

QUETTA VOICE

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Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti offering fateha for the departed soul of DC Panjgur, Zakir Baloch: Photo provided by DGPR

IHC judge asks how govt will bring foreign investment in country amidst enforced disappearances

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb on Thursday questioned how the government was planning to attract foreign investment amid the continuing phenomenon of missing persons in the country.

The judge issued the remarks during a hearing related to the recovery of missing PTI worker Malik Faizan.

Two days ago, the IHC had also summoned the interior and defence secretaries, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) director general, and the Islamabad inspector general of police (IG) on a petition seeking the recovery of PTI activist Azhar Mishwani's two brothers, Zahoor and Mazhar, who were allegedly picked up by law enforcement agencies in June, with Lahore High Court's (LHC) Justice Syed Shahbaz Ali Rizvi ordering the Punjab IG to recover the two brothers.

The PTI has also launched a campaign on social media for the recovery of "abducted" workers and activists, including the party's international media coordinator Ahmad Waqas Janjua. The campaign aims to draw the attention of the courts to the disappearances.

Justice Aurangzeb heard the petition for Faizan's recovery today.

"The world is also watching what Pakistani courts are doing in cases of missing persons," Justice Aurangzeb said. "Or either admit that the world come and invests here but people will still go missing and the courts will not be able to do anything."

He continued, "If the government calls it a case of enforced disappearance, then they need to find out who ordered it. The government then needs to sit down with the abductors."

When the judge asked who the missing workers were, the petitioner's lawyer mentioned Faizan, who works for the PTI's media cell.

Addressing the additional attorney general, Justice Aurangzeb — in a harsh tone — suggested that he "change the Constitution, remove fundamental rights from it, and our (the court's) jurisdiction".

"I don't know what the state wants to achieve with this, but I don't understand what is going on. What do you aim to achieve with this?" Justice Aurangzeb asked.

"The Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, and the state are all content with this, but I don't understand what is going on. What do you aim to achieve with this?" Justice Aurangzeb asked.

Outlawed Militant Organization Behind Martyrdom of DC Panjgur, Says CM Bugti

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has strongly condemned the recent attack in Mastung, which led to the martyrdom of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur and the injury of District Council Chairman Malik Baloch. During a press conference at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Bugti stated that an outlawed Baloch separatist group was responsible for the attack, citing intelligence reports and evidence linking the organization to the incident.

"The nature of this attack is consistent with previous operations," Bugti remarked, challenging the perpetrators' claim to Baloch traditions. "In Baloch traditions, when do they murder their own Baloch brothers on the streets?" he questioned, describing the at-

tack as part of a larger conspiracy against the state. Bugti disclosed that the provincial government had reached three agreements with the Baloch Yekjehti Committee (BYC), all of which were violated by the group. "Protesting within the constitutional framework is acceptable," Bugti noted, while also making it clear that the government would not allow any actions that threaten state sovereignty. Addressing other matters, Chief Minister Bugti announced key reforms in the health and education sectors. He mentioned that all new appointments in these departments would be on a contract basis, aiming to reduce corruption and inefficiency. Bugti also confirmed ongoing investigations into allegations of bribery in the

teacher recruitment process at Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University. "Senior officials will thoroughly scrutinize the matter to ensure fairness and transparency," he assured. The Chief Minister also spoke on the security situation at the Pak-Afghan border in Chaman, declaring that the passport regime would be strictly enforced. He added that the provincial government would cover the cost of passports for Chaman residents, making it easier for them to cross the border legally. These remarks from the Chief Minister come at a time of increased tension and continued efforts to stabilize the province, reflecting the government's determination to uphold order and improve governance in Balochistan.



Nawaz Sharif calls high electricity bills 'unbearable' for public, vows relief

NEWS DES: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-NN) President Nawaz Sharif has termed the rising electricity bills as "unbearable" for the public, stressing the need for immediate relief.

In a crucial consultative meeting held at the party secretariat in Lahore's Model Town on Thursday, Nawaz Sharif chaired discussions that included Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other senior PML-N leaders. The focus of the meeting was on providing relief to the public amid soaring inflation, particularly the high cost of elec-

tricity. "These expensive electricity bills are intolerable for the people," Nawaz Sharif stated during the meeting. He blamed the PTI government for the economic devastation that led to inflation and skyrocketing bills, adding, "Despite the challenges, people expect relief from us."

Nawaz Sharif acknowledged that the current situation is a test of the party's abilities. "It is a testament to your patriotism that you made political sacrifices to save the country from default and bring back economic stability," he said.

He emphasized that just as the party saved the country from default, it now faces the challenge of protecting the people from financial ruin. "The PML-N has always found a way through difficulties," he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz briefed the party president on the national economic agenda, highlighting that a comprehensive plan has been developed to address the country's issues. He informed that a three-month relief package has been introduced for electricity consumers using up to 200 units, covering both protected and non-protected categories.

Hoshab College Renamed After Shaheed Zakir Baloch

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: In a significant tribute to the sacrifices made by public servants, the Government Boys College Hoshab has been renamed after Shaheed Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch. The announcement was made by the Balochistan government spokesperson, Sifaid Rind, following the approval of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

A Fitting Tribute to a Dedicated Officer
Shaheed Zakir Baloch, a young and talented officer known for his dedication to education, was martyred while on duty. In recognition of his service and the ultimate sacrifice he made, the Higher Education Department has officially issued a notification to rename the college in his honor.

Recognition from the Highest Level

Further elevating the honor, President Asif Ali Zardari has announced that Shaheed Zakir Baloch will be awarded the highest civilian honor posthumously. This recognition underscores the profound impact of his work and the loss felt across the province.

Honoring the Sacrifices of Martyrs

Spokesperson Sifaid Rind emphasized the government's commitment to remembering the sacrifices of martyrs like Zakir Baloch. "We will never forget the sacrifices of our martyrs," Rind stated, paying tribute to the officer's legacy and highlighting his passion for education.



Three more officers held in Gen Faiz Hameed's court martial case

ISLAMABAD: In connection with the ongoing court martial proceedings of former spymaster Lt-Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed, three more retired officers were taken into custody for their actions "prejudicial to military discipline," the military's media wing disclosed on Thursday.

"Further investigations of certain retired officers and their accomplices for fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests are continuing," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement added, hinting at more arrests.

The military's media wing did not provide the names and ranks of the detained officers; however, certain reports claimed that two were retired brigadiers and one colonel. All of them were considered close confidants of former Director General of ISI General Faiz, according to sources.

The news of more arrests came a day after Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir invited retired army officers including some former chiefs to take them into confidence about the recent actions. While former army chiefs including General (ret'd) Ashfaq Pervaz Kayani and General (ret'd) Raheel Sharif were present at the event hosted by the incumbent army chief, certain other names including General Munir's immediate predecessor General (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa was conspicuous by his absence.

Some reports indicated General Bajwa was not in the country to dispel the impression that his absence had anything to do with the ongoing investigations against Gen Faiz. The

latest arrest came just days after in an unprecedented move, the country's former spymaster was detained by military authorities and court martial proceedings were initiated against him on charges of corruption, misuse of authority and violating the Pakistan Army Act.

"Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (ret'd). Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Lt General Faiz Hameed (ret'd) under provisions of Pakistan Army Act," read a statement issued by the military's media wing on Monday.

"In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post retirement have also been established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (ret'd) has been taken into military custody," the statement added. Given the powerful position of head of ISI, it is seen as unusual that the former spymaster was not only arrested but court martial proceedings have been initiated against him.

The charges against Gen Faiz date back to May 2017 when he was DG-C in the ISI. In April, the army constituted a high-level inquiry committee headed by a major general to look into the allegations against Gen Faiz.

The inquiry was ordered in pursuant to the orders of the Supreme Court and in the light of the directives of the Ministry of Defence. **NEWS DESK.**



Flag Hoisting Ceremonies Mark 77th Independence Day in Balochistan
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QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Restoring Quetta to Its Former Glory

Editorial:

The completion of the Quetta Solid Waste Management Project in a record time of just three months stands as a testament to the power of effective leadership and public-private collaboration. Under the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, this initiative has set a new standard for swift and impactful governance. Yet, as we celebrate this achievement, it is essential to acknowledge the individuals who played a pivotal role in turning this vision into reality.

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, the Chief of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Balochistan, has emerged as a central figure in this success. His leadership in navigating the intricate dynamics of the partnership between the municipal corporation and a private company was instrumental in ensuring the project's timely completion. In an era where public projects are often marred by delays and inefficiencies, Dr. Faisal's approach offers a blueprint for future endeavors across the province and the country.

However, the work is far from over. The citizens of Quetta, once affectionately known as "Little Paris," now look forward to seeing their city restored to its former charm and cleanliness. The success of the Solid Waste Management Project must be sustained through continued commitment and vigilance. This means not just maintaining the infrastructure but also fostering a culture of cleanliness and responsibility among its residents.

The government's pledge to keep Quetta clean must be more than just a statement; it must translate into sustained action. As citizens, we too have a role to play in this transformation. The vision of a neat and clean Quetta is within reach, but it will require the collective efforts of both the government and the people.

As we look ahead, the partnership model championed by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan could serve as a catalyst for other essential services across Balochistan, including the newly expanded NADRA registration centers and mobile vans. The commitment shown in these projects is commendable, and with continued collaboration and dedication, Quetta can indeed reclaim its title as "Little Paris," a city of beauty, culture, and cleanliness.

