

# QUETTA VOICE

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## Imran, Bushra Bibi indicted in Iddat case

**RAWALPINDI:** A Rawalpindi court on Tuesday indicted former prime minister Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi in the Iddat case.

The charges against the couple were framed by senior civil judge Qudratullah on a complaint filed by Bushra Bibi's ex-husband Khawar Faraz Maneka under Sections 34 (common intention), 496 (marriage ceremony fraudulently gone through without lawful marriage) and 496B (fornication) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The hearing was conducted at Adiala Jail, where Imran is incarcerated. Ever since his arrest in August last year, the PTI founder has been indicted in multiple cases, including the Toshkhana reference, epher case and the contempt case against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Last week, despite being already incarcerated, Imran was arrested by Ra-wa-a-lpindi police in at least a dozen cases pertaining to the May 9 violence, including the attack on the General Headquarters (GHQ).

At the previous hearing, Judge Qudratullah had deferred the indictment in the Iddat case due to Bushra Bibi's absence. Separately, the Islamabad High

Court (IHC) had reserved its order a day earlier on a petition seeking to stay trial proceedings in the case.

During the hearing today, Bushra Bibi and Imran appeared before Judge Qudratullah. However, the former first lady left the hearing midway citing health reasons.

"She is not feeling well and has left for the hospital," PTI lawyer Usman Gul told the court.

At that, the judge inquired if Bushra Bibi had taken permission before leaving the hearing halfway through. "There is a procedure that needs to be followed when one wants to leave. You are a lawyer, you must know that," he stated.

"Have you ever, to date, fulfilled any commitment?" the irked judge asked the PTI lawyer. He recalled that the court had issued arrest warrants at the previous hearing but withdrew them "keeping the esteem" of PTI leader Latif Khosa.

Subsequently, Gul filed a plea seeking permission for Bushra Bibi's exemption from the hearing. However, prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi opposed the petition, arguing that the medical report submitted by Imran's spouse didn't show any medical problems.



"Bushra Bibi was in court, she cannot deceive anyone like that," he further contended.

Meanwhile, Judge Qudratullah said a petition for exemption from hearing was only filed when a person was not in the court. "But Bushra Bibi was in court and she left without taking permission," he noted and

sought details of the time of the former first lady's entry and exit from jail. Addressing the jail authorities, the judge inquired: "With whose permission did you allow

Bushra Bibi to leave prison?" In response, the Adiala Jail superintendent said Imran's spouse entered the prison at 11:30am and left at 1:45pm.

"Bushra Bibi left the court right before the lawyers arrived," Rizwan said, claiming that this happened under a "conspiracy".

For his part, the PTI lawyer said "the sky will not fall" if the indictment was delayed for a day or two to fulfil the legal requirements in the case. But, despite objections from Gul, the court framed charges against the suspects in Bushra Bibi's absence.

"Did you understand the accusations?" the judge subsequently asked Imran. The PTI founder responded that he couldn't understand the legal jargon but at the same time contended that "all this is happening under the London Plan".

"This case was filed under a planning, they want to dismantle my party," Imran said. "They first pick up people, torture them and then 'update their software,'" he alleged. Imran also rejected the charges against him and pleaded not guilty. Subsequently, the court adjourned the hearing till Jan 18 and summoned witnesses at the upcoming proceedings.

**NEWSDESK**

## CS Balochistan Ensures Rigorous Preparations for Elections During Sibi Visit

News Desk:

**QUETTA:** Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, led a high-profile delegation to Sibi on Tuesday for a one-day visit, marking a crucial step in gearing up for the upcoming general elections. The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Additional Chief Secretary Interior Zahid Saleem, IG Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, and Secretary Finance Bahar Khan.

At the Commissioner's Office Sibi, under the guidance of Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, a thorough review of preparations for the general elections took place. Emphasizing the provincial government's commitment to conducting transparent and peaceful elections, Chief Secretary Khan directed the formulation of a comprehensive plan covering staff deployment, facilities at polling stations, and arrangements for transport and security.

**Chief Secretary Khan's Directives: Enhancing Peace, Accessibility, and Election Support**

Highlighting the government's efforts to foster an environment of peace and transparency, Chief Secretary Khan instructed officials to maintain peace and order in the division. He specifically directed the pro-



vision of essential facilities, including water, washrooms, and electricity, at all polling stations. Additionally, the installation of CCTV cameras and the construction of ramps for disabled persons at every polling station were mandated to enhance accessibility and security.

Expressing unwavering support for the Election Commission, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan announced that the provincial government would ensure funds for transport to the administration by January 22.

**Election Countdown: Deputy Commissioners Detail Key Districts and Security Measures**

Deputy commissioners of the division provided detailed briefings on their respective districts during the visit.

They revealed that elections would be held for one National Assembly seat and four Provincial

Assembly seats across the five districts, which collectively boast a population of 11 lakh 56 thousand and 4 lakh 46 thousand registered voters.

