

QUETTA VOICE

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

Syed Ali Shah:



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, Hub, 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.

Commander Of Saudi Land Forces Calls On COAS Asim Munir

Dawood Ahmed:



ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Mutairi, Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Monday, the military's media wing said.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), during the meeting, both sides discussed various areas of mutual interest including cooperation in the fields of defense, security, and military training as well as the regional situation and the ongoing

conflict in the Middle East. The visiting dignitary appreciated the Pakistan Army's role in fighting the menace of terrorism and paid rich tribute to the sacrifices made in bringing peace to the region.

COAS thanked the dignitary and said "Pakistan deeply values its strategic and brotherly ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." Earlier on arrival at GHQ, a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary.

Millions Spent on Beautifying Quetta Airport Road, Lacks Maintenance Plan

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: In a shocking turn of events, the Balochistan government splurged millions of rupees on the beautification project of Quetta's Airport Road, only to neglect the crucial aspect of implementing a maintenance mechanism.

The project primarily focused on constructing aesthetically pleasing beauty walls along the roadside, but the lack of foresight has led to unforeseen consequences.

Heroin Addicts Take Away Irons, Wood

Disturbingly heroin addicts have taken advantage of the situation, pilfering irons and wood without any effective checks in place.

"Addicts take away irons and wood and sell them in the market", Muhammad Ajmal, a citizen lamented. He said the government merely constructed beauty walls and then abandoned the project.

Officials Tight-Lipped About The Project

Daily Quetta Voice sought to shed light on the issue by reaching out to the responsible authorities for a response, but to no avail. The officials remained tight-lipped, offering zero explanation or accountability for the oversight.

Mismanagement Of Public Funds

As the once-beautiful project now stands marred by negligence, concerns grow over the mismanagement of public funds and the compromised safety of the beautified area.

"Public money wasted", Zubair Khan, another citizen intervened and lamented. He demanded of the Balochistan government to take action against the responsible persons.

The lavish investment in aesthetics appears to have overlooked the essential element of ongoing maintenance, leaving the Quetta Airport Road project in a state of disarray.

Qatar says agreement reached to extend temporary Gaza truce by 2 days

GAZA: US Attorney General Merrick Garland has warned of increasing threats from "domestic violent extremists" amid growing attacks against minority groups, as he vowed a full investigation into the shooting of three men of Palestinian descent, AFP reports.

Police said a man had been arrested in connection with the wounding of the three university students in Burlington, Vermont, as authorities probe what they believe was a "hate-motivated crime."

Garland said the Department of Justice was closely monitoring the impact that the conflict in Gaza may have in "inspiring foreign terrorist organisations, home-grown violent extremists and domestic violent extremists both here in the United States and abroad".

A French warship has arrived in the Egyptian town of El-Arish near the border with the conflict-torn Gaza Strip to serve as a hospital for wounded civilians, a port source said, AFP reports. The Dixmude ship is expected to accommodate two operating rooms and around 60 beds. Hundreds of critically wounded Palestinians have crossed into Egypt in recent weeks with special exit permits, after the majority of hospitals in Gaza were forced out of service, according to the United Nations News Desk.

Mortar Shell Explosion Claims A Life In Taftan Chaghi

Riaz Baloch:

DALBANDIN: In a somber incident in the Iranian border town of Taftan, tragically struck as one person lost his life to a mortar shell explosion. Assistant Commissioner of Taftan reported that the Russian-made mortar shell was discovered by Abdul Nabi, a resident of Yak Mach, in the nearby mountainous border area.

The attempt to open the shell proved fatal, causing serious injuries to Nabi, who succumbed to them while being transferred to the hospital. The Taftan Civil Administration confirmed the unfortunate incident.

The victim, identified as



Abdul Nabi, son of Abdul Qadir, had found the explosive device and tragically lost his life in an unintended detonation. Authorities reached the spot as

an investigation into the incident went underway. The administration also ordered an inquiry into the incident.

