

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

Monday, January 08,2024

dquettavoice@gmail.com

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

Quetta Voice Special Report :

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

Negotiations are underway for seat-to-seat adjustments and electoral alliances in districts such as Awaran, Lasbela, Hub, and other parts of Balochistan.

"There is a possibility of an electoral alliance," stated Jam Kamal, emphasizing the ongoing discussions between the two political entities.

### Dr. Malik Baloch And Jam Kamal Met

Jam Kamal recently held a crucial meeting with Dr. Malik Baloch, Chief of NP and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, to discuss the prospects of forming an electoral alliance in select constituencies.

The history between the two parties indicates a positive political relationship, with PML N having nominated Dr. Malik Baloch as Chief Minister of Balochistan during the 2013 general elections, despite having a majority in the Balochistan Assembly.

The Central Secretary General of NP, Jan



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

### Jan Buledi Expresses Optimism About An Alliance

Political observers point out that Jam Kamal Khan has strategically expanded his political influence in Awaran, possibly as a response to challenges from his arch-rival Mir Qudus Bizenjo, the former CM of Balochistan. Bizenjo has reportedly sought to exert pressure on Jam Kamal in Hub and Lasbela districts, particularly during his tenure, which resulted in the designation of Hub as a district to counter the impact of Jam Kamal's political stronghold.

### PML N Garner Support Of Influential Figures

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

## ECP says it is 'fully functional' following reports of secretary's resignation due to ill health



**ISLAMABAD:** The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Sunday said that it was "fully functional" while Secretary Omar Hamid Khan was on "medical rest" and would soon resume his duties if his health permitted.

The electoral watchdog's statement came after TV channels and media reports claimed Khan had stepped down from his post ahead of the February 8 general elections due to ill health, raising concerns over conducting timely elections.

In a press release, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, the ECP said Khan was an intelligent and hardworking officer, who was performing his duties with diligence.

"His health was poor and he had been on medical rest before. If his health permits, he

will soon perform his official duties," it said, without elaborating further.

The election commission asserted that it was "fully functional" and was facing no hurdles in performing its job, adding that the ECP and its offices were working even on holidays.

"In the secretary's absence, two special secretaries of the commission are performing their duties in an efficient manner," the electoral watchdog added.

The statement was also shared on social media platform X by caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, who urged people to refrain from paying attention to rumours.

"We pray to Allah for his complete and speedy recovery. [The] election commission is fully functional and there is no crisis of any kind," he added.



پولیو کا خطرہ ابھی ٹلا نہیں!  
اس کا وائرس اب بھی موجود ہے  
پولیو ویکسین پی ای اس وائرس سے بچاؤ کا واحد ذریعہ ہے

8 جنوری سے قومی پولیو مہم کا آغاز



Two Drops for Every Child - Every Time

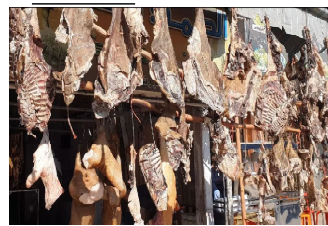
## A Taste of History: Landi – Preserving Tradition and Flavor in the Rugged Frontier

Syed Ali Shah:

**QUETTA:** High in the wind-swept mountains of Pakistan's Frontier Regions, bordering Afghanistan, lies a culinary legacy dating back centuries: Landi. This sun-dried meat, a testament to human ingenuity and adaptation, isn't just food, it's a story etched in every savory bite. For generations, tribesmen have relied on Landi as a way to combat the harsh realities of their environment. Inhospitable terrain, unpredictable weather, and the ever-present threat of blocked roads and communication loss necessitated a solution for food preservation. Enter Landi, a method as simple as it is effective.

### From Necessity to Delicacy:

Landi's story begins with "special lambs," imported from Afghanistan and carefully chosen for their meat quality. Haji Hamedullah, owner of two Landi shops on the bustling Quetta-Chaman road, describes the process with reverence. Salt and a unique blend of mountainous herbs are rubbed onto the meat,



infusing it with an earthy aroma that speaks of ancient wisdom. The sun, under the relentless sun, nature works its magic. Day after day, for nearly a month, the meat dries, transforming into a concentrated nugget of flavor and sustenance.

### Beyond Hunger, a Cultural Touchstone:

Landi wasn't just a weapon against hunger; it was a shield against the biting cold of the

region's deserts and villages.

Nomadic communities and frontier families alike depended on this portable source of protein, a vital companion on their journeys and a reliable comfort during harsh winters. A Taste of Adventure for Modern Palates: Today, Landi transcends its practical origins to become a sought-after delicacy. Foodies and travelers, captivated by its rich history and unique flavor profile, flock to Quetta and Chaman to experience this taste of the Frontier.

## Pakistan Faces Polio Surge: Urgent Call for Mandatory Vaccination

Dawood Ahmed:

**ISLAMABAD:** In a concerning development, the presence of the polio virus has been confirmed in various districts across Pakistan, including the capital city of Islamabad. The Ministry of Health reports that 14 environmental samples from different districts tested positive for the virus.

According to the ministry's spokesperson, the samples include 3 from Peshawar, 2 from Hyderabad, and 2 from Karachi East. Additional cases were identified in Karachi Central, Kemari, and West, each contributing to the growing concern over the spread of polio.

The virus was also detected in one sample each from Sukkur, Quetta, Kohat, and Islamabad, indicating a widespread presence of the polio virus in the country.

### Children Under The Age Of 5 Years Must Be Vaccinated

In response to the alarming



situation, the Ministry of Health has issued a stern directive, urging parents to ensure that all children under the age of 5 receive compulsory polio vaccinations. This preventive measure is crucial in protecting children from the debilitating effects of polio.

The ministry emphasizes the significance of timely vaccinations to curb the spread of the virus and prevent its potentially severe consequences. Authorities

are working tirelessly to address the situation, and citizens are urged to cooperate with health officials to eliminate the threat of polio in the affected areas.

The news comes as a reminder of the collective responsibility to maintain high vaccination coverage and eradicate polio from Pakistan, contributing to global efforts to make the world polio-free.

OPINION

Unlocking The Greatest Enigma

Collaborative Growth with German Consulate's Focal Person for Economic Development

Editorial: In the bustling city of Quetta, where the echoes of development are becoming increasingly audible, the people and business leaders of Balochistan extend a heartfelt appeal to the German Consulate in Karachi. Today, as we reflect on the dynamic friendship between Pakistan and Germany, we take a moment to express our gratitude to the German government for its sponsorship of various development projects that have notably enhanced the socio-economic conditions of our province.

Balochistan, with its vast and untapped potential, stands as a reservoir of economic opportunities awaiting exploration through international partnerships. Recognizing this significant potential for collaboration, we underscore the crucial role that the German Consulate can play in promoting economic growth, facilitating trade, and attracting investments to our resource-rich region.

The spirit of our appeal lies in a call for enhanced cooperation, urging the German Consulate to initiate dialogues and engagement sessions with local entrepreneurs, industrialists, and investors. This collaborative approach promises not only to benefit the business community but also to contribute significantly to the overall economic development of Balochistan.

Our province boasts unique offerings in sectors such as minerals, agriculture, and fisheries, aligning harmoniously with Germany's interests and expertise. By actively involving the business community, the German Consulate has the opportunity to identify mutually beneficial opportunities and contribute to the prosperity of both regions.

While expressing our appreciation for the appointment of a focal person for the business community of Sindh and Balochistan, we humbly stress the importance of broader consultation with all stakeholders in Balochistan. We believe that inclusive decision-making will undoubtedly enhance the success of such initiatives.

We are optimistic that, under its current leadership, the German Consulate will not only recognize the significance of Balochistan's economic landscape but also take proactive steps to strengthen economic ties. Our people and business leaders eagerly anticipate constructive engagement that fosters a lasting partnership between the German Consulate Karachi and our province.

Together, as great friends on the global stage, Pakistan and Germany can unlock the full potential of economic collaboration and contribute to the shared prosperity of our regions. Balochistan, with its rich tapestry of opportunities, should not be overlooked in development and key appointments.

We trust that our collective efforts will pave the way for a brighter future for all, and we remain committed to facilitating this collaborative journey toward progress and prosperity.

Complex conflict

By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry: THREE months into the war in Gaza, thousands of Palestinians, including a large number of children, have been martyred by the Israeli Defence Forces. What is the end goal of Israel for which it has unleashed unprecedented death and destruction? Israel's stated objective is that it wants to destroy Hamas. This is not credible because Israel is meting out genocide-like collective punishment to all Palestinians, and not just Hamas.

Is Israel's goal, then, to create a greater Israel by forcibly pushing the Palestinians into neighbouring Arab countries or elsewhere? If that is the objective, Israel has certainly overestimated what its brutal force can achieve, and underestimated the resilience of Palestinians, who seem determined not to leave the land to which their ancestors had lived for millennia.

The Palestine-Israel conflict is a complex issue. One land, two claimants: Jews and Palestinians. Both cite history to consolidate their claim to the land. The roots of this conflict lie in the decision of the British in 1917 called Balfour Declaration, to settle the Jews of Europe in Palestine. Once a sufficient number of Jews had reached Palestine and displaced the local Arab population, the British took the matter to the UN in 1947, where it was agreed to have two separate states, Palestine and Israel. However, Israel has never allowed the two-state solution to work. Instead, it has imposed an apartheid-like occupation on the helplessness of Palestinians.

The issue also has an ideological dimension. The state of Israel was created for the Jews of the world. The name of the state is Israel, and its descendants are the Bani Israel. Its successors include Hazrat David (David) and his son Hazrat Sulaiman, both of whom built large kingdoms in this territory. Prophet Moses rescued the Bani Israel and led them to the land from Egypt. All these Prophets are equally sacred for Muslims. Add to that the Masjid al-Aqsa, which was the Qbla-i-Awwal. Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ascended to Heaven (Mairaj) from this mosque. Israel has no right to deny Muslims the right to live in the lands which they hold in such esteem.

Israel continues to justify its atrocities in the name of "self-defence". The Hamas action of October 7, 2023 did not take place in a vacuum as the UN secretary general has rightly remarked. The Palestinians are under brutal occupation. The Hamas action was an act of resistance against the occupying force, which is permissible under international law.

Israel's indiscriminate firing on Palestinian houses, schools, and hospitals has elicited massive protests, not only in Arab or Muslim countries, but all across, including in the United States. Yet, Israel is not ready to listen to these voices. One reason for such a ferocious Israeli response could be that there is domestic criticism for not anticipating the Hamas attack. Further, Netanyahu wants to look strong as his domestic popularity is declining.

The firm support of the US may have also emboldened the Israeli leadership. Another reason could be that Arabs and Muslims could not display enough unity to take tangible actions against Israel, such as boycotting Israeli products or even cutting off diplomatic ties. Nevertheless, pressure is now mounting on Israel. The US cannot continue to ignore the loud calls of the international community for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

US launches BRAIN project in 2016

Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurological Experiences (BRAN) is one of the projects launched by the US government in 2016. It mainly focuses on the analysis of neuronal circuits by mapping the neural pathways in the brain. It is a gigantic task to map 100 billion neurons in the brain. According to neuroscientists each of these neurons is connected with 10,000 other neurons. To pass signals among these neurons there exists another dense web of at least 1,000 trillion synaptic connections. This project was initially funded with a whopping amount of \$3 billion.

EU launches Human Brain Project

The Human Brain Project (HBP) is another human brain research initiative funded and launched by the European Union. The objective of the HBP is to decode the human brain by producing a simulation of the human brain in a supercomputer. It was a ten-year program started in 2013, and European Commission allocated a staggering grant of 1 billion euro for this project.

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016, is a company that aims to create a brain-machine interface. It was founded in 2016 and is based in Palo Alto, California. The company's goal is to create a brain-machine interface that can be used to treat neurological disorders and to enhance human cognitive abilities.

World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder.

According to the World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder. These studies of the human brain will help us understand neuropsychiatric disorders, diagnose these ailments and effectively treat them. Diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, schizophrenia, and depression etc. will be easy to treat and patients suffering from these diseases will be able to live a normal life.

Spoliering peace

WHAT if the doors of Prime Minister House had opened for the Baloch protesters demanding an end to enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, and what if the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had given them a chance to share their painful stories? Wouldn't this have been a substantial confidence-building measure for a provost who is suffering from insurgency, terrorism, bad governance, and economic crisis, and interests, and worldview.

Each spoiler is a distinct entity, and Stedman may have found key challenges in managing spoilers: position (inside vs outside), number, goal (time limited, greedy, total), and locus (leadership vs followers). These factors influence how spoilers disrupt peace processes, as 'inside' spoilers use covert tactics, while 'outside' ones resort to overt violence.

In short, the Stedman theory can be described by thinking of a peace process as a bridge being erected over a chasm of conflict. To reduce the risk of infection," writes Topol. Countries all over the world are not acting on the Covid mitigation strategies. There's a need to resume testing, data collection and public guidelines (like masking) backed by trusted scientists to advise on masks, air filtration and proper ventilation work against variants. When so far, the world view and policies. If political compulsions build pressure

to do it all, not rely on only one," writes molecular biologist Dr. Lucky Topol. He recently posted an image of a rapid test that checks for SARS-CoV-2, RSV, Adenovirus, and Influenza. It isn't approved in most countries but "imagine if governments provided this for free to the people!" But governments like Joe Biden's are more interested in securing a second term and giving their ally Israel a free pass to co-opt-milit more atroc-

neuro-morphic supercomputer. It was a ten-year program started in 2013, and European Commission allocated a staggering grant of 1 billion euro for this project.

China and Japan have also embarked on similar projects of their own. These projects are considered game-changers for humanity. Advocates of these projects believe that akin to advancement in nuclear physics, and decoding of the human genome the human brain projects will trigger another dramatic epoch in human history. Apart from the promising benefits in the treatment of mental ailments, these projects can offer tremendous opportunities for the enhancement of human capabilities. One in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder.

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016, is a company that aims to create a brain-machine interface. It was founded in 2016 and is based in Palo Alto, California. The company's goal is to create a brain-machine interface that can be used to treat neurological disorders and to enhance human cognitive abilities.

World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder.

According to the World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder. These studies of the human brain will help us understand neuropsychiatric disorders, diagnose these ailments and effectively treat them. Diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, schizophrenia, and depression etc. will be easy to treat and patients suffering from these diseases will be able to live a normal life.

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016, is a company that aims to create a brain-machine interface. It was founded in 2016 and is based in Palo Alto, California. The company's goal is to create a brain-machine interface that can be used to treat neurological disorders and to enhance human cognitive abilities.

World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder.

According to the World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder. These studies of the human brain will help us understand neuropsychiatric disorders, diagnose these ailments and effectively treat them. Diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, schizophrenia, and depression etc. will be easy to treat and patients suffering from these diseases will be able to live a normal life.

Spoliering peace

WHAT if the doors of Prime Minister House had opened for the Baloch protesters demanding an end to enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, and what if the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had given them a chance to share their painful stories? Wouldn't this have been a substantial confidence-building measure for a provost who is suffering from insurgency, terrorism, bad governance, and economic crisis, and interests, and worldview.

Each spoiler is a distinct entity, and Stedman may have found key challenges in managing spoilers: position (inside vs outside), number, goal (time limited, greedy, total), and locus (leadership vs followers). These factors influence how spoilers disrupt peace processes, as 'inside' spoilers use covert tactics, while 'outside' ones resort to overt violence.

In short, the Stedman theory can be described by thinking of a peace process as a bridge being erected over a chasm of conflict. To reduce the risk of infection," writes Topol. Countries all over the world are not acting on the Covid mitigation strategies. There's a need to resume testing, data collection and public guidelines (like masking) backed by trusted scientists to advise on masks, air filtration and proper ventilation work against variants. When so far, the world view and policies. If political compulsions build pressure

to do it all, not rely on only one," writes molecular biologist Dr. Lucky Topol. He recently posted an image of a rapid test that checks for SARS-CoV-2, RSV, Adenovirus, and Influenza. It isn't approved in most countries but "imagine if governments provided this for free to the people!" But governments like Joe Biden's are more interested in securing a second term and giving their ally Israel a free pass to co-opt-milit more atroc-

Not a new normal

TESTED positive for Covid on the first day of the new year in New York. It is not an ideal start to the year, or holiday, but the period of isolation so far has brought many reflections. The most obvious is that the pandemic is not over. Last Sunday, the technical leader of the World Health Organisation's Covid-19 response, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, reaffirmed X that Covid remains a global health threat. "[This new phase] is marked by reduced impact compared to the surge of Covid 19 a few years ago, but it's still a global health threat and it's still pandemic causing far too many (re)infections. Covid-19 people must take precautions, especially masking, but masks alone have become a divisive issue here. Many people cite "science" that claims masks are ineffective in preventing the spread. This is why the media's role in public messaging is critical right now, yet its focus is on other issues. Professor or Eric Topol's on-end in The Los Angeles Times on Thursday should sound our bells. Policy-makers, certainly in the US, who are still playing make-believe about the current wave, at top of high cases of the flu and respiratory virus.

The current JN.1 variant has continued its evolution with mutations adapted for infecting or re-infecting us," writes Topol. But, he offers some good news: the latest booster, so far, the world view and policies. If political compulsions build pressure to do it all, not rely on only one," writes molecular biologist Dr. Lucky Topol. He recently posted an image of a rapid test that checks for SARS-CoV-2, RSV, Adenovirus, and Influenza. It isn't approved in most countries but "imagine if governments provided this for free to the people!" But governments like Joe Biden's are more interested in securing a second term and giving their ally Israel a free pass to co-opt-milit more atroc-

neuro-morphic supercomputer. It was a ten-year program started in 2013, and European Commission allocated a staggering grant of 1 billion euro for this project.

China and Japan have also embarked on similar projects of their own. These projects are considered game-changers for humanity. Advocates of these projects believe that akin to advancement in nuclear physics, and decoding of the human genome the human brain projects will trigger another dramatic epoch in human history. Apart from the promising benefits in the treatment of mental ailments, these projects can offer tremendous opportunities for the enhancement of human capabilities. One in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder.

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016, is a company that aims to create a brain-machine interface. It was founded in 2016 and is based in Palo Alto, California. The company's goal is to create a brain-machine interface that can be used to treat neurological disorders and to enhance human cognitive abilities.

World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder.

According to the World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder. These studies of the human brain will help us understand neuropsychiatric disorders, diagnose these ailments and effectively treat them. Diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, schizophrenia, and depression etc. will be easy to treat and patients suffering from these diseases will be able to live a normal life.

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016, is a company that aims to create a brain-machine interface. It was founded in 2016 and is based in Palo Alto, California. The company's goal is to create a brain-machine interface that can be used to treat neurological disorders and to enhance human cognitive abilities.

World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder.

According to the World Mental Health Report (2022), published by the WHO, one in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder. These studies of the human brain will help us understand neuropsychiatric disorders, diagnose these ailments and effectively treat them. Diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, schizophrenia, and depression etc. will be easy to treat and patients suffering from these diseases will be able to live a normal life.

Spoliering peace

WHAT if the doors of Prime Minister House had opened for the Baloch protesters demanding an end to enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, and what if the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had given them a chance to share their painful stories? Wouldn't this have been a substantial confidence-building measure for a provost who is suffering from insurgency, terrorism, bad governance, and economic crisis, and interests, and worldview.

Each spoiler is a distinct entity, and Stedman may have found key challenges in managing spoilers: position (inside vs outside), number, goal (time limited, greedy, total), and locus (leadership vs followers). These factors influence how spoilers disrupt peace processes, as 'inside' spoilers use covert tactics, while 'outside' ones resort to overt violence.

In short, the Stedman theory can be described by thinking of a peace process as a bridge being erected over a chasm of conflict. To reduce the risk of infection," writes Topol. Countries all over the world are not acting on the Covid mitigation strategies. There's a need to resume testing, data collection and public guidelines (like masking) backed by trusted scientists to advise on masks, air filtration and proper ventilation work against variants. When so far, the world view and policies. If political compulsions build pressure

to do it all, not rely on only one," writes molecular biologist Dr. Lucky Topol. He recently posted an image of a rapid test that checks for SARS-CoV-2, RSV, Adenovirus, and Influenza. It isn't approved in most countries but "imagine if governments provided this for free to the people!" But governments like Joe Biden's are more interested in securing a second term and giving their ally Israel a free pass to co-opt-milit more atroc-

Not a new normal

TESTED positive for Covid on the first day of the new year in New York. It is not an ideal start to the year, or holiday, but the period of isolation so far has brought many reflections. The most obvious is that the pandemic is not over. Last Sunday, the technical leader of the World Health Organisation's Covid-19 response, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, reaffirmed X that Covid remains a global health threat. "[This new phase] is marked by reduced impact compared to the surge of Covid 19 a few years ago, but it's still a global health threat and it's still pandemic causing far too many (re)infections. Covid-19 people must take precautions, especially masking, but masks alone have become a divisive issue here. Many people cite "science" that claims masks are ineffective in preventing the spread. This is why the media's role in public messaging is critical right now, yet its focus is on other issues. Professor or Eric Topol's on-end in The Los Angeles Times on Thursday should sound our bells. Policy-makers, certainly in the US, who are still playing make-believe about the current wave, at top of high cases of the flu and respiratory virus.

The current JN.1 variant has continued its evolution with mutations adapted for infecting or re-infecting us," writes Topol. But, he offers some good news: the latest booster, so far, the world view and policies. If political compulsions build pressure to do it all, not rely on only one," writes molecular biologist Dr. Lucky Topol. He recently posted an image of a rapid test that checks for SARS-CoV-2, RSV, Adenovirus, and Influenza. It isn't approved in most countries but "imagine if governments provided this for free to the people!" But governments like Joe Biden's are more interested in securing a second term and giving their ally Israel a free pass to co-opt-milit more atroc-

### Cold Tightens its Grip on Quetta, Ziarat, and Kalat Following Rain and Snowfall

News Desk:

In the aftermath of recent snow and rainfall, the cold has firmly taken hold of Quetta, Ziarat, Kalat, and various other regions in the province. Ziarat, Kan Mehtarzai, Toba Kakari, Kalat, and other mountainous areas of Balochistan have witnessed a significant amount of snowfall. Quetta City, on the other hand, experienced heavy rainfall, exacerbating the challenges faced by the local population. The frigid weather has led to issues such as gas and power supply disruptions. Tourists from Quetta and across the country flocked to Ziarat to witness the season's first snowfall, with visitors from Karachi and

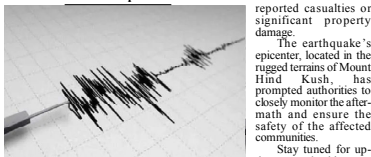


other regions also making their way to the picturesque valley. Despite the enchanting scenery, the residents in Ziarat expressed discontent with prolonged gas and power supply outages. Yar Muhammad Kakar, a resident of the Kawas area in Ziarat, lamented, "We have been without gas and power supply for the last two days." He highlighted the plight of women and children, who are particularly vulnerable in the harsh weather, leading to many

### Quetta Earthquake 4.6 Magnitude: Hindu Kush Epicenter, No Casualties

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a recent seismic event, Quetta City and its vicinity experienced intense tremors, causing widespread fear and panic among the residents. The earthquake, measuring a magnitude of 4.6, originated from the formidable Mount Hindu Kush, as reported by the earthquake center.



As the shocks reverberated through the region, individuals rushed out of their homes, seeking solace in

the recitation of Kalima Tayyaba. Efficiently responding to the crisis, relief teams are actively assessing the situation on the ground. Fortunately, as of now, there have been no reported casualties or significant property damage.

### Tribunal clears way for Maryam Nawaz to contest election from NA-119

LAHORE (INP) Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice-President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz on Sunday got a green signal to contest elections from NA-119 in Lahore.

The Election Tribunal in Lahore also dismissed an appeal challenging the acceptance of the nomination papers of former prime minister and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif from NA-132. The tribunal upheld the decision of the returning officer regarding the acceptance of Shehbaz Sharif's nomination papers from NA-132 and dismissed the appeal. Meanwhile, the Election Appellate Tribunal also threw out an appeal against the approval of Maryam Nawaz's nomination papers from NA-119 and NA-120 in Lahore, and from PP-80, PP-159, PP-160, and PP-165. Also on Saturday, the Election Tribunals had given go-ahead to top members of the Sharif family including Maryam Nawaz to contest general elections from different constituencies. The Election Tribunal in Lahore had dismissed appeal filed against approval of Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers. The Election Appellate Tribunal upheld the returning officer's decision to accept Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers from NA-119 and NA-120 in Lahore, and from PP-80, PP-159, PP-160, and PP-165. Also on Saturday, the Election Tribunals had given go-ahead to top members of the Sharif family including Maryam Nawaz to contest general elections from different constituencies. The Election Tribunal in Lahore had dismissed appeal filed against approval of Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers. The Election Appellate Tribunal upheld the returning officer's decision to accept Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers from NA-119 and NA-120 in Lahore, and from PP-80, PP-159, PP-160, and PP-165.

### Woman in 90s pulled from rubble five days after Japan quake

SUZU (INP) A woman in her 90s trapped for five days under the rubble by a huge earthquake in central Japan was rescued against the odds, but snow and storms were expected to complicate relief efforts on Sunday.

Japan side of the country's main Honshu island. The bad weather threatened to further hamper the challenging recovery mission of thousands of police, troops and power rescue workers. It could also worsen conditions for more than 30,000 people in 366 government shelters as of Saturday, with relief materials slow to reach areas suffering water and power outages. "The first priority has been to rescue people under the rubble, and to reach isolated communities," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in an interview with NHK on Sunday. The military has sent small groups of troops to each of the isolated communities on foot, he said. The government has also "deployed various police and fire department helicopters, to access them from the sky", Kishida added. "In parallel with these efforts, we need to improve the conditions in shelters, and the health of those suffering in the disaster," because they may have to stay in place for extended periods, he warned. In Anamizu city, rescuers in heavy-duty orange or blue waterproofs were seen carrying a body of a landslide victim covered in blue tarp under a toppled pylon. And among the widespread destruction in the city of Wajima, the traditional red gate of one shrine remained standing, but the view through it was a now-familiar mess of splintered wood and toppled beams. Japan experiences hundreds of earthquakes every year and most cause no damage, with strict building codes in place for more than four decades.



HYDERABAD: A View of Fog in Hyderabad City.



QUETTA: Provincial General Secretary Muslim League(N) Jamal Shah Kakar along with other leaders lead the rally on the launch of the Balochistan election campaign.

### BYC Blocks Main Sariab Road Against Non-Recovery Of Missing Persons

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: During the third phase of the ongoing movement protesting the non-recovery of missing persons and the alleged extrajudicial killings,

the Baloch Solidarity Committee organized a rally in front of Balochistan University in Quetta on Sunday. The protest, part of a series of demonstrations across Balochistan, saw a significant turnout, with participants including students, youth, political activists, and people from various parts of Balochistan, including members of the Progressive Youth Alliance.



The rally commenced on Sariab Road and proceeded towards Customs Chowk. Demonstrators voiced their support for the Baloch Long March protest movement currently taking place in Islamabad. They were demanding

the recovery of the missing persons. The administration had taken strict security measures to avoid the occurrence of any upward incident on the eve of the protest.

### Forced marriages: 53 cases reported in Peshawar last year, but actual numbers are much higher

LAHORE/PESHAWAR (INP) A total of 53 forced marriage cases involving women and underage girls were reported in Peshawar during the last year, shows official figures, as the inhuman cultural practices mostly remain unchecked amid a strong support for anti-women sentiments in the society.

than half of our population is twofold: lack of will and absence of resources. Lack of will means that the state isn't ready to open support neither in their quest for basic human rights and independence, fearing a social backlash. The only solid state intervention to deal the serious issue was the Violence against Women Centre established by the PML-N government in 2017 in Multan - a facility that provides refuge and assistance to the victims under one roof.

However, extremist movement. However, extremism has certainly fuelled the support for harsh treatment towards women and girls at a time when they are trying their best to be an independent and productive member of society by joining the workforce. On the other hand, the existing state apparatus - including police and judiciary [at least the lower level] - also misses the required human resources and mindset that

Forceful marriages unfortunately remain a part of society as the practice is followed religiously in Pakistan in name of family honour despite various legislations introduced to arrest domestic violence and extend women rights across the country without any discrimination based upon caste and creed as well social status. The reason behind the state failure to provide protection to more

than half of our population is twofold: lack of will and absence of resources. Lack of will means that the state isn't ready to open support neither in their quest for basic human rights and independence, fearing a social backlash. The only solid state intervention to deal the serious issue was the Violence against Women Centre established by the PML-N government in 2017 in Multan - a facility that provides refuge and assistance to the victims under one roof.

However, extremist movement. However, extremism has certainly fuelled the support for harsh treatment towards women and girls at a time when they are trying their best to be an independent and productive member of society by joining the workforce. On the other hand, the existing state apparatus - including police and judiciary [at least the lower level] - also misses the required human resources and mindset that

Forceful marriages unfortunately remain a part of society as the practice is followed religiously in Pakistan in name of family honour despite various legislations introduced to arrest domestic violence and extend women rights across the country without any discrimination based upon caste and creed as well social status. The reason behind the state failure to provide protection to more



HYDERABAD: A family on their way back after filling their pots with water from the Indus River.

### Bangladesh kicks off general election process amid boycott by opposition

DHAKA (INP) Bangladesh on Sunday kicked off its election process which is expected to give Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina her fifth term in office but the opposition parties have boycotted the elections due to their members being arrested in large numbers.

parliament remains a multi-party institution. Polling booths will be open until 5pm and the results will be declared after midnight. However, there have been reports of voters being threatened with confiscation of government benefit cards if they refuse to vote for the ruling Awami League. "They said since the government feeds us, we have to vote for them," said an elderly voter from the central district of Faridpur.

Hasina said the main party boycotting Sunday's national elections was a "terrorist organisation", adding that she was trying to ensure her country remained democratic and urging the public to cast their votes. "The BNP is a terrorist organisation," she told waiting reporters after casting her vote moments after polls opened at the Dhaka City College, alongside her sister and daughter. "I am trying my best to ensure that democracy should continue in this country," Hasina said.

**CORRIGENDUM**

This is in reference to the bidding process for the Remaining Work Outfitting/Disinfecting, including structure work of Block Top Road from Nawa Sahib Road in Roshanpur on N-75 D O, Khan Road via Praga Salazar, District Loralai, with a length of 11.00 km, contract number TSE-23242368733 and PRQ No. 126627-12-2023. This office informs all the interested bidders that the bid submission date mentioned in the original invitation for bids has been extended. The new bid submission deadline is now 12th January 2024. All other terms and conditions outlined in the original bid invitation shall remain unchanged.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
CIVIL WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
DISTRICT DUKKI.

PRQ No. 1308/05-01-2024

## Appeal Challenging Former CM Jam Kamal Nomination Papers Dismissed

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: On Saturday, the Election Tribunal dismissed the fifth appeal challenging the nomination papers of former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan. Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar of the Balochistan High Court, heading the Election Tribunal, announced the decision during Saturday's session, rejecting the appeal against the approval of Jam Kamal's nomination papers.

### As Of Now ET Approved Over 200 Candidates In Balochistan

As of now, the Election Tribunal has approved over 200 candidates in Balochistan, allowing them to participate in the upcoming general elections scheduled for February 8, 2024.

During the sixth day of proceedings, the Election Tribunal convened at the BHC, addressing 17 appeals. Among these, the nomination papers of three candidates were approved, permitting them to contest in the upcoming election. Notably, the judge upheld the decision of the Returning Officer, affirming Jam Kamal's eligibility as a candidate.

Jam Kamal has been contesting elections for both provincial and national assembly seats in the Lasbela and Hub districts of



Balochistan. A significant point raised during the hearing was brought up by Jam Kamal Khan's lawyer, who highlighted that the term of Jam Kamal's iqama had expired in 2018. Despite his arguments, the tribunal ruled in favor of Jam Kamal, emphasizing the validity of his nomination.

### Hearing Of Sardar Akhtar Mengal's Appeals Adjourned Till January 8

Meanwhile, the hearing on the appeals of Sardar Akhtar Mengal for two national and one provincial assembly seat has been

adjourned until January 8. Earlier, Mengal was permitted to contest the election for one national assembly seat.

Notably, objections have been raised regarding the iqama status of two former chief ministers. The Election Tribunal, led by Justice Hashim Kakar, concluded the hearing of the appeals during this session. In the process, the tribunal issued notices to the concerned parties for eight appeals while approving the nomination papers of three candidates, granting them the right to contest the election. The legal proceedings continue to unfold, shaping the landscape for the upcoming electoral process.



QUETTA: President of Young Nurses Association Irshad Ahmed Baloch speaks during a press conference.

## KP governor urges ECP to address concerns raised by political parties regarding polls

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Ghulam Ali has urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to address concerns raised by political parties regarding the February 8 general elections.

In an interview with a private TV Channel, he said: "It would be better if the election commission calls a high-level meeting of these political parties before the elections or a few days after them, and takes action after hearing their concerns."

His statement comes amid reservations voiced by certain political circles on holding general elections on Feb 8, as scheduled by the election commission, due to security concerns.

On Friday, the Senate passed a resolution, moved by independent Senator Dilawar Khan with only 15 lawmakers in attendance, seeking to delay the polls due to security concerns.

However, the passage of the resolution was roundly criticised by various political

parties, while the caretaker information minister had insisted that there was no directive of the prime minister or the federal cabinet for a delay. The Supreme Court was also subsequently approached to declare the resolution illegal and act against its backers.

The next day, Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Senator Mushtaq Ahmad submitted a fresh resolution in the upper house, emphasising the need to ensure the timely conduct of the polls.

In an interview last night, Governor Ali stated that it was the provincial government's duty to "improve the law and order situation and protect the people".

He said the federal government and state institutions were also responsible for the same, adding that the army had also agreed to deploy troops and provide the requisite support.

The KP governor mentioned the issues of "law and order, 18-hour-long load-shedding, and toughest winter". He said the reason why people were questioning whether the

polls would take place or not was that a "tempo is not being created".

"Other areas where there is winter as well as snow — including Naran, Kalam, Swat and Chitral — people there say how will we encourage our votes to come out [and vote]," Governor Ali said, adding that there were reports forecasting snowfall in Peshawar as well.

He added that he heard these concerns and told people that the date for the polls had been officially announced now. Ali further stated that none of the parties he had talked to "wanted the elections to not take place" but their "demand was for peace and protection".

Ali said it was his "respectful request and suggestion" to the ECP to sit with the political parties and "convince" them how it could provide them protection.

He stated that the constitutional timeframe of polls being held within 90 days of the National Assembly's dissolution had passed "so elections should take place" but the reservations should be considered.

## ECP rejects PTI's claims against level playing field

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s claims against level playing field for general election 2024, sources said.

According to sources, over 76 percent of the nomination papers of PTI candidates have been approved by the ECP.

Sources revealed that the commission submitted the detailed report regarding the level playing field to Supreme Court registrar.

Earlier, the Supreme Court issued notices to the Inspector General Police (IGP) of Punjab Dr Usman Anwar, chief secretary and AG Punjab on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) petition seeking contempt of court proceedings against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for failing to ad-

dress the party concerns regarding level-playing field ahead of the upcoming polls.

On Dec 22, the Supreme Court (SC) directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to address PTI's complaints regarding a level playing field in the general election 2024.

Following SC orders, the ECP took notice of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) reservations regarding the lack of a level playing field in the run-up to the upcoming general elections, scheduled for February 8, 2024.

The electoral watchdog has sent a letter to provincial election commissioners, chief secretaries, and inspector-generals (IGs), ordering them to remove PTI's complaints about mis-handling of its candidates and facing difficulties in filing nomination papers.

Ahead of today's hearing, the PTI submitted additional documents containing evidence of the alleged denial of the level-playing field before the apex court.

In the documents, the SC was informed that the nomination papers of as many as 668 PTI candidates were rejected by returning officers appointed by the ECP.

The plea moved on behalf of Barrister Gohar Ali Khan through Shaheen, sought a direction from the Supreme Court to ensure a level playing field by not arresting PTI candidates, workers and leaders, seconders should not be harassed.

The petitioner urged the apex court to direct the respondents to provide a level playing field to the PTI for free and fair elections, in the interest of justice.



QUETTA: Leaders of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Noor Muhammad Durrani speaks during a press conference along with new members of the party.

## Around 100,000 children develop type 1 diabetes in Pakistan: Health experts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Around 100,000 children are estimated to have type 1 diabetes in Pakistan who need insulin for the rest of their lives to live a normal and healthy life.

"Unfortunately, many of them are not diagnosed timely due to lack of awareness among parents and most of the treating physicians," senior endocrinologists and health experts said on Saturday in a media briefing.

They said sudden weight loss, frequent urination and extreme hunger as well as changes in the mood of the children were some of the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes and if such signs and symptoms appear, parents should take their children to trained and qualified physicians and insist for checking the sugar of their child.

"Of the 100,000 children having type 1 diabetes in Pakistan, many are not diagnosed

timely and die within a few life. "There is a need to let parents that early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes can save the lives of hundreds of children in Pakistan. There is also a need to train physicians and doctors regarding the proper diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes and put them on insulin as per guidelines", the ambassador said.

Irum Ghafoor, manager of Changing Diabetes in Children, Prof. Abdul Basit, said, "Our goal is to reach out to 3000 children whose parents cannot afford insulin throughout the country and provide them free of charge insulin to live a normal and happy life."

The Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Jakob Linulf, also deplored that hundreds of children were dying as their parents didn't know that their children had Type 1 diabetes and they were not getting the right, which is insulin that could save their lives and help them

live a long, healthy and happy life. "There is a need to let parents that early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes can save the lives of hundreds of children in Pakistan. There is also a need to train physicians and doctors regarding the proper diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes and put them on insulin as per guidelines", the ambassador said.

Irum Ghafoor, manager of Changing Diabetes in Children, Prof. Abdul Basit, said, "Our goal is to reach out to 3000 children whose parents cannot afford insulin throughout the country and provide them free of charge insulin to live a normal and happy life."

The Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Jakob Linulf, also deplored that hundreds of children were dying as their parents didn't know that their children had Type 1 diabetes and they were not getting the right, which is insulin that could save their lives and help them

## Karachi weather to remain dry and colder in night

KARACHI (INP): The Met Office on Sunday has forecast dry weather with colder night in Karachi during next 24 hours.

Minimum temperature was recorded 13.5 degree Celsius in the city, while maximum temperature likely to remain between 26 to 28-degree Celsius, weather department said.

Humidity level in Karachi recorded 58 percent in the morning, the Met Office said.

The metropolis was measured to have 187 reading of particulate matter on the air quality index and ranked 6th

most polluted city of the world. Earlier, health experts described Karachi's air quality as "very unhealthy" and advised citizens to 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.

Although southwestern winds blowing from the sea in Karachi, work as a filter for the air, these winds remain mostly suspended during the winter, experts said.



QUETTA: President of Church Missionary Trust Association Balochistan Peter Aami speaks during a press conference.

## JUI-F names candidates for Punjab NA, PA seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Janat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) has announced its candidates for 53 national and 153 provincial constituencies of Punjab, including seats from Lahore.

The JUI-F has filed Maulana Saifullah Qadri from NA-130, NA-118 and PP-175 and Hafiz Ghazanfar Aziz from NA-128 for the upcoming elections.

Interestingly, Hamza Shehbaz is expected to contest from NA-18. Further, the party has filed Maulana Saifullah from NA-92, Ziaur Rehman NA-56/PP16, Sajad Waiss NA-148, Muhammad Saifdar Shehbaz NA-165/167/168/PP-254 and Maulana Yahya Abbasi NA-176/PP-273.

The statement also said that

Maulana Yahya Abbasi from NA-176 and PP-273, Maulana Mudassar Irfan from PP-288, Abdullah Fahad Langryal from PP-272 and Maulana Ziaur Rahman from PP-258 are among the other candidates of JUI.

The party expressed confidence that its candidates will win the support of the people in the upcoming elections.

ECP unveils constituency-wise polling station lists

Meanwhile, Returning Officers (ROs), in line with the directives of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), have published the constituency-wise preliminary lists of polling stations.

Candidates and voters have the opportunity to submit their

suggestions or objections regarding polling stations to the District Returning Officers (DROs) until January 11, 2024.

DROs are set to declare their decisions on these objections or suggestions from January 12 to 17, with the final list of polling stations to be revealed 15 days before the elections.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) yesterday completed priority-based training for election supervisory staff appointed for the smooth conduct of the 2024 general elections. According to the electoral body, the training of 579,191 people has been completed, with the remaining 406,222 people will complete training by February 1.