

QUETTA VOICE

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Unprovoked Iranian Attack at Pak-Iran Border Raises Concerns and Sparks Tensions

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Panic and fear have gripped the rugged mountains at the Pak-Iran border in the aftermath of an Iranian missile attack that targeted a village approximately 40 kilometers from the border in the Panjgur district of Balochistan province in Pakistan.

According to a senior police official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to lack of authorization, Iranian forces fired missiles at a house in Sabz Koh village, claiming to have targeted a militant camp operated by the Sunni militant group Jaish ul Adl. However,

Pakistani authorities have refuted these claims, asserting that militants do not keep women and children in their camps.

Militants Do Not Keep Women, Children In Camp: Officials

The consequences of the attack were tragic, as rockets landed at a residential house, resulting in the death of two children and injuring four others, including a woman. Saeed Ahmed Umrani, the Commissioner Mekran Division, emphasized the contradiction in



Iranian claims, stating that women and children cannot be housed in a militant camp.

Residents of the area, which is known for its duality population moving between

Iran and Pakistan, ex-

pressed concerns about the indiscriminate attack. Most of the people in the region have ties to both countries, and they frequently use less-traveled routes for routine movement.

Videos circulating on social media depict locals rushing to

the site of the attack, with thick black smoke rising, though the authenticity of the footage is yet to be verified.

Iranians Fired Rockets In The Past

This incident is not the first

time Iran has breached Pakistani territory, with Iranian border guards firing rockets in Balochistan province over the last two decades.

The relationship between the two nations has been strained by accusations from

Pakistani authorities that Iran harbors Baloch separatist groups responsible for attacks in Gwadar and Mekran Balochistan.

Despite joint efforts through a border commission aimed at addressing concerns related to the 900-kilometer-long border, the Iranian strike occurred just a day after senior officials from both nations met to discuss issues of terrorism, trade, and bilateral relations.

A senior Pakistani security officer, part of the joint border meeting, expressed disappointment, stating that the sudden Iranian attack overshadowed the positive outcomes of the meeting.

Iran Attack In Violation Of Established Diplomatic Channels

As tensions rise following this unprovoked incident, questions loom about the future of Pak-Iran relations and the impact on the security and stability of the border region.

The international community is closely monitoring developments, and concerns are being raised over Iran's actions in violation of the established diplomatic channels.

Explosion at Zarghoon Road in Quetta Leaves 9 Injured, Including 4 Children

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: In a shocking incident today, an explosion occurred in a garbage heap under a bridge on Zarghoon Road Quetta, leaving nine people injured, including four children. The incident took place as the children were picking up garbage near the bridge. A traffic police officer stationed in the vicinity also sustained injuries in the blast. Commissioner Quetta Division, Hanza Shafaqat was quick at the spot of the blast. He reviewed security arrangements in the aftermath of the explosion in the area.

Law Enforcers Reached The Spot

Upon receiving the distress call, law enforcement and rescue teams rushed to the scene. The injured were promptly transferred to the hospital for immediate medical assistance. According to Dr. Arbab Kamran, the Trauma Center MD, a total of nine individuals affected by the explosion were



brought to the trauma center. Out of the four children involved, two are reported to be in critical condition, raising concerns about the severity of their injuries. The remaining victims are undergoing medical assessment and treatment.

Explosion Caused By An IED

Initial investigations by the Quetta Police suggest that the explosion was caused by an improvised explosive device (IED). The authorities are actively conducting a thorough inquiry to ascertain

the details surrounding the incident and identify those responsible.

SSP Operations, who is overseeing the investigation, emphasized the potential danger of such incidents occurring in densely populated areas and urged the public to remain vigilant.

Security measures have been heightened in the aftermath of the incident to ensure the safety of the community.

Balochistan Govt Announces Compensation For Victims Of Iranian Attacks

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a decisive move, the Balochistan government has declared the provision of compensation to the families of women who tragically lost their lives due to the Iranian incursion in Panjgur, as well as for the injured girls. Ali Mardan Khan Domki, the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, has swiftly issued orders to ensure compensation reaches the next of kin of the two women who lost their lives in the Panjgur incident.

Not only limited to fatalities, but the compensation initiative also extends its support to the injured girls, as confirmed by the Deputy Commissioner of Panjgur. Immediate measures have been set in motion, with orders issued to expedite the necessary actions for the prompt disbursement of compensation to the affected women's heirs and the injured girls. This empathetic response underscores the Balochistan



government's commitment to addressing the aftermath of the

Iranian incursion, providing solace and support to those di-

rectly affected by the unfortunate events in Panjgur.

