

# QUETTA VOICE

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## Zardari Voices Concern: Lack of Understanding from Islamabad on Balochistan

Tariq Baloch:

**TURBAT:** Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-Chairman, Asif Ali Zardari, voiced concern on Monday over what he called Islamabad's lack of understanding about Balochistan. After decades, the PPP decision-maker, Asif Zardari, addressed a workers' convention in Turbat to revive the party in the Makran belt.

Former caretaker interior minister, Sarfaraz Bugti, joined the PPP on the occasion. Former finance minister Balochistan, Zahoor Buledi, and other PPP leaders also addressed the workers' convention. "This is a matter of honor for me to join the PPP," Sarfaraz Bugti said. He said only the PPP understands the political and tribal dynamics of Balochistan.

### PPP To Launch Massive Development If Comes Into Power

"It is ironic, Islamabad does not understand Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab," Asif Ali Zardari told the flag-waving supporters of the party in Turbat. He said Balochistan's development and prosperity were crucial for the development of Pakistan.

"The PPP will launch a massive development process if it comes into power," the PPP decision-maker assured the party workers. He said still a lot needs to be done to de-



velop Balochistan. Asif Zardari said some youths were deceived by anti-Pakistan elements. "We will bring them back," he said. They will play their role in the development and prosperity of the country, he said.

### China Sood By Pakistan In All Difficult Times

PPP Co-Chairman stated that as a president he made over a dozen visits to China, all friends. He said the country has stood by Pakistan in all difficult times. "Who developed this Gwadar," he said, adding it was China that developed the port city of the country.

Asif Zardari said his party understood the political dynam-

ics, sensitivities, and demands, and that was the reason the party gave Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's name to Pashtoons. "Pakhtoons fought against the British, and we know it was their right to get their name," the PPP leader mentioned. Scores of political leaders from other political parties also announced joining the PPP on the occasion.

## Political Shift: Sarfaraz Bugti Joins PPP In Presence Of Zardari In Turbat

Syed Ali Shah:

**QUETTA:** In a major political shift, the former caretaker interior minister, Sarfaraz Bugti, joined the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the presence of party decision-maker, Asif Ali Zardari in Turbat. After decades, the PPP organized an impressive show in Turbat to gain political support before the fast-approaching general elections.

Asif Zardari addressed the PPP workers convention in Turbat, Makran and highlighted the party's contribution to the people of Balochistan. Zahoor Buledi, the former finance minister of Balochistan, and other PPP leaders of Makran organized the show to make the party's presence felt in the intellectual capital of the province.

### \*PPP To Address Grievances Of People Of Balochistan\*, Asif Zardari

Zahoor Buledi said.



"This is a matter of honor for me to join the PPP",

Mr. Bugti told the flag-waving supporters of the PPP in Turbat. He praised the party and its leadership for what he called addressing the grievances of the masses of Balochistan.

"This is the revival of PPP in Makran", Zahoor Buledi said.

He said the masses have decided to support the party in the upcoming elections.

Sarfaraz Bugti has announced joining the PPP after over a dozen joined the Pakistan Muslim League (N). Political pundits term Bugti's decision as one of the important unfolding political events in Balochistan.

### Balochistan Plays A Key Role In The Development Of Country

Addressing the workers' convention, Asif Zardari stated that Balochistan's resources were crucial for the country. He said his party gave Aghaz-e-Haqooq Balochistan a package and took several steps to remove the sense of deprivation of the people of the province.

Regarding the Afghan refugees, Asif Zardari said Pakistan provided hospitality for decades but they turned against Pakistan. He said the PPP would take the country out of the prevailing financial and political crisis and pave the way for a stable and strong Pakistan in the comity of nations.

If came in power, we would launch projects for the development and prosperity of Balochistan, Asif Zardari assured the workers.

## Transformative Voyage: PM Kakar's Pledge for Balochistan's Prosperity

Daily Quetta Voice

In a historic move, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar is on a crucial visit to Quetta, his hometown and the heartbeat of Pakistan. This momentous occasion holds immense significance not only for the province but for the entire country. As a premier hailing from Balochistan, PM Kakar's visit resonates with promises of addressing key issues, fostering development, and offering a healing touch to a region that has long sought its rightful place in the national narrative.

### Launching A Skill Development Program Is A Key Initiative

One of the prominent aspects of this visit is the attention given to the vital issue of employment. Balochistan, often facing economic challenges, is in dire need of initiatives that create job opportunities.

PM Kakar's emphasis on launching a skill development program is indeed a positive step toward empowering the youth and aligning them with the demands of the contemporary job market.



### Quetta-Karachi Highway Is Long Overdue

The spotlight on the Quetta-Karachi highway, colloquially known as the 'killer highway,' is long overdue. Timely construction and improvements in infrastructure are not just matters of convenience but issues of public safety. The people of Balochistan deserve secure and efficient transportation networks, and the rehabilitation of this highway is a

move in the right direction.

Furthermore, the call for the reconstruction of the Quetta-Islamabad highway is a recognition of the need for robust connectivity, fostering economic growth and social integration. Improved highways not only facilitate the movement of goods and services but also contribute to the overall development of the region.

### Balochistan Should Be Given Its Due Share

A vital demand put forth by PM Kakar is the insistence on Balochistan receiving its due constitutional share in jobs, services, and development projects. This call for equitable distribution is not just a plea for fairness; it is a fundamental right that should be upheld to ensure the comprehensive development of the province. Balochistan's progress is intertwined with its ability to participate fully in the economic and social opportunities of the nation.

### PM Kakar Should Go Beyond Rhetoric

Kakar's profound understanding of the issues faced by the people of Balochistan is evident. However, the success of his visit will be measured by tangible actions that follow his words. This is an opportune moment for PM Kakar to go beyond rhetoric and implement policies that bring about a real transformation in the lives of Balochistan's residents.