پولیو سے تباہی کو روکنے کے لیے

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME

Expanded Programme on Immunization

Government of Pakistan

دو قطرے،

صحت مند مستقبل کے لیے

27 نومبر سے قومی پولیو مہم کا آغاز

Adequate wheat stock, steps to be taken for consistent flour supply: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information, Murtaza Solangi on Monday said there is enough wheat stock in Pakistan to meet the country's needs and to tackle any flour shortage due to supply chain problems, concrete measures would be initiated.

While responding to a motion under Rule 218 by Senator Sana Nishtar, focused on addressing gaps in the wheat supply chain that may lead to flour shortage, the minister stated that currently there was no wheat shortage in the country.

Senator Nishtar had pointed out the specific lacuna in wheat policy, citing the conversion of green bags to white bags and 4.57 metric tons in Balochistan. She also hinted at the smug-

gling as a factor, contributing to wheat shortages in addition to creation of systematic artificial shortages and hoarding.

Murtaza Solangi emphasized that there was an adequate stock of wheat in the country as public wheat stock included 39,24,367 metric tons in Punjab, 8,17,394 metric tons in Sindh, 2,15,082 metric tons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 99,354 metric tons in Balochistan. Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation Ltd (PASSCO) accounted for 17,18,177 metric tons, he added.

Private wheat stock comprises 3,37,270 metric tons in Punjab, 93,165 metric tons in Sindh, 14,918 metric tons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 4,157 metric tons in Balochistan.

The Minister Parlia-

ANF recovers 420, arrests five in seven countrywide operations

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered 420 kilogram drugs, arrested five drug pushers in seven anti-narcotics operations conducted across the country. A spokesman of ANF Headquarters said on Monday that the ANF in operation recovered 800 grams of crystal meth (Ice) from a parcel booked for Bahram at a courier office in Rawalpindi. A drug pusher was detained after recovery of 100 intoxicated tablets (ecstasy) during an operation in Bhara Khau, Islamabad.

In the third operation, 24 kg hashish was recovered of substances intercepted near Sher Shah Toll Plaza.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Nigeria, Major General (ret'd) Sohail Ahmad Khan called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Airwan-e-Sadr.

LHC moved against developing criminal record of underage drivers

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has been moved on Monday against placing names of underage drivers on the Criminal Record Management System (CRMS), following the crackdown over the killing of six members of a family.

According to the details, a petition has been filed in the high court by advocate Rana Sikandar, expressing concerns over police's

FIRs against underage drivers in Lahore.

In his plea, he asserted that despite assurances from the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) of Punjab the names of the underage drivers are added to the police's criminal database.

Sikandar contends that while the youngsters' identity cards are yet to be issued, their names are already being recorded in criminal databases, creating an un-

just situation.

The lawyer in his application to the LHC, pleaded not to add the identification of the underage drivers to the police's criminal record and sought the exclusion of the names of the children added in the Criminal Record Management System (CRMS).

Earlier, Lahore police continued a crackdown on underage drivers following the deadly

road crash in Lahore's DHA that claimed the lives of six members of a family.

As per details, the Lahore police have registered 4,682 cases and impounded hundreds of vehicles during a crackdown over the last 13 days on underage drivers.

Special checkpoints have been set up in parts of Lahore, especially in DHA area to nab underage drivers.



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest DC Idara Farog Urdu Dr Saleem Mazhar presenting certificate to Student in a ceremony held at Islamabad Model College-G-10/4 held on Monday.

Police arrest 109 climate protesters at Australian coal port

SYDNEY (INP): More than 100 climate activists have been arrested after staging a floating blockade of Australia's largest coal port, police said Monday, including five children and a 97-year-old reverend.

A fleet of kayaks blocked shipping traffic over the weekend at the Port of Newcastle on Australia's east coast, imploring the government to end the country's long reliance on fossil fuel exports.

Authorities agreed to let the protest run for 30 hours, but police boats started closing in when the deadline passed and crowds of activists refused to leave the water.

Among the 109 people arrested was 97-year-old Union Church reverend Alan Stuart, who said he wanted to stage off climate disaster for his "grandchildren and future generations."

"I am so sorry that they will have to suffer the consequences of our inaction," he said in a statement ahead of his arrest.