Pakistan to recall ambassador from Iran following 'unprovoked violation' of airspace



ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Wednesday said Pakistan has decided to recall its ambassador from Iran and suspend all high-level visits ongoing or planned between the two countries following the "unprovoked violation of its airspace" by Tehran.

Iran, on the other hand, claimed that it targeted an "Iranian terrorist group" and "none of the nationals of the friendly and brotherly country of Pakistan were targeted by Iranian missiles and drones". The development came after the FO, in a statement released late on Tuesday night, denounced the strikes in Pakistani territory that resulted in "deaths of two innocent children while injuring of three girls". It termed the incident a "violation of Pakistan's sovereignty". While the FO did not mention the location of the incident, Iranian state media said the attack took place in the border town of Panjgur in Balochistan. Iran's state-run Nour News agency said the attack destroyed the Pakistan headquarters of the Jaish al-Adl. Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said the "focal point of this operation was the region known as Kouh-Sabz (green mountain)" in

Balochistan. Two key strongholds of the Jaish al-Dhulm (Jaish al-Adl) terrorist group in Pakistan were "specifically targeted and successfully demolished by a combination of missile and drone attacks", the Tasnim news agency said. Local authorities said they had also received information about such an attack but had no further details. Reports from the area suggested that a missile hit a mosque, partially damaging it and injuring some people.

According to AFP, hours before the attack, caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar had met Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. In a press briefing in

Islamabad today, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said last night's "unprovoked and blatant breach of Pakistan's sovereignty by Iran" was a violation of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

"This illegal act is completely unacceptable and has no justification whatsoever," she asserted. "Pakistan reserves the right to respond to this illegal act and the responsibility for the consequences will lie squarely with Iran," Baloch said, adding that Islamabad had conveyed the message to the Iranian government.

"We have also informed them that Pakistan has decided to recall its ambassador from Iran and that the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan, who is currently visiting Iran, may not return for the time being," she said.

Baloch added that Islamabad had decided to suspend all high-level visits which were ongoing or were planned between Pakistan and Iran in the coming days.

Iran claims targeted 'terrorist group in Pakistan'

Meanwhile, Tehran's top diplomat has alleged that his country's armed forces targeted an "Iranian terrorist group" in Pakistan last Tuesday night.

"On Pakistan, none of the nationals of the friendly and brotherly country of Pakistan were targeted by Iranian missiles and drones," Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "The so-called Jaish Al Adl group, which is an Iranian terrorist group, was targeted," he added. Amir-Abdollahian said Iran's attack on "Pakistan's soil" was a response to the Jaish Al Adl group's recent deadly attacks, particularly on the city of Rask, in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan. News Desk

EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Gas Injustice Chronicles: Sui Southern Gas Company Under Scrutiny

Editorial:

As the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) awaits an impending judgment, it finds itself entangled in allegations that go beyond mere billing discrepancies. Increasing gas meter tampering exposes a systemic problem within the company in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan, prompting this editorial to underscore the urgent need for the SSGC to address these issues, especially in light of allegations linking some officials to major gas thieves.

A court order issued a few months ago brought to light the alarming rate of gas meter tampering, resulting in significant financial losses for the SSGC. These losses, coupled with allegations of illicit connections between certain officials and major gas thieves, unfairly burden the economically vulnerable. Unannounced load shedding has become an unfortunate norm, exacerbating the challenges faced by consumers already grappling with inadequate gas pressure and exorbitant bills.

SSGC Must Acknowledge The Gravity Of The Situation

The SSGC must acknowledge the gravity of the situation and take immediate steps to rectify its practices. The alleged ties between the company and those involved in gas theft not only raise ethical concerns but also perpetuate a vicious cycle of inequality. These connections, whether direct or indirect, erode public trust and undermine the integrity of the entire energy sector.

The impending judgment marks a pivotal moment for the SSGC, going beyond financial implications for the company. This case will set a precedent for accountability within the energy sector, emphasizing the need for the SSGC to prioritize the welfare of its consumers and work towards restoring public trust in its operations.

Recent Protests In Quetta Underscores Urgency Of Situation

Recent protests in Quetta against overbilling and gas load shedding underscore the urgency of the situation. Allegations of disproportionate billing, variations in charges between regions, and inflated public demand for a thorough and transparent investigation. The company must demonstrate a commitment to fair and transparent billing for all consumers, regardless of their geographical location. Failure to address these issues not only harms the company's reputation but deepens the existing trust deficit between the SSGC and its consumers.

Company Must Take Steps To Ensure Justice For Consumers

In conclusion, the Sui Southern Gas Company cannot afford to delay corrective measures. The pursuit of gas justice necessitates immediate action, rectification of billing practices, and a commitment to transparency. Addressing these issues head-on is the only way for the SSGC to rebuild public trust and fulfill its responsibility to provide a reliable and equitable gas supply to all consumers. The company must act swiftly to prevent further harm to its reputation and, more importantly, to ensure justice for its consumers.

Lenin's legacy

By Mahir Ali:

An intriguing triptych included in Iqbal's second volume of verse, *Baaki-Jibreel*, envisages 'ladimir Lenin in the presence of God, explaining why the state of the world prompted his disbelief and wonderment when divine intervention would rectify global ills. In rhythmic verse, the angels sent to investigate report back, corroborating the Russian revolutionary's narrative.

In the last and best known of the three poems, the angels are commanded to investigate the overthrow of the existing order, kicking off with a verse that echoes *The Internationale* — Victor Kerman's translation, "Rise, and from their slumber wake the poor ones of my world! Break the walls and windows of the mansions of the great."

That's a reflection of the extent to which the Russian upheavals of 1917 affected the rest of the world, not least the vast expanse of the colonised Global South. The direction Russia took towards the end of World War I inspired shock and awe. The overthrow of the tsar and the prospect of replacing absolutism with bourgeois democracy was dramatic enough, but by the time Lenin returned in April from his exile in Switzerland, he realised the meagre gains were unsustainable.

Even some of Lenin's closest comrades were taken aback by his enthusiasm for a takeover, but the prospect of his public speeches — the elected bodies of workers', soldiers' and eventually peasants' representatives that shared power with the post-tsarist government — and the promise of land, bread and peace — resonated with the proletariat of Petrograd (as St Petersburg had been renamed) to banish the German influence.

The takeover was eventually almost painless, but the survival of the new regime was unlikely. The tsarist White Army, assisted by American, French and British forces (among others), joined hands to bury the Bolsheviks. But a later recruit to the Bolshevik cause, Leon Trotsky, turned out to be a formidable commander in spite his military inexperience and, after much death and destruction on both sides, the nascent Red Army ultimately triumphed.

The Russia that emerged from the maelstrom was a far cry from what Lenin had envisaged, and he set about trying to rectify its wayward course.

And he made no secret of it. Laid low by an assassination attempt in 1918 and subsequently stricken by strokes that led to bouts of paralysis, Lenin was

just about well enough to speak at the fourth congress of the Communist International in November 1922, in what turned out to be his last public speech, acknowledging that "we have done, and will still do, a host of foolish things."

He knew by then that his days were numbered, but from his sickbed later that year he still sought to alter the revolution's trajectory with a series of dictated notes that focused on reorganising both the Communist Party and the economy, banishing the tsarist bureaucracy that had survived the revolution, and sidelining Joseph Stalin, who had acquired too much power within the party and could not be trusted to use it wisely.

He obviously could not have known at that stage that Stalin's absolute power would lead in the 1930s to the execution of Lenin's closest comrades.

The common misperception shared by both friends and foes is the transformative Bolshevik endeavour is that

Stalinism flowed from Lenin's own Leninism. There can be little doubt, though, that the Soviet Union would have emerged as a rather different entity if Lenin had survived for another decade, or been succeeded by a collective leadership. Lenin was adamant that accession to the USSR must be voluntary.

By Rafia Zakaria:

HERE used to be a time when the ultimate symbol of a good life was being able to have plenty of time for leisure activities. One can still read about it in literature.

The Victorians, for instance, rich thanks to the wealth looted from India and other colonies, flaunted their leisure time by taking grand tours on the Continent — which was essentially slow travel and spending months in a single city or country. They also collected curios that they displayed all over their living rooms, where they hosted everything from afternoon teas to a game of charades.

The enjoyment of such leisure was not just the forte of the British. Before their time in India, the pursuits of Mughal royalty were well known. In fact, art, music and literature flourished because there was a leisure class that was available to consume and enjoy them.

Many a Mughal miniature shows ladies in repose, lounging on a dais. The men of Mughal royalty got around to doing a bit more. For instance, many hunting scenes have been depicted. It might, however, not be very easy to find renditions of the hunt-

ing Mughals as academicians, as if they were hardly any multitasking for the leisure classes of yore. There were many times that people did nothing at all, when they did do something it would appear as if they were the only thing they did.

This idea is going to be anathema to the next generation, indeed it probably already is for members of Gen Z and the succeeding Gen Alpha. In any social media platform, and you will be confronted with people who are "multitasking."

Many women showcase their skincare routines but it is never just that. They are also providing life updates, sipping on protein shakes and answering texts on the go. Multitasking is just about everywhere. And the more 'everywhere' it is, the more the Victorians are expected to partake of it. Inextricably linked to the multitasking epidemic is the more noxious cult of "busyness". Nobody shows off like the Victorians, as anyone by the demands of appearing busy to others.

The worst offenders for the cult of busyness are those who are actually not busy. These may include, for instance, women of leisure, for whom cultivating an illusion of busyness is a social media badge of honour.

It follows that these people, and others like them, are invested in their "populairising" busyness.

When novels depicting our times are written, they will be full of this sort of self-projection, i.e. people busy being too busy. In the meantime, those who are actually busy — say the working mother who has no option but to juggle her job, her kids, her husband and indeed other family members — will rarely make an appearance in these catalogues of our moment.

If civilisation were to end tomorrow and Instagram was the only thing to survive, would it ever come after us would think that we spent all our time using filtered images of ourselves to show what moisturiser and sunblock we used or the number of designer handbags we had in our closet.

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It is entirely possible that the cultural commentators of our past were similarly disgruntled by the long stretches of free time available to the landlords and the princes while the labourers and peasants toiled through-

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It follows that these people, and others like them, are invested in their "populairising" busyness.

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Rights group urges Lebanon to free Kadhafi's son

NEW YORK (INP): Human Rights Watch called on Lebanon Tuesday to release a son of Libya's former dictator Moamer Kadhafi, saying he had been held on "spurious charges" for eight years.

Lebanon in 2015 arrested and accused Hannibal Kadhafi, known for living the high life of withholding information about the disappearance of Lebanese Shiite cleric imam Mussa Sadr in 1978.

But HRW said he was only two years old at the time the cleric disappeared, and accused Lebanon of subjecting him to "apparent arbitrary detention on spurious charges".

"Spending eight years in pre-trial detention makes a mockery of Lebanon's already strained judicial system," the group's Hanan Salah said in a statement.

Sadr -- the founder of the Amal movement, now a main ally of militant group Hezbollah -- went missing during an official visit to Libya, along with an aide and a journalist.

Beirut blamed the disappearances on long-time Libyan strongman Moamer Kadhafi -- overthrown and killed in a 2011 uprising -- and ties between the two countries have been strained ever since.

"It's understandable that people want

to know what happened to imam Sadr," Salah said. "But it is unlawful to hold someone in pre-trial detention for many years merely for their possible association with the person responsible for wrongdoing."

A Lebanese judicial official slammed the HRW report as "biased and one-sided", telling reporters it was based solely on "information obtained from Hannibal Kadhafi's defence team".

Kadhafi is "detained in a purely judicial matter", the source continued, charging that he was responsible for prisons during his father's rule. "Including the one in which the imam was held," The official said

a delegation from the Libyan Ministry of Justice was expected to travel to Beirut to meet with the Lebanese justice ministry and the committee overseeing the case to revive a memorandum of understanding from 2014. In August, Beirut received a letter from Libyan authorities demanding Kadhafi's release, but a judicial source told media that he would not be freed before Tripoli revealed information about Sadr's disappearance.

Later that month, Amal movement chief Nabih Berri accused Libya of "failing to cooperate" with the Lebanese judiciary and "concealing" information about the case.



QUETTA: Secretary Health Abdullah Khan is visiting various departments of Balochistan Institute of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Trump attends rape defamation case in New York

NEW YORK (INP): Donald Trump went straight from his victory in the Republican Iowa caucuses to a New York courtroom Tuesday for the start of a defamation trial brought by writer E. Jean Carroll after an earlier jury found he had sexually assaulted her in the 1990s.

In court, the former US president did not make any statements, and he and Carroll avoided looking at each other while jurors were being selected, according to reporters allowed inside the courtroom.

But Trump continued attacking Carroll on his Truth Social platform, reposting a clip from an interview she gave to CNN and writing, "Can you believe."

"I have to defend myself against this woman's fake story!"

Addressing supporters at a rally in New Hampshire later in the day, Trump said he planned to attend daily court proceedings in the "phony" case in New York.

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"Early in the morning I go to a Biden watch hunt," Trump said in the northeastern state, which will hold the nation's second presidential nomination contest next Tuesday. "And then I come here in the afternoon, and I stop, we make speeches and we get the votes."

The shocking defamation case, which would likely have been enough to wreck any politician's career, has had no visible impact on Trump's bid to re-act, according to reporters allowed inside the courtroom.

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and subsequently defaming her in 2022, when he called her a "complete con job."

In that case, the jury awarded Carroll \$5 million in damages. This is only one of many trials swirling over Trump's head. He has been indicted in four criminal cases and faces 91 counts of allegations including his attempts to undermine the 2020 election which he lost to Joe Biden, taking stacks of top secret documents, and business fraud.

Trump has embraced his legal problems as evidence of a conspiracy theory in which a nebulous "deep state" is out to stop him from returning to power.

Despite the constant scandal, his fervent base of supporters proved its strength on Monday with an overwhelming victory in the Iowa caucuses to choose the Republican candidate who will face Biden on Election Day in November.

Trump has used previous trial appearances to seize the limelight and deliver invective-filled speeches --

both outside courtrooms and, when allowed to speak by the judge, on the witness stand. He has also used social media posts to issue crude insults against court personnel.

The judge in Tuesday's trial, Lewis Kaplan, has issued strict instructions to curtail Trump.

Carroll says that in 1996, Trump assaulted her against the wall of a Manhattan department store dressing room -- and the previous civil jury agreed.

Kaplan stated unambiguously that Trump had "sexually abused -- indeed, raped -- Ms. Carroll" and that the Republic-

an cannot now claim otherwise in court. Carroll's lawyers last week urged Kaplan to prevent Trump from making "inadmissible, prejudicial" comments in court.

Last week, the former president continued to insist that he had "no idea" who Carroll was, calling her "a wack job" and saying the trial was "rigged."

He said the people of Pakistan will have a choice to exercise their right to vote and they will elect a government for the next five years. He said the elections will lead towards a stable government which will translate into economic stability. When asked about the economic situation, the prime minister said that the IMF Board had approved second tranche for the country. He said a choice to exercise the right to vote and they will elect a government for the next five years.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sinjrani presenting a souvenir to Chief minister GB Haji Gul Bar Khan during his visit to Senate office.



DAVOS: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar expressing his views at the Trade Tech Trillion-Dollar promise session of the 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

President Alvi directs IESCO to refund Rs 139,000 to complainant

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday directed the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) to refund Rs 139,860 to a complainant who had been wrongly issued an additional demand notice for the installation of an electricity connection along with a transformer due to escalation of the cost of the material.

These directions were issued by President while deciding upon a representation filed by IESCO assailing the order of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing IESCO to refund the amount to complainant

Haji Akhtar Raheem and adopt proper procedure/ rules/regulation, which were violated by IESCO, resulting in maladministration. By not installing the connection within 30 days, the IESCO had violated its own procedure and later sent an additional demand notice to the complainant, who had already paid the original requisite amount, on account of the escalation of the cost of the material.

The complainant had applied with IESCO for an electricity connection along with a 25 KVA transformer. Subse-

quently, a demand notice of Rs 305,656, including the cost of allied material was issued to him. He deposited the amount, however, IESCO instead of installing his connection timely, issued an additional demand notice of Rs 139,860 on account of the escalation of the cost of the material.

The complainant approached IESCO for withdrawal of the demand notice but it was not paid by the applicant in full, no further charges/demand notice could be raised on account of the escalation of the cost of the material.

Masood felicitates Fozia Janjua for election as mayor of Mount Laurel, New Jersey

WASHINGTON (INP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Masood Khan has felicitated Fozia Janjua for her election as mayor of the town of Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

During a virtual meeting with Fozia Janjua, he said, "Your success is a source of pride for the entire Pakistan, and it is celebrated in both Pakistan and the United States. You are a bridge-builder between two nations."

He should be mentioned here that Fozia Janjua, a Pakistani-descent American became the first Muslim woman and daughter to hold this position in 36 years.

Hailing from Chakwal, Punjab, Pakistan, mayor Fozia Janjua has a strong commitment to community service, particularly in the areas of education for under-

privileged children and prisoners.

Describing her election as a moment of pride, Mayor Janjua pointed out that her story serves as an inspiration, highlighting the role of Pakistani Americans in U.S. politics.

"Pakistani Americans are making a massive contribution to the social, economic and political landscape of the United States. There are currently 10 Assembly members in different states (provinces) who are making a difference to the US and Pakistan alike," he emphasized.

"Your election signifies the growing diversity in American political leadership and the increasing integration of diverse cultures into the fabric of American politics," said Masood Khan.

Focusing on economic cooperation between Pakistan and

the United States, Ambassador Masood Khan invited Mayor Janjua to visit Pakistan with businessmen and entrepreneurs from her constituency and link them up with Pakistani counterparts. "You can build trade and economic bridges between Pakistan and the United States as there is huge potential of bilateral investment between two countries," said the Ambassador.

Masood Khan also discussed the possibility of establishing a sister city partnership between Chakwal in Pakistan for the town of Mount Laurel.

Mayor Fozia Janjua said, having her roots in Chakwal, she would gladly champion this relationship. Mayor Janjua voiced her deep admiration for Pakistani dramas, music, and food in fluent Urdu.

PM Kakar emphasises regional approach to deal with terrorism

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has reiterated that the general elections will take place in Pakistan on the 8th of next month. In an exclusive interview with CNBC, he said his government did the prime minister's role in a revamped program within the taxation system. He said government went for an aggressive privatisation spree and cut expenditures at that particular date.

He said the people of Pakistan will have a choice to exercise their right to vote and they will elect a government for the next five years. He said the elections will lead towards a stable government which will translate into economic stability. When asked about the economic situation, the prime minister said that the IMF Board had approved second tranche for the country. He said a choice to exercise the right to vote and they will elect a government for the next five years.

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other economic indicators. Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said they will also publish a white paper on the four to five month's performance of the caretaker government. The prime minister said his government did the prime minister's role in a revamped program within the taxation system. He said government went for an aggressive privatisation spree and cut expenditures at that particular date.

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kistan enjoyed strategically close relations with Beijing. He said, "No matter what happens in the region or anywhere else, nothing can affect our relationship with China."

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TENDER NOTICE	
The Programme Director Balochistan Awam Endowment fund invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: TSE-2324013147/10 only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of EPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Not required.	
S.No. Class of Object	Bid Security
1. Medication and Accessories	5%
(Total Items) Count: 10	
Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 40,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 40,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Powers in Action Tax Power List, Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permitted. Submission of the required Bid Security to the Procurement Officer is required. Evaluation: The bidder must have functional corporate office in Balochistan, must be ISO-9001:2015 certified. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 5% specified above in the name of the undersigned firm in a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.logon.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.logon.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically by 24 January, 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Programme Director/Balochistan Awam Endowment fund, social welfare, Quetta. Phone no: 0102213110 Email: tariq.aveem@gmail.com	
Director General, Balochistan Awam Endowment Fund	
AB No. 273/17-01-2024	

PPP terms SC's decision in PTI election symbol case as absolutely 'constitutional'

PESHAWAR (INP): Central Secretary Information of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Asma Alamgir has termed the Supreme Court verdict in election symbol case of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) as absolutely 'constitutional'.

"Those who are involved in the May 9 vandalism deserves sever punishment including complete ban from participation in electoral process," she said while addressing a press conference at her residence here Wednesday.

Asma Alamgir said in our country, law is supreme and upholding of the constitution is responsibility of the institutions especially courts. She said that in electoral politics, even those candidates were barred from participation who had not submitted their utility bills. Whereas in case of PTI whose almost all party leaders are allegedly responsible in vandalism of May 9, are still allowed

to take part in elections in independent positions, she said.

The whole PTI leadership, she said deserves disqualification from participation from elections because of damaging national assets, but the court just deprived it from its election symbol that's too because of not holding party elections in accordance with Election Commission regulation.

The PPP leader also informed that the Party Chairman Bilal Bhutto will address a mammoth party rally in Peshawar on January 27. The venue and timing for the rally will be decided after holding of meetings with district administration and security officials.

The PPP procession will serve as defining movement for upcoming general elections in the country slated for February 8, next, Asma said and claimed the Party will exhibit its prowess in Peshawar rally due to participation of a very

large crowd of jiyalas, flanked by other PPP leaders including Zahir Ali Shah, Ziaullah Afridi, Zulfikar Afghani, Zarak Khan and others. Asma Alamgir said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has suffered a lot due to ten years rule of PTI. These ten years, she continued, will be remembered in history as 'dark years' because of the financial woes of the province and its people.

Speaking on the occasion, Zahir Ali Shah dispelled the news spread on social media that he was quitting from contests at NA 32 and PK 83 because of seat adjustment with Awami National Party. No decision has been taken in this regard and this news is just a rumor viral on social media, confusing people and voters, Shah went on to say. He said time for withdrawal of nomination papers has been passed and now no candidate can withdraw his candidature.



NASEERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Batul Asdi addressing the meeting.

Chairman NAB assures businessmen of all out support to tackle existing challenges

KARACHI (INP): Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Lieutenant General Retired Nazir Ahmed has leadership of the business community of extending all out support to tackle all challenges faced by them.

He made the assurance during a series of meetings with the business leaders of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and other top business community leaders.

During these meetings with Chairman NAB, the business leaders held significant discussions regarding addressing pressing economic challenges and propelling the nation toward growth. They suggested a number of proposals to help steer the country out of the economic turmoil.

LI Gen Retd Nazir Ahmed responded positively and said that he wants to assure the business communities that NAB will not harass them and they should openly play their key role in the development of the country. He said that they should be fully fo-

cusied on wealth creation activities and should do business without any fear.

The Chairman NAB stressed that extreme importance would be given to wealth creation activities/projects which will be encouraged and protected from unwarranted pressures and intimidation.

It was agreed that the business community, being the very core of our economy, has to be given the respect and status that it deserves.

He said that NAB will deal with all businessmen with utmost respect & dignity and will help in creating business friendly environment.

Business leaders emphasized the importance of an enhanced and sustained interactive dialogue between the business community and NAB.

While responding positively, Chairman NAB said that a Business Facilitation Cell would be established initially at Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad including representatives of the business community for better coordination and facilitation of the busi-

ness community.

He said that he believes in participative accountability therefore general complaints against businessmen will be first referred to the Facilitation Cell for immediate resolution/rectification and necessary action as per law.

The Chairman NAB updated the business community about his reforms in NAB and future plans.

He said that no businessman will be subjected to a media trial during the process of complaint verification and inquiry. He further added that complaints written under fictitious names or anonymously will not be entertained by NAB henceforth. During the course of inquiry, businessmen would be addressed as respondents and their confidentiality would be ensured.

It was further agreed that NAB will hold seminars regularly at different Business Forums in order to inform business community about NAB's objective, operations and framework for better facilitation and also about their rights under the NAB Law.

Lahore shivers in biting cold these days as the mercury level has dropped to 4°C

LAHORE (INP): Lahore is shivering in biting cold these days as the mercury level has dropped to 4°C while the Punjab capital is also blanketed in dense fog shutting several motorways on Wednesday. The maximum temperature of the city will remain at 11°C today while the humidity level was recorded at 96%. Due to the thick fog which has engulfed the city, the visibility level has been reduced to 10 km. There is no chance of rain for the next 24 hours. According to the Metro-

logical Department report, mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most plain areas of the country, while very cold/partially cloudy in northern parts.

Dense fog/smog is likely to persist in Islamabad, plain areas of Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and upper Sindh. Cold and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country, while very cold in northern parts. However, partly cloudy weather prevailed in Gilgit-Baltistan. Dense fog/smog prevailed over plain areas of Punjab,

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and upper Sindh. Today's recorded minimum temperatures (°C) Leh -08, Skardu -07, Gujrat, Kalam, Srinagar -05, Gilgit, Astore -04, Parachinar and Rawalakot -03. Due to dense fog, several sections of motorways have been closed which include M1 from Peshawar to Burhan, M2 from Lahore to Kot Momin, M3, M4, M5 from Sher Shah to Zahir Pir, M11 from Lahore to Sialkot, M14 from Khappa to Isa Khel, and Swat Expressway from Colonel Sher Khan to Ismailia.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lieutenant (R) Saad bin Assad is distributing relief checks to the families of the officers who were martyred during polo duty in the past few days.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Advisor Malik Naeem Bazai is meeting Governor Balochistan MaAj Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Japan to extend \$3.62 mln grant assistance for Pakistan's Polio Programme

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Government of Japan has announced to extend a new US\$ 3.62 million grant assistance to procure essential oral polio vaccines as part of its continued support to polio eradication efforts in Pakistan.

The funds provided by Japan will be used by Pakistan Polio Programme to procure more than 21 million doses of vaccines to support polio campaigns in 2024.

It should be mentioned here that Pakistan was one of only two countries globally that has yet to stop polio. In 2023, Pakistan reported a total of 6 cases of polio. With polio cases cornered to only a few locations in the country, the Government of Pakistan and its partners are preparing to launch an aggressive plan of activities in 2024 to stop this life altering disease for children. Each national immunization drive targets over 44 million children under the age of five, with more than 370,000 frontline workers, predominantly women, playing a crucial role to ensure the Polio Programme's outreach. "Despite the challenges, Pakistan will remain relentless in our drive to put an end to polio in the next year," said Dr. Nadeem Jan, Federal Health Minister, Government of Pakistan. "As we prepare to launch polio campaigns in

2024, together with our partners we will maintain an emergency focus towards resolving the remaining challenges that stand in our way to reach all children."

"The unwavering support of the Government of Japan has been instrumental in helping us get closer to reaching zero cases. We are thankful to the Government and people of Japan for their continued support towards polio eradication in Pakistan," Dr. Nadeem Jan added.

