

QUETTA VOICE

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Wisdom and Vision: Shaping Balochistan's Future in the 2024 Elections

Syed Ali Shah:



As the political landscape of Balochistan gears up for the upcoming general elections on February 8, 2024, the province finds itself at a crucial juncture, facing multifaceted challenges that demand careful consideration and thoughtful decision-making from its residents.

The list of candidates vying for leadership reflects the diverse voices and aspirations of the people, and voters must make wise and informed choices for the betterment of the province and the nation.

Maulana Fazal ur Rehman's decision to contest the elections in NA-265 comes at a time when the political dynamics in Dera Ismail Khan are undergoing significant changes, with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) gaining momentum.

The pressures and challenges in his home city have compelled the Chief of Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) to step into the political arena, presenting a unique opportunity for voters to evaluate his vision for addressing the issues faced by the region.

Akhtar Mengal, Mahmood Achakzai, Dr. Malik Baloch, Jam Kamal, Nawab Aslam Raisani Contesting Elections

Balochistan, with its vast and diverse population, is home to leaders with distinct political affiliations. Mahmood Khan Achakzai of Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Sardar

Akhtar Jan Mengal of Balochistan National Party (BNP),

Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch of National Party (NP), former Chief Ministers, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani, Jam Kamal Khan, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Sardar Saleh Bhootani, Khushal Khan Kakar of Pakhtunkhwa National Awami Party (PNAP), and Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani of Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam Pakistan are among the prominent figures contesting in this crucial election.

The province, however, grapples with persistent challenges, ranging from backwardness and a sense of deprivation to issues related to education, health, and the impending threat of climate change.

The candidates must not only articulate their plans for tackling these issues but also demonstrate a commitment to fostering unity and collaboration to bring about positive change.

The Elected Leaders Must Prioritize Inclusive Policies

Backwardness and a sense of deprivation have long plagued Balochistan, hindering its progress and development. The elected leaders must prioritize inclusive policies that bridge the gaps between urban and rural areas, ensuring equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

Education and health are fundamental pillars of societal development. The candidates should

present comprehensive plans for improving the education system, ensuring access to quality healthcare, and addressing the specific needs of Balochistan's diverse population.

Looming Threat Of Climate Change Poses A Significant Threat To The Province

Furthermore, the looming threat of climate change poses a significant challenge to the province.

Leaders must advocate for sustainable policies that protect the environment, support local communities, and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and livelihoods. In this critical moment,

voters hold the power to shape the future of Balochistan and contribute to the progress of Pakistan as a whole.

It is incumbent upon them to carefully evaluate the candidates' platforms, assess their commitment to addressing the pressing issues, and choose leaders who can navigate the complexities of governance with vision and integrity.

The forthcoming elections provide an opportunity for Balochistan to rise above political divides and work towards a future that prioritizes the welfare of its people. By making a wise decision at the ballot box, voters can contribute to building a stronger, more prosperous Balochistan that stands resilient in the face of challenges, united in its pursuit of progress and development.

Balochistan Governor Meets Federal Ministers to Address Women's Arrest

Dawood Ahmed:



ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar reached the federal capital and met federal ministers regarding the arrest of Baloch women. The Governor met federal ministers Fawad Hassan Fawad, Syed

Jamal Shah and Murtaza Solangi and discussed the arrest of Baloch women by Islamabad police the other day. Governor's visit came after the Balochistan National Party (BNP) Chief, Sardar Akhtar Mengal announced that

the Governor would meet the President and the Caretaker Prime Minister regarding the women's arrest. If the issue was not resolved, the Governor would tender resignation, Akhtar Mengal told a news conference. The arrest of

Baloch women by Islamabad police sparked an outcry across the country and the people demanded an immediate release. "This is a complex issue, and we will try to solve it", Syed Jamal Shah, the federal caretaker minister said.

