

QUETTA VOICE

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Climate Crisis Hits Balochistan: Urgent Call for Action

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: The recent torrential rains that have mercilessly pounded Balochistan, claiming the lives of 22 individuals and wreaking havoc on communities, serve as a stark reminder of the region's vulnerability to natural disasters. Among the most affected districts, Chaman stands out, bearing the brunt of devastation with a toll of eight lives lost and widespread destruction of homes, bridges, and roads. The situation in Gwadar and the Makran belt paints a similarly grim picture, with flash floods leaving vast areas submerged and communities stranded.

This catastrophe, however, is not just a consequence of erratic weather patterns but also a testament to the failure of authorities to adequately address the aftermath of disasters. It's been two years since floods ravaged the region, leaving many displaced and vulnerable. Yet, the promised rehabilitation efforts remain largely unfulfilled, leaving communities exposed and ill-prepared for subsequent calamities. Sixty homes obliterated, over 100 damaged bridges washed away, and roads rendered impassable—these are not just statistics but glaring indicators of administrative negligence.

State Of Emergency Declared In Balochistan

As the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) rushes to respond to the immediate crisis, declaring a state of emergency and mobilizing resources, we cannot ignore the underlying issues that perpetuate such catastrophes. The looming threat of climate change exacerbates the already precarious situation in Balochistan. Rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and increasing frequency of extreme weather events demand urgent attention and comprehensive strategies.

It's high time that authorities prioritize proactive measures over reactive responses. Immediate relief efforts must be coupled with long-term planning aimed at building resilient infrastructure, implementing early warning systems, and empowering local communities to cope with and adapt to changing climatic conditions. Moreover, the rehabilitation of flood affectees from two years ago cannot continue to be sidelined. Their plight serves as a grim reminder of the consequences of bureaucratic inertia and political apathy.

Balochistan Cannot Wait For Another Disaster

Balochistan cannot afford to wait for the next disaster to spur action. The time for rhetoric and half-hearted promises is over. The lives lost and the homes destroyed demand accountability, foresight, and decisive action. Anything short of a concerted effort to address both the immediate needs and the underlying causes of vulnerability would be a betrayal of trust and a disservice to the resilient people of Balochistan.

2 Labourers Killed In Tump Kech District

From Our Correspondent:



KECH: In a tragic incident that shook the tranquil town of Turbat, two non-local individuals were ruthlessly gunned down by unidentified assailants in the Tump area on Sunday morning. The victims, identified as Muhammad Shahid, son of Muhammad Siddique, and Muhammad Naeem, son of Muhammad Hanif, succumbed to their injuries on the spot.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the killing and vowed to bring the terrorists involved in the heinous crime to book. The incident has sent shockwaves through the community, prompting concerns over the safety and security of non-locals in the area. Authorities have assured swift action, with an intensive investigation underway to apprehend those responsible for the heinous act.

Speaking on the matter, Superintendent of Police (SP) for Turbat, expressed condolences to the bereaved families and pledged diligent efforts to bring the culprits to justice. He urged the public to come forward with any information that could aid in the apprehension of the perpetrators.

However, their aspirations were tragically cut short when they encountered the fatal aggression of armed perpetrators whose motives remain shrouded in mystery.

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Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar appointed deputy prime minister

NEWS DESK: Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar was given the additional charge of deputy prime minister on Sunday, according to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division. The appointment comes at a time when PM Shehbaz and Dar, along with other ministers, are in Saudi Arabia to attend the World Economic Forum's (WEF) special meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy. According to the notification, the appointment was made by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif "with immediate effect and until further orders". Before Dar taking the role, the last deputy prime minister of the country was Chaudhry Pervez Elahi, then of PML-Q, who was appointed to the position in June 2012. Dar served as federal minister for commerce and investment in the 1997-99 government of Nawaz Sharif and has twice served as federal minister for finance, economic affairs, revenue and industry (1998-99 and 2008). Prior to his first assignment as a federal minister, he was appointed minister of state/chief executive of



Pakistan Investment Board (PIB) from 1992 to 1993. He also served as president of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In 2008, PM Shehbaz picked his new look cabinet in March of this year, with his preferred finance portfolio going to Muhammad Aurangzeb. Dar has long been seen as a key part of Nawaz Sharif's inner circle. In a Dawn editorial from 2017, it was said that under Nawaz's leadership, "the former finance minister wielded maximum influence, practically acting like a deputy prime minister heading more than four dozen committees in various spheres".

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.



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.

Children Under The Age Of 5 Years Must Be Vaccinated
In response to the alarming

THE LAWYER

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Needs Action, Not Another Failed Polio Campaign

Editorial: The news of a children in Chaman and Dera Bugti contracting polio, in Balochistan after three years, is a damning indictment of the provincial health department and donor agencies entrusted with this critical public health mission. While a targeted vaccination campaign is a welcome response, it's a mere bandage on a gaping wound. Imported Solutions Don't Work For far too long, a top-down approach relying on imported solutions has dominated our fight against polio. We, the people of Balochistan, have the indigenous knowledge and cultural understanding necessary to effectively combat this disease. Yet, our voices and workable solutions are consistently sidelined. The presence of poliovirus in environmental samples since last August is a glaring failure of our health department. This isn't just a recent oversight; it exposes a systemic weakness in surveillance and outreach programs. Where are the culturally sensitive campaigns that educate our communities in the local languages? Where are the efforts to address vaccine hesitancy through dialogue and trust-building with local leaders? We need an overhaul of the health department's approach, one that leverages the strengths of our communities and fosters greater public health initiatives. Donor agencies must also shoulder some of the blame. Have they critically evaluated the effectiveness of their funding, or have they simply perpetuated a cycle of dependence on external solutions? We urge them to invest in building the capacity of local healthcare system and empower Balochistanis to take charge of their health outcomes. The upcoming vaccination campaign is crucial, but it cannot be a one-off effort. We need a sustained, multi-pronged approach that integrates local knowledge, strengthens healthcare infrastructure, and prioritizes community engagement. Only then can we truly eradicate polio from Balochistan and safeguard the health of future generations. This is a wake-up call. Let Balochistan not be known for this resurgence of a preventable disease. Let's work together, with our own solutions at the forefront, to banish polio for good.

Clashing realities

BY Tariq Khosa HOW to restrain a powerful, overweening and tyrannical state is the key challenge we face today. The institutions of restraint on executive excesses are the rule of law and democratic accountability. The mood of discontent is writ large as we witness the politics of tribal enmeshment and the power-hungry oligarchs and the system to perpetuate their privileges. The toxic brew of hubris reflects a dystopian saga. However, to govern a democratic society requires contending with disagreement, said Michael Sandel in The Tyranny of Merit. Politics, for some of us, in the words of Ben Ansell, "signals the distance between venal conniving of politicians", but fundamentally, politics "is about how we make collective decisions". It is important to manage "inevitable disagreements". This is why "we can't avoid politics or wish it away". Ansell writes in Why Politics Fails. Elections have winners and losers, but their legitimacy through a fair process is crucial. We have the political and armed forces to protect us, but who will protect us from them? We need to answer this question. We have often looked for arbitrary alternatives through "strong" military rulers who could get things done, but those were "false gods". We need solutions within a constitutional frame-

BY Abbas Nasir: HYBRID setups have internal power struggle built into them. Like me, if you find some of the statements confusing — signalling differences of opinion within the top tiers of the major political entities — you must determine whether this is a precursor to something dramatic or merely a struggle to create some elbow room in the straitjacket these parties find themselves in. Apologies for the mouthful above. Before you give up on this column and move on to the next, let me explain what I am trying to say. Just as the PML-N is contributing to the establishment's ever-expanding footprint (as did the PTI before it), it is also clear the party isn't exactly content with the status quo. Don't you consider it bizarre that

CHANDNI KAKAR:

In Pakistan's Pashtun areas, where traditions run deep and family ties are paramount, weddings are not just celebrations of love but also complex negotiations of social and financial arrangements. Among the many customs observed, one of the most significant is the practice of Walwar, akin to the bride price seen in Pakistan's Pashtun areas as well as in neighboring Afghanistan. In the Balochistan province, nestled amidst the craggy mountains and arid plains, lies a small Pashtun village named Gulzarabad. Here, the rhythm of life is dictated by age-old customs and traditions, and weddings are the pinnacle of social events.

Evolution of Pashtun Wedding Traditions: A Balochistan Love Story

Amidst the preparations for the wedding of Zainab, the daughter of a respected Pashtun leader, Malik Abdul Rahman Zainab, a vision of grace and modesty, has caught the eye of Shahid, a young man from a neighboring village, whose family has long-standing ties with the Rahmans. The negotiations for Zainab's wedding begin in earnest as Shahid's family sends a formal proposal to Malik Abdul Rahman. Gathered in the courtyard of the Rahman household, the families embark on the intricate dance of negotiation, a delicate balancing act between tradition and practicality. The bride's price, known as Walwar, hangs heavy in the air as both

