

QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

Wednesday, December 13,2023

dquettavoice@gmail.com

25 soldiers martyred, 27 terrorists killed in separate incidents in Dera Ismail Khan: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Twenty-five Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred while 27 terrorists were killed in three separate incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan, the military's media affairs wing said on Tuesday.

According to the Inter-Security Forces Public Relations (ISPR), "heightened activities" were witnessed in the district on the nights of December 11 and 12.

In the early hours today, a group of six terrorists attacked a security forces' checkpoint in the Daraban general area, it said.

"The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted which forced the terrorists to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the post, followed by a suicide bombing attack."

"The resulting blasts led to the collapse of the building, causing multiple casualties; 23 brave soldiers embraced shahadat, while all six terrorists were effectively engaged and sent to hell," the ISPR said.

It added that sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists present in the area. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthens our resolve," the ISPR said.

"Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan, a new group affiliated with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), claimed responsibility for the attack on the checkpoint."

Meanwhile, the ISPR said 17 terrorists were killed in a separate intelligence-based operation in the Darazinda area of Dera Ismail Khan.

It further stated that two soldiers embraced martyrdom while four more terrorists were



neutralised in another intelligence-based operation in the Kulachi area."

The killed terrorists were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent civilians. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered during the operations," it added. This is the military's highest single-day death toll from terrorist attacks reported this year.

Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar strongly condemned the attack and said the security forces would not be demoralised by such "cowardly acts", state-run Radio Pakistan reported. He said the entire nation salutes the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the war

against terrorism. The premier also directed authorities to provide the best medical treatment to the injured persons. Separately in a post on X (formerly Twitter), PM Kakar said that "dedication, sacrifice and valour in the face of terror is unparalleled and a beacon of hope for our nation". The prime minister also extended his deepest sympathies to the families of brave martyrs. "We will fight back till the menace of terrorism is eliminated from our motherland," he added.

President Anif Alvi, in a statement, said such cowardly acts could not shake the resolve of the security personnel. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani said, "Terrorists and their handlers, wherever they are, will pay for their cowardly attacks". "Our brave soldiers are ready to make the ultimate sacrifice to blunt the nefarious designs

of enemies. Heartfelt condolences with families of victims of today's attack and prayers for martyrs," he said in a post on X.

Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti also condemned the terrorist attack and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives. PPP Chairman Blawal Bhatto Zardari extended condolences to the grieving families and called attacks on both civilians and security forces unforgivable. Meanwhile, former president Asif Ali Zardari emphasised the need to eradicate the menace of terrorism.

He also prayed for the recovery of the injured. Former Sindh governor Dr Ishratul Ibad said he was saddened by the heinous attack. "My heartfelt condolences go out to the families of the fallen security men, and I wish for the best of the issue and ensure the well-being of the community."

Quetta Court Hands Over Khadija Shah To Police On Three Days Remand

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: A local court in Quetta handed over Khadija Shah, a famous fashion designer and social media activist to police on a three-day remand on Tuesday. Khadija Shah was produced before the anti-terrorist court judge in Quetta in connection with the May 9 case.

She was arrested by Quetta police on charges of murder and attempted murder. Khadija Shah was brought to Quetta from Lahore the other day.

Charges of Murder And Attempted Murder Against Her

Quetta police had filed an application in the ATC seeking transit remand, citing murder and attempted murder case registered against Shah in Quetta's Baji Road

police station. The police said in the application that the suspect's warrant had been obtained from the ATC of Quetta.

"Khadija Shah has been arrested in connection with May 9 protests outside BA Mall", Syed Iqbal Shah Advocate, the counsel for the fashion designer said. "We have challenged the arrest of Khadija Shah", Syed Iqbal Shah, the counsel for the fashion designer stated.

Bail Application Submitted In The Court

Quetta police requested the court to hand over Khadija Shah for a 14-day remand. However, the court approved a three-day remand at the request of the counsel of Khadija Shah. "We have submitted bail before the court", Syed Iqbal Shah said.

Gas Leak Explosion Leaves 8 Women And Children Injured In Quetta

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: In a harrowing incident on Tuesday morning, a peaceful breakfast preparation turned into chaos as a gas leak triggered a powerful explosion in a house located in Bhatti Colony on Sabzal Road, Quetta. The blast left eight individuals, including women and children, seriously injured. The unfortunate incident unfolded as the housewife was in the midst of preparing breakfast when the explosive consequences of a gas leak erupted. The resulting blast wreaked havoc, causing significant injuries to those present in the house.

2 Injured In Critical Condition: Doctors

Medical professionals attending to the victims have reported that two of the injured individuals are in critical condition. However, there is a glimmer of hope for the others, as their conditions are currently deemed to be out of danger. Local authorities and emergency services rushed to the scene promptly, initiating rescue operations and providing immediate medical attention to the victims. As investigations into the incident are underway, community members are grappling with the aftermath of this unexpected tragedy. The impact of the explosion underscores the need for heightened awareness and safety measures regarding gas utilities in households. Authorities are urging residents to prioritize regular maintenance of gas appliances and to remain vigilant to prevent such incidents in the future.

Protest Erupts Against Gas Load Shedding In Quetta

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Scores of women and children joined a fervent protest against gas load shedding in Quetta, demanding justice for the adverse effects it has had on citizens, exacerbating problems in the harsh winter weather and even claiming lives. Muhammad Akram, a passionate protester, expressed the sentiments of the crowd, saying, "We want justice."

The demonstrators, rate with the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) administration, blocked the main road, unleashing full-throated slogans to voice their discontent. The blockade disrupted regular traffic flow, causing inconvenience for common people caught in the crossfire of the protest.

Unleashing Full-Throated Slogans To Voice Their Discontent

In an attempt to address the concerns of the protesters, senior officers from the Quetta administration initiated successful negotiations, leading to the eventual reopening of the road for traffic.



Despite the resolution, the demonstration shed light on the hardships faced by ordinary citizens due to the ongoing gas load shedding in Quetta.