Govt to ensure free, fair, transparent general elections: Solangi



ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said that the interim government will spare no efforts to ensure holding of free, fair and transparent general elections on February 8, 2024.

Talking to media persons on Friday, he ruled out any possibility of delay in general elections and reiterated that polls would be held as per schedule already announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Murtaza Solangi said that Chief Election Commissioner Raja Sultan did enjoy the confidence of majority people and there was no question of his resignation.

He said that the committee, constituted by the Prime Minister, was doing its work. Currently the Governor Balochistan was in Islamabad and consultations with him were underway, he added. Moreover, today a meeting of this committee with the Prime Minister was also scheduled, he said.

that media channels initially gave feasibility reports to PEMRA which was also required at the time of issuance of licence. He said that under PEMRA Amendment Act 2023, the journalists' jobs were protected.

Murtaza Solangi assured that the government would take legal measures to protect the employment of journalists. The minister said an unpleasant and unwarranted situation had arisen regarding the protesters from Balochistan and added their demands were long-standing. He said all women and children had been released besides most of the men, adding their protection was being fully ensured.

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ECP decides against letting PTI retain 'bat' as electoral symbol

Peshawar: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday decided against letting the PTI retain its 'bat' electoral symbol for the February 8 general election.

The reserved verdict was announced a day after the Peshawar High Court (PHC) directed the electoral watchdog to decide on PTI's intra-party polls and electoral symbol by today in "accordance with the law".

The development also came hours after the PTI met with the commission following the Supreme Court's order for the ECP to address the party's concerns regarding lack of a level playing field in the run up to the polls. According to the PTI, the ECP had assured its delegation that it would address its grievances.

Setting a new precedence, the ECP had taken notice of the PTI's intra-party in which Barrister Gohar Ali Khan was easily elected as the party's new chairman. The polls were held on December 3 days after the ECP declared as null and void the intra-party polls held in June 2022, giving the PTI 20 days to hold fresh elections or be ready to become ineligible for the poll symbol.

However, the party was on the receiving end of sharp criticism over the polls as estranged PTI founding member Akbar S. Babar announced that he would challenge the entire process. He had alleged that the PTI had car-



ried out a selection process aimed at throwing out party workers to give the reins to a few lawyers.

Subsequently, Akbar had approached the ECP against the intra-party elections, alleging it was "rigged and fraudulent". Various other petitions were also submitted to the ECP along similar lines as Babar's with the mutual demands of declaring the intra-party election without effect and orders for the exercise to be carried out anew.

On Tuesday, a five-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, had reserved judgement on the matter linked to the allocation of the 'bat'

as the PTI's electoral symbol.

In its order, which was posted on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), the ECP said that according to the PTI constitution, the Federal Election Commission would be formed to hold intra-party elections.

It said the record submitted by the PTI did not show that any competent authority had appointed the Federal Election Commission in line with established procedure.

It added that the appointment of a single federal election commissioner was not a requirement of the PTI constitution and such an individual could not exercise any power to hold the intra-party

elections in the absence of a complete commission.

The ECP said the PTI had not complied with its directions and had failed to hold intra-party elections in accordance with the party's prevailing constitution and the election laws.

"Therefore, the certificate dated December 4 and Form-65 filed by the alleged chairman, is hereby regretted and rejected accordingly," the ECP said.

The provisions of Section 215 of the Election Act, 2017 are hereby invoked and the PTI is hereby declared ineligible to obtain the election symbol for which they have applied for," the ECP said. News Desk

Maulana Fazal ur Rehman Candidate for NA-265 in Upcoming Elections

Asmatullah Hanafi:

PISHIN: Chief of the Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI), Maulana Fazal ur Rehman is a candidate for the NA-265 in the upcoming general elections 2024. On Friday, Maulana Abdul Wasey, the JUI Balochistan Amir, Asghar Khan Tareen, a former member provincial assembly and Syed Matiullah Agha, the former deputy speaker of Balochistan Assembly submitted Maulana's nomination papers.

