

QUETTA VOICE

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File photo: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti talking to reporters: Daily Quetta Voice

CTD Punjab arrests senior Al-Qaeda leader in intelligence-based operation

NEWS DESK: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab on Thursday arrested a senior Al-Qaeda leader, Aminul Haq, calling him a close aide of Osama Bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

The CTD Punjab said it had registered a legal case against Haq, accusing him of planning sabotage targeting important installations in the province.

"In a breakthrough, senior Al-Qaeda leader, Aminul Haq, a close associate of Osama bin Laden, has been arrested by the Counter-Terrorism Department Punjab during an intelligence-based operation," the CTD said in a statement.

The statement added that Haq was apprehended from the Sarai Alamgir town of the Gujrat district of Punjab.

"Aminul Haq was a close associate of Osama bin Laden since 1996 and was involved in many terrorist activities," the statement said, adding that Haq's name was included in the United Nations' list of global terrorists.

"The apprehension of Aminul Haq is an important development in the ongoing efforts to combat terrorism in Pakistan and around the world," the CTD added.

It further said that the apprehended terrorist was planning a "large-scale terrorism project" in the country.

"The CTD Punjab is diligently pursuing its goal of a safe Punjab and will leave no stone unturned in its efforts to bring terrorists and anti-state elements behind bars," the statement added.

Bin Laden was killed in 2011 during a US raid on his hideout in the city of Abbottabad.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in the past year, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan after the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

Earlier this year, the United Nations Security Council Committee by ISIL (aka Daesh) and Al Qaeda/Taliban Monitoring Team said in its 33rd report that the TTP had been receiving "significant backing" from Al Qaeda and other militant factions for executing attacks in Pakistan in addition to support from the Afghan Taliban.

I Am Fully Independent In Making Decisions: Sarfaraz Bugti

News Desk:

Quetta: Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti of Balochistan has affirmed his independence in decision-making amidst speculation about his removal. Bugti asserted that Balochistan operates with complete autonomy in its governance, free from external interference.

"I am fully independent in making decisions as the Chief Minister of Balochistan," Bugti declared.

He took full accountability for the province's outcomes, stressing the unwavering confidence placed in him by provincial leadership and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

Addressing concerns about corruption in Balochistan, Bugti acknowledged the persistent challenge, emphasizing ongoing efforts to address it. "We recognize that solving corruption cannot happen overnight, but we are actively working towards it," he assured.

Bugti underscored his commitment to democratic principles, highlighting efforts to collaborate with the opposition in decision-making processes. "In Balochistan, we strive to engage the opposition in every decision—a testament to the beauty of democracy,"

he affirmed. Regarding recent speculations about his position, particularly during Chairman People's Party Bilawal's visit, Bugti responded by stating that changing governments isn't the norm for the People's Party.

He emphasized the importance of stability and continuity in governance for the province. As discussions about his leadership continue, Bugti remains resolute in his dedication to steering Balochistan towards progress and unity, navigating challenges with a focus on inclusive governance and sustained development.



PM Shehbaz "strongly condemns" the recent terrorist attack on an imambargah in

Pakistan offers Oman support in eliminating terrorism following imambargah attack

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday offered support to Oman in eliminating terrorism while condemning the recent attack on an imambargah in Muscat that claimed six lives and injured over 30 people.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the offer was extended during a courtesy visit by the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi to the premier at the Prime Minister's House.

Earlier this week, Omani po-

lice confirmed that six people, including four Pakistani nationals, lost their lives in the attack while more than 30 sustained injuries. On Thursday, they added that three suspects — all brothers and Omani nationals — adhering to "misguided ideas" were behind the attack and were killed upon resisting security forces.

PIA spokesperson Abdullah Khan told Dawn.com today that two bodies were brought back to Islamabad and two to Lahore, subsequently being handed over to the relatives of the deceased.

PM Shehbaz strongly con-

demned the attack while appreciating Oman's swift response and cooperation with Pakistan in the repatriation of the bodies and treatment of the injured.

"The prime minister said Pakistan had itself been the victim of terrorism for the past several decades," the statement said. "He offered Pakistan's support to Oman in dealing with the menace of terrorism, which must be eliminated in all its forms."

The prime minister also conveyed his good wishes for Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, stating that the two countries

7 Injured As Blast Targets A CTD Vehicle In Pishin

Asmat Hanafi:

PISHIN: At least seven people were injured in a blast targeting a vehicle of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Friday.

Police sources said the CTD vehicle was targeted in Pishin district of Balochistan. Three Police personnel were also among the injured. However, the CTD SHO

Chaudhary Asghar was unharmed in the attack.

The blast targeted the patrolling CTD vehicle in the Band Khushd Khan Road area of Pishin. The injured were taken to hospital for medical treatment. An emergency was declared in the hospital to provide timely medical treatment to injured of the blast.



ECP decides to implement top court verdict in reserved seats case

News Desk: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday decided to act on and implement the Supreme Court's verdict in the reserved seats case.

On July 12, a 13-judge full bench of the apex court had declared that the opposition PTI was eligible to receive reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in the national and provincial assemblies, dealing a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition and potentially making the PTI single largest party in both houses of Parliament.

The Supreme Court had also declared the PTI a parliamentary party. The ECP held a crucial meeting a day ago to discuss the verdict but had failed to reach a decision, with one official suggesting that the commission may need to seek further directions from the top court amid a lack of clarity.

A senior ECP official had told Dawn that the notifications of 39 PTI MNAs who mentioned their affiliation with the party had no problem.

However, the documents of 41 other MNAs need detailed scrutiny.

He said that under the judgement, 41 independents would now have to file duly signed and notarised statements before the ECP within 15 days, explaining that they contested the February 8 general elections as a candidate of a particular political party.

Government and TLP reach agreement to end Faizabad sit-in

NEWS DESK: The Federal Government announced on Friday that its negotiations with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) had been successful, bringing an end to the Faizabad sit-in.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, announced this during a press conference held alongside TLP leaders. On Saturday, TLP staged a sit-in at Faizabad Interchange, calling on the government to provide food and medical aid to Palestinians and to label Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a terrorist.

The protest began with a rally led by Hafiz Saad Rizvi at Liaquat Bagh. Following the rally, which was marked by participants waving TLP and Palestinian flags, the group marched to Faizabad.

Upon arrival, TLP leaders declared their intention to continue the sit-in indefinitely. The rally attracted participants from various areas of Rawalpindi Division.

During the conference today, Sanaullah said, "Tehreek-e-Labbaik is protesting against the oppression of Palestinian Muslims."

He added that Hafiz Saad Rizvi had "demands for aid to Palestinians and condemnation of Israel's actions."

Bomb Blast in Turbat, Balochistan: 1 Dead, 7 Injured

News Desk:

Turbat: In a tragic incident earlier today, a bomb blast targeted a vehicle carrying security personnel in the Turbat district of Balochistan, Pakistan.

The explosion resulted in the death of one security officer, while seven others sustained injuries. The injured were promptly evacuated to DHQ Hospital Turbat for urgent medical treatment.

Following the attack, a substantial contingent of Frontier Corps (FC) swifly arrived at the scene.

Security forces immediately commenced a thorough search operation in the area to apprehend those responsible for the heinous

act.

In another distressing development this morning, reports indicate that an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) targeted a vehicle belonging to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Pishin district of Balochistan.

Fortunately, there were no immediate reports of casualties from this incident.

Authorities are actively investigating both incidents as the region remains on high alert.

The attacks underscore ongoing security challenges in Balochistan, where militant activities continue to pose a significant threat to stability.

Urgent Call for Preparedness as Monsoon Threatens Balochistan

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SC not to hear PML-N review plea in reserved seats case for now

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Heavy rains, stormy winds bring relief to Sindh

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3 Million Out-of-School Children: Urgent Action Needed for Balochistan's Education Crisis

Editor: Asim Khan

Editorial:

The education system in Balochistan is facing an unprecedented crisis, with over 3 million children currently out of school. This alarming statistic, disclosed by Raheela Hameed Khan Durran at the recent launch of the National Achievement Test (NAT) by the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE), underscores the urgent need for immediate and effective remedial measures. This revelation comes amid a national crisis, as Pakistan holds the dubious distinction of having the highest number of out-of-school children globally, exceeding 26 million.

In Balochistan, an education emergency has been declared, reflecting the broader national problem. Despite the constitutional guarantee of free and compulsory education for children aged 5 to 16 under Article 25-A, the reality on the ground remains bleak. Durran emphasized that the staggering number of out-of-school children represents the biggest challenge for the current government in Balochistan. While the government has committed to ensuring maximum enrollment, Durran's frustration over the lack of action on proposed solutions, such as solarizing government-run schools to protect children from extreme weather conditions, is palpable. These crucial recommendations, aimed at creating a more conducive learning environment, have yet to receive cabinet approval.

The situation is even more dire for girls in Balochistan, with increasing dropout rates described as "alarming." In an effort to combat this trend, the government plans to provide transportation facilities to girls, thereby reducing dropouts and improving access to education. This initiative is commendable, but it must be implemented without delay to make a tangible impact.

The 2023 NAT survey results for Balochistan further highlight the severity of the situation. Foundational skills in mathematics and science are low, while eighth graders scored 31 percent. Scores in English and Urdu were slightly better, with averages above 50 percent, consistent with national figures. These dismal scores reflect the urgent need for comprehensive educational reforms and effective intervention strategies.

Dr. Shahid Soroya, Director General of PIE, rightly emphasized the importance of collaboration with the Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission (BAEC) and the School Education Department, Government of Balochistan (SEC). Effective partnerships and concerted efforts are indeed crucial to addressing the educational challenges in the province. However, these partnerships must translate into concrete actions and tangible results.

The situation in Balochistan calls for immediate and comprehensive action. With over 3 million out of school and the highest national dropout rate, the crisis is undeniable. The government's commitment to education must be more than rhetoric; it must be translated into concrete actions to ensure that all children in Balochistan receive the education they deserve.

