

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com



Twelve Illegal Immigrants Arrested at Gwadar Check Post

Behram Baloch:

GWADAR: As part of an ongoing crackdown on illegal immigration, the Pakistan Coast Guards apprehended twelve individuals from various passenger coaches at the Panwan check post in Gwadar on Saturday. These individuals were attempting to cross into Iran from Pakistan without legal documents or transit permissions, according to security sources. The arrests took place during a routine inspection when Coast Guard officers identified the illegal immigrants. Preliminary investigations revealed that these individuals

were planning to enter Iran in search of better economic opportunities, bypassing legal immigration channels. Following their detention, the suspects were handed over to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for further investigation and legal proceedings. The FIA will assess the extent of the illegal immigration network and take necessary actions against those involved in facilitating this illegal movement. A spokesperson for the Pakistan Coast Guards emphasized the force's commitment to combating human trafficking

and illegal immigration. "The Pakistan Coast Guards reiterate that such operations will continue with consistency to rid our homeland of the scourge of trafficking. All available resources will be fully utilized to achieve this goal," the spokesperson stated. This operation highlights the ongoing efforts of the Pakistan Coast Guards to secure the nation's borders and prevent illegal activities. Authorities are intensifying their vigilance and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies to ensure that such incidents

are minimized in the future. The apprehension of these illegal immigrants serves as a stern warning to those considering unlawful routes for migration. The Pakistan Coast Guards and FIA remain steadfast in their mission to uphold the law and protect the integrity of the country's borders. Every year, thousands of poverty-hit youth make abortive attempts to reach European countries via Iran and Turkey, with many either caught in Iran or Turkey while only a few manage to reach their destinations.

1.2 Million Deaths Annually Due to Smoking in Pakistan, Says Chest Society President

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Dr. Sheerin Khan, President of the Pakistan Chest Society Center, has highlighted the grave impact of smoking in Pakistan, revealing that 1.2 million deaths occur annually due to smoking-related causes. Speaking at a press conference held at the Quetta Press Club on Saturday, Dr. Khan emphasized that over 69% of the chemicals in cigarettes are carcinogenic.

Dr. Khan was accompanied by notable medical professionals, including Dr. Maqbool Langove, Dr. Nasir Azim, Dr. Mahmood Shahwani, Dr. Waheed Shah, and Dr. Zia. He stressed the detrimental effects of smoking on children's health, particularly when parents smoke. "Children exposed to secondhand smoke suffer from asthma, pneumonia, and other diseases, and the risks increase, leading to conditions such as paralysis," Dr. Khan noted.

Citing statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Khan pointed out that more than 8 million people globally die each year due to smoking, with 7 million succumbing directly to smoking and 1.2 million deaths attributed to secondhand smoke exposure. "Nicotine, a component found in tobacco, affects mood and creates a



temporary sensation of energy, but its effects quickly wear off, leaving individuals feeling tired and restless," he explained. Dr. Khan also discussed the broader health impacts of smoking, including a weakened immune system, yellowing of the skin, hair loss, poor eyesight, and other diseases.

"In Pakistan alone, the treatment of smoking-related diseases costs more than one and a half billion rupees annually. These funds could instead be directed towards the country's construction and

development," he said. He called for a united effort from all stakeholders to combat the smoking epidemic and reduce its devastating effects on public health.

"We must work together to address this issue and protect future generations from the harmful consequences of smoking," Dr. Khan urged. The press conference underscored the urgent need for increased awareness and stronger anti-smoking measures to mitigate the health crisis caused by tobacco use in Pakistan.

پولیو کی بہار دو قطرے ہر بار
پولیو مہم
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آپ کے علاقے میں پولیو وائرس موجود ہے
اپنے 5 سال تک کے بچوں کو
پولیو سے بچاؤ کے قطرے لازمی پلاویں
Two Drops
Every Child - Every Time
واٹرنگ ہارپ ہیرا
1166
1166

Key Accused in Gwadar Labourers Attack Arrested, Says Balochistan Home Minister

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: In a significant development, security forces and police have apprehended two terrorists linked to the recent attack on laborers in Gwadar. This announcement was made by Provincial Home Minister Zia Langove and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Police Operations Aitzaz Ahsan Guraya during a joint press conference on Friday evening.

This breakthrough represents a pivotal step in the ongoing fight against terrorism in Balochistan. Addressing the media, Home Minister Langove highlighted the severe impact of terrorism on the province.

"Over the past two decades, thousands of security personnel and civilians have been victims of terrorism in Balochistan," Langove stated. He also accused neighboring countries of instigating terrorist activities in the province, misleading the youth, and disrupting peace.

"Terrorism will not be tolerated," Langove declared emphatically. He re-



iterated the Chief Minister's firm stance that terrorism is unacceptable under any circumstances.

"There is no war of freedom in Balochistan; only misguided youth influenced by external forces," he added. Langove stressed that the unrest is not a struggle for rights but a consequence of external manipulation.

Highlighting the provincial government's efforts, Langove mentioned that

Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti has ensured the rights of the growers community are upheld, dismissing claims of a rights war in the region.

"This is not a war for rights; it is a battle against terrorism," he affirmed.

In a message to the nation, Langove announced, "I congratulate the nation that two terrorists involved in the Gwadar attack have been arrested." He revealed that one of the arrested individuals is a local from Gwadar. "This success demonstrates our unwavering commitment to fighting terrorism alongside our security forces," Langove asserted.

DIG CTD Aitzaz Ahsan Guraya provided an update on ongoing investigations, stating that the probe into the Nushki incident is in its final stages.

