

# QUETTA VOICE

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## Quetta Green Bus Promise: Govt Urged to Turn Commitments into Action

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a seemingly promising move to uplift transportation standards, the Balochistan government has unveiled plans for an extensive expansion of the green bus fleet. The visionary initiative, spearheaded by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, CEO of Balochistan Public Private Partnership (BPPP), aims to introduce 25 additional eco-friendly buses to the streets of Quetta. However, as the government unveils plans, the pressing question looms – will these promises translate into tangible improvements for the provincial capital's long-suffering commuters?

### Green Bus Expansion Now A Long Standing Demand

Originally sanctioned by former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, the plan now gaining momentum under the current administration, underscoring the government's commitment to sustainable and accessible transportation. With an ambitious target of deploying 100 green buses across Quetta in the imminent months, the expansion spans beyond the city center, promising relief to residents in areas like Hazara Town, Mariyabad, Samungli Road, Sarhab Custom, Nawab Kili, and other vital parts of Quetta.



### Expansion Of Project Directly Responds To Public Demand: Dr. Faisal

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan asserts that this expansion directly responds to the persistent public demand for enhanced transportation facilities. The stark reality, however, reveals that currently, a meager eight buses operate from Balochistan University to Belli Airport Road, laying bare the glaring inadequacy in green bus availability.

lamentation, vowing an additional 100 green buses for Balochistan, signifies the government's purported dedication to elevating public transportation standards in the region.

While commendable in words, the onus now falls on Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan to translate these verbal commitments into swift and substantive action.

### CS Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan Can Play A Key Role

Commendations for the government's seemingly progressive approach must be met with an urgent plea for Chief Secretary

Shakeel Qadir Khan's decisive leadership in ensuring efficient execution. Quetta's residents, long fatigued by the lack of a dependable public transportation system, now demand more than promises – they demand a concrete reality. The introduction of green buses holds the potential to alleviate the longstanding commuting challenges, creating a pathway to a more sustainable and accessible future for the people of Balochistan. The call for action is not merely a suggestion; it's a critical imperative, and the responsibility squarely rests with Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan to lead the way in turning promises into tangible, transformative actions.

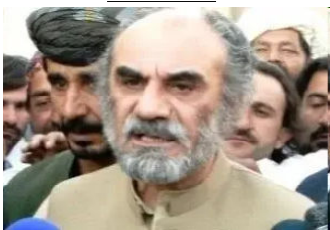
## Raisani Voices Concerns Over Election Integrity and Condemns Violence in Islamabad

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani, the leader of Jamiat ul Ulama-e-Islam F and Chief of Sarawan, expressed apprehensions about the electoral process, emphasizing the need to ensure the sanctity of the vote and prevent any undue interference. Raisani expressed concern over the credibility of the electoral process, echoing sentiments about past elections in 2018. He urged against repeating the mistakes of the past and stressed that an election should remain just that—an election, devoid of any interference or manipulation.

### No Selection Should Be Promoted

"We are witnessing a strong push for selection," remarked Raisani, underlining the importance of intelligent people not favoring any form of selection in the electoral process.



He cautioned against violating the sanctity of the ballot paper and called on the Election Commission, the people, and the caretaker government to avoid any underhanded tactics. "We request the people to check and choose the best representatives for themselves," Raisani urged, emphasizing the vital role that citizens play in preventing fraud during elections. He acknowledged that political issues are at the forefront of the nation's challenges, closely followed by economic concerns.

### Nawab Raisani Condemns Violence Against Baloch Women

Addressing the recent events in Islamabad involving the Baloch Islamic Committee protesters, Raisani condemned the violence, expressing his disapproval of such actions. He asserted that if the federal government perceives them as outsiders, they should be informed, emphasizing their belief in the collective ownership of the state.

"We believe that this state is ours, and while living within its structure, we will continue our struggle for the rights of the nations," Raisani declared, affirming their commitment to advocating for the rights of the people. Currently, Jamiat ul Ulama-e-Islam F is gearing up for the 2024 general elections, with Raisani set to contest from PB-37 Mastung.

## BNP Chief to Challenge Nomination Rejection in Courts

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Chief of the Balochistan National Party (BNP), declared on Monday that the party intends to challenge the recent rejection of its nomination papers for the upcoming general elections in the country, both at the election tribunal and the Supreme Court. He emphasized that if the nomination papers are not accepted by these institutions, the party will take its case to the masses.