Daily Quetta Voice reached out to the SSGC for comments on the situation.

However, the company's response echoed a familiar refrain, with the PRO reportedly situated in Karachi, leaving them unable to provide immediate commentary on the issue.

Citizens Grapple With Harsh Consequences

The protest highlights the urgency for a comprehensive solution to the gas load-shedding problem, emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability within energy management systems.

As citizens grapple with the harsh consequences of inadequate gas supply during the winter season, the call for justice and resolution resonates, urging authorities to address the root cause of the issue and ensure the well-being of the community.

Nawaz clears another legal hurdle in way of elections, secures acquittal from IHC in Al-Azizia case

ISLAMABAD: PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday cleared yet another legal hurdle ahead of the Feb 8 general election after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) acquitted him in the Al-Azizia reference.

A two-judge bench comprising IHC Chief Justice (CJ) Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict, which was reserved earlier in the day, while hearing Nawaz's appeal against his conviction in the Al-Azizia reference.

The Al-Azizia case was one of the two graft references that Nawaz was convicted in. He was acquitted in the Avenfield reference on Nov 29 by the same bench.

Nawaz still remains disqualified from holding public office by the Supreme Court (SC) in the Panama Papers case, and in a later judgment interpreting Article 62(1)(f) of the Constitution — the provision that involves honesty and trustworthiness — the top court ruled that the disqualification is for life.

However, earlier this year amendments were made to the Elections Act, 2017, limiting the disqualification of lawmakers to five years with a retrospective ef-



fect. The SC has decided to form a larger bench to determine once and for all whether aspirants disqualified under Article 62(1)(f) can contest polls in light of the amendments in the Elections Act, 2017. Further, the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption reference, in which Nawaz was acquitted today, pertains to a case in which he was sentenced to seven years in jail on Dec 24, 2018. He was also fined Rs1.5 billion and US\$25 million.

It pertains to the Sharif's being unable to justify the source of the funds provided to set up Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Hill Metal

Establishment (HME) in Saudi Arabia. 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 in October this year.

Soon after his return, Nawaz had formally filed two separate applications seeking restoration of his appeals against the conviction in reference. In the application, the PML-N supreme leader had said that while he was abroad for medical treatment, the pending appeals were dismissed for

non-prosecution. The application requested the court to revive the pending appeals to decide on these pleas on merit. The IHC had on Oct 24 revived Nawaz's appeals in the two reference.

At the previous hearing, the court had turned down the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) suggestion that Nawaz's conviction in the reference be set aside as the case be re-tried. It had also declared that it would decide the PML-N supremo's appeal on merit.

PML-N rejoices at Nawaz's acquittal

Ishaq Dar takes a bite of the sweets distributed outside the Islamabad High Court after Nawaz Sharif's acquittal in the Al-Azizia reference. — Photo provided by author

After the IHC announced the verdict, PML-N workers distributed sweets outside the court as others chanted slogans in favour of Nawaz. Speaking to the media, PML-N's Dar congratulated the nation on today's verdict. **News desk**

BHC Orders Suspension Of 4 CTD Personnel In Turbat

Staff Reporter:



QUETTA: A division bench of the Balochistan High Court ordered an immediate suspension of four Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) personnel in connection with the alleged extra-judicial killing of Balach Baloch in Makran belt.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice BHC Mr Justice Naesim Akhtar Algham and Mr Justice Nazeer Ahmed Langove passed this order on a constitutional petition filed by the family members of Balach Baloch. The family members had accused the CTD personnel for killing the young man. However, the charge was rejected by CTD and termed the killing an armed clash between security forces and misjudgment on Pasi road Turbat. The court also ordered the

govt to transfer the investigation against the CTD personnel to Crimex Branch Quetta.

The Killing of Balach Baloch caused protests in Makran and the Baloch Yakjehti Committee launched a long march from Turbat to Quetta. The protestors arrived in Quetta on Monday.

Police have also registered an FIR against the four CTD personnel on the directives of session judge Turbat on the demand of family members of Balach Baloch.

THE MA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

SSGC: Why this discrimination with Balochistan?

Editorial:

As the winter sets in, the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) comes into the limelight. Based on its track record, complaints regarding no gas pressure, and low gas pressure against the company are nothing new in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

Currently, Quetta, Kalat, Ziarat, Pishin, Mastung and other parts of Balochistan are under the grip of dry cold weather. However, most of the residents of these areas are deprived of a gas supply. In Quetta, the SSGC officials manage to make sure the provision of gas supply to posh and VIP areas, whereas, the poor and the marginalized neighborhoods remain deprived of the facility.

However, the situation turns from bad to worse in Ziarat, Kalat, Mastung and Pishin when it comes to the gas supply in chilly weather. Residents of these districts complain that SSGC has crossed QESCO in terms of unannounced and prolonged load shedding.

Last year BHC declares 'other charges' null and void

Consumers also complain about receiving increasing bills from the SSGC every winter. The Balochistan High Court (BHC), which declared the company's 'other charges' in every bill a null and void last year.

Despite the court's clear instructions, the consumers have been getting high bills. A well-placed source in the company told this daily that more than 80 percent of gas meters are tampered with. Faulty. Now the question arises, meters tampered with without the knowledge of the company, or some black sheep inside the company are complicit in this regard?

SSGC has to put its own house in order

The answer is simple, the company has to put its own house in order prior to take action against the consumers stealing gas. In this whole situation, when this daily tried to take an official version of the company.

We were simply told the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the company is based in Karachi. Gas was explored from Balochistan's Sui tihlil of Dera Bugti in 1952. Industries and factories developed through the same supply over decades. Balochistan is yet to get the position of PRO in the company. This step-motherly treatment of Balochistan must be stopped and consumers in this part of the country should be treated like consumers elsewhere.