The division comprises 406 polling stations, with security arrangements entrusted to the police, levies, and FC personnel. As the countdown to the elections continues, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan's visit underscores the government's commitment to a fair and secure electoral process.

## Balochistan Health Dept Boosts Cardiac Surgery at Civil Hospital Quetta

News Desk:



Secretary of Health Balochistan, Abdullah Khan, announced an initiative by the Balochistan Health Department to bolster the cardiac surgery department at Civil Hospital Quetta, set to be inaugurated shortly. This development comes as a result of a collaborative effort between the Health Department and Bank Al Falah Quetta.

During a meeting with Bank Al Falah Quetta's Regional Head, Sanaullah, Secretary Health Abdullah Khan received a briefing from MS Civil Hospital Quetta, Dr. Ishaq Panizai, and Sanaullah regarding the significant contributions being made by the bank. Bank Al Falah Quetta has pledged financial support for the new ICU, beds, and other essential medical equipment for the cardiac surgery department at Civil Hospital Quetta.

The partnership extends beyond Civil Hospital Quetta, as Bank Al Falah Quetta is also actively supporting the renovation of the gynecology center and the provision of ambulance services and beds at District Headquarters

Hospital, Machh, in collaboration with the Praghi Foundation. Furthermore, a Child Life Center is slated to open soon at BMC Hospital, thanks to financial support from Bank Al Falah.

Expressing appreciation for the initiative, Secretary Health Abdullah Khan commended Bank Al Falah's commitment to saving the lives of economically disadvantaged patients suffering from heart diseases in Balochistan. In response to these efforts, the Secretary of Health directed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bank Al Falah, Praghi Foundation, and MS Civil Hospital Quetta.

The Health Department of Balochistan conveyed gratitude for Bank Al Falah Quetta's proactive role and affirmed its commitment to continuing assistance for underprivileged patients in the region. Secretary Abdullah Khan also expressed hope for similar contributions from other institutions, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in the welfare of hospitals and healthcare services.

## FIA Gwadar Cracks Down, Apprehends 18 People Attempting Illegal Migration

From Our Correspondent:

**GWADAR:** The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Gwadar has successfully thwarted an attempt at illegal migration, apprehending 18 individuals in a recent crackdown led by Deputy Director Mr. Asif Naseem. Acting on confidential information, ASI Abdul Ghaffar and the FIA Team Gwadar, in collaboration with FIA Composite Circle Gwadar, conducted targeted operations across various locations in Gwadar.

**Crackdown Targeted Human Traffickers**

The crackdown specifically targeted human traffickers utilizing boats in the Arabian Sea in Mekran to facilitate illegal migration to the Gulf States.

The operation resulted in the arrest of 15 individuals from different districts of Punjab, four Afghan nationals, and one facilitator involved in orchestrating illegal migration. The arrests adhered to established protocols, and the detainees are currently undergoing further investigation. Deputy Director Asif Naseem reiterated the agency's commitment to combating the grave issue of human trafficking. He commended the proactive role played



by ASI Abdul Ghaffar and the entire FIA team in Gwadar, emphasizing their dedication to upholding the law and ensuring the safety of individuals seeking a better life abroad.

**FIA Continues Its Efforts To Expose Network Behind Human Trafficking**

The apprehended individuals, who attempted to travel to foreign countries illegally, are now subject to legal proceedings.

The FIA continues its rigorous efforts to expose the networks behind such activities, focusing on dismantling human trafficking operations and safeguarding vulnerable individuals from falling victim to these, criminal enterprises, according to a confidential source within the agency who declined to be named due to lack

of authorization to speak to the media. This recent crackdown serves as a stern warning to those involved in human trafficking,

underscoring the FIA's unwavering commitment to maintaining the security and integrity of the immigration process. The agency encourages citizens to come forward with any information that may aid in the identification and apprehension of individuals engaged in illegal migration activities.

## PPP Candidate Asghar Rind's House Attacked In Turbat

From Our Correspondent:



**TURBAT:** Unknown accused attacked the residence of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader, Mir Asghar Rind in the Turbat city of Balochistan. The brother Asghar Rind was injured in the attack. The attackers es-

caped unhurt from the spot. The injured brother of the PPP leader was rushed to the hospital for medical treatment. Asghar Rind is contesting elections for the provincial assembly seat in the Kech district of Balochistan.

## THE WATCHDOG

Editor: Asim Khan

### Quetta Safe City Project: Watchful Dawn Breaks Over City Scarred by Tragedy

Editorial:

For too long, Quetta has borne the scars of tragedy etched deep in its heart. From the reverberations of the Civil Hospital blast that snatched innocent lives to the chilling silence left by the Police Training College massacre, the city has known the harsh sting of terror. But amidst the echoes of pain, a beacon of hope ignites — the Quetta Safe City Project.