Binding Israel

By Abid Rizvi:

MORE than five months into Israel's pogrom against Palestinians, the UN Security Council finally adopted Resolution 2728/2024. The resolution, proposed by the 10 non-permanent members of the UNSC (E10), received unanimous assent with one abstention by the US. This characteristically unmaneuverably and a permanent member of the UNSC (P5) — and comes after four prior attempts at its passage, three of which were vetoed by the US itself and one by China and Russia. While the resolution's passage is a positive step, much like with the provisional orders issued by the International Court of Justice earlier this year, expectations must be tempered: neither the resolution nor indeed the ICJ's provisional orders offer a panacea for the ongoing slaughter of Palestinian civilians, the death toll for whom has credibly exceeded 30,000. The resolution does, nonetheless, represent a watershed in international law and diplomacy as they intersect with Israel's pogrom against Palestine. It must first be emphasized that the resolution itself limits the ceasefire to the month of Ramadan, which is likely to end around April 10. Thus, even were Israel to immediately comply and cease hostilities, this would only yield a fortnight's reprieve for Gazans before the likely resumption of

bloodshed. Such a brief cessation of hostilities would render relief efforts incredibly difficult and arguably have little impact on the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Immediately after the resolution's passage, efforts were made to downplay its significance, with spin doctors attempting to frame the resolution as "non-binding" and thus having no further legal effect than the numerous UN General Assembly resolutions on the matter. This characterization is, however, inconsistent with the principles of statutory interpretation applicable to international legal instruments, including resolutions of the UNSC. Neither the UN resolution nor the ICJ's provisional orders offer a panacea for the ongoing slaughter of Palestinian civilians. The UN Charter establishes the UNSC, lays out its powers, and delineates how the UNSC exercises those powers. The most overt of these powers can be found in Chapter VII of the Charter, which relates to the maintenance of international peace and security. Under this chapter, the UNSC is empowered to take any action — including military — in order to "give effect to its decisions"; as such, UNSC resolutions issued under this chapter are generally binding in nature. In this context, it is critical to note that Resolution 2728 was not issued under Chapter VII, but

instead, in exercise of the UNSC's general powers under and "guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations". Proponents of the non-binding nature of Resolution 2728 cite prior UNSC resolutions where the text of the resolution clearly identifies the UNSC's reliance on its Chapter VII powers. At best, this is a myopic reading of such instruments, as pursuant to Article 25 of the UN Charter, "Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter". Thus, focusing exclusively on the UNSC's largest provision, has been lingering for some time in the province still adheres to a law dating back to 1929, where the legal marriage age for boys is 18 and for girls is 16. However, Hamida explained that in 2019, amidst their work on domestic violence cases, they received a call reporting a planned underage marriage in the Kali Qambrani area of Quetta. After confirming the information, they went to the police and decided to take action despite warnings about potential resistance in the tribal area.

An incident in Balochistan highlighted the challenges in preventing child marriages. Police were apprehensive, deploying a significant force when attempting to intervene. Upon entering a house where a wedding was underway, the women were initially alarmed by the presence of the police, but their fears subsided when activists, including Hamida

Dr. Faiz Kakar:

Balochistan, even as a resource-rich province, grapples with alarming rates of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and infant and maternal mortality indicative of severe underdevelopment. The unmatched policies and irrelevant development strategies, along with poor governance, have resulted in extreme underdevelopment of the province. Through the bleak picture of the province is noticeable to all decision-makers, as highlighted by maps depicting critical poverty levels in red. Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres remain sharply divided.

Balochistan's Political And Intellectual Spheres Divided

Amidst the current devastating scenario in the province, Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres are sharply divided. Supporters of the latter viewpoint draw upon global examples of successful development strategies, particularly the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in various nations. Learning from global case studies, the potential of Balochistan as a resource-rich province with vast ecological and topographic diversity, coupled with its strategic location, warrants a paradigm shift towards infrastructure development and economic growth. It is evident that uplifting the economic status of the populace will pave the way for the

provision of social services through self-help approaches. Embracing and adapting to this evolving development approach over the past 70 years serves as a stark reminder of the need for change.

Potentials of the Province Ensure the Success of SEZ

Balochistan, often referred to as the "fruit basket" of Pakistan, stands out as a resource-rich province boasting the largest landscape and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers. Despite its untapped mineral resources, Balochistan remains underdeveloped. Its diverse ecological and topographic zones allow for the experience of different seasons simultaneously, with inhospitable conditions in the coldest and hottest regions in the province within one division.

Dr. Faiz Kakar was impressed by the unique emergence of development in Singapore quoted that when visited Lee Kuan and asked how it can make China as Singapore and his response was to establish the SEZs and affirmed the establishment of one thousand SEZs in various parts of the province. The province's strategic location grants it access to two international borders with India and Afghanistan. Its rich resources, including minerals, natural gas, coal, forests, and fisheries, offer a solid foundation for intensifying the emphasis on Special Eco-

nomics Zones (SEZs). These potentials not only justify the focus on SEZs but also serve as a guarantee of their success.

