

QUETTA VOICE

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Governor Tabuk Arrives In Dalbandin For Houbara Bustard Hunting

Riaz Baloch:

DALBANDIN: Governor Tabuk, His Excellency Prince Bin Fahad Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz has set the stage for an exhilarating adventure as he embarks on a prestigious Houbara Bustard hunting expedition in the scenic landscapes of Dalbandin. This exclusive journey, aimed at promoting wildlife conservation and cultural exchange, promises an unforgettable experience for both the Governor and hunting enthusiasts alike.

The renowned Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Al Maliki, Commissioner Rakhshan Division, Iran Charsin, Deputy Commissioner Chagai Tufail Baloch, along with distinguished figures such as former provincial minister Sakhi Mir Amanullah Notizai, former district chairman Dawood Khan Notizai, and municipal committee Chairman Faisal Notizai, gathered to bid farewell to Governor Tabuk at Dalbandin Air Port.

Prince Muhammad Jan Kashani and other notable officers were also present to extend their best wishes as the Governor and his entourage embarked on this unique hunting odyssey. Surrounded by an air of anticipation and adventure, the journey to the hunting



grounds commenced amid tight security measures. The focus on preserving the delicate balance of nature, particularly in the case of the Houbara

Bustard, adds a significant dimension to this expedition, aligning it with broader conservation efforts. As Governor Tabuk delves into the realm of

nature, seeking the thrill of the hunt, the expedition is poised to blend the traditional pursuit of the sport with contemporary conservation values.

Hand Grenade Attack Leaves 4 Injured In Gwadar

From Our Correspondent:



GWADAR: In a shocking incident, a garage situated on Royal Resort Syed Hashmi Avenue in Gwadar fell victim to a grenade attack, leaving four individuals injured.

The assailants, yet to be identified, targeted the location with a grenade, resulting in four people sustaining injuries. Prompt emergency response teams swiftly transferred the wounded to Indus Hospital Gwadar for immediate medical attention.

In a brazen act of violence, unknown perpetrators launched a grenade attack on a garage in the strategic port city of Gwadar.

The incident occurred at the Royal Resort Syed Hashmi Avenue, sending shockwaves through the community. Among those affected, three individuals suffered injuries as a result of the

Medical Professionals Tirelessly Working To Treat Injured

The injured victims were expeditiously transported to Indus Hospital Gwadar, where medical professionals are tirelessly working to provide them with the necessary care and treatment.

The severity of their injuries remains undisclosed at this time.

Local law enforcement agencies have cordoned off the affected area, initiating an investigation to identify and apprehend the culprits behind this alarming assault. Authorities are urging the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity that may aid in the ongoing investigation.

Police Conduct Raid At The Residence Of Qasim Suri In Quetta

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a recent development, police conducted a raid at the residence of Qasim Suri, former deputy speaker of the National Assembly (NA), in the Hanna Uruk area of Quetta. The raid was carried out after an Anti-Terrorist Court (ATC) issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Suri, a central leader of the Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (PTI) and former deputy speaker of the NA.

Suri Was Not Present At His Residence

According to police sources, Suri was not present at his residence during the raid, which took place as a consequence of his failure to appear before the court. A senior police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, disclosed that Qasim Suri is wanted in connection with two cases related to events on May 9 in Quetta.

Ah Hassan Advocate, the legal counsel for Qasim Suri, submitted a bail application to the Balochistan High Court (BHC). However, the court rejected the application, signaling a legal setback for the PTI leader.

Police Reluctant To Provide Details: Claims Suri's Counsel

"Police have been reluctant to provide complete details about the cases registered against



Qasim Suri," expressed Ah Hassan Bugti, the advocate, during a press conference in Quetta on Friday.

The legal proceedings took a noteworthy turn during the hearing of the petition on behalf of Qasim Suri. Mr. Justice Kamran Malakhail, the Balochistan High Court (BHC) Judge, remarked that both the petitioner and his counsel had failed to capitalize on the opportunity provided by the court, underscoring their apparent lack of a robust defense.

