

QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com

PPP and PML-N in Balochistan: Action, Not Rhetoric

Syed Ali Shah Analysis:

QUETTA: In a political landscape often dominated by mainstream parties, Balochistan has long struggled to assert its presence and address the pressing issues that plague the province. As the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) gears up to organize a major political show in Quetta on November 30th, it marks a crucial opportunity to shed light on Balochistan's sense of deprivation and catalyze tangible efforts towards its political, economic, and constitutional healing.

Balochistan Has Only 19 Out Of 342 Lawmakers In NA

Balochistan, with its vast and diverse landscape, has been historically marginalized, both politically and economically. The province's minimal representation in the national assembly – a mere 19 lawmakers out of 342 – underscores the disproportionate influence it wields in national decision-making processes. This dearth of political stakes has perpetuated a cycle of neglect, hindering the province's progress and exacerbating the prevailing sense of deprivation among its people.

Economic disparities further compound Balochistan's challenges. Despite being rich in natural resources, the province continues to grapple with underdevelopment and poverty. The exploitation of its resources has often failed to translate into meaningful economic upliftment for its residents.

The PPP's decision to organize a power show in Quetta presents an opportune moment for



Banners installed on all main chowks of Quetta on the eve of 56th Youth Tasees of PPP: Photo Daily Quetta Voice

all mainstream political parties to reevaluate their commitment to Balochistan's economic development.

Mainstream Parties Should Go Beyond Words

Constitutional healing is equally imperative for Balochistan's progress. The province has long faced issues related to governance, autonomy, and the fulfillment of its constitutional rights. Meaningful reforms are essential to address these concerns and ensure that Balochistan plays a more integral role in shaping the nation's future.

While political rhetoric has acknowledged Balochistan's challenges, it is now time for action. Mainstream political parties must move beyond mere promises and take concrete steps to address the province's multifaceted issues. This involves not only policy initiatives but also a sustained commitment to empowering Balochistan politically, economically, and constitutionally.

As the PPP takes center stage in Quetta, let this event serve as a catalyst for change. Balochistan's call for attention and action should resonate with all political stakeholders, inspiring collaborative efforts to uplift the province from its current state of backwardness. The power show should mark the beginning of a renewed commitment to Balochistan's prosperity – a commitment that goes beyond words and translates into the meaningful transformation the province urgently needs.

In major relief, IHC acquits Nawaz Sharif in Avenfield reference



ISLAMABAD: In a massive relief for the PML-N, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday acquitted former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in the Avenfield reference.

The verdict was announced by a two-member bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb on Nawaz's appeal against his conviction in the case. In July 2018, an accountability court had handed the PML-N leader 10 years in jail in the Avenfield properties corruption reference for owning assets beyond known income and one year for not cooperating with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), both of which were to be served concurrently.

The IHC had declared him a proclaimed offender in the case in December 2020. After leaving for London on medical grounds, Nawaz remained there for nearly four years and only returned to the country last month.

Following his return from the UK last month, the PML-N leader had filed an application seeking

the restoration of his appeal against his conviction.

He had contended that while he was abroad for medical treatment, the pending appeals were dismissed for non-prosecution. The plea requested the court to revive the pending appeal for a decision on them on merit. Last month, the IHC had restored the appeal in question.

Today, the court set aside the accountability court's verdict and accepted Nawaz's appeal.

Speaking to reporters after the hearing, the PML-N supremo said, "I thank God as I had left the entire matters on him. God has made us victorious today."

Separately, a post on X (formerly Twitter), Maryam Nawaz said today's verdict showed how God vindicated those who put their unwavering trust in him.

As the proceedings commenced, Nawaz's lawyers came to the rostrum. Pervaz contended that the accountability court had acquitted the PML-N supremo from Section 9A of the NAB Ordinance in the Avenfield reference. News Desk.



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CONVOCAION
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Mir Qaddus Bizenjo Decides To Join PPP

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qaddus Bizenjo has announced to join the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). "I have decided to join the PPP", Mr. Bizenjo told reporters via telephone.

The former CM's announcement came on the eve of the 56th Youth Tasees in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan province. "I will join the PPP along with all political supporters", he said.

The former CM stated that he was in Karachi and would make a formal announcement in the presence of PPP leaders Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari very soon. This strategic move marks a notable shift in his political allegiance and is expected to have far-reaching implications on the political landscape of Balochistan and the country.



His political rival, former CM of Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan has already joined the Pakistan Muslim League (N).

National Forum Urges Swift Action on Balochistan RTI Commission Establishment

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The National Forum of Information Commissioners convened in Quetta on Wednesday in collaboration with the Center for Peace and Development Initiative, drawing the participation of Chief Information Commissioners from the Federal Government, Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The meeting, attended by officials including Secretary Information Imran Khan and the Director-General of Public Relations (DGPR), Balochistan Mohammad Noor Khetran, aimed to discuss the progress and achievements of the right to information (RTI) Act.