SEZs The Only Option

Ensuring the full operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified in Balochistan stands out as the foremost priority area for intervention. The establishment of small and medium-scale industries within these zones will not only create employment opportunities but also incentivize rural-to-urban migration, thus fostering urbanization. This industrial growth at the grassroots level will facilitate the much-needed trickle-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the population.

The momentum for expedited establishment of further industries is being further strengthened by the concurrent development of private housing schemes announced and currently under construction by the real estate developers. These initiatives will compel the working class to seek improved living standards, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in Balochistan.

Urbanization promotion and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan is paramount to ensure effective social and infrastruc-

ture development. The dispersed nature of the population significantly increases the unit costs of development and maintenance of services. Moreover, it contributes to the prevailing law and order issues and hampers efforts to combat political insurgencies and religious terrorism.

To address this challenge, the establishment of new cities and towns across the province is essential. However, given the budgetary constraints and the heavy investment required for establishing new cities, leveraging the existing SEZs areas as new cities presents a viable solution. The development of these SEZs into fully functional urban centers with basic facilities and job opportunities, rural populations would be incentivized to migrate from their current locations. This migration is already occurring due to climatic disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts, as witnessed in areas like Ziarat, the Green Belt, Gider (Kalia), and Peshawar.

Transforming SEZs into new cities not only addresses the challenge of scattered population but also provides a strategic opportunity to spur economic growth and development in Balochistan. It facilitates urbanization, enhances access to services and infrastructure, and contributes to stability and security in the region. Therefore, prioritizing the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) could play a crucial role in the mainstreaming of Balochistan at the national level.

Based on the aforementioned discussion, it is strongly believed that the effective operation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) could play a crucial role in the mainstreaming of Balochistan at the national level.

Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Balochistan's Struggle Against Child Marriage Hindered by Lack of Legislation

Chandni Kakar:

A bill aiming to put an end to child marriage in Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, has been lingering for some time in the province still adheres to a law dating back to 1929, where the legal marriage age for boys is 18 and for girls is 16. However, Hamida explained that in 2019, amidst their work on domestic violence cases, they received a call reporting a planned underage marriage in the Kali Qambrani area of Quetta. After confirming the information, they went to the police and decided to take action despite warnings about potential resistance in the tribal area.

Noor, approached them, they convinced the police to raid the ceremony.

Upon entering the wedding venue, they confronted the bride from the women present. However, they managed to speak with the young bride and her team, but Hamida and her team insisted on detaining the groom as well. Despite legal hurdles and the groom's subsequent refusal to marry, Hamida and her team insisted on detaining the groom as well. Despite legal hurdles and the groom's subsequent refusal to marry, Hamida and her team insisted on detaining the groom as well. Despite legal hurdles and the groom's subsequent refusal to marry, Hamida and her team insisted on detaining the groom as well.

The Federal Shariat Court Islamabad took suo motu notice of an incident of child marriage on 21 November 2022. On which the

court had directed the Balochistan government to submit the legislation in this regard and its draft before the next appearance.

Then on March 21, 2023, Federal Shariat Court Chief Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar and Justice Khadim Hussain Sheikh heard the Sumoto case, in which the court took notice of the marriage of a five-year-old girl in the district of Balochistan.

During the hearing, the government officials submitted a report in the court that Balochistan has drafted a bill under the 'The Balochistan Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2021', which will soon be presented to the cabinet and passed in the Balochistan Assembly after getting its approval. It will be submitted for.

Nasir Baloch, an official from the social

welfare agency of Balochistan, confirmed the submission of the bill to the court. Bahram Lahri, an advocate against child marriage, emphasized the urgency of addressing the issue, citing its detrimental impact on maternal and child health.

Bahram recounted the collaborative effort involved in drafting the bill, which sets the legal marriage age at 18 for both boys and girls and imposes stricter penalties for violations. He highlighted the inclusion of provisions empowering the police to intervene and stop child marriages.

Despite the challenges, including resistance from traditional laws and societal norms, activists like Hamida Noor and Bahram Lahri remain committed to ending child marriage in Balochistan through legal reforms and community engagement.