Sources within the JUI said the Maulana has decided to contest elections following



mounting pressure from the former ruling party i.e.

Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) in his home city Dera Ismail Khan. The popularity graph of the former ruling party increased.

Maulana has a strong support base in the Pishin district of Balochistan.

Speakers discuss future opportunities in building IT talent ecosystem

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speakers at an event hosted by the University of Bahrain on the sidelines of the Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 regional final awards ceremony in Manama, shared their thoughts on building the IT talent ecosystem and the significance of public-private partnerships in nurturing innovations.

The University of Bahrain is a partner of the Huawei ICT (Information Communications Technology) Competition 2023-2024 regional

final and hosted the official closing and awards ceremonies for the program in this year. The forum panel discussion featured Dr Jassim Haji, President of the International Group of Artificial Intelligence; Dr Hessa Jassim Al-Junaid, Dean of the College of Information Technology, University of Bahrain; Dr Tilda Karkour Akki, Associate Dean of the School of Engineering, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK); and Amr Hattam, Policy Director, GSMA MENA. The discussion was moderated by Ammar Tobba, VP of Middle East and Central Asia Region.

The panelists also shared their thoughts on driving digital transformation, building a sustainable knowledge-based digital economy in the region, and raising national competitiveness in line with the government's national plans and visions. Gender equality in technology was also highlighted as a pressing need during the discussion.

The forum was attended by university students and tutors, government partners, information technology (IT) professionals, academia, and media representatives from 11 Middle East and Central Asia participating countries. Dr Hessa Jassim Al-Junaid underlined the

importance of an open collaboration between universities and the public and private sectors to develop curriculum and upskilling students on the latest technologies, such as 5G and Cyber Security.

She said, "The Huawei ICT talent initiative offers students practical skill development opportunities through hands-on challenges and real-world scenarios facilitated by Huawei professionals and experts. It fosters critical thinking and confidence-building among participants. Winning or receiving recognition in the competition can serve as a valuable addition to a student's academic portfolio, highlighting their accomplishments."

"Rather than creating new/dedicated cultivation window for soybean production, the existing area under cultivation of sugarcane and maize bears the potential to produce up to 2.7 million tons of soybean with the same land, water and fertilizer resources that are being supplied to these major crops."

This was stated by Dr. Sajad Hussain from the National Research Center of Inter cropping (NRCI) at the just-concluded National Workshop on Soybean Production by FAO to make possible solutions for reducing soybean's import bill of \$1 billion by domestically producing 2-2.5 million tons of soybeans. In the technical session, representatives of different institutes shared their research, current challenges and status of soybean cul-



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Finance Minister Amjad Rasheed cutting the Christmas cake with the Christian community.

Media Forum calls for objective narrative of CPEC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 8th CPEC Media Forum has called for objective narrative of CPEC amid fruitful outcomes, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

The Forum was held here and Gwadar both online and offline. It saw the unfolding of several key events, including the CPEC Golden Anchor Awarding Ceremony, the launch of the CPEC Media Forum Balochistan Initiative, and the use of "selective facts, emotions, and sometimes misleading stories" by the Western media against CPEC.

The letter stated, "Under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries and the care and support of people from all sectors, China-Pakistan relations have grown in depth in recent years and bilateral cooperation in various fields has yielded fruitful results."

The positive role of CPEC in Pakistan was echoed by Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Fed-

eral Minister for Information & Broadcasting, who stated that the economic corridor "has transformed Pakistan's socioeconomic landscape, addressing a dire energy crisis and crumbling infrastructure," and "has generated 236,000 jobs since 2013, and is set to create 1.2 million direct jobs, contributing to local workforce development and reducing regional disparities."

In response to the use of "selective facts, emotions, and sometimes misleading stories" by the Western media against CPEC, Murtaza called for media personnel of both countries to engage in the objective reporting of CPEC and disseminate accurate and unbiased narratives responsibly.