This ambitious initiative, finally nearing completion, stands as a testament to the city's resilience and the government's unwavering commitment to its safety. Over 1,400 watchful eyes, embodied in cutting-edge cameras, will soon peer across 255 key locations, woven into a protective tapestry that will blanket the city. No longer will shadows play host to hidden menace, for Quetta's streets will be bathed in the unflinching light of vigilant technology.

This symphony of safety transcends mere hardware. It's a collaborative masterpiece, orchestrated by the government, conducted by the expertise of the National Information Technology Board, and played by the dedicated instruments of law enforcement agencies. Together, they harmonize into a powerful chorus of protection, its melody drowning out the discordant notes of fear.

But this fortress of safety is not an imported marvel; it's a local masterpiece, crafted by the ingenuity of Quetta's own sons and daughters. From the command center, a nerve center pulsating with digital intelligence, to the intricate network of cameras, the project hums with the heartbeat of self-reliance. This is not just technology; it's a declaration of a city refusing to be defined by its past, choosing instead to forge a future bright with safety and hope.

As the project prepares to unveil its might, Quetta residents whisper dreams of nights untroubled by anxiety, of carefree laughter echoing through bustling markets, and of evenings where children play unafraid beneath the watchful gaze of technology's sentinels. The Quetta Safe City Project is not just a shield against threats; it's a bridge to a future where trust flourishes between citizens and law enforcers, paving the way for a dawn of peace and prosperity.

However, the marathon towards a truly safe haven requires unwavering commitment. The government must be the unwavering torchbearer, ensuring the project's lifeblood of resources flows uninterrupted. Law enforcement agencies must be the agile runners, adapting their strategies to dance in perfect step with technology's swift rhythm.

The Quetta Safe City Project is more than just circuits and wires; it's a poem of possibility etched in the city's soul. As the cameras begin their vigil, let us remember that the true poem is penned not by technology, but by the collective will to write a new chapter for Quetta. Together, let us turn the final page on fear and open the first chapter of a safe, vibrant future for this city, rising from the ashes of tragedy to become a fortress of safety under a hopeful sky.

This editorial acknowledges the tragic past of Quetta while celebrating the present progress and highlighting the collective responsibility to ensure the project's success.

It uses evocative language and imagery to paint a hopeful picture of the future and expresses appreciation for the government's proactive initiative.

## The missing link

By Neda Multji:

PASSING the parcel was a favourite game among kids at birthday parties in the bygone days. These days, passing the buck seems to be a running trend among those who like to shy away from accountability. One school owner's comment seemed to have a litany of complaints against the teachers employed at her school: excessive absences, lack of classroom management skills and an unprofessional attitude were among reasons that land a school into ill-repute.

Meanwhile, teachers' point fingers at the school management's inability to provide the necessary resources, training and development, reward and recognition. Whilst these may indeed affect the teachers' motivation, they are not the drivers of performance or the lack thereof. Those who are experts in their subject and profession should astute don't usually rely on external factors to motivate them.

There might be a missing link in this equation — a gap between how the teachers perform and the school management's perception of them. When this gap grows, it becomes a gaping wound, leading

to teacher absences, high turnover, lower student retention rates, mediocre academic results and complaints by parents and the community, all resulting in disgruntled school leaders which, in turn, clouds the entire school culture.

Communication and collaboration may help address this missing link between teachers and management. Often, teachers have little agency in contributing to the transformation processes at school, from timetable and scheduling of classes to the choice of books for their subjects, most decisions are made by those at the top. When parents complain, teachers get only a filtered version of it. When the teachers underperform, the management cannot necessarily put their finger on the reason for and the blame game continues.

Part of the transformational growth at schools requires an inquiry mindset where the management collaborates with teachers and seeks their insight on growth, obstacles and opportunities.

Most teachers would welcome more open and frequent communication, as would parents, who desper-

ately want answers regarding their children's experiences at school.

Planning and implementing processes, such as rosters for substitution, assessment schedules and parent-teacher conferences, in advance can help teachers manage their workload more efficiently. Often, teachers are overloaded with unplanned substitution duty for absent teachers, or tend to find out at the eleventh hour that a working Saturday is coming up due to parent teacher meetings. Planning events much in advance establishes expectations and minimises nasty surprises that can dampen motivation.

Social interaction amongst the teachers also has a huge bearing on teacher motivation and well-being. Yet, in most schools, the aim is to minimise social interaction or reserve it for end-of-term school dinners. Work relationships among colleagues evolve continually, and it would help to provide regular opportunities for teachers to engage with each other during frequent breaks, collaborate on lesson plans and teaching strategies and plan their modules together.