"So, I think it is my duty to do what I can and to stand up for what I know is right."

Protest group Rising Tide, which organised the blockade, said Stuart was the "oldest" Australian ever arrested in connection with a climate change

demonstration.

"We chose to risk arrest because scientists are warning that to avoid catastrophic climate collapse we must urgently phase out fossil fuels," the group said in a statement.

New South Wales Police said five juveniles had also been arrested but did not give their ages. Australian Greens leader Adam Bandt said nationwide climate protests would continue to swell if the government did not do more to slash emissions.

"People understand, students and older people understand, that it's coal and gas that are fuelling the climate crisis," he told national

broadcaster ABC.

A succession of Australian states have passed strict laws in recent years targeting climate protests, drawing condemnation from rights organisations and United Nations investigators.

Climate protester Deanna Coco was jailed for 15 months last year after blocking traffic on Sydney's famous harbour bridge, although her sentence was later quashed on appeal.

Australia has long been one of the world's largest coal producers and a string of new coal mines, oil fields and gas projects are currently in government planning pipelines.

Lahore remains most polluted city of world with worst air quality

LAHORE (INP): Lahore on Monday remained on top of the list of the most polluted cities of the world with average pollution reading of 415. Indian capital New Delhi remained second with 325 AQI reading.

According to the air pollution data shared by the Punjab Environment Protection Department, Upper Mall remained the most polluted locality with 508 Air Quality Index reading, Polo Ground Lahore

Cantt-491, Lahore College for Women University 297, Lahore College of Earth and Environmental Sciences 250, Town Hall Lahore 299 AQI reading.

AQI as high as 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI rating between 201 to 300 is more harmful and AQI over 300 has been extremely hazardous.

According to experts, air pollution level goes upward in winter, change in the wind speed, wind direction

and sliding minimum temperature increases air pollution.

The air becomes heavier in the winter as compared to summer, causing poisonous particles in the atmosphere to move downwards and make the atmosphere polluted. As a result, a layer of polluted particles, including large amounts of carbon and smoke, covers the area.

The smoke produced by burning crop remnants, factories and burning

coal, garbage, oil or tyres enters in the atmosphere and the impact of it appears at the onset of winter and remain till the season's end, experts said.

Thus, air pollution reaches to extremely dangerous levels, severely compromising the air quality. The AQI is calculated based on five categories of pollution: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

Fire-affected shopping mall to remain sealed till collection of evidences: SSP

KARACHI (INP): SSSI investigation in East Sand Magis has said that the fire-affected shopping mall at Rashidin Minhas Road will remain sealed till arrival of experts and collection of evidences.

The SSP East who is also member of the investigation team was talking to media persons on Monday during his visit to the fire-affected shopping

mall which claimed lives of 11 people.

He said that the builders of shopping mall have been requested to provide the map of the mall.

It would be checked in the map whether an emergency exit was provided and security measures were taken, he added.

Saud Magis said that an engineer has also been included in

the investigation committee.

No haste has been made in registration of case of fire incident and only information has been provided in it would be before time to comment over them. The SSP said that a communication has been sent to all concerned departments, engineers and experts would visit the affected shopping mall and those found responsible would have

to the consequences.

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HYDERABAD: Health worker administering polio drops to a child during Anti-Polio vaccination campaign at Primary School, Latifabad.

CM KP directs arrest of all those involved in murder of girl on jirga's decision

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Arshad Hussain Shah taking notice of murder of a young girl on decision of local jirga has directed to arrest all those involved in extrajudicial killing.

According to details, a local jirga gave decision of murder of a girl after her video along with another girl while dancing with youth went viral on social me-

dia.

The other girl was taken into custody by police due to fear of threat to her life but later handed over to family after assurance of provision of complete security to her. The youth seen in the video went into hiding fearing reprisals as they were declared "chor" by jirga and issued decree for their killing.

Chief Minister Arshad Hussain con-

ducted Additional Home Secretary and directed inquiry into the incident to make all necessary and presenting a report.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Provincial Health Dr Jamal Nasir, in group photo after Red Crescent Governing Body meeting.

