

# QUETTA VOICE

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## PPP Woos Voters, Nawaz Wins Over Electables in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah Analysis:

QUETTA: Balochistan has recently been in the national limelight following the visits of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Asif Ali Zardari, a key decision-maker for the PPP, and Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a future leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N), also visited Quetta, holding selective meetings to garner support for the upcoming general elections.

### Bilawal Spent Three Days In Quetta

Nawaz conducted himself as if he were an elected prime minister, engaging in meetings with key political leaders from the former ruling party, the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), National Party (NP), Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), and Jamiat ul Ulama e Islami (F) to discuss the fast-approaching polls in the country.

### Nawaz's Meetings With Politicians From Balochistan Indicate Future Alliances

In contrast, Bilawal and Zardari focused primarily on PPP



leaders and supporters.

For the first time in his political career, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari spent three days in Quetta, holding a series of meetings with party supporters and leaders.

Despite challenges, Bilawal visited Sirki Road in Quetta, the most congested and marginalized area, to participate in a dinner

hosted by Rozi Khan Kakar, the former senator and the party's secretary-general for Balochistan, in his honor.

Furthermore, Nawaz, Maryam, and Shehbaz chose to stay in the only luxury hotel in Quetta to meet with party leaders and supporters.

### Nawaz and Maryam Made Significant Progress

Regarding political gains, Nawaz and Maryam made significant progress, securing the support of over a dozen electables. This seemed to be a major setback

for the PPP, which had been focusing on electables for the past few years.

Since the BAP was a challenging project from day one, the two mainstream political parties of the country consistently aimed to gain the support of lawmakers from BAP.

The PPP succeeded in gain-

ing the support of Mir Qudus Bizenjo,

who had no option other than to join the party after the former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan also joined the PPP.

However, no significant electable or politician from Balochistan joined the party.

## CM Balochistan Declares Fare Exemption for Disabled in Green Bus Service

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has declared the exemption of fares for persons with disabilities in the green bus service. He announced that individuals with disabilities will not be charged fares in the green bus service, whether in government or non-government institutions. In an effort to enforce job quotas and facilitate accessibility, measures will be implemented in accordance with international and national laws.

### 10 To 12% of People Are Grappling With Disabilities

During the event, the Caretaker Chief Minister emphasized that approximately ten to twelve percent of people in Pakistan are grappling with disabilities, highlighting the significance of this community. He expressed the collective responsibility to work towards



CM Balochistan, Ali Mardan Domki handing over a shield to a disabled person: Photo DGPR

their welfare and ensure that they do not experience any sense of inferiority in their abilities.

The goal is to make their lives easier across all aspects and promote a positive change

in societal attitudes.

The Caretaker Chief Minister also mentioned ongoing governmental initiatives aimed at integrating people with disabilities into society as productive citizens. He encouraged

suggestions for improvement in this regard and underscored the importance of implementing existing federal and provincial legislation providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities in government jobs.

### Key Govt Officials Attend the Function

The event was attended by Adviser Social Welfare Shania Khan, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafaqat, Director General Social Welfare Tariq Javed Mangal, development partners, and relevant authorities.

Social Welfare Adviser Shania Khan also presented a token of appreciation, a swifter, to the Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan. The Chief Minister welcomed any suggestions for enhancing these efforts and acknowledged the collaborative commitment needed for the betterment of individuals with disabilities in the region.

## 6 arrested, case registered after bus comes under gun attack in GB's Chilas

CHITRAL: Damer police on Sunday lodged a first information report (FIR) and arrested six suspects in connection with an attack on an Islamabad-bound bus in Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) Chilas a day earlier.

At least nine people, including two soldiers, lost their lives and 21 passengers received injuries on Saturday evening after unknown gunmen targeted a bus from nearby hills which caused the vehicle to collide with a goods truck. The interior minister of GB had said the bus driver stepped on the accelerator due to the firing which led to the head-on collision with a goods truck. He had equated the gun attack with terrorism. So far, no organisation has accepted responsibility for the incident.