As the caretaker prime minister undertakes this significant mission, we hope he leaves an indelible mark on the landscape of Balochistan—a mark that reflects progress, inclusivity, and a renewed sense of hope for the people of this resilient province. The time for changes is now, and PM Kakar has the potential to be the harbinger of a new era for Balochistan.

## Health Minister's Visit: Addressing Challenges at Jhalwan Medical College

Jabbar Baloch:



**KHUZDAR:** Caretaker Provincial Health Minister, Dr. Amir Mohammad Khan Jogezi, undertook a three-day visit to Jhalwan Medical College Khuzdar. The Minister was accompanied by Commissioner Nisar Mastoi and Additional Commissioner Arif Zarkun.

Dr. Jogezi's Productive Four-Day Expedition: Journeying from Mastung to Hub, Encompassing Key Districts

Alongside the Minister for Industries and Energy, Prince Ahmed Ali. It was one of the hectic tours and the minister spent the whole time improving the health facilities in the

far-flung areas of Balochistan. Stressing unity among staff, Dr. Jogezi expressed concern over the slow progress of Jhalwan Medical College Khuzdar. The Minister was accompanied by Commissioner Nisar Mastoi and Additional Commissioner Arif Zarkun.

Dr. Jogezi assured swift action, promising to address concerns with higher authorities.

He advocated allocating three acres for CPSP, enhancing medical college benefits. Engaging with officials and staff, the minister pledged support for prompt resolutions.

## Balochistan General Elections 2024: Plan Being Prepared For Peaceful Polls

Manan Mandokhail:



**QUETTA:** In a strategic meeting, Provincial Election Commissioner, Ijaz Anwar Chauhan and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan came together to deliberate on the intricate details of the upcoming general elections. The significant gathering also saw the presence of Additional Chief Secretary Homayoon Baloch and Balochistan Constabulary Salman Chaudhry.

With the elections scheduled for February 8, 2024, the Election Commission, led by Commissioner Ijaz Anwar Chauhan, proudly announced the completion of all necessary arrangements to ensure a peaceful and smooth electoral process. Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan echoed this sentiment, assuring the public that the Balochistan government stands firmly committed to facilitating a seamless election day.

### CS Unveiled A Comprehensive Security Plan

Amongst discussions, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan unveiled a comprehensive security and transport plan meticulously

designed to support the peaceful conduct of the elections.

He affirmed the government's unwavering commitment, pledging full support and cooperation to the Election Commission.

Provincial Election Commissioner Chauhan, expressing the Election Commission's dedication to upholding the principles of fairness and impartiality, emphasized the installation of CCTV cameras at polling stations. Ongoing training sessions for District Returning Officers and Retiring Officers were highlighted as integral components of the preparation process.

### The Stage Is Set For Transparent Elections

Commissioner Chauhan also emphasized the need for basic facilities at polling stations and urged swift repairs for those areas affected by floods. As the collaborative efforts between the Election Commission and the Balochistan government intensify, the stage is set for a transparent and successful electoral process in the province.

### Objections against delimitations cannot be raised after release of election schedule, rules SC

**WEB DESK:** Removing further impediments in the path of February 8 polls, the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday ruled that objections could not be raised against the delimitation of constituencies once the election schedule was released.

The order was passed by a three-member apex court bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and comprising Justices Mansoor Ali Shah and Athar Minallah on a plea filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

In its petition, the electoral body challenged changes to two constituencies in Zhob and Shirani made by the Balochistan High Court. However, the SC set aside the BHC's order today and accepted the ECP's appeal. During the hearing, Justice Minallah asked how could the court use the authority that lawfully lived with the election commission. "Challenges to constituencies have all been rendered ineffective after the release of the election schedule," Justice Shah remarked, highlighting that the electoral process could not be affected to provide relief to an individual. "We have to draw a line and set a limit in this regard," the judge added. Meanwhile, Justice Masood said he did not understand why everyone wanted elections to be delayed. "Let polls take place," he asserted.

## Collaborative Growth with German Consulate's Focal Person for Economic Development

Editor: Asim Khan

### Editorial:

In the bustling city of Quetta, where the echoes of development are becoming increasingly audible, the people and business leaders of Balochistan extend heartfelt appeal to the German Consulate in Karachi. Today, as we reflect on the dynamic friendship between Pakistan and Germany, we take a moment to express our gratitude to the German government for its sponsorship of various development projects that have notably enhanced the socio-economic conditions of our province. Balochistan, with its vast and untapped potential, stands as a reservoir of economic opportunities awaiting exploration through international partnerships. Recognizing this significant potential for collaboration, we underscore the crucial role that the German Consulate can play in promoting economic growth, facilitating trade, and attracting investments to our resource-rich region. The spirit of our appeal lies in a call for enhanced cooperation, urging the German Consulate to initiate dialogues and engagement sessions with local entrepreneurs, industrialists, and investors. This collaborative approach promises not only to benefit the business community but also to contribute significantly to the overall economic development of Balochistan.

Our province boasts unique offerings in sectors such as minerals, agriculture, and fisheries, aligning harmoniously with Germany's interests and expertise. By actively involving the business community, the German Consulate has the opportunity to identify mutually beneficial opportunities and contribute to the prosperity of both regions.

While expressing our appreciation for the appointment of a focal person for the business community of Sindh and Balochistan, we humbly stress the importance of broader consultation with all stakeholders in Balochistan. We believe that inclusive decision-making will undoubtedly enhance the success of such initiatives.

We are optimistic that, under its current leadership, the German Consulate will not only recognize the significance of Balochistan's economic landscape but also take proactive steps to strengthen economic ties. Our people and business leaders constructively engage that fosters a lasting partnership between the German Consulate Karachi and our province. Together, as great friends on the global stage, Pakistan and Germany can unlock the full potential of economic collaboration and contribute to the shared prosperity of our region. Balochistan, with its rich tapestry of opportunities, should not be overlooked in development and key appointments. We trust that our collective efforts will pave the way for a brighter future for all, and as a newspaper, we remain committed to facilitating this collaborative journey toward progress and prosperity.