We urge all stakeholders—government officials, non-governmental organizations, and the international community—to join hands in addressing this critical issue. The future of Balochistan's children hangs in the balance, and the time to act is now. Delaying action or allowing bureaucratic inertia to hinder progress is not an option. The stakes are too high, and the consequences of inaction too severe. Let us come together to create a brighter, more educated future for Balochistan before it is too late.

Strategic games

BY Asim Sajjad Akhtar:

It is August 2021. Pakistani spymasters, pro-establishment ideologues and then prime minister Imran Khan unanimously celebrate the re-conquest of Afghanistan by the Taliban. The age-old pursuit of a 'friendly government' in Kabul has been achieved.

Fast forward three years. The shadowy entity which goes by the name of the TTP is again present in Pakhtun tribal districts like Waziristan. The same TTP and its affiliates plant and perpetrate attacks in settled districts like Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan, in the former case directly targeting the army cantonment.

Many innocents perish, as Islamabad issues 'reclamation' operations against the 'Tribal areas' which we can government' in Kabul. The security establish-

ment warns it will respond with indiscriminate military operations against 'terrorist' delinquents, while then prime minister Imran Khan unanimously celebrate the re-conquest of Afghanistan by the Taliban. The age-old pursuit of a 'friendly government' in Kabul has been achieved.

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If the people of KP and Balochistan are again paying the price of the 'war on terror' operations of grandeur, they, along with millions of ordinary Afghans, are also set up to be guinea pigs in a fresh wave of geopolitical sparring involving many regional and global actors. Recall that, under the terms of the so-called Doha peace deal inked in February 2020, the US willingly handed Afghanistan back to the Taliban. Domestic political considerations meant that the Pentagon could no longer justify extending what was already the longest war in US history. So, Washington decided to pursue its interests in Afghanistan and the wider region through other, familiar, means.

Even without troops on the ground, the US will resist China's growing influence over the Taliban government.

Byed Ali Shah:

Balochistan braces for the monsoon season, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has declared a high alert in 17 districts, emphasizing the urgent need for robust emergency preparedness and swift action.

The region, historically vulnerable to climate-induced disasters, faces imminent threats from heavy rains and potential flooding.

This situation demands immediate attention from policymakers to mitigate the risks and safeguard the lives and properties of Balochistan's residents.

A Pattern of Neglect and Unpreparedness

Balochistan's struggle with natural calamities is not new. The devastating floods of two years ago, which resulted in significant loss of life and property,

BY Faisal Bari:

Last semester, an acquaintance taught, as adjunct faculty, a course at a very well-known and established university in the private sector. The 'per hour' payment that he was given a contract for was quite low. More surprisingly, he mentioned that he was not paid anything during the entire semester; the accounts office told him that he would be paid after the end of the semester (more than three months), when he had submitted all the grades and other paperwork.

When he went to the office after he had submitted the grades, he was told by one of the clerks that he would certainly get the full payment. However, the clerk would not tell him when the payment would be made. The clerk mentioned that adjuncts from the previous semester had not been paid yet, and was of the opinion that it could be a few months or even longer before payment was made.

This took place at a top university in the country. Clearly, being adjunct faculty is not a good career option, even if payment had been made on time — the gentleman was teaching a number of courses and he would have had trouble maintaining a

Urgent Call for Preparedness as Monsoon Threatens Balochistan

have been instructed to compile lists of safe evacuation locations, and local NGOs are on standby to assist. These measures are crucial, but they must be part of a larger, sustainable strategy to enhance resilience against natural disasters.

The Role of Policymakers

Policymakers must recognize the urgent need for long-term solutions to mitigate the impacts of monsoon-related disasters. This includes investing in robust infrastructure, such as improved drainage systems, flood barriers, and resilient housing.

Furthermore, it is essential to implement comprehensive land use planning and zoning regulations to prevent construction in flood-prone areas.

Education and community engagement are equally important. Deputy Commissioners

formed about the risks and equipped with the knowledge to respond effectively during emergencies. Regular drills and awareness campaigns can empower communities, making them active participants in their own safety.

Addressing Climate Change

The root cause of these increasing natural disasters lies in climate change and global warming. Balochistan, like many other regions, is bearing the brunt of these global phenomena.

It is imperative for policymakers to advocate for and implement policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable practices. This includes transitioning to renewable energy sources, protecting natural habitats, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

A Call to Action

The current high

alert in Balochistan should serve as an eye-opener for policymakers at both the provincial and national levels. It is a call to action to prioritize the safety and well-being of the people over short-term economic gains. The cost of inaction is too high, as evidenced by past disasters. By investing in preparedness, infrastructure, and sustainable practices, we can build a resilient Balochistan capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change.

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A Call to Action

The current high

Bottom of the pile

BY Faisal Bari:

decent standard of living. While the government has not gone up, despite unprecedented inflation for multiple years now, the increase in the number of universities, and the restrictions on raising tuition fee faced by public sector universities. Is it a surprise that higher education in Pakistan is in trouble?