Speaking to Dawn.com today, the public relations officer (PRO) for the Damer commissioner said a case was registered against unknown miscreants by Damer Station House Officer Azmat Shah. "Six suspects have been taken into custody at two police stations so far," PRO Raja Ashfaq Tahir said. The official said all entry and exit points of GB had been closed and security in the region was on high alert. The police have launched search operations across Damer and traf-



fic on the Karakoram Highway would remain suspended today, Tahir added. Damer Deputy Commissioner retired Captain Arif Ahmad also confirmed the same developments to Dawn.com.

Separately, Chilas Assistant Commissioner Sadaqat Ali said the funeral prayers of the deceased were offered with GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan and top army officials in attendance. The bodies were later dispatched to their hometowns by Rescue 1122.

Earlier, GB Interior Minister Shams Lone visited injured persons at the Chilas hospital and directed the medical staff to ensure the provision of the best medical care.

On the other hand, hundreds

of passengers travelling to Gilgit Baltistan were stranded in Bisham, Kohistan and other areas due to the closure of the Karakoram Highway.

Muhammad Didar, a hotel owner in Bisham, told Dawn.com that he had provided free accommodation to stranded passengers, including women and children.

Protests were also held in Chilas and Hunza against the incident. The demonstrators demanded immediate action and the arrest of the culprits.

Anti-state elements won't be allowed to sabotage peace in GB: PM

Meanwhile, in a statement,

caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar affirmed that anti-state elements would not be allowed to sabotage peace in GB.

According to state-run Radio Pakistan, the premier condemned the incident. He said the war against terrorism would continue till the complete elimination of terrorism in the country.

He expressed deep grief over the martyrdom of innocent citizens in the incident and prayed for the patience of the bereaved families.

PM Kakar added that targeting unarmed civilians was proof of the terrorists' cowardice.

Interim Interior Minister Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti on Sunday also strongly condemned the firing.

"Targeting civilians is a cowardly act," the minister said in his message, adding that anti-national elements were trying to sabotage GB's peace.

"However, such cowardly acts boost the morale of our valiant forces to fight terrorism with more vigour and bravery."

Bugti added that the country's enemies wanted to destroy the peace of a peaceful area such as GB but they would fail.

He said the sacrifices of the nation in the war against terrorism would not go in vain.

## Key Accused Involved In Martyrdom Of Levies Personnel Arrested In Kohlu

Yousaf Marri:



KOHLU: In a tragic incident, two Levies personnel were martyred, and one accused was arrested during a raid on the residence of Amanullah Marjanzai, a wanted suspect associated with Levies Force in the Kili Marjanzai area of Lami Tehsil, district Dukka.

The operation was conducted by the Levies Force and Quick Response Force (QRF) units. Present at the scene were Assistant Commissioner Dukka, Zahoor Ahmad Baloch and Assistant Commissioner Lami Biberg Lehri. The target of the raid was Amanullah Marjanzai Lami, who is an advertised suspect in Tehsil Lami.

Levies. Oasim Baloch, the in-charge of QRF Loralai, played a crucial role in the operation. Post the incident, the deceased Levies personnel were respectfully transported to Civil Hospital Dukka. Responding promptly to the situation, Deputy Commissioner Dhaka Captain R. Fayyaz Ali, along with additional Levies Force personnel and Frontier Corps (FC) members, departed for the scene.

### Key Accused Amanullah Marjanzai Arrested

The Levies Force has effectively surrounded the residence of the accused Amanullah Marjanzai, who is implicated in various serious offenses, including hindering the construction of a road funded with seven billion rupees, demanding a hefty Rs 10 crore extortion from the contractor, and confiscating machinery.