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## Balochistan's Population Growth Challenges: A Call for Comprehensive Strategies

Muhammad Asghar Harifal:

Recently, Balochistan held its 2nd Task Force meeting on population growth, a critical issue identified by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. This intervention in 2018 led to the formation of Task Forces at national and provincial levels, focusing on key areas such as legislation, financial resources, advocacy, family planning services, contraceptive security, and the support of ulma.

Effectiveness of Task Forces: The Task Forces, comprising various stakeholders, have proven to be effective tools in addressing urgent and complex issues.

These bodies, meeting every three months, bring together departments like Population Welfare, Planning and Development, Health, Education, Social Welfare, Women Welfare, donor partners, and activists. This collaborative approach is crucial, considering the limited attention and funding typically allocated to social well-being agencies in the public sector.

Lessons from China and Regional Disparities: Examining successful models like China's one-child policy, it becomes evident that population control is intertwined with economic growth. China's success highlights the correlation.

Unfortunately, the success factors in birth control models are lacking on a national

scale, especially in Balochistan, where the population growth rate is 3.37%, higher than the national average of 2.55%. Balochistan's Unique Challenges: Compared to other provinces, Balochistan faces similar issues but with heightened severity. The province's population growth rate is alarming, estimated to reach 24 million by 2050 if the current trend persists.

Institutional crises, coupled with resource limitations, pose a significant hurdle to effective population management.

Institutional Effectiveness and Political Processes: The country's social media offers a potential platform for disseminating information and engaging with the public, but significant public sector in-

vestment is lacking. Resource Allocation and National Finance Commission: Balochistan's discontent with the National Finance Commission's resource distribution, particularly concerning population weightage, is a point of contention.

The province advocates for a formula considering factors beyond its high poverty rates, vast area, low literacy, and health indicators. The divisible pool distribution gains significance as it constitutes nearly 90% of Balochistan's revenue, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach to revenue generation.

Conclusion: Balochistan's population growth challenges demand immediate and comprehensive strategies.

## The death of a Muslim musician

By Jawed Naqvi:

IN Satyajit Ray's Jalsaghar (music room), the tired and lonely zamindar is flayed by the redoubtable Bengali actor, Chhabi Biswas. In a scene in the movie, the protagonist requests the caretaker of his mansion to summon a particular "Muslim" singer for the evening concert.

The film flaunts a medley of Muslim musicians performing in the music room, including a remarkable live performance by Begum Akhtar and an off-screen recital by Ustad Salamati Ali. The music for Jalsaghar was composed by star wizard Ustad Vilayat Khan.

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi's morning concert in Abu Dhabi in the 1980s boosted the point Ray touched on about Muslim singers. A fan requested Panditi to perform the morning melody, Rang Lalit. "The singer of Lalit is no more, sadly," Bhimsen Joshi found himself paying a spontaneous tribute to Ustad Amir Khan, the pre-eminent Muslim vocalist who died prematurely in a car accident in Kolkata.

It's not often that eminent singers praise other eminent singers publicly. Joshi sang Miyan ki Todi instead that morning. It didn't matter. Asked elsewhere about the future of classical music after him, he picked an unknown name at the time, a young Muslim singer from the Rampur-Sahawan

gharana, who had been trained at a respected music academy in Kolkata. It showed his belief in the young Rashid Khan that Chhabi Biswas, in a scene in the movie, the protagonist requests the caretaker of his mansion to summon a particular "Muslim" singer for the evening concert.

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By Waleed Ahmed:

WHY am I? Why are we here? What happens to us when we die? Complex questions which every individual seeks to answer in a lifetime.

According to Colin Mayer's Prosperity, the purpose of the existence of a corporation is rather simple: "producing profitable solutions to problems of people and planet". The current socioeconomic business model creates an overabundance of wealth for businessmen, shareholders and CEOs. The scarcity of natural resources necessitates that the role of corporations goes beyond the stakeholder capitalism prevalent in the environment, social and govern-

ance (ESG) policy today.

The reasons behind social disorders, energy crises and corporate failures are "as clear as day", yet perpetually unseen by a few. The world years for real, sustainable and permanent change — a change in the way we conduct business, treat the environment and build a better future for coming generations.

Governance can help the corporation become a source of benefit to society and diminish the likelihood of harm caused to citizens. Orthodox shareholder primacy has been rejected across the Atlantic, but the alternatives to solving issues related to

prosperity and consumer welfare need further examination. The citizen has become merely a consumer, with no active participation in the decision-making process. The consumer is deprived due to profit maximisation at any cost, the interaction between the individual, state and corporation. Rethinking mandatory rules and best practices to redefine the corporate purpose of companies in both the Global North and South is required immediately.

Do ESG reporting standards and frameworks only help the primary/ESG advantages a company's performance and risk exposure based on its environmental impact, social responsibility

and how it is governed. The idea is to integrate a broad corporate strategy, addressing stakeholder and regulatory demands. ESG programmes are driven by investor demand, workforce pressure, enterprise risk management and competitive advantage. Institutional investors employ "sustainability-linked" loan-lending strategies to gain a better understanding of risks of an investment. ESG grew from \$6 billion in January 2016 to \$322bn in September 2021. However, sustainable investing approaches differ

widely by strategy and products, making it difficult to measure ESG performance. The greatest challenge faced by institutional investors is "greenwashing" — funds which have branded themselves as sustainable but are fundamentally different from traditional funds.

The UN Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023 states: "Growing awareness of misleading practices is creating disillusion, threatening the entire market's credibility and leading to an increase in investor measures to enhance transparency and accountability."

Realignment of the profit motive and embedded purpose in the corporate framework lies at the heart of the issue. How is a buzzword of any use to a shareholder if it carries no instant return or promotes stakeholder interests at the cost of financial capital? The answer is not straightforward. ESG guidelines nudge private actors at the corporate level. Alternatively, SDG goals and the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contributions prod public actors at the state level. A truly sustainable society is visible through the lens of private and public governance, but only if manifested through a paradigm shift towards stakeholder governance.

Pakistan has an ambitious climate change policy, but it is not explicitly at the heart of the issue. Two things seem quite obvious, namely, despite its vast greenhouse gas emissions (490 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2017-18), Pakistan's frequent exposure to natural hazards and significant dependence on monsoon rains for agriculture, the State Bank has issued ESG-and sustainability-focused regulations, policies and guidelines. However, time is of the essence, the quick remedy lies in enabling corporate purpose in a self-regulatory basis but closely monitored by the SEC.

## Corporate purpose



Election schedule of Roman Catholic Christian Housing Society rejected

RAWALPINDI (INP): The members of the Roman Catholic Christian Housing Society have demanded an investigation into the irregularities in the voter list.

Housing Society Rawalpindi on Tuesday while rejecting the election schedule of the society have demanded an investigation into the irregularities in the voter list.

It should be mentioned here that the administration of Roman Catholic Christian Cooperative Housing Society has issued an election schedule against the rules, according to which the election will be held on February 12.

In this regard, several facts have come to light, in which many irregularities have been done in addition to changes in voter lists.

A fake annual general meeting was held, in which the president of the society tortured the members in the presence of Registrar and Deputy Registrar Punjab Cooperative Housing Societies on bringing out the facts.

The members say that the current office bearers are only authorized to announce the election schedule after the end of their term of office so that they cannot arbitrarily in the election process, but the two-time president has issued the new election schedule while still in office. And the electoral list has already been changed.

The proposed election schedule of the society is unfair, cold weather, spread of multiple diseases and the biggest thing is that general elections are also going to be held in the country during this time.

In view of all these, the society members have rejected the election schedule and submitted a formal application to the registrar of the cooperative Rawalpindi in this regard.

Sarfraz Francis, a member of the Roman Catholic Christian Cooperative Housing Society Rawalpindi, has applied to the Registrar.

Rawalpindi regarding the exclusion of the name from the voter list of the society and has demanded that an inquiry be made into the exclusion of the name from the members list and action taken against those responsible.



QUETTA: Dr. Zainullah Kakar is meeting Governor Balochistan Malak Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Pakistan, China getting closer through province & sister city relationships: Envoy

CHENGDU (INP): Pakistan, China are getting closer through province and sister city relationships as well.

The Pakistani community, and Chinese media during this visit. Chinese officials, both sides expressed satisfaction over the robust nature of Pakistan-China relations.

They discussed proposals to enhance Pakistan-China cooperation and collaboration, especially in the economic and cultural fields including agriculture, dairy, electronics, and logistics.

The Ambassador met President of Sichuan University, highlighting the importance of academic research and scholarship in advancing bilateral relations. With a key focus on enhancing Pakistan's exports and attracting Chinese investment, the Ambassador interacted with diverse business entities in sectors like agriculture, dairy, electronics, and logistics.

During the visit, he engaged the provincial leadership, business enterprises, academia, the Pakistani community, and Chinese media during this visit.

They discussed proposals to enhance Pakistan-China cooperation and collaboration, especially in the economic and cultural fields including agriculture, dairy, electronics, and logistics.

He also participated in an investment round table organized by the provincial

China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and encouraged enterprises and businesses to take advantage of a liberal taxation regime and invest in export-oriented industries in Pakistan. Ambassador Hashmi also celebrated the arrival of the first batch of 182 tonnes of Pakistani dry chilies in China while attending the signing of a Letter of Intent for sister city relationship between Multan, Pakistan, and Neijiang, China.



QUETTA: Balochistan Grand Alliance head and candidate of NNA 263 Haji Lashkari Khan Raisani addressing a press conference.

Pakistan attaches great significance to its relations with Kazakhstan, says Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yezhan Kistafin on Tuesday called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah here at National Heritage and Culture Division.

The Minister said that Pakistan attaches great significance to its relations with Kazakhstan which share mutual vision of regional cooperation.