Speaking at a packed press conference held at the Quetta Press Club, Akhtar Mengal expressed that the majority of BNP candidates had their nomination papers rejected by returning officers, alleging a pre-planned conspiracy to sideline the party from the elections. Central leaders of the party, including Sajid Tareen Advocate, Prince Musa Jan, Agha Hassan Baloch, and others, were also present at the conference.

### Aqama Issue Revolves Around My Speeches In Assembly: Mengal

Akhtar Mengal highlighted that he had held a work permit (Aqama) in Dubai in the past and contested general elections in 2013 and 2018. He stated that the issue revolves around his speeches in the assembly rather than any Aqama. He argued that an artificial leadership was being

imposed on Balochistan, expressing concern about the potentially grim future of the elections.

The BNP Chief emphasized that the party is dedicated to pursuing the rights of the Baloch people through political means, playing a prominent role in upholding the supremacy of the constitution and parliament in the country.

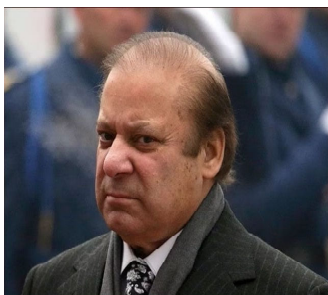
### "The letter went to London Avenfield, and Mian Sab was not there."

Responding to a question about his letter to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif after the formation of the caretaker government, Sardar Akhtar Mengal clarified, "The letter went to London Avenfield, and Mian Sab was not there." He later discovered that the former premier had returned to Pakistan.

Akhtar Mengal pointed out that mainstream political parties are seemingly indifferent to the issues of Balochistan as the province has fewer national assembly seats and is not a priority on their agenda.

He also defended his party's decision to support a no-confidence motion against former Chief Minister Nawab Sanaulah Zehri in the past, stating, "We were cornered by that government and had no option but to support a change."

## Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers for NA-130 challenged



ISLAMABAD: PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers for NA-130 were challenged on Monday after a petition was submitted before the appellate tribunal.

Ishtiaq Chaudhry, the chief of Pakistan Awami Mahaz (PAM), submitted the appeal and asserted that Nawaz has been disqualified for life by the Supreme Court, rendering him ineligible to contest the elections scheduled for February 8.

Chaudhry claimed that the returning officer (RO) approved Nawaz's nomination papers contrary to the facts, hence, he prayed that Nawaz be declared ineligible and his nomination papers be rejected. Recently, the three-time prime minister returned in Pakistan's political landscape with aspirations to participate in the 2024 general election. On December 26, RO Asghar Joya of NA-130 Lahore accepted Nawaz's nomination papers after thorough scrutiny, with no objections raised.

The former premier will contest against Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stalwart Dr Yasmin Rashid and 22 other candidates for NA-130 if his nomination papers clear the latest legal challenge.

The former premier was disqualified in the Panama Papers case in July 2017 by the Supreme Court (SC). The judges of the apex court had ruled that Nawaz had been dishonest to the parliament and the courts in not disclosing his employment in a Dubai-based company in his 2013 nomination papers, and thus, could not be deemed fit for his office.

Later, an accountability court awarded him 10 years imprisonment in the Avenfield apartments and seven years in Al-Azizia referenced. However, he has been acquitted in both cases by the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

However, before the general elections in 2024, the SC will resolve the contradiction between the judicial decision and the parliamentary legislation on whether disqualification under Article 62 of the Constitution means for life or five years. News Desk.

## Massive earthquake slams Japan, residents flee some coastal areas

TOKYO: A powerful earthquake struck central Japan on Monday, triggering warnings for residents to evacuate some areas on its west coast, destroying buildings, knocking out power to thousands of homes and disrupting travel to the region. The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.6 triggered waves of around 1 metre along parts of the Sea of Japan coast, with authorities saying larger waves could follow. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) issued tsunami warnings for the coastal prefectures of Ishikawa, Niigata



## Hammad, Murad among 51 PTI leaders to have properties confiscated

GUJRANWALA: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) Gujranwala on Monday ordered the confiscation of property of 51 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Hammad Azhar, Murad Saeed, Zarraj Gul and others in case related to May 9 riots. The court took the step under Section 88 to seize the properties and also initiated the process to declare the accused as absconders. Notices announcing the legal action have been displayed at their residences and key locations associated with the accused.

Furthermore, the court also issued non-bailable arrest warrants for the accused. The list includes Farrukh Habib, Omar Ayub, Ali Amin Gandapur, Zubair Ijaz, General (ret'd) Akram Saha,



Shaukat Bhatti, Mian Tariq, Rana Sajid, Shaukat, and Lala Asadullah. Additionally, PTI candidates Ahmed Chatha, Bilal Ijaz, and Zafarullah Cheema are also included in the list.

and Toyama. A major tsunami warning—the first since the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan - was initially issued for Ishikawa but later downgraded. Russia also issued tsunami warnings in its far eastern cities of Vladivostok and Nakhodka. Several houses have been destroyed and army units have been dispatched to help with rescue operations, top government spokesperson Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters, adding that authorities were still assessing the extent of the damage. News Desk

## Properties Confiscated

previously, on December 18, the government blocked the Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) of 18 PTI leaders, including former ministers Hammad Azhar and Murad Saeed. The list included Ali Amin Gandapur, Muhammad Aslam Iqbal, Malik Karamat Khokhar, Wasu Qayyum Abbasi, Jamshed Iqbal Cheema, Zubair Khan Niazi, Malik Nadeem Abbas, and Ghulam Mohaddid Dewan. Authorities said the CNICs were blocked at the request of police and would remain blocked till the investigation concludes. The authorities added that the party leaders would be deprived of legal rights if they did not appear before the anti-terrorism court (ATC). News Desk.



### Kim tells army to 'annihilate' South Korea, US if they initiate conflict

Pyongyang (INP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told his top military officers to use maximum force against South Korea and the United States if they initiate a military confrontation, state media reported Monday.

Seoul and Washington have ramped up defence cooperation in the face of a record-breaking series of weapons tests by Pyongyang over the past year.

At a meeting with North Korea's major commanding officers in Pyongyang on New Year's Eve, Kim said his military should "annihilate" the enemy if provoked, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

"If the enemy opt for military confronta-

tion and provocation against the DPRK, our army should deal a deadly blow to thoroughly annihilate them by mobilizing all the toughest means and potentialities without moment's hesitation," Kim said.

Kim's comments echo his threats made during year-end party meetings of a nuclear attack on Seoul and orders for a military arsenal build-up to prepare for a war that he said could "break out any time" on the peninsula.

During the meetings to set the policy agenda for 2024, the North Korean leader accused the United States of posing "various forms of military threat".

He also called on armed forces to "suppress the whole terri-

tory of south Korea mobilizing all physical means... including nuclear forces" in case of a "great event", referring to an armed conflict.

Kim told the meeting he would no longer seek reconciliation and reunification with South Korea, noting the "uncontrollable crisis" that he said was triggered by Seoul and Washington.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol vowed Monday to keep Pyongyang's military provocations at bay with a joint extended deterrence system with Washington, scheduled for the first half of 2024.

The deterrence system will "fundamentally deter any North Korean nuclear and missile threat", Yoon said in his New

Year's Day address. In 2023, Pyongyang successfully launched a reconnaissance satellite, enshrined its status as a nuclear power in its constitution and tested the most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile into its arsenal.

Pyongyang declared itself an "irreversible" nuclear power in 2022 and has repeatedly said it will never give up its nuclear weapons programme, which the regime views as essential for its survival.

The United Nations Security Council has adopted many resolutions calling on North Korea to halt its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes since Pyongyang first conducted a nuclear test in 2006.



QUETTA: Group photo of Balochistan Governor Malak Abdul Wali Khan Kakar with female students from Turbat on the occasion of their visit to Governor House Quetta.

### Filing of appeals against decisions of ROs on nomination papers begins

ISLAMABAD (INP): Hearing of appeals against rejection of nomination papers for 2024 general elections began on Monday. Election tribunals comprising judges of high courts are hearing appeals. According to the schedule issued by the Election Commission (ECP), appeals can be filed till January 3 as the process of scrutiny of nomination papers completed on Saturday (Dec 30).

Appellate tribunals, headed by judges of high courts, will

hear appeals and issue verdict by January 10. The revised list of candidates will be published on January 11 and candidature can be withdrawn by January 12, read the schedule. Election symbols will be allotted to political parties on Jan 13 and voting will be held throughout the country on February 8. The election schedule was announced by the ECP on Dec 15 detailing how the process would be completed.