There is a post-doctoring the rounds on social media that Pakistan has one of the lowest-ranked higher education systems. India and China are way ahead, of course. True or not (the post does not seem to be based on a news item that is a few years old), going by how frequently the post is shared, it is not unbelievable for most of us that Pakistan might indeed have one of the lowest-ranked higher education systems. And why would this be unbelievable?

At a recent conference on higher education in Islamabad, Dr Tariq Baqar, former chairman of the Higher Education Commission, said it has been mentioned that Pakistan has 260-ed universities now. In fact, we only have 10 to 15 universities in the country level, to be set up are called universities but are, at best, teaching colleges. Most are not even that. He also mentioned that while he was HEC chairperson, the

Commission had conducted interviews/tests of several new PhD graduates to try and figure out issues with the placement of those with this degree in Pakistani universities. They were surprised by how poorly prepared as scholars most of them were. At the time, mentioned by Dr Banuri, was that a lot of PhD graduates could not mention even a single book they had read in the months before they had come for their interview!

It is just a fact that given our faculty resources, we have too many universities in the country and far too many departments and programmes in each university, especially at the Master's and doctoral levels. If an independent body were to do fair and honest audits of universities and university programmes across Pakistan, I am sure one strong recommendation would be to close down a lot of programmes, especially at the Master's High-quality undergraduate education at scale is what is needed in Pakistan.

Top universities, whether they are 10 or 15, as Dr Banuri said, or a few more, should be encouraged to focus on research and doctoral programmes, but the number of research-intensive universities cannot be much larger.

for more resources for higher education, for improving quality, and ensuring some equity in access for those who cannot afford to pay for higher education, but these resources should not be for funding further expansion, or even for funding poor quality Master's and doctoral programmes.

There should be a very thorough audit of existing Master's and doctoral programmes and not a whole lot of postgraduate programmes, of which we have far too many, should be shut down. This will be painful but it will be less painful to shut them down than to allow them to continue to destroy the future of young people by giving them a poor education.

Instead of Master's and doctoral programmes, most universities should be encouraged/ incentivised to improve the quality of teaching in their undergraduate programmes, especially at the Master's High-quality undergraduate education at scale is what is needed in Pakistan.

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BY Ali Tanzeer Sheikh:

The merciless monsoon rains and floods in India are an indicator, Pakistan can anticipate heavy rains and flooding in several parts of the country. Hardly have we recuperated from heatwaves, landslides and glacial disasters that we face more dark clouds on the horizon. How can we plan anticipatory actions to protect ourselves, and our communities and their assets, not forgetting our schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure?

Planning for humanitarian provisions such as water, food, medicine, and shelter is crucial, but this is essentially post-disaster action. In climate change parlance, anticipatory actions have begun to assume a new meaning, which requires a chain of preparatory measures well ahead of the anticipated disaster. This to reduce human suffering and the cost to the economy and ecosystems.

tions refer to prearranged funds and actions to mitigate the impact of predictable risks before they fully unfold. It is based on five pillars: i) linking weather forecasts to trigger mechanisms that release prearranged financing, ii) pre-arranged funds made available to immediately initiate time-critical activities, iii) reviewing laws and policies for their consistency and coordination mechanisms, and iv) developing documentation on learning and evidence from each instance.

In the present state of climate governance, the last may sound overly academic. But its urgency cannot be contested. Had we drawn any lessons from the 2010 floods, according to Gen Nadeem Ahmed, who was then heading the NDMA and coordinating the government's flood response, the cost of the 2022 floods would have been halved. Since we have seen no formal

Anticipatory actions

government budgets can help institutionalise and sustain national and international financing.

Several UN agencies, including OCHA, WFP, EAO, and others are implementing anticipatory approaches by developing toolkits and other materials. Anticipatory actions are being tested predominantly for natural hazards, reportedly in 60 countries, in partnership with the local stakeholders. The key sectors that are benefiting include disaster risk reduction, agriculture, food security, and social protection systems.

Since managing local disasters is, for the most part, a provincial subject under the Constitution, the provincial governments are best placed to undertake their own anticipatory actions tailored to suit local realities. Triggered by early warning systems, anticipatory interventions can protect livelihoods and food security before shocks such as droughts, floods, or heatwaves occur. Embedding anticipatory actions into national disaster risk management frameworks and social protection programmes and

timing and magnitude of those future events are uncertain. This is in contrast to the reactive investments that we have habitually made after each disaster.