families deliberate over its amount. Malik Abdul Rahman, a man of principle, is keenly aware of the pitfalls of exorbitant bride prices. He understands the burden it places on young couples and their families, often leading to financial strain and debt. Drawing inspiration from the winds of change sweeping through the region, Malik Abdul Rahman proposes a modest bride price, one that reflects the true essence of the tradition without succumbing to its extravagance. His stance is met with nods of approval from both families, signaling a departure from the ostentatious displays of wealth that have become all too common. The bride's price process, though lengthy, is imbued with a sense of mutual respect and understanding. Both families recognize the importance of preserving their heritage while adapting to the realities of the modern world. It is a testament to the resilience of Pashtun culture, where tradition evolves without losing its essence. As the auspicious day dawns, Gulzarabad comes alive with the sounds of joyous celebration. The village elders gather beneath the ancient banyan tree to witness the solemnization of vows, a sacred bond forged amidst the timeless backdrop of rugged mountains and vast expanses. Zainab, radiant in her bridal attire, steps into the adorned car, a symbol of her journey into a new chapter of life.

With Shahid by her side, she embarks on a path paved with hope and promise, guided by the wisdom of generations past. In the weeks that follow, whispers of the wedding of Zainab and Shahid echo through the narrow lanes of Gulzarabad, a testament to the triumph of love over tradition. Their union serves as a beacon of hope for future generations, a reminder that amidst the complexities of life, love endures, and traditions evolve. And so, in the heart of Balochistan, where the winds of change blow softly across the rugged landscape and the customs of old and the dreams of tomorrow converge in harmony, weaving a tapestry of resilience and renewal.

Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Dr. Faiz Kakar:

Balochistan, even as a resource-rich province, grapples with alarming rates of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and infant and maternal mortality, indicative of severe underdevelopment. The unmatched policies and irrelevant development strategies, along with poor governance, have resulted in extreme underdevelopment of the province. Though the bleak picture of the province is not shared by all decision-makers, as highlighted by maps depicting critical poverty levels in red. Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres remain sharply divided. Balochistan's Political and Intellectual Spheres Divided

provision of social services through self-help approaches. Failure to adapt to this evolving development approach over the past 20 years serves as a stark reminder of the need for change. Potentials of the Province Ensure Success of SEZ The province, often referred to as the "fruit basket" of Pakistan, stands out as a resource-rich province boasting the largest landmass and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers. Despite its untapped wealth in various minerals, Balochistan remains underdeveloped. Its diverse geographical and topographic zones allow for the experience of different seasons simultaneously, with inhabitants enjoying both the coldest and hottest regions in the province. Deng Xiaoping, an intellectual sphere, was sharply divided. Supporters of the latter viewpoint draw upon global examples of successful development strategies, particularly the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in various nations. Learning from global case studies, the potential of Balochistan as a resource-rich province with vast ecological and topographic diversity, coupled with its strategic location, warrants a paradigm shift towards infrastructure development and economic growth. It is evident that uplifting the economic status of the population will pave the way for the

economic Zones (SEZs). These potentials not only diversify the focus on SEZs but also serve as a guarantee of their success. SEZs The Only Option Ensuring the full operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified in Balochistan stands out as the foremost priority area for intervention. The establishment of small and medium-scale industries within these zones will not only create employment opportunities but also incentivize rural-to-urban migration, thus fostering urbanization. This industrial growth at the grassroots level will facilitate the much-needed trickle-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the population. The momentum for expediting the establishment of industries is being further strengthened by the current development of private housing schemes announced and currently under construction by the real estate dealers. These initiatives will compel the working class to seek improved living standards, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in Balochistan. Urbanization and establishment of new cities

development. The dispersed nature of the population significantly increases the unit costs of development and maintenance of services. Moreover, it contributes to the prevailing law and order issues and hampers efforts to combat political insurgencies and religious extremism. To address this challenge, the establishment of new cities and towns across the province is essential. However, given the budgetary constraints and the heavy investments required for establishing new cities, leveraging the existing SEZs areas as new cities presents a viable solution. The development of these SEZs into fully functional urban centers with basic facilities and job opportunities, rural populations would be incentivized to migrate from their current locations. This migration is already occurring due to climatic disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts, as witnessed in areas like Ziarat, the Green Belt, Gider (Kalit), and Pishin. Transforming SEZs into new cities not only addresses the challenge of scattered population but also provides a strategic opportunity to spur economic growth and development in Balochistan. It facilitates urbanization, enhances access to services and infrastructure, and contributes to stability and security in the region. As such, the development of these SEZs into new urban hubs can be a game-changer in Balochistan's sustainable development agenda.