He said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan were enjoying friendly and brotherly relationship and a lot of potential existed to further enhance it between the two countries.

He emphasized the importance of relations in the field of art, culture, cinema, museums and possible collaboration between the two countries, adding that there was tremendous scope for the uplifting cultural cooperation between both countries. He said that Kazakhstan would soon organize a film screening at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

During the meeting, the discussion was held on several areas of cooperation, with a particular emphasis on enhancing cultural exchange and people-to-people contact between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, especially in the fields of art, culture, heritage, film, cinema to cultivate deeper and better understanding between the people of both countries.

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HRW report verifies large scale HR violations in IIOJK: Ali Raza

BRUSSELS (INP): Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU), Ali Raza Syed has said that recently released report of Human Rights Watch (HRW), the international human right organization correctly verified the large scale human rights violations committed by the Indian forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The HRW's report described that the Kashmiri critics and human rights defenders faced arrests and raids based on spurious terrorism allegations. The report gives example of detained prominent Kashmiri human rights activist Khurram Parvez and Irfan Mehraj, a journalist (formerly affiliated with Parvez's humanitarian efforts) who were arrested under the colonial-era Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

Chairman KCEU Ali Raza Syed in a statement appreciated the HRW's report and said, the human right organization rightly confirmed the severe human rights violations in the occupied Kashmir.

Office on Jan. 10 to Azad Kashmir as saying Jammu and Kashmir is integral part of India and this visit is "infringement" of India's sovereignty and territorial integrity and is "unacceptable", then, the said part of this territory was being called Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

It should be mentioned here that HRC in its report regarding Jammu and Kashmir, has declared that Indian authorities continued to restrict free expression, peaceful assembly, and other rights in Jammu and Kashmir in year 2023. Declaring the Indian armed forces accountable for grave human rights abuses, the HRW also confirmed the reports of

continuation of extrajudicial killings by Indian security forces throughout the previous year (2023). The HRW's report described that the Kashmiri critics and human rights defenders faced arrests and raids based on spurious terrorism allegations. The report gives example of detained prominent Kashmiri human rights activist Khurram Parvez and Irfan Mehraj, a journalist (formerly affiliated with Parvez's humanitarian efforts) who were arrested under the colonial-era Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

Chairman KCEU Ali Raza Syed in a statement appreciated the HRW's report and said, the human right organization rightly confirmed the severe human rights violations in the occupied Kashmir.

He said, India forcefully entered its military forces to large part of Jammu and Kashmir on 27th October 1947 and since



USTA MUHAMMAD: Caretaker Provincial Interior Minister Captain (R) Muhammad Zubair Jamali condoling the death of Saifullah Faqir.

Protest in Baramulla against Modi regime's brutal policies in IIOJK

SRINAGAR (INP): A big protest demonstration was held in Baramulla district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the Narendra Modi government's policies, targeting the Kashmiri people both economically and politically.

The agitated residents of Watergam Wagoor, Kawchak, Sheikhpora, Dardpora, Shihpora and Hamar assembled outside the office of the power department at Watergam in

Wagoor and held the forceful protest demonstration. While raising slogans against the occupation authorities, the protesters said that they were being charged inflated electricity tariff despite 20-hour loadshedding.

Abdul Gaffar of Dardpora. "The department concerned must rectify the bills," he added. The agitating residents complained that they were facing unscheduled power cuts as they don't receive electricity even for four hours and are forced to pay high electricity bills.



QUETTA: Regional Head Bank Al Falah is meeting Secretary Health Abdullah Khan

Comprehensive strategy adopted to establish PAF as potent force

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has undertaken a transformative modernization initiative to counter evolving threats in the current geostrategic threat scenario, prioritizing the induction of modern systems through smart acquisitions and indigenous.

PAF Checkmates Pakistan's enemies while strategically outplaying adversaries under the visionary leadership of Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu.

PAF has adopted a comprehensive strategy to establish PAF as a potent force and to rebalance the power dynamics in the region.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Pakistan Air Force has led the PAF on path to becoming a next-generation Air Force with induction of niche technologies, state-of-the-art equipment and human resource trained on modern standards with contemporary architecture.

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## SHC orders quick inspection, report on Super Highway encroachments

KARACHI (INP). The Sindh High Court ordered a thorough inspection of Super Highway M Nine-ul-Asif to Toll Plaza, demanding a comprehensive report with accompanying photographs within a seven-day timeframe.

The court's directive comes in response to a petition seeking the removal of encroachments, with the petitioner's counsel contesting the accuracy of the Deputy Commissioner's report regarding the termination of encroachments around Al Asif Square.

The Deputy Commissioner Eastern reported that encroachments, including those around Badshah Hotel and from Al-Asif Square to Habib Hotel, have been successfully removed. However, the petitioner's counsel argued that the report is false and mislead-

ing, prompting the court's intervention.