Zheng Qiongdong, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, to the CPEC Media Forum. The forum commenced with Cui Jun, President of China Economic Net, reading out a congratulatory letter from Sun Wendong, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, to the CPEC Media Forum.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Senate Defense Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, noted that CPEC, featuring openness, inclusivity, and connectivity, has advanced notably and "the best of CPEC is yet

to come." He added that challenges such as the issue of fake news from the West around China-Pakistan cooperation should be tackled.

Secretary of China Journalists Association, advocated for objective reporting to counter misinformation against CPEC, and stressed the importance of social media for positive narrative of bilateral cooperation.

She also called for enhanced Chinese-Pakistan media cooperation through news cooperation and training sessions. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong highlighted the major cooperation features between China and Pakistan this year.

This encompasses high-level government exchange and cooperation, deepening CPEC cooperation, as well as fruitful outcomes in livelihood projects.

Jiang further noted that to counter fake news against China-Pakistan cooperation, media in both countries were encouraged to enhance cooperation, diversify content, innovate communication methods, extend media platforms, and widen audience reach.

Following the welcoming remarks and speeches, three panel discussions were held. The topics ranged from exploring green development opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and concerted efforts to counter propaganda and disinformation against CPEC to reviewing achievements and future plans for CPEC.

The Perceptions of CPEC in Pakistan, a research paper which, through a questionnaire interview of 350 Pakistani people across different age groups and various sectors of stakeholders, assessed how Pakistani people view CPEC and explored the reasons for their responses. The forum also included workshops for lawmakers in Balochistan, and internship opportunities for Baloch youth. The Joint Statement of 8th China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum was also inaugurated, in which 11 points were made to celebrate a decade of China-Pakistan cooperation in infrastructure and energy.

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ICCI in such future events. He said that a peaceful environment was a key requirement to promote business and investment activities and stressed that Islamabad Police should take ICCI on board to further improve the security situation in the Capital. He highlighted the need for improved security in the rural areas in Islamabad and stressed that the police should work in close liaison with the trade associations of rural areas for this purpose. He said that police should register the data of all security guards deployed in the markets and housing societies of rural areas to verify their credentials and make sure that clean record holders are employed.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on health related issues and role of Mosques, at Aitwan-e-Sad.

Chinese intercropping tech tailored for Pakistan to reduce soybean imports

ISLAMABAD (INP): Dr. Sajad presented the practical and possible solution of soybean cultivation with intercropping technology in Pakistan. He emphasized that designating new area for soybean as well as convincing the farmers for large scale mono-cropping of soybean at the expense of compromising cultivation area of major crops would be extremely difficult. "4 major crops i.e. wheat (9 million ha), maize (1.6 million ha), sugarcane (1.26 million ha) and cotton (1.9 million ha) are being cultivated extensively. To produce soybean of the target, we will need to cultivate soybean on at least 2 million ha by replacing any other major crop," he said.

According to Dr. Sajad, under the present challenging scenario of soybean demand in Pakistan, the strip inter-

cropping of soybean with other major crops would be the best possible solution. Since 2018, Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza, a post-doc who graduated from Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU), China, and now acts as the Director of NRCI, has started to promote China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology in Pakistan with his professor Yang Wenyu's support and guidance, which has received good response in recent years. "Up till now, over 2,000 farmers have successfully practiced intercropping in Pakistan," Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza revealed. Currently, NRCI is working on the different cereal-legume intercropping systems including wheat-based and sugarcane-based intercropping system.

Moreover, local scientists at the institute has already developed and optimized the maize-soybean and sugarcane-soybean intercropping systems as a possible solution to beat the rising import bill of soybean in Pakistan. "Through these optimized intercropping systems, we can harvest an additional 1 ton of soybeans at least along with 72 tons of sugarcane or 7.5 tons of maize per hectare," Dr. Sajad concluded. The session chair of Formulation of National Plan for Soybean Production, Vice Chancellor, University Agriculture Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad endorsed the potential of intercropping systems especially the sugarcane-soybean intercropping to address the soybean production problems in Pakistan. He stressed to include the soybean-based intercropping systems of NRCI.