By Gulnam Shabbir:

THIS modern civilisation, pure reason edged out religion. Thus, this Enlightenment movement triggered the emergence of the modern Revolution, whose persistent dynamic impulse brought about the Industrial Revolution. In this context, it is critical to note that Resolution 2728 was not issued under Chapter VII, but

capabilities. With religion reduced to a relic of the past, the advent of capitalist capitalism—the emergence of modern socioeconomic structures with laissez-faire morality — was a foregone conclusion. Equipped with the faculty of creative knowledge man was destined to master the laws and forces of nature. But mastering that "mastery" which comes into the province of revelation beyond his ken. What could religion do to rein in man's lust for power and self-aggrandisement? Astudy of civilisations shows that shorn of morality, man could be the most dangerous species on

earth. His self-destructive genius put the survival of the world and life in it at stake. Life on earth has witnessed extinction five times, the fifth time about 60 million years ago. Now we must consider what consequence terribly excessive carbon emissions and destructive nuclear arsenals are that have what they are about to wreak on our planet. Noam Chomsky says: "Nuclear arsenals and climate change are an ample testimony to the fact that man is an evolutionary dead end." His remark echoes a striking similarity with the divine judgement at the time of creation. "Indeed, we offered the Trust to the

heavens and the earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man accepted it: he was unjust. Indeed, he was unjust and ignorant" (33:72). Shorn of morality, man could be the most dangerous species. This "Trust" is bestowal of faculty of reason and volition to man to establish a just moral social world order. The Quran invites people of the book to follow the "Puritanism" (3:64) to share this responsibility. Hence, today we are "reaping" what we have sown in the intellectual foundations of the European Renaissance, Christian Reformation Movement and Peace of

Westphalia, which alienated religion from the socioeconomic and political spheres. The ethical hollowiness of modern man has rendered his vision myopic and priorities so warped and distorted that rudderless in the sea of unquenchable desires, he is probing in the dark. Man is zeroing in on Mars while the affairs of the earth are becoming ever more complicated and dangerously intractable. Pure intellect has successfully defeated the moral purpose of life, turning it into a mere quest for Frankenstein's monster. So, be it the rapid deterioration and decompo-

sition of man's social life and/or ecological disasters, both are the outcome of the corrupt socioeconomic structures based on materialistic metaphysics. The Quran offers man a complete programme for self-recultivation which is sufficient to save our souls from the perils of the earth and the advent of Islam, as portrayed in vivid imagery in the Quran, "God set a challenge to man that the equality which all people share in the eyes of God should reflect in the socioeconomic and political order. Failure to live up to the challenge is not only of Muslims; it is, in fact, the failure of entire mankind."

have wrought due to his unbridled acquisitiveness, self-aggrandisement and military-cum-cultural and epistemological hegemonies, with corrupt socioeconomic structures their man-made panacea for all these maladies lies in the return of religion to socioeconomic and political affairs of the globe. At the time of creation, God set a challenge to man that the equality which all people share in the eyes of God should reflect in the socioeconomic and political order. Failure to live up to the challenge is not only of Muslims; it is, in fact, the failure of entire mankind.

Appointment of heads of authorities from private sectors

The Government of Balochistan has indeed taken steps to establish authorities focusing on thematic areas such as Economic Zones and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). However, the effectiveness of these authorities is greatly diminished by the appointment of heads from junior officials who lack the influence to navigate bureaucratic hurdles or garner support from higher officials. Additionally, the prevailing bureaucratic culture poses further challenges by not providing an enabling environment for these officials.

To address these issues, it is imperative to appoint heads of these authorities from the private sector. These individuals should possess local knowledge, familiarity with public sector practices, and established connections with politicians and higher authorities within the government. This approach will ensure that the heads of these authorities have the necessary clout and influence to drive meaningful progress and overcome bureaucratic obstacles effectively.

Based on the aforementioned discussion, it is strongly believed that the effective operation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) could play a crucial role in the mainstreaming of Balochistan at the national level.

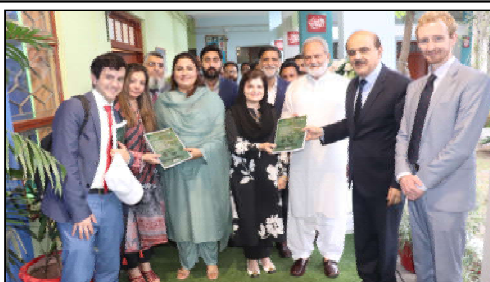
Century by Umar Amin's puts Pak Shaheens in commanding position

ISLAMABAD (INP): Umar Amin's 32nd first-class century has put Pakistan Shaheens in a commanding position against Bangladesh 'A' at the close of day two of the first four-day match here at the Islamabad Club.

At stumps, Shaheens were 367 for four in 90 overs, with a first innings lead of 245 runs. Saad Khan (31 not out, 39b, 6x4) and Kamran Ghulam (20 not out, 63b, 1x4, 1x6), will resume batting on the third day, which will be a four-day match.

Umar Amin's partnership for the third century. During the partnership, left-handed Umar brought up his century, and was dismissed for 122, all out, 44.3 overs (Mahmudul Hasan Juy 65, Naseem Shah 3-24, Mir Hamza 1-33, Mohammad Rameez Juy 2-41).

Pakistan Shaheens 367-4 in 90 overs. Umar Amin 177, Saad Shaked 76, Mohammad Huraira 39, Saad Khan 31 not out, Kamran Ghulam 20 not out, Hasan Murad 2-49, Tanzim Hasan Sakib 1-67, Nayeem Khan 1-81.



ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MoF&PT) held an important event to launch two key reports on education technology and foundational learning, and to shine a light on its reforms in assessment and teacher education.

Two French pilots die after Rafale jets collide mid-air

PARIS (INP): Two French pilots died after their Rafale jets collided in mid-air in eastern France, Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron said, in a rare accident involving the cutting-edge military aircraft.

One pilot ejected following the crash over northeastern France, but authorities had launched a desperate search for the missing instructor and a student pilot on the second jet.

France's nuclear warheads -- has become a bestseller for the French arms industry. "We heard a loud noise, around 12:30pm (1030 GMT)," Patrice Bonneaux, deputy mayor of Colombes-Belles, told.

In September 2009, two Rafale aircraft went down as they flew back to the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle off the coast of Perpignan after completing a test flight. One pilot died. France has sold the Rafale to Egypt, India, Greece, Indonesia, Croatia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.



QUETTA: Activities of Students Alliance Balochistan hold protest outside Quetta Press Club (QPC).

Bangladeshi students on guard as exiled PM urges show of strength

DHAKA (INP): Hundreds of Bangladeshi students wielding bamboo rods patrolled the site of a planned gathering Thursday of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina's supporters, vowing to quash any show of strength.

Hasina, 76, fled by helicopter last week to neighbouring India, where she remains, as student-led protests flooded Dhaka's streets in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted 15-year rule.

statement since her abrupt departure. Hasina had this week asked supporters to "pray for the salvation of all souls by offering floral garlands and praying outside the landmark."

and motors of its perennially gridlocked traffic. Hasina's statement came hours after a court in the capital opened a murder case into her, two senior Awami League leaders and four police officers related to last month's unrest.

Senate committee demands action on slow internet, orders resolution in two weeks

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology has taken strict notice of the ongoing slow internet speed across the country, directing relevant authorities to resolve the issue within two weeks.

which has led many e-commerce platforms to suffer. Senator Humayun Mohmand criticized the lack of investments in digital infrastructure, warning that it could devastate businesses and jobs.

communication Authorities (PTA) faced scrutiny as well, with officials claiming they had not received any formal complaints about the internet service disruption. The committee postponed the agenda related to the firewall discussion due to the unavailability of PTA officials, who were supposed to provide details in an in-camera briefing.

Secretary I'Ayesha Humra assured the committee that the problem is specific to mobile operators and not Wi-Fi networks. She mentioned that data is being collected from the operators, and a detailed report will be presented to the Standing Committee within two weeks. She also stated that the issue would be resolved soon, alleviating the internet woes affecting users nationwide.

Sindh govt raises vice-chancellors' salaries to over Rs820,000

KARACHI (INP): The Government of Sindh Chief Minister, ensures that all VCs will continue to receive this enhanced pay structure for the remainder of their terms.

Boards with approval of the Sindh Chief Minister, ensures that all VCs will continue to receive this enhanced pay structure for the remainder of their terms.

System scale. Previously, on June 20, The Express group published an investigative report highlighting the disparities and low salaries among vice-chancellors (VCs) in the province of Sindh.

from relevant authorities. The recent notification from the Sindh government, however, does not specify an upper limit for VCs' salaries and describes this increase as the 'standardization/rationalization of salaries. This move is in contrast to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in Islamabad, which has recently approved a minimum monthly salary of Rs1 million for VCs of public universities across the country.

Request for proposal

Request for proposal details including TSE-24250518974, TSE-24250518974, and TSE-24250518974. Includes sections for Tender Notice, Request for Proposal, and Bid Security.

Punjab to introduce electric bikes, buses in a bid to combat smog

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government is set to introduce electric bikes and buses in a bid to combat environmental pollution by introducing electric bikes and buses.

air quality in the province. The meeting, attended by officials from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), focused on progress in key areas, including air quality, education, population control, and healthcare.

with severe air pollution. One of the major points discussed was the identification of smoke-emitting bikes using Safe City cameras, followed by key areas, including air quality, education, population control, and healthcare.

motorcycles are registered daily in Lahore, with motorcycles being the primary contributors to transport-related pollution. Over 75% of air pollution from transportation is caused by motorcycles, stressing the need for effective legislation and enforcement to mitigate smog.

Request for proposal details including TSE-24250518974, TSE-24250518974, and TSE-24250518974. Includes sections for Tender Notice, Request for Proposal, and Bid Security.

Flag Hoisting Ceremonies Mark 77th Independence Day in Balochistan

Syed Muhammad Qaseem, Asmat Hanafi:

QUETTA/PISHIN: August 14 – Balochistan celebrated Pakistan's 77th Independence Day with flag hoisting ceremonies across the province, including a major event at the Balochistan Assembly premises in Quetta. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, and Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq were among the dignitaries who participated in the ceremony, which was attended by other high-level officials.