Marjanzai is also a wanted individual sought by the Dukka police. Unfortunately, two Levies personnel lost their lives on the spot as a result of the gunfire initiated by Marjanzai and his accomplices. Simultaneously, one of the accused sustained injuries during the retaliatory firing by the

## Canada court set to sentence man found guilty of murdering four Pakistani-origin Muslims

WEB DESK: Nathaniel Veltman, who was found guilty of attacking and killing four members of a Pakistani-origin Muslim family with his pick-up truck in June 2021 in London, Ontario, Canada, is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan 4 and Jan 5 in the coming year, a Windsor court decided during a brief hearing. Veltman appeared before the Windsor court via video link from the Southwest Detention Centre in the city in southwest Ontario Friday, Canadian media reported. Veltman was found guilty of six counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder by a jury last month for attacking the Afzaal family with his pick-up truck while

they were out for a walk on June 6, 2021. The victims 46-year-old Salman Afzaal, his 44-year-old wife, Madina Salman, their 15-year-old daughter, Yumna, and her 74-year-old grandmother, Talat Afzaal, were killed in the attack, while the couple's nine-year-old son was seriously hurt but survived. The two-day sentencing hearing in January 2024 will be held at the London Superior Court before Justice Renee Pomerance. Justice Pomerance also oversaw the 11-week trial in Windsor.

While the trial took place before a jury in Windsor, the sentencing is set to take place in London at the request of the victims' family members.



Gladiators push struggling Team Abu Dhabi to fourth consecutive defeat

ABU DHABI (INP): Deccan Gladiators trounced struggling Team Abu Dhabi by 63 runs in the 12th match of the Abu Dhabi T10 at the Zayed Cricket Stadium. Riding on quick knocks from Andre Fletcher (41), Nicholas Poonan (30) and Tom Kohler-Cadmore (35), Gladiators posted 141 for 6 in 10 overs. Team Abu Dhabi could muster only 78 for 5 in 10 overs and crashed to their fourth defeat in four matches. Leus du Plooy (25) and Colin Ingram (19) put on a 41 runs partnership for the fourth wicket to give some respect to their total. Team Abu Dhabi won the toss and elected to bowl. The match started with Deccan Gladiators opener and skipper Nicholas Poonan hitting the first ball of the match from Rooftop van der Merwe for a six over long-off. He went on to pick two consecutive boundaries off the third and fourth deliveries and also slog swept the last delivery for a six to take 20 runs off that over. Raees struck again with the very next ball to have Andre Russell caught behind by Banton. Andre Fletcher denied Raees a hat-trick and got off the mark with a single. Kohler Cadmore hit a boundary off the fifth ball to mid-off. Raees gave away only seven runs but picked two wickets. Deccan Gladiators reached the 100 run mark in 6.5 overs. Fletcher also hit his third six of the over lifting Mayers over long on to take 27 runs off that over. In the end Deccan Gladiators posted an impressive 141 for 6. Kyle Mayers and Alex Hales began Abu Dhabi's chase towards the steep target getting just one run off the first over from Luke Wood. Nawwan Thushara clean bowled Mayers who attempted to hit across the line with the second ball of the second over for 1. Deccan Gladiators got just one run in the second over and lost a wicket too. Trent Boult who was introduced for the fifth over had Banton on for 4, caught by Poonan at extra cover. Colingram hit a six off Boult's fifth delivery. The score board at that point read a pathetic 26 for 3, needing another 116 runs from the remaining five overs. Leus du Plooy hit Mohammad Zahid for two consecutive boundaries while Ingram picked two more boundaries in the same over. Ingram got out flicking Niwan Thushara in the eight over to Boult for 19. Du Plooy, who top scored with 25 runs, fell in the last over to Zahoor Khan, caught by Wiese at long. Deccan Gladiators bt Team Abu Dhabi by 63 runs.