Justice Malakhail further emphasized that statements from the Advocate General and Prosecutor General of Balochistan pointed to criminal cases registered against the petitioner.

The court observed an attempt to distort facts, with the petitioner purportedly using the pretext of contesting an election without surrendering before any court.

Judge Ordered An Inquiry Against Suri's Counsel

In response to these developments, Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhail, addressing the legal petition filed by Muhammad Qasim Khan Suri against the Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan, directed the initiation of an inquiry against Qasim Khan Suri's lawyer, Muhammad Inam Ali.

The unfolding events underscore a complex legal battle for Qasim Suri, raising questions about the nature of the cases against him and the strategies employed in his defense.

Faryal Talpur Calls 10 PPP Women Leaders from Balochistan to Address Grievances

Staff Reporter:



QUETTA: The disgruntled women leaders of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in Balochistan have been called to Karachi to address grievances related to the allocation of tickets for reserved seats for women. Rozi Khan Kakar, the Provincial General Secretary of the PPP, stated that women leaders in Balochistan staged a two-day protest in Quetta, expressing dissatisfaction with the distribution of tickets for specific seats in the National and Provincial Assemblies.

Faryal Talpur, the President of the Women's Wing of the PPP, has taken notice of the concerns and summoned 10 women leaders from Balochistan to Karachi for a comprehensive meeting aimed at addressing their issues. A dedicated session with Talpur has been scheduled, during which the concerns raised by the women leaders from the province will be carefully listened to and deliberated upon.

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Former MQM members Raza Haroon, Anees Advocate join PPP following meeting with Asif Zardari

Karachi: Former MQM and Pak Sarzameen Party leaders Raza Haroon and Anees Advocate joined the PPP on Friday after meeting party chief Asif Zardari in Karachi ahead of the Feb 8 general elections.

In a post on X, the PPP media cell said both the ex-MQM members — as well as their associates — were welcomed by the PPP co-chairman following discussions on various issues plaguing Sindh.

The party said that the development and prosperity of Karachi in a peaceful and reconciliatory environment also came under discussion under the "Charter of Karachi".

Zardari said the latest inductions would have far-reaching



effects on the future of the city, adding that "the PPP is a

party of the people of Karachi."

"We will work with the people of Karachi to restore

stolen by the enemies of peace and the merchants of hatred," he said.

Zardari claimed that the PPP will come into power in the federal government through the votes of the people of Karachi.

He also shared his desire to turn Karachi into Dubai: "We want investments to come to Karachi from all over the world and Karachi to become an economic hub on the lines of Dubai, which will not only give Pakistan rather, due to its important geographical position, investors from all over the world could also benefit from the city."

According to the pictures posted by the PPP media cell, former federal minister Dr

Asim Hussain was also part of the meeting.

With general elections around the corner, aspiring candidates are repositioning themselves and parties are inducting new members.

A day earlier, disgruntled Awami National Party leader and former caretaker minister Adnan Jilfi said he was set to join the PPP.

Jalil, who is the son of senior ANP leader the late Haji Mohammad Adeel, had met Zardari in Islamabad early last week.

On Dec 3, PPP central information secretary Faisal Karim Kundi had also invited PTI provincial president Ali Amin Gandapur to join the PPP.

QUIZ

Editor: Asim Khan

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

Editorial:

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 Ulama e Islam (JUJI) to step into the political arena, presenting a unique opportunity for voters to evaluate his vision for addressing the issues faced by the citizens of the province.

Akhtar Mengal, Mehmoed 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. Mehmoed 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 Bhoonani, Khushal Khan Kakar of Pakhtunkhwa National Awami Party (PN), and Maulana Fazal ur Rehman of Jamiat-ul Ulama 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 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.

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 to 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 wisdom 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.

The NOTA option

By Naeem Sadiq:

TO run short of dollars

is bad. To run out of ideas is worse. Pakistan could have explored numerous ideas of improving the quality of its future leaders. Providing the "none of the above" voting option could be one such progressive step. This article will explain why citizens ought not to have given the NOTA option for the next elections.

The current political parties suffer from eight critical shortcomings that should make citizens rethink their options. First, the existing contestants continue to carry the legacy of an obsolete past.