Following the ceremony, Chief Minister Bugti traveled to Pishin district, where he addressed a gathering organized in connection with Independence Day celebrations. In his speech, the Chief Minister lauded the people of Pishin for their unwavering loyalty to Pakistan, noting



Flag Hoisting Ceremony at Provincial

that the elders of the district have always stood by Quaid-e-Azam

and the nation.

During the visit, Chief Minister

Bugti made several significant announcements aimed at im-

proving the quality of life in Pishin. He revealed plans for the construction of a 50-bed hospital to enhance healthcare services in the district. Additionally, a Rescue 1122 center will be established on the Pishin highway to provide emergency response services. Education was also a key focus of the Chief Minister's address. He announced the upgrading of a middle school to a high school and expressed his intention to consider the construction of a Balochistan University campus in Pishin. Emphasizing the importance of education, Bugti stated that teachers must fulfill their duties and cannot be allowed to stay home while drawing government salaries. To address this issue, a committee headed by Finance Minister Mir Shehryar Khan will be formed to review and resolve related mat-

ters. The Chief Minister also announced a significant increase in the grant for local councils, doubling the amount from Rs. 16 crores to Rs. 32 crores. He invited local council members and district chairmen from across the province to Quetta to discuss ways to improve governance. Additionally, Bugti announced a grant of Rs. 10 crores specifically for the Pishin Local Council.

The visit concluded with a distribution of tablets to students, as well as the Chief Minister being presented with a traditional Pashtun turban. Assembly members from Pishin, including Asfandiar Khan Kakar, Syed Zafar Ali Agha, and Asghar Khan Tareen, expressed their gratitude for the Chief Minister's visit and welcomed the public welfare projects announced for the district.

Quetta Solid Waste Management Project Inaugurated: A Landmark Achievement

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a remarkable feat, the Quetta Solid Waste Management Project was completed and activated within a record time of just three months, following the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti. The project was officially inaugurated on Wednesday by Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister Bugti, marking a significant milestone in the province's efforts to enhance public sanitation.

During the inauguration, Commissioner Quetta and Administrator of the Metropolitan Corporation, Hamza Shafiqat, Faisal Ahmed Khan, the Chief of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Balochistan briefed the attendees on the project's unique collaboration between the municipal corporation and a private company. This initiative is the first of its kind in Pakistan, aimed at maintaining cleanliness in Quetta through a range of innovative measures. Notably, the project incurs no additional costs for the provincial government, as the private company will collect waste and charge minimal fees.

Chief Minister Bugti expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Shafiqat and his team for their dedication and swift execu-



Inauguration of Solid Waste Management

tion of the project, emphasizing that such initiatives typically take years in other provinces. He highlighted that approximately 1,600 tons of garbage will be collected daily at no extra cost, significantly improving the city's sanitation.

NADRA Expands Services in Balochistan: 21 New Centers and Mobile Vans Launched

In a separate event, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister Bugti inaugurated 21 new registration centers and six mobile registration vans of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) in Balochistan.

The ceremony, attended by key officials including Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, marks a significant enhancement in pub-

lic service delivery. Chief Minister Bugti praised the initiative, stating that these new centers in remote tehsils will greatly ease the process of obtaining identity cards, especially for the elderly and women.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar also expressed satisfaction with the expanded services and directed federal institutions to ensure seamless cooperation with the provincial government to improve service accessibility in Balochistan.

Grenade Attacks in Quetta: Seven Injured, Including Children

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a shocking incident, unidentified assailants lobbed a grenade attack on a hotel near Quetta railway station on Wednesday, leaving seven people, including children, injured.

The attack, which targeted the busy area, sent shockwaves through the city, raising concerns about security.

The injured were rushed to the trauma center of the civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment. Police reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

The injured were immediately provided with medical aid and transferred to Civil Hospital Quetta for further treatment.

The condition of the victims is reported to be stable, but the attack has left the local community on edge.

Shortly after the first blast, a second explosion occurred near Joint Road, injuring a total of seven people. Authorities have yet to determine the motive behind these attacks, and investigations are ongoing to identify and apprehend those responsible.

Security forces have cordoned off the affected areas, and additional measures are being taken to prevent further incidents.

The injured are receiving treatment, and the situation is being closely monitored by law enforcement agencies.



Heavy downpours wash away roads, inundate villages in Narowal

NAROWAL (INP): Road links between different areas in Narowal were severed after local streams and nullahs burst their banks, inundating scores of villages, agricultural fields and washing away roads, following heavy monsoon rains over the hills in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

Residents of these areas, especially Nikki Gurjan, are facing great inconvenience as they are completely cut off from each other.

Two kids drown in River Chenab in Muzaffargarh

In a tragic incident, two children playing on the bank of River Chenab in Muzaffargarh went missing after they slipped and fell into the river.

