

QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

Saturday, January 06,2024

dquettavoice@gmail.com

PML N and National Party (NP) Explore Electoral Alliance in Balochistan for 2024 General Elections

Quetta Voice Special Report :

Quetta: In a strategic move ahead of the upcoming general elections on February 8, 2024, the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the National Party (NP) are in talks to forge an electoral alliance in certain constituencies in Balochistan. Former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan, confirmed that both parties have reached an understanding to collaborate in key districts.

Negotiations are underway for seat-to-seat adjustments and electoral alliances in districts such as Awaran, Lasbela, Hub, and other parts of Balochistan. "There is a possibility of an electoral alliance," stated Jam Kamal, emphasizing the ongoing discussions between the two political entities.

Dr. Malik Baloch And Jam Kamal Met

Jam Kamal recently held a crucial meeting with Dr. Malik Baloch, Chief of NP and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, to discuss the prospects of forming an electoral alliance in select constituencies. The history between the two parties indicates a positive political relationship, with PML N having nominated Dr. Malik Baloch as Chief Minister of Balochistan in the 2013 general elections, despite having a majority in the Balochistan Assembly.

The Central Secretary



General of NP, Jam Muhammad Buledi, expressed optimism about the potential alliance, noting that negotiations could include Awaran and Lasbela constituencies.

Jan Buledi Expresses Optimism About An Alliance

Political observers point out that Jam Kamal Khan has strategically expanded his political influence in Awaran, possibly as a response to challenges from his arch-rival Mir Qudus Biznjo, the former CM of Balochistan. Biznjo has reportedly sought to exert pressure on Jam Kamal in Hub

and Lasbela districts, particularly during his tenure, which resulted in the designation of Hub as a district to counter the impact of Jam Kamal's political stronghold.

PML N Garner Support Of Influential Figures

Sources suggest that the PML N has successfully garnered the support of influential figures in Balochistan, positioning itself to form a coalition government in the province. The alliance between PML N and NP is seen as a significant development that could shape the political landscape in

Balochistan.

As the electoral alliance discussions progress, the outcome is expected to have implications for the distribution of seats and power dynamics in the region. Political analysts are closely monitoring these developments, anticipating their impact on the upcoming general elections and the subsequent formation of the provincial government.

This news story aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the ongoing negotiations between PML N and NP, shedding light on the historical context and potential implications for the political landscape in Balochistan.

Ziarat Receives Snowfall, Picturesque Scenes and Chilled Delight

Mir Salam Jogezai:



ZIARAT: Experience the enchantment as Ziarat Valley transforms into a breathtaking winter wonderland, adorned with a pristine layer of six inches of snow in the city and eight inches on the majestic mountains. This recent snowfall has not only captivated the locals but has also become a magnet for thrill-seeking tourists eager to witness the mesmerizing scenes.

Local Joy and Tourist Delight:

Both local residents and tourists are reveling in the beauty of the snow-covered landscapes. Social media is abuzz with images capturing the joy and awe experienced by those fortunate enough to witness this natural spectacle.

Winter Adventure:

The snowfall has turned Ziarat into a haven for winter enthusiasts, offering opportunities for activities such as skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Adventurous spirits are making the most of this seasonal gift.

Cold Intensity Soars:

With the snowfall, the region is experiencing a significant drop in temperature. Today's minimum temperature plummeted to minus two degrees, adding a crisp chill to the air and enhancing the winter ambiance.

Body: Late Night Snowfall Delight:

The snowfall commenced late at night and continued its graceful descent until the early morning, transforming the landscape into a picture-perfect setting.

Mountain Magic:

Ziarat's mountains are now draped in a snowy blanket, creating picturesque vistas that are drawing the attention of onlookers. The contrast of the white snow against the rugged terrain is a sight to behold.

Senate passes resolution seeking delay in elections citing 'security concerns'

ISLAMABAD: With the next general elections hardly a month away, the Senate passed a resolution on Friday seeking a delay in elections citing security concerns.

The resolution, presented by independent Senator Dilawar Khan, was opposed by Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Afnan Ullah Khan.

The upper house of parliament has a total of 100 members, out of which a mere 14 were present during today's session.

The resolution read that "The Constitution of Pakistan upholds the right to vote for every citizen of Pakistan. The Constitutional duty assigned to the Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct free and fair elections is contingent upon inclusivity and ensuring the participation of all regions and people," it maintained, adding that the "voter turnout in colder areas remains notably high during moderate weather conditions".

The resolution maintained that Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa experience severe weather conditions during the months of January and February. "Various groups and political parties have expressed significant reservations regarding anticipated difficulties in ensuring the participation of residents in cold areas during the electioneering



process," the Senate resolution maintained.

Furthermore, the resolution noted with "great concern" that "Recent incidents, including the foiled attempts on the lives of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and former MNA Mr. Mohsin Dawar, as well as threatening calls targeting Awami National Party's Provincial Chief Mr. Aimal Wali Khan and other political figures, have raised concerns about the safety of political leaders."

"The Ministry of Interior has conveyed serious threats to the lives of prominent politicians, further exacerbating the challenges faced by political parties in exercising their right to free and fair election campaigning," There has been a marked increase in attacks

on security forces and citizens claiming precious lives particularly in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Provinces. The intelligence agencies have warned of militant attack threats on election rallies in the two provinces," the resolution stated.

'Elections held in similar conditions'

Rejecting the resolution right after it was passed, PML-N Senator Afnanullah, acknowledged that the security situation in the country was not good however, he said the conditions were worse in 2008 and 2013, yet elections were held in both years.

