person.

Take Sheema Kermani, who shouted "ceasefire now" at an event held at the British High Commission in Karachi recently and then walked out. She was not a ripple effect but I believe her soloist made a compelling statement about protest and spoke volumes about why no one joined in the early days of the new Palestine Solidarity Committee which is planning a protest tomorrow.

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## Ziarat Juniper Forest in Peril: Ancient Trees Face Deforestation Threat

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.

### 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.

### 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 industry that has thrived at the expense of the forest is the furniture sector, leading to extensive deforestation. These ancient woodlands, once approximately 5000-year-old Juniper species, faces rampant deforestation due to domestic fuel consumption, agricultural expansion, construction, medicinal use, and furniture production.

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### The Dark Side of Progress

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Simultaneously, initiatives aim to promote sustainable tourism, allowing visitors from around the world to appreciate the forest's natural beauty and ecological significance.

### The Call to Action

The allure of the valuable Juniper wood has led to its exploitation, with reports even implicating authorities in the illegal trade. To secure the future of this ancient forest, immediate action is essential. It is imperative that we collectively embrace sustainable practices, raise awareness, and curb deforestation. Only by doing so can we ensure the preservation of this unique species and its vital role in our natural world. Together, we must act responsibly to safeguard this forest home and preserving their habitat is paramount.

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At the expense of the forest is the furniture sector, leading to extensive deforestation. These ancient woodlands, once approximately 5000-year-old Juniper species, faces rampant deforestation due to domestic fuel consumption, agricultural expansion, construction, medicinal use, and furniture production.

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### 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 industry that has thrived at the expense of the forest is the furniture sector, leading to extensive deforestation. These ancient woodlands, once approximately 500



## Strengthening Pak-Saudi skills development cooperation need of hour: SAPM Jawad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Headed by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik, a Pakistani delegation on Sunday visited the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

The delegation comprised Ambassador of Pakistan Ahmad Farooq, Director General of Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BEOE) Akram Khawaja, Joint Secretary Emigration Aurangzeb, and Community Welfare Attachés, said a press release.

The Saudi side was represented by Deputy

Governor Eng. Abdulrahman Almarwani, Director General of International Cooperation Eng. Sulhan Alsunay, Supervisor at the Deputy Governor Office for Training and Quality Policies, Dr. Khalid Al-Othman, and International Cooperation Specialist at the Directorate of International Cooperation, Khaled Alshabir.

The Deputy Governor of the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) welcomed the Pakistani delegation. The meeting was held in a very cordial manner.

The Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) team gave a detailed presentation on the working of

TVTC. SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik appreciated the great role of the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) in the skills development of Saudi nationals.

Both sides discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in skills improvement for workers. It is pertinent to note here that Navtec and Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard.

The visit of the Pakistani delegation to the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) was a positive step forward in strengthening cooperation.

## EPC to issue 327 electoral symbols list for general elections 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission (ECP) has prepared list of electoral symbols, encompassing over 300 options for political parties and independent candidates alike. The list boasts a diverse array of symbols, ranging from eagle, lion, and crane to arrows, swords, and bala.

The list includes representations as varied as cars, jeeps, bulbs, ducks, birds, and flowers.

Even everyday items like soap dishes and thermoses have found their place among the plethora of symbols, creating a unique visual narrative for the electorate. With a total of 327 electoral symbols, the ECP ensured.



Quetta roast famous across Pakistan. Food lovers throng towards hotels: Photo Farooq Khan

## Incentives for overseas can boost remittances, investment: PIAF

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has suggested the government to announce incentives for overseas Pakistanis to further boost up foreign remittances, besides enhancing investment in the country by Pakistani expatriates.

Chairman PIAF Faheem Rehman Saigol said that remittances last month came in at \$2.21 billion and this figure, while an improvement from last month's \$2.09 billion, was significantly lower than market expectations of \$2.4-2.5 billion.

However, on a month-on-month basis, remittances rose by 5.3% but they declined by 11.24% compared to last year, when remittances stood at \$2.49 billion.

He said that the market was expecting remittances to improve following a massive crackdown on exchange rate manipulation in the open market, and the subsequent reduction in the premium between the open and interbank markets.