CORRIGENDUM

(Non-Consulting Services)

Employer: Project Management and Implementation Unit, Balochistan Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Project (BLEP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan

Project: Balochistan Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Project (BLEP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan

Contract title: Training (skill development) of female beneficiaries in four (04) Districts (Sherani, Zhob, Killa Saifullah & Pashayi) of Balochistan (Package #1)

Country: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Loan No. / Credit No. / Grant No.: IDA65447 / IDA25660

RFB No.: PK-P330/QUETTA-36399-AC-163

With reference to RFB # PK-P330/QUETTA-36399-AC-RFB that has been published in Newspapers on November 21st 2023 for Training (skill development) of female beneficiaries in four (04) Districts (Sherani, Zhob, Killa Saifullah & Pashayi) of Balochistan (Package # 1), the Procuring Agency (BLEP) hereby revised the dates of pre-bid meeting and Bid opening of the above referenced RFB. The revised dates and times are as below: Pre-bid Meeting date: **December 1st 2023 at 10:00 AM** in the Office of BLEP Bid opening Date: **December 6th 2023 10:00 AM** in the Office of BLEP Head of Project, Project Management and Implementation Unit, Balochistan Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Project (BLEP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan. Address: House # 450-59 Talkh-e-Khat, Killi Shano, Of Chaman Housing Scheme, Airport Road, Quetta, Balochistan. Tel: 962-81-2823304/962-81-2823211 Website: www.blep.org.pk e-mail: lbh.um@sheryar.gov.pk

TENDER NOTICE
ORDNANCE DEPOT QUETTA

1. Sealed quotations are invited to this depot for purchasing of **General Store & Clothing, Engineers, Armament, Signal Security Equipment Article in Use, Machinery for Manufacturing Propose and Miscellaneous Items (2nd Half FY-2023-2024).**

2. Quota / tender documents may be obtained from Ordnance Depot Quetta (LP Branch) **on 28 November 2023 to 13 December 2023** in working hours, same can also be downloaded from **PPRA website**. For more details please contact on phone number **011-2222207-221.**

3. Last date of submission of quotations is **14 December 2023** at 1200 hours and tender will be opened on same day at 12:30 hours.

COLONEL SAIM JAVAID
Commandant Ordnance Depot Quetta

HEAD OF PROJECT
(BLEP)

AB No.193/27-11-2023
www.blep.org.pk @sheryar @sheryar @sheryar @sheryar

Quetta Gas Load Shedding Sparks Public Outcry as Protesters Block Roads

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The unannounced and prolonged gas load shedding sparked a public outcry in the provincial capital as the protesters blocked roads and streets. On Monday afternoon, a large number of citizens took to Sariab Road, Magi Chowk, and other parts of the city to vent their anger against the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).

"Gas load shedding has made us crazy", Noor Muhammad, one of the protesters with a bushy black beard lamented. He said despite repeated appeals and notices, the SSGC was reluctant to address the issue of unannounced and prolonged gas load shedding in the area.

Worst Traffic Jam In The City

The protest caused the blockade of roads and the provincial capital witnessed the worst traffic jam. The protesters burnt tires and chanted full-throated slogans to mount pressure on the



authorities to address the issue of gas load shedding in the area. "We want justice", Noor Muhammad said. Like Noor, scores of protesters were demanding that the provincial and federal governments take notice of their protest and address the issue once and for all.

Common citizens faced difficulties as a result of protest demonstrations staged by the people, which caused the blockade of roads. They failed to reach their destinations on time. Especially, women, children, and aged people remained the worst sufferers of the protest demonstration.

Governor Balochistan Removes VC SBK Dr. Sajida Noreen

Education Desk:

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar, has ousted Dr. Sajida Noreen from her position as the Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University. The Governor's Secretariat issued a notification, announcing the removal and appointing Dr. Zainab Bibi to assume the interim charge as the VC of SBK.

Dr. Zainab Bibi, previously associated with the Institute of Management Sciences (IMS) at Balochistan University, is set to take on the responsibilities of the top academic role at SBK.