He dismissed the 'pretex', as "boot polish". "Will you delay

elections on the pretext of weather and security?" he asked. "Why didn't you say these things in 2008 and 2013? I want to keep this forward on record that general elections were held twice in February," the senator said. The senator questioned the feasibility of running a country with 24 billion people without constitutional institutions and questioned whether there was a desire to eliminate the parliamentary system. He suggested that individuals should be pushing for election delays for personal gain. Simultaneously, independent Senator Hidayatullah Khan shared his experience of receiving threats, having filed nine first information reports in the past two weeks. He highlighted recent incidents, including a bomb blast targeting a JUI-F candidate and the distribution of Daesh pamphlets in Bajaur district.

Hidayatullah urged a comprehensive examination of the situation and questioned if any political party included anti-terrorism measures in their manifestos. He emphasized the importance of valuing the passed resolution, expressing the grim reality that the Baloch and Pakhtun communities were suffering without adequate attention. Addressing Afnanullah, Hidayatullah emphasized the peaceful nature of his colleague's area while urging consideration for regions where people are facing daily threats and challenges. Meanwhile. **News Desk**

Govt writing to UK publication over essay attributed to imprisoned Imran Khan, info minister says



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi on Friday said the government would be writing to the editor of British publication "The Economist" in connection with an essay attributed to incarcerated PTT founder Imran Khan.

Imran was convicted in the Toshakhana case on August 5, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. On August 28, the Islamabad High Court had suspended his sentence. However, he has remained in jail since in other cases registered against him.

A guest essay attributed to Imran in The Economist on Thursday indicated that he had serious doubts about whether the upcoming elections would be held or not.

The piece repeated his allegations about how a regime change brought about after US

government pressured to a vote of no-confidence against him and described the May 9 riots as a "false-flag operation" which was "pre-planned". But an editor's note at the end of the essay noted that the Pakistan government and US State Department denied the allegations of American interference, saying that the government was prosecuting him under the Official Secrets Act. While sources within the party were hesitant to comment on how the writing may have been relayed to the publication from inside prison, they had insisted that the words were indeed those of Imran. Some observers had expressed doubts over whether the article was indeed by Imran but many noted that the tone and content of the article was consistent with his views. **News Desk**

Bilawal launches election campaign from Lahore

LAHORE: To get a head start on other parties in Punjab, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday formally launched his election campaign from NA-127 Lahore, whereas his party announced his countrywide election rally schedule to capitalise on the political vacuum artificially created by the establishment in Pakistan.

With its only main rival in the field PML-N still deliberating on the matter of allotting tickets for Punjab and K-P, the PPP leaders were busy in their constituencies canvassing for votes since according its central Punjab chief, the party had already given confirmation to a majority of aspiring candidates regarding award of ticket.

The announcement remains a mere formality, acting central Punjab president said.



The PPP has already revealed its 10-point agenda, which was a part of its manifesto, according to Bilawal. The party's information

secretary on Thursday revealed that the party would reveal its manifesto in the coming few days. The PML-N had constituted

its manifesto committee over a month ago and under it, more than 30 subcommittees were formed but despite all the pomp and nothing had been made public.

Recently, the PML-N announced an online portal to seek input from the public at large regarding its manifesto, which showed the entire exercise was not in its advanced stages. Rally schedule

The PPP on Thursday announced its chairman's schedule of some 30 rallies starting on Jan 10 from Swabi and ending on Feb 6 in Larkana. During his election campaign trail, he would address rallies in Faisalabad (Jan 11), Layah (Jan 12), Bahawalpur (Jan 13), Balochistan's Naseerabad (Jan 14), Sindh's Larkana (Jan 15), Qambar Shahdadkot (Jan 16), Badin and Sanghar (Jan 17),

Nowshero Feroz and Dadu (Jan 18), Rahim Yar Khan (Jan 19), Kot Daud (Jan 20), Lahore (Jan 21), Chiniot (Jan 23), Sarghoda (Jan 24), Lala Musa (Jan 25) Multan (Jan 26), Peshawar (Jan 27), Rawalpindi (Jan 28), Kurram (Jan 29), DI Khan (Jan 30), Malakand (Jan 31), Khuzdar (Feb 1), Kashmir and Shikarpur (Feb 2) Mirpurkhas (Feb 3), Hyderabad (Jan 4) and his second last rally as per schedule would be in Karachi (Jan 5). Why NA-127 Lahore

Bilawal also visited his election office at Green Town in Lahore to formally launch his election campaign, where he also met with a large number of party workers. Bilawal will contest elections from three constituencies, including the NA-127 and party's stronghold Larkana.

The decision of Bilawal to

contest election from Lahore was welcomed by his party's Punjab chapter that had long felt that the party leadership had given up on Punjab.

This decision to contest from Lahore, an erstwhile PML-N stronghold, was also necessitated by PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif's decision to contest from Karachi NA-242.

Though this would be Shehbaz's second attempt to gain traction in Karachi, prior to this, Shehbaz contested from NA-249 Karachi and lost to PTT's Faisal Wadwa, though by a thin margin.