Social protection systems are presently undergoing fundamental changes. Governments are integrating forecast-based triggers and pre-arranged financing. Anticipatory actions are being integrated into existing social protection systems in two main ways: i) by leveraging elements of the social protection architecture. This involves using existing assets and social safety mechanisms for cash transfers, in-kind support, or early warning systems in the event of a predicted shock; ii) by integrating the core components into social protection systems. This includes embedding forecast triggers, pre-defined financing for social protection programmes to scale-up their response to impact of future shocks, even if the exact

far, explicitly tested anticipatory allocations through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), but there are efforts underway to see if the present cash transfers can become an adaptive social protection programme. If that is the case, governments can make social protection more adaptive to climate shocks. Going forward, it can help the district disaster management authorities or local government institutions, where they exist, in i) disseminating early warning messages, ii) evacuating people, livestock, and assets; iii) reinforcing housing, schools, and other infrastructure at evacuation sites, and iv) supporting unconditional cash assistance to vulnerable households. Despite the challenges, there exist capacities in Pakistan that can be utilised. By acting in partnership with the Nadra as BISP datasets, it is possible to provide faster, predictable, coordinated, and cost-effective assistance ahead of fore-

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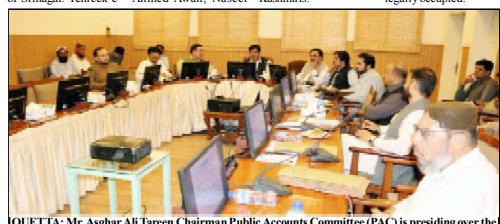
Pakistan Accession Day rallies organized in Muzaffarabad

MUZAFFARABAD Tehreek-e-Shabab-ul-Muslimeen and Pashu-e-Hurriyat organized rallies in Muzaffarabad, today, on the occasion of 'Accession to Pakistan Day' in which hundreds of citizens participated.

On 19th July in 1947, genuine representatives of the Kashmiris unanimously passed the resolution of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Aabi Guzar area of Srinagar. Tehreek-e-

Shabab-ul-Muslimeen took out a rally from Uper Adda, Lal Chowk. All Parties Infiltration Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter information Secretary and Vice Chairman of Tehreek-e-Shabab-ul-Muslimeen Mushtaq Ahmad Butt and Hurriyat leader Syed Gulshan led the rally. President Al-Shifa Muhajir Camp Abdul Hameed Lone, President of Muhajir Camp, Zero Point, Chaudhry Shah Wali, Lal Deen Durrani, Muhammad Younis Mir, Dr Younis Mir, Sardar Khurshid Awan, Riaz Ahmed Awan, Naseer

They said today the third generation of Kashmiris are as determined as their forefathers to achieve their right to self-determination. Even today occupied Jammu and Kashmir is going through its darkest period and dozens of Kashmiris are being martyred every day and the fascist regime of BJP and RSS is settling thousands of Hindu citizens in the occupied territory. They deplored under the guise of new domestic laws, Kashmiris are being deprived of their employment and jobs and their land is being illegally occupied.



QUETTA: Mr. Ashgar Ali Tareen Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is presiding over the introductory meeting.

Trump vows to end wars, restore US power if elected again

MILWAUKEE (INP): Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump promised Thursday to bring an end to raging international crises and restore American prestige on the world stage, saying he could 'stop wars with a telephone call'.

'I will end every single international crisis that the world has seen from the Middle East, a growing specter of conflicts hangs over Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines and all of Asia,' he said. He vowed to change all that if he is elected to a second term in the White House.

'I get along with him, he'd like to see me back too. I think he misses me, if you want to know,' Trump said. Donald Trump predicted an 'incredible victory' Thursday in accepting the Republican presidential nomination from a party euphoric over his escape from assassination and buoyed by the apparent implosion of Joe Biden's reelection campaign.

The 78-year-old former president commended the stage for more than 90 minutes -- well above average by convention standards -- as he offered a deeply personal account of his near-death experience before pivoting to grievances against the Democratic Party's handling of the economy, immigration and other issues. 'We will have an incredible victory, and we will begin the four greatest years in the history of our country.'

Bangladesh TV off air, communications widely disrupted as protests spike

DHAKA (INP): Television news channels in Bangladesh were off the air and telecommunications were widely disrupted on Friday amid student protests against quotas for government jobs, in which nearly two dozen people have been killed this week.

and could not immediately verify the higher number. India's Economic Times newspaper reported that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government 'was forced' to call in the army late on Thursday to help 'maintain order'. Reuters could not independently verify the information.

Telephone calls from overseas were mostly not getting connected and calls through the internet could not be completed. Web sites of several Bangladesh-based newspapers were not updating on Friday morning and their social media handles were also not active. Only some voice calls were working in the country and there was no mobile data or broadband on Friday morning, a Reuters photographer in Dhaka said. Even SMSes of mobile-to-mobile text messages were not going through, he added.

News television channels and state broadcaster BTV were off the air while entertainment channels continued normal transmission, a Reuters witness said. Some news channels displayed a message which said they were unable to broadcast due to technical reasons and that programming would be back soon, the witness said. Streets in the capital Dhaka were deserted on Friday, which is a weekly holiday in the country. There was little traffic and very few rickshaw pullers on the streets and thin crowds near a vegetable and fish market, he said, adding that a protest rally had been called at the main mosque at around 0800 GMT. The nationwide agitation, the biggest since Hasina was re-elected earlier this year, has been fuelled by high youth unemployment.



LORALAI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti is being greeted on his arrival at the Commissioner's Office Loralai.