They have not been able to liberate themselves from orthodox ideas, personal animosities, narrow worldviews, and umrah at state expense and a lifetime of scientific illiteracy.

They still live in a world of affidavits, photocopies, and Grade 17 attestations. They do not have the tools, scientific skills or rationality to navigate the nation's complex future

challenges.

Second, none of our current contestants have ever had the wisdom or integrity to accept responsibility for their failures. Blaming and scapegoating previous governments, other parties or institutions, they appear to have learnt nothing from the past. Never once have we heard a leader stand up and admit "I failed, I apologise, I quit".

Third, we must be wary of leaders who only believe in "management by personal loyalties" or "management by appeasement of a selected few" instead of management by building institutions.

Massively raising the salary of senior government officials and doling out billions as discretionary funds are just two examples of this bribery-laden governance style.

Fourth, it would be suicidal for Pakistan to have a future leader who has no clue about the total fertility rate or any other statistics regarding our runaway population. No existing leader has tackled this issue in

previous tenures, nor is it a part of their future agenda. Pakistan is doomed without urgent population management measures and the current contestants with their orthodox beliefs and shortsightedness will only accelerate this disaster.

Fifth, it will be calamitous to elect the same leaders whose policies and lack of concern have led over 28 million children to drop out of school.

They have no ideas about how to provide decent schools to all children, how to reform existing schools or how to enhance skills, learning agility, work ethic, and creativity in education.

Why must we vote for leaders who will neither slow down the pace of one day nor enable decent schooling for millions every day? Sixth, why must one vote for leaders who have done nothing to mitigate the plight of thousands of sanitation workers (some 20pc of them children) who sweep the streets of Karachi for Rs15,000/month, against a minimum wage of Rs32,000?

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By Zafar Mirza:

I HAVE a broken record of writing on these pages about the importance of primary healthcare. Strengthening PHC is the only way to address our abysmal and many deteriorating vital health indicators related to family planning, maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases and mental health. Readers are invited to read my article "Dubious distinctions" published in these pages on Jan 13, 2023, to understand the tragic depth of the public health crises we are in. By not addressing these issues effectively we are endangering our health. Hence it is as much a national security issue as any traditional national security consideration.

Generally, people have a different and confused understanding of PHC and primary care. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), PHC is an approach that combines three components: The first and central component consists of primary care, that is, first-contact and accessibility, without any discrimination, to high-quality preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services and performance of essential public health functions, which are delivered in an integrated, comprehensive and continued manner.

The second consists of the full participation of people in their healthcare.

The third is multi-sectoral action to address the determinants of health that fall outside the health sector.

PHC is the backbone of Universal Health Coverage, as according to the WHO, the majority of health interventions (90 per cent) for UHC can be delivered using the PHC approach. Our poor health indicators are a result of the lack of serious policy attention to the PHC. Our state spending on health is among the lowest in the region, and whatever we spend, around 70pc goes on big hospitals and tertiary hospitals are actually treating, at a very high cost, what we fail to prevent through PHC. We are not educating or training our doctors and other health professionals. PHC is never expected to PHC settings. As a society with an elitist mindset, we have accepted PHC to mean poor healthcare for poor people.

Around 70pc of consultations are about 60pc of out-of-pocket expenditures are made in the private health sector. For most, these are catastrophic and impoverishing expenditures. Hence, any strengthening PHC in the private sector.

Where do poor people get healthcare in terms of the first point of contact in the public sector?

Community health workers (CHWs), RHCs, public dispensaries, outpatient departments of tehsil, district and tertiary level hospitals. When they do not get satisfactory care at lower levels then they flood the OPDs of big hospitals. In the private sector, they go to homeopaths, hakeems, faith healers, GPs and OPDs of private hospitals.

Six critical steps that must be taken to strengthen quality PHC at the national level include the following:

First and foremost, we need to start educating and training our doctors and other health professionals about PHC. In the PHC facilities, a degraded curriculum reform is the need of the hour. Family medicine should not only take place in PHC facilities and properly taught to students. Our graduates should have a minimum degree in medicine, surgery and family medicine. Their hands-on training should take place in PHC facilities and community outreach programmes.