The reason of selecting this very constituency was to capitalise on the hard work of most active leaders of Lahore. Faisal Mir, who incidentally happens to be the brother of caretaker Information Minister Amir Mir and Aslam Gill. **News Desk**

QUETTA GREEN

Editor: Asim Khan

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

Editorial:

In a seemingly promising move to uplift transportation standards, the Balochistan government has unfolded 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 arises — 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, Mariarbad, Samungri Road, Sariab Custom, Nawan Killi, 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 Heli Airport Road, laying bare the glaring inadequacy in green bus availability.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar's recent proclamation, 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
Recommendations 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.

Is this it for humans?

By Rafia Zakaria:

It has been estimated that 99.9 per cent of all species on our planet died out. One of the things that Charles Darwin said about human beings or Homo sapiens is that they are very much part of the natural world. This means that like all other species on the planet, Homo sapiens will one day also die out. At some point, our population will reach its peak and from there onwards, it will begin to fall. It just so happens that all those reading this article happen to be alive at a moment when humans may be about to reach their maximum numbers.

According to UN population estimates, humans will reach their maximum population in 2086 at 10.4 billion humans. This number, large as it is, is still lower than what scientists had predicted earlier. Talk of the human population maxing out in fact, of the planet maxing out, has led to questions about whether human beings have reached their zenith as a species as well. In 2017, a group of researchers looking at data collected over 120 years, said that in many areas, human beings have become as good as they ever will be. According to these scientists, certain records, such as those for the fastest human being, may not increase.

This does not mean that humans will no longer be able to do things. In fact, many more may equal the record, but the limits will not be surpassed in any meaningful way.

Another example is that of height. In certain parts of Africa, the height of individuals is reported to have been declining over the years. This indicates that with certain societies may already have reached the point where they cannot access enough nutrition to be able to attain the levels of height that they used to have. Since climate and other factors have become more and more pressing, it is likely that many more societies in different parts of the planet will experience

similar deficiencies, with consequences for the kind of human flourishing (or the lack thereof) that can take place.

A parallel question that is asked for some reason — whether humanity has reached its peak is a larger one about whether human beings are still evolving. Evolution refers to the capacity of humans to adapt to changing conditions in the environment and culture at a genetic level. Natural selection occurs when people's genetic make-up can adapt to a new situation, say a hotter climate, and they are able to pass down their genes, meaning that the new members of the species that are born will possess those traits.

There has been much debate about whether a gene tends to be a biologist as successful generations, if it is not "in use". Take for instance the genetic ability to produce vitamin C that is something the human body needs. Unlike many other mammals that have the ability to produce this vitamin internally, human beings must rely on external sources, including those of diet, to access this vital vitamin. Primates, including humans, are thought to have once had the ability to synthesise this vitamin, but can no longer do so because of their evolutionary reasons.

Another case is that of the enzyme lactase where we have really continued to digest lactose, which is present in milk and other dairy products, but can no longer do so because of their evolutionary reasons. Perhaps even a few human interventions could have genetic consequences that we are unaware of and that would have we cannot predict. Think of the many interventions we make in terms of medicine, medical procedures, or conversely, the use of harmful chemicals, burning fossil fuels in our environment, etc. and we may have a situation where we have really rattled the processes that would otherwise keep us adaptable. This does not mean that all human interventions are bad but just that we may have come to a point where we are as good as we will ever get.

Reaching peak humanity may not be the worst thing in the world, as anyone in the older generation is likely to advise; it is always good to know one's limits. Homo sapiens have walked the earth for hundreds of thousands of years — it is truly mindboggling to contemplate the fact that we may have reached our maximum capabilities in this particular moment in time.

By Faisal Bari:

All of us must have seen at some point or the other, a man in police uniform driving his motorcycle the wrong way on a one-way street and not wearing a helmet. We have also seen cars with green number plates parked in 'no parking' areas, and police and army vehicles ignoring traffic signals.

We have seen police officials misbehave with protesters or people in custody. Whether it is a chief justice being dragged by the hair, a former foreign minister being handled roughly, or ordinary citizens being slapped and pushed around, there are plenty of examples. It does not matter which party is in power at the time. What is happening to those who are out of power, is what was happening to others when the former held the reins.

We have seen witness-deputy commissioners (DCs) misusing Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) provision across Pakistan. Police and other law enforcers have been capitalising on the registration of cases to arrest those people the state does not want to see free. We see many FIRs being registered against one person. We see names recorded in FIRs even of those known not

to have violated the law. Sometimes, FIRs are sealed and their contents not disclosed. Another practice is to register multiple FIRs regarding the same incident in different jurisdictions, and even register FIRs in different provinces to allow remand for a few days in order to move people from one province to another.

These tactics have been used before and are still being used by law-enforcement agencies. This is not in the service of justice alone. There are plenty of judicial objections regarding which show the abuse of the powers of the police and other law enforcers.

But what makes abuses possible and allows them to thrive is the explicit state support. Can a DC abuse the MPO when the state does not want him or her to do so? He or she would be over. But look at how the game was played between the Islamabad DC and the Islamabad High Court. Even if there is some cost imposed on

the DC, he or she could walk away so long as there is state support. That is exactly why these abuses are hard to stop or rectify. If an individual police officer or DC or even a judge tries to stop the abuse or roll back its impact, there will be plenty of other officers willing to do the state's bidding and plenty of judges who will not take on the case or who will take the state's side.

Imran Razwas missing for four months. How many court hearings were there for his arrest? Was it pressure by the courts that saw his power to break traffic laws. DCs cannot be held accountable and whatever it wanted be letting him go. The Commission of Inquiry into Enforced Disappearances was formed in 2011.