Hybrid pitfalls for PML-N

Maryam Nawaz appeared helpless and couldn't stop this policeman's transfer. Such slights might be an integral part of hybrid regimes, which politicians willingly accept as they feel their position on the PTI as a minister in the government in office hinges on them. Still, it must be hurtful. So how do they air their disappointment while, at the same time, keeping outside their establishment beneficiaries? Well, they let the Rana Sanaulahs and Javed Latif hold forth about who is who in the country's power structure and point out its flaws. Obviously, all this is done in the hope of exerting some pressure on the powers that be for a few concessions, so a little space is secured in decision-making. They may have decided to ride on the

coat-tails of the establishment to power, but they also understand that in the ultimate analysis whatever political capital is at stake it is theirs alone to lose. Ergo, the quest for a little more elbow room. As it is, any upturn in the economy will be credited to the military-stemmed SIFC and any fallout from the IMF. In the economy will be credited to the military-stemmed SIFC and any fallout from the IMF. Therefore, the establishment is happy to lead a hybrid regime because it hopes that it is the safest bet to revive the economy, which they may identify as an existen-

moment, you hear a party stalwart saying there is no point in talking to other political parties, and that dialogue can only take place with the real rulers such as the army chief and the DG ISI. At the next moment he is contradicted by Imran Khan himself. Therefore, the establishment is concerned, it appears to have one unambiguous message: it isn't interested in a dialogue or in offering any other concession to the PTI that gives Imran Khan more space than he already commands on account of his sizable public support. It is a zero-sum game with the PTI. Therefore, the establishment is happy to lead a hybrid regime because it hopes that it is the safest bet to revive the economy, which they may identify as an existen-

tial threat to the country and, by implication, to itself. Unless some dramatic development forces a change in its approach, this sentiment will prevail. In Pakistan's case, this 'dramatic development' could well come in the shape of the next chief justice or the chief of army staff if there are no higher appointments, undisclosed expansion plans, as in a country which has seen the systematic, single-minded destruction of institutions, appointments to the top slots of key institutions assume great significance. I am afraid this trend will continue till political parties, with one exception, abandon their pursuit of shortcuts to corridors of power through partnerships with extra-parliamentary forces and start relying on the support of their electorate alone to get into government. My guess is that, given that any such fundamental change isn't likely in the foreseeable future, hybrids of one sort or another — i.e., with one permanent player and a revolving door policy to choose the junior partner — will continue, with their mutual consequences. So expect a lot more of meaningless, often combative rhetoric that leads to nowhere. For the love of my beloved land, where some 40pc of the population lives below the poverty line, where a staggering 26 million children are out of school and where basic health facilities and potable water are like gold dust, I earnestly hope that even this deeply flawed system is able to deliver some basics to the people.

PEMRA urges IHC to exclude Justice Sattar from audio leak case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has formally appealed to Justice Babar Sattar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to step aside from overseeing the audio leak case.

PEMRA - a key party in the audio leak case - has filed a supplementary application before the IHC ahead of its forthcoming hearing scheduled for Monday, around the contention that Justice Sattar should recuse himself from the case due to a previous IHC bench having already addressed a similar matter.

The application underscores the importance of continuity, advocates that the bench previously involved in related matters should continue to handle the ongoing petitions. Justice Sattar was presiding over petitions filed by Najam Saqib, the son of former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, and Bushra Bibi, the spouse of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Saqib's petition challenges a parliamentary committee's inquiry into an alleged audio recording wherein he purportedly sought a bribe for intelligence agencies, highlighted the challenge of addressing privacy breaches, attributing the leaks to smartphone apps. PEMRA Chairman Mrza Saleem Baig informed the court about the active role of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in taking action against TV channels airing unverified and personal conversations.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environment Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam awarding medal to the winner in Margalla Hills Half Marathon, held at MHNP.

Hezbollah says fires drones and guided missiles at Israel

BEIRUT (INP): Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement said Saturday it had targeted northern Israel with drones and guided missiles after cross-border Israeli strikes killed three people, including two of its members.

The group said it "launched a complex attack using explosive drones and guided missiles on the headquarters of the Al Manara military command and a gathering of forces from the 51st Battalion of the Golani Brigade".

The Israeli army said its from Dome anti-air defence system "successfully intercepted a suspicious aerial target that crossed from Lebanon into the area of Manara in northern Israel".

The army also "struck the sources of fire" of several anti-tank missiles launched from Lebanon into the changes of fire since the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza began nearly seven months ago.