Imran Khan Highlights the Govt's Commitment

The Federal Information Commission, along with representatives from Punjab, Sindh, and KPK, provided a comprehensive overview of the advancements made under the RTI Act during the meeting. Information Secretary Imran Khan highlighted the Balochistan government's commitment to



establishing an Information Commission under the recently enacted RTI Act 2021.

He announced that the Balochistan RTI Act has been duly notified. DGPR Mohammad Noor Khetran underscored the importance of fostering close ties with Chief Information Commissioners across provinces. CPIO Executive Director, Mukhtar Ahmad Ali acknowledged the successful implementation of RTI laws at the federal level and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Punjab.

However, he pointed out that despite this progress, the Balochistan Information Commission, as outlined in the Balochistan RTI Act 2021, has yet to be established.

Members Discuss Various Aspects of RTI

Throughout the meeting, members of Information Commissions from various regions discussed aspects of RTI law implementation. Participants unanimously emphasized the urgent need for the immediate establishment of the Balochistan Information Commission in accordance with the Balochistan RTI Act 2021. They stressed the critical importance of ensuring the effective implementation of laws related to access to information. In instances where Public Information Officers have not been appointed, it was emphasized that the heads of the respective institutions are obligated to provide information.

THE BALUCH VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan: Why not books, if food can be delivered at homes

Editorial:

QUETTA: "Why not books, if food items can be delivered to homes", Shakoob Baloch, a committed young student said. Mr. Baloch and other youngsters of Quetta's Surah Road area have established the "Readers Club" to provide free books to people in general and students in particular.

Sitting in a mud and brick-walled room located in one of the congested poor neighborhoods of Quetta, Shakoob Baloch, and his colleagues are committed to promoting the book reading culture.

Bicycle is economical, we cannot afford petrol; Amjad Baloch
"We deliver books by bicycle", Amjad Baloch, another student with a black-bushy beard said. Petrol prices are high, we cannot afford fuel and therefore, deliver books on the bicycle, he mentioned.

Reads Club has gathered around 700 books so far. Currently, the club has dropped over 400 books at various homes in various parts of Quetta and Balochistan province. "Our aim is to promote book reading culture and people are excited to read books", he stated.

Volunteers delivering books at homes

The number of volunteers for this campaign is around one dozen. Most of them are students and an education lover has temporarily handed over the mud and brick-walled room to use as the centre of the initiative.

No official encouragement or support so far

"No contact by any government official or any political party", Shakoob Baloch stated. He said the Readers' Club was in dire need of support since the demand for reading books was growing but they were unable to meet it.

In Balochistan, various organizations have established libraries to promote book reading culture and open new vistas of knowledge and information for the students.

Students have already established libraries in the Balochistan district of Kech, Gwadar, and other areas. Daily thousands of students from various parts of the province visit libraries.

Cities left behind

By Rafia Zakaria:

EVERY year, thousands of tourists visit the ruins of the Italian city of Pompeii. The city is one of the ancient cities which sits at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 79 AD.

The vegetation that covered the mountain had hidden some of the signs of the once-thriving city. It was not until 1050 AD while it would be impossible to tell now, at its height the city had declined and was gradually being overtaken by the city's inhabitants did not leave. Most of those people would perish as the volcano erupted and the ash and fiery lava covered everything.

One reason that the ruins of Pompeii still attract so many people so many centuries later is because many are making it one of the most popular of its time. The culture was rich and there is evidence of beautifully sculpted vessels and statues made of clay. Farmers were responsible for maize cultivation. And yet 200 years after the city was at its peak, it declined and was eventually abandoned.

One of the many theories as to why Calahorra was abandoned was that the people who lived there cut down too many trees from the adjoining farmland. It was theorised that, as a result of the deforestation, there was nothing to prevent the area from eroding away and consequent devastation.

However, recent research published in National Geographic revealed that the soil around the mounds was not disturbed all the way until the 1800s. This meant that there was no significant deforestation by the Native American people. What months away. What seems to have happened is that the city was not abandoned because of the volcanic eruption, but because of the city's inhabitants did not leave. Most of those people would perish as the volcano erupted and the ash and fiery lava covered everything.

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By Zahid Hussain:

OFTEN described as an accidental leader, Asif Ali Zardari is undoubtedly one of the shrewdest political figures in the country. Past master in the art of political wheeling and dealing, he has managed to maintain the party's role as a major player in the power game, despite its eroding national status. But his politics of gamesmanship has also caused the party to lose direct contact with the masses, which was the hallmark of PPP politics since the party's inception.

Now it seems that his leadership and style of politics is being challenged by his son. But a crafty politician not willing to give up his mantle. In a long TV interview last week, Zardari struck back with a clear message that he is still the boss. Curiously, cracks have emerged with the elections only a couple of months away. What seems to have happened is that the city was not abandoned because of the volcanic eruption, but because of the city's inhabitants did not leave. Most of those people would perish as the volcano erupted and the ash and fiery lava covered everything.