Pakistan regionally

By Dr Niaz Murtaza:

WE lag economically even in South Asia. This lags well-known but not its huge scale. To display that, I compare Sarc economies using World Bank data which runs up to 2022 and this excludes our poor 2023 data. I focus on the state we left India and the one that left us (Bangladesh) to show our lag even against ones with similar DNAs.

GDP. South Asia (mean), Bangladesh and India's GDP per capita in 2022 were about \$2,200, \$2,700 and \$2,300, but ours was only \$1,600. Their 10-year mean GDP growth were about six per cent but ours only 4.4pc and inflation was 5.3pc, 6.2pc and 5.6pc. Ours was the best (and 30pc inflation in 2023).

The investment-GDP ratio of the other three is 30pc but ours only 15pc. Only high investment and productivity ensure long-term high GDP growth.

Our low ratio shows that our brief growth spurts under Musharraf, the PML-N and PTI came from high fiscal and external deficits and money supply growth. This, on almost all key central economic

axes, we lag regionally. Even tiny Maldives (\$11,000), Sri Lanka and Bhutan (both \$3,000-plus) beat us on per capita GDP and Nepal on the human development index, leaving ahead of us the Afghans. Why has the proud 'ideological' fortress created with the motto 'no one and no one does so much worse than us' less pretentious states?

We think we were on the way to being an economic star under dictators but got waylaid under civilians. This is a humbug. All our regimes used non-durable local or foreign stimuli to achieve transient growth that bust soon. People argue that mean GDP growth under Ayub was 5.8pc but 4.8pc under Bhutto. Even this is not a big fall. But take Ayub's first five years only to fairly match Bhutto's term, and his falls to 4.9pc. Ayub gained from a booming global economy (capitalism's golden age), milking US aid and unfair trade of the Bengalis. Bhutto had oil shocks, global stagflation and big floods but not oil.

Yet Bhutto did better than Ayub on most key economic indicators even under Ayub but fell under Ayub. COP28 has seen

By Jawed Naqvi:

IT could get worse before it gets better, goes the sagacious saying. It was in the nature of its very being that the INDIA alliance needed to cross the hump of centrifugal egos before its members would find their feet. They needed it to feel equipped to take a clean shot at vacating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bid for a third successive win in the April-May general elections.

The recent state polls may have been important for the Congress, but were in many ways an obstacle for the alliance. They were not, in any case, the decisive battle presaging the 2024 contest, as has been projected by last week's winners. The state polls were entirely about the Congress winning or losing to the BJP, and of scant interest to the rest of the alliance partners, who were not emotionally attached to the outcome.

A Congress landslide would have, in fact, complicated the quest for cohesion in INDIA.

The muddled coalition amongst some of the members at the humbling of the behemoth masked a perverse left-to-right joy at the result for the smaller but powerful stakeholders. The results could not clear the emotional block for the alliance, which should now

On the other hand, psyops are a pivot for the ruling party's strategy. Mr Modi has declared

not hesitate to yield to its annual instinct of survival. Any dilution of the resolve would be fatal, as everyone in the group knows.

The incidental benefit of the races in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana should also not be discounted. With Congress winning Telangana, there is now a marked north-south divide electorally, though not for the first time. Indira Gandhi was routed in 1977 in the north, whereas the southern states stood resolutely with her. That's why she launched her comeback campaign from.

The fact that the state polls were about the race and not a disastrous outcome for the Congress should go a long way to help the alliance partners to frontally challenge Modi's psychological warfare. They can now work on a winning strategy, in which the Congress is accepted as a scrupulously equal partner, but not less, though not even slightly more, entitled than the rest. From what one has seen, the BJP is not Modi's Gandhi's long march to unite the country, cohesion, and not the spoils of power, would be the Congress's quest henceforth.

The total parliamentary seats in the BJP's self-proclaimed stronghold in the northern states add up to 204, clearly short of the 272 needed to win a simple majority. The BJP's 54-member Lok Sabha.

The INDIA alliance states, on the other hand, have a total of 515 seats. A simple majority of 268 is a simple majority. Note that the INDIA calculation includes 48 MPs of Maharashtra, where tragicomic defections led to the BJP taking power.

On the other hand, psyops are a pivot for the ruling party's strategy. Mr Modi has declared

These are the main theatres of mobilisation where any talk of a hat-trick for the BJP would be laughed off.

Besides, in the states the Congress lost last week, the difference of votes was two to four per cent. A highly bridgeable. Madhya Pradesh was the trickier of the three. On the other hand, the Congress was snapping at the BJP's heels in the close races of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand. In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP controls, let's say, irrefutably: Uttar Pradesh (80), Madhya Pradesh (70), Rajasthan (29), Chhattisgarh (11), Gujarat (26), Assam (14), Jharkhand (14), Bihar (20), West Bengal (19) and Rajasthan (25).

The total parliamentary seats in the BJP's self-proclaimed stronghold in the northern states add up to 204, clearly short of the 272 needed to win a simple majority. The BJP's 54-member Lok Sabha.

The INDIA alliance states, on the other hand, have a total of 515 seats. A simple majority of 268 is a simple majority. Note that the INDIA calculation includes 48 MPs of Maharashtra, where tragicomic defections led to the BJP taking power.

On the other hand, psyops are a pivot for the ruling party's strategy. Mr Modi has declared

Climate action

By Masood Lohar:

CONTRARY to initial doubts, apprehensions, and explicit criticism from activists and environmentalists, COP28, set to conclude today, seems to have proved itself productive and on point.

Before the start of COP28, there was a lot of talk about the summit being a mere exercise in common occurrences in the UAE, such as protests. Despite the country being a democracy where political parties and labour unions are prohibited, COP28 has compelled the UAE government's motive to enhance its international image, but they emphasise that only limited protests are permitted, subject to prior approval.

One notable instance involved protesters gathering in solidarity to demand climate action. Another noteworthy procession took place a few days ago, demanding the release of pro-democracy activists imprisoned in the UAE and Egypt. Described as "historic" by Saudi and UAE human rights observers, businesses, and industry to advocate for unprecedented ambition in COP history.

