

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived in Quetta on a two day visit

Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim to visit Pakistan on October 2-4

ISLAMABAD: Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim will undertake an official visit to Pakistan from 2-4 October 2024, at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Foreign Office (FO) announced on Monday.

The Malaysian premier will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and senior officials, the FO said in a statement.



"Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will hold meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The two sides will discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia ties in diverse fields, including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, the halal industry, tourism, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contacts. They will also discuss regional and global developments," the statement added. **NEWSDESK.**

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) arrests 8 suspects for supplying drugs to students

NEWS DESK: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has arrested eight individuals involved in selling drugs at educational institutions. A nationwide crackdown against those selling drugs to students is ongoing.

According to the ANF spokesperson, operations against those selling drugs in educational institutions are ongoing. During these operations, drugs worth more than 4.2 million rupees were seized, and eight suspects were arrested.

Near a university on Raiwind Road, Lahore, 450 grams of hashish and 20 grams of ecstasy pills were recovered, and the suspect was arrested.

Near another university in Johar Town, Lahore, 40 grams of ecstasy pills were seized from a suspect.

Additionally, 120 grams of hash were recovered from a suspect near Kak Pail, Islamabad, who was involved in selling drugs to students at educational institutions.

Bilawal Bhutto Proposes Constitutional Court with Equal Provincial Representation

News Desk:

QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, during his two-day visit to Quetta, proposed the establishment of a constitutional court to ensure equal representation for all provinces.

He emphasized that this initiative aligns with the vision of the late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who first suggested the idea.

Speaking to party lawmakers and workers, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stated,

"We are working on creating a consensus document that will fulfill the promise made by Benazir Bhutto regarding judicial reforms. The goal is to establish a court where all provinces, including Balochistan, are equally represented."

The PPP Chairman further highlighted the achievements of the party, citing the 18th Amendment and the NFC Award as critical contributions. He reaffirmed the party's stance on supporting democratic institutions, adding that despite current political turmoil in Islamabad, there will be no impact on Balochistan.

Flood Relief Efforts

Earlier in the day, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari distributed cheques to

flood-affected families in a ceremony at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, welcomed the gesture and expressed gratitude.

"Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's support for the flood victims reflects true solidarity. We are grateful for his efforts," Bugti remarked.

In his speech, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underscored the importance of unity and rebuilding efforts in the province, assuring the people of Balochistan of the PPP's unwavering commitment to their welfare.



Lt General Muhammad Asim Malik takes charge as new ISI chief

KARACHI: Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has officially taken charge as the new Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). His appointment marks a significant transition within Pakistan's intelligence community.

Lt Gen Asim Malik is recognised as one of the Pakistan Army's most capable operational commanders, adept at meeting complex objectives with timely actions.

He possesses expertise in operational intelligence and has managed various military affairs. Before this role, General Malik commanded the Infantry Division

in Balochistan and the Infantry Brigade in Waziristan. He has been awarded the prestigious Sword of Honour and has served as Chief Instructor at the National Defence University (NDU) and as an instructor at the Command and Staff College in Quetta. Additionally, the new spymaster is a graduate of Fort Leavenworth and the Royal College of Defence Studies.

He previously held responsibilities within the Military Operations Directorate.

Gen Asim Malik's tenure as Adjutant General coincided with significant political events, including the arrest of former prime

minister Imran Khan and subsequent unrest.

Following Imran's detention, supporters of his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), engaged in protests that led to damage to public property and military installations.

A former colleague noted that Malik's new role underscores the strong confidence the military leadership has in him. The ISI, founded in 1948, is Pakistan's premier intelligence agency. While officially reporting to the prime minister, the agency often plays a significant role in the country's political and security affairs. **NEWSDESK.**

CM Bugti: "We Send Girls to Oxford, Terrorists Send Them for Attacks"

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, in a press conference, underscored the stark contrast between the government's efforts to uplift Baloch youth through education and the terrorists' destructive agenda of manipulating them into violence.

"We are sending our girls to Oxford for education, while terrorists are sending them for attacks," Bugti said, emphasizing the government's commitment to empowering Baloch women through education.

Bugti referenced the case of Hadila Baloch, a young woman who abandoned a planned suicide attack, crediting her father's intervention for preventing a potential tragedy.

Bugti expressed concern over the manipulation of Baloch youth by terrorist organizations, stating that many are being "misled under the guise of false propaganda."