HEC Revealed Instances Of Merit Violations

The decision to remove Dr. Sajida Noreen is grounded in a report from the Higher Education Commission (HEC), according to a reliable source at the Governor's House. The HEC inquiry revealed instances of merit violations under Dr. Noreen's leadership at the university.

The Sacked VC SBK Refrained From Providing Info

Upon inquiry by Daily Quetta Voice, Dr. Sajida Noreen re-



sponded, "Ask about this notification from those who issued. I have no knowledge." She refrained from providing further commentary on her removal.

The move underscores the commitment to upholding academic standards and meritocracy in higher education institutions, as outlined by the HEC. The change in leadership aims to ensure the continued pursuit of excellence at SBK Women's University.

Pak-China sugarcane coop edges ahead for bright future despite challenges

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pak-China sugarcane cooperation edges ahead for bright future despite challenges, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

The surge in sugar prices in Pakistan reflects a series of deep-rooted elements. Key factors contributing to this situation includes the increase in sugarcane production costs manipulation by domestic sugar "mafia" and a flawed subsidy system.

Moreover, our entire sugarcane industry needs technological changes to bring about industrial upgrading and help reduce related costs.

Dr. Faid Rasul, Associate Professor of Agronomy, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) told Gwadar Pro that the highly volatile sugar price has jumped from \$5 rupees/kg to 160-170 rupees/kg ahead of the crushing season start.

Sugarcane production in 2021-22 based on official plantation areas of about 1.25 million hectares was about 88.6 million tons, a certain growth from the

same period of last year (1.16 million ha/80.9 million tons).

The unit output in 2021-22 (70.35 Tons/Ha) is almost the same as the previous year (69.55 Tons/Ha), according to Annual Report 2022 published by Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA).

However, Pakistan's sugarcane yield per hectare is much lower than that of other major producers. In 2018 alone, the yield was 62 tons, far below the world average of 73 tons as well as India's 80 tons.

Sikandar Khan, a PSMA senior official, noted that in addition to artificial factors such as monopoly and market manipulation, the increase in sugarcane production costs such as fertilizers, pesticides and transportation is the main reasons for the soaring sugar prices.

Sugarcane uses more subsidized agricultural inputs than other cash crops, especially fertilizers and water. In highly water-stressed countries, including Pakistan, sugarcane consumes much more water than any other cash crop. It is urgent to cultivate high-

quality sugarcane varieties that consume less water, have higher sugar extraction efficiency, and are more resistant to pests and diseases.

"The sugarcane industry in Pakistan is characterized by the cultivation of several key varieties, particularly in the Punjab region.

Among the notable varieties are CPM-248, CPM-249, CPM-250, CPM-251, and CPM-252, each with its own unique characteristics in terms of maturation period, yield, and resistance to diseases, in which CPM-248 has the highest sugar content at 12.71%, at the same time, it has good tillering potential, resists lodging, and thus suitable for regeneration," Faid Rasul elaborated.

In addition, in order to better expand the global market, Pakistan should comprehensively improve the level of sugar industry to allow more domestic mills to obtain Bonsucro sugar certification, the leading global sustainability platform and standard for sugarcane. Currently only 3 mills are certified for Bonsucro.



IRAQ: The document for the establishment of the Iraqi-Chinese Business Council is being signed in Baghdad.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan Chioera met with Provincial Health Ministers.

BISP initiates receiving applications for 'BISP Savings Scheme'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) to make people self-reliant has opened portal to receive applications for its recently launched initiative of "BISP Savings Scheme".

According to the BISP, the scheme was currently being launched in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Peshawar, Lucky Marwat, Quetta, Qila Saifullah, Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Sukkur, Gilgit and Astore.

The applicants, having PMT score below 40, are required to apply through a web portal: savings.bisp.gov.pk for becoming a part of this scheme without paying any fee. The applicants will open a saving account in the bank to participate in the scheme. Those who will participate in the scheme will deposit money from 500 to 1000 rupees monthly in their bank account. The beneficiaries will get an additional 40 percent of their savings from the

BISP. The duration of the scheme was two years at the end of which the beneficiaries will be able to withdraw their entire amount. The beneficiaries will not be able to withdraw their principal amount during this two-year period. However, the share given by BISP and the profit given by the bank will be able to be withdrawn. The beneficiary can withdraw from the scheme at any time but rejoining will not be possible until the end of the scheme.