The PIAF Chairman said that Pakistanis abroad may choose to send remittances through banks, in which case they would become part of the interbank market, or exchange compa-

nies, which are part of the open market. Typically, the difference in the rates of the two markets was not very large, under the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it cannot exceed 1.25% for more than five days.

However, between August 28 and September 4, the difference in the market rates widened to an alarming extent both in absolute and percentage terms — up to nearly Rs 30 per dollar or 8.5%. And before the crackdown was launched in early September, a significant number of foreign exchange dealings, including remittances, were either being done 'off the books' in the open market or diverted to the grey market.

It all changed, however, once the authorities launched a massive crackdown on illegal foreign exchange trade. Faheem Saigol said that Pakistan's economic growth is expected to see a decline during next two years. So, foreign remittance flows are the only hope which can support the current account balance, as the GDP growth is not going to decelerate.

Lamenting the gloomy picture of Pakistan's position in the

region with regard to its GDP growth, he said that upward trend in remittances to Pakistan from overseas workers is a positive news for the country's economy.

Quoting the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), he said that exports rose by just 1.8 percent to \$15.1 billion, while imports fell 6.1 percent to \$36.6 billion despite imposition of high duties on import. If the government was eyeing \$30 billion in exports revenue in the current fiscal year, it would have to take measures to boost exports and investment, he maintained.

The PIAF Chief said that structural reforms can revive Pakistan's economic growth with major focus on incentives for overseas Pakistanis workers. If government assists overseas Pakistanis and provides them incentives, they can play a pivotal role in boosting Pakistan's economy through their remittances and investments for the socio-economic prosperity, he said.

He said overseas Pakistanis can invest in agriculture, transportation, telecom and energy sectors which have huge potential.

The government has badly failed to attract foreign investment

because the persisting process of approval of projects discourages the investors, he added. He asked the bureaucracy to mould simple procedures by revisiting the existing processes so that the investors could be facilitated. He said that export-oriented industries should be facilitated.

He said that remittances can help not only in financing the deficit in import payments but also in foreign debt repayments, suggesting the government to focus on structural reforms, which can revive Pakistan's economic growth with major focus on incentives for overseas Pakistanis workers.

According to SBP data, the highest amount of remittances was received from Saudi Arabia at \$538.2 million, followed by the United Arab Emirates at \$400 million, the United Kingdom at \$311.1 million and the United States at \$263.4 million.

Meanwhile, remittances from other GCC countries totalled \$248.1 million, while Pakistanis in the European Union sent \$269.3 million. Overall, total remittances in the first three months of FY24 stood at \$6.33 billion, down 19.8% from last year's figure of \$7.89 billion.



SOUTH KOREA: In Busan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) has met with Japanese Foreign Minister Yokokami Kuro on the sidelines of the trilateral meeting of foreign ministers of China, Japan and South Korea.

## Ambassador, AFBF President discuss enhancing Pak-Korea business ties

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Korea Nabeel Munir has said that trade and economic relation between Pakistan and Korea should be enhanced.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Nabeel Munir acknowledged and appreciated AFBF efforts and initiatives taken by it for the business community of Pakistan. He observed Pakistan is a very potential market, adding that doing business in country like Pakistan is always very profitable.

He said that Korea and Pakistan remain actively engaged in various fields such as climate change, cultural exchange, and information technology. Many Korean investors are also interested in the Pakistani market, investing over \$39 million last year alone. The 13,000 Pakistanis in Korea also contribute invaluable to the Korean economy to further solidify relations.

Korean companies already operate in Pakistan in diverse sectors. Daewoo, Samsung, Lotte, LG Hyundai, and Kia are household names in Pakistan. While Korean companies are welcome to invest in any sector, food processing,

the automotive industry, IT, hospitality/tourism, textiles, housing and construction, and logistics are areas in which Korean companies enjoy a competitive advantage.

Syed Maaz Mahmood applauded Nabeel Munir for the efforts being made by him to increase collaboration on both sides between Korea and Pakistan through his diligent working. AFBF President assured his full commitment to work closely with his office and Excellency welcomed this with great enthusiasm.

The AFBF President briefed the Pakistan ambassador about the AFBF efforts and initiatives to increase bilateral trade, facilitating business community for ease of doing business and promoting the real and positive perception of Pakistan at every platform.

Syed Maaz Mahmood observed that Pakistan with a \$347 billion economy, a youthful population of 220 million, a location at the crossroads of South

and Central Asia and the Middle East, and investor-friendly policies, was open for business.