It may be recalled

that in Rawalpindi district, the returning officers rejected nomination papers of 66 candidates for seven National Assembly seats and 149 nominations papers for 14 Punjab Assembly seats.

An Election Tribunal comprising Justice Mirza Waqas Azam Swati, Zulfiqar Chaudhry Abdul Aziz is hearing appeals.

The nomination papers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and vice chairman Shah

Mehmood Qureshi and several other party leaders have been rejected by the returning officers. Those whose nomination papers have been rejected include former Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, Akhtar Mengal, Fawad Chaudhry and his wife Hiba Fawad, Azam Swati, Zulfiqar Mirza, Fahmida Mirza and their son. Similarly, nomination papers of former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed have also been rejected.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad in a meeting with Chinese Business Delegation at Privatisation Division.

### Italy confines Ocean Viking migrant rescue ship for 20 days

PARIS (INP): Italian authorities have detained the Ocean Viking migrant rescue vessel for 20 days over its alleged failure to follow a prescribed route after rescuing dozens of people off the Libyan coast, the ship's operator said Sunday.

"Ocean Viking is detained under the 'Piantadosi Decree-Law' for the second time in two months, punishing humanitarian rescuers for carrying out the lifesaving work that European States fail to do in the central

Mediterranean," SOS Mediterranean, based in the French city of Marseille, said on X.

It said the ship had been ordered to return directly to the Italian port of Bari after picking up 244 people in three rescue operations, including 18 unaccompanied minors and four children under the age of four.

But as it was heading for Bari the Ocean Viking received an alert of at least 70 migrants needing help around 15 nautical miles (28

kilometres) from its position, though in fact the skiff was around 60 nautical miles away.

"Without any indication that another ship was en route to help these people in distress, we simply had no other choice, legal or moral, to respond to this alert -- any other choice would have been a violation of international law," SOS Mediterranean told reporters.

In the end the Viking was not in a position to help and resumed its course to

ward Bari. It did not say if the migrants were later rescued.

On November 15, Italian authorities had already ordered the ship detained for 20 days and issued a fine of 3,300 euros (\$3,600), saying it had failed to coordinate its actions with the authorities.

Since January 2023, 2,678 migrants have disappeared while trying to cross the Mediterranean for Europe, according to the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM).

### IAF crash history: 534 incidents, 152 pilots lost in 30 years: report

NEW DELHI (INP): The Indian Air Force (IAF) has grappled with a concerning trend of air accidents, resulting in the tragic loss of 152 Indian pilots in the last three decades, says a report.

Over the past five years alone, 45 accidents claimed the lives of 42 pilots, shedding light on the persistent challenges faced by India's aviation sector.

Preliminary investigations point towards a combination of factors contributing to these in-

cidents, with pilot negligence and concerns over the quality of machinery emerging as significant issues.

Back in 2012, the then Indian defence minister informed parliament about the alarming situation, revealing that more than half of India's MiG-21 fleet had been lost to accidents.

The gravity of the situation came to the forefront in December 2021, when an Indian Navy helicopter crashed, resulting in killing of 13 military officers, includ-

ing general Bipin Rawat. The incident underscored the urgency for a thorough review of safety protocols and equipment maintenance within the defence forces.

More recent incidents include the collision and destruction of US 300 and Mirage 2000 in Madhya Pradesh in January 2023.

Additionally, on March 8, 2023, an Indian Navy helicopter met a tragic fate as it sank in the Arabian Sea, further emphasizing the need for

comprehensive measures to enhance safety and prevent such calamities.

The Indian Air Force contends with its position at the forefront of air accidents, calls for heightened scrutiny, training reforms, and technological upgrades resonate within defence circles.

The nation mourned the loss of skilled pilots and military personnel while urging authorities to address the root causes behind these distressing incidents.

### 32 injured in New Year celebratory firing in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): At least 32 people including women and children were injured in the celebratory fire that rang through Karachi on New Year's Eve.

According to details, the injuries from aerial firing on New Year's Eve were reported from Nazimabad, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Aziz Bhatti,

Korangi Industrial Area, Zaman Town, Landhi, Shah Faisal Colony, Tariq Road, Sea View, Liaquatabad, Sudaibad, Baldia, Karimabad, Clifton, Zaman, Tower and other areas of Karachi. The injured include four women, three boys and two girls. Meanwhile, the Karachi police took 59 people over aerial fir-

ing and recovered weapons. Earlier, Karachi Police Chief Khadim Hussain Rind said that the charges of attempted murder and terrorism will be included in the cases lodged against those involved in aerial firing on New Year's Eve.