## Studying habits

By Neda Mujil:

WE'VE often heard human beings are creatures of habit and many of us have become habitual complainers. Studying day seems to be a burden, each conversation drags us into the alleys of despair. Habits also tend to mushroom fast and furiously through society until they become traps. Few can resist the growing tide of habits. Studying can be incultured as a healthy habit in children, yet, we often see students resisting it, perhaps because it is presented as a chore.

A departure from habits, which become a comfort zone for many, would need some conscious forays into planning, reading, implementation. This brings us back to the question: what is our education system really teaching our children? A school leader sighed loudly at a parent-teacher meeting during a conversation: "Let's face it, our children don't read and they don't write." Why do we read so quickly? And how exactly will our children develop a growth mindset, ideas, dreams and perspectives without reading? How will they sustain professional careers without consistently reading to develop skills, learn and implement goals?

We often talk about 21st-century skills but choose to foster in our last century mindsets. There isn't much change in our classic brick-and-mortar schools in the last perhaps 50 years and students are still seen striving for grades, not thriving in their passion to study. If studying habits could be incultured as something to be proud of, we would find

more students being driven by internal motivation. Educators, for example, hope that they can teach not only academic skills but also critical thinking, and enable students to learn through collaboration and constructive engagement. Yet, there is little opportunity or expertise in classrooms to bring these developmental goals into play. Most teachers find themselves racing against time and, in doing so, fall back on their default habit of reading to the children, explaining to the parents, paraphrasing and translating. The students have little agency in what they learn and how they get to practise it.

In a world where students get the immersive experience of being actors and players in their digital video-gaming experiences, we cannot expect them to sit and read. We need to fall back on our auditory learners in class. Not only the curriculum but also teaching methods need to shift towards replicating immersive learning experiences in class where students get an opportunity to lead, learn, argue, play and compete. We see very young children playing video games and diving deep into playing the very same day — they don't need any guidance to unravel even the most complex game. They teach themselves as they are motivated to do so. Reading can be a motivating, immersive experience just like video games, especially if students are given digital opportunities. Where that isn't possible, involving children in reading before every exam which is not only distressful,

books may be a good starting point to motivate primary-level students. Giving up on reading as it is not only a skill for life, but also critical as a job requirement.

The habit of not reading or studying often for exams may be difficult to break but the investment of time and effort in developing good reading habits can pay dividends for life. For example, many students viewing reading as a time-consuming, complaint-worthy activity that they have come to resist as a chore. We could motivate students to study and enjoy it exactly as they enjoy video gaming, where there would be no pressure or reasons to complain. Studying habits develop as a proxy to reading or writing skills. Most parents have fallen into the trap of coaxing and cajoling their children into studying, particularly memorising for tests and exams. Much of the learnt material is discarded from memory soon after the assessments.

For long-term sustained achievement, studying can be skillfully intertwined in the students' daily habits, especially if they are motivated by an internal drive. Much of that drive comes from enjoying the content, engaging with it beyond the classroom, and learning to write as a student studying, not as a chore but as necessary building blocks to growth and success. If these building blocks are ignored at the primary levels, students get into a firefighting mode at the secondary level where they cram the material before every exam which is not only distressful,

As GA resolutions are non-binding and cannot override a veto, they could do nothing to stop the war. This meant Israel's brutal bombardment continued to lay

By Sikander Shah:

INTERNATIONAL courts often fail to convict a genocidal actor because legal precedents have read an extremely narrow and heightened intent requirement in the crime of genocide. Yet, the intent requirement is surmountable, and if surmounted in any individual case, it opens up new avenues for those who support genocide.

Relatively recent convictions for genocide include Bernard Munyagishari, Jean-Paul Akayesu and Jean-Paul Akayesu in Rwanda; and Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic, and Radislav Krstic in the former Yugoslavia.

Once a particular genocidal actor (typically an individual) has been convicted of genocide, their supporters and facilitators can also be charged with a range of predicate offences. The charge of offence applies only if an actor, through their acquaintance has committed specific, relevant offence — for example, the crime of contempt, or complicity in genocide. Thus, successful prosecution is an exercise in finding the "right" multiplier to prosecute, and then using their conviction as the fulcrum for prosecuting their helpers. Since genocide is not considered time-barred, the conviction of any public or private Israeli

actors for genocide at any future point would open up their enablers to charges of complicity in genocide, which entails a lower intent requirement. In recent history, complicity in genocide was highlighted as a possible charge against the US for withdrawing forces from Iraq after 2007, on the grounds that Washington's knowledge that a withdrawal would likely enfeeble Shia attacks on the Sunni minority could fulfil the intent requirement for complicity, Article III of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide enumerates five "modes" of "genocide": (a) direct and public incitement to commit genocide; (b) conspiracy to commit genocide; (c) direct and public incitement to commit genocide; (d) attempt to commit genocide; and (e) complicity in genocide. Article IV defines genocide as the conjunction of a genocidal act with genocidal intent.

A genocidal act may be the killing, serious threat of killing, forcible transfer of children, or forcible control, or other acts calculated to destroy a protected group. To constitute genocide, such an act must be in accord with genocidal intent, which is the "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such". The intent element is very difficult to

prove and has shielded many genocidal actors from conviction for genocide. As the International Court of Justice reasoned in the 2007 case of 'Bosnia & Herzegovina vs Serbia & Montenegro', "It is not enough that the members of the group are targeted because they belong to that group, that is because the perpetrator has a discriminatory intent. Something more is required. The acts must be done with intent to destroy the group as such in whole or in part". In a court-created hyper-specialised intent requirement is rare in the law, and creates the requirement for a "genocidal" approach to the genocidal acts that we see today. Out of the tens of thousands of people who committed genocidal acts privately or as parts of armies, militias, or governments, only 150 have been successfully prosecuted by 2018.