The approach challenges the conventional belief that climate diplomacy and environmental commitments are solely rely on traditional UN bureaucracy and less action-oriented mechanisms equivalent to those produced annually by half a million petrol-powered cars. ADNOC accelerated its net-zero greenhouse gas target for operational ac-

tioned in the UAE and Egypt. Described as "historic" by Saudi and UAE human rights observers, businesses, and industry to advocate for unprecedented ambition in COP history.

The approach challenges the conventional belief that climate diplomacy and environmental commitments are solely rely on traditional UN bureaucracy and less action-oriented mechanisms equivalent to those produced annually by half a million petrol-powered cars. ADNOC accelerated its net-zero greenhouse gas target for operational ac-

tioned in the UAE and Egypt. Described as "historic" by Saudi and UAE human rights observers, businesses, and industry to advocate for unprecedented ambition in COP history.

The approach challenges the conventional belief that climate diplomacy and environmental commitments are solely rely on traditional UN bureaucracy and less action-oriented mechanisms equivalent to those produced annually by half a million petrol-powered cars. ADNOC accelerated its net-zero greenhouse gas target for operational ac-

tioned in the UAE and Egypt. Described as "historic" by Saudi and UAE human rights observers, businesses, and industry to advocate for unprecedented ambition in COP history.

The approach challenges the conventional belief that climate diplomacy and environmental commitments are solely rely on traditional UN bureaucracy and less action-oriented mechanisms equivalent to those produced annually by half a million petrol-powered cars. ADNOC accelerated its net-zero greenhouse gas target for operational ac-

Rao and Manmohan Singh came to be. After the Congress's loss in the states, the drooping over prospects of gaining power would be hopefully abate.

There are strong binding guests to work on, for example, the expulsion of the West Bengal MP Mahua Moitra from Lok Sabha last week over laughable allegations that she took money to ask questions in parliament. The opposition has come together to stand united behind her. That Moitra was a staunch critic of Modi and his corporate friend Gautam Adani is a notable aspect of her profile. The opposition has come together to stand united behind her. That Moitra was a staunch critic of Modi and his corporate friend Gautam Adani is a notable aspect of her profile. The opposition has come together to stand united behind her. That Moitra was a staunch critic of Modi and his corporate friend Gautam Adani is a notable aspect of her profile.

In other words, it is obvious that no state being ruled by any particular party or alliance can take success for granted. We do, however, get an idea as to where and how the inductive dossier on his time as chief minister of Gujarat. They know of it, and it is preposterous to liken it to a walk-over by the alliance, as the Modi psyops is continuing to be worked for the Congress in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

There's nothing ministerial hopefuls in the opposition ranks, and another few who would be eyeing their chance as the dark horses that Narasimha

activities, now aiming to achieve this goal by 2045, five years earlier than initially planned. The company has ceased routine methane venting and flaring, seen as a demonstration of a commitment to emissions reduction ahead of its industry counterparts.

Dubai is striving to attain 75 per cent of its total power generation from clean energy sources by 2050, respectively.

This progress raises questions about whether climate diplomacy is increasingly led by the polluting industry and for-profit tech businesses.

The UAE is positioning itself as a frontrunner in climate innovation by making substantial investments in decarbonisation. In September, a significant carbon capture and storage project was introduced, designed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those produced annually by half a million petrol-powered cars.

ADNOC accelerated its net-zero greenhouse gas target for operational ac-

Security: Last but not least is the deteriorating security situation, especially in Balochistan and KP. At the moment, it seems we have no broad-based plan to deal with either of the two provinces. The former requires a political process and dialogue which is not even on the table. There are no easy solutions and the rollercoaster ride we are on, is still descending, perhaps it will be scarier than ever before. Second, while the election will provide no easy solution, any delay will complicate matters further. After all, the paralysis of decision-making is directly linked to the unfortunate relationship between elected governments and unsecured power centres. In short, successful elections will be the beginning of a new chapter and not the happy ending many are counting on.

By Ariefa Noor:

ELECTIONS and the desired results (the mustab or positive kind) are absorbing all independent minds in town. Every discussion in the capital (and its neighbouring areas) begins and ends with the possibility of elections and what they will bring, or be allowed to bring). But then Islamabad (and our ke mazaafat) is known for missing the woods for the trees, for reasons too lengthy to be discussed here.

Pakistan faces three separate but linked crises: political, economic and security. Political: The election cycle comes after the first crisis. Ceaseless political uncertainty has kept civilian governments from focusing on urgent governance issues. It doesn't seem the coming elections will solve this crisis. It is ad-

ressed anytime soon because everyone is convinced the results will produce a government independent of the machinations that Khan and his hump PTI will find no takers in case they show the inability of such governments to function, let alone address long-standing economic problems.

Coupled with this is the problem that is the PTI. Regardless of who wins the election, parties, leaders and others will face the issue of how to ease the pressure on the party and its leadership and workers. Before the election or later, what will follow is the election, parties, leaders and others will face the issue of how to ease the pressure on the party and its leadership and workers.

Economic: The political situation is complicated by economic crises, which are far from over despite what the caretakers may be claiming. While on the one hand, administrative mea-

asures have stabilised the economy and made the current IMF programme flow smoothly, the long-term challenges will be the fate of the Discos. In other words, as our political stakeholders have been looking left, the right for quite some time, the long-awaited reform of state-owned enterprises and the power sector are stuck at the same crossroads.

It is hard to date the moment but the economic strategy has been revolving around the hope of an extraordinary event. Who is it? Exports, foreign investment — without even stepping foot on the long and painful road to reform. That this process will be expedited with a new government is nothing more than a proved no braver. The assumptions that the caretaker set-up would move on the basis of have also proved incorrect.

Consider past reform. If the PTI balked at these decisions, the triumph of hope over experience. This brings us to the hushed whispers about an election delay. How-

The much-lauded privatisation process seems to be moving slowly on PIA; the rest of the privatisation will be the fate of the Discos. In other words, as our political stakeholders have been looking left, the right for quite some time, the long-awaited reform of state-owned enterprises and the power sector are stuck at the same crossroads.