The police official highlighted the importance of strong and successful actions

against hooliganism and aerial firing, bringing those involved under the grip of the law.

Rind also stressed conducting search operations, making announcements at markets and through mosques to thwart aerial firing and promoting positive police actions through social media to counter any negative impact.



ISLAMABAD: Jamal Shah, Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture inaugurating Shah Alla Ditta Caves development, conservation & preservation project.

### McDonald's Malaysia sues boycott movement over allegations of Israel ties

JAKARTA (INP): McDonald's Malaysia has filed a lawsuit against a local boycott group, BDS Malaysia, for defamation over social media posts linking the fast-food chain to Israel's military offensive in Gaza that says hurt business. The lawsuit seeks damages of 6 million ringgit (\$1.31 million).

Malaysia, a Muslim-majority country, has been a vocal critic of Israel's actions in Gaza and has supported calls for a boycott of Israeli companies perceived as supporting Israel. BDS Malaysia is a local chapter of the Boy-

cott movement, which advocates for non-violent pressure on Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territories and comply with international law.

In a writ of summons filed on December 19, McDonald's Malaysia licensee Gerbang Alaf Restaurants Sdn Bhd accused BDS Malaysia of inciting the public to boycott McDonald's outlets in the country through a series of social media posts. The posts, it alleged, linked the fast-food franchise, among other companies, to Israel's "genocidal war against Palestinians in Gaza".

The company alleges that the boycott campaign has led to a loss of profits and job cuts due to reduced operating hours and closures of some of its restaurants.

"The fake and defamatory statements made by the defendants have caused significant damage to the plaintiff's reputation and business," the writ of summons states. "The plaintiff seeks damages of 6 million ringgit to com-

pensate for the losses it of the defendants' actions has suffered as a result."



DUBAI: Fireworks were displayed on the Burj Khalifa on New Year's Eve in the state of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

**TENDER NOTICE**

ISE: 2024/2369533 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Conservator of Forests (Zoo) Local invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%.

S.No.	Name of Works	E/Coat
1	Construction of Eco Tourism Hut at Jinnah Park, Aziz Khan Loralai/PSOP No.530/22019.0732	3,000,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active List as per the records must not be boycotted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 7,100,000 PKR Annual in its independent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. 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 in 1,000 PKR. Submission of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NT to 12 January 2024 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 12 January, 2024 at 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM Address: Office of the Conservator of Forests Loralai. Phone no: 062-65508551. Email: Conservator of Forests LORALAI.

PRQ No.1279/01-01-2024

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## Shehbaz summoned by commission probing Faizabad sit-in

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former prime minister and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif was summoned by the commission probing Faizabad sit-in on Monday.

According to details, Shehbaz Sharif has been summoned by the Faizabad probe commission as the then-Punjab chief minister.

The PML-N President has been asked to appear before the probe commission on January 3 to record his statement.

It should be mentioned here that the government formed a new commission to probe the Faizabad sit-in after report of the fact-finding committee was rejected.

Former prime minister

Shahid Khagan Abbasi, former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt. General (retired) Faiz Hameed and others have already been summoned by the commission for recording of their statements.

On November 08, 2017, Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) had organized a sit-in at Faizabad interchange against the amendments in the Election Bill 2017, changing the word oath to declaration.

The protesters demanded the resignation of the then-Minister for Law and Justice Zahid Hamid to "protect the identity of the country".

As a result of the protest, the then PML-N government had to sack its law minister Zahid Hamid. The Supreme

Court had taken suo motu notice of the sit-in on November 21, 2017.

Later, a division bench led by Justice Qazi Faez Isa on February 6, 2019, unveiled its verdict in the sit-in case, criticizing the role of intelligence agencies in the saga.

Soon after assuming office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) in September, last year, Justice Isa listed for hearing the petitions that had been filed against the SC's February 2019 verdict.

On November 1, the bench rejected the fact-finding committee formed by the government to investigate the matter and ordered it to form a commission of inquiry to unveil the mastermind behind the sit-in.



QUETTA: Chairman All Pakistan Mazdoor Goods Transport Mir Nawab Mengal addressing a press conference.