He said that Korea was an important trading partner of Pakistan. South Korea was the second biggest export destination of Pakistan in East Asia after China. It comes at 14th place among the top importing countries for Pakistan.

He said that the 16 designated Special Economic Zones in Pakistan offer lucrative incentives for investors. Korean companies are welcome to start businesses in established SEZs or develop a Korean SEZ anywhere in Pakistan. Benefits include a one-time exemption from customs duties and taxes for all capital goods imported into Pakistan for the development, operations, and maintenance of the SEZ. Similarly, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a game-changing development of the Belt and Road Initiative, is open for third-party collaboration.



QUETTA: Provincial President of All Balochistan Progressive Private Schools Association Muhammad Nawaz Pindrani addressing the meeting of District Heads.

## Two die after struck by lightning in Tharparkar

THARPARKAR (INP): Two people were killed while one was injured after they were struck by lightning in Tharparkar, hospital sources said on Sunday.

The deceased residents of Chachro's Wavori village, were identified as 75-year-old Suleman Nehri and his 22-year-old son Ramzan.

10-year-old Kalsoom, who was injured in the incident, was shifted to hospital. Animals were also affected by incidents of lightning reported from other villages of Tharparkar.

Different parts of southern and south-eastern Sindh, including provincial capital Tharparkar after these areas received rain since yesterday.

Several areas of Karachi were inundated following rain late Saturday night.

And to make matters worse, due to the absence of a sewerage system in residential and commercial areas such as Korangi, Mehran Town and others, rainwater could not be drained out.

Water was also accumulated in and around Madison Market and Jorja Bazaar, making it extremely difficult for the people to pass through it.

Immediate rain accompanied by cool breeze in Hyderabad and its suburbs has turned the weather cold.

Similarly, temperatures dropped in Mithi, Islamkot and other parts of Tharparkar after these areas received the first monsoon showers of the winter season.

Likewise, the

weather has turned cold in Sanghar too after different areas of the district received rain. Rain lashed Matyari, Hala and outskirts, turning low-lying localities into pools of water.

Thundershowers were also reported from Kandiaro, which made the weather chilly.

First showers of the winter season in Tando Muhammad Khan and suburbs of the district resulted in drop in temperatures.

However, the rain did not come without inconvenience as different localities of Hyderabad and other cities plunged into darkness late Saturday night after power supply to these areas was suspended after the rain.

As many as 444 feeders of the

Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) region were tripped due to which the supply of electricity to Thatta, Badin, Umartok, Mirpurkhas, Tando Allah Yar, Sanghar and Tharparkar was suspended. Spokesman for the HESCO, on the other hand, has said that the power supply would be restored once the rain stopped.

He further said that all the HESCO's technical staff was present at grid stations for the purpose.

Advertisement for a school or organization, including contact information like 0318-8080783.

HYDERABAD: Leaders and activists of Jeay Sindh Rehbar Committee, a conglomerate of different nationalist parties, hold a rally for the expulsion of Afghans and other immigrants from Sindh outside Radio Pakistan.



### Historic PPP Youm-e-Tasees To Be Observed In Quetta: Nawab Zehri

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Former Balochistan Chief Minister and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) central leader Nawab Sanaulah Zehri announced the historic observance of PPP Youm-e-Tasees in Balochistan on November 30th, marking the first time for such an event in the province.

At a packed news conference at his residence, Nawab Zehri, joined by former Governor Balochistan Lieutenant General (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Ali Madad Jattak, and former minister Mir Zahoob Buledi, expressed the party's commitment to addressing public grievances through political channels.

#### Bilawal Bhutto Zardari To Address The Gathering

Nawab Sanaulah Zehri emphasized the PPP's deep political roots in Balochistan and revealed the formation of various committees to ensure the successful November 30th gathering. Anticipating a significant turnout, he highlighted that PPP Chairman



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is scheduled to address and preside over the Youm-e-Tasees function in Quetta, foreseeing it as a major development in Balochistan's political landscape.

Former Governor General (R) Qadir Baloch called upon the province's masses to join hands with the PPP, stating, "PPP stands

for Balochistan and its people." The party has arranged for the historic event at the Ayub Stadium in Quetta, with Mir Zahoob Buledi asserting, "We are going to make history." Rozi Khan Kakar, the PPP's Secretary General for Balochistan, urged party workers to unite and thwart any conspiracies from adversaries.