Coordination cornerstone in global health emergencies: Pakistani UN diplomat

BEIJING (INP): Coordination is cornerstone in facing global health emergencies, like COVID-19 epidemic, said Pakistani UN diplomat Shamsah Akhtar. She was speaking at the 3rd Conference of Global Health Forum for Asia, according to a report carried by China Economic Daily.

Another participant of the 3rd Conference of Global Health Forum for Asia, according to a report carried by China Economic Daily, has ruthlessly exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. 'The relevant departments must provide a large amount of funding to fight against COVID-19 epidemic, as well as the 3rd Conference for partner countries and international organizations, all of which are extremely vital. Asked what can humans learn from viruses?' She replied at first.

While world leaders are more focused on 'national or regional interests', Yuen said a rapidly changing climate posed 'with emerging infectious diseases should be a top priority. 'This is something so important that we should not ignore.'

Gao's view, added that global medical institutions are in urgent need of reform, during which multilateralism should be the crux. Not only governments and national institutions, but also small and medium-sized enterprises should actively participate in the process, in which data sharing is critical. In addition, she mentioned global financing as a foundation. 'I worked at the World Bank for a long time, so I feel deeply about this point. In layman's terms, what could be done without money?' Akhtar talked about Pakistan's experience, noting that relevant departments of Pakistan tried their best to provide a large amount of funding to fight against COVID-19 epidemic, as well as received financial support from partner countries and international organizations, all of which are extremely vital.

Hong Kong's Dr Fauci sounds alarm on next pandemic

HONG KONG (INP): Hong Kong microbiologist Yuen Kwok-yang has done battle with some of the world's worst threats, including the SARS virus he helped isolate and identify. And he has a warning.

Another pandemic is inevitable and could exact damage far worse than Covid-19, according to the soft-spoken scientist's warning. He is the author of a book 'The Next Pandemic' and a leading expert on infectious diseases, but he came from humble beginnings.

Both the public and government must admit that another pandemic will come, and probably sooner than you anticipate, he told media at the city's Queen Mary Hospital, where he works and teaches. 'Why I make such a horrifying prediction is because you can see clearly that the geopolitical, economic, and climatic changes are changing so rapidly,' he said.

While world leaders are more focused on 'national or regional interests', Yuen said a rapidly changing climate posed 'with emerging infectious diseases should be a top priority. 'This is something so important that we should not ignore.'

DATE EXTENSION IN DEADLINE FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT SHAHEED AYOUB BULIDIN HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, BULEDA KECH. In continuation of advertisements bearing PRQ No. 12075-07-2024 and 13365-07-2024 regarding an opportunity of Principal Teachers and Support Staff of Shaheed Ayoob Bulidin Higher and Secondary School (SHAHS) Buleda District. Kech published in newspapers dated 07/07/2024, the last date for submission of application forms against the aforesaid positions is hereby extended upto 25/07/2024 with same terms and conditions. The eligible candidates can submit applications forms to the Commissioner Makran Office at Turbat and District Education Office Kech, Turbat till the extended deadline.

PUBLIC NOTICE. The undersigned, being the authorized signatory of the Government of Sindh, hereby certifies that the following information is true and correct as per the records maintained by the Government of Sindh. On the above application the Government of Sindh has approved the following information: 1. Name of the applicant: Mr. Muhammad Ali Khan. 2. Address: No. 123, Main Street, Karachi. 3. Date of birth: 15/05/1980. 4. Nationality: Pakistani. 5. Marital status: Married. 6. Education: B.A. (Hons) in Economics. 7. Occupation: Government Employee. 8. Date of issue: 15/07/2024. 9. Validity: 14 days after publication of this notice.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Assistant Director Local Government & Rural Dev. Dept. Fish is pleased to invite sealed percentage-based bids as per the rates by BCSR-2023 (amended up-to-date) from interested firms/individuals/contractors having valid registration with P.C.D. Income Tax/GST and BNA for the following works under the PWD-2023 where the time for submission of bids is 30th of June, 2024 which is subject to availability of funds. The Bid security in the form of Call Deposit for unimplemented works is 05% of estimated cost.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS/ADPS PUPPH DISTRICT OFFICE. The tender published in Electronic Media (EPMA) Website and Printed Media (Daily/NewsPaper) vide PRQ No. 5904-07-2024 for work 'REMAINING WORK WITH REVISED LENGTH FOR WIDENING Lamp RECONSTRUCTION OF BLAKA TOL-ROAD-BRIDGES AND STRUCTURE WORK NAUTAL GANDAWAH JHAL MAGSI (LENGTH 102 KM) DISTRICT JHAL MAGSI PSPD NO.06/2023-2024 (2023 (996) - TSE-24057482113) which opening date was fixed on 28th July-2024 is hereby cancelled due to some unavoidable circumstances. Technical documents, the next calling tender will be informed later on via print and electronic media.

Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi's acquittal in Iddat case challenged in IHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The acquittal of the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Iddat case has been challenged in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Khawar Farid Maneka, the ex-husband of Bushra Bibi filed an appeal against the acquittal in the Iddat case in the IHC on Friday.

In his appeal, Khawar Farid Maneka has requested the court annul the acquittal decision, asserting that it cannot be upheld.