QUETTA: Group photo of Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar with the participants and special persons at the end of the event organized on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Pak-China Vocational Institute emerges as one of the leading institutions in Baluchistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute, University of Gwadar has opened its admissions in various diploma and advanced diploma programs for the 2024-25 academic year. All training programs and course curricula are developed in collaboration with the Shandong Institute of Commerce and Technology (SICT), China, and relevant accrediting bodies. As per the official notification, the courses include maritime and port management, software technology, e-commerce, and tourism management, a diploma in electronics, an advanced diploma in Chinese language and culture, and an advanced diploma in the English language. The duration of the courses of 3 years are mostly long-term based and needment-based scholarships. Pak-China Technical Vocational Institute Gwadar has emerged as one of the leading institutions in Baluchistan, providing state-of-the-art vocational and technical training facilities to the local youth. The vocational institute is of paramount importance in imparting technical training and vocational skills to the youth of Baluchistan province, particularly Gwadar. The institute was built with a Chinese grant under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and its operational agreement was signed between SICT, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), University of Gwadar (UoG), and China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) to provide free of cost six-month short courses and three-year diploma programs.



DUKKI: Funeral prayer of Shaheed Levis personnel being offered in Dukka: Photo provided by DGPR

Rallies, seminars being held on Sindh Culture Day to promote peace and tolerance

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended warm congratulations to the nation, particularly the people of Sindh, on the occasion of Sindh Culture Day. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasizes the timeless nature of Sindh's culture, considering it a testament to one of the world's oldest and most exquisite civilizations. Highlighting 'Mohun Jo Daro' as the epicenter of Sindh's cultural richness, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underscores the historical traits of peace, tolerance, and patriotism exhibited by the people of Sindh. He further notes their appreciation for art and nature, describing these characteristics as integral aspects of Sindh's identity. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari views cultural diversity as the hallmark of Pakistani society, presenting an unparalleled example of national unity to the global community. He advocates for purposeful cultural activities, considering them a potent antidote to hatred, division, and extremist ideologies within society. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari contends that cultural activities serve as a source of nourishment for promoting tolerance and social harmony, likening them to nectar. Expressing the Pakistan People's Party's commitment to giving equal importance to all cultures across the nation, he declares their manifesto to showcase Pakistan's positive image globally by highlighting its ancient civilization and vibrant culture. In conclusion, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's message on Sindh Culture Day reflects a dedication to preserving and promoting their heritage of Pakistan, fostering unity, and presenting a positive narrative of the nation to the world.

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Achakzai Advocates 3-Day Conference to Shape Democratic Path Forward

QUETTA: Chairman Fashtoonkhwana Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai on Saturday urged that federal government should be named and reprimanded, while those who stood by the constitution should be acknowledged. He suggested that judges of the supreme judiciary who legitimized martial laws and deviated from the constitution should be named and reprimanded, while those who stood by the constitution should be acknowledged. Traditional elections alone cannot overcome the accumulated problems; instead, a stakeholder conference should precede elections. He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting in connection with the 50th death anniversary of Khan Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai at the Ayub Stadium Quetta. Achakzai emphasized the need for a three-day deliberation to evolve a democratic path leading to democracy. In this context, he appealed to all, including Imran Khan, Nawaz Sharif, Bilawal, and Maulana, to rise to the occasion and play their role in achieving civil supremacy, steering the country out of its present uncertainty and quagmire. Elections Are Not Only Path To Power Corridors Achakzai reminded everyone that, to him, elections and democracy are not just paths to the assembly and power corridors but a way of life and creed for which his leader and father made sacrifices, spending half of his life behind bars. Khan Abdul Samad Khan's political creed was anti-imperialism and democracy. Achakzai advocated for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to determine responsibilities for the failure of democracy in the country.

PTI leaders including Marwat booked after Swabi workers' convention

PESHAWAR (INP): A case has been registered against 21 local leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), including former provincial minister Sher Afzal Marwat, for organizing a workers' convention in Swabi, defying Section 144 that prohibits gatherings of more than five people. The FIR was registered under the supervision of the Swabi police station SHO after officials and workers of the PTI went ahead with the convention yesterday, flouting the restriction imposed by the district administration. Along with Marwat, other prominent PTI figures named in the case include former MPAs Aqbulah and Abdul Karam, Tehsil Mayor Atanullah, Faisal Tarkai, District President Sohail Yousofzai, and Adnan Qaiser. Several unidentified workers have also been booked. The violation of Section 144, typically invoked to maintain law and order or prevent the spread of infectious diseases, carries a penalty of imprisonment for up to two years or a fine, or both. The PTI's decision to hold the convention despite the ban drew criticism from various quarters. The district