Indus River System Authority (IRSA) releases 61,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 61,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 36,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1474.77 feet and was 74.77 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 18,000 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jehlum at Mangla Dam was 1156.55 feet, which was 106.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 4,700 cusecs and 26,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 27,800, 31,600, 26,000 and 500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 6,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.



LORALAI: Police action against drug smugglers, 50 kg hashish recovered, 2 suspects are under arrest.

Provision of secure environment to businessmen of Capital assured

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Police officials have assured measures for providing environment to the business community in the ICT area. The assurance was made by ASP Rural Shehzad Akbar and SHO Koral Malik, Rasheed who visited Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, President CCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari thanked ASP Rural and SHO Koral Malik, Rasheed who visited Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, President CCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari thanked ASP Rural and SHO Koral Malik, Rasheed who visited Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, President CCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari thanked ASP Rural and SHO Koral Malik, Rasheed who visited Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) on Friday.

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S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1.	Animal Feed & Medicine (Total Items) Count: 20	2%

The Superintendent, Government Poultry Farm Kohlu invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items:
TSE-23241238481 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered An Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 2000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 1 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 1,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turnover of at least 1,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax-Payer List Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security to Invoice Bid Security to fulfil financial guarantee. If financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee Procedure of Procurement/Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure: Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Cell of 2%, specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed till 05 January, 2024 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 05 January, 2024 till 16:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: Government Poultry Farm Kohlu Phone no: 0292667471 Email: ozaibsoor52@gmail.com

Superintendent,
Government Poultry Farm Kohlu
PRQ No. 1215/22-12-2023
CP www.dgpp.gov.pk, for order, 0292667471, for info, 0292667471



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakel Qadir Khan is presiding over the meeting.

India making IIOJK as its Hindutva military colony: Report

ISLAMABAD (INP): India is treating its illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir as its colony right from 27 October 1947 when it forcibly landed its troops in Srinagar and occupied the territory against the will of the Kashmiri people.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service on Friday said that colonization of IIOJK by military policies has been a long-pending dream of Hindutva Kashmiriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The report pointed out that redrawing of electoral boundaries, the BJP government is using to advance Hindutva's dangerous game plan in IIOJK after abrogation of articles 370 and 35A.

The report said the BJP regime is creating colonial settlements in occupied Jammu and Kashmir on the pattern of Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and it removed the barrier to colonize Kashmir by revoking Article 370

of the Indian Constitution, which granted special status to occupied Kashmir. The report maintained that India illegally changed laws and gave state subjects, lands and settlement entry to non-Kashmiri people, which damaged the demography of IIOJK in violation of the United Nations resolutions. India is freely violating the international law in Jammu and Kashmir, which is a disputed territory recognized by the United Nations Security Council and the world community, it deplored.

It said India, by using its more than one million military and paramilitary troops, has converted the disputed territory into a colony of the stone-age when the people used to be treated as slaves without having the fundamental rights.

Earlier, the dirty draft plan of delimitation was part of India's systematic social colonization campaign to subjugate Muslim majority, minimize its role and provide

political mileage to the BJP to enable it to form government in the territory so that it could legalize and legitimize the 5th August 2019 controversial decision and the subsequent actions it had taken so far on Kashmir.

The Modi-led Indian regime in its colonial cunningness is hell bent to rob the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their well-bonded brotherhood and create an atmosphere of hatred and animosity between them to further the communal Hindutva agenda of RSS.

The Indian occupation authorities in IIOJK are scaling properties owned by Kashmiris, including those dedicated to educational institutions offering free education to the disadvantaged people. The only way to lasting peace in South Asia is granting the people of IIOJK their inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the report maintained.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with the President, Directing Staff of National Defence University and graduating Civil Service officers of National Security Course-2024.