"We are closing in on the terrorists involved in the recent alcohol-related incident," Guraya confirmed.

SC says apprehensions of political misuse dictated decision not to live-stream NAB amendments case

NEWS DESK:

The Supreme Court on Saturday said its decision to not live-stream the proceedings in the case of intra-court appeals (ICAs) moved by the federal government against the court's September 15 majority judgment striking down amendments to the anti-graft laws was due to concerns about the facility being politically misused.

In 2022, amendments were made to the country's accountability laws by the then-Pakistan Democratic Movement-led government. The amendments made several changes to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999, including reducing



the term of the NAB chairman and prosecutor general to three years, limiting NAB's jurisdiction to cases involving over Rs500 million, and limiting all pending queries, investigations, and trials to the relevant authorities.

Imran had subsequently filed a petition in 2022 challenging the amendments, claiming that the changes to the NAB law were made to benefit the influential accused persons and legitimate corruption.

The petition had pleaded that the fresh amendments tend to scrap corruption cases against the president, prime minister,

chief ministers and ministers and provide an opportunity to the convicted public office-holders to get their convictions undone.

The SC had reserved its verdict in the case on September 5, 2023, after 53 hearings, with the members of a three-judge bench debating the power of parliament to enact legislation with retrospective effect.

The apex court had subsequently on Sept 15 ordered the restoration of corruption cases against public office-holders that were withdrawn after amendments were made to the country's accountability laws and declared Imran's plea to be

maintainable.

However, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa had dropped hints in an October 31, 2023, hearing as the apex court took up intra-court appeals (ICA) against the Sept 15 judgement that since earlier proceedings did not to satisfy the requirements of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, proceedings in the matter could be started afresh if the counsel managed to "make a solid case" for the same.

Though it refused to stay proceedings in corruption cases underway in accountability courts, the apex court restrained trial courts from announcing their final orders till the next hearing of the appeals in the matter.

The apex court was seized with a number of ICAs moved by the federal government as well as by a private citizen Zuhair Ahmed Siddiqui, who was an accused in a corruption case but not a party to the challenges to the NAB amendments case.

Editor: Asim Khan

Quetta Green Bus Promise: Govt Urged to Turn Commitments into Action

Editorial:

In a seemingly promising move to uplift transportation standards, the Balochistan government has unfolded plans for an extensive expansion of the green bus fleet. The visionary initiative, spearheaded by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, CEO of Balochistan Public Private Partnership (BPPP), aims to introduce 25 additional eco-friendly buses to the streets of Quetta. However, as the government unveils plans, the pressing question looms — will these promises translate into tangible improvements for the provincial capital's long-suffering commuters?

Green Bus Expansion Now A Long Standing Demand

Originally sanctioned by former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, the plan now gaining momentum under the current administration, underscores the government's commitment to sustainable and accessible transportation. With an ambitious target of deploying 100 green buses across Quetta in the imminent months, the expansion spans beyond the city center, promising relief to residents in areas like Hazrat Town, Marriabad, Samungli Road, Sariab-Custom, Nawab Kili, and other vital parts of Quetta.

Expansion Of Project Directly Responds To Public Demand: Dr. Faisal Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan asserts that this expansion directly responds to the persistent public demand for enhanced transportation facilities. The stark reality, however, reveals that currently, a meager eight buses operate from Balochistan University to Belli Airport Road, leaving bare the glaring inadequacy in green bus availability.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar's recent proclamation, vowing an additional 100 green buses for Balochistan, signifies the government's purported dedication to elevating public transportation standards in the region. While commendable in words, the onus now falls on Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan to translate these verbal commitments into swift and substantive action.

CS Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan Can Play A Key Role

Commitment for the government's seemingly progressive approach must be met with an urgent plea for Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan's decisive leadership in ensuring efficient execution. Quetta's residents, long fettered by the lack of a dependable public transportation system, now demand more than promises — they demand a concrete reality. The introduction of green buses heralds a commendable step towards addressing the long-standing challenges, creating a pathway to a more sustainable and accessible future for the people of Balochistan.

The call for action is not merely a suggestion; it's a critical imperative, and the responsibility squarely rests on Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan to lead the way in turning promises into tangible, transformative actions.

Fertiliser subsidy

By Aijaz A. Nizami:

WHEAT is the most important dietary component in food consumed in Pakistan. The same is reflected in Pakistan's cultivation trends, with over 22 million acres of farmland — more than 50 per cent of the cropped area — allocated to wheat crops in the winter. The winter season is when fertiliser requirements peak, and fertiliser plants have to compete with power plants for natural gas in order to produce nitrogenous fertiliser.

However, dwindling domestic supplies and increased competition in the international market for natural gas have made these competing demands nearly impossible for Pakistani policymakers to manage. Invariably, bureaucrats and politicians make a mess of the situation, and the high cost of their mess is passed on to consumers and producers alike. It is no surprise that the country imports millions of tonnes of wheat worth hundreds of millions of dollars every year. The current year's budget has allocated Rs30 billion for fertiliser subsidies. This subsidy is used to pay for cheap gas to fertiliser plants, which, in return, are supposed to provide their urea and phosphate fertiliser products at administered rates to farmers through their distribution networks. The list of ministries and bureaucracies involved in the disbursement of this subsidy is mind-boggling. From a comparatively low figure of

Rs30bn, the list of ministries involved includes the Ministry of Industries and Production, the Ministry of Petroleum, the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority, the Cabinet Division, the Ministry of Food Security and Research and the Ministry of Finance.

Since their bureaucrats get caught up in turf wars, making timely decisions is not possible. Even the government decisions on setting gas prices for fertiliser plants also result in bottlenecks in the value chain. Gas supply bottlenecks give rise to discrimination: the Comptroller General of Pakistan is often approached by plants that do not receive enough supply, while others are reportedly favoured.

The impact of this mismanagement is seen in the small-town markets of rural Pakistan, where farmers are paying up to Rs5,000 and Rs5,500 for a bag of urea in the black market, which is supposed to be around Rs2,250 this season. The situation was no different under the PTI government when farmers queued all day to receive just two bags of fertiliser. Industry sources say the even wheat farmers are forced to buy from the black market each year in winter, especially for a crop as important as wheat. The price differential is not the only issue: producers also suffer from

what economists call high transaction costs, as well as the loss of valuable time. They are unable to provide crops with vital nutrients when they are critically needed, resulting in loss of production, which is ultimately met through wheat imports.

The fertiliser subsidy is not provided to farmers but to fertiliser plants — in other words, to industrialists. The rationale provided for this arrangement is that it ultimately helps farmers. However, as the experience every year shows, it does not work that way, as farmers invariably pay more than administered prices for their requirements. Some studies done by the Pakistan Institute for Development Economics also show that the fertiliser subsidy does not significantly impact the poor. The logical question is: why not do away with the subsidy altogether? Since farmers are net losers in this subsidy regime, it is they who should demand a liberal market-based mechanism. It looks like money for his stay even for the Communist Party of which he was member as he went on political errands often riding pillion on a comrade's bicycle.

With this mosque in the crosshairs of a right-wing government, this New Year column hopes to offer a handy fact sheet on a truer India to celebrities like Amitabh

By Arifa Noor:

SHAKESPEARE may have come up with a line for all times when he wrote "to be or not to be", but in Pakistan we have found a dilemma just as important and worthy of much debate.

We have been wondering whether or not this past year and what it brought in politics was unprecedented. It is simply more of the same aka 2018 main bhi yehi hua tha, or have the excesses against a political party touched new heights — or should it be lows?

At this rate, this discussion will continue as we enter 2024 because we Pakistanis believe in carrying our baggage with us, we do not offer a slightly different or zara hat kai, version of what we have been experiencing for the past few years, and what the ally is 'unprecedented'.

Pakistan has evolved as a country which has become used to living on international rents, thanks to our geographic position. From Ayub Khan to the current incumbent, the ruling class has added to the problems; the existing patronage system can only cater to a limited number. The impact this has had on politics in terms of new parties and movements is an issue which continues to be discussed time and again.

The centre cannot hold

Elections — managed ones — were held, and state patronage, in the shape of development funds, was shared with politicians, which then trickled down to the people. The politicians, political parties generally opted to sit in parliament.

Other than arguing that this was important for strengthening the parliamentary process, this also suited individual parliamentarians, in all parties, who needed access to patronage, which was routed through the forum.

However, this political consensus — and it can be called that — has been weakening in recent years as the economy has faltered. The inflow of aid has been reducing; there is less money to spend; and the state's expenses of the state/government continue to grow.

What the economic reform means the economy is not growing, while the needs of the populace continue to expand. Urbanisation and the youth bulge add to the problems; the existing patronage system can only cater to a limited number. The impact this has had on politics in terms of new parties and movements is an issue which continues to be discussed time and again.

But more important, this crisis of the economy was which was willing to let the military establishment be the primary stakeholder at home because of its ability to secure rents from abroad.

And if this primary role meant that the latter intervened in politics, disrupted the political process and dominated policymaking, so be it. The judiciary would provide legal cover, the politicians would take part in elections and provide a form of legitimacy. Even the business elite would pay homage to the 'stability' brought about. This allowed the establishment to enjoy legitimacy and claim it had the people's support.

However, this started changing in the post-Musharraf period as rents began to dry up. Perhaps one can argue that from the 2013 PML-N term onwards, intervention in politics and the resultant instability has garnered more and more criticism from society and within the elite.

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down which followed in 2023. This absence of consensus is not just visible in the judiciary, which has more than once given decisions that have made the establishment's plans (or scripts) difficult to implement, but also in the reluctance of politicians to fall in line.

Forming the king's party is not the walk in the park it used to be because state patronage is not proving enough to muster the numbers needed to secure victories.

And as the populace, for the reasons mentioned, is also opting for parties such as the PTI (in mainstream areas such as Punjab), electables are being forced to choose between the people — or their choice of party — and the establishment. If this was PML-N in 2018, it is the PTI in 2023.

This is one reason for the harsh measures we have been witnessing in recent years when politicians have faced imprisonment, torture, threats to family and disqualification and imprisonment for the PML-N 2017 onwards, it has not presented to temporary enforced disappearances for those in the PTI, as well as kidnappings of family members and raids on their homes.

In other words, the

establishment has turned to harsher tactics, as it faces loss of legitimacy, not just among the people but also the political elite, who were earlier willing to play second fiddle.

Ask any PTI politician who has to contest an election and he will explain that while the establishment is pressuring him to switch sides, the voters have warned him that he can only win if he stands firm. And there are no solutions to this equation, it seems.

The point of this spiel was not just to explain that what is unprecedented is the fragile consensus which had existed earlier among the elite. It is also to argue that the 'heavy-handedness' in display may not end soon. As the economic crisis intensifies and the fragmentation of the elite continues, the establishment is pressuring him to switch sides, the voters have warned him that he can only win if he stands firm. And there are no solutions to this equation, it seems.