Second, all licensed medical and dental colleges in Pakistan must establish PHC facilities of their own or adopt existing ones. In addition to their tertiary-level teaching and impoverishing expenditures. Hence, any strengthening PHC in the private sector.

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Community health workers (CH

Contract Base Smartphones Policy' being introduced from Jan 15: Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr Umar Saif on Friday said that the ministry in coordination with stakeholders...

In interaction with a private news channel, the minister said that our aim to incentive responsible financial behavior and ensure that smart phone accessibility continues to expand...

manpower in industrial sector. He also highlighted the importance of aligning educational institutions with industry requirements...

Minister also asked the universities to take rapid action to start new quality courses in entrepreneurship and exports for students which would help boost economy of the country.

To another query, he replied that we have planned to make exponential growth in IT sector as it is necessary for us to bring productivity revolution in our economy by using Information and Communications Technology.

Dr Umar Saif said that we will allocate funds to support special industry courses in universities, designed to prepare students for current industry trends and needs, we aim to increase our trained



ISLAMABAD: Member Provincial Assembly and Chairman GBReforms Committee Amjad Hussain Advi calls on to CMGB Hajj Gul Bar Khan at his Office.

NYC protesters for Gaza ceasefire hold mock funeral

NEW YORK (INP): Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters took to the streets of New York on Thursday, staging a mock funeral in a demonstration against Israel's continued heavy bombardment of the besieged Gaza strip.

Holding banners demanding an immediate ceasefire, the activists gathered in Manhattan's Bryant Park while some briefly stood in the middle of the busy Sixth Avenue in the heart of New York's Midtown district.

almost 10,000 children, just children alone, not counting everybody, not counting all Palestinians, have been killed in Gaza," said archivist Grace Lile, 64.

The war, which started with Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel, has devastated much of northern Gaza, and the bombardment and fighting has intensified especially in the southern city of Khan Yunis.

Israel has vowed to retaliate for the October 7 attack, which left about 1,140 people dead, mostly civilians. Israel's relentless aerial bombardment and ground invasion have killed at least 21,320 people, mostly women and children, according to Hamas-run Gaza's health ministry.

First Hindu woman to contest polls from Buner

BUNER (INP): In a first, a woman from the Hindu community in Pakistan, is set to contest the upcoming general elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district after successfully passing scrutiny of her documents.

Dr Saveera Parkash will contest elections in the PK-25 constituency of the KP Assembly. She has also filed nomination papers for the national and provincial assemblies' reserved seats.

past 35 years. Upbeat over the response of the local people, Dr Saveera Parkash said that she had not expected such an overwhelming response.

"Even the leaders and supporters of the religious parties appreciated my decision to contest the election," she added. Several minority families have been living in Buner district and some male members of the community contested elections in the past.

Similarly, a transgender person, Sobia Khan, from KP filed nomination papers for the provincial assembly PK-81 to contest the polls. Running her campaign as an independent candidate, Sobia expressed her heartfelt desire to champion the rights of the transgender community, women, and children if she secured victory in the elections.

Advertisement for WAPDA tender notice, including details of various projects like 'Procurement of Tools & Plant for Duder Kharwal Hydel Power Station Pattan' and 'Mechanical Spare Parts for Duder Kharwal Hydel Power Station Pattan'.



KARACHI: Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) party leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui (L) gestures next to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president and former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (C) as he speaks to journalists.

CM Mohsin Naqvi reviews upgradation work of 3 hospitals in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the upgradation work of Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC), Children's Hospital and General Hospital, Lahore during his 3-hour visit to these hospitals late Thursday night.

Chief Minister instructed the authorities concerned to install new tiles on the floor of the main corridor of the Children's Hospital. On the occasion, he also asked Infrastructure Development Authority Punjab to present him design of new counters within 24 hours. Naqvi took notice of slow

progress in upgradation of General Hospital. The work of installing new tiles and making new counters should be completed in 10 days, Mohsin Naqvi stressed.

During the visit, Naqvi came to the bed of the 12-year child Muhammad Ahmad, under treatment at Children's Hospital, Lahore during his 3-hour visit to these hospitals late Thursday night.

He also reviewed the ongoing construction activities at Punjab Institute of Cardiology. During his visit to one of the hospitals, he directed the authorities concerned to arrange proper sitting arrangement for the relatives of the patients.

Two Russians get prison terms for poetry against Ukraine campaign

MOSCOW (INP): A Moscow court on Thursday sentenced two men to several years in prison for taking part in the recital of verses against the Ukraine campaign during an anti-mobilisation protest last year.

At a trial on Kamardin 33, received a seven-year sentence for reciting a poem, and Yegor Shtovba, 23, was sentenced to five and a half years for attending the protest.

The two were seen behind a glass partition in a heavily-guarded courtroom. Just before his sentencing a smiling Kamardin recited a poem that refers to poetry as "gut-wrenching" and often disliked by people accustomed to order.

the offensive in Ukraine, with criticism effectively outlawed. Kamardin claimed that during his detention he was raped by police officers and forced to film an apology video as officers threatened his partner.

On the eve of his arrest in September 2022, he had recited his poem "Kill me, militia man" on a Moscow square where dissidents have been gathering since the Soviet era.

Kamardin also shouted offensive slogans against the imperial "New Russia" project aiming to annex the south of Ukraine. Both were convicted of "inciting hatred" and "calling for activities threatening state security".



QUETTA: The caretaker provincial interior minister Captain (R) Muhammad Zubair Jamali and Uziza Shabeen are handing out certificates to the participants of the five-day training session regarding false reporting during the election.

WAPDA TENDER NOTICE. The Resident Engineer (O&M) Duder Kharwal Power Station WAPDA Pattan invites sealed bids for following mentioned Procurements from Original Manufacturers. Includes a table with columns for S.No, Description of work, Tender Fee, Bid Security, Completion Period, Last date of Tender Issuance, and Last date of opening of Tender.

ECC asks NPMC for constant coordination with provinces to stabilize prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has directed the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to continue consistent coordination with the provinces to take measures for ensuring stability in prices and to check hoarding and profiteering.

The directives were issued during the ECC meeting held in Islamabad on Friday with Finance Minister Dr. Shamsud Akhtar in the chair.

On the occasion, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) briefed the meeting on the inflation situation and the latest trends of prices of various essential commodities.

The ECC also considered

a summary of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development for approval of Budget of Employee Old Age Institution.

The forum appreciated EOBI for its good performance and directed to strictly follow the budget calendar and prepare a long term plan to clear the two trillion rupees liabilities of pension dues. The forum approved the proposed budget of the organisation.

The summary for approval of TAPI project as Qualified Investment Incentive Package was discussed at length.

The forum observed that it is a much-needed project and should be launched without delay.

A summary of Power Division for approval of the Principles for settlement of capacity deduction issues of imported coal based projects and subsequent execution of side agreement with Port Qasim Electric Power Company was also discussed.

After detailed discussion, approved settlement of the issue with PQEPL as proposed by the Power Division.

A meeting of Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises was also held to-day which gave the approval of publication of consolidated report of the State-Owned Enterprises for Fiscal year 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.



RAWALPINDI: Inter Ministerial Committee on AJ&K being chaired by Lt Gen Anwar Ali Hyder III (M) (Red), Federal Minister for Defence Production, Co-chaired by Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq at Ministry of Defence.

Xi presents systematic review of historic achievements of major-country diplomacy

BEIJING (INP): President Xi Jinping presented a systematic review of the historic achievements and valuable experience of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

He also gave a profound exposition on the international environment and historical mission of China's external work on the new journey, and made comprehensive plans for China's external work for the present and coming periods.

Xi was presiding over the Central conference on work relating to foreign affairs held in Beijing.

According to XINHUA, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended the conference and delivered an important address.

Members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi, and Vice President Han Zheng attended the conference.

Li Qiang emphasized the importance of ensuring sound external work on the new journey under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, and set out requirements for studying and implementing the guiding principles of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important address.

It was made clear at the conference that since the 18th CPC National Congress, historic achievements have been secured and historic changes have taken place in China's external work on the great journey of advancing the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

First, we have established and developed Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, opening up new vistas in the theory and practice of China's diplomacy and providing the fundamental guide-

line for advancing major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

Second, we have showcased distinct Chinese characteristics, style and ethos in our diplomacy, and established the image of a confident, self-reliant, open and inclusive major country with a global vision.

Third, we have advocated the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, pointing the right direction for human society leading to common development, lasting peace and security, and mutual learning between civilizations.

Fourth, we have followed the strategic guidance of head-of-state diplomacy, and played an increasingly important and constructive role in international affairs. Fifth, we have taken a holistic approach to our relations with all parties, with a view to fostering major-country dynamics featuring peaceful coexistence, overall stability and balanced development. Sixth, we have expanded a comprehensive strategic layout, and formed a wide-ranging, high-quality global network of partnerships. Seventh, we have advanced high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and established the world's most broad-based and largest platform for international cooperation.

Eighth, we have worked to both pursue development and safeguard security, and effectively upheld China's sovereignty, security and development interests with a firm will and an indomitable fighting spirit.

Ninth, we have taken an active part in global governance, and shown the way in reforming the international system and order. Tenth, we have strengthened the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, and brought about greater coordination in China's external work.

It was underlined at the conference that in the decade of the new era, we have seen high winds

and choppy waters and overcome various difficulties and challenges in China's external work.

We have opened up new prospects in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and gained much more strategic autonomy and initiative in our diplomacy.

China has become a responsible major country with enhanced international influence, stronger capacity to steer new endeavors, and greater moral appeal.

It was pointed out at the conference that a range of valuable experience has been gained in the new era of Chinese diplomacy. It is imperative to uphold principles.

On major issues concerning the future of humanity and the direction of the world, we must take a clear and firm position, hold the international moral high ground, and unite and rally the overwhelming majority in our world. It is imperative to shoulder China's responsibility as a major country. We need to advocate the spirit of independence, champion peaceful development, and promote global stability and prosperity. It is imperative to apply systems thinking. With a correct understanding of history and of the big picture, we must navigate the prevailing trends, adopt a coordinated approach, and seize the initiative. It is imperative to uphold fundamental principles and break new ground. We need to follow the fine tradition and fundamental direction of China's diplomacy, and at the same time work progressively for innovation in both theory and practice.

It is imperative to carry forward our fighting spirit. We must reject all acts of power politics and bullying, and vigorously defend our national interests and dignity. It is imperative to leverage our institutional strengths. Under the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, all regions and all departments must coordinate with each other and build strong synergy.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries & Production Dr. Gohar Ejaz Called on with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Rtd) Maqbool Baqarat at CM House Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif chairing briefing at PTA headquarter.

HEC extends deadline for registration till January 03, 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), has extended the deadline, till January 03, 2024, for registration in the Centralised Test being held for Computer Science and IT graduates—deadline for applicants in top IT companies of Pakistan.

The test date shall however remain intact i.e. January 07, 2024, said a press release on Friday.

The students enrolled in the 7th semester of Computer Science/IT related disciplines offered in recognised public and private sector universities and affiliated/constituent colleges are encouraged to register through Virtual University (VU) link <https://www.vu.edu.pk/GraduateTest/>.

The decision to extend the registration deadline was made in a virtual meeting of Vice Chancellors/Rectors and Heads of Departments of Computer Science/IT of all public and private sector HEIs

in order to ensure that maximum number of eligible students register themselves for the subject test and avail this opportunity.

Chairman HEC advised the universities, especially the IT and Computer Science Departments, to ensure that 7th semester students register themselves and participate in the test.

He emphasized the HEIs to expedite nominating their focal persons for smooth communication regarding all aspects of the test being conducted. He stated that the primary objective of this initiative is to ensure that IT graduates are equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge, and attributes to excel in the ever-changing IT industry.