What has it been able to achieve since then? Has anyone ever been held responsible for the disappearances? Are not the relatives of the missing still on the streets of the Federal Capital?

So it seems clear that if it is the state and some of the most powerful institutions within the state that are engaged in abuse of power to be committed with impunity, there is hardly a way to stop it.

What is common to all these instances? The exercise of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

But clearly, these instances are examples of the abuse of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

But clearly, these instances are examples of the abuse of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

But clearly, these instances are examples of the abuse of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

But clearly, these instances are examples of the abuse of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

But clearly, these instances are examples of the abuse of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

State-backed impunity

all these instances? The exercise of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

But clearly, these instances are examples of the abuse of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

But clearly, these instances are examples of the abuse of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

But clearly, these instances are examples of the abuse of power? Definitely. Legally, the state has the power to use coercion, even violence in certain situations. Within the legitimate use of power is for the people's protection, power can also be abused, even if there are differences of opinion on the valid/non-valid use of coercion. Regardless, the state has power.

Punjab must decide

By Aasim Sajjad Akhtar:

ELECTION season is when the bourgeois political class makes all sorts of promises and at the same time says nothing about how they will deliver on them. The National Press Club in the federal capital.

Even if the bigwigs don't make time to visit, there's no obvious reason they cannot release a statement of support. Maryam Nawaz had no problem doing photo shoots with missing persons' loved ones a couple of years ago, but being anti-establishment has in fashion back then.

The ethnic peripheries are fought and live in sorrow, especially one that health problems play out alongside environmental despoliation. Other than the very well-off, most Punjab youth — many who have been taken by the PTI and Imran Khan — continue to suffer the cumulative economic effects of the pandemic and IMF-imposed austerity, as well as the hyper-financialised and consumption-based economic model that is rampant in Pakistan today.

In short, that there is simply not enough gainful and dignified employment available for the number of young people seeking jobs, let alone housing, health care, education and recreation. The most coveted option is to leave the country by hook or crook, but even that is an option for a very small percentage of the population.

I believe that a growing number of young people in Punjab need to understand that establishment-centric system offers them only hateful rhetoric, and in fact, subjects many to

Prudent living

end up having a longer, healthier life. In other words, families have to look carefully at the economic context which is around them.

Pakistan's economy is currently going through severe uncertainty, including inflation, high cost of day-to-day needs, severe climate shocks and insufficient financial resources to finance development programmes. There will be no surprise, if in the coming months, we see more difficult situations causing further instability and uncertainty in many sectors. Therefore, families must be prudent in daily spending because it is the right way to prepare for the future in a tumultuous world. Therefore, families should tighten their belts, strive to live within their means, and reduce their consumption, enhance their in-

come and minimise the use of utilities such as electricity, gas and water etc. Above all, families must be disciplined in financial matters. Leading a simple life is the need of the hour. However, it is difficult to define a simple life. It is subjective, for every individual has his or her own standard of simplicity. Simple life for a businessman is totally different from the one who works manually. But generally, simplicity is the habit of living frugally, wasting little, and being thoughtful with money. People who live a frugal lifestyle do not try to 'keep up with the Joneses' and get trapped into constantly buying more. This is a time of hard work, earning money, and reducing the overall cost of living and trying utmost to save money for the future. In such difficult times, the government should improve health services at public facilities as it is not needed. Families have to

Who can stop the state of these institutions? Other institutions within the state and society, of course. That is what happens in many countries. But what if the other institutions are weak? What if political parties, the legislature and judiciary are weak or divided, and the media is throttled or compromised, and civil society has not been allowed to flourish? That is exactly what a poorly developed institutional structure looks like and this is exactly the place we are in. Institutions are weak or almost non-existent.

Weak institutions hamper us in our pursuits too, including economic growth and development, but that is a topic for another time. For the moment, we can acknowledge the consequences we face, and the quandary we are in, in terms of law and rights that most do not exist here.

We can either develop multiple poles of power or have multiple points of view in the stronger institution to balance things out. Or, the institutions can balance out the most powerful institution. If neither is possible, and that looks like the case, it is hard to see how the abuse of power, given impunity by the state, can stop.

The next step is to understand that political commitments are not following a Pied Piper to the ends of the earth. It is about coming to terms with the world (rather than the symptoms) of the predicament one faces, and then having the courage to make common cause with all others concerned with building a different future.

The future for Punjab youth — especially those lower down the class ladder — is not as bleak as some others but it certainly is not great. The young Baloch are protesting peacefully in Islamabad for their loved ones have said they seek to make common cause with the ordinary people of Punjab. Our collective future will be shaped by now Punjab's increasingly politically conscious young people respond in the due course of time.

The next step is to understand that political commitments are not following a Pied Piper to the ends of the earth. It is about coming to terms with the world (rather than the symptoms) of the predicament one faces, and then having the courage to make common cause with all others concerned with building a different future.

The future for Punjab youth — especially those lower down the class ladder — is not as bleak as some others but it certainly is not great. The young Baloch are protesting peacefully in Islamabad for their loved ones have said they seek to make common cause with the ordinary people of Punjab. Our collective future will be shaped by now Punjab's increasingly politically conscious young people respond in the due course of time.

The next step is to understand that political commitments are not following a Pied Piper to the ends of the earth. It is about coming to terms with the world (rather than the symptoms) of the predicament one faces, and then having the courage to make common cause with all others concerned with building a different future.