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PPP's hour of reckoning

It is not just about who calls the shots in Pakistan's political history. But electoral support for a suffered during that period because of the absence of a popular leadership. The government's poor performance led to the party's fall in the 2013 elections. The party succeeded in retaining power in its stronghold of Sindh, but was almost wiped out in Punjab except for a few seats won in the south of the province.

With the emergence of the PTI as the main challenger to the PML-N, the PPP lost further ground in the province. Several of its leaders joined the PTI bandwagon. The party's once strong vote bank disappeared. As a result, the PPP could win only six seats in the Punjab provincial assembly in the 2018 elections.

The PPP, however, remained a significant player on the national political stage because it has retained its dominance in Sindh. It may also be true that Zardari played an important role in the vote of no confidence against Imran Khan. Although Zardari fully backed the PDM-led coalition government, which included Bilawal as foreign minister, the PPP refrained from taking responsibility for the Shehbaz Sharif administration's flawed economic poli-

tics. Apparently, one of the reasons for its decision to take the foreign ministry was to build Bilawal's political profile and prepare him for the top job. But in the emerging political landscape, where the PTI remains a major political force despite the crackdown against it, there is little possibility of the PPP regaining its lost space in Punjab.

Meantime, Zardari's gamesmanship received yet another jolt when the Balochistan Awami Party defied the PPP to join the PML-N, which is perceived to have the backing of the security establishment. The PPP was confident of forming the government in the province, which would have given the party greater clout in the formation of the future government.

Bilawal, who has remained under the shadow of his father despite his increasing political profile, now seems to have realised the limits of the party's existing approach as elections draw near. But his desire to change direction and go back to mass politics with a clear programme seems to have come to an end for the day.

It is his hour of reckoning for a party that has dominated Pakistan's political scene for decades. One of the most powerful national parties is now struggling to keep itself politically relevant.

Scary monsters

By Mahir Ali:

WHO would have thought that Geert Wilders, one of the longest sitting members of the Dutch parliament, would one day be in a pole position to aspire to the post of prime minister of the Netherlands? But his political ascent to the perch to which last Wednesday's snap election elevated the far right, socially Islamophobic words.

Wilders' Party for Freedom (PVV) ended up with 23.6 per cent of the vote and 37 seats in a 150-member parliament. It's not exactly a ringing popular endorsement, even though it adds up to 20 more seats than the PVV secured in 2021, and a higher total than any other party. Extended negotiations probably lie ahead in the effort to forge a ruling coalition.

Actual destruction and even ruination of a city for it be lost forever. In a live performance that featured a performance by Tina Sami given in Kathmandu, she prefaced her performance of one of Faiz Ahmad Faiz's poems with a wistful remembrance of Karachi as it was in the 1960s.

In an effort to attract broad support among the less extremist right, Wilders has already suggested that his plans to ban mosques, head coverings and the scriptures cannot be put in place. He promises to restrict immigration, yet at least some immigrants voted for the PVV because of promised improvements in housing and social care — although they may not have much to cheer about, some Europeans if Wilders has to contend with the fact that he will have to work with a parliament in which his upstart party constitutes a fairly inconsequential minority.

Hence, the common thread which has run through his political career is the shift from denigrating the Argentinian Pope Francis as "a Jesus who can't hold himself and the devil's representative on earth to inviting "Your Holiness" to visit his home town. Mike's presidency nonetheless promises to be a rough ride, not least

because many of the "solutions" he proposes have disastrously flopped when attempted before by Argentina's military junta as well as 2015-19 Mauricio Macri government.

On the face of it, Latin America and Europe may not have much in common, but the resurgence of the far right in disparate parts of the world is often being traced to similar causes. The foremost among them is the failure of the so-called centre-left and centre-right — often barely distinguishable from one another — to forge political economies that satisfy the basic needs of all segments of society. More often than not, their policies serve to exacerbate economic disparities and societal dysfunction.

That in-variably trends towards the far right, the atomised and discombobulated left, and the failure to take the failure to propose convincing alternatives. But let's not forget that even

when it does, it is rapidly trampled down by the jackboots of the political and media establishment. Britain's Corbyn phenomenon serves as both a warning example and a cautionary tale. Likewise, the fate of Syriza in Greece, which went down to a crushing win in power, in the face of the European Union's neo-liberal nastiness.

There's a degree of irony in many European far right factions seeing the EU as part of the problem. The far right is running rampant across the democracies in Europe, going mainstream in nations that until recently stood out as exemplars of socioeconomic progress. If France falls to Marie Le Pen, Germany may well be next. The US is an even more massive country. Latin America is different, although far from immune to neo-fascist tendencies.

Mike is unsurprisingly a fan of Israel, but the rest of his continent is the only one to have substantially shown any resistance to the Zionist slouches towards Bethlehem.