In the short term, there might not be a change in this larger policy unless there is a business. If this meant disqualification and imprisonment for the PML-N 2017 onwards, it has not presented to temporary enforced disappearances for those in the PTI, as well as kidnappings of family members and raids on their homes.

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An invitation to embrace reason

By Jawed Naqvi:

As Prime Minister Modi leads the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya this month — built on the rubble of the Babri Masjid — the supreme court's directives — another landmark mosque in the city of Ayodhya is being gutted for the lack of the turkey at the White House. A soldier who is reportedly spared the knife on Thanksgiving Day, a symbol of the US president's generosity.

The Sunehri Bagh mosque has enjoyed the status of a heritage monument in Delhi, but the city municipality has proposed to raze it to ease traffic on the road signposted VIPs. Historic mosques in Varanasi and Mathura, on the other hand, are being razed to the ground. The Babri Masjid.

Among the Sunehri Bagh mosque's historic claim is that it was built by Maulana Hasrat Mohani and was important to bear in mind, one that seeks to challenge the Hinduism with muscular nationalism, and the other as a thinly veiled assault on a campaign to caste hierarchies from Hindu society. Jawaharlal Nehru was the target in the first instance.

The dismantling of the special status of the Babri Masjid on Aug 5, 2019, was followed next year by a ground-breaking ceremony to mean that giving up on current consumption patterns to embrace a low-carbon footprint lifestyle? After all, as possible to curtail supply by reducing demand.

Data demonstrates that modern food systems drive 90 per cent of deforestation and 60pc of biodiversity loss, and account for 25 per cent of the world's use of freshwater. Overall, food systems alone contribute to over 30pc of global greenhouse gas emissions. By going vegan the global population could reduce carbon emissions from food production by 50pc.

At COP28 Sultan Al-Jaber earned his reputation as a climate leader when he stated that was inter-

Bachchan, Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli will have invited to the inauguration in Ayodhya.

Communist Party chief Sitaram Yechury Ayodhya by the officially aided but surreptitious installation of idols in sight of the Babri Masjid in 1949 would have an adverse impact on relations with Jammu and Kashmir, she too would likely forgo the visit on similar grounds.

The influential invites might want to look beyond the Hindu-Muslim chasm, some real but mostly cooked up, to glean less familiar facts about Lord Ram in India and abroad, and about the enrichment of Hindu motifs and cultural expressions by Muslim writers, old and new. There's no gainsaying that the general election due in May, and the event in Ayodhya is primed to mobilise gullible voters.

Two dates are important to bear in mind, one that seeks to challenge the Hinduism with muscular nationalism, and the other as a thinly veiled assault on a campaign to caste hierarchies from Hindu society. Jawaharlal Nehru was the target in the first instance.

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they will not spend their resources on such an empty thing as temple entry."

Ambedkar recounted how Europeans barred Indians from entering their clubs, and also noted that Indians didn't grovel to be allowed to enter. "Why should an Untouchable beg for admission in a place from which he has been excluded by the arrogance of the Hindus? ... He is prepared to say to the Hindus: To open or not to open your temples is a question for you to consider and not for me to agitate."

Ambedkar's message converted his community to Buddhism. As for the Muslims, they were by no means indulgent to Hindu culture and religion than Ambedkar could be. In fact, it is difficult to find a Muslim writer who didn't express respect and admiration for Hindu traditions. From Wali Dakhani (1667-1707), whose grave was fated to be razed during the Gujarat pogroms, with a road built over it, to Mir Ghalib, Iqbal to Hazrat Mohani and Majaz, there's no dearth of affection for Hindu motifs.

Ram was Iqbal's Imam-i-Hind. Krishna was Nazir Akbarabadi's muse, Muslim scholars translated the epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata into Urdu and Persian during Mughal rule. Razi Masoom Raza

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By Aisha Khan:

THE end of the 28th session of the Conference of Parties in December 2023 moved the needle forward on climate action but not at the pace needed to avert the sixth mass extinction. As eco-anxiety grows and optimism rises, the world is urged to rationalise slow progress, with the inherent constraints of multilateral processes, the clock keeps ticking, reminding us of the perils and unpredictions of change and the timescale for keeping life systems alive.

In the span of 173 years, humans have succeeded in halting the moon but degraded ecosystems and destroyed the environment on planet Earth. Today, with advancements in science and technology, life expectancy has increased, progress in communication has transformed connectivity and creature comforts have enhanced life quality beyond imagination.

Ironically, all this has come at the cost of development that has turned into an existential threat. The main culprit for disrupting planetary balance are greenhouse gases.

As we enter 2024, it is important to put some things in perspective.

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Over 62,000 Pakistani pilgrims arrive in Saudi Arabia

MAKKAH — AL-MUKARRAMAH (INP): The Pakistan Hajj Mission (PHM) has welcomed 62,148 pilgrims in Madinah and Makkah under both government and private schemes since the start of the month-long pre-Hajj flight operation on May 9, the Ministry of Religious Affairs reported on Saturday.

"So far, 46,648 pilgrims have arrived via 185 flights under the government scheme, while 15,500 have arrived under the private scheme," said Muhammad Umer Butt, a spokesman for the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

An additional 22,090 Pakistani pilgrims are expected to arrive in Makkah over

the next nine days, he added. This year, the PHM will host over 70,105 pilgrims under the government scheme and more than 80,000 under the private scheme.

Currently, over 13,000 pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia under private schemes. With the cooperation of Saudi authorities, around 33,500 Pakistani pilgrims have visited Kiaz Al-Jannah in Madinah.

The PHM is utilizing mobile apps, two toll-free helplines, and four WhatsApp numbers to address pilgrims' complaints.