### Governor Balochistan Launches 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a significant move during the inaugural ceremony of sixteen days of activism against violence against women, Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar underscored the untapped potential of women in the province. He lamented the lack of opportunities and facilities for women, emphasizing that societal neglect has hindered women's progress in various aspects of life.

Addressing the gathering, Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar praised the initiative to combat violence against women, considering it a commendable effort. He highlighted the need for society to appreciate every endeavor aimed at preventing violence against women. The ceremony, attended by notable figures including Minister Shania Khan, former Balochistan Speaker Raheela Hameed Khan Durani, and others, marked a positive step toward addressing the challenges faced by women.

#### Increased Female Representation In Parliament Demanded

Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar stressed the responsibility to protect women's rights



and powers, expressing his desire for increased female representation in parliament. He condemned the cowardly acts of violence against women, citing them as contradictions to the rich values and traditions of the province. The governor acknowledged the economic dependence of women on men and urged society to ensure the observance of women's rights, especially economic independence.

#### Socio-Economic Security OF Women Demanded

Advocating for education in

rural areas, Governor Balochistan suggested a comprehensive policy at the provincial level for the socio-economic security of women home-based workers and the imparting of modern skills.

He recommended a continuous awareness campaign over the next sixteen days to highlight the dignity of women. In conclusion, Governor Balochistan distributed commemorative shields to the event's organizers and participants, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in promoting and securing the well-being of women in the region.

### Caretaker CM orders inquiry into Gorakh Hill Project irregularities

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Chief Minister Maqbool Baqar on Sunday has taken notice of irregularities in Gorakh Hill Development project.

Caretaker CM of Sindh has expressed resentment over blatant misuse of funds and assets of Gorakh Hill project.

The chief minister has said that the project has 140 employees on payroll but none of them performing their duties.

Caretaker chief minister has also summoned explanation from Project Director of the development project.

"The misuse of funds will not be tolerated at any cost," chief minister said.

Caretaker chief minister has directed the chief secretary to conduct an inquiry of the project.

It is to be mentioned here that the National Accountability

Bureau had initiated investigation into alleged corruption in Gorakh Hill Development Authority (GHDA) in 2019.

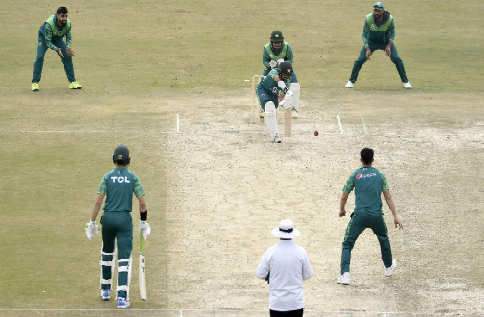
The anti-graft watchdog had also conducted raid at the office of the

GHDA and had seized record of alleged corruption worth Rs seven billion.

Gorakh is located in Kirithar mountain range at an elevation of 1734m, along the border of Sindh and Baluchistan.

Gorakh is situated on one of the highest plateaus of Sindh, spread over 2,500 acres of land, and due to its surroundings, it is a unique adventure point for nature lovers.

It is about 423 km distance from Karachi. The Hill station attracts large number of tourists from the city due to its pristine environs.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Cricket team members in action during practice match, ahead of their Australia tour to play three Test match series at the Rawalpindi Cricket stadium.

## Malik Amanullah Mehtarzai Joins ANP

News Desk:

QUETTA: The tribal elder Malik Amanullah Khan Mehtarzai officially joined the Awami National Party (ANP) on Saturday. The momentous decision was announced in the presence of ANP's central leader Amir Haider Khan Hoti, the party's provincial president Asghar Khan Achakzai, and other prominent leaders.

Expressing his commitment to the ANP, Malik Mehtarzai declared, "I have decided to join the ANP" marking a notable addition to the party's ranks. ANP leaders Hoti and Achakzai, addressing the gathering, assured their dedication to safeguarding Pashtoon resources and rights within Pakistan.