Justice Nadeem Akhtar, heading the two-member bench, expressed concern over the prolonged issue of flood victims in the area and questioned the timeline for completely eliminating encroachments along the Superhighway. The DC East suggested an eight-week respite, citing ongoing election-related activities, but Justice Akhtar emphasized the urgency of addressing both the electoral process and the elimination of encroachments.

The petitioner's counsel raised additional concerns, alleging that NHO and Score Company are allocating public land for private use under the guise of beautification.

The court addressed these claims, with the National Highway Authority (NHA) repre-

sentative assuring that any development, including petrol pumps, CNG stations, and bus terminals, would adhere to legal procedures and secure formal approvals.

In a written order, the court appointed a supervisor from the Sindh High Court to oversee the inspection and report on encroachments from Al-Asif to Toll Plaza.

The inspector is instructed to review the situation in the presence of all involved parties, including the Deputy Commissioner East.

A strict seven-day deadline was set for the submission of the report, with law enforcement authorities directed to maintain law and order during the process. The court adjourned the hearing until January 30, awaiting the outcome of the inspection and subsequent report.



QUETTA: PPHI Chief Executive Officer Hameedullah Nasar briefing the Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai on PPHI's initiatives in the health sector.

## Reforms remained demand of masses, promise of govt's but not fulfilled: VC PIDE

ISLAMABAD (INP). Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Dr. Nadeem ul Haque has said that throughout the history of country, reforms remained longstanding demand of the masses and tall claims and promises of transformative change and substantial reforms by successive governments were never fulfilled.

This was stated by him while addressing the Third Think Tank Moot, a collaborative initiative by PIDE and its partners here on Tuesday.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque underscored the crucial need to recognize the historically passive nature of the demand side for reforms throughout the country's history. Addressing this passivity, he argued, is pivotal in fostering a more engaged and participative society as the nation seeks a path towards sustainable and impactful reforms.

The VC PIDE further noted that political party manifests often highlight broad policy directions and commitments. Ideally, these commitments should be thoroughly evaluated when a party assumes power. With the upcoming General Elections scheduled for the 8th of February 2024, it is disheartening to observe the absence of discussions among political parties regarding a clear reform agenda aligned with the country's pressing needs.

Pro VC PIDE Dr. Durre Nayab delivered a compelling address at a recent Think Tank Moot, highlighting crucial perspectives on urban development and governance. Dr. Nayab stressed the paramount importance of respecting the heterogeneity of cities, underlining the need for policies that cater to the unique characteristics of each urban center. A critical observation surfaced concerning the challenges faced by vibrant

cities within the existing governing structure, prompting the call for transformative policies to unlock the full potential of urban areas.

Emphasizing the instrumental role of local governments, Dr. Nayab asserted their key position in delivering essential services, advocating for a decentralized approach to address the specific needs of local communities. Notably, the Pro VC argued that true decentralization can only be achieved by granting autonomy to locally elected councils in their spending and planning decisions.

This perspective calls for a fundamental reevaluation of governance structures to empower local authorities and shape more responsive and vibrant urban environments.

Dr. Durre Nayab's insights offer a compelling vision for a paradigm shift in urban policies, urging stakeholders to embrace diversity, overcome governance challenges, and empower local governments for effective decentralization.

Earlier, Chief Research PIDE Dr. Shujat Farooq provided background on the Think Tank Moot, highlighting its role as a unique platform for esteemed partners and thought leaders to collectively address transformative and sustainable reforms.

He said that the PIDE has formulated a reform agenda "Transforming Economy & Society" identifying ten priority themes i.e. political stability, reforms in civil service, productivity and competition, fiscal management, building social infrastructure, market efficiency, etc.

In this context, PIDE organized 4th moot with Think-Tanks and Partners to present its reform agenda.

The idea is to have a collective intellectual capital and action,

instead of working in silos, with minimum to zero influence over policy-making.

During the Moot, speakers from different think tanks underscored the significance of transforming the economy and society in Pakistan, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of this imperative endeavor. They stressed that addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by the nation requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. There was unanimous acknowledgment and praise for PIDE's Reform Agenda, recognizing it as the need of the hour for Pakistan.

Participants voiced a collective concern that if attention is not directed towards these critical issues now, the consequences may become insurmountable in the future. The urgency of embracing reform for the betterment of Pakistan was emphasized, with the consensus that proactive measures are essential to avoid reaching a point of no return.

Representatives from various organizations convened, creating a diverse assembly that included Shifa Tamere-Millat University, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Pakistan Science Foundation, Quaid-Azam University, American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA), Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS), National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), World Bank, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), COMSATS, Establishment Division, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Prime Consultant, IIE, Institute of Islamic Information and Education.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lieutenant (R) Saad bin Asad and others are listening to the problems of the people in the open court.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogzai is listening to the petitioner's problems.