He added that the test will allow us to identify the academics/training gaps in fresh IT graduates, which may be addressed through specialized modules / apprenticeships or bootcamps to

be aligned with industry requirements.

HEC, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including Ministry of IT and Telecommunications, National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), and Pakistan IT Industry Association (PiGSHA), aim at bridging IT industry-academia gap and introduce ways to improve the market readiness of IT students.

Students qualifying the test will be offered placement in IT companies including top IT exporters in Pakistan through PiGSHA to acquire hands-on experience on real-time projects.

The qualifying candidates will also be considered for credit hours exemption in 8th semester against electives or mandatory field experience. Spring 2024 will be the first session for the industry placement programme.

Shehbaz conveys Nawaz Sharif's 'important' message to MQM-P

KARACHI (INP): In a much-anticipated meeting, the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Shehbaz Sharif, conveyed the 'important' message of Nawaz Sharif to the Mutahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) leadership in Karachi on Friday.

According to the details, the PML-N president, Shehbaz Sharif, along with other party leaders reached the Markaz of MQM-P in Bahadurabad, Karachi. The MQM-P leadership including Khalid Maqbool,

Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal, Annuul Haque, and others welcomed the PML-N leaders in Karachi.

The meeting was attended by prominent leaders of both political parties including Mustafa Kamal, Dr. Farooq Sattar, Annuul Haque, Nasreen Jilil, Javed Hamid, Anees Qaim Khani, and other provincial committee members.

Sources claimed that the former PM will also hold a separate meeting with the Convener, Deputy Convener, and Senior Deputy Convener later

after this meeting.

During the meeting, Shehbaz Sharif expressed that the PML-N wants a good working relationship with MQM-P in the future, and stated that both parties have to work together in order to 'facilitate' the people of Karachi.

The political leader also discussed the electoral alliance, and seat adjustment under consideration, while the leadership of both parties also considered the recommendations put forward by the provincial committees.



QUETTA: Provincial Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Gojezi meeting Chief Executive Officer Hameedullah Nasir on the arrival of PPHI head office.

Orientation session on 'Codes of Conduct for National Media' held in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): The Provincial Election Commission of Punjab on Friday organized an orientation session on the 'Code of Conduct-National Media and National Election Observers for General Elections 2024' in Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Spokesperson of ECP Punjab Huda Ali Gohar emphasized media personnel inclusiveness and neutrality, stating that the Code of Conduct aims to ensure free and fair elections through collaboration with stakeholders.

She urged the avoidance of allegations and statements that could harm national solidarity or create law and order issues during the campaign and on polling day. Huda Ali Gohar said that accredited media persons can enter a polling station with a camera for one-time footage of the voting process, as per the regulations. She said during the

election campaign, media content on print, electronic, and digital platforms should avoid expressing opinions prejudicial to Pakistan's ideology, sovereignty, security, public order, or the integrity of the judiciary.

The spokesperson ECP Punjab highlighted the involvement of regulatory authorities such as PEMRA, PTA, Press Information Department, Cyber Wing, and Digital Media Wing in implementing the Code of Conduct. The law enforcement agencies will provide protection to ensure media freedom, she added. Huda Ali Gohar said media outlets are prohibited from running campaigns for candidates or political parties at the public's exchequer. She said according to the Elections Act 2017, media personnel must refrain from promoting any candidate or party 48 hours after the poll concludes.

PPP only gave depriorities to people of Sindh in 15 years: Saad Rafique

KARACHI (INP): Former minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has given nothing to people of Sindh other than depriorities. He was talking to media in Karachi after a meeting of PML-N and GDA which decided to jointly contest the 2024 general elections. Saad Rafique said that Sindh presents the shape of runs and a discussion was also held on the issue during meeting with Functional League. He said that we welcome PPP for contesting elections from Punjab. The former minister said that PML-N during its rule took strict actions against looting and crimes in Sindh. He said that consultation with Mutahida Quami Movement (MQM) was underway for seat adjustment and we expect good news in this connection. Speaking on the occasion, President PML-F, Saddaruddin Shah said that there was corruption in each and every department of Sindh and prevailing system of Sindh would come to an end on February 08.