It is hard to date the moment but the economic strategy has been revolving around the hope of an extraordinary event. Who is it? Exports, foreign investment — without even stepping foot on the long and painful road to reform. That this process will be expedited with a new government is nothing more than a proved no braver. The assumptions that the caretaker set-up would move on the basis of have also proved incorrect.

Consider past reform. If the PTI balked at these decisions, the triumph of hope over experience. This brings us to the hushed whispers about an election delay. How-

ever, the problem is that short of direct intervention with the time-bound endorsement from the International Monetary Fund, it seems we have no broad-based plan to deal with either of the two provinces. The former requires a political process and dialogue which is not even on the table. There are no easy solutions and the rollercoaster ride we are on, is still descending, perhaps it will be scarier than ever before. Second, while the election will provide no easy solution, any delay will complicate matters further. After all, the paralysis of decision-making is directly linked to the unfortunate relationship between elected governments and unsecured power centres. In short, successful elections will be the beginning of a new chapter and not the happy ending many are counting on.

Chinese geophysicist elected as member of Pakistan Academy of Sciences

BEIJING (INP) Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) announced its list of newly elected foreign academicians. Among them, Lin Jian, distinguished researcher at the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and director of the Key Laboratory of Ocean and Marginal Sea Geology, was elected for his outstanding achievements in the field of global earth sciences. He was honoured also because of his contributions to scientific and technological cooperation between China and Pakistan. He served as the chief scientist of the IOD drilling expeditions in the South China Sea

and participated in over twenty international oceanographic expeditions to the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic oceans. Additionally, he led the first China-Pakistan joint Indian Ocean expedition, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. During his tenure as Deputy Director of the China-Pakistan Earth Science Research Center and head of the Marine Sub-Center, Lin has made significant contributions to the advancement of earth sciences, academic exchanges, personnel training, and the development of Pakistan's marine industry. In collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography Pakistan, Lin and his team developed the most accurate Mohan Trench earthquake and tsunami model to assess the seismic stress state and tsunami risk in the coastal areas of Pakistan. For the first time, Lin's team has developed a detailed seismic wave velocity model of the crust and upper mantle across the Mohan Trench. They have also systematically calculated key parameters such as potential wave height, invasion depth, and spatial distribution of tsunamis in Gwadar port. This work provides an important scientific foundation for local disaster prevention and mitigation.

President, PM condemn terrorist attack on security forces in D.I.Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP) President Dr. Arif Alvi has strongly denounced the terrorist attack on security forces in Dera Ismail Khan. In a statement, he said such cowardly acts cannot shake the resolve of our security personnel. He said sacrifices of martyrs will not go in vain. The President commiserated with the bereaved families. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on security forces in Darabara area of Dera Ismail Khan. In a statement, he said the security forces cannot be demoralized by such cowardly acts. He said the entire nation salutes the martyrs who sacrificed their



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi signing the Instrument of Accession to the Marrakesh Treaty for the Visually Impaired Persons in a ceremony, at Aiswan-e-Sadr.

ECP issues notification regarding appointment of ROs, DROs, and AROs

ISLAMABAD (INP) The Election Commission (ECP) has taken a significant stride in gearing up for the 2024 general elections by issuing notifications for the appointment of District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs). The commission has designated DROs, ROs, and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) for 859 constituencies of the National and Provincial Assemblies. In the announcement, the spokesperson for the Election Commission highlighted key appointments. The Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad has been named the District Returning Officer for the federal capital. Furthermore, 36 DROs have been appointed for the National and Provincial Assemblies seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 41 for Punjab, 30 for Sindh, and 36 for Balochistan. Additionally, the Election Commission has enlisted 266 ROs and AROs for the National Assembly seats. Notably, 45 ROs and AROs are designated

for National Assembly seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3 for Islamabad, 141 for Punjab, and 61 for Sindh. Balochistan will have 16 ROs and AROs. The Election Commission has also appointed 8 ROs for specific seats of the National and Provincial Assemblies. The notifications specify that Deputy Commissioners will serve as DROs during the general elections, and separate ROs have been assigned for each constituency. In addition to bureaucratic appointments, the Election Commission has recruited ROs from provincial and federal departments. Notably, there will be a ban on transfers of election duty officers. The commission has terminated holidays in the election wing, signaling the imminent commencement of the election schedule. The training phase for appointed ROs has commenced, with sessions scheduled at 38 locations nationwide. The training aims to equip ROs with the necessary skills for the electoral process. The subsequent phase will involve finalizing the polling scheme.



QUETTA: Chief Guest, Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezi addressing the participants of (PFPF) Family Planning.

Olympic solidarity WABC Level-I coaching course going on

ISLAMABAD (INP) Olympic Solidarity WABC Level-I Coaching Course in full swing with some incredible opportunities for coaches to enhance their skills, learn new techniques and contribute to the growth of basketball in the country organised by Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF). Prof. Dr. Ahmed Adnan Vice Chancellor of Government College University (GCU) was the chief guest and Khalid Mahmood Secretary General of Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) was the guest of honour in the opening session of the course while FIBA Coaching instructor Milan Kotarac, Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Secretary and Member South Asia Basketball Association Council Ouj E Zahoor, National Basketball Coach Rizq Malik and other dignitaries were also present during the session. Speaking on the occasion POA secretary General Khalid Mahmood said that Pakistan Basketball Federation under the supervision of Khalid Bashir are taking various steps to promote

the game of basketball in the country and Pakistan Olympic Association will provide all possible assistance to Pakistan Basketball Federation to organise coaching courses in future too. "All stakeholders must play their positive role for the revival of sports culture in the country and PBBF played their positive role and taking many steps to provide the opportunities to youngsters", said Khalid, adding that these coaching courses will help the participants to improve their coaching skills and in contributing to the growth of the sport in Pakistan. The Olympic Solidarity Coaching Course which is underway at Government College University Lahore will be completed on December 16th. The FIBA coaching program aims to provide in-depth theoretical and practical insights to fifteen coaches, encompassing both male and female participants, during morning and evening sessions. This initiative reflects PBBF's commitment to empowering coaches with cutting-edge skills and techniques, ensuring they play a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of basketball talent in the country.