TENDER NOTICE
The Director General Local Government & Rural Development Balochistan Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for supply of following objects.
S.No. Name of Objects Bid Security
1. CONSTRUCTION OF DIVISIONAL & DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT District Quetta TSE-232444393803

'Expensive' dog stolen from Rawalpindi house in broad daylight
RAWALPINDI (INP): In an absurd story of crime, a dog was stolen from a house in Rawalpindi in broad daylight on Sunday.
A CCTV video showed two men on a motorcycle approaching the house in a housing society in Rawalpindi today and making off with the dog in a cloth bag. The owner believes the dog to be worth Rs700,000.



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

Pope Francis meets prisoners and artists in first visit to Venice

VENICE (INP): Pope Francis offered encouragement to prisoners, artists and young people in Venice on Sunday, with his first trip of the year testing his mobility and resilience after a number of health scares in recent months.

The 87-year-old pope travelled by helicopter, motor launch and golf buggy, hopping the city's famed canals on his first visit to Venice since he became pontiff in 2013.

He started the day by flying directly into a women's prison where the Vatican has set up a multi-media exhibition that is part of the Venice Biennale.

Biennale - a prestigious international art show that has never been visited by a pope before.

My Eyes'. Art should be used to help rid the world of racism, inequality and a fear of the poor, the pope told them. Francis then met a group of young Venetians in front of the imposing Santa Maria della Salute basilica, with Venice's Grand Canal as a backdrop, reading out a long speech peppered with impromptu comments. 'Is this boring?' he asked at one point, to cries of 'no', he said, to laughter. The pope urged young people not to spend their life glued to their smartphones, saying it was vital to get out and help other people, rather than be self-absorbed. 'If we always focus on our self, our needs, and what we lack, we will always find ourselves back at the starting point, crying ourselves with a long face,' he said. The half-day visit to Venice was the pope's first trip beyond Rome since a brief journey to France last September. He had been due to attend a climate change conference in the United Arab Emirates in December, but pulled out shortly beforehand after coming down with influenza. Francis uses a cane or a wheelchair to move around due to a knee ailment, and suffers from repeated bouts of bronchitis and flu. He unexpectedly withdrew from a Good Friday procession in March 'to preserve his health', but has looked well since then.

44 outlaws held, narcotics, weapons seized

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Police apprehended 44 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours, also recovered narcotics and weapons from their possession.

A public relations officer said that, following the special directions of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) in Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police has intensified the crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime in the city.

Meanwhile, Kohsar police arrested an accused, namely Atif Shahzad, and recovered 210 grams of heroin from his possession. The Karachi Police team arrested two accused, namely Daniyal and Muhammad Amir, and recovered 67 grams of ice from their possession. The Ramna police team arrested an accused, namely Rashid Maqsood, and recovered 14 dancing pills and 65 grams of ice from their possession.

Similarly, the Industrial Area police team arrested two accused, namely Iftikhar Ahmed and Muhammad Taimoor, and recovered 30 liters of liquor and one 30-barrel pistol from their possession. The Shams Colony police team arrested five accused, namely Farhan, Arslan, Muhammad Nadeem, and Kashif, and recovered 515 grams of heroin, 180 grams of hashish, and 84 grams of ice from their possession. The Khrpa police team arrested two accused, namely Muhammad Usama and Muhammad Saqib, and recovered 582 grams of hashish from their possession.

Volcano erupts in eastern Indonesia, spews miles-high ash tower

MALLUKU (INP): A volcano in eastern Indonesia erupted on Sunday morning, spewing an ash tower more than two miles into the sky and prompting officials to warn people to keep away. Mount Iliwalu, located on the island of Halmahera in North Maluku province, erupted at 12:37 am (IST GMT Saturday) and sent a thick column of dark smoke and ash west of the peak. The eruption lasted more than three minutes and the ash towered 3.5 kilometres (2.2 miles) above the peak, an official at Mount Iliwalu's monitoring post, Axl Roetoe, said in a statement on Sunday.