However, even a solving conviction could be enough, because once an actor has met the high intent requirement prescribed by the law, his enablers can face charges for complicity that are easier to prove. In the 1998 case of 'Prosecutor vs Akayesu' vs Akayesu, the trial court of the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda established that the special intent requirement for genocide does not apply to com-

licity to commit genocide. "The intent or mental element of complicity implies in general that, at the moment he acted, the accomplice knew of the assistance he was providing in the commission of the principal offence. In other words, the accomplice must have acted knowingly." In law, acting "knowingly" is an objective standard: a person acts knowingly if they knew, or should have known, the consequences of their support. The fact that a person did not foresee these consequences is not a defence if they are objectively "foreseeable".

The lower intent requirement for complicity in genocide means both that such charges are easier to prove and that they apply to a larger group of contributors. Actors may be complicit even when their purpose might not be to commit genocide. And there are many contributors.

Recently, countries have expedited weapons sales to Israel; blocked the movement or defah of arms to displaced Palestinians at the Rafah crossing; used their veto power at the Security Council to prolong the slaughter by preventing the passage of a binding resolution requiring a humanitarian ceasefire; increased military presence in support of Israel in the Middle East, and threatened

other actors from intervening to protect Palestinians.

Meanwhile, several NGOs including corporations and non-profit organisations have provided funds or support in kind, to the perpetrators. In these cases, evidence of foreknowledge is copious: the news is replete with the unfolding horror in Gaza, and public protests of each supporting move have been loud and clear.

Under the test of complicity in genocide, many of these public and private actors, and particularly key public and private individuals within them, could be held to account. For the sake of humanity and peace, they should be.

Strictly speaking, the Akayesu precedent also suggests that even without a single conviction for genocide, accomplices could still face the complicity charge "as long as the Chamber is aware, all criminal systems provide that an accomplice may also be tried even where the principal perpetrator of the crime has not been identified, or where, for any of the reasons, guilt could not be proven". Bloodied and bullet-riddled as the international order is, the slaughter by preventing the passage of a binding resolution requiring a humanitarian ceasefire; increased military presence in support of Israel in the Middle East, and threatened

## Vetoing peace

By Maleeha Lodhi:

THE UN General Assembly convened again on Dec 12 when Israel's war on Gaza had already claimed 18,000 Palestinian lives. A humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions. The GA adopted a ceasefire resolution for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire by an overwhelming majority — over three-quarters of member states, leaving the US and Israel isolated in the world body. This followed on the heels of the veto exercised by the US in the Security Council (SC) to block a similar ceasefire resolution.

It was the second time the US vetoed a ceasefire resolution, having brought an end to hostilities in Gaza and to Israel's genocidal military operations in October, the US did the same, which was also followed by an extraordinary GA session convened for the Arab and OIC countries.

Then too, the GA vetoed by a decisive majority to demand a humanitarian truce. Both GA resolutions were a clear reflection of world opinion. They were also designed to mount diplomatic pressure on Washington to relent on its opposition to a ceasefire and blind support for Israel. But that didn't happen.

As GA resolutions are non-binding and cannot override a veto, they could do nothing to stop the war. This meant Israel's brutal bombardment continued to lay

waste to Gaza and claim more lives. The veto then has stood between war and peace. This has brought veto power into sharper focus and reignited the debate about why the world's premier body responsible for international peace and security fails to fulfil its obligations when expected to act.

The veto enables the five permanent members of the Security Council to block unilateral actions to prevent resolutions they deem to be against their interests as well as to protect their allies. This results in the Council's paralysis. Failure to take action in the face of war, crisis and mass atrocities legitimises the Council of genocide and the UN Charter's failure to act. The veto is arguably the UN Charter's most anachronistic and controversial provision. The two GA sessions on Gaza in October and December 2023 were convened by invoking this resolution.

Growing calls for SC reform led to the creation in 2009 of the intergovernmental negotiations process. Talks have been going on for over two decades in informal GA sessions with the aim of achieving comprehensive SC reform that addresses five interlinked issues, including categories of membership, question of veto and size of an expanded Council.

There is a general agreement among countries on reform to reflect 21st-century realities and democratic principles to make the Council more representative and accountable. But the UN has been elusive on how to accomplish this — with no solution in sight. The principal discussion has been on the expansion of permanent seats for themselves and others who oppose this and propose enlarging the Council by adding more permanent, non-permanent members. This has put the UN at odds with the United for Consensus countries led by Italy and including Pakistan, Argentina, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Canada and other like-minded states. The UFC argues that the Council's feeble performance in the face of crises, calls for reform and changing global realities also became louder with changing global realities.

The first significant reform proposal was the Council's paralysis came in 1950 with the adoption of the UN Charter (1945) resolution 377, which provided that the GA could consider and make recommendations relating to the maintenance of peace and security if the Security Council fails to act. The two GA sessions on Gaza in October and December 2023 were convened by invoking this resolution.

Reform discussions on the veto have seen a confusing array of proposals ranging from adding more permanent members with veto, without veto, with deferred veto or committed to voluntary restraint; a national capacity or on behalf of a region; an unconditional veto and one subject to periodic review. Given the importance in these negotiations some countries have meanwhile offered proposals to restrict the use of veto in specific contexts. In 2013, France proposed voluntary restraint on the use of veto; a French-Mexican proposal urges voluntary suspension of the veto in situations of mass atrocities. A European proposal suggested restricting the veto in 14 categories of cases. These have remained unimplemented proposals. An important note is that in 2022, the UN's accountability came last year with the GA's adoption of a resolution, which requires the PS to explain and justify their use of veto. This provides for the GA to be convened within 10 days after a veto to debate the situation. The first such debate was held in April 2023.

While these efforts are important, they have not dissuaded the two countries — US and Russia — who have used the veto most frequently over the decades from continuing to do so. The grave consequences of this are being witnessed today in the killing fields of Gaza, where peace has been vetoed.