Karachi's biophilia

By Masood Lohar:

'BIOPHILIA', a concept coined by Harvard naturalist Dr Edward O. Wilson, encapsulates the intrinsic human tendency to be drawn to life and lifelike processes. This inclination involves a profound connection, love and yearning for nature. In our current era, with 56 per cent of the global population — 4.4 billion people — residing in urban areas, the consequential loss of biodiversity and the absence of nature's benefits are palpable. The shift to urbanisation results in significant biodiversity loss, depriving citizens of nature's benefits. Pakistan, the third most polluted country

last year, has its major cities consistently leading the air quality index. The repercussions of deteriorating air quality, prolonged heatwaves, recurrent urban flooding, burgeoning solid waste, and the depletion and contamination of underground water sources have collectively transformed Pakistani cities into a neo-squatter phenomenon, where the very air of living feels like a form of punishment.

Amid concrete landscapes, people's connection with nature is limited to electronic devices, overshadowing biophilia. Prioritising nature's benefits is crucial for the well-being of present and future generations amidst urban challenges. According to estimates, in two years, half of Pakistan's population may live in cities. A palpable sign of this urban sprawl is observable during a road journey from Karachi to Islamabad or vice versa, where the gap between cities is rapidly diminishing due to the rampant expansion of haphazard housing colonies and DHAs phases. This unchecked city sprawl raises concerns of two-thirds of the population soon finding themselves in urban centres, which may resemble an "urban hell" more than a sanctuary in the "land of the pure".

Compounding this issue is Pakistan's staggering current population of 240.5 million, projected to double by 2050. With the alarming failure of population control, questions arise about how this burgeoning population will secure drinking water and food, especially as fertile agricultural lands succumb to the encroachment of housing colonies. While these challenges are not exclusive to Pakistan and are prevalent on a similar scale across Asia, there are shining examples of proactive sustainable urban environments. Colombo stands out as one such example.

Sri Lanka's capital Colombo was de-

clared the Ramsar Wetland City, along with 18 more cities from seven countries during the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) in Dubai in October 2018. This made Colombo the first capital to be accredited as an International Wetland City by Ramsar. The city is intricately connected by an extensive 50-kilometre-long artificial canal system, weaving through 36 wetland patches. Recognised as the Colombo Wetland Complex, these vital ecosystems play a crucial role in the city's ecological richness. This unique environment serves as a sanctuary for urban wildlife, featuring nearly 250 plant species and 285 animal species, some rarely found in any capital city.

In three years, the Clifton Urban Forest became an urban biodiversity hotspot with 700,000 trees, including 600,000 man-

groves, hosting 142 bird species, including flamingos and eight types of migratory birds. Its mangroves dominate Pakis-tan's wildlife photography pages, emphasising that Karachi's healing is possible by nurturing beyond real estate wealth.

Karachi, flanked by nearly the 50-kilometre Malir and Lyari rivers, offers opportunities for numerous freshwater urban wetlands potentially becoming tourism hubs and fostering a micro-economy for the local population. Proposals include reconnecting the remnants of the once-e-m-a-j-i-e-i-c "Obayya" lagoon with the sea through a flyover bridge replacing the Mai Kolachi road and restoring the Nai Nar lagoon on Sandspit. The mangroves, mired by decaying elite tubes, could be transformed into a protected zone, promoting beach tourism and serving as a sanctuary for green turtles. The Oyster Rock and four other inhabited islands can be turned into a great example of biophilia by making them spots for sustainable fishing, biodiversity and ecotourism, training the city's urban native inhabitants to earn from their cuisine and culture, and entertaining the entertainment-deprived urbanites of Karachi. It is still not too late.

General elections should be held on time, says Shehbaz Sharif

LAHORE (INP): Referring to the incidents of violence witnessed on May 9, former prime minister and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said these were acts of treason on the part of the PTI, which, he claimed, wanted to create fissures in Pakistan Army. Speaking to the media after appearing in an accountability court (AC) in Lahore in connection with the hearing of Ramzan Sugar Mills reference, he said he had no idea that PTI would turn out to be a 'destructive force'.

He alleged that PTI Chairman Imran Khan had built his residence in Bani Gala, Islamabad in violation of rules and

regulations. He was of the view that there was a conspiracy behind the disqualification of former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif. "By sending Nawaz home, an obstruction was created in the way of the country's development."

Shehbaz emphasized that general elections in the country should be held on time. "We are entering the election campaign phase with full preparation," he added.

During the hearing, the former prime minister said that all cases against him were "fake". "Not a penny of corruption could be proved against me," he said,

adding, "All suspects, including me, were acquitted in the Ashiana Housing case."

He claimed that he never caused loss to the national exchequer through the steps he had ordered.

"I served the people of Punjab when I was the provincial chief minister," he said, adding, "I never received a penny from the exchequer for my foreign tours. As a matter of fact, I never received my salary nor waived perks and privileges."

Court adjourns hearing

Earlier, an accountability court adjourned the hearing of Ramzan Sugar Mills reference until December 12.

Gold rates in Pakistan see noticeable increase

ISLAMABAD (INP): In Wednesday's market update, the 24-karat gold reached Rs217,000 per tola, while the 22-karat gold was priced at Rs198,917 per tola. Even in smaller quantities, the prices remained attractive, with 10 grams of 24-karat gold at Rs186,043 and 22-karat gold at Rs170,539.