which would bring the new average gas price to Rs 1696.39 per MMBtu. Currently, the average gas price stands at Rs 1470.21 per MMBtu. SSGC has cited a projected revenue shortfall of Rs 47.7 billion for the current financial year as a primary reason for the price increase. The petition requests a price hike of Rs 226.18 per Million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu),

which would bring the new average gas price to Rs 1696.39 per MMBtu. Currently, the average gas price stands at Rs 1470.21 per MMBtu. SSGC has cited a projected revenue shortfall of Rs 47.7 billion for the current financial year as a primary reason for the price increase. The petition requests a price hike of Rs 226.18 per Million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu),

SSGC seeks significant increase in gas prices for Sindh province

ISLAMABAD (INP) Following in the footsteps of Sui Northern Gas, Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) on Tuesday has filed a petition with the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) seeking a significant increase in gas prices for the province of Sindh. The petition requests a price hike of Rs 226.18 per Million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu),

which would bring the new average gas price to Rs 1696.39 per MMBtu. Currently, the average gas price stands at Rs 1470.21 per MMBtu. SSGC has cited a projected revenue shortfall of Rs 47.7 billion for the current financial year as a primary reason for the price increase. The petition requests a price hike of Rs 226.18 per Million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu),

Balochistan, where it also operates. The petition also seeks separate increases for transmission and distribution costs (Rs 150.67 per MMBtu) and depreciation difference (Rs 40.98 per MMBtu). OGRA has scheduled a hearing on SSGC's application for December 18th in Karachi. The decision on whether to approve the requested price increase will be made after considering all relevant factors and public feedback. If approved, the gas price hike will impact both domestic and commercial users in Sindh. This could lead to increased energy costs for households and businesses, potentially putting a strain on finances, especially during the upcoming winter months when gas consumption typically rises.

need like three-four days of high 30s-mid-40s, there really make it blow open," McDonald said. "In the stadium we are quite sheltered whereas the WACA is open and you get the wind, so it's a different kind of an environment where we're kind of stuck in." With conditions set to be pace-friendly, there could be a temptation to bowl first for the captain who wins the toss. "I think there's a little bit of grass on it, I can see from afar, so maybe a bit of seam movement early on and probably get a bit flatter as the game.

'Fast, hard, bouncy wicket' to welcome Pakistan in 1st Test

PERTH (INP) Ten millimetres of grass has been left on the Optus Stadium pitch two days ahead of the first Test between Australia and Pakistan, but more is expected to be shaven off with head curator Isaac McDonald tipping a "hard, fast and bouncy" surface. Pressure has been on the ground staff to lay a sedate pitch in last summer's draft Test between Australia and West Indies, which went well into the fifth day. This match marks just the fourth Test to be played at the 60,000-capacity stadium, which has yet to red in fans in large numbers. A fiery wicket mimicking the WACA's famous pace and bounce is being hoped for to help spark a Test match, with seemingly much at stake for Western Australia cricket. The drop-in pitch was moved into the stadium's playing surface less than three weeks ago, having been curated at Optus Stadium since February. It contains the same local clay and grass species as the surfaces at the

WACA, although pitches there played out sluggishly early in the Sheffield Shield season. The Optus Stadium drop-in pitch was inserted during oppressive late-spring weather, but the match is expected to be played in somewhat milder temperatures around 30-degrees Celsius. "The conditions are really favourable for making a really nice, fast and bouncy wicket," McDonald told reporters on Tuesday, with a green-tinted pitch notable in the backdrop. "I'm really happy with the presentation and how it's going." At the moment, he's at 10mm [of grass] and that's where I started last year's game. But there's still a day of prep. It's hard to give a number, but I can't see it staying at 10. Definitely not having as much grass on top is what I'm aiming for."

With temperatures forecast to be milder, contrast to many Perth Test matches played in stifling conditions, the pitch is unlikely to crack in the backend of the match. "I just don't think it gets hot enough. You

Karachi Kings appoint Phil Simmons as Head Coach for HBL PSL 9

KARACHI (INP) Karachi Kings, Pakistan's biggest city's HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise, has made a groundbreaking announcement as they named Phil Simmons as their head coach for the upcoming HBL PSL 9. The franchise proudly welcomes the esteemed Phil Simmons as their Head Coach, marking a significant step in their ongoing re-juvenation and restructuring process. Phil Simmons, renowned for

his dual role as a star player and as the triumphant coach of the West Indies during the 2016 T20 World Cup, brings a wealth of experience and strategic prowess to the Karachi Kings' camp. During his cricket career, Phil Simmons has scored 4677 runs and picked up 87 wickets. He had a reputation for being an expert limited-over format player. Karachi is not an unknown territory to the new head coach of Kings as he has played a World Cup 1987 match in the city. Expressing

his enthusiasm, Simmons stated, "Returning to Karachi, a city I hold dear from my playing days, feels like a homecoming. I am thrilled to join forces with Hader Azhar and the rest of the team's staff, drawing from the rich cricketing heritage of this country. I am thankful to team owner Salman Iqbal, CEO Tariq Wasi, and Karachi Kings management for this opportunity. We are eager to move ahead with our rebuilding and restart projects."

ness of Karachi Kings and establish this franchise as a match-winning unit." Salman Iqbal, the owner of Karachi Kings, extended a warm welcome to Simmons, emphasizing the coach's invaluable addition to the team. "We are honored to have Phil Simmons join us as the Head Coach. His remarkable track record as a coach and player speaks volumes about his calibre. We are confident his leadership will drive Karachi Kings to greater heights."



ZIARAT: An anti-corruption rally is being held under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Hanif Noorzal on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Jamudul Rehman.