By Zarzar Khuhro:

WE all have soundtracks to our lives; background music that plays in our heads depending on our mood and situation. We know which songs we like to listen to when we're sad or happy — sometimes to magnify the mood and sometimes to dampen it — because music has the power to unleash and tame emotions. William Congreve was right when he wrote in 1697 that "Musick has

(swords and strikes) celebrates Israel's murderous actions with lyrics that call Palestinians "rats" and "sons of Amalek", and calls upon Israelis to "write names on the bombs, for the children of the Gaza envelope". It also includes death threats against Bella Hadid, Dia Lipa and Mia Khalifa, who have been vocally opposed to Israel's indiscriminate mass slaughter when he kept with the psychopathic nature of

Israel. In recent years, with the rise of the fanatical Sangh Parivar in India, Hindutva hate songs are also popular in Hindutva circles. Lyrics to these songs are played at Hindu rallies and marches through Muslim neighbourhoods, events that are almost always followed by violence and hate crimes. They also seem to enjoy official sanction as one of the "Hindustani" songs of the Bollywood singer Prem

Krishnavanshi, recently received an award from Yogi Adityanath, the fanatical chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. In 1994, the world watched as the Rwandan genocide unfolded. In just four months, anywhere from 500,000 to 800,000 Tutsis were slaughtered by Hutu militias belonging to Interahamwe and their supporters in a murderous orgy where the weak were chosen as the machetes and firearms.

Prominent among the hate singers was Simon Bikindi, who was indicted in 2005 by the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda on six counts for crimes perpetrated during the genocide, including one count of "direct and public incitement to commit genocide".



## Pakistan delegation visits Xinjiang Muqam Art Theater

ISLAMABAD (INP): If anybody from the West and other part of the world want to see Uyghur Muslims and their bustling quality life, "Muqam" knows as the "mother of Uyghur music," is one of the barometers. Muqam's artistic charm blooms in the peaceful and tranquil social atmosphere of Xinjiang. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Does it make sense that oppression is growing on the one hand and music is booming on the other? It could be said that the Western media must come out of the information cocoon of their own creation and accept the reality - the so-called national government supports the suppression of Uyghur Muslims is just a absurd fantasy. Some members of Pakistan Journalists and Think Tank delegation recently visited Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. They visited the Xinjiang Muqam Art Theater and watched live singing, dancing and music performances. Immersed in the beautiful singing, dancing and music, the rumors about the so-called "Uyghur Mus-

lims are being oppressed" were disproven. The delegation had the opportunity to enjoy the Music of Muqam and its theatrical performances. Xinjiang Muqam Art Theatre Director Dilshad Farhat during exclusive interview told that cruel brutality and musical exuberance cannot coexist. Therefore, the flourishing development of Muqam music in Urumqi proves that Uyghur Muslims enjoy wonderful music and a peaceful life.

Encapsulating about Muqam, he said that it integrates song, dance and folk music and is a part of the tapestry that makes up the culture of Xinjiang, a hub on the ancient Silk Road. In 2005, Xinjiang's Twelve Muqams were inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

He added that President Xi Jinping paid special visit to Muqam Art Theater and praised the folk performances. "Obviously, President Xi's visit reflects his determination to promote Uyghur music."



QUETTA: A delegation of Muslim Hands led by Muhammad Kashif's meeting Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar, Principal Secretary of Governor Balochistan Hashim Ghilzai is also present on this occasion.

## Pakistan's exports to China Soar to \$1.3 Billion in recent months

ISLAMABAD (INP): During the initial five months of July-November in the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan experienced a remarkable surge of 72.78% in exports to China compared with the corresponding period in the preceding financial year. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday quoting Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)'s latest statistics.

Pakistan's export growth this fiscal year is primarily attributed to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and favorable prices in the Chinese market. In July-November of the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan recorded \$1307.89 million (1.31 billion) in exports to China, reflecting a significant increase of 72.78% compared to the \$756.98 million exports registered during the same period in the fiscal year 2022-23. Rice exports to China: During the first five months of FY 2023-24, Pakistan has exported rice worth \$1.4 billion to different countries of the world including China.

According to the Pakistan Trade Perspective quarterly trade analysis (1st Quarter), for Pakistan's rice, China, the Philippines, and Nigeria are primary buyers. The value of Pakistan's exports to China during the first five months of FY 2023-24, Pakistan recorded \$1307.89 million (1.31 billion) in exports to China, reflecting a significant increase of 72.78% compared to the \$756.98 million exports registered during the same period in the fiscal year 2022-23. Rice exports to China: During the first five months of FY 2023-24, Pakistan has exported rice worth \$1.4 billion to different countries of the world including China.

wholly milled rice like Pakistan is becoming popular in the Chinese market. In 2022, Pakistan exported rice worth over \$455 million to China. This year, Pakistani exporters are eyeing the Chinese market for a greater share. Cotton Yarn & Refined Copper: In the initial five months of FY 2023-24, Pakistan exported \$480.01 million, and a 49.89% surge in refined copper exports, totaling \$300.56 million compared to the same period in the previous financial year.

A major portion of these commodities was exported to China, owing to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and handsome prices in the Chinese market. Sesame Seed Exports to China: Pakistan predominantly exports sesame seeds, comprising 99% of its total oil seed exports. In early December, the first 50 tons of sesame seeds cultivated through a program initiated by the Chinese company CMEC left for China. Launched in early 2023, this innovative agricultural cooperation aims to expand to 30,000 acres with an anticipated export vol-

ume of 10,000 tons to China. Out of total sesame exports, over 80% were exported to China. Pakistan's sesame seed exports witnessed an upward trend during FY 2023 and FY 2024 owing to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and good prices in the Chinese market. Pakistan's sesame seed exports to China surged to \$148 million during the Q1 of FY 2023-24, showing a growth of 405.8% on a quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis.