administration had blocked roads leading to the venue and warned against defying the restriction, citing potential security concerns and the ongoing public health emergency. However, the PTI leadership maintained that the convention was a peaceful gathering aimed at mobilizing party workers and highlighting pressing issues faced by the people of Swabi. They accused the administration of adopting a discriminatory approach and stifling dissent. The registration of the case has escalated tensions between the PTI and the local authorities. It remains to be seen how the party will respond to the legal action and whether further clashes or protests will erupt in Swabi. This development adds another layer to the already volatile political climate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where the PTI has been actively campaigning against the ruling coalition government. The party's defiance of Section 144 and the subsequent crackdown by the administration could potentially trigger further tribal polarization and raise questions about freedom of assembly and political expression in the province.



Karachi. A large number of people celebrating Sindh Culture Day at press club.

Advertisement for Shuhada Forum. Text includes: 'بوچستان شہداء فورم', 'www.shuhadaforum.com', 'HBL 300402443', 'PK74UNIL01900030040244-3 (IBAN)', 'نواب زاہد جمال خان ریسیسٹ', 'پیشروان ان چیف بوچستان شہداء فورم'. The ad is in Urdu and English, providing contact information and details about the forum's activities.

### Pashtoonkwa National Awami Party (PNAP) Formed

From Our Correspondent:

**KILLA SAIFULLAH:** Khushal Khan Kakar, the son of Usman Khan Kakar announced the formation of Pashtoonkwa National Awami Party (PNAP) on Saturday evening. He made this announcement while addressing a public meeting organized to observe the 50th death anniversary of Khan Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai.

Former Senator Raza Muhammad Raza and other leaders were also present on the occasion. "We have decided to register PNAP with the election commission of Pakistan", Mr. Kakar told the flags-waving supporters in the Killa Saifullah Bazar.

Addressing the party supporters, he said Khan Sheehed Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai had spent precious days of his life behind bars for the rights of oppressed people of the country. He



urged the party workers to follow the political principles of Khan Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai for Pashtoon rights and upholding the banner of democracy in the country. Khushal Khan Kakar was leading his faction of PKMAP after parting ways with Mehmood Khan Achakzai, the chairman of the PKMAP.



QUETTA: Hafiz Munir Ahmed addressing a press conference

### Illegal Afghan deportation continues

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** Around 404,909 illegal Afghan nationals in Pakistan have returned to Afghanistan. Out of 2597 Afghan citizens, 832 men, 678 women, and 1087 children went to their country.

As per data, 315 families have been repatriated in 98 vehicles to Afghanistan.

Earlier, the youth who exploded himself in a rickshaw in Bakka Khel, Bannu on November 26 also turned out to be an Afghan citizen, who entered Pakistan based on a Tazkre - Afghanistan Identity card.

Rabulmullah son of Khan Gul. The registration number is 08916164. That means people holding legal documents of the Afghan government are also involved in terrorism in Pakistan.

On 26th November 2023, a motorcycle-borne suicide bomber, affiliated with Hafeez Gul Bahadar Group and later identified as an Afghan national, exploded himself on a security forces convoy

in the area of Bakka Khel, Bannu District.

As a result, 2 innocent civilians embraced Shahadat, while 7 civilians and 3 soldiers were injured. The sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

The security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave civilians and soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Experts questioned the Afghan government for issuing legal documents to a Khawarij and a terrorist of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Now question arises whether the government of Pakistan also has to throw out the Afghans who have these legal documents.

Public hails return of illegal Afghans in Pakistan to Afghanistan. On October 1, the government and the Pakistan Army in the Apex Committee meeting decided to send the Afghans back to their

country.

After the deadline of October 31, only illegal Afghans were ensured safe and dignified evacuation from Pakistan. The deportation of illegal aliens is having a positive impact on the country's economy.