TENDER NOTICE
The Divisional Forest Officer Mastung has invited the sealed tenders Form (as per Schedule B and A) on the Composite Schedule of Rates 2018...
S.NO NAME OF WORK ECOST
1. 100 Acres Cluster Partition through dry afforestation technique at Mastung along with waterlogy (PSDP No.3301) 2,700,000/-
The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014.
DAGG CLAUSTRITY: The Firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2023/24) in relevant Category and registration with tax authorities (C, NTN and BSA), including three years similar nature work, experience & Bank Statement, (Turnover), Firm (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-4 or above in the Category Code, Valid Registration with Income Tax BIRA, Other Mandatory conditions and Deal Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents. Sequentially page number(s) of Proposal, signing and stamping of proposal.
BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS: ISSUANCE: The Firm can obtain the bidding Documents from the office of the Divisional Forest Officer Mastung (upon payment (non-refundable) bidding document fee Rs 1000/- each tender deposited in government treasury under head C-4337 through Green Challen Form in National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk. In this regard, the interested bidders must submit Green Challen Form deposited in government treasury one day prior to the bid opening in the office of undersigned.
Deadline for last date of Submission. The Bidding Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or through registered mail to the address. Last date for submission of bid 26/12/2023 at 10:15 am and will be opened on same day 11:15 am Opening. The tender document will be opened on above date 8:30 am, before procurement committee in the presence of candidates or their authorized representatives.
Place of issuance and submission will be: Address: OFFICE OF DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER MASTUNG
Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days. Phone No: 08438826548
Fax No: 08438826548 Email: rfdmastung79@gmail.com
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, MASTUNG
PRQ No. 1149/12-12-2023
www.bppra.org.pk

SC takes up reference against Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's death sentence

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) is hearing the long-pending presidential reference seeking to revisit the 1979 controversial death sentence awarded to former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

A nine-member larger apex court bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and including Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amjad Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Musarat Hilali is hearing the case. The case proceedings are being broadcast live.

"Court proceedings of the Presidential Reference No 1 of 2011 will be broadcast live and can be accessed on the official website and the YouTube channel of the Supreme Court," stated a communique issued by the top court today. Previously, former chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, had conducted five hearings on the

presidential reference — whose last hearing was held on November 11, 2012.

Former President Asif Ali Zardari had approached the Supreme Court in 2011 through a Presidential Reference under Article 186 of the Constitution, seeking to revisit the trial of the PPP Founder Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was handed a death sentence during former military ruler General (retired) Ziaul Haq's regime.

The first elected prime minister of the country was charged with the murder of a political rival Nawab Mohammed Ahmed Qasuri and a trial took place. Amid petitions and appeals of clemency, and mercy from several Heads of States, Bhutto was hanged on April 4, 1979. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, his father, Sherry Rehman and other senior party leaders arrived at the apex court to hear the live proceedings of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto murder reference. At the outset of the hearing, Farooq H. Naek, representing the PPP, formally

requested Bilawal's inclusion as a respondent in the reference. The Chief Justice pointed out that the Supreme Court could consider hearing Bilawal both as a family member and a political party representative. Addressing Bilawal's plea for a live broadcast filed a day earlier, Justice Isa noted that the court had already made a decision on this matter before the application was submitted.

Mansoor Usman Awan, the Attorney General for Pakistan, presented arguments in the Supreme Court. Following this, the judge instructed Awan to read aloud the presidential reference and identify the filer. Awan clarified that President Asif Ali Zardari had submitted the reference on the advice of the federal cabinet, emphasizing that it had not been withdrawn by any president to date. Expressing regret on behalf of the Supreme Court, Justice Isa highlighted the court's policy of adhering to a "first in, first out" approach unless urgency dictated otherwise.



QUETTA: Syed Shah Muhammad Agha and Advocate Haji Naseeb are meeting Governor Balochistan Malak Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Pakistan seeks stronger ties with China: Ambassador Hashmi

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan's desire for stronger ties with China reflects the mutual benefits and shared interests that exist between the two nations.

This strategic partnership encompasses various areas such as economic cooperation, infrastructure development, renewable energy, and cultural exchanges, said Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi.

In an exclusive interview with China Economic Net, Hashmi elaborated on the flourishing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), emphasizing the need for enhanced industrial cooperation, trade, and investment between the two nations.

The ambassador identified the key areas of focus, including agriculture, information technology, livelihood, and green development.

opment, aligning with the priorities outlined during Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng's recent visit to Pakistan from July 30 to August 1, 2023.

"We need to quickly improve our productive capacity because the Phase-1 of CPEC was primarily to develop infrastructure and energy. In terms of the next phase of CPEC, it is the establishment of five corridors, the corridor of growth, innovation, green development, livelihoods, and inclusiveness. These are all areas which are in alignment with our priorities," he stated.

Talking with CEN Khalil Hashmi said that the recent trade protocols signed between China and Pakistan opened up around \$30 billion market for Pakistan, covering items such as heated beef, dried chili, Pakistani dairy products, and animal skins.

The Ambassador commended China's efforts for creating & enabling conditions for Pakistan, including regulatory adjustments and the provision of dedicated officers in the Chinese embassy to assist Pakistani exporters. "We spent a lot of time organizing a very successful agriculture exhibition in Pakistan, in which many Chinese and Pakistani companies and individuals participated."

B2B exchanges are another tool to promote bilateral trade," Hashmi mentioned.

Addressing Pakistan's commitment to green and sustainable development, the Ambassador outlined the nation's efforts in the renewable energy sector.

He highlighted projects such as hydroelectric power generation and collaborations with China to expand solar energy capacity.

Earthquake hits parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR (INP): Earthquake tremors jolted parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Tuesday.

According to the seismological center, the earthquake tremors were felt in Swat, Mingora, Lower Pir, Upper Dir and adjoining areas.

People came out of their houses in fear by reacting Kalm-e-Tayyaba. However, no loss of life or damage to property was reported from any part of KP as per the initial reports.