The future for Punjab youth — especially those lower down the class ladder — is not as bleak as some others but it certainly is not great. The young Baloch are protesting peacefully in Islamabad for their loved ones have said they seek to make common cause with the ordinary people of Punjab. Our collective future will be shaped by now Punjab's increasingly politically conscious young people respond in the due course of time.

The next step is to understand that political commitments are not following a Pied Piper to the ends of the earth. It is about coming to terms with the world (rather than the symptoms) of the predicament one faces, and then having the courage to make common cause with all others concerned with building a different future.

The future for Punjab youth — especially those lower down the class ladder — is not as bleak as some others but it certainly is not great. The young Baloch are protesting peacefully in Islamabad for their loved ones have said they seek to make common cause with the ordinary people of Punjab. Our collective future will be shaped by now Punjab's increasingly politically conscious young people respond in the due course of time.

Pakistan's 5-year Plan needs Rs 150b to transform governance: PC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Planning Commission of Pakistan has revealed that a significant investment of Rs 150 billion is needed during the upcoming five-year plan to address poor governance indicators in the country. The plan, spanning from 2024 to 2029, aims to target key areas such as innovation, capacity building, performance management, service delivery, justice, police, research, and public sectors, including regulatory frameworks and statistics. The ultimate goal is to elevate Pakistan's service delivery standards above those of South Asian countries.

The commission's report acknowledges the persistent lack of accountability and transparency at all levels within various govern-

ment sectors, citing these issues as central to the problem of bad governance. Despite a spending of Rs 92 billion over the past decade to improve governance indicators, the situation has regrettably worsened compared to regional counterparts.

The decision to resume long-term central planning comes in response to recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Central Development Working Party, the country's largest economic decision-making body, approved the IMF's suggestions, sending them to the National Economic Council for final approval. As part of the proposed plan, the Planning Commission emphasizes the need to enhance the efficiency of local govern-

ments and establish a sustainable, functional, and stable decentralized governance system at all levels. The implementation of the 18th constitutional amendment is highlighted to strengthen the local government system, ensuring inclusive governance, community empowerment, and effective service delivery at the grassroots level.

To improve the service delivery of key institutions such as the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Police, Judiciary, State Bank, NADRA, and the Competition Commission, the plan suggests creating a centralized database for prospective taxpayers. Furthermore, it advocates for a robust performance management system to collect data from educational and devel-

opment institutions, enabling effective accountability at both institutional and individual levels.

The report identifies institutional corruption as a major challenge to governance improvement, affecting various sectors of the economy. To address this, recommendations include providing training and financial and administrative autonomy to federal and provincial institutions, including the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Auditor General Office, and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The plan also emphasizes the importance of expediting justice delivery to promote the rule of law effectively.

As Pakistan sets its sights on a comprehensive governance overhaul,



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of lawyers from various bar councils including Islamabad Bar Council, Azad Kashmir Bar Council and KP Bar Council called upon Federal Minister for Law and Justice Mr. Ahmad Irfan Aslam.

New York sues bus firms for \$708m over migrant transfers

NEW YORK (INP): New York has sued bus companies transporting migrants from the southern US border to the city for \$708 million, the mayor said on Thursday.

For more than two years, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has chartered coaches to move newly arrived migrants from the border to New York and other Democratic-run cities in protest at what he claims are the national government's failings on immigration.

New York had sought to curb the arrival of buses carrying migrants by limiting where they could drop passengers, and introducing prior notification requirements. But those requirements, introduced amid an increasingly bitter row that has become a core campaign issue ahead of this year's

presidential election, have been circumvented. Some buses carrying migrants have dropped off passengers in neighboring New Jersey state from where they make the last leg of their journey to New York by railway. "(The city) announced a lawsuit against 17 charter bus and transportation companies that seek to recoup all costs New York City has incurred providing emergency shelter and services to migrants transported by the charter bus companies - totaling at least approximately \$708 million already spent to care for migrants sent here in the last two years by Texas," said New York Mayor Eric Adams.

That law requires city authorities to provide shelter and care to anyone in the Big Apple who requests it. "These companies have violated state law by not paying the cost of caring for these migrants, and that's why we are suing to recoup approximately \$708 million already spent to care for migrants sent here in the last two years by Texas," said New York Mayor Eric Adams.

On Wednesday, the US Justice Department sued Texas to overturn a local law that creates two new state crimes in an effort to control migration. "States cannot

adopt immigration laws that interfere with the framework enacted by Congress," said associate attorney general Vanita Gupta in a statement.

New York, a megacity of 8.5 million inhabitants, has welcomed waves of migrants throughout its history and more than 164,500 asylum seekers have arrived since spring 2022, city hall says.

Over 68,000 of them are still being cared for by the city which has opened 214 sites to shelter them mostly repurposed hotels. The influx of migrants has become a central issue as campaigning ramps up ahead of November's presidential polls and the United States is seeing record numbers of arrivals on its southern border.

an who killed Pakistani family with car to be sentenced

ONTARIO (INP): A sentencing hearing in Canada began Thursday of the man convicted of murdering four members of a Pakistani Muslim family with his truck over two years ago.

Nathaniel Veltman, a 23-year-old self-proclaimed white supremacist, was found guilty of murder in November. He has denied the charges.