There is an inherent connection between currency values and gold prices that is underscored by the significant changes in the dollar's value. Globally, the price of gold has seen a decline, currently standing at \$2,043 per ounce. It's crucial to highlight that gold prices in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Jawad Sohrah Malik SAPM on Overseas Pakistan, Charge d'Affaires of Romania Eduard Preda, Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps Mohammad Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco and others cutting cake on the occasion of the National Day of Romania at local hotel.

Merged districts in Pakistan thrive after conflict

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan's merged districts are witnessing a betterment of life and development. The tribal communities in these areas, once affected by terrorism, are now experiencing a wave of positive change.

The second phase of the revival of returning tribes in the Rajgal Valley of Khyber District has been completed.

During the second phase in Rajgal, from September 25, 2023, to November 10, 2023, 1,280 families in three villages have returned.

Following the TTP's rise, the country witnessed numerous attacks, bombings, and the tragic loss of innocent lives, acknowledging responsibility for thousands of casualties.

However, due to the relentless efforts and sacrifices of the Pakistani armed forces, a sustained atmosphere of peace was restored. In the war against terrorism, over 87,000 individuals sacrificed their lives.

Pakistan's security forces timely countered these threats, also devising a robust strategy to prevent the wicked objec-

tives of the enemy. After securing the national borders, the Pakistan Army, in collaboration with the government, initiated the provision of essential facilities and the rehabilitation of these "merged districts."

As peace was restored in these districts, the Pakistani military launched new and modern development projects for the well-being of the local population, encompassing education, health, infrastructure, and transportation.

In compliance with the directives of the Pakistani government, the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) commenced the construction of infrastructure.

During the construction of roads, several bridges and connecting roads were also built.

Inaccessible areas were now connected with the rest of the country through a vast network of 32 roads and bridges.

Various packages were introduced in these districts to enhance educational and government institutions and to ignite the professional skills of the people, especially the youth. Additionally, an Agricultural Park was established in Wara to promote local and international markets, comprising 1,344 markets and process-

ing zones. Projects like the Maari Petroleum Project, Lucky Marwat Gas Exploration, and the Copper Mining Project in Mohmand Khel were initiated to harness hidden treasures and natural resources for developmental work.

To ensure clean and safe water supply, more than 100 water treatment plants and a sanitation system were established.

The Pakistani armed forces also played a crucial role in improving public health services by constructing new hospitals such as Para Medical Institute in Swat, Tehsil Headquarters Mir Ali, and DHQ Mamad Gat, among others.

Efforts were made to provide quality education by establishing eight Cadet Colleges in the merged districts, contributing to the development of the population.

In South Waziristan, the Wana Institute of Technical Training aimed to empower local women by offering various free-lancing courses.

Special emphasis was placed on sports and physical activities for the children, providing opportunities for their holistic development.

In Bajaur, the first-ever International Special Persons Wheelchair Cricket Tournament was orga-

nized, featuring wheelchair races and hand wrestling competitions.

After the establishment of peace and security, the Frontier Constabulary and Levies received new equipment, standard weapons, and special attention to infrastructure to enhance the capabilities of approximately 13,899 police personnel.

Through joint efforts of the Pakistani government, Pakistan Army, and Frontier Corps, significant measures were taken to facilitate the rehabilitation of these families.

Under the Community Engagement Program of Frontier Corps, returning families were provided with essential items for life, including dry rations, tents, warm blankets, and other necessities.

In the first phase in the Tirah Valley, 15,690 families have already returned during 2021 and 2022.

Expressing gratitude to the Pakistani Army and Frontier Corps North authorities, the returning families in the region stated that they are very happy to be back in their areas. The success, progress, and the journey towards happiness in the new integrated districts were impossible without the sacrifices of the people of Pakistan and the security forces.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information Technology, Telecommunications Dr Umar Saif in a meeting with Group Chief Executive Officer of VEON Kaan Teziogly.

19 venues approved for political gatherings in Bannu Division

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): Commission of Bannu Division, Pervaz Sabat Khel has approved the selection of suitable locations for political gatherings and processions in light of the prescribed code of conduct for the upcoming elections.

According to a notification issued here, seven venues have been approved in Bannu district and six places each at Lakki Marwat and North Waziristan districts. The venues selected in Bannu district include Mandan Park, Miran Khel cricket Stadium, Township Park, Dandi Pul Ground, Government Degree College

Bakkakhel, Committee Playground and Rochna Madrasa. Those venues which have been approved at Lakki Marwat district are Registan Ground, Chawani Ground Landwa, school Ground Hospital Road Serai Naurang, Colony Ground Tajori, Pezu Ground in front of High School, Parnoo Ground Ghazni Khel, Shadi Khel Ground and Masti Khel Ground in front of Tehsil Complex. At North Waziristan, the approved venues are Arstip Ground Razmak, Azizkheil Ground Barakel, Paryat Ground Doshi, Gardai Raghzai Doshi, Football Ground near bus terminal Miran

Shah and Football Ground near Darpakhel. The commissioner said that it would be ensured that rules and regulations were implemented in letter and spirit to conduct fair and transparent elections.