In November, sesame seed exports to China reached an unprecedented high of 64,711 tons valued at \$113.66 million, a substantial increase from the 16,728 tons worth \$25.57 million in the previous year. In the past, Pakistan sold most of its sesame to the Middle East before China opened its market for Pakistani sesame. The Chinese market offers a wide range of opportunities for Pakistani sesame exporters. Meat Exports to China: Pakistan, a major global meat producer, primarily exports to six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, along with Vietnam, Afghanistan, Indonesia, and China. Meat and by-product exports from Pakistan surged over 25% to \$

427 million in the last fiscal year and increased by \$20 million to \$113 million in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24. The Organic Meat Company Limited (TOMCL) has achieved a milestone by becoming the first Pakistani company to gain approval from the GACC (General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China) for exporting cooked/heat-treated frozen beef to China.

This approval opens up significant opportunities for Pakistan, given the high demand for such products in China. Handmade carpet exports to China: Pakistan's significant handmade carpet manufacturing sector stands to benefit from China through their inclusion in the free trade agreement. Initially facing challenges such as increased freight fares, rising tax duties, and customs clearance and warehouse expenses leading to a decline in exports, the recent incorporation of hand-knotted carpets into the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement offers a potential turnaround. This inclusion grants duty-free access to China, presenting new opportunities for Pakistani carpet exporters.



## Pakistani brothers shine in Hong Kong Police Force

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani brothers with humble background shine in Hong Kong Police Force. The recent attention on the Chinese internet has focused on the story of He Shawen and Shi Zhishen, two Pakistani brothers who spent their formative years in Hong Kong.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report on Monday, Fluent in Cantonese, English, Mandarin, and Urdu, the duo successfully joined the police force with support from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government and the Hong Kong Police Force.

Renowned for their exceptional operational skills and enriched by their multicultural and multilingual background, the brothers navigate tasks seamlessly, particularly in areas with a concentration of ethnic minorities. In recent years, even if you fail, stick to your original intention and continue towards your goal." "Hong Kong is a diverse society, bringing together people from various countries and

ethnicities. The biggest challenge for non-Chinese individuals is language, preventing them from effectively communicating with locals and better integrating into society," explained Shi Zhishen when discussing the difficulties faced by non-Chinese individuals in Hong Kong. "At that time, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, indicating low-income backgrounds. Despite their father losing the ability to work due to illness, it not only failed to hinder the brothers but instead became a driving force behind their determined efforts. "Regardless of your background, never underestimate your abilities," they said.

People from all walks of life in Hong Kong hold an inclusive and encouraging attitude towards non-indigenous individuals. From the perspective of the police force, we provide translation services for minority local citizens. I hope the example set by us two brothers can inspire ethnic minorities in Hong Kong or local youth," concluded Shi Zhishen. "We can speak

the brothers have successfully joined the Hong Kong police force through this program, with He Shawen (Simon) stationed in the Tuen Mun District Uniformed Patrol Team 3 and his brother Shi Zhishen (Sam) in the Yuen Long District Uniformed Patrol Team 1.

"Our dream has always been to become police officers since we were young," shared Shi Zhishen. During their high school years, they underwent exceptional physical fitness, completing the 2400-meter long-distance run in 7 minutes and 14 seconds, breaking a record that had stood for 28 years at the academy. Instead of getting too immersed in the joy of realizing their dreams, the two brothers continued to explore their worth and push their own limits in their new roles.

"We can speak Cantonese, English, Urdu, and Mandarin, allowing us to communicate with people from countries like Nepal and India. We encourage those living in Hong Kong to diversify their social circles and engage with local friends," added He Shawen. The brothers come from a family covered by the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, indicating low-income backgrounds. Despite their father losing the ability to work due to illness, it not only failed to hinder the brothers but instead became a driving force behind their determined efforts. "Regardless of your background, never underestimate your abilities," they said.

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QUETTA: Secretary Labor and Manpower Abdul Khaliq Mandukhel giving shield to Principal TTC Quetta Shoab Anwar Shirazi

## Al-Shifa to construct eye hospital in Gilgit, govt allocates 20 kanal land

ISLAMABAD (INP): Al-Shifa Trust has announced to construct a state-of-the-art eye hospital in Gilgit Baltistan and the provincial government has allocated 20 prime land for the purpose. According to details, the 20-kanal piece of land was situated on Karakorum Highway near Aga Khan Hospital, accessible to patients from remote areas for treatment. While briefing a board meeting of Al-Shifa Trust, President of the Trust Maj. Gen. (retired) Rehmat Khan said that the GB government had issued allotment letter during his recent visit to the area.

The site allocated for the eye hospital is just three kilometres away from the city, and the hospital will be able to treat 150 OPD patients per day and conduct 50 surgeries daily, he in-

formed. Rehmat Khan said that the hospital will be constructed with the help of the Rupani Foundation Pakistan, which has been reaching out to vulnerable populations for the last 16 years. This hospital will be the first state-of-the-art hospital in the area, which will cost around 220 million rupees, and the Rupani Foundation will bear half of its cost while the trust will arrange the remaining cost through donations, he informed.

The trust's president said the hospital's ground-breaking ceremony will be held in March 2024, and the grey structure will be completed by July 2025. He noted that people of GB are badly affected by eye diseases, and a large number are facing blindness due to cataracts; therefore,

**PRE-IDENTIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS**

(IMPROVED VARIETY OF PLANTS AND HIGH IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY SYSTEM & TRELLISES)

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

**Country:** Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**Loan No. / Credit No. / Grant No.:** IDA65440 / IDA05650

The Government of Baluchistan (GOB) has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Baluchistan Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Pre-identification of Suppliers of supplying & installation of high tunnel system. The Project Management and Implementation Unit (PMUI), Baluchistan Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Project (BLEP) now invites interested firms/companies to submit their detailed profiles containing the following information duly supported by necessary documents. The qualification criteria for firms is as below:

Firms must be registered in FBR as an active firm. Cultivators / dealers / firm must have at least 10 years relevant working experience of supplying improved variety of plants, high irrigation efficiency system & trellises (where required). Cultivators / dealers / firm must have at least 10 acres in Baluchistan Province. Cultivators / dealers / firm must have at least two (02) years' experience in Baluchistan of supplying / cultivating improved variety of plants such as Pomegranate, grapes, olives, pistachio and supplying / installation of high irrigation efficiency system & trellises where required. Documentary evidence must be required e.g. copies of FBR registration certificate, contract letter of award / work order / completion certificates or reference letter from clients stating scope of services, deliveries & duration of contract. Detailed Firm's Profiles containing above information must be delivered to the address given below by 11th January 2024 at 11:00 AM. Address: House # 450-50 Takh Awar, Kill Shitro, Old Chaman Housing Scheme, Airport Road, Quetta, Baluchistan. Tel: 092-91-2223234, 092-81-2823217 Email: info@blep.org.pk

**HEAD OF PROJECT (BLEP)**

AR No: 210/15-12-2023  
www.blep.org.pk | @blep\_pak | blep.org.pk | info@blep.org.pk

ISLAMABAD: Prize winners of Intercollegiate Quaid Day Speech contest pose for group photo with Chief guest Prof Rozina Faheem held at FG Home Economics College F-11/1 on Monday.



## A Forgotten War: Sudan

Syed Muhammad Qassem:

It has been more than eight months since the ferocious war in Sudan started. Unfortunately, it (the war) has been forgotten by the mainstream media and world leaders, as much of the world's attention is on Ukraine and Gaza. The United Nations (UN) stated that Sudan is faced with a hunger catastrophe; around 25 million people require humanitarian aid. Moreover, the UN revealed its statistics, more than 6 million people were displaced in Sudan as a result of the war. Furthermore, till now, more than 12000 people have been killed.

Since the war's inception, Khartoum and Chad have remained the main battleground between the Army and the Para-Military Forces. People are forced to leave their houses and live in refugee camps, for their safety.

The situation in Sudan is dire; the already crippled economy has become more vulnerable; inflation has skyrocketed; people are faced with water and food scarcity.



### Background of the War:

The war is a struggle for power between the Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Force (RSF) over the disagreement on RSF's integration into the Army.

Both leaders, Al-Burhan and Hamdan, accuse each other of starting the war and continuously refuse to negotiate. The infighting has left every sector of life paralyzed. The UN and other key organizations should take immediate steps to mediate a ceasefire.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi at Naval Headquarters.

## Sui Southern Gas Company Launches Annual Winter Safety Campaign in Quetta

News Desk:

QUETTA: The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has kicked off its annual winter safety awareness campaign with a fleet march of service vans patrolling the city of Quetta. This initiative, spanning two decades, aims to prevent the loss of precious human lives caused by the careless use of gas heaters by emphasizing preventive measures.

Anwar Baloch, SSGC's Regional General Manager for Balochistan, spoke to the media during the campaign launch, stressing the critical need for public awareness. He highlighted that despite the yearly execution of the campaign, fatal accidents often occur due to users' negligence in handling gas heaters.

### SSGC Determines To Provide Uninterrupted Supply

Baloch further reassured the public that the issue of gas pressure has been successfully addressed in central areas of Quetta city, including Sabzal Road and Saraya Road. According to him, the demand and supply of gas are now balanced throughout the city.



Salman Ahmed Siddiqui, SSGC's Spokesperson, noted a significant reduction in the number of citizen deaths attributed to the awareness campaign.

He acknowledged the crucial role played by the media in disseminating this vital message and expressed gratitude to the media fraternity for their partnership.

### Media Contributed To The Success Of The Campaign

Siddiqui emphasized that the collaborative efforts of SSGC and the media have contributed to the

success of the campaign in creating a safer environment for residents during the winter season. The campaign's ongoing impact demonstrates the positive outcomes achievable through community engagement and responsible gas usage practices.

As winter unfolds, SSGC urges citizens to prioritize safety and adhere to the guidelines provided in the campaign to ensure a hazard-free heating season. Through continued awareness initiatives, the company remains committed to safeguarding lives and promoting a culture of responsible gas consumption in Quetta.

## ACEB Unveils Financial Investigation Unit to Intensify Anti-Corruption Drive in Balochistan

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a significant stride towards intensifying the fight against corruption, the Anti-Corruption Establishment Balochistan (ACEB) has inaugurated a Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) under a pioneering project funded by the U.S. Embassy's Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INLE). The initiative, implemented through Accountability Lab, aims to fortify ACEB's capabilities in tackling the evolving patterns and intricate nature of financial crimes.

Mr. Abdul Wahid Kakar, Director of ACEB, stressed the urgency of adopting a proactive approach in combating corruption, especially considering the dynamic landscape of financial crimes. The agency grapples with multifaceted challenges, including identifying corrupt transactions, unraveling crime patterns, locating stolen assets, and navigating situations involving multiple jurisdictions for asset repatriation and confiscation. Addressing these challenges necessitates



specialized unit equipped with enhanced investigative capabilities and resources.

### FIU Is Poised To Bolster ACEB's Endeavors

The newly established FIU is poised to bolster ACEB's endeavors in investigating corruption and money laundering cases within the province.

Beyond conducting inquiries and investigations, the unit will play a pivotal role in sharing information on corruption cases with other law enforcement agencies at strategic lev-

els. Mr. Yasir Amanat, Program Specialist for Rule of Law, and Corrections at INLE, lauded ACEB for taking a proactive lead in implementing this crucial project. Recognizing the indispensable role of the media in reporting on corruption cases, Mr. Kakar emphasized the pivotal role of journalists as allies in advancing ACEB's mission. He underscored that journalist support is paramount in exposing corrupt practices, advocating for transparency, and mobilizing citizen engagement to fortify anti-corruption efforts.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki is participating in the video link meeting held by the Caretaker Federal Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar of regarding the implementation of federal expenses related to provincial affairs.