On June 6, 2021, Veltman ran over the

family with his pickup truck in the Ontario city of London, killing both parents, the grandmother, and their 15-year-old daughter. The sole survivor, a nine-year-old boy, was severely injured. "This was not only a crime against the Muslim community, but an affront to the safety of all Canadians," said Tabbara Bakhat on Thursday morning. Her daughter, 44-year-old

Madiba Salman, was among those killed. As many as 70 people close to the victims will give impact statements during the two-day hearing. "The sorrow and the sadness, the fear, the anger, the pain, they come again and again," said Amira Elgahawy, who was appointed last year as Canada's special representative on combating Islamophobia. In Canada, a guilty

verdict for premeditated murder carries a minimum sentence of life imprisonment, with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

According to local media, Judge Renee Pomerance of the Superior Court of Justice in Ontario will determine this month whether or not Veltman's actions constitute an act of terrorism, before announcing his sentence.



COLOMBO: Secretary Defence Lt Gen (Retired) Hamood Uz Zaman Khan calls on President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe at Presidential Secretariat Sri Lanka.



KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities.

CJP says will not hear individual cases related to elections

ISLAMABAD, Jan 05 (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has said that we will not hear individual cases related to elections.

He expressed these remarks while hearing a set of 15 petitions to determine the period of disqualification under Article 62(1)(f), especially in light of the inconsistencies found between two constitutional provisions on one proposing a lifetime ban while the other proposing a five-year disqualification period. The court will decide whether the 2018 Samiullah Baloch case, or the 2023 amendments to the Elections Act 2017 that reduce the ineligibility period to five years, will prevail.

The case of interpretation of Article 62(1)(f) of the Constitution is being heard by a 7-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, and comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice

Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hila.

Proceedings are being broadcast live on SC's website and YouTube channel.

The fate of many politicians, including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif and Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) founder Jahangir Tareen, hinges on the verdict of the apex court which will determine whether they could participate in the upcoming polls or not. In its hearing on Jan 2, Chief Justice Isa advised against assuming that a particular party was being favoured.

Today, Jahangir Tareen's lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan is presenting his arguments.

At the outset of the hearing, the Chief Justice of Pakistan remarked that we decided that we would not hear the individual case related to

the elections, we would hear the case related to the constitutional interpretation, the individual cases related to the elections would be heard in another bench next week and we would form another bench for those cases.

Chief Justice Isa said that we issued a public notice in the disqualification case, but no political party became a party. He said that nobody cares, describing a lifetime ban while the other proposing a five-year disqualification period. The court will decide whether the 2018 Samiullah Baloch case, or the 2023 amendments to the Elections Act 2017 that reduce the ineligibility period to five years, will prevail.

The case of interpretation of Article 62(1)(f) of the Constitution is being heard by a 7-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, and comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice

the elections, we would hear the case related to the constitutional interpretation, the individual cases related to the elections would be heard in another bench next week and we would form another bench for those cases.

Chief Justice Isa said that we issued a public notice in the disqualification case, but no political party became a party. He said that nobody cares, describing a lifetime ban while the other proposing a five-year disqualification period. The court will decide whether the 2018 Samiullah Baloch case, or the 2023 amendments to the Elections Act 2017 that reduce the ineligibility period to five years, will prevail.

Today, Jahangir Tareen's lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan is presenting his arguments.

At the outset of the hearing, the Chief Justice of Pakistan remarked that we decided that we would not hear the individual case related to

the elections, we would hear the case related to the constitutional interpretation, the individual cases related to the elections would be heard in another bench next week and we would form another bench for those cases.

Chief Justice Isa said that we issued a public notice in the disqualification case, but no political party became a party. He said that nobody cares, describing a lifetime ban while the other proposing a five-year disqualification period. The court will decide whether the 2018 Samiullah Baloch case, or the 2023 amendments to the Elections Act 2017 that reduce the ineligibility period to five years, will prevail.

Today, Jahangir Tareen's lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan is presenting his arguments.

At the outset of the hearing, the Chief Justice of Pakistan remarked that we decided that we would not hear the individual case related to

the elections, we would hear the case related to the constitutional interpretation, the individual cases related to the elections would be heard in another bench next week and we would form another bench for those cases.



QUETTA: Activates of Sunni Ullama Council hold rally outside Quetta Press Club(QPC).

APHC, parties seek implement of UN's 5th January 1949 resolution on Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 05 (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders and parties have said that the United Nations should fulfill its legal and moral obligations to help implement the 5th January 1949 historic resolution, which granted right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in IIOJK. He said the unabated genocide of the oppressed Kashmiris at the hands of Indian forces and the brazen violations of international laws and commitments made by India before the various international fora have brought the whole world at the brink of yet another world war.

The DFP spokesman, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, in a statement issued in Srinagar, while reminding the UN of its obligations towards the peaceful settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute, said that it was high time that the international community, especially the UN, should come forward and play its much needed role to resolve the Kashmir dispute and stop the ongoing violation of human rights in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Referring to the highly volatile situation in IIOJK, he said that since 1947 the unresolved dispute has led to widespread deaths and destruction. Kashmiris, he said, have been bearing the brunt of violence and India's state terrorism for the past several decades.

"Innocent people of Kashmir are being killed, harassed, humiliated and tortured every now and then by the Indian trigger-happy

forces", he said adding Kashmir has been turned into a virtual hell for its residents by the India's fascist regime that was hell bent on changing the demography of the territory to convert Muslim majority into a minority. Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori in a statement in Srinagar said the Kashmir dispute continues to remain unresolved despite the UN resolutions, wars and bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan.

He called upon the international community to intervene and help stop the worst atrocities and human rights violations committed by the Indian Army in IIOJK.