He highlighted the ongoing challenge of preventing educated Baloch youth from being recruited by militant groups, saying,

"Educated Baloch youth are being turned into fuel for terrorism. It is tragic to see our brightest minds being used for violence."

Focus on Education as the Solution

In contrast, Bugti praised the government's efforts to provide education and opportunities for



Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti addressing a press conference, Photo: Muhammad Ismail Anad

"Hadila's father received a message that she would never return home again. He struggled and managed to bring her back, saying not only his daughter but countless lives," Bugti shared.

Role of Families in Preventing Terrorism

The Chief Minister stressed the need for families to remain vigilant and maintain close contact with their children, urging parents to seek government assistance if they lose communication with their children.

"Hadila's father showed us how crucial it is for parents to act quickly when their children are being misled."

His actions saved lives, and we urge all parents to reach out to government representatives if they fear their children are being drawn into terrorism," Bugti stated.

Baloch Youth Misled into Terrorism

Bugti pointed out the provincial government's focus on sending Baloch women to top universities like Oxford, ensuring that they have a future built on knowledge, not destruction.

Condemnation of Recent Attacks

Bugti also condemned the recent killings of laborers in Panjgur and the murder of a barber in Quetta, expressing frustration over these senseless acts of violence.

"Killing innocent laborers and civilians will not free Balochistan. The bloodshed of the innocent is not the path to freedom," Bugti stated, adding that these attacks only serve to further destabilize the region.

Professors and Lecturers Observe Hunger Strike in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah:

Quetta: Professors and lecturers from the University of Balochistan and BUTEMS observed a hunger strike outside the Quetta Press Club on Monday, demanding the government address their grievances. The protest, organized by the academic staff associations of both universities, highlighted issues such as unpaid salaries and alleged corruption within the institutions.

Leading the protest were Professor Kaleemullah Barsech, Professor Fareed Achakzai, Professor Hasrat Hussain Shah, and other faculty members. They expressed their frustration over the lack of response from the authorities and the deteriorating conditions at their universities.

Professor Fareed Achakzai added, "The corruption within our universities is rampant. Funds meant for academic development are being misused, and there is no accountability. We demand a thorough investigation and immediate action against those responsible."

Professor Hasrat emphasized the impact on students, saying, "Our students are suffering due to the administrative failures and corruption. Their education is being compromised, and this is unacceptable. The government must intervene and resolve these issues promptly."

The hunger strike drew significant attention from the media and the public, with many expressing solidarity with the protesting faculty members. The professors and lecturers have vowed to continue their protest until their demands are met, urging the government to take swift and decisive action to address the crisis in Balochistan's higher education sector.

Baloch youth, particularly women.

"Instead of committing suicide attacks, we are giving PhDs to Baloch women. Education is the path forward, not violence," Bugti said.

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QUEETA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Public-Private Partnerships: A Solution to Balochistan's Education Crisis

Editorial:

The recent dismissal of 114 absentee teachers in Balochistan marks a pivotal moment in the province's long-overdue effort to address the crisis in its education sector. With an inquiry underway at an address of 2,400 teachers, the Balochistan government is sending a clear message: education is no longer to be taken lightly. Chronic absenteeism has plagued the region's schools for years, compromising the quality of education for countless children. The actions taken by the provincial government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Minister Rabeela Hameed Khan Durran, reflect a commendable commitment to accountability, transparency, and educational reform.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti deserves appreciation for upholding the banner of merit in teachers recruitment and directing the education department to make sure out of school children are in schools.

This bold move is not an isolated effort but part of a broader strategy that includes reopening 400 previously non-functional schools, enhancing educational infrastructure, and establishing School Management Committees (SMCs) to engage local communities in governance. These initiatives are critical in a province where vast rural areas and underdeveloped regions have long suffered from a lack of access to quality education. Reopening these schools, particularly in remote areas, will expand educational opportunities and bring long-term benefits to underserved communities.

However, while these steps are vital, Balochistan faces deep-seated structural challenges that will require more comprehensive solutions. The province's shortage of educational facilities, coupled with the continued lack of qualified and committed teachers, underscores the need for further innovation.

In this context, an approach recently introduced by the Punjab government could offer a promising model. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced plans to hand over thousands of government-run schools to public-private partnerships (PPPs) to improve the quality of education. This initiative seeks to leverage the expertise and resources of the private sector to address inefficiencies within the public system. Balochistan, with its unique challenges, could benefit greatly from such a strategy.

The PPP model could provide much-needed support in teacher training, curriