

QUETTA VOICE

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Transporters' Protest Grips Quetta-Taftan Route

Riaz Baloch:

CHAGHI: Transporters on the Quetta-Taftan route have entered their fifth day of protest, escalating their outcry against what they perceive as burdensome government measures.

Originating as a local grievance, the protest has now evolved into a widespread demonstration uniting transporters from various regions.

The crux of the protest revolves around newly implemented Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which en-

tail heightened inspections at checkpoints. These measures were introduced in response to the tragic killing of nine passengers in Noshki district, Balochistan, aiming to bolster security along the route.

However, for the transporters, these increased checks have translated into disruptions to their operations, resulting in prolonged delays and financial losses. Mr. Nasir Shahwani, a prominent leader of the AI Taftan

Transporters Association, has emerged as a leading voice in advocating for a review of these measures. Shahwani argues that the intensified inspections not only hinder transportation efficiency but also exacerbate the economic strain on transporters.

Moreover, the government's mandate to deploy armed guards in passenger buses has further fueled discontent among transporters. Many question the practicality and feasibility of this requirement, ex-

pressing concerns about its impact on already stretched resources.

As the standoff between transporters and authorities persists, the Quetta-Taftan route remains paralyzed, leaving commuters stranded and businesses affected.

The simmering frustration among transporters threatens to escalate unless a resolution is swiftly reached, underscoring the precarious livelihoods at stake along this vital transportation corridor.

Complete independence impossible without economic stability: COAS

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Friday said that complete independence was not possible without first achieving economic stability. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief made the remarks while addressing the Green Pakistan Initiative conference. The remarks were also carried by state-run APP and Radio Pakistan.



The federal government's Green Pakistan Initiative is aimed at introducing the latest farming technology and equipment across the country. The government is eyeing to fetch around \$40 billion during the next five years through the agricultural initiative and hopes to create four million jobs through this process.

Punjab CM Maryam's uniformed appearance at parade causes a stir

LAHORE: Aiming for a 50-50 ratio of men and women in the police force, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif caused quite a stir on Thursday when she arrived at a passing-out ceremony for women constables and traffic assistants decked out in a Punjab police uniform. Addressing the graduating class at Police Training College Chung, the chief minister said she government's time when women would constitute half the police force, adding that she had directed the Punjab inspec-



tor general to increase the number of women police officers, who currently number around 7,000. She expressed satisfaction that the training of women police constables had been conducted in line with best international practices and modern requirements, and told the graduating policewomen to always "take care of the oppressed and dispense justice". "After wearing the police uniform for the first time, I have realised that being a police officer or being sworn in as a CM is a very responsible job. In the chief minister's office, we take decisions and you get them implemented," she mused. Opposition criticises move, Punjab police say rules allow chief ministers to don uniform for formal occasions. But the chief minister's decision to attend the ceremony in full police regalia rubbed many the wrong way, especially the opposition PTI.

Heavy Rains Forecasted in Balochistan, Flash Floods Feared

Mannan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: The Balochistan Meteorological Center has raised alarms over an impending deluge set to persist in the region until April 27. Projections suggest a significant surge in local river levels, particularly impacting Nushki, Chagai, Kharan, Turbat, Kech, Gwadar, Awaran, Ziarat, Pishin, Harnai, Zhub, Barkhan, and Nasirabad, raising fears of flash floods.

Authorities are on high alert, bracing for the imminent weather onslaught. Residents are urged to exercise utmost caution and undertake necessary safety measures. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has declared a state of emergency across the province to confront the looming threat of flash floods. Quetta, Noshki, Pishin To Receive Heavy Rainfall.

Anticipated weather conditions spell trouble for numerous districts, including Quetta, Nushki, Pishin, Harnai, Zhub, Barkhan, Gwadar, Kech, Turbat, Awaran, Chagai, Kharan, Kalat, Mastung, Jhal Magsi, Nasirabad, Sibi, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Loralai, Qila Saifullah, Qila Abdullah, Ziarat, Shirani,



Panjour Over the past 24 hours, cloudy conditions have persisted across much of Balochistan. Rainfall measurements indicate significant precipitation, with 15 millimeters recorded in Panjour, 5 millimeters in Khuzdar, 4 millimeters each in Dalbandin and Zhub, and 3 millimeters in Quetta's Samungali area, Kalat, and Barkhan respectively. Residents are urged to stay vigilant, keeping abreast of weather updates, and adhering to official directives to safeguard themselves and their communities amid the heightened weather activity. 15 MM Rain Recorded In

Arrest Warrant Issued for PKMAP Chairman Mehmood Khan Achakzai

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Judicial Magistrate Quetta has issued an arrest warrant for Mehmood Khan Achakzai, the Chairman of Pash-tun-khawa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP). The warrant comes in connection with FIR No. 43 of 2024 registered at Gwalmandi police station Quetta.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai, who recently emerged as the presidential candidate of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), faced the scrutiny of the district administration when his residence was raided earlier March this year.

Although he was not present during the raid, the district administration proceeded to register a case against him under Sections 447 and 448-34, pertaining to interference and seizure.

Subsequently, the Judicial Magistrate issued a warrant for



Achakzai's arrest due to his non-appearance before the authorities.

The police have been directed to apprehend Mehmood Khan Achakzai and present him before the court by April 27.

The Quetta Bar Association (QBA) has condemned the registration of case against Mr. Achakzai and termed it a political victimization.

The PKMAP has also criticized the police and government for what it called rulers' tactics to silence Mr. Achakzai. "The party would continue its democratic struggle despite all odds", the PKMAP statement stated.

اپ کے علاقے میں پولیو وائرس موجود ہے
اپنے بچوں کو پولیو کا شکار نہ ہونے دیں

پولیو سے بچاؤ کی دیکھیں ہم میں پلازیم اور بچوں کو معذوری سے بچائیں ✓
پولیو سے بچاؤ کے لیے بچوں کو حلقہ ٹیکوں کا کورس ضرور مکمل کروائیں تاکہ ✓
آپ کے بچے خطرناک اور جان لیوا بیماریوں سے محفوظ رہیں

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JUST VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Environmental Samples: Urgent Call to Safeguard Balochistan's Polio-Free Status

Editorial:

In a crucial stride to fortify its polio-free status, Balochistan launched an ambitious anti-polio campaign, reaching out to over 2.5 million children below the age of five. The dedication of 11,000 teams strategically positioned across the province symbolizes a collective determination to combat the poliovirus.

However, amidst this proactive effort, unsettling news surfaces. Environmental samples from Quetta, Hub, Dera Bugti, and Chaman test positive for the virus, casting a shadow on the region's hard-won progress. This alarming development is a stark reminder that the fight against polio is far from over.

Polio-Free Balochistan, A Hard-Won Progress

Syed Zahid Shah, Chief of the Emergency Operation Cell, passionately calls upon parents to actively cooperate, underscoring the urgency of ensuring that their children receive the indispensable anti-polio drops. It is imperative for every citizen to recognize their role in this monumental endeavor.

The collaborative spirit shown by the government, UNICEF, WHO, and various organizations is commendable. However, the recent environmental samples pose a looming threat, demanding intensified efforts and collaboration. It is crucial for these entities to join hands in a unified front against the crippling virus.

Govt And Orgs Should Intensify Their Efforts

This editorial urges the government and relevant organizations to intensify their efforts, pooling resources and expertise to confront and eliminate this newfound challenge. The preservation of Balochistan's polio-free legacy, meticulously upheld for over two years, demands immediate action. The time to act is now, to secure the health and future of Balochistan's children, ensuring a polio-free landscape for generations to come.

A timeless classic

By Syed Fahim:

It is generally agreed that as a classic, works should meet some common high standards for quality, appeal, longevity, and influence. A classic work must be of high artistic quality, at least for the time in which it was written. It should not only represent that era but also should stand the test of time. It should have universal appeal, spark intellectual debates, shape societal attitudes, and be able to inspire generations to relate to its message. While the Holy Quran is a religious scripture, let us examine how at the same time it is a timeless 'classic'. Understand its message, one can expect to discover a new perspective from the same text that had previously alluded to a different meaning. This is, in essence, due to the profundity of thought and experience of the individual reading the Quran — the evolution of the mindset between the two instances of reading the same text on two different occasions. However, how one benefits from it is left to the reader, or maybe a more apt term should be the 'discoverer' of its message.

The Quran is a grand sum of stories of the past, rumblings of the present, prophecies of the future, rhetorical questions aimed at unbelievers, answers to the ridiculing questions of the disbelievers, description of nature and supernatural, a teaser for what is yet to be discovered, explanation of what is observed but not understood, decrees for a newly forming community, and a lot more. The variety and intricacy of subjects it covers make the Quran an ideal cata-

lyst to spark intellectual debates and keep it relevant 15 centuries later. The Quran may show you multiple messages on the same page. A busy person may not randomly to recite just one bit at a given time for blessings. They may come across an anecdote, a warning, a supplication, or a proclamation, or a proclamation within that one page. This is one way of ensuring that the reader gets the maximum benefit from even short spurts of reading the text, instead of just learning about one topic. One can always find all verses on a particular topic, which have been assembled and published widely.

Alternatively, one can look up a word or a topic in any modern Quran app if that is the intention. This is in fact, a higher degree of reading the Quran, a sort of search in the book. And this is where one really starts discovering the scheme and sophistication of the book.

The Quran may show multiple messages on the same page. One may find perplexing when interrelated messages are found to be intertwined or, in other cases, scattered among various surahs and sections of the Quran. However, hidden lies the beauty of the scheme of assembly. For a curious reader, this is the start of an exhausting yet exhilarating quest to figure out the puzzle. Often, one finds nuggets of wisdom on a page that keeps the reader returning to the book, deepening one's learning. And once the trail is found, again, it brings the euphoria and the urge to get to the

next discovery. This also fuels the centuries-long appeal of the text, with each new generation unveiling new and improved nuances from the scripture. The notion may appear elusive, though, if the reader does not even know what the text means. One may learn the Arabic phonics to be able to read the Quran judiciously. But how can one expect to feel a tug at their heart without even realising if the verses they just read was a question or an ans-wer? It is hence imperative that the Quran should ideally be read alongside its translation if the person reading it is not a speaker of the Arabic language. A modern-day person reading the Quran may find the discourse on cosmology, meteorology, or anatomy simplified, but this was the state of humans when the glorious book was revealed. In fact, the permanent beauty of its verses is evident in the fact that human beings in all periods of history have found wisdom in them.

The superior linguistic quality of the Quran for its time of revelation is well established. Its enduring appeal, influence, and impact generation after generation are equally undeniable. Maybe, it is time we open the Quran to study it rather than giving a customary reading. Maybe, we will discover the hidden element whose very narration makes us sway back and forth with its so-called, yet unexplained, charm.

We have a classic in our hands, but its understanding is wrapped up in a predetermined period. This option has so frequently been applied that it has practically become a regular feature of law enforcement, re-

dicinal remedies, ingraining themselves in the local culture. Over generations, the forest became a cherished asset, safeguarded by tribal elders. A Global Ecological Gem

In recent years, the Ziarat Juniper Forest has garnered international recognition for its unique and vital ecosystem. It is an integral part of the region's biodiversity, hosting a diverse array of plant and animal species. Furthermore, the Juniper trees themselves offer a rich source of genetic information, fueling discoveries in ecology and herbal science.

A recent report titled "Observing Carbon Stock and Land-Use Change in 5000-Year-Old Juniper Woods Stand of Ziarat, Balochistan, through a Synergistic Methodology" conducted a comprehensive analysis of the forest in the furniture sector, leading to extensive deforestation. These ancient woodlands, found mostly at altitudes above 2000 meters, are under severe threat. The Ziarat region, home to approximately 5000-year-old Juniper species, faces rampant deforestation due to domestic fuel consumption, agricultural expansion, construction, medicinal use, and furniture production.

Conservation efforts are underway to protect the diverse wildlife within the Ziarat Juniper Forest. Endangered species such as the Asiatic Mountain Bear, Snow Leopard, and Markhor call this forest home, and preserving their habitat is paramount.

Ziarat Juniper Forest in Peril: Ancient Trees Face Deforestation Threat

Summan Ismail:

The Ziarat Juniper Forest, nestled in Pakistan's Balochistan territory, stands as a testament to nature's splendor and history's embrace. This ancient forest is renowned for its towering, thousand-year-old Juniper trees, which rank among the world's oldest and tallest. This article explores the profound significance of the Ziarat Juniper Forest, its historical roots, ecological importance, and the pressing need for conservation efforts.

A Glimpse into History

The story of the Ziarat Juniper Forest is a journey through time. Once inhabited by nomadic tribes, these Juniper trees served as versatile resources. They provided fuel, construction materials, and me-

The Dark Side of Progress

While the past decade has brought comfort and progress to the region, it has come at a steep price. One industry that has thrived at the expense of the forest is the furniture sector, leading to extensive deforestation. These ancient woodlands, found mostly at altitudes above 2000 meters, are under severe threat. The Ziarat region, home to approximately 5000-year-old Juniper species, faces rampant deforestation due to domestic fuel consumption, agricultural expansion, construction, medicinal use, and furniture production.

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The thin blue line in crisis

By Afzal Ali Shigri:

The spotlight on Pakistan's police force tends to be for all the wrong reasons. Political parties frequently include police reform in their manifestos and statements. However, this commitment often seems like a mere ritual. Periodically, commissions, committees, and reports are engaged to suggest reforms. Yet, their recommendations typically end up being superficially implemented, and are ultimately consigned to the archives.

Even when reforms are introduced, they are often not taken seriously. If their implementation challenges arbitrary government decisions, they get reversed or abandoned. It's a cycle where change is promised, but meaningful progress remains elusive, leaving the police system stagnant and ineffective.

This approach has had a destructive impact on our police. Resultantly, successive governments, instead of considering this central aspect of governance when facing law-and-order challenges, often look for quick-fix solutions. The easy way out is to call in the civil armed forces that were created for the specific functions of protecting the borders and enforcing the law in areas governed under special laws.

This option has so frequently been applied that it has practically become a regular feature of law enforcement, re-

ducing the overlap of jurisdictions, without delineation of the spheres of responsibility of two forces. Karachi is a classic example of such an arrangement that has continued for many years. According to the law, the responsibility of crime control and maintenance of peace lies with the police. The civil armed forces have supporting role to play.

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France threatens new sanctions against West Bank settlers

PARIS (INP): France is considering extending sanctions on Israeli settlers behind violence against Palestinian civilians in the occupied West Bank, President Emmanuel Macron's office said he spoke with Jordan's King Abdullah II.

The two leaders "firmly condemned recent Israeli announcements about settlements" in the West Bank, "which are contrary to international law," Macron's office said in a statement.

Tensions have mounted in the occupied territories since the Hamas October 7 attack on Israel that

set off the Gaza war. At least 488 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops or settlers in the West Bank since October 7, according to Palestinian officials.

In February, 28 "extremist Israeli settlers" were banned from entering French territory.

Last week the European Union imposed sanctions on four Israeli settlers and two settler organisations for violence against Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Since the start of the year, Israeli authorities have declared

nearly 1,100 hectares (2,720 acres) of the West Bank to be "state land" -- twice as much as in the previous year, according to the settlement watchdog Peace Now.

The status gives the government full control over how the land is used, inevitably leading it to being declared off-limits to Palestinians.

Some 490,000 Israeli settlers now live in the West Bank alongside three million Palestinians.

Macron and King Abdullah also spoke about the "catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza" and ex-

pressed "great concern about the perspective of an Israeli offensive on Rafah, where more than 1.5 million people are seeking refuge, and reiterated their opposition to such an operation," the statement said.

The two also insisted on the necessity of an immediate and durable ceasefire to allow massive deliveries of urgent aid and the protection of civilian populations," it added.

Macron also "repeated that the liberation of hostages held by Hamas was an absolute priority for France."



Federal Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a group photo with Defence Ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kazakhstan.

Two million water bottles ordered destroyed by French agency

FRANCE (INP): Perrier destroyed two million bottles of its famous sparkling water suspected of being contaminated with "faecal" bacteria under government orders, the public health agency said Thursday.

The announcement of the destruction was the latest blow for Swiss food giant Nestle, whose French water subsidiary is under a criminal investigation for allegedly using illegal means to purify its mineral water.

Health authorities in the Occitane region of southern France told Nestle Waters France to destroy all Perrier production from March 10.

The investigation

10 to 14 from one of its sources near Nîmes, the DCS health agency said.

Nestle has said about two million bottles were destroyed "out of precaution". The company said that Perrier bottles in stores are safe.

Earlier this month, regional authorities ordered Nestle Waters France to "immediately suspend" production.

The order said that "faecal" contamination had been registered from March 10.

Nestle is also the owner of the Vittel, Contrex and Hepar brands and French prosecutors in January opened an investigation in January into its purification methods.

The company has admitted that it disinfected water using UV lamps, carbon filtering and other means that are not allowed for "natural" mineral water.

The sources for Vittel, Contrex and Hepar brands are in eastern France.

The DGS said that after new checks, some water sources in eastern and southern France had been closed or re-classified as "water made drinkable through treatment."

"Before these closures, these catchments were treated fraudulently by the operator," the French health agency said.

The investigation

has shaken the whole of France's water industry.

Antoine de Saint-Affrique, director general of French food company Danone, told the company's annual shareholders meeting Thursday that its natural mineral water sources now face "extremely rigorous" monitoring.

Shareholders had raised questions about what steps were being taken at Danone, whose mineral water brands include Evian, Volvic and Badoit.

Saint-Affrique works closely with local farmers and industry to prevent contamination near its water sources.

Masood Khan calls for Pak-US cooperation for regional peace

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan said that the significance of improving Pakistan's defence capabilities lies in its challenging geographical location and rough neighborhood.

He made these remarks while addressing a gathering of scholars, intellectuals and opinion-makers during Ambassador Circle Series organized by World Affairs Council of Charlotte in US state of North Carolina.

The Ambassador expressed hope for the continuation of defence ties between Pakistan and the United States and encouraged both countries to invest in both security and non-security areas.

The Ambassador highlighted the threat of counter-terrorism saying that it has not diminished just because the United States has returned from Afghanistan. He said this menace poses a significant danger not only to Pakistan and Afghanistan

but also to the United States and its allies in the region. Masood Khan said that for maintaining regional peace and stability, it is crucial for Pakistan and the United States to keep collaborating through all diplomatic channels and tools.

He said the rapid growth of Pakistan's tech industry in recent years is a promising development in the context of strengthened Pakistan-US relations. He said Pakistan has become an integral part of the overall technological ecosystem and has made significant strides in the tech industry.

In response to a question regarding Pakistan's tourism potential, the Ambassador emphasized the diverse range of tourism options available, such as adventure, religious, and eco-tourism which draw millions of visitors from around the world annually. He warmly invited the audience to explore Pakistan's tourism potential, the Ambassador said, and witness the country's abundant tourism offerings.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with organizers of the Lahore to Paris Rally.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Dawoodi Bohra community called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Sanctions on missile parts suppliers not to dent ties with Pakistan: US

WASHINGTON (INP): State Department says Pakistan continues to be an important partner in regional and global security.

The United States has made it clear that the recent sanctions imposed on companies allegedly supplying missile components to Pakistan will not dent the bilateral relations with Pakistan.

The State Department emphatically declared that there is "absolutely no" undercutting of discord between the United States and Pakistan, despite recent sanctions.

Addressing the daily news briefing in Washington on Thursday, State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel played down concerns about political tensions arising from the sanctions, saying:

"Pakistan continues to be one of our most important partners in the region. There continues to be a lot of cooperation that we have

with the government of Pakistan, especially in the security space and trade sector."

Patel recalled that the Pakistani finance minister was in Washington last week and held consultations with members of the State Department. "This is a robust relationship, and we look to continue strengthening it," he added.

Last week, the Biden administration had imposed sanctions on three Chinese and one Belarusian companies for allegedly supplying dual-use components for Pakistan's missile programme, a charge Islamabad rejected as incorrect.

However, on Tuesday, Patel clarified during his daily briefing that the sanctions were imposed because these entities were "proliferators of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery."

He said on October 23, the United States had also designated three Chinese entities for allegedly supplying com-

ponents to Pakistan's missile programme.

"We're going to continue to disrupt and take actions against proliferation networks and concerning weapons of mass destruction procurement activities wherever they may occur," he declared.

Islamabad trashes US report on human rights. The Foreign Office has dismissed the assessment of Pakistan's human rights situation in the recently-launched US State Department's Human Rights Report as "unfair and politically motivated" and criticised it for lacking objectivity.

The 2023 US Human Rights Report on Pakistan underscored a concerning status quo in human rights violations, with no notable improvements.

The report alleged a range of serious issues, including unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, torture, harsh prison conditions, arbitrary arrests and a lack of fair public trials, all indicative of a broader culture of impunity.

In its response re-

leased in Islamabad on Thursday, the Foreign Office said: "The US State Department's annual exercises of preparing such unsolicited reports lack objectivity and remain inherently flawed in their methodology."

These reports use domestic social lens to judge human rights in other countries in a politically biased manner."

The FO criticised the report for exhibiting double standards, arguing that such attitude undermined the discourse on international human rights.

"It is deeply concerning that a report purported to highlight human rights violations around the world ignores or downplays the most urgent hotspots of gross human rights violations such as in Gaza and Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir," the FO stated, emphasising that only a report with political motivations could neglect the grave conditions in Gaza, including the weaponization of humanitarian aid and the killing of over 34,000 civilians.

Thunderstorm, hail alert across Punjab till April 29 issued

ISLAMABAD (INP): Thunderstorm and hail likely to occur in Punjab from today till April 29 and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued alert in this regard on Friday.

According to PDMA spokesperson there will be stormy rains in the districts of South Punjab from Friday 26 to 28 April. Rains will occur in Murree, Galyat,

Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, Mandi Bahaudin, Gujranwala and Gujrat, said spokesperson PDMA.

Spokesperson said that rain is also likely in the districts of South Punjab, Pakpattan and Sahiwal. In most of the districts there will be rain along with hail, said spokesperson PDMA.

According to the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, the administration is on round the clock alert, said DG PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia.

The DG said that the district administration of the entire province has been informed about the new weather situation. The DG directed the administration

that drainage should be ensured in low lying areas. He warned the citizens to stay in safe places to avoid lightning and never go under the open sky during lightning and stormy conditions. Citizens are requested to stay away from electric poles during the storm and in case of emergency, contact the concerned district administration.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi meet delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari which called on him in his office to felicitate him on assuming the charge of his office.

APHC pledges to continue struggle for securing right to self-determination

SRINAGAR (INP): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has reaffirmed the Kashmiris' resolve to carry on their political struggle till settlement of the Kashmir dispute as per the relevant United Nations resolutions. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar said that the freedom-loving people of Kashmir were engaged in a peaceful struggle to secure their political right in accordance with the UN resolutions but the Modi led Indian government had employed brutal tactics to suppress the Kashmiris' voice. He said that the Indian government personnel were killing the Kashmiris in so-called cordon and search operations and arresting them in fake cases for demanding their right to self-determination. He said that thousands of people were lodged in various jails of India and IIOJK and that New Delhi was using draconian laws to prolong their detention on one pretext or the other. The detainees include the APHC chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Muhammad Yasir Malik, Shahid Ahmad Shah, Aasiya Yasmin, Nayeem Ahmad Khan,

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-23240440733 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 BPRA GOB. The BALOCHISTAN FOOD AUTHORITY invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Basis:

Tender Fee: 1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/Item	Est/ Cost
1	Renovation of Old Godown for Establishment of BFA Training School	3,500,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any regulatory agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Reserve Authority Registration is required. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Unit Price/Weight Bidding. Pre-bidding Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of bank Guarantee. Deposit of Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents. From the date of publication of NT to 13 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 13 May, 2024 till 12:30 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 11:30 PM. Address: Saini Road Near Food Godown Quetta. Email: admin@gob.gov.pk. Phone no: 0919213574

DIRECTOR
BALOCHISTAN FOOD AUTHORITY

AB No. 423/26-4-2024

PTI 'denied' permission to hold Karachi power show

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi administration on Friday denied permission to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a power show at Karachi's Bagh-e-Jinnah on April 28 sources said Friday.

According to sources, the police report stated that the permission to hold a public gathering was denied, in light of potential security threats and the recent surge in terrorist activities in the city.

In a statement, Hafeez Adil Sheikh said that in the party's political committee meeting, it was decided to reschedule the public gathering. He said that now the PTI's public gathering would be held adjacent to the mausoleum of Quid-e-Azam on May 5 instead of April 28.

The PTI Sindh president said that his party had approached the Deputy Commissioner East and sought permission for the gathering.

He said that upon refusal by the administration for a non-objection certificate, the PTI moved the Sindh High Court. Hafeez Adil Sheikh said that their petition is fixed for a hearing on April 26.

The PTI had announced country-wide protest against what it called rigging in the elections and that of its mandate in the general elections.



QUETTA: Former Member of Provincial Assembly Ms. Bushra Rand meeting with Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti. Principal Secretary Inran Zirkoon is also present.

CM Maryam 'entitled' to wear uniform, Punjab Police issue clarification

LAHORE (INP): After controversy against Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz wearing the Punjab Police uniform intensified, the provincial police department Friday issued a statement clarifying that she is indeed "entitled to wear the police uniform" as per the Punjab Police Dress Regulations.

CM Maryam, a day earlier, inspected a passing-out parade of lady constables and traffic assistants at the Police Training College, Chung, while wearing a police uniform.

This move by the chief minister not only garnered appreciation but also led to criticism from people.

The CM, first female to lead a provincial government, donned the uniform that fit her like a glove. Carrying the police baton, the chief minister inspected the parade atop a jeep amid inspiring tunes of the police band.

Taking to X, formerly Twitter, the police wrote: "This has been widely celebrated by the police personnel, who view it as a commendable show of solidarity. The Central Police Office has received hundreds of messages in which police personnel have lauded this step."

The law enforcement department further stated that the female police officers are, in fact, celebrating the event, adding that they have also shared various pictures of CM Maryam sporting the uniform.

Punjab Police also shared a notification issued on January 30, 2024, allowing the provincial governor and chief minister to wear the uniform on formal occasions such as parades, while addressing police durbars, visiting police establishments, or on such occasions as specified, for encouraging police personnel and troops.

The department then went on to reveal about its commitment to further improve the law and order situation and to continue the counter-terrorism efforts across the country, as directed by the chief minister in a subsequent meeting held at the Police Training College Chung, Lahore.

Meanwhile, a citizen named Waqar Ali has filed a plea against CM Maryam for wearing the uniform in a Lahore court, insisting that a person cannot wear the uniform of an institution.

The petitioner, therefore, requested the court to register a case against the Punjab chief minister.

The court asked the petitioner to submit the report of the police station's front desk and adjourned the hearing till April 29.

It should be noted that among her many critics, opposition leader in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub Khan, also criticized CM Maryam for wearing the police uniform to inspect the passing-out parade.

Terming Maryam donning a police uniform a non-serious act, he said the country was being made a laughing stock through such childish acts.

SIC second largest party in NA, ECP tells NA secretariat

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday officially informed the National Assembly (NA) Secretariat that Sunni Alliance Council (SIC) is the second largest party in National Assembly.

As per details, ECP officially notified the National Assembly Secretariat regarding the party positions in NA. According to the ECP report, Sunni Alliance Council (SIC) has total 82 members including 49 from Punjab and 33 independent candidates after PTI-backed candidate joined the SIC, making it the second-largest party in the National Assembly.

Sunni Ittehad Council with 82 members (including 49 from Punjab and 33 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), PPP 71, MQM 21, JUI 11, PML-Q 5, IPP 4 and MWM, PKMAP, BNP, PMAP, BAP PML-Z each have one member. The Election Commission has clarified that no specific seats have been allocated to the Sunni Ittehad Council.

The National Assembly Secretariat had requested the Election Commission to provide an updated party position, which has now been notified.

The development came after the NA Secretariat earlier announced that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independent members of National Assembly (NA) cannot be considered.

Lawmakers belonging to the Sunni Alliance Council (SIC) yet.

According to the details, the NA Secretariat said that it has not been conveyed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) about independent MNAs joining the SIC.

The PTI-backed lawmakers would be considered independents until the National Assembly Secretariat receives the party affiliation notification from the ECP," the secretariat said in a statement. On February 18, the PTI, whose candidates contested the February 8 general elections "independently," decided to form an alliance with the SIC. Previously, the PTI had also announced to form a coalition in Centre and Punjab with the Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) but the move faced backlash by some party members.



ISLAMABAD: PM coordinator on health, Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad is being briefed regarding Sehat Sahulat programme in State Life Corporation Islamabad, Federal Secretary for Health Nadeem Mehbub is also accompanying him.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Police to take every step for security of business community: IGP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Inspector General of Police Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has assured foolproof security to the business community of the capital city by saying that a comprehensive strategy is being chalked out to address security-related issues being faced by the community.

The Inspector-General of Police said this while talking to a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari which called on him in his office to felicitate him on assuming the charge of his office.

The IGP commended the hard work of the traders community for the development of the country by saying that all the concerns of the community will be removed by taking all out efforts to overcome the trust deficit between Police and traders and assured that capital will be purged off encroachments and drug trafficking also.

He called upon the traders to extend their full cooperation to police in its efforts to strengthen security and maintain peace in the city.

Earlier, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari apprised the IGP of the police related problems being faced by the traders. He said that the rising criminal incidents have created a sense of insecurity among the traders which is badly affecting business activities and investment prospects. He also proposed a better liaison between Police and traders to overcome the issue. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari also extended an invitation to IGP to visit Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which he accepted by saying that he will pay a visit at the earliest. The ICCI delegation included Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari, Vice President Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, former SVP Khalid Chaudhry, former VP Saif ur Rehman, Zia Khalid, Assad Aziz and Nadeem Akhtar.

PTI senator puts forward conditions for talks with govt

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition Leader in the Senate, Shibli Faraz on Friday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is ready for conditional talks with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government.

In an informal conversation with media, Shibli Faraz expressed his willingness to engage in dialogue with anyone including federal government for the betterment of Pakistan, but only if the environment creates a conducive environment for talks.

He emphasized that political issues must be withdrawn and the rule of law and constitution must be upheld, demanding the release of PTI founder Imran Khan, women, and political prisoners, however, he stressed that legal cases should be pursued if they are genuine.

The PTI senator further added that the government must allow political freedom and stop political victimization.

The opposition leader said that PTI held intra-party elections for the third time, but objections were raised on the party polls again. He warned that political stability cannot be achieved in such environment. Faraz lamented that there are differences and conflicting views even within the Pakistan Muslim League (N). He specifically mentioned Rana Sanaullah, who he claimed was speaking differently than others. Furthermore, Shibli Faraz emphasized that the uncertain situation regarding the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) chairmanship would soon be resolved.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan asserted that he did not receive 'any message' for dialogues nor holding any secret dialogues with the incumbent government. Gohar Khan said incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan confirmed that he did not receive any message for dialogues. "We will publicly confirm if receive any invitation for talks," he said. Furthermore, the PTI chairman also rejected holding dialogues with the incumbent government and stated that his party would not hold any "secret talks".



QUETTA: Abdul Mateen Akhundzada meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

SSUET convocation held, 1177 degrees awarded

KARACHI (INP): Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology (SSUET) here on Friday organized 27th annual Convocation in which 1177 students of Bachelors, Masters and the PhD were awarded their degrees.

Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Tessori was the chief guest at the event.

The SSUET management also awarded 1,117 Bachelor's, 60 Master's, and one PhD degree. Position holders were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals for securing the highest marks in the respective disciplines.

Addressing the convocation, Governor Kamran Tessori said that Sir Syed University was an ideological academic institute that serves as an institution of inspiration, playing a vital role and contributing towards national development and also providing a capable workforce internationally.

University also acts as a catalytic agent for social change and the progress of society. Sir Syed University has equipped graduates with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in their professional endeavors and make a positive impact on society, Tessori added.

Governor Kamran Tessori said that we were going to give non-refundable loans of rupees one hundred thousand to 10 million to the youth who come up with new ideas or unique business plans. At Governor House, around 50,000 students are getting free information technology education in different trades and after completing a one-year diploma in IT, they will be able to earn Rs 1.5 million to 2 million rupees per month.

Speaking on the occasion, Chancellor SSUET, Jawad Anwar said that even in the period of recession, a large number of students preferred to enroll in Sir Syed University, which was itself proof of the remarkable performance of the University. Due to the hard work and exemplary performance of the faculty and management, he said the SSUET has become the top priority for the new students. Chancellor Jawad Anwar said that in view of the economic crisis and taking into account the sufferings of the employees of Sir Syed University, we are revising the salary scale.

Presenting SSUET's annual report for the year 2023-24, Vice Chancellor SSUET, Prof. Dr. Vali Uddin, said that Sir Syed University has now grown to 16 academic departments offering undergraduate, postgraduate, MS, and PhD programs with more than 7,000 students and around 350 faculty members, including 64 holding PhDs. The Department of Applied Computing & Emerging Sciences has been formed under which various programs relevant to new emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, etc. will be launched.