In a statement, the leader Bilal Ahmed Siddiqui in a statement in Srinagar said that since last 75 years the subjugated people of Jammu and Kashmir had been waiting for the World Body to act upon its own resolution about granting right to self-determination.

CORRIGENDUM: This is in reference to the bidding process for the Remaining Work Outfitting/fitting, including structure work of Block Top Road from Nawa Sahib Road in Shinaroi on N-73 D O. Khan Road via Praga Salazi, District Loralai, with a length of 11.00 km, contract number: TSE-23242268733 and PRQ No. 126627-12-2023. This office informs all the interested bidders that the bid submission date mentioned in the original invitation for bids has been extended. The new bid submission deadline is now 12th January 2024. All other terms and conditions outlined in the original bid invitation shall remain unchanged. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CUPRAH DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT DUKKI. PRQ No. 1308/05-01-2024

PTI's Qureshi, Haleem Adil allowed to contest elections

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court's (SHC) election appellate tribunal on Friday accepted the appeals of PTI Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, his son Zain and party provincial president Haleem Adil Sheikh against the rejection of their candidatures for the upcoming polls.

Qureshi and his son had contested the rejection of their nomination papers by the returning officers (ROs) from the NA-214 constituency (Tharparkar-I) while Sheikh had done the same for NA-238 (Karachi-East IV).

The development comes just a day after Sheikh was granted bail by Malir judicial magistrate Sama Katto in a case related to the May 9 violence. A day before that, he was indicted in a case linked to rioting at city courts in Karachi.

The appeal acceptance also follows that of PTI Central Vice President Firdous Shaham Nagni, who had submitted his nomination papers from Karachi's NA-236. The RO had objected to

Qureshi and Zain's candidature for not providing details of their assets, source of income and paid taxes. Meanwhile, Sheikh's papers had been rejected for failing to disclose details of clearance from the police/anti-corruption and not providing the No Dues Certificate from the provincial assembly, as per the last hearing's order. The election tribunal had issued notices to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and others on the PTI leaders' appeals on Wednesday. The appeals had been filed through Advocate Ali Tahir, who appeared before the tribunal today and confirmed to Dawn.com that his clients were allowed to contest the polls. Justice Adnanul Karim Memon presided over the hearing during which he heard the arguments of the parties concerned, including the ECP. He subsequently set aside the objections raised by the ROs, declaring them illegal, and directing the officials to accept the PTI leaders' nomination pa-

pers. Separately, the appellate tribunal also accepted the appeals of PTI candidate Arsanul Khalid and the PPP's Mirza Khair Baig from NA-241 (Karachi South-II). Notices issued on Fawad Chaudhry's appeal. Meanwhile, the election appellate tribunal of Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi bench issued notices on the appeals of former information minister Fawad Chaudhry and his wife, Hiba, against the rejection of their nomination papers from NA-61 (Jhelum-II). Justice Chaudhry Abdul Azz presided over the hearing today and confirmed to details from the Federal Investigation Agency of Fawad's and Hiba's travels abroad as well as bank account details. Hearings on both appeals were adjourned till tomorrow. Fawad had parted ways with the PTI soon after a country-wide crackdown on the party as initiated after the May 9 riots sparked by its chairman Imran Khan's arrest.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker minister for communications, maritime affairs and railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Capital's public hospitals bear liabilities of Rs12 b impacting quality of health facilities: Dr Nadeem Jan

ISLAMABAD, Jan 05 (INP) Caretaker Minister for National Health Services, Dr Nadeem Jan on Friday told the Upper House of the Parliament that there was no severe shortage of medicines in the public hospitals of the federal capital, however, due to their liabilities of Rs12 billion a decline in healthcare facilities and quality of services was witnessed.

The minister was responding to the queries of the Senators during the question hour session at the commencement of the 334th Session of the Senate chaired by Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjani.

Upon the request of Senator Sadiq Abbasi, the Chairman Senate urged the House to hold a prayer for the demise of the late former senator, finance minister and national security advisor Sartaj Azz who had passed away on January 2, 2024 at the age of 94. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed on his directive led the prayer and urged the members to also recite fatiha for the six labourers killed by the terrorists

in North Waziristan. Senator Sadiq Abbasi of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) while paying tribute to the former Senator Sartaj Azz said he was a towering personality of the country who served for many international organizations, remained general secretary of Muslim League, remained senator, and finance minister. He had rendered great services in education sector and promoted Beaconhouse School System which was acknowledged by the latter. He wrote many books on the politics, and economics of Pakistan and was an expert in agriculture. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) said the caretaker government had denied an increase in the prices of medicines which was regrettable as only 300% increase alone in anti-epileptic drug was noticed. Responding to the Senator's query, Caretaker Health Minister Nadeem Jan said there was no increase in medicines during the interim government's tenure. He said the policy on this



ISLAMABAD: Power Division and K-Electric ink landmark agreements, in the presence of Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali, providing energy security for Karachi at Power Division.

ECP completes training of electoral staff

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has completed priority-based training for election supervisory staff appointed for the smooth conduct of the 2024 general elections.

According to the electoral body, the training of 379,191 people has been completed, while the remaining 406,222 people will complete training by February 1.

ECP spokesman said on Thursday that the Commission had initiated training for nearly one million election staff during the last week of November, 2023, which would conclude by February 1, 2024.

The remaining 406,222 election supervisory staff, including District Returning Officers, Returning Officers,

Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, and others would be imparted training before the deadline, he added. Strict disciplinary action was being taken against the staff who remained absent during the training programme, the ECP spokesman said.