"To residents and tourists near Mount Iliwalu, please do not conduct any activity within a two-kilometre radius of the crater," he said. The alert level for the 1,325-metre (4,347-foot) volcano remained at a two on the four-tiered system and there was no evacuation order after the eruption. But authorities urged people to wear face masks and glasses when doing outdoor activities and to anticipate falling volcanic ash. Indonesia, a vast archipelago nation, experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

TENDER NOTICE
THE STATE PRINTING AND PRINTING invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: TSE-232444395641 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of IPPRA.
S.No. Name of Objects Bid Security
1. ICT Equipment (Network, surveillance devices, 2%
Storage devices, Office Equipment)
(Total Bidding) Count: 01

Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) Pre-Qualification of Digital and Print Advertising Agency A (01)/PSEB/2024-23
Pakistan Software Export Board (Guarantee) Limited (PSEB) is a Public Sector Company under the Administrative control of Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, Government of Pakistan. The main function of the company are to act as one-stop on behalf of the Government of Pakistan in matters relating to the development and export of IT/ITES exports from Pakistan and to take all actions as may be required for the promotion and growth of IT development and IT services exports. PSEB is looking to hire the services of advertising and Digital Media agencies. Therefore, PSEB desires to invite applications for pre-qualification from the firms/companies capable of managing advertisements for PSEB on print and digital media as per the guidelines of IHD. Companies with a proven track record of managing advertisements and Digital Media of prospective organizations are invited to submit their bids for pre-qualification in both categories separately.
a) Bidding documents/pre-proposal, evaluation criteria, scope of work, containing detail terms and conditions, etc. are available electronically and can be downloaded from PSEB's website: https://pseeb.gov.pk/ under the heading 'Pre-qualification of Agencies for PSEB'. For pre-qualification of Digital and Advertising Agency, it is also available at the link: https://app.techadvertising.com/vendors-ads
b) Bids should be submitted electronically ONLY through ePUS. Manual submission of bids is NOT allowed.
c) For registration and training on EPUS or in case of any technical difficulty in using EPUS, prospective bidders may contact PPRPA Team, Director MIS Room No.109, 1st Floor, FBC Building Sec-5/2, Islamabad, Contact Number 051-1111-137-237.
d) The bids, prepared in accordance with the Instructions to the Bidding documents of EPUS, must be submitted in sealed bids accompanied by a fee of cost. Detailed request for proposals (RFP) for pre-qualification of Digital and Advertising Agency, it is also available at the link: https://app.techadvertising.com/vendors-ads
Note: The sealed hard copies of original bids by only those bids will be entertained who applied through ePUS. https://pseeb.gov.pk
Manager/ Administration
Pakistan Software Export Board (Guarantee) Limited
6th Floor, New State Life Tower, Near Sadrul Pak Tower, Blue Area, Islamabad
Phone # +92 51-9215083, Email: rani@pseeb.gov.pk

Arrest Warrant of Mehmood Khan Achakzai Suspended Until Next Hearing

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The arrest warrant issued for Mehmood Khan Achakzai, the prominent leader of the Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), has been suspended by a local court in Quetta. The court of Magistrate Nine Quetta suspended the arrest warrant of the seasoned politician upon an application filed by the President of the Quetta Bar Association, Qari Rehmatullah Advocate, and other lawyers. The suspension comes as a temporary relief for Achakzai until the next hearing scheduled for May 31.

The decision to suspend the arrest warrant was made during a court session, wherein Magistrate Nine deemed it appropriate to withhold the warrant until further proceedings, according to Naseebullah Kasi, one of the lawyers challenging the arrest warrant of Achakzai, who informed the Daily Quetta Voice.

This move effectively delays any potential legal action against Achakzai until the coming hearing. "The court is going to declare this case null and void very soon," Mr. Kasi claimed.



The issuance of the arrest warrant had caused a stir in political circles, as Mahmood Khan Achakzai, the chairman of Pashtunkhwa Map, faced imminent arrest.

The warrant, issued by the Judicial Magistrate, instructed police to apprehend Achakzai and present him before the court on April 27.

However, with the warrant now suspended, the legal battle surrounding Achakzai's case takes on a new dimension.

The decision to suspend the warrant raises questions about the underlying reasons and the potential implications for the ongoing legal proceedings.

As the case unfolds, political circles eagerly await further developments and insights into the legal complexities surrounding Mahmood Khan Achakzai's situation.

The next hearing on May 31 is expected to shed more light on the matter and determine the course of action moving forward.



BEIJING: A group photo of Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi with panellists at "Pakistan Professionals and Students Forum" hosted by Pakistan Embassy.

Gillespie to coach Pakistan in red-ball cricket, Kirsten in white-ball cricket

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board has confirmed Jason Gillespie as the red-ball head coach and Gary Kirsten as the white-ball head coach of the Pakistan men's cricket team. Azhar Mahmood has also been confirmed as an assistant coach across all formats. The three appointments have been made for a two-year period following a recruitment process.

Kirsten will take charge of the side immediately after completing his assignment in the Indian Premier League. During his tenure, besides the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and other bilateral white-ball series, Kirsten will also be in charge of the side for next year's ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan, ACC T20 Asia Cup 2025 and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in India and Sri Lanka.