Additionally, the spokesman said two central hospitals and a dozen dispensaries in the Haram are providing medical facilities to

pilgrims, with 322 doctors and medical staff on duty.

The PHM's main hospitals are equipped with modern facilities, including ambulances, laboratories, X-ray machines, ultrasound machines, ECG machines, minor operating theatres and separate wards for men and women.

A total of 511 Hajj Moavineen, including Pakistani civilians and uniformed personnel, are working to provide pilgrims with travel, accommodation, and food facilities.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has 152 officers and supporting staff working in various departments, including the control room, Madinah and Jeddah airports,

the lost and found department, the Madinah departure cell, the monitoring cell, and the transportation departments.

In the past 23 days, 122 pilgrims have been reunited with their families, and 770 dislocated bags and purses, as well as 169 wheelchairs, have been returned to their owners.

The Ministry has resolved 570 food-related complaints, 1,450 accommodation complaints, and 388 transportation complaints during this period.

The Haram Guides, deployed at the entrance points of the Haram e Makki, have provided guidance to pilgrims 24,639 times in reaching their destinations.



ISLAMABAD: German delegation led by head of development cooperation Sebastian Paust called on PM's Coordinator on Climate change Roshni Khushtid Alam at her office.

Concern over increase in forest fire incidents

LAHORE (INP): Emergency Services Department Secretary Dr. Rizwan Naseer expressed serious concern over the unprecedented 89% increase in forest fire incidents from 199 last years to 377 incidents so far in 2024.

He expressed the concerns while reviewing the monthly emergency data and performance of all districts of Punjab on Saturday.

The Divisional Emergency Officers (DVEOs), District Emergency Officers (DEOs) and Officers from Emergency Services Headquarters (HQs) participated in this operational review meeting.

All DEOs shared operational performance of their districts while discussing major emergencies, challenges, case studies, lessons

learned and initiatives from their respective districts.

Dr Rizwan Naseer emphasized coordinated efforts for timely detection of such incidents at initial phase for swift response and effective firefighting and control. He also appreciated Rescue firefighters of Murree, Chakwal, Narowal & Rawalpindi for extinguishing challenging forest fires taking several days of efforts in extreme weather, burning forest flames and suffocating smoke.

The Provincial Monitoring Officer briefed that Rescue 1122 rescued 195,696 victims while responding to 204,930 emergencies across Punjab during May.

He said that out of 204,930 emergencies, 137,584 were medical emergencies, 40,265 road

traffic accidents, 5,017 crime incidents, 4,814 fire incidents including 152 forest fires, 3,842 delivery cases, 2,191 occupational injuries, 1,305 animal rescue, 156 drowning cases, 52 structural collapses and 9,704 miscellaneous operations in Punjab.

He was also apprised that Punjab Emergency Service responded to 4,814 fire incidents including 152 forest fire operations in May in which a majority of forest fire incidents took place in Murree i.e. 26, followed by 24 forest fire incidents in Chakwal, 18 in Narowal, 17 in Rawalpindi & 16 in Gujrat. He also briefed that 363 people died in 40,265 Road Traffic Crashes in Punjab in the last month. Out of these traffic accidents, the challenges, damage of traffic accidents,

8,653 occurred in Lahore in which 36 people died. Similarly, 2,828 RTIs in Faisalabad, 2,475 RTIs in Multan, 2,262 in Gujranwala, 1,650 in Rawalpindi and 1477 in Sheikhupura while the remaining 30,920 accidents took place in 30 districts of Punjab.

Dr. Rizwan Naseer expressed serious concern over the unprecedented 152 forest fires in previous month in Punjab. He stated that rescuers conducted day and night fire and rescue operations in challenging and difficult situations.

He saluted the firefighters for managing forest fire incidents in mountains and difficult terrains. He explained that the timely detection of forest fires and prompt calls can reduce the spread and damage of fires.

Indonesia willing to send peacekeeping troops to Gaza: President Prabowo

JAKARTA (INP): Indonesia's president-elect, Prabowo Subianto, said on Saturday that his country was willing to send peacekeeping troops to enforce a ceasefire in Gaza if required.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's premier security conference, Prabowo said US President Joe

Biden's three-phase proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza was a step in the right direction.

When needed and when requested by the U.N., we are prepared to contribute significant peacekeeping forces to maintain and monitor this prospective ceasefire as well as providing protection and security to all parties and to all

sides," Prabowo said.

The 72-year-old former special forces general and current Indonesian defence minister takes on the presidency of the world's most populous Muslim nation in October.

He said President Joko Widodo had instructed him to announce that Indonesia was also ready "to evacuate, to receive and

to treat with medical care up to 1,000 patients" from Gaza. The Indonesian Hospital in Gaza, which was run by an Indonesia NGO, closed in November amid the fighting. Prabowo said a comprehensive investigation into the humanitarian disaster in the Rafah area of Gaza was needed as well as a "just solution" to the situation in Palestine.

LONDON: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Home Secretary of United Kingdom UK James Cleverly witnessing the signing of letter of intent between two countries.



CHINA: Planning Minister, Ahsan Iqbal and Vice President China Aerospace Science & Technology Corporation, Mr. Lin Yiming discussing their successful joint endeavor to produce a satellite to bolster Pakistan's internet and communication infrastructure.

CM Maryam says police must control crime as she accountable to 1.3bn people

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz asserted that police must control crime as she was answerable to 1.3 billion people of Punjab.

Punjab CM chaired a special session to review the law and order situation across the province.