In this regard, the citizens expressed their views and said that the move taken by the government to evacuate the Afghans is very good, it has made a great difference to our economy.

Several citizens said street crime has reduced significantly since Afghans left and there has been a huge reduction in the number of robberies.

"Our state decides for us what is best for us," a citizen said.

"Since the Afghans have left, our businesses have started to recover and the number of thefts has decreased," another citizen said, adding that, since the Afghans have left, the incidents of terrorism have started to decrease.

### Masses laud General Asim's one year as Army chief

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** The COAS General Asim Munir has gained widespread approval from the public for his strategic initiatives and decisive actions in combating terrorism and ensuring national security.

Citizens have commended the General for his resolute efforts in combating terrorism, resulting in enhanced national security.

Furthermore, his administration has been credited with substantial improvements in the country's economy, including effective measures to stabilize the fluctuating value of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar.

As per the masses, an overwhelming majority of the population, approximately 95 percent, expresses satisfaction with the Army Chief's performance, applauding his unwavering commitment to enforcing law and order in the country. Acknowledging the challenges associated with curbing crime, General Asim Munir has been praised for implementing stringent measures, particularly in the realms of hoarding and smuggling. The public also acknowledged the positive impact of the Army Chief's policies on various sectors, including agriculture. Farmers have reportedly experienced relief due to the General's favorable initiatives.

Moreover, the populace has expressed gratitude for the Army Chief's focus on addressing issues related to illegal aliens, foreseeing a positive outcome if such efforts persist. In the realm of international relations, General Asim Munir has successfully navigated diplomatic challenges, fostering improved relations with other countries. Simultaneously, under his leadership, the capacity of the Pakistan Army has expanded, instilling a sense of confidence and security among the citizenry.



QUETTA: Director of Special Education Muhammad Raza pose for a group photo with the children during International Day of Disabled Persons organized by helping hand for Relief and Development



DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with the Prime Minister of Syria Mr. Hussein Arnous on the sidelines of the high level segment of COP 28.

### DPC proposes safeguarding microfinance bank deposits

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** The Deposit Protection Corporation (DPC), a subsidiary of the State Bank, has put forth a proposal aimed at securing the deposits of customers in microfinance banks. This move is seen as crucial in safeguarding vulnerable accounts from potential adverse financial shocks.

According to media reports, as per the proposal, the DPC, which currently guarantees full protection of deposits up to 5 lakhs for scheduled bank customers, is considering extending its coverage to include microfinance banks.

It is worth noting that 94% of the 73 million account holders fall within the 5 lakh deposit range. Scheduled banks, encompassing conventional, and Sharia banks, are currently covered, while microfinance banks are not.

In its recently released annual report for the fiscal year 2022-23, the DPC highlighted that 11 microfinance banks hold a capital of Rs 520 billion, catering to 98.2 million deposit holders. Given the microfinance banks' focus on financially vulnerable communities, the report emphasizes that any shocks to these banks could have far-reaching implications on the political, social, and economic fabric of the country. Hence, extending deposit protection to microfinance banks becomes imperative.

The DPC suggests expanding its scope to include microfinance banks, thereby ensuring the safeguarding of deposits for millions of people. While the Microfinance Institutions Ordinance 2001 already mandates microfinance banks to establish

their own depositor protection fund from annual profits, the DPC believes that an additional, reliable mechanism is essential for depositors' peace of mind.

Notably, the deposit protection fund of the corporation surpassed 100 billion rupees by June 2023. The fiscal year 2023 witnessed a continual increase in the volume of member banks, with total deposits reaching 25.6 thousand billion rupees by the end of June 2023. During this period, the volume of deposits eligible for protection also rose to Rs 14 thousand billion, reflecting an increase of Rs 1.8 thousand billion.

In a forward-looking approach, the DPC is also considering extending the deposit protection scheme to cover digital banks, indicating a commitment to adapt to the evolving financial landscape.