Gillespie will assume responsibilities for the ICC World Test Championship fixture against Bangladesh (at home in August), which will be followed by Tests against England (at home in October) and South Africa (away in December) in the 2023-25 season. "I extend my congratulations to Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten on their appointments as the red and white-ball head coaches of the Pakistan men's cricket team, respectively. Their stellar track records precede them, and I warmly welcome them to the Pakistan cricket family."

"Jason's coaching career has been marked by success both at the domestic and international levels, with a focus on player development and achieving excellence in team performance. Gary's coaching career has been marked by his ability to instill a winning mentality, develop young talent, and achieve success at the highest levels of the game, making him one of the most respected and sought-after coaches in cricket.

every confidence that their expertise will guide our players to reach new heights, aligning with their inherent talent and the expectations of our passionate fans. These high-quality appointments also present a remarkable opportunity for our players to glean insights from these seasoned professionals, refining their skills and fortifying their cricketing acumen.

"The PCB is unwavering in its commitment to furnish the national team with top-tier resources and facilities, fostering an environment conducive to unlocking their full potential and consistently delivering stellar performances."

"I am grateful to the PCB for their faith in my abilities and giving me the honour of coaching one of the most highly-regarded and talented cricket teams in the traditional format of the sport. Leading the Pakistan cricket team is a big achievement for any coach, given its rich legacy and passionate fan base.

"I love Test cricket and being able to focus on that is something I like very much. I also love the fact that there is so much talent in Pakistan. I like to think that I can help in some way to grow and develop the players. I want to win Tests - that is why I am taking this role. I love coaching and I know we have got the skill to make that happen."

"Within Pakistan we have a number of high-quality fast bowlers and being able to utilise them will be a key part of any success we enjoy. But we have quality in all departments - pace, spin, batting and keeping. We have all bases covered. It is exciting to know we have that talent and I am looking forward to working with such talented players."

"I understand there will be expectation and that comes with the role. All I can do is to take it in my stride and I would not have taken on the job if I did not think I could deal with it."

"It's a tremendous honour to be entrusted with the responsibility of coaching the Pakistan men's national team in white-ball cricket and to rejoin the international cricket arena after some time. I eagerly anticipate this opportunity and aim to contribute positively to the Pakistan men's national team in limited-overs cricket."

"One of the beautiful aspects of cricket is its universality. Across cultures, there's a shared understanding when we discuss the game. My goal is to unite the Pakistan men's white-ball team, harnessing their considerable talents towards a common objective, and achieving success together on the field."

"My perspective on Pakistan cricket has remained consistent over time. There's always an inherent expectation for the team to perform at a high level consistently. However, in team sports, maintaining peak performance is not always guaranteed. As a coach, it's immensely gratifying to assist players in unlocking their full potential. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with the individual players and the team, facilitating their growth and development."



BEIJING: Mr. Mike Liu, Vice President Centre for China & Globalisation, Mr. John Zhao, Director of external relations of the Global Young Leaders Dialogue, Ms. Lucy Tong, Strategy and Policy Consultant at AHB, Mr. Biman Lyanage, AI expert and Mr. Najeh Haider, Director General, AHB speaking at a panel discussion during "Professional and Students Forum."



Managing Director of International Monetary Fund calls Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz on the sidelines of a special meeting of the World Economic Forum.

International powers do not want stability in Pakistan, says member Türkiye Parliament

Ali Sahin says Türkiye, Pakistan can play a leading role in the region

ANKARA (INP) Ali Sahin member of Türkiye Parliament and Chairman Turk-Pak Parliamentary Friendship Group has categorically stated that international powers do not want stability in Pakistan and do not see it developed and prosper.

There are several conspiracies being hatched to weaken and divide Pakistan, this issue need to be addressed properly, said Ali Sahin who is also chairman of the current ruling Türkiye Justice and Development Party (AKP) in an interview to a selected group of journalists, along with Shabana Ayyaz, head of Turk-Pak Women's Forum was also part of the panel.

Ali Sahin got his higher education in Karachi and served in Türkiye missions in Pakistan at various capacities and has a lot wonderful memories for the country. In the interview apart from shedding light at various international issues shared his personal experience and good memories during the period he got education in Pakistan, he is found of Pakistani cuisines.

Ali Sahin said that Pakistan is situated at very important geographic position and it is very important for country to be economically stronger. Political and economic stability is crucial for Pakistan enabling to play a leading role in the region.

To a question about the current awful situation in Palestine he said "We are trying our best to bring to an end to the present horrifying situation" Türkiye and Pakistan are two twin sons of the Islamic and they can play a leading role to culminate the reign of a terror let loose by the aggressor Israel, but there exist no such mechanism at present to deal with the situation.