During the session, Punjab Inspector General Usman Anwar provided a briefing on the state of law and order as well as police performance throughout Punjab.

CM Nawaz issued directives to the police force, emphasizing their responsibility in controlling crime as she was accountable to the 1.3 billion people of Punjab. Eliminate no-go areas in

Punjab She stressed the importance of eliminating no-go areas and reducing the crime rate under all circumstances.

She highlighted the public's prioritization of security over reforms and development in times of rising crime and public ignore the progress.

Asking for the sacrifices made by the police, CM Nawaz affirmed that governments has provided all necessary resources to police and demanded improved performance of police to combat crimes.

She announced plans to implement a system for reviewing police performance to combat corruption effectively. She revealed the construction of 14 special checkpoints aimed at

controlling inter-provincial smuggling.

No loadshedding if there's no power theft, CM Nawaz also addressed the issue of power theft, saying there will be no loadshedding if power theft was controlled.

She stressed to follow DG Khan as a model in the eradication of power theft. She commended the 50% reduction in their in Lahore and set deadlines for controlling robbery incidents in Sheikhupura.

She instructed continued swift action against drug trafficking and aerial firing, underscoring the elimination of political interference in police affairs.

CM Nawaz emphasized the responsibility

of District Police Officers (DPOs) in rooting out corrupt and criminal elements within their districts.

Lastly, the establishment of beggar barracks across Punjab's jails was agreed upon during the session.

The session was attended by Senior Provincial Minister Mariyamm Aurangzeb, Senator Pervez Rashid, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, IG Punjab, additional inspector general special branch, DG operations, CCPO, and others.

All Regional Police Officers (RPOs), City Police Officers (CPOs), and District Police Officers (DPOs) participated in the session via video link.

THQ Balakot staff becomes mafia, threatens senior journalist

BALAKOT (INP): The staff of Tehsil Headquarter (THQ) Hospital has become mafia, threatened and attempted to torture senior journalist over inquiring about the administrative drawbacks.

According to details,

INP, Bilal Ishfaq went to THQ Hospital Balakot to get his dental issue.

Firstly, Senior Pharmacy Technician Mushtaq extended severe threats to senior journalist and even attempted to thrash him. However, the

matter resolved, they instead of looking into the issue supported their colleague. Mushtaq extended severe threats to senior journalist and even attempted to thrash him. However, the

patients present in the hospital foiled the attempt.

It should be mentioned here that entire staff of THQ is commission mafia. The doctor have set the commission with owners of medical stores and the prescribe.

SITUATIONS VACANT

- Ordnance Depot Quetta requires the following staff in their areas of working with 15x Days after advertisement.
- Desirable candidates may forward their applications alongwith 2x copies of Domestic / Local, Passport size photographs, Qualification Certificates duly attested. Mobile Number addressed in Ordinance Depot Quetta Advertisement.
- Please write down clearly name of applied post on application and envelope.
- No application will be entertained after due date. Preference will be given to experienced and professionally qualified candidates.

Ser	Post Name	Basic Pay Scale	No of Vacancies	Quota	Educational Qualification / Experience Required
a.	Civilian Workshop Supervisor (Lower Grade)	11	1	Merit	a. Three Years Post matric diploma of Associate Engineering (DAE) in Mechanical/Electrical or Civil from a recognized institution b. Able to supervise the work house / store independently and proficient to use MS word and MS Excel
b.	LDC	11	2	Punjab	a. Matric b. Typing speed 30 WPM c. In case of selection, 3 Weeks basic IT Training Course including MS Office be passed from NTB Islamabad during probation period
c.	Gate Keeper	7	1	KPK	a. Matric b. Six (6) months Certificate in security management from recognized institution OR a. JCOs/NCOs of all Arms / Service/Intelligence experience b. Six (6) months diploma in Computer applications
d.	Storeman	7	2	Punjab -1 Sindh (Rural) -1	a. Matric b. Six (6) months diploma in Computer applications c. Six (6) months Certificate of working experience in storekeeping and store management from recognized organization OR a. JCOs/NCOs of all Arms / Service/Intelligence experience b. Six (6) months diploma in Computer applications
e.	Store Supervisor	5	1	Balochistan	a. Matric b. Six (6) months Certificate of working experience in storekeeping and store management from recognized organization
f.	Civil Driver	4	2		a. Primary b. In possession of valid Driving License and able to drive Heavy Transport Vehicle c. Diploma holder or qualified from renowned technical institute (Desirable)
g.	Carpenter	3	1	Balochistan	a. Primary
h.	Electrician	3	1		a. Primary
i.	Fireman	2	3		a. Primary
j.	Head Qaid	1	1		a. Primary
k.	Sanitary Worker	1	1		a. Primary
l.	USM (Labour)	1	5		a. Primary

- Candidate must pass departmental entrance exam.
- Applicant can submit their applications alongwith Postal Orders of Rs. 300/- (Non-refundable) (only for Basic Pay Scale 5 and above).
- Maximum age limit for candidates belongs to Sindh (Rural), Balochistan, A.K, GB and FATA is upto 33 years and for other provinces is upto 30 years. Therefore, maximum age relaxation for Ex Servicemen is upto 45 years. Upper age relaxation will be admissible according to Government Policies.
- Quota for Female and Disable persons is reserved as per Government Rules.
- Preference for conversion into regular employment if they fulfil requirements of the applied post. Applicants who are applying for EPS-1 to 2 will be enrolled on casual basis.
- Government servants can submit their applications through proper channel and also attach copy of No Objection Certificate alongwith application.
- Shortlisted candidates will only be called up for Test/Interview.
- No TA/DA will be granted and candidates will arrange self-living.
- Please write down your complete address with contact number in case of wrong address and powered off cell phone deposit will not be responsible. Incomplete applications will not be entertained.
- A candidate can apply only on one post at time, in case of dual applications both will be rejected.