Protests In Balochistan Against Arrest Of Women In Islamabad

QUETTA: Protest demonstrations were held in various parts of Balochistan in response to the arrest of Baloch women by Islamabad police.

Balochistan National Party (BNP) Chief, Sardar Akhtar Mengal, led a demonstration in Islamabad, demanding the immediate release of the detained women in the federal capital. Participants, including women and children, echoed the demands of the Baloch Yekjehti Committee (BYC) in Islamabad. Sardar Akhtar Mengal, addressing the protesters in Khuzdar, urged the authorities to heed their demands and release the Baloch women.

The demonstrators, in solidarity with BYC, blocked the main Khuzdar Chowk. Similar protests unfolded in Awaran, Gwadar, Turbat, and other parts of Balochistan, with participants supporting the BYC's demands.

The demonstrators, in solidarity with BYC, blocked the main Khuzdar Chowk. Similar protests unfolded in Awaran, Gwadar, Turbat, and other parts of Balochistan, with participants supporting the BYC's demands.

The federal ministers assured that the government was actively investigating the incident, committing to exhaustive efforts to resolve the issue promptly.

Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar, engaged with caretaker federal ministers, including Fawad Hassan Fawad, Murtaza Solangi, and Syed Jamal Shah, seeking intervention for the release of the Baloch women.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal's announcement that the Governor would resign from his position if the government failed to secure the release of the Baloch women.

In a recent press conference in Quetta, Sardar Akhtar Mengal stated that the Governor would resign from his position if the government failed to secure the release of the Baloch women.



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KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Education Minister, Madad Ali Sindhi distributing the mementos during the 1st Annual Conference 2023 at Examination and Assessment Practices in Karachi.

Need to reform examination, assessment system as per modern era: Minister

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi has stressed the need for a paradigm shift in educational examinations and assessment systems to align them with the requirements of the era of modern technologies.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 2-day IBCC 1st Annual Conference titled "Examination and Assessment Practices in Pakistan" here on Friday, he said that examinations and assessment were pillars of the educational system and it was essential to adopt those measures which encourage critical thinking, creative abilities and practical implementation of knowledge.

Organized by the Inter Board Coordination Commission (IBCC) here at a private university, the conference was attended by vice-chancellors of universities, chairmen of different boards of education from across the country, academicians, teaching faculty and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Madad Ali Sindhi said that with extensive research and advent of modern technologies educational scenarios around the globe were transforming rapidly and it was essential for Pakistan to bring necessary changes in its examination and assessment systems accordingly.

Underscoring the significance of utilizing advanced technologies assessment the minister stated that the use of digital technology in the examination could help improve the educational system. He also urged the need to take pivotal steps for maintaining standards of fairness, honesty and transparency in the system. The Education Minister reiterated that there was no other option for the development and progress of Pakistan except quality education and focusing on three core factors- better curriculum, trained teaching faculty and a conducive and encouraging environment.

He expressed dismay that in the past the most important sector of education could not get proper attention in policies of previous governments and electoral manifestos of political parties.

Now when the nation is heading towards general elections, all the political parties must

prioritize education, economy, clean drinking water and health in their manifestos as resolving the issues of masses was their responsibility," he advised and urged the masses to play their role in the regard as well.

Madad Ali Sindhi expressed hope that the education and examination and assessment would provide all stakeholders with a platform for discussion and discourse on future challenges, devising the way forward and playing an important role in bringing significant changes in the educational system of the country.

Executive Director IBCC Professor Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, stressing the need for improvement in standards of education and assessment termed the maiden IBCC conference as the first step in this direction.

IBCC is a platform with representation all the educational boards of the country that review proposals and recommendations presented by board authorities and take unanimous decisions for ensuring uniformity in the educational system, he stated and announced to make the conference an annual event.