He said in compliance with the ECP's special directives, the central control room had been fully operational since December 26, 2023, addressing and resolving complaints promptly.

To date, the central control room had received 45 complaints, all of which had been resolved, he added.

The spokesperson said the central complaint cell at the Election Commission Secretariat also handled 165 com-

plaints, promptly processing and issuing necessary instructions to the relevant authorities.

All 180 control rooms have also been activated at the provincial, divisional, and district levels, collaborating with the Central Control Room to monitor elections and swiftly address complaints.

Monitoring teams deployed nationwide in every district had also been mobilized to actively remove promotional materials daily, addressing violations of the code of conduct by candidates, the spokesperson added.

He said the District Monitoring Officers had issued notices for various Code of Conduct violations, and subsequent legal action would be taken following inquiries.

Most-wanted terrorist with Rs2.5m head money gunned down in Tank operation

TANK (INP): A most-wanted terrorist with Rs2.5 million reward on his head was gunned down along with an accomplice by security forces during an operation in Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to an ISPR statement released on Friday morning, most-wanted terrorist Gul Yousaf alias Toor was neutralized in a gun battle with troops during an intelligence-based operation which was conducted on the night between January 4 and 5 in Tank district.

"During the conduct of operation, after an intense fire exchange, two terrorists, including HVT (high-value target) Gul Yousaf @ Toor, were sent to hell," the ISPR said, adding "Terrorist Gul Yousaf remained active in-

volved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces including high-profile terrorist attacks in Tank and DI Khan districts as well as extortion and target killing of innocent civilians."

ISPR said local residents commended security forces' efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region. ISPR said that security forces were committed to eliminate terrorists from the country 'in step' with the people.

Only three days ago security forces had killed four wanted terrorists, including a suicide bomber, in an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan. The intelligence-based operation was carried out on Tuesday in the North Waziristan trib-

district bordering Afghanistan. After an intense exchange of fire, four terrorists, including a suicide-bomber, were killed by the security forces.

Those killed were wanted by law enforcement agencies for various terrorist activities and were also planning a major terror attack in the district. Large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession, according to the ISPR.

A few weeks back, three policemen had embraced martyrdom and five terrorists were killed during an attack on Police Lines in Tank City. Five terrorists including a suicide bomber attempted to launch attack but were offered stiff resistance by brave police-

Preparations underway for 2024 general elections in Abbottabad District

ABBOTTABAD (INP) Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad, Khalid Iqbal Friday chaired a meeting to evaluate the groundwork for the upcoming 2024 general elections.

The meeting addressed various key aspects, including staff training, security measures, accessibility to polling stations, provision of vehicles, installation and monitoring of CCTV cameras, and adherence to directives from the Election Commission to ensure a transparent and fair electoral process.

Iqbal stressed the need for maintaining cleanliness in

washrooms, providing clean drinking water, and ensuring overall facilities for voters at polling stations. In a bid to facilitate disabled individuals, he issued instructions for the reconstruction of ramps and slopes to guarantee their seamless participation in the voting process.

Highlighting the significance of administrative matters during polling, Deputy Commissioner Iqbal directed district officers, returning officers, and the police to prioritize order maintenance.

He urged the police force to ensure peace and security

in all urban areas, emphasizing the implementation of measures to create a secure environment for all citizens to exercise their voting rights.

The meeting was attended by District Election Commissioner Zeeshan Khan, SP Traffic Warden Arif Javid, Secretary RTA Omar Arshad Khan, RO NA-16 ADC Finance.

and Planning Abbas Khan Afridi, RO PK-45, RO PK-43 AC, Ali Sher Khan Khalil, RO PK-42 AC-3 Zark Yar Khan Toru, RO PK-44 DFO Mohammad Idris, along with other key officials.



QUETTA: Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) Staff Association President Noman Khan addressing a press conference.

Punjab CM Naqvi reviews progress work on 40 public welfare projects

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has reviewed the progress on 40 public welfare priority projects in the province.

The chief minister presided over a four-hour-long meeting during his visit to the Planning and Development Board along with his cabinet members here on Friday.

Chairman Planning and Development Board Ifikhar Saho briefed the meeting about the progress work on development projects through drone footage.

CM Naqvi ordered to complete all the public projects within the stipulated period. He directed all the provincial ministers and secretaries to visit the relevant projects twice a

day and review the progress themselves.

He asked them that they should monitor the projects even late at night to evaluate the speed of work.

The chief minister said that the timely completion of development projects not only saves national resources, but people also get immediate results. He also emphasized upon the quality while completing the projects within the stipulated time.

He expressed concern over the delay in issues related to the Lahore Zoo and Safari Park projects.

The meeting was briefed that the Hospital Management Information System in 22 hospitals in Punjab would be com-

pleted by January 31. The chief minister said that the Mayo Cancer Hospital, he would monitor the projects even late at night to evaluate the speed of work.

He said the construction of a biogas plant in Gujjar Colony would be completed by January 31.

Provincial ministers SM Tanveer, Dr. Javed Akram, Bilal Afzal, Mansoor Qadir, Aamir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, Dr. Jamal Nasir, Ibrahim Hasan Murad, Wahab Riaz, Punjab Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue, secretaries of the concerned departments and other high officials participated in the meeting.

Commissioners and RPOs participated in the meeting through a video link.



QUETTA: Former Provincial minister Tahir Mehmood Khan addressing on the ceremony on occasion of 96th birthday of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.