Welcoming Malik Amanullah Khan Mehtarzai into the ANP fold, Hoti and Achakzai emphasized the party's mission to uphold the interests of the Pashtoon community. The move is anticipated



strengthen the ANP's representation and influence, particularly in the tribal regions. This strategic alliance reflects a shared commitment to championing the rights and resources of the Pashtoon population, solidifying the ANP's position as a key political force. The presence of top leaders at the announcement underscores the significance of Malik Amanullah Khan Mehtarzai's decision to shape the political landscape in the region.

### Adil Raja, Haider Mehdi Convicted To RI For Inciting Sedition: ISPR

News Desk:

Major (ret) Adil Ferooz Raja and Captain (ret) Haider Raza Mehdi, both former army officers were handed 14 and 12 years of jail sentence respectively following their Field General Court Martial for "inciting sedition", the military's media wing said on Saturday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said both retired officers were convicted and sentenced "under the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 for the charges of inciting sedition among army personnel from discharge of duties and violation of the provisions of Official Secrets Act, 1923 related to espionage and acts prejudicial to safety and interest of the state".

The ISPR said that Major (ret) Raja was sentenced to "14 years rigorous punishment" while Cap-



tain (ret) Mehdi was handed "12 years rigorous punishment". "The court of competent jurisdiction convicted and adjudged both the individuals on the date of Oct 7 and Oct 9, 2023, through due judicial process," the military said. "Pursuant to the awarded sentence, the ranks of both officers have been forfeited on Nov 21, 2023," the statement said.

### Govt sets up high-level tech committee to implement IMF tax net expansion condition

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has set up a high-level technical committee to implement the IMF's condition of bringing 15 to 20 million new taxpayers into the tax net by June.

The committee will prepare recommendations and guidelines in one month regarding data integration and implementation of the FBR plan to expand the tax net. The members of the committee include Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) member Inland Revenue Operations Mir Badshah Khan Wazir, member Information

Technology Dr. Nasir Khan, member Digital Initiatives FB, R Karamatullah Khan Chaudhry, NADRA Chief Projects Officer Gohar Ahmed Khan, NADRA Head of Department NDW Syed Mushahar Hussain, FBR Chief Information Technology Zeenul Abidin Sahi and Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) Aamir Malik is included. The technical committee will prepare measures and proposals for data integration under Broadening of Taxes, IT Infrastructure Transformation Plan

of FBR. Similarly, it will prepare and submit recommendations and suggestions about the implementation of the FBR project to expand the tax net. The committee will also review the IT infrastructure of the Federal Board of Revenue and recommend the transformation and upgrade plan for FBRKFI infrastructure. The committee will also make recommendations regarding the restructuring of Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL), a subsidiary of FBR.



RIYADH: SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik meets with the CEO of Dallah Healthcare and VP (HR) of Dr Sulaiman Al-Habib Hospital Mr Badr Al-Rowalli in Riyadh KSA.

### Police lodge manslaughter FIR after 11 killed in fire at high-rise on Karachi's Rashid Minhas Road

KARACHI (IN): The police have registered a first information report (FIR) but failed to make any arrests a day after nearly a dozen people were killed in a massive fire at a commercial high-rise building in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Iqbal area. At least 11 people died while five others were injured after a blaze erupted inside the R.J. Shopping Mall at 6:20am Saturday because of a suspected short circuit.

The fire began on the fourth floor due to short circuit and later engulfed other floors. According to officials, the deaths occurred because the building had no ventilation. Today, the police registered a case at the Shera Faasil police station. It stated that an inspection of the site revealed that the six-storey building did not have an emergency exit or a fire alarm system and it was suspected that the blaze erupted due to a short circuit.

### 59th founding day of Pakistan Television observed

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 59th founding day of Pakistan Television was observed on Sunday.

To mark the 59th founding day of PTV, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar cut the cake at the Islamabad Centre of the state-run TV. He commended PTV for playing a key role in highlighting Pakistan's identity and portraying soft image of the country. Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murazza Solangi, Secretary Information Shihara Shahid, Managing Director PTV Mubashar Tauqir Shah, Director of News and Current Affairs Arif Mahmood Sheikh received the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister also participated in the maiden programme of the newly launched Talk-Show of PTV News "Baat Se Baat." Renowned artist and celebrity Faryal Gohar is the host of the programme. Prime Minister's interview with Faryal Gohar will be telecast tonight. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan Television founded in November 1964 on the day.