He said as per the code of conduct, each party would submit its schedule of political activities every fifteen days or a month to the district administration, enabling them to continue their political activities in a peaceful manner. Similarly, he added it was mandatory for political parties to submit a formal request-undertaking to the relevant Deputy Commis-

sioner for the organization of small and large gatherings at designated locations during elections and a reply to the request would be provided within nine days.

In case of denial of permission, political candidates had the right to appeal before the Commissioner of Bannu Division. The decision would be made within three working days.

He added that unnecessary use of loudspeakers and inappropriate language for opponents in gatherings and processions would be strictly prohibited and it would be monitored by investigative agencies.

China and Pakistan promote agro-for-estry economy

BEIJING (INP): The third Science and Technology Exchange Conference on China-Pakistan Tropical And Non-wood Forest was held both online and offline this week in Zhengzhou, China, and Gwadar simultaneously.

The exchange conference was aimed at to showcase achievements and research progress of both nations in the field of economic forestry.

It also sought to facilitate academic exchanges of woody medicinal herbs and active substances between China and Pakistan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

The event, co-hosted by the Chinese Society of Forestry (CSF) and Central South University of Forestry and Technology (CSUFT), drew over 220 officials, scholars, students and business representatives from both countries. In 2021, to enhance the economic and ecological development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), CSUFT, China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), and Yulin Holdings collaborated to establish an Engineering

Research Center for Tropical And Non-wood Forest. The center aims to showcase a green and sustainable development approach, focusing on the non-wood forest industry and its compatibility with ecological, economic, and social benefits in Gwadar.

During the review and discussion of the progress made over the past years, Zhang Baozhong, chairman of COPHC, introduced the impact of eco-economic forest construction on the business environment in Gwadar.

Focusing on the

collection and utilization of gempnasium resources of and- and salt-tolerant and non-wood barren forests, the organizer invited experts to make special presentations on the research progress and development prospects of different plants, including Eucalyptus ulmoides, Elaeis guineensis, Moringa oleifera, and Hippophae rhamnoides.

The event was organized by Henan Agricultural University, Henan Forestry Society, Economic Forest Branch of CSF, COPHC and Yulin Holdings.



QUETTA: PML-N Provincial Secretary General Jamal Shah Kakar addressing a press conference.

Govt employees to get electric bikes

LAHORE (INP): Caretaker Provincial Transport Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that the government was all set to launch electric bikes to prevent smog intensity.

He said that the E-bikes would be cost-effective and government employees would also be provided electric bikes on lease.

Talking to state-run news channel, the minister said: "In aim to reduce the usage of expensive and polluting environment of the cities, government has decided to introduce electric bikes and safe city camera projects in which smoke-emitting vehicles will be detected by the cameras and immediate alerts were relayed to the field forces."

The Electric Vehicles Policy is the need of the hour to promote a safe environment, local production of e-vehicles, providing incentives, with the ultimate goal of capturing a substantial share of the market, he added.

E-bikes being zero-emission vehicles would use lithium-ion batteries which emerge as a cost-effective and eco-friendly alternative to traditional transportation, he mentioned.

COMMON MANAGEMENT UNIT (CMU) FOR THE GLOBAL FUND (GFATM) GRANTS, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS & COORDINATION
 BLD-03/01, P.A.S. F-7/1, PH-11000, ISLAMABAD, ISLAMABAD.
 CHAK SHAHZAD, PARK ROAD, ISLAMABAD.

NOTIFICATION NO.

- The National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) under the Common Management Unit (CMU) for the Global Fund (GFATM) grants invites sealed bids for the hiring of the custom clearing agent for the clearance of health and non-health products at Airport Support and Dry port and delivery to CMU Warehouses under procurement reference number: **CMU-NTP/2023/0262**
- Bidding shall be conducted under National Competitive Bidding through Single Stage-Two Envelopes bidding procedure mentioned in the tender procurement rules (please refer: (1) as annexed time to time) and in accordance with the GFATM approved NTP Procurement Manual.
- Eligible original firms / clearing agent / logistic firm (s) who have the experience in custom clearing and forwarding of the foreign health services Pakistan registered with Invoicing Tax and Duty Tax Drawdowns and are in Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) (not collect / download from www.fbr.gov.pk/infocentre), the standard bidding documents in English, at free of cost, from the office of the undersigned during office working hours (9:00 AM to 4:30 PM) on or before **Thursday, December 14, 2023 (date of business)**. The bidding documents can also be obtained through sending email to helpdesk@cmu.gov.pk starting from **Wednesday, November 29, 2023**.
- There shall be a pre-bid meeting at the office of the undersigned on **Wednesday, December 06, 2023 at 10:00 AM**. Written queries and requests about the bids can be obtained before the deadline shall be emailed to helpdesk@cmu.gov.pk not later than two (2) days to the deadline to be submission.
- The bid must be accompanied with refundable Bid Security of Earnest money amounting to PKR 1.0 Million (Pak Rupees One Million only), in the shape of Bank Certified Draft in the name of National TB Control Programme (NTP). Original Bid Security or Earnest money shall be attached with the original financial bid whereas a copy with completely concealed and blank un-readable amount shall be attached with the technical bid.
- The sealed bids shall reach to the office of undersigned through registered Val Services, Courier Services or by hand submission on or before **Friday, December 15, 2023 at 11:00 AM**. Bids submitted after the deadline shall be rejected. The bids shall be opened publicly on the same day by the Procurement committee in the presence of representatives of the bidders who choose to attend at **11:30 AM** at the office of the undersigned.