Rescue 1122 personnel were busy searching for the bodies of eight-year-old Hanna and nine-year-old Sufyan till last reports came in. Rains reported from Punjab cities, lower Sindh (On the other hand, torrential rains continue to lash different parts of Punjab. Downpour was reported

from Shakargarh, Gujranwala, Sarai Alamgir and Kharian on Thursday, inundating low-lying areas and resulting in the suspension of power supply after several feeders were tripped.

The weather department has said that a monsoon low over the north-western states of India would produce heavy rains in different parts of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), from today (August 15) till August 18 that could result in deluge in rivers and streams besides urban flooding.

It has said that in Punjab rains are expected in Murree, Galyat, twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Attock, Chakwal, Tala Gang, Jhelum, Sialkot, Narowal, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Lahore, Kasur, Mianwali, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Jhang, Chiniot, Toba Tek Singh, Nankana Sahib, Sheikhpura, Bhakkar, Khushab, Nurpur Thal, while heavy showers are likely at isolated places in Sahiwal, Pakpattan.

Okara, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Rahim Yar Khan.

Similarly, the Met Office has predicted rains for different parts of KP namely Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Battagram, Mansehra, Balakot, Abbottabad, Haripur, Buner, Nowshera, Swabi, Charsadda, Maridan, Karak, Kohat, Banna, Malakand, Waziristan, Kurram, Lakki Marwat, Peshawar, Tank and Dera Ismael Khan.

Rains have also been forecast at a few places in cities of Balochistan namely Barkhan, Kohlu, Loralai, Zhob, Khuzdar, Awaran, Lasbela and outskiers.

Likewise, the weather department has said that parts of lower Sindh like Tharparkar, Mirhi, Mirpurkhas, Umarkot, Sanghar, Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta and Badin are also likely to receive rains.

Rains has forecast partly cloudy weather for Gilgit-Baltistan while rain and strong winds for different parts of AJK until August 18.

Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) notifies four new special technology zones

ISLAMABAD (INP): In line with the vision of the Prime Minister and the Federal Government to enable job creation for the youth and prioritize the technology sector, Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) announced the notification of four new Special Technology Zones (STZs).

These four new zones consist of 1.4 million Sqft high-quality tech infrastructure and 130 acres of land available for exclusive use of the technology companies.

An investment of Rs 30 billion has already been made in developing the specialised tech infrastructure by the zone developers while more than PKR 150 Billion investment is expected in next

2-4 years by local and foreign technology companies.

The 4 new zones will have the capacity to house more than 50,000 professionals with an export potential exceeding US\$ 350 Million annually. The newly designated zones include the MUST Special Technology Zone and Tech7 Special Technology Zone in Islamabad, Mindbridge Special Technology Zone in Lahore, and Capital Smart Technology Zone in Rawalpindi. These zones are notified strategically to foster innovation, drive economic growth, enhance technology exports and position Pakistan as a key player in the global technology arena. The accelerated roll-out of STZs are in-line with the economic pil-

lars of SIC and will increase the technology related local and foreign direct investment in the country.

In addition to the 12 existing zones, which are home to over 15,000+ technology professionals, the newly notified zones will offer state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge infrastructure, and high-speed internet connectivity, ensuring that enterprises can compete and thrive in the global market. Exclusively designated for technology sector companies under STZA policy, these zones also offer significant incentives, including 10-year exemptions on Income Tax and Customs duties, and forex benefits to licensed technology companies operating within them.



ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Business Forum Mehboob Ur Rehman called on e Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan.

Mashwani's brothers case: Secretary Defense summoned again on Aug 20

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday again summoned the defense secretary on August 20 in a petition filed for the recovery of the missing brothers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) social media in-charge Azhar Mashwani.

The judge also inquired if the Secretary of Defense was present in the court. The Additional Attorney General told the court that not the Defense Secretary, the Joint Secretary of Defense has come to the court. The Defense Secretary is out of the country since August 11, there is also a jurisdictional issue in this case.

The defense secretary did not appear in the court because of being abroad.

The court asked the interior secretary if he has to say anything or if he will submit the report only.

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Dalbandin Press Club Elects New Leadership

Riaz Baloch: DALBANDIN: Haji Farooq Syah Pad was elected as President, and Riaz Hussain Baloch as General Secretary of the Dalbandin Press Club. Both were elected uncontested from the Haji Abdul Sattar Kushani Group.

The cabinet, consisting of key positions and nine members supporting the panel, was declared successful by the Election Committee after the opposing group, led by Ali Ahmed Mengal, failed to secure the required majority.

The previous cabinet had been dissolved on July 10, with the election held as scheduled on August 15.



QUETTA: Justice Aurangzeb (center) with Chief Ministers Farooq Baloch and Jamshed-e-Islami secretary general Iqbal Baloch in meeting with Balochistan National Party central acting president's advocate Sajid Tareen.