Chairperson BISP, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that BISP was an important initiative of the government to stand with the deserving women and their families in their difficult times to reduce the intensity of their poverty level by providing them financial relief. "We have taken a step towards ensuring self-sufficiency through this programme by enabling those families hav-

ing their poverty score below PMT 40 to open their accounts for saving some amount for their future", he said. "BISP will not only help them open accounts but also add 40 percent of the total amount into their bank accounts", he said.

The chairperson said that the purpose of this scheme is to motivate the people towards saving. "The amount they save will become an asset for the beneficiary families in the future", the chairperson said. The ultimate objective is to take a step towards creation of a welfare state with a strong belief on self-sufficiency, Dr. Saqib said while urging the deserving people to become part of the pro-poor initiative. Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmed said that the portal has been opened for registration of the deserving people for this purpose. The portal will only receive applications from the specific districts for now.

NAB exonerates Ahad Cheema in assets beyond income case

LAHORE (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has given a clean chit to Ahad Cheema, Adviser to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, in assets beyond sources of income reference on Monday.

In its report submitted to an Accountability Court (AC) in Lahore on Cheema's acquittal application, the NAB has said that there are no grounds for filing a reference against him since all his assets were

proportionate to his income.

It is further written in the report that Cheema's alleged benami assets made assets from his personal income, and that the petitioner had nothing to do with them.

Similarly, the report has stated that the bank accounts belonging to Cheema's relatives, such as Saadia Mansoor, Mansoor Ahmad, and Nazia Ashraf are not the benami accounts of adviser to the PM. It goes on to say that

when investigation was done in the case again, his total income turned out to be Rs213 million and the expenditures Rs131 million.

Furthermore, the report says, Cheema provided complete record of his income and profits to the bureau during re-investigation, and when that record was checked, it proved to be accurate. The NAB has requested the AC to give its judgement on Cheema's acquittal plea as per law.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhgi, graced the prestigious National Education Foundation (NEF) Merit Award Ceremony.

ICT and green energy offer tremendous growth prospects under CPEC: CG

SHANGHAI (INP): "The next decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) presents tremendous opportunities for China and Pakistan to further deepen their economic partnership.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and green energy, in particular, offer tremendous growth prospects, not only in terms of economic returns but also environmental sustainability and technological advancement," stated Hussain Haider, Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

The remarks were made during the "Ten Years of CPEC: Retrospect and Prospects" Roundtable at the 7th International Forum on the Belt and Road Initiative & Global Governance on November 26, hosted by Fudan University and the Silk Road Think Tank Association.

The Consul General spot-

lighted the potential in Pakistan's diverse industries, such as textiles, food processing, automotive, ICT, and renewable energy.

He underscored that Chinese expertise and investment are key to Pakistan's economic transformation.

The ICT sector, backed by governmental encouragement, is poised for opportunities, he said. Recent forecasts by government officials, including the interim Minister of Information Technology Dr. Umar Saif, project IT exports to grow exponentially.

Pakistan's IT sector has seen a 178% increase over the past five years, boasting a CAGR of 30%.

Pakistan's burgeoning ICT industry, supported by a favorable regulatory landscape and robust infrastructure, presents numerous opportunities for Chinese investors, added the CG. In light of the global emphasis on sustainable develop-

ment, green energy has been earmarked as an essential investment area.

Pakistan offers a promising market for renewable energy investment, particularly in solar and wind power, with the renewable energy percentage in power generation expected to reach 20% by 2030, up from 6.8% in 2023.

Pakistan, which imports \$600 million worth of solar panels from China annually, is open to Chinese FDI to foster local production aimed at domestic sales and duty-free exports to China and the EU, conveyed the CG. The roundtable, attended by diplomats, industry experts, and business leaders from both countries, included a panel discussing Pakistan's investment landscape and collaborative avenues under CPEC. The focus on ICT and green energy underscores a significant shift in economic relations as CPEC advances into its next cooperation phase.