## Indian troops martyred 120 Kashmiris including four women and as many boys during the year 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred 120 innocent Kashmiris including four women and as many boys during the year 2023 in India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service (KMS), today, 41 of the martyrs were killed in fake encounters and custody.

The Indian police also killed one Hindu in custody in Jourian police station in IOJK and another Hindu was killed by Indian troops in Showara Kfour Akhnour area of Jammu district.

The report said, the killings by the troops, paramilitary and police personnel rendered 18 women widowed and 38 children orphaned while 7 women were molested, abused or disgraced by the Indian forces during the year. It said that Indian forces destroyed 13 residential houses and structures in the territory.

The report pointed out that at least 107 persons were injured due to the use of brute force while 3,610 people, including Hurriyat leaders, activists, students, and women were arrested during house raids and cordon and search operations by Indian troops and police personnel in the territory. Many of those were arrested under black laws, Public

Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Among the detainees of the year include APHC leaders Bilal Siddiqui, Shabbir Ahmed Dar, Firdous Ahmed Shah, Jahangir Ghani Butt, Saleem Namaj, Sajid Hussain Gul, Muhammad Yasin Butt, Shamsuddin Rehmani, Umar Adil Dar, Maulana Sarjan Barkati, Hassan Firdous, journalist Irfan Mehraj and Majid Hyderi.

The Indian authorities did not allow people to offer Friday prayers for 11 times at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar besides disallowing other religious functions like Shab-e-Baraat, Shabe Qadr and Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) gatherings in the occupied territory.

The report said that resistance leaders, including APHC Chairman Masarat Aalam Butt, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Nayeen Ahmed Khan, Asiya Andrabi, Nabehda Nasreen, Fehmeeda Sofi, Ayaz Muhammad Akbar, Peer Saifullah, Raja Merajuddin Kalwal, Shahid-ud-Islam Farooq Ahmed Dar, Syed Shahid Yousuf, Syed Shakeel Yousuf and human rights defender Khurram Parvaiz continued to remain in detention in Delhi's Tihar Jail in fake cases.

The report maintained that over 4,000 people, including Mushaqaqul Islam, Maulvi Bashir Ahmed, Zaffar Akbar Butt, Dr

Hameed Fayaz, Muhammad Yousuf Fahri, Muhammad Rafiq Ganai, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Bakhtoo, Ghulam Qadir Butt, Dr. Shafi Shariyatee, Showkat Hakeem, Assadullah Parrey, Merajuddin Nanda, Hayat Ahmad Butt, Feroz Ahmad Dar and Noor Muhammad Fayaz, remained in different jails of IOJK and India under the black laws: Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

At least 14 Kashmiri Muslim employees were suspended or terminated from their services by the BJP regime. At least 72 properties including agricultural lands, house and shops were attached by the Modi regime in the territory to silence the voice for right to self-determination.

The report said that in the month of December 2023 alone, Indian troops martyred seven Kashmiris and of those 3 in custody. At least 97 youth including women were arrested in the month.

The report pointed out that since 5th August 2019, when Modi-led Hindutva government revoked the special status of IOJK, Indian troops have martyred 852 Kashmiris till date. It added that 96,285 Kashmiris have fallen to the Indian bullets and extra judicial killing during the last 35 years in the occupied territory.

Similarly, arrangements have been made to set a good environment for the citizens who will visit here.

After receiving the token, citizens who come to the fast track service will be able to go to the relevant desk on their number and will get their case processed by the relevant desk.

## CDA to facilitate citizens via state-of-the-art fast-track services

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Capital Development Authority's (CDA) Building Control Directorate has introduced state-of-the-art fast-track service by modernizing the system of providing amenities to the citizens.

In this context, CDA started to ensure the approval of the building plan in the facilitation centre on the fast track. Under this modern and fastest system, residential buildings of 356 yards will

now be approved with an additional fee of Rs 20,000 thousand with required documents within two days, while residential buildings larger than 356 yards will be approved with a fee of Rs 30,000 thousand.

Meanwhile, commercial buildings up to 10000 square yards will also be approved within three days. A separate desk has also been established for all these matters. It should be noted that



HYDERABAD: People are enjoying boat riding at Indus River Jamshoro.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi presents caretakeer Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar with a souvenir in the Business Facilitation Center in Lahore.