Continuing, he said Islamic countries are poor and have limited sources and when the Islamic countries interfere in our problems and problems increase mainly. He reminded the United States came to solve the problem of Afghanistan, and for almost 10 years it butchered million of

people but the problem was still unsolved, "Terrorism did not culminate but increased".

He is advocate of further ceasing the existing ties between two brotherly Islamic countries Türkiye and Pakistan through boosting trade, defence and cultural activities.

Ali Sahin regretted that economic and trade relations between Türkiye and Pakistan are not strong enough. There exists a bilateral trade of only 1.2 billion dollars between the two countries which is negligible. The population of Pakistan is 25 million, while the population of Türkiye is eight and a half million and the level of trade need to be boosted.

He added existing barriers between the relationships must be removed. In the last 10 years, our relationship with Pakistan in the defense sector has grown considerably. The Türkiye has made remarkable achievement in the defense sector. There is a need to run a common defense project between Türkiye and Pakistan.

To bring peace to the Middle East, the relationship between Türkiye and Pakistan should be improved and strengthened. The mechanism between Türkiye and Pakistan should be strengthened.

He pointed out that Türkiye is working on an important project of developing roads, linking four neighbor countries including Türkiye, Iraq, Qatar and Emirates and in the end its connection with west to boost trade activities.

He suggested that Pakistan, Iran and China also need to become partners in this project because Pakistan is working on a very important game changer project of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) which will change the trade balance in the whole world. He said that if both the projects are interconnected they will bring a revolution globally.

"I have told Foreign Minister Haqqan Fidan that there is an urgent need to connect these two projects. It will also bring economic, political stability and re-

gional security. Answering the question of dual citizenship, Ali Sahin said that Turks consider themselves Pakistani citizens and Pakistanis consider themselves Turkish citizens. The problem of dual citizenship is not a problem of Türkiye but of the European Union. Türkiye is trying to become a part of the European Union. The European Union does not allow us to have dual citizenship. It will take time, but Pakistanis should consider themselves citizens of Türkiye.

On the question of providing health insurance to overstayed visas and illegal residents in Türkiye, Ali Sahin said that discussions are underway with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Embassy and Ambassador Dr. Yusuf Junaid to resolve this issue. We are making efforts to resolve the issue and provide facilities. Türkiye's efforts to become part of Europe have some obstacles. Pakistani authorities and Turkish authorities are making efforts to resolve this issue legally. A meeting is expected in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs next month, in which we will try our best to resolve this issue.

Ali Sahin added that diplomatic and parliamentary relations are not enough for enhancing ties between the countries, but the exchange of cultural activities is must to bring people closer to each other. Türkiye is thinking of making a drama on Mahmud Ghaznavi. Pakistani dramas should also be aired on Turkish channels. He said that liked Pakistani dramas. Kashko and Dhuhan very much.

While sharing his education experience in Pakistan, he told Shabana Ayyaz that when I went to Pakistan for study, the people of Karachi welcomed me saying that you have come to your second homeland, but I used to tell them that this is not my second homeland, but it is my own homeland. Before I went to Pakistan in 1990, I had two choices, one was Saudi Arabia and the other was Pakistan.



QUETTA: Activists of Anjuman Tajran Balochistan hold a protest in favor of their demands in front of the press club.

ESCO detected 75,276 power pilferers in 222 days

LAHORE (INP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 75,276 power pilferers from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) in 222 days of grand anti-power theft campaign.

LESCO spokesman told the media here Sunday that the company had also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of which 71,540 FIRs had been registered in respective police stations, while 30,031 accused had been arrested. The LESCO has so far charged a total of 90,766 detection units worth Rs 3,376,105,222 to all the power pilferers.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider was supervising these operations. The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without any discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft. The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them were also being brought to justice.

The spokesman added, the LESCO found 304 customers stealing electricity through various means and 144 cases had been registered against the accused, while five accused were arrested during the last 24 hours.

On the 222nd consecutive day of the anti-power theft campaign, he mentioned that large to a power pilferer in Sahdara Town.

Apprising the media about some major power pilferers, he mentioned that LESCO charged Rs 380,000 detection bill to an electricity pilferer in Phoolnagar, Rs 245,000 detection bill to another power pilferer in Saddar area of Phoolnagar, Rs 150,000 fine in the form of detection bill to a customer stealing electricity in Satta Kalla area of Lahore, and Rs 140,000 fine to a power pilferer in Sahdara Town.