### Sindh Govt all set to recover official vehicles illegally held by ex-ministers, MPs,

**KARACHI (INP):** The Sindh government has set its sights on recovering official vehicles illegally held by former ministers, MPs, and officers. A special committee, headed by the Additional Secretary S&GDA, has been tasked with conducting a comprehensive investigation and initiating legal action against those found responsible.

The committee's mandate is twofold: first, to locate all missing government vehicles and secondly, to probe the unauthorized use of these vehicles by individuals not entitled to them. This investigation will span a decade, meticulously examining the records of vehicle purchases and usage from 2007 to 2016. No stone

will be left unturned in uncovering instances where government vehicles were deployed for personal gain or outside designated purposes.

The committee's approach is multifaceted. Firstly, it will issue direct notices to all former ministers, MPs, and officers currently holding onto official vehicles. These individuals will be given a clear seven-day window to return the vehicles without any further delay. Failure to comply will prompt swift legal action.

Secondly, the committee will delve into the murky world of unauthorized usage. This will involve scrutinizing records, interviewing relevant personnel, and piecing together the

puzzle of how government vehicles ended up in the wrong hands. The committee will have the authority to summon witnesses, demand documents, and employ all legal means necessary to expose the truth.

This decisive action by the Sindh government sends a strong message: the era of impunity for misuse of public resources is over. Whether it's an ex-minister flaunting their power or an officer bending the rules for personal convenience, no one is above the law. The committee's investigation and subsequent legal action will serve as a deterrent, ensuring that the responsible use of government property becomes the norm, not the exception.



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazir Muhammad Baloch Advocate is being awarded by Caretaker Provincial Minister Amanullah Kurani on the occasion of Best Diplomatic Conference.

### Pakistan, China bright prospects to enhance partnerships in automobile sector

**SHANGHAI (INP):** Pakistan and China have bright prospects to enhance their partnerships in automobile sector, said Fahad Iqbal Butt, director of New Genuine Auto Parts, who visited the Automechanika Shanghai 2023 held this week.

Pakistani companies are looking forward to establishing new partnerships in the automobile sector. "Over the past few decades, China has transformed itself to a global leader in advanced automotive technologies. Pakistan can benefit from these trends by collaborating with Chinese companies in advanced automotive technologies and trends in the industry," Fahad Butt said, according to Gwadar Pro.

With the goal of strengthening the presence of Pakistani companies in China and establishing new partnerships, he is confident that the expo will provide him with the platform to connect with potential suppliers, manufacturers and distributors.

He added that "I am very impressed with the growth and development of the automotive industry in China, and we see great potential for cooperation between our two countries."

Having been doing business with China for almost two decades and visiting the expo eight times, he came over this year to develop new items related to agricultural or auto parts such as filters and bushings.

He also met with several Chinese auto companies to discuss potential collaboration, focusing on areas such as parts supply and technology transfer.

As an influential global service platform for the automotive industry showcasing automotive parts, repair, testing and diagnostic equipment and service supplies, this year's Automechanika Shanghai focuses on seven product segments covering 13 showrooms, with a comprehensive focus on innovative technologies and cutting-edge solutions for the entire automotive industry chain.

### FIA offloads nine 'beggars' from Saudi Arabia-bound flight

**MULTAN (INP):** The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday offloaded nine alleged beggars travelling to Saudi Arabia in the disguise of Umrah pilgrims from Multan, Punjab.

According to the FIA spokesperson, FIA Immigration arrested nine alleged beggars from Saudi Arabia-bound flight from Multan International airport.

The authorities said the arrested included 6 women and two men, who failed to disclose the booking of any hotel during their stay in Saudi Arabia. The arrested have been moved to the anti-human trafficking cell of the FIA for further investigation.

FIA spokesperson said strict monitoring is underway of the passengers to burst begging gangs. Earlier, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) offloaded 24 alleged beggars in the disguise of Umrah pilgrims from Saudi Arabia-bound flight at Multan airport. The FIA officials during the immigration process questioned the passengers who confessed that they were going to visit the KSA to seek alms. The arrests came after the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.