## Senate adopts resolutions about negative propaganda against armed forces, reforms in higher education curriculum

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate of Pakistan on Monday adopted two resolutions recommending the government to award strict punishment to those involved in negative propaganda against armed forces and ensure reform in the higher education curriculum to apprise students of the consequences and risks of drug usage.

Sponsored by PPPP Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi, a resolution recommended the government to take necessary steps to award severe punishment as per law to those involved in malicious propaganda against the armed forces and other security agencies on various social media platforms.

According to the text of the amended resolution, "Cognizant of the huge sacrifices of

Armed forces and other security agencies in the war against terror and for the Defence and protection of the country's borders.

Acknowledging the fact that strong army and other security agencies is indispensable for the Defence of the country, especially in view of the hostile neighborhood; Expressing deep concern on the negative and malicious propaganda against the armed forces and other security agencies on various social media platforms;

The Senate of Pakistan, therefore, recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to award severe punishment as per law."

Another resolution of PTI Senator Scemeer Ezzil was not taken up due to the absence of lawmaker which recommended the government to prioritize climate change projects in its development Budget and allocate sufficient funds for climate change adaptation.

It also demanded to devise a monitoring mechanism in all the universities for enforcement of the 'Policy on Drug and Tobacco Abuse in Higher Education Institutions 2021' in letter and spirit.

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## PRs generates Rs 41 bln revenue in first half of FY 2023-24

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Railways has generated Rs 41 billion in first half of financial year 2023-24 with increase of Rs 13 billion against same period of last fiscal year.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan Railways, Aamir Baloch said, "Things will get better after the launch of the MLI project."

He further stated that the timeliness of salary disbursements for railway employees has been improved, ensuring that delays have

been minimized, and payments will be disbursed timely.

CEO PRs Aamir Baloch expressed that this year the railway will try to further enhance its services and an expansion of travel fiscal year.

Last year in December, Pakistan Railways has significantly raised the Right of Way (ROW) charges for a single-track crossing to Rs. 3.8 million for five years which would help the department to generate more revenue.

Historically, Pakistan Railways charged Rs. 100,000 per track

crossing for 10 years when telecom operators installed fiber broadband, the state news agency reported.

In 2007, they said the charges were increased to Rs. 2.7 million for five years, as the use of fiber broadband expanded.

Historically, Pakistan Railways government reduced the crossing charges to Rs. 600,000 per crossing for a lifetime to promote fiber broadband.

They said that in contrast, cable TV operators continue to pay only Rs. 100 per year.



QUETTA: Secretary IT Ijaz Mandokhail is giving a briefing to the caretaker provincial interior Minister Captain (R) Mohammad Zubair Jamali and other participants about the Pak-Afghan-Iran Corridor Management System.

## Few lakh taxpayers can't run country with 240 mln population: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD, Jan 01 (INP): Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that a few lakh taxpayers cannot run a country having a population of 240 million.

In a statement issued on Monday, he said that paying taxes was not only the responsibility of the salaried and poor classes, while the rich and influential have been given a free ride. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that those who earn millions and billions were kept out of the tax net for political favours which has ruined the country.

The elements that distort the economy for personal interests should be dealt with strictly; otherwise, the country will be dependent on borrowing while the masses will never get any relief, he added.

The business leader said that a country cannot survive where the majority of people

were outside the tax net, and a large number of big businessmen think it was better to give donations to politicians instead of paying taxes to the government. He said that business should be allowed in the country, but looting in the name of business should not be allowed.

Shahid Rasheed said that a report by an international organization has revealed that there were only five industrial sectors in Pakistan that steal taxes worth Rs 956 billion annually, which include real estate, tea, cigarettes, tires, and pharmaceuticals. He added that forty per cent of the economy was with retailers and wholesalers, who pay negligible taxes while smuggling under the guise of

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The business leader noted that our tax system has been faced with several challenges, including low tax-to-GDP ratios, a narrow tax base, and high rates of tax evasion. According to the World Bank, Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio was only 10.4% in 2020, which was significantly lower than the average of 15.3% for countries in the South Asian region.

Economists have proposed that a low-rate, flat, broad-based, and predictable tax regime can help Pakistan overcome these challenges and achieve greater economic growth and development.

Shahid Rasheed said that the Federal Board of Revenue has decided to include 1.5 million people in the tax net, including doctors, engineers, lawyers, and other businessmen who avoid paying taxes. This was a welcome step that needs to be implemented with full force, he demanded.