## SMEs urged to get better awareness about protection of patents, copyrights, trademarks

ISLAMABAD (INP). Chairman Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan), Farukh Amlil has said that Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) should get better awareness about the protection and enforcement of patents, copyrights, and trademarks to avoid counterfeiting and piracy of their products and flourish their business at the national and international level.

This was stated by him on Tuesday while addressing an awareness session on intellectual property rights organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with IPO-Pakistan for the business community.

Farukh Amlil briefed the business community about the role of IPO-Pakistan in nurturing an enabling IP environment through its initiative to promote businesses, creativity, and innovation. He said that the lack of an IP culture and weak IP enforcement are major

challenges that need to be overcome and added that IPO-Pakistan is working to place Pakistan on the global IP map as a compliance and responsible country through increased public awareness, practice, and enforcement.

The Chairman IPO-Pakistan said that adherence to global standards on IP through international treaties and societal practices will enhance Pakistan's reputation as a business and investment-friendly country.

He said that SMEs should benefit from the services of IPO-Pakistan for better protection of their patents, copyrights, and trademarks.

Speaking on the occasion, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that SMEs were the backbone of the economy and IPO-Pakistan should further simplify the IP registration processes and procedures and introduce mobile apps to facilitate SMEs in online registration of their prod-

ucts and services for copyrights and trademarks.

The ICCI President said that in the global competitive business environment, the role of IPO-Pakistan was very important in promoting innovations and startups and ensuring better economic growth of the country through strict enforcement of IP Rs. He assured that ICCI would work with IPO-Pakistan to raise more awareness in the business community about the importance of IPRs for better growth of their businesses.

Faiz Wahed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan needs to lay a strong foundation for a vibrant IP system to encourage innovations, business growth, and investment and hoped that IPO-Pakistan would contribute to making Pakistan a competitive economy.

The business community members asked many questions about the IPRs and were given detailed answers.

## Google launches 'Google trends Pakistan general election' page to aid public insight

ISLAMABAD (INP). In preparation for the upcoming general elections on February 8, 2024, Google has rolled out a dedicated page to facilitate easy access to online information about political parties, their candidates, and other pertinent election-related topics. The page, named "Google Trends Pakistan General Election," aims to assist both the media and the public in staying informed and engaged in the electoral process.

General Election," aims to assist both the media and the public in staying informed and engaged in the electoral process.

This specialized page provides insights into questions, topics, and interests related to the participating political parties. It encompasses data on the most searched election topics in different regions of the country, covering aspects such as the economy, taxes, and wages. Google Trends Patch has made all charts accessible for embedding on external websites, ensuring real-time updates.

It is crucial to note that the Google Trends page introduced

in Pakistan is not a survey pertaining to the general elections, nor does it indicate voting trends. Rather, the page reflects the local population's interests and searches for specific topics over time. A surge in a particular question does not necessarily signify that a political party is "more popular" or "winning" in any definitive sense. For additional information and to optimize the trends page, interested individuals can visit the Google News Initiative website.



LORALAI: A major police operation recovered the gold thief in police custody.

## National-level cohesive strategy essential to align SEZs with TTI: Report

ISLAMABAD (INP). A national-level cohesive strategy is essential to align Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with Trade and Transit Infrastructure (TTI) corridors, enhancing their effectiveness as trade catalysts and avoiding high failure rates seen globally.

This was stated by Amer Zafar Durrani, President of Reenergiza, a social impact advisory group in Pakistan.

Presenting a report at a seminar on "CPEC-centric Investment Opportunities in Pakistan's Trade and Transit Infrastructure," he said Gwadar's emergence as an alternative port is significant, with the N-10 Coastal Highway becoming a direct route, linking Karachi through the coastal belt of Baluchistan to Gwadar.

Durrani said, "The M9

Karachi-Hyderabad highway has further streamlined activity in Sindh. The road network emanating from Karachi is central to the country's trade dynamics.

Major routes like M1, M2 N5, N25, and the N10 Coastal Highway connect Karachi to various regions, facilitating the transportation of goods."

Hassan Daud Butt, former CEO KPK Board of Investment and Trade, highlighted the importance of trade and transit infrastructure that Pakistan needs.

He said the report made by Reenergiza was about roads, ports railways as well as the border crossing for which Pakistan has to invest effort and perhaps attract investment from not only China but other potential investors.

"For this, Public-Private

Partnership and a strong ease of doing business environment are required for which the role of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would be important," he said.

Pakistan has been taking steps to become a trade, transit, and transshipment hub in the region. CPEC has been a significant contributor to this effort, with nearly 50 projects worth \$25 billion completed so far.

These projects include the construction of modern highways, seaports, airports, and rapid mass transport systems, which have improved Pakistan's transport network, connected cities and remote areas, improved accessibility, and facilitated the movement of goods and people across the country. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.