Pre Bid Meeting and Submission address:
 Deputy Director - Centre Procurement (DD-CP)
 Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination
 Committee Room, 3rd Floor, Khasar Block, New Secretariat, ISLAMABAD.

(MUHAMMAD DIAL, KHAN)
 Chief Procurement Officer - CMU
 PHONE NO. 051-843831, 855021-3
 PID (I) No. 327023

Caretaker CM Balochistan Discuss Border Trade With Iranian Ambassador

Staff Reporter:



QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, held a crucial meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Iran, Raza Amiri, on Wednesday.

The high-level discussions focused on matters of mutual interest, particularly addressing the challenges faced by the people and trade professionals related to security and trade issues along the Pakistan-Iran border.

During the meeting, both leaders expressed their commitment to resolving existing problems and difficulties.

The Caretaker Chief Minister assured that the concerns

raised by the Iranian Ambassador would be thoroughly discussed with the federal government, with the active involvement of Balochistan and Sistan businessmen.

Steps will be taken to promote trade relations and enhance security measures to facilitate smoother cross-border activities.

This Move Is Aimed At Fostering Stronger Ties

To facilitate communication and understanding, delegations are set to be exchanged between the two countries.

This move is aimed at fostering

stronger ties and finding effective solutions to the challenges faced by both nations.

In a gesture of goodwill, traditional gifts and souvenirs were exchanged between Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki and Ambassador Raza Amiri, symbolizing the shared commitment to strengthen diplomatic relations between Balochistan and the Republic of Iran.

The outcome of this meeting is anticipated to contribute positively to the economic and security landscape of the region. Stay tuned for further updates on this developing story.



QUETTA: IG Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh distributing shields among police officers: Photo DCPR

Politically stable, economically strong Pakistan vital for protection of Indian minorities: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and

Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that a politically stable and economically strong Pakistan was vital for the protection of the rights of minorities in India, especially Kashmiris who had been struggling for their right to self-determination for over seven decades.

Addressing the Kashmir seminar, jointly organised by the Friends of Kashmir and the Kashmir Media Service, he said Pakistan had always extended its moral, political and diplomatic support for the just cause of Kashmiris and would continue to do so till freedom of the occupied territory.

Murtaza Solangi said India was also-called democracy where

minorities were being mistreated and victimised by the majoritarian Hindu hardliners.

He said after the unfortunate Jaranwala incident, the Government of Pakistan expressed solidarity with the victims, but the Government of India never supported the victims of the atrocities of Hindutva brigade.

He said the reports by international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US State Development, Reporters Without Borders and others had been exposing incidents of atrocities against the minorities in India.

Solangi said atrocities against religious minorities were continuing in India without any check and the international community had kept silent due to certain considerations.

The minister said that unlike

the Government of Pakistan, the Modi regime never supported the oppressed minorities of India who were continuously targeted by the extremist Hindu organisations.

The Indian Government had forced various social media platforms to block the Pakistani social media accounts in India, and thus tried to hide the facts and figures about plight of minorities in the country, he added.

The minister said despite martyrdom and injuries to thousands, and displacing tens of thousands others, the spirit of Pakistanis for freedom could not be dampened and defeated.

Solangi said Pakistan had raised its voice all over the world in support of Palestine. Despite Israeli attack on Gaza, the voice for the rights of Palestinians had strengthened worldwide, he added.



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Interior of Kuwait, Sheikh Talal Al-Khalef Al-Alimani with the head of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar also present.

ICT police launch special campaign against narcotics, to educate youth

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a special awareness campaign to eradicate the use of narcotics from the federal capital and ensure the safety of the youth from the curse of drugs.

The Capital Police teams conducted special lectures in various educational institutions to educate students about the harms of drugs and preventive measures.

In a statement, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted that Islamabad Capital Police have launched a special awareness campaign to rid the federal capital of narcotics and safeguard the young generation from the curse

of drugs. During this campaign, police teams have delivered lectures in various educational institutions about the harms of drugs and preventive measures, emphasizing that drug abuse is detrimental to the health and future of students.

Students are urged to protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse of drugs. Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to drugs.