Mr. ITO Takeshi, Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan, appreciated the significant gains made last year in controlling the spread of poliovirus. "I would like to express my sincere respect to polio workers and law enforcement agencies for their dedicated mission for humanity", said Mr. ITO. Noting the importance of a clear and strong commitment by the Pakistan leadership to end polio, he said, "Japan would like to renew its commitment to continue its efforts toward the ultimate goal of polio eradication by promoting routine immunization." The new funding is part of the continuous support from the Government of Japan to the Polio Eradication programme since 1996. To date, the grant and loan contribution from the Government of Japan has amounted

to approx. US\$ 242.16 million dollars to support the Polio programme in Pakistan through UNICEF.

Senior Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office, Mr. Tsuyoshi Hara said, "We appreciate the government's commitment to making all-out efforts to ensure all children receive the essential vaccine. We believe that vaccines, the most effective way to strengthen children's immunity, will be used effectively with the understanding of parents and communities and the efforts of frontline workers."

We sincerely hope that all the polio campaigns of this year will be conducted successfully toward zero polio cases."

UNICEF Chief Polio in Pakistan, Melissa Corkum said, "With fewer cases reported in 2023 compared to 2022, we find ourselves at the crossroads between progress and regression. Six cases are far too many, meaning six children affected permanently by polio." "Today with this generous pledge from the Government and people of Japan, we renew our commitment to ensuring a polio-free world. One step forward, no steps back towards reaching all children with life-saving vaccines."

Karachi to experience dry weather with foggy morning

KARACHI (INP): The Met Office on Wednesday forecast a dry weather in Karachi with foggy morning and night during next 24 hours.

Minimum temperature will be recorded 16.5 degree Celsius in the city, while maximum temperature likely to remain between 27 to 29-degree Celsius, weather department said. Humidity level in Karachi recorded 67 percent in the morning, the Met Office said. The metropolis was measured to have 199 reading of particulate matter

on the air quality index and ranked 3rd most polluted city of the world today. Earlier, health experts described Karachi's air quality as "very unhealthy" and advised citizens to use masks and restrict their outdoor activities especially during peak pollution hours.

It is to be mentioned here that AQI as high as 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI reading between 201 to 300 is more harmful and AQI reading over 300 mark is extremely hazardous. According to experts, the air

becomes heavier in the winter, causing poisonous particles in the atmosphere to move downwards and making the atmosphere polluted. As a result,

a layer of polluted particles, including large amounts of carbon and smoke, engulfs an area.

The smoke produced by factories or by burning coal, garbage, oil or tyres, enters the atmosphere and its impact appears at the onset of the winter and remains till the end of the season, experts said.



QUETTA: Additional Secretary Finance Rehmatullah is presiding over the committee meeting regarding the provision of employment to skilled youth of Balochistan in foreign countries.

Kalashnikov culture has wreaked havoc with Pakistan, says CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court has summoned details of licenses issued for prohibited bore weapons from authorities while hearing a case with regard to stolen arms on Wednesday.

"Pakistan has to get rid of the Kalashnikov culture," Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked.

The Supreme Court issued notices to the Secretary Interior as well as provincial secretaries, Police IGS, the Attorney General and Advocate Generals.

"The police even didn't ask about arms license from the owner during arms theft investigation," CJP remarked. "The owner himself confesses crime."

"Two Kalashnikovs, two Kalakovs, pistol and other valuables were stolen in the theft,"

chief justice said. "I was also offered to get Kalashnikov license," he further said. "Drugs and Kalashnikovs have wreaked havoc with Pakistan," CJP remarked.

"No one stroll in the world carrying Kalashnikovs in big automobiles with tinted glasses," CJP remarked. "How do you get Kalashnikov," chief justice asked the petitioner.

"Why should not be taken action when IG was issuing Kalashnikov papers," he questioned. "We are writing to the secretary interior to take back Kalashnikovs and their licenses," CJP said.

Commenting on presence of weapons in everyday life, chief justice said that people carry Kalashnikov standing everywhere when a person visits a school or market. "If

they are afraid then restrict them to homes or they go out to scare other people," CJP said.

"Security guards seen standing outside of homes with Kalashnikovs in Islamabad. When people go out of home carrying Kalashnikovs in cars with tinted glasses, policeman have dare to question them," he observed.

The CJP expressed resentment with the KP Police over failing to question about arms license in arms theft case. "Keeping arms without license is crime but the police didn't ask the owner about license," he said. The court granted bail to the accused for Rs 50,000 security deposit. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the case.