## Experts urge urgent steps to choke forex trade black market

ISLAMABAD (INP): Experts have urged the government to take urgent steps to curb the forex trade black market as Pakistan now cannot afford to leave billions of dollars in the shadow of illegal inflow of money. "The time is to act now. Pakistan cannot afford to leave billions of dollars in the shadows of informality. By taking decisive steps and forging strong partnerships, the country can create a win-win situation, benefiting both overseas Pakistanis and the nation as a whole," said General Secretary of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP), Zafar Paracha.

The government has recently moved to tackle the illegal flow of money through a country-wide crackdown, bringing in the much-needed recovery of a massive \$900-million. "This initiative seizing social evils like hawala/hundi aims to revitalize Pakistan's foreign reserves," Paracha said. "Furthermore, promoting financial literacy and awareness among both senders and receivers of remittances is essential. Educating individuals about the benefits of formal channels, such as access to credit, insurance, and social security benefits, can encourage them to switch," he stressed. For decades, remittances have been a lifeline for Pakistan's economy, a steady flow of hard-earned money sent by millions of overseas workers. Paracha said, "These funds, estimated at over \$31 billion in 2022, have fuelled consumption, propped up real estate, and provided crucial support to families back home," she continued. "Yet a significant portion of these inflows moves through the informal sector, evading taxes and hindering long-term economic development. This brings us to the ques-

tion; can Pakistan lure this money back into the formal fold and unlock its full potential? To find the answer we must get to the root cause of why the informal channel is used in the first place," he added. Commenting on the issue of black-market forex trade, Rashid Ashraf, CEO of ACE Money Transfer, said most Pakistani diasporas turn towards informal channels like hawala/hundi so as to avoid taxes and formal procedures, which they wrongly consider to be complex and tricky. "Consequently, the money that flows through unregulated channels assists various crimes and terror financing while putting Pakistani expats' hard-earned money at stake," he mentioned.

Rashid Ashraf said that in order to reinforce declining remittance inflows to Pakistan from abroad, ACE Money Transfer has entered into collaboration with Bank Alfalah through which expatriates will be provided with seamless, secure, and swift financial services. "Our partnership with Bank Alfalah is a strategic move that's poised to reinforce the declining remittance inflows to Pakistan from abroad," Rashid Ashraf said, adding that the collaboration with Bank Alfalah will revolutionize the remittance landscape in Pakistan. "This partnership signifies our shared commitment to providing expatriates with seamless, secure, and swift financial services. Together, we are dedicated to empowering our customers and contributing to the economic prosperity of Pakistan by enhancing the convenience and reach of remittance services across the country," he said. "Pakistani expats can pay utility bills and send money home in the form of quick airtime top-ups to their loved ones, enhancing the user experience by integrating more convenient features into the remittance process by using ACE Money Transfer mobile app. This indicates a broader scope of service offerings beyond mere remittances, aiming to streamline financial transactions for the Pakistani diaspora," he concluded.

President and CEO of Bank Alfalah, Atif Bajwa, said the partnership with ACE Money Transfer has proven to be a pivotal step in enhancing the ease of sending international remittances to Pakistan as well as offering an unparalleled blend of convenience and reliability to the Pakistani diaspora. "We hope to see positive results of our joint campaign with ACE Money Transfer to encourage overseas Pakistanis worldwide to extend their helping hands to Pakistan's foreign reserves in the form of remittances sent through regulated channels," he further said. "Bank Alfalah, through its strategic alliance with ACE Money Transfer, can actively contribute to the economic inflow crucial to the nation's stability. By integrating their offerings beyond mere transactional services, Bank Alfalah attempts to facilitate financial transfers and also enriches the remittance experience," he said. Mr. Bajwa said Pakistanis living in foreign countries need to extend their support aligned with the strategies being implemented in the country to curb the black-market remittance flows so as to aid Pakistan's foreign reserves. "By opting for regulated channels of remittances, of which ACE Money Transfer and Bank Alfalah are an example, the Pakistani diaspora can push the country out of the economic turbulence," he concluded.



QUETTA: DG Benazir Income Support Program Pakistan Naveed Akbar is meeting Additional Chief Secretary Interior Zahid Saleem. DC Chaman Director BISP Balochistan is also present on this occasion.

## Enemies of Pakistan started terrorism to destabilize country: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that as soon as the country's economic situation improved with heavy investment in various projects, velocity to terrorism started increasing in country.

Talking to business community on Monday, he said that a stable Pakistan was not acceptable to enemies, so they have increased terrorist activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to fulfill their nefarious designs.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the martyrdom of 25 soldiers of Pakistan Army in a single incident of terrorism was not an uncommon occurrence that has left the entire nation in mourning.

The government and the army were making efforts to crush the terrorists, which need to be accelerated as these terrorists were ruining the country, he

added. The business leader said that it has become necessary to send terrorists to hell while destroying their hideouts. Otherwise, they will continue to be trouble for twenty-five crore people and will not allow any development project to go ahead so that Pakistan becomes a bankrupt country.

He said that the leadership of TTP is playing with the integrity of the country by operating from a neighbouring country and carrying out terrorist activities in Pakistan.

Mian Zahid Hussain underlined that condemning such incidents will not work, but a lot can be done in cooperation with the international community and friendly countries.

Afghanistan will not remain safe if Pakistan is destabilised, therefore, the leadership of both countries should come together to find a solution to the problem but that peace, stability, and development in the region can continue unhindered.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that international organisations were taking an extraordinary interest in elections in Pakistan and were repeatedly expressing their opinion in this regard. Therefore, the elections should not be postponed under any circumstances.

It was also essential to ensure transparency in elections so that it could result in political stability. It won't be easy to run the economy without a reduction in political temperature.

He said that the political climate must be conducive, otherwise, reform, development, and essential economic recovery projects will face opposition.

The current government has done valuable work for economic stability. Still, if political instability continues after the election, all measures taken to manage the country's economy will be futile. The country will again be forced to beg, and strict conditions of lenders would be imposed on those who have already been buried alive, he said.