Commandant
Ordnance Depot Quetta Cantt

May 9 mastermind should be punished: Kundi

LAHORE (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday said the May 9 mastermind should be the first to be punished, as he called for holding those accountable for the violence perpetrated on that day.

Talking to media persons at the mausoleum of Allama Iqbal, he said the PTI were not taking responsibility for the post shared on X and, at the same time, avoided deleting the same.

He was referring to the post shared on the official account of PTI founding chairman Imran Khan, in which he has been equated with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The latest remarks come after the military on Thursday

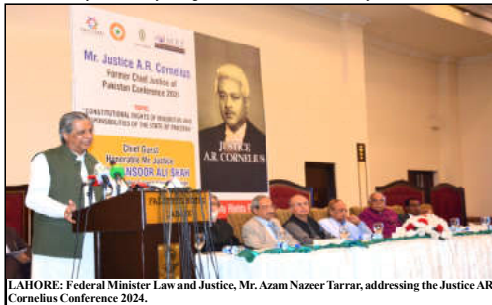
again called for holding the planners, facilitators and executors of May 9 violence accountable and warned that the country would remain hostage to the elements hatching conspiracies in case of a failure. Kundi said the PTI was even distancing themselves from the person operating the X account, adding that they were in habit of committing the crime and resorting to wailing simultaneously.

They want to come into power yet again just like they had in the past, he remarked. Kundi said they were ready if the PTI wanted to hold talks with the democratic forces, but he wasn't in a position to say anything if the aim was to use the

establishment's shoulders to grab power again.

At the same time, he said that the Governor's House won't become part of any conspiracy and noted that the PTI was a political party. Criticising the language used by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Kundi said no one could stop anyone from moving freely, but praised him for arguing his case with arguments at the Special Investment Facilitation Council meeting held earlier in the week.

About the latest drop in fuel prices where the directives issued by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif were ignored, Kundi said the rates had been slashed by Rs4 and a further cut of Rs15 would also take place.



LAHORE: Federal Minister Law and Justice, Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarrar, addressing the Justice AR Cornelius Conference 2024.

FBR faces Rs33bn tax revenue shortfall, needs Rs1,289bn in June

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is grappling with a tax revenue shortfall of Rs33 billion for the current financial year.

From July 2023 to May 2024, the FBR collected Rs8,126 billion, slightly below the target of Rs8,159 billion intended to be collected for the 11 months of this financial year, according to informed sources.

To achieve the overall tax revenue target of Rs9,415 billion for the fiscal year, the FBR must now collect an additional Rs1,289 billion in June.

Despite this daunting task, there are positive indicators in the revenue collection trends. Compared to the first 11

months of the previous fiscal year, there has been a remarkable 31% increase in tax revenue.

Moreover, the FBR exceeded its revenue target for May 2024 by Rs15 billion, collecting Rs760 billion against a target of Rs745 billion. This performance in May provides some optimism as the FBR approaches the final month of the fiscal year with a substantial collection target.

The government has introduced a proposal in the upcoming budget to levy new taxes on various sectors while abolishing certain exemptions. Despite the reservations of the IMF, the proposal aims to give tax exemptions to certain sectors in the budget.

The proposal outlines an increase in the annual income tax exemption limit by Rs300,000, potentially raising the exemption threshold to income worth Rs900,000 per year.

However, the proposed budget also includes measures to increase tax duties on imported goods and GST on food items. Notably, it suggests an 18% GST on baby milk, medical and surgical equipment, and imported packaged food. There are also plans to abolish withholding tax, remove sales tax exemptions, and raise customs duty rates. Furthermore, the proposal recommends increasing the GST rate on solar panels, which could impact the renewable energy sector.

Citizens applaud China's role in Pakistan's satellite missions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The people from countryside have expressed their gratitude for China's support in launching Pakistani satellites into space.

According to Gwadar Pro, after the successful deployment of back to back two space satellites CUBE-Q and PAKSAT MM-1, they expressed their appreciation for China's role in Pakistan's space missions.

Expressing their thoughts on social media, a number of Pakistanis view China's support in their space missions as a significant collaboration that enhances their capabilities and strengthens bilateral ties.

They regarded China's assistance as crucial in initiating and advancing Pakistan's satellite capabilities, fostering a robust partnership in space exploration.

On X (formerly Twitter), a user expressed gratitude and credited the Chinese side. The

user quoted a saying from late Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping. Another user posted on social media that launching of this satellite would address several issues we currently face in Pakistan, particularly internet outages.

The successful satellite launch received applause not only from overseas Pakistanis but also from those residing in China.

The internet was flooded with congratulatory messages celebrating Pakistan's flourishing space missions.

The report says, the launch of PAKSAT MM-1, Pakistan's second communication satellite will bring a multitude of benefits to the country. It will significantly improve internet connectivity across Pakistan, especially in remote areas.

The satellite will support tele-education and telemedicine services, allowing people in re-

mote areas to access quality education and healthcare services that were previously unavailable to them.

It will also support e-governance and e-commerce, which will help streamline government services and boost economic activities in the country. The satellite will play a pivotal role in the socio-economic uplift of the country by strengthening its communication infrastructure.