Khawar Farid Maneka named the federal government, the founder of PTI Imran Khan, and Bushra Bibi as respondents in his appeal.

On July 13, the District and Sessions Court in Islamabad overturned the conviction of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Iddat case.

Pronouncing his reserved decision, Additional Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majeed acquitted the former prime minister and the former first lady in the Iddat case, setting aside their seven-year each sentences.

The court, in its verdict, remarked that Imran Khan and his wife should be immediately released if they are not wanted in any other case.

Both petitions seeking the

formation of a medical board and consultations with religious scholars are hereby rejected," the verdict stated.

According to the 28-page written verdict, Khawar Maneka, as his lawyer said, was deprived of his right to conciliation, but during cross-examination, Maneka himself admitted that he received the Nikah news the very next day but did not think of filing a complaint six years ago.

The judge declared that Khawar Maneka had failed to prove his allegation that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi solemnised their Nikah during the Iddat period.



Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Moinul Haque in a meeting with Sri Lanka High Commission Admiral (R) Ravindra Chandrasiri Wijegunaratne in Islamabad on July 19, 2024.

SC not to hear PML-N review plea in reserved seats case for now

ISLAMABAD (INP): A three-judge committee of the Supreme Court, formed under the SC Practice and Procedure Act 2023, has decided by majority vote not to schedule the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) review petition against the court's decision in the reserved seats case immediately, reported a private TV channel quoting sources.

The sources indicate that the committee, consisting of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, senior puisne judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, and Justice Muneer Akhtar, has deferred the proposal to fix the PML-N's petition against the July 12 short order in the reserved seats case.

Instead, the committee consisting of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, senior puisne judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muneer Akhtar suggested fixing the review petition after a period of two months, following the court's annual vacations.

This committee was formed under the said Act to decide which bench would hear a review case. The PML-N's review petition was presented before the judges' committee after being allocated a number. The committee suggested that the review petition be scheduled after two months, following the

court's annual vacations. The sources further reveal that two members of the judges' committee opined that the review petition should be heard by the same 13-judge full court bench that decided the matter initially. The unavailability of Justice Shah and Justice Akhtar during the summer vacations was also cited as a reason for deferring the scheduling of the petition.

On July 15, the PML-N filed a review petition in the Supreme Court challenging the decision made on July 12 regarding the allocation of reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

In their petition, the PML-N has also requested the issuance of a stay order on the July 12 decision until a final ruling is made on the case. The review petition argues that the Supreme Court should reconsider and withdraw the decision, asserting that the allotment of reserved seats to the PTI requires thorough review. The PML-N petition contended that the PTI had not formally requested these reserved seats, and the matter was only brought forward as a suggestion. Additionally, the petition highlights that the Sunni Ittehad Council and the PTI were distinct political entities. It further states that independent candidates had already joined

the Sunni Ittehad Council. The petition underscores that the members in question, who were declared to be part of the PTI, had identified themselves as independents in official documents. On July 12, the Supreme Court set aside the Peshawar High Court and election commission verdicts and declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible for reserved seats in the case of the Sunni Ittehad Council. The 8-5 majority verdict was announced by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, who headed a 13-member full court of the Supreme Court. The proceedings were broadcast live. All the judges recognized the PTI as a legal and competent party. The Supreme Court declared that the deprivation of an election symbol did not terminate the right of a party to participate in elections. The PTI was and is a political party. The election commission submitted the data of 80 candidates to the Supreme Court. It further said that the 39 candidates whose affiliation was shown with the PTI will remain the successful candidates of the PTI. The remaining 41 candidates can also submit their affidavits within 15 days that they were candidates of the same party. The PTI has been ordered to submit its list for reserved seats within 15 days.

APHC reiterates commitment to July 19, 1947 resolution, pledges to continue struggle

SRINAGAR, July 19 (INP): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders and organizations have highlighted the historic significance of July 19, 1947, when the Kashmir leadership unanimously resolved to accede to Pakistan, predating the partition of the Indian sub-continent. According to Kashmir Media Service, this decision was made during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Srinagar. The resolution affirmed the Kashmiris' unwavering desire

to join Pakistan. APHC leaders and organizations, including jailed Hurriyat leaders Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani and Fayaz Hussain Jafri, advocate for the historic July 19, 1947, resolution. They stated that the people of Kashmir are engaged in a just struggle to secure their right to self-determination. They asserted that India has forcibly occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the will of the Kashmiri people. However, they believe that one day India will have to vacate the territory, as the unwavering sacrifices and steadfast resolve of the Kashmiris will ultimately prevail in their noble cause.

The leaders praised the future generations of the Kashmiri leadership in linking their witness

to join Pakistan. They emphasized that this decision set a clear direction for the Kashmiri movement, unequivocally rejecting India as an option.

They stated that the people of Kashmir are engaged in a just struggle to secure their right to self-determination. They asserted that India has forcibly occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the will of the Kashmiri people. However, they believe that one day India will have to vacate the territory, as the unwavering sacrifices and steadfast resolve of the Kashmiris will ultimately prevail in their noble cause.