Tourist throng KP tourist resorts after winter vacations in schools

ISLAMABAD (INP): After announcement of winter vacations in schools, tourists throng to tourist resorts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Abbottabad, Swat, Naran, Kaghan, and Malam Jabba resulting in huge rush there.

According to a report of private news channel, the visitors along with their families were enjoying the picturesque beauty of hill stations of different tourist resorts.

Famous hilly tourist destinations in Pakistan are no less than any other international vacation spots as scenic views and beautiful landscapes have been enhancing the beauty of nature during snowfall season every year.

The residents of the North-western parts said that a large number of families have planned to visit these areas with their families to enjoy the picturesque views.



ISLAMABAD: Director General (FDE) Tanveer Ahmad and principal Prof Fauzia Sheikh giving winning prize to student in Quid Day speech contest held at Model college #72 organized by Federal Directorate of Education on Friday.

Mushaal commends role of Christian community in country's development

RAWALPINDI (INP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mashal Hussain Malik, while congratulating the Christian community on Christmas has commended the role of the Christian community in development and prosperity of the country.

She said, "Christian community plays a key role in every field of life. Community is performing significant services, all minorities including the Christian community have equal rights in Pakistan, atrocities are being committed on minorities in India, which the international community has to take notice of."

Mushaal Mullick expressed these views while addressing the get-together ceremony organized by the Christian spiritual leader Archbishop Rawalpindi/Isalambad, Dr. Joseph Arshad in Rawalpindi.

Station Commander Rawalpindi Brigadier Ahmad Nawaz, Muslim League leaders Chaudhry Tanveer, Barrister Daniyal, Chaudhry Osama, Malik Abrar, Ziaullah Shah, Rashid Khan, Pakistan Peoples Party's Sib-ul-Hasan Bukhari alias Sabti Shah, businessman Sheikh Muhammad Hafeez, Shoaib Sadal, Member of the peace committee, Babu Sajid Amin Khokhar, Frayad Francis, Napoleon Gomez, Sanobar Gill, ambassadors of various countries, Hindu, Sikh and Christian leaders, Ulama Izhar Bukhari, Hafiz Iqbal Rizvi, Pir Azmatullah, administrative officers were present.

Speaking at Christmas Get-to-gather, the Christian spiritual leader Archbishop Rawalpindi/Isalambad, Dr. Joseph Arshad said that Christmas gives us the message of peace and brotherhood, the Christian community will continue to strive for the development and prosperity of the beloved country like before. Dr. Joseph Arshad urged the Christian community to remember their needy and deserving brothers in the joy of Christmas and share them in their joy.

Christian spiritual leader Archbishop Rawalpindi/Isalambad Dr. Joseph Arshad congratulated the Christian community on Christmas and said that Christmas is a message of peace, reconciliation and love. Community will continue its efforts for the promotion of love and affection.

On this occasion, special guest Mishaal Hussain Malik lit the candle of peace along with Archbishop Rawalpindi/Isalambad Dr. Joseph Arshad and other distinguished guests, while the Christmas cake was also cut later.

Magnitude 4.4 earthquake hits Islamabad, Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD (INP): An earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale jolted Islamabad, Rawalpindi and its adjoining areas early Friday morning.

According to the seismological center, the earthquake hit parts of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir around 5:30 in the morning. The depth of the earthquake was 16 kilometers, while the epicenter was in the South-West of Kashmir. People came out of their houses in fear by reciting

Kalma-e-Tayyaba. However, no loss of life or damage to property was reported from any part of Islamabad, Rawalpindi so far.

Last month, 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. In October, a mild earthquake of 3.1 magnitude on the Richter Scale jolted different areas of Karachi - the capital of Sindh province. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre Islamabad, the depth of the quake was recorded at 15 kilometers and the epicenter was near the Quaidabad area of Karachi.



JAMSHORO: VCL LUMHS Prof. Dr. Ikram Din Ujjan addressing during 14th Senate Meeting at LUMHS Jamshoro.