It will help meet the growing demand for high-speed internet and seamless connectivity. Therefore, the launch of MM-1 is seen as a testament among the locals to the strong collaboration and partnership between Pakistan and China in the field of space technology. They believe this partnership will continue to benefit both countries in the future.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik held a press conference.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, delivering remarks as Chief Guest at the 1st Convocation Ceremony of HBS Medical and Dental College.

Resilient energy can save 175,000 lives, contribute \$296m to Pakistan's economy: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (INP): A new report by UNICEF finds that ensuring a consistent energy supply for health facilities in Pakistan could save over 175,000 lives by 2030 and contribute US\$296 million to the economy by 2044.

The report, titled "Reliable energy to save 175,000 lives, boost Pakistan's economy," emphasizes the importance of "resilient energy" - reliable, flexible, and accessible power that can withstand disruptions like power outages and floods.

This type of energy supply is crucial for improving health, education, and water services across Pakistan. The study, conducted by the Economist Impact Unit,

estimates that investing in resilient energy could yield returns up to three times the initial investment.

The report highlights benefits beyond just healthcare. Providing stable electricity to schools could reduce dropout rates and

improve learning outcomes, potentially adding US\$2.3 billion to the economy by 2040. This is particularly relevant considering Pakistan's recent declaration of an education emergency, where millions of children are out of school. Resilient energy could also power nearly 20% of off-grid schools in two provinces.

Pakistan has faced extreme heatwaves recently, with temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius. This strains the power grid and makes it difficult to maintain cool systems in hospitals and schools, endangering children's health.

"Children rely on schools, health centers, and safe drinking water, but these facilities often lack a stable electricity supply," said Abdullah Fadi, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan.

"The current heatwave has pushed electricity needs to their limits, threatening children's health. This research highlights the need for resilient energy solutions that protect children's

lives and boost the economy." The lack of reliable power is a global issue, with 3.5 billion people lacking access, mostly in developing countries.

Power outages disrupt critical services like surgeries and clean water supplies. Climate change further complicates the situation, as seen in the 2022 Pakistan floods where nearly half of the water infrastructure was damaged.

UNICEF has been working to restore water systems using smarter designs, with new wells built above projected flood levels to minimize damage.

The UNICEF study concludes that fully utilizing resilient energy can improve water quality and supply in remote areas, reduce power outages, protect children from diseases, and enhance agricultural productivity.

"These improvements can significantly benefit families and communities across Pakistan, paving the way for a more stable and prosperous future."

Supreme Court sends anti-smuggling law to Parliament for review

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has sent the Anti-smuggling Act, 1977 to the Parliament for review with recommendation of amendment in

the law on Saturday. The apex court in its verdict said that the anti-smuggling law has scores of lacunae. "The anti-smuggling law only allows accused the right to appeal," the decision read.

"Denying the right to appeal to government means the Anti-smuggling Act benefiting accused," the court observed. The copies of the verdict, written by

Justice Shahid Waheed and comprised of seven pages, have been dispatched to the

Law and Justice Commission, Secretary Law and the Attorney General of Pakistan.

Referring a case, the court said that the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in a complaint in year 1998 said that a man Ubaid Khan made property with smuggling.

"The ANF has only a role of reporting the special judge under the Anti-smuggling Act," decision read.

"The matter restricted between the judge and the accused after the accused present their stance. The complainant's role come to an end in the law after reporting the judge," verdict read.

"The ANF will not be an affected party of the decision

after its role ends with complainant.

In the anti-smuggling act, the ANF or the state have not been given any right to appeal and only the affected party i.e. accused have right to appeal under the law," according to the decision.

"The Peshawar High Court (PHC) dismissed the ANF's appeal against the court's decision in the case because 'it was not an affected party,'" verdict read.

"The anti-smuggling laws, across the world, give the state or government the right to appeal. It will be appropriate if the parliament revisits the law to give the right to appeal to the state," the apex court verdict suggests.



DUBAI: Hussain Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan Consulate Dubai honored Khalid Hussain Chaudhry, President Pakistan Social Center Sharjah (PSCS) along with his team members with appreciation certificates for serving Pakistan community in UAE during the recent rains.

PTI has another May 9 plan in their minds: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Saturday said the PTI had another May 9-like plan in their mind and added that a

commission should be formed on why the PTI founding chairman Imran Khan "is doing all this" against the national institutions and the country.

"Does he wants to do politics or something else is his agenda," she remarked and said that the anarchy and violence was in the genes of PTI, adding that the

party not only executed the May 9 violence but had also written letters to the IMF for derailing the talks between the two sides.

Addressing a press conference, Bokhari said the tweet (the post on X which was formerly known as Twitter) eulogising

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was still the pinned post on the X account of Imran, as she rejected the claims that the PTI founder and his party have nothing to do with it.

Zain Qureshi of PTI made it clear on a TV channel the other day that the nothing was posted on Imran's X account without his permission, while Naeem Haider had praised the social media team, Bokhari reminded the reporters.

Raof Hassan, another PTI leader, talked about dragging the provinces into a fight against each other, she said and added that dividing the country was their party agenda.

An organised campaign had been launched against the state institutions, the provincial minister said and wondered why Imran

didn't even utter a single word about the Hamoodur Rehman Commission Report when he was in power.

"Has the Hamoodur Rehman Commission Report appeared a week ago" she asked while questioning the timing and motives behind this campaign. The institutions had committed mistakes but had moved forward after acknowledging the same, said the Punjab minister.

A particular party [PTI] is involved in "digital terrorism", the PMI-N leader said, thus echoing the views expressed by the Pakistan Army at a recently-held Formation Commanders Conference. The youngster carrying out the social media campaign were not the guilty party, as the actual culprit were those transmitting the "feed".