ISLAMABAD: A Group of business leaders and professionals from Sindh called on Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on July 18, 2024 to appraise him of what they are doing in the UAE to promote economic activity, friendship and cultural heritage of Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Abu Dhabi Ports Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI's Shibli Faraz opposes appointment of ad hoc judges in letter to CJP Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stalwart and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Shibli Faraz has written a letter to the Chairman of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) and Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, urging the JCP to reject the proposal for appointing ad hoc judges.

Senator Shibli Faraz expressed concerns in his letter that the appointment of ad hoc judges gives the impression that the judiciary is being influenced for the benefit of a particular party.

Senator Shibli Faraz emphasized that the appointment of ad hoc judges should not create the perception of balancing opinions against a specific party within the judiciary.

The opposition leader in the Senate argued that pending cases cannot justify the ap-

pointment of ad hoc judges after the appointment of permanent judges.

He noted that the proposal for ad hoc judges came on the same day the Supreme Court ruled in favour of PTI with a 5-8 decision and that no transparent procedure was followed for the selection of ad hoc judges.

He added that the proposed ad hoc judge, retired Justice Maqbool Baqar, held significant positions in the caretaker government while retired Justice Tariq Masood prolonged the military custody case of 100 PTI supporters, and retired Justice Mazhar Miankhal made remarks about invoking Article 6 against PTI leaders.

Shibli Faraz highlighted that critical cases such as the civilian military trial, the February 8 election case, and the

recent ban on PTI are pending in the Supreme Court.

The senator mentioned that since the Al-Jehad Trust case, no ad hoc judge has been appointed for three years. He stressed that the appointment of retired judges in such a situation raises serious and legitimate concerns.

He stated that during the short tenure of the current Chief Justice, there has been no significant reduction in pending cases, so the matter of pending judges should be left to the incoming Chief Justice.

PTI leader Shibli Faraz asserted that the people of Pakistan are stakeholders in an independent and unencumbered judiciary, and he represents the public, the Pakistan Bar Council, and several other bar councils. He said the appointment of ad hoc judges gives the impression of interference in the judiciary.

Heavy rains, stormy winds bring relief to Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Several cities in Sindh, including Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, and Kotri, experienced heavy rains accompanied by stormy winds.

bringing much-needed relief from the oppressive heatwave.

The weather turned pleasant as cold winds swept through the region.

In Karachi, the weather remained hot today. However, the restoration of sea breezes provided some respite, lowering temperatures slightly.

Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz reported that the low-pressure area in the sea has weakened, and sea breezes are expected to be fully restored by tomorrow.

Light rain is anticipated in the city's suburbs today, with potential drizzle or light rain tomorrow. In Hyderabad, the intense thunder of clouds was followed by heavy rain and strong winds. The downpour led to the shutdown of several HESCO feeders due to the powerful gusts.

Nearby areas such as Tando Allahyar and Kotri also saw heavy rains and dust storms, breaking the heat and humidity and resulting in a more comfortable climate.

The Jamsoro area faced heavy rains with stormy winds, while Sehwan and Kandiaro enjoyed rain with cool winds, drastically improving the weather conditions. The cool breeze brought

a significant drop in temperature, making the weather more pleasant for residents.

In Tando Allahyar, the heavy following a mud storm significantly improved the weather, although it caused a temporary suspension of electricity supply.

Similar conditions were observed in Hala and its surroundings, where rain and a subsequent power outage were reported.

Thari Mirwah, Jhudo, Naukot, and Tando Jan Muhammad also experienced rainfall, making the weather more enjoyable. In Kandiaro, a wind and dust storm broke the intense heat and humidity, bringing in cold winds and a refreshing change.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Araf Bajwa, President & CEO of Bank Alfalah and Mr. Yahya Khan, Group Head of Digital Banking, meet with Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), at the BISP headquarters.

PSX drops below 81,000 amid increased selling pressure

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) experienced a significant downturn on the last business day of the week, driven by increased selling pressure as investors moved to take profits.

This decline caused the PSX to fall below the critical 81,000 points threshold.

Despite starting the day with a strong position, the PSX's KSE-100 Index plummeted by more than 1,200 points, and reached 80,629 points around noon. This marks a sharp decline from the pre-

vious level of 81,373 points at the start of trading on Friday, indicating a loss of 466 points overall.

Market analysts attributed the bearish trend to technical corrections and rollovers, which have added to the selling pressure.

Stockbrokers noted that investors were keen on securing profits after a period of gains, leading to the increased sell-off.

Just a day ago, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) had reached an unprecedented milestone, with the market

crossing the 81,500-point mark for the first time in its history.

The bullish trend showed a remarkable increase, propelling the KSE-100 Index up by 600 points to a new high of 81,700 points.

At the start of the trading day after a two-day break, the stock market exhibited a strong bullish trend. This upward momentum saw the stock market initially crossing the 81,500-point level, an all-time high for the PSX. The KSE-100 Index increased by 380 points at the start of trading, reaching 81,525 points.