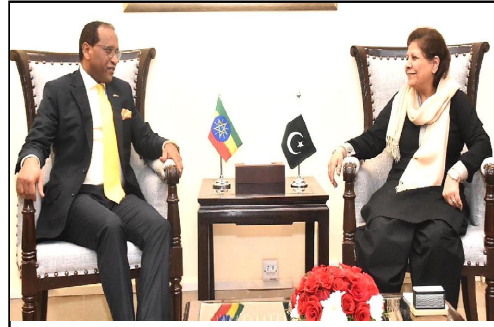
On November, an earthquake of 3.3 magnitude on the Richter scale jolted Gilgit and its adjoining areas.

The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in Gilgit and the adjoining areas. However, no loss of life or damage to property was reported from anywhere so far.

According to NSMC Islamabad, the depth of the quake was recorded at 45 kilometers and

the epicenter was 84 kilometers in the North West. Last month, a mild earthquake of 3.1 magnitude on the Richter Scale jolted different areas of Karachi — the capital of Sindh province.

The areas where tremors were felt include Gulshan-e-Hadeed, Cattle Colony, different areas of Malir District, Quaidabad, Shah Latif Town, Sherpao Colony, Landhi, Muzaffarabad Colony, Muslimabad Colony, Steel Town and their adjoining areas.



ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan, Jamal Bekir Abdulla called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of AJK Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Balochistan sports, youth, and cultural festival kicks off in Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): Balochistan Sports, Youth, and Cultural Festival kicked off in Gwadar on December 10. Several events are being organized on sports grounds, beaches, and colleges.

The 6-day festival will end on December 15th, 2023.

According to the Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Balochistan, the Sports Festival includes Football, Cricket (Men, Women), Volleyball, Boxing,

Body Building, Futsal (Men, Women), and many beach games.

Leading multiple organizations in Quetta and social activist Muqaddas Riaz said that it's promising to witness the convergence of sports and youth capabilities, envisioning a future where Balochistan nurtures polished gems and experts. She said that there is a lot of potential in Balochistan in sports. There should be several sports complexes and

playgrounds and training academies for all kinds of sports with hostel facilities to attract sportsmen, bringing investment, and better competition for the improvement of sports.

Gwadar, located in Balochistan has been developing rapidly, and local authorities often organize various events, including sports festivals, to promote tourism, cultural exchange, and community engagement. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

Gilgit-Baltistan delegation explores Agri Tech cooperation in Gansu Province

BEIJING (INP): A delegation of government officials and agricultural experts from Gilgit-Baltistan Province visited Lanzhou, China.

They conducted visits to local enterprises and held exchange meetings to explore cooperation potentials.

During their visit to Jinfeng Company, a subsidiary of the Gansu Academy of Mechanical Science, the Pakistani delegation toured the production base and gained comprehensive knowledge about the company's flagship products and their wide applications in agricultural production.

The company also demonstrated the complete operational model of silage harvesting equipment that they plan to

showcase and promote in Pakistan, which sparked great interest among the delegation members.

Subsequently, detailed discussions were held on future cooperation models and specific plans, resulting in a series of agreements.

According to Gwadar Pro, the delegation expressed their anticipation for substantial cooperation with Jinfeng Company in agricultural equipment, aiming to drive the modernization of agriculture in Pakistan.

"The similarities in geography and weather between Gansu and Gilgit-Baltistan will make the cooperation particularly potential."

The adoption of modern farming practices can effectively improve agricultural pro-

duction," said a delegate member of the GB agriculture department.

"In the future, we will continue to increase our investment in cooperation with Pakistan, enhancing productivity and technological capabilities."

Additionally, we will strive to promote the widespread adoption and implementation of silage equipment in Pakistan," said head of Jinfeng Company. After the exchange, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to transfer agricultural technology and machinery to Gilgit-Baltistan.

The collaboration seeks to jointly explore new opportunities for the development of silage processing and the livestock industry.



QUETTA: Caretaker provincial ministers Jan Achakzai and Captain (R) Mir Zubair Ahmad Jamali are meeting.

Handing over education boards to commissioners rejected

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Professors and Lecturers Association (SPLA) and All Sindh Private Schools and Colleges Association have strongly rejected the

caretaker provincial government's decision to hand over the education boards of the province, including Karachi, to commissioners. They have declared the move "equivalent to a decree" and threatened to boycott upcoming exams and observe a "Black Day" in protest.

The associations expressed their concerns at a joint press conference held on Tuesday. Leaders Professor Manoor Abbas and Haider Ali accused the education minister of prioritizing specific institutions like the Sindh Textbook Board and Ziauddin University instead of addressing broader educational concerns. They focused on promoting lecturers from Ziauddin University to B.Ed. and M.Ed. positions

rather than issuing promotion letters for deserving candidates. They demanded the immediate appointment of qualified chairmen, moderators, and secretaries in the education boards through a merit-based search committee. They criticized the additional charge given to the commissioner of Karachi Inter Board and demanded his removal. As a temporary solution, they suggested appointing education experts to oversee the boards.

Both associations expressed doubts about the commissioners' ability to handle the complex tasks of managing education boards. They questioned how commissioners who are struggling with issues like price control could effectively oversee matters like assessment, examination, and result release. They argued that these tasks require the expertise of teachers and professors.

They further proposed handing over the management of the boards back to the gov-

ernor, arguing that the provincial government is too preoccupied with political issues to effectively run them. Haider Ali, leader of the Private Schools Association, even went so far as to call for an NAB inquiry into the alleged mismanagement of the boards under the previous government led by the People's Party.

The associations warned that they are prepared to escalate their protest if the decision is not reversed. They threatened to boycott upcoming exams, including supplementary and first year exams, and refuse to provide examination centers in colleges. They also announced a "Black Day" protest by wearing black armbands starting Thursday.

The stakeholders' united opposition to this decision raises significant questions about the caretaker government's understanding of educational governance and its potential impact on students and the education system in Sindh.