The police teams have appealed to the public to immediately inform the police about any drug-related activities in their vicinity. The cooperation of the

public is deemed crucial for the successful eradication of this menace. Islamabad Capital Police and Anti-Narcotics Force were jointly working to combat drug trafficking, while special teams have been formed to apprehend drug peddlers in educational institutions.

The ICCPO emphasized that individuals involved in businesses related to narcotics and alcohol will be brought to justice. The Islamabad Capital Police was actively engaging with the community to make the city a haven of peace and citizens were urged to report any suspicious persons or activities to the relevant police station, the Emergency Helpline '15', or the 'ICT Police' app.

Providing quality telecom services to masses govt's top priority: Dr Saif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr

Umar Saif said on Wednesday that providing quality telecom services to the masses was the government's top priority.

"The government is taking all possible steps to improve connectivity in the country," he said during a meeting with the Group Chief Executive Officer of VEON, along with CEO Jazz, Aamir Ibrahim.

Matters of mutual interest

related to the telecom sector were also discussed during the meeting, said a news release.

During discussions with the VEON delegation, Dr Umar Saif mentioned that the technical spectrum would be auctioned soon to enhance telecom services for the public.

Wowing to launch 5G, he expressed that the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication would provide every possible cooperation to the telecom industry. Smart mobile phones

would be provided in easy installments soon, he added.

Dr Umar Saif informed the delegation that Pakistan has a conducive investment atmosphere, urging jazz to invest in e-agriculture, e-education, and e-health sectors.

He also commended the VEON Group for its efforts in the technology field and the provision of smartphones.

The meeting was also attended by senior officers of the IT Ministry.



QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Shazia Marri along with PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi addressing a press conference.

Financial empowerment of poor people cornerstone of BISP: Dr Amjad

PESHAWAR (INP): Chairman, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib here Wednesday said that financial empowerment of poor segments of the society at their doorsteps was a cornerstone of the BISP program.

Talking to beneficiaries during his visit to BISP Office at Acheni Peshawar, Dr Amjad Saqib said the government was committed to provide financial relief and assistance to deserving and needy people in order to bring them under social and economic safety net.

He said small loans for businesses would help enable poor people to improve their lifestyle and contribute to the society's prosperity.

Earlier, he visited different sections including the registration desk and beneficiaries' services centre at the office and addressed the beneficiaries. He listened to their problems and issued spot orders for its resolutions.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Director General BISP, Zohra Aslam briefed the BISP Chairman about working of the BISP operations, services and facilities being provided to beneficiaries. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

every act of kindness was a form of charity and serving the less fortunate was not merely a job but a noble cause. Dr Amjad directed the employees to maintain a high standard of cleanliness and efficiency in their operations.

The Chairman BISP urged beneficiaries to concentrate on the education of their children and provide them vocational skills so that they could significantly contribute to the country's development process.

While addressing an event on Wednesday, she said that with technical support of the UN Women, zero draft has been prepared and finalization was in progress.

Mushaal Hussain Mullick said the federal and provincial governments have set up helplines to check gender based violence. Women protection and rehabilitation centers are working at the federal, provincial and district levels, providing early response to victims of violence as well as medical, legal and psychological support. Empowerment of women to bring positive change in the society, she emphasized.

The Special Assistant said important legislation has been done to protect and empower women. She further stated that the legislation includes Zamb Alert Response and Recovery Act, Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act, Anti Rape Investigation and Trial Act and Protection against harassment of women at workplace.

Govt preparing national policy for women empowerment, end violence: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mullick has said that women empowerment is top priority of government and it is preparing a national policy to end gender based violence.

While addressing an event on Wednesday, she said that with technical support of the UN Women, zero draft has been prepared and finalization was in progress.

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Pakistan-Iran railway service restored

CHAGAI (INP): Railway service between Pakistan and Iran has been restored following suspension after heavy rainfall in the area on Tuesday, railway officials on Wednesday.

The rail freight service between Quetta to Iran and Iran to Quetta has resumed. The good trains from Pakistan left for Iran, the railway authorities said.

The railway track was drowned under the rainwater, which suspended goods trains

traffic Iran, Pakistan Railways officials said.

"A goods train carrying sulfur cargo from Iran was stopped midway," officials further said. "An Iran-bound train from Quetta was also stopped at Dalbandin."

The train service between two neighboring countries used to remain suspended mostly owing to poor railways infrastructure causing derailment a routine. Earlier in July, a goods train, destined for Iran from Quetta, was derailed near

Padag resulting in suspension of the train service.

Before it, a freight train coming from Zahedan was derailed in Dalbandin in Chagai district.

The sources cited the tracks' dilapidated condition as the cause of the accident. Pak-Iran freight train service was restored after completion of repair and rehabilitation work of railway track damaged due to heavy flash floods near Dalbandin in Chagai district.



RAWALPINDI: Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood uz Zaman Khan, Secretary Defence and ILE, Datuk Seri Isham Ishak, Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia signing Minutes of Meeting (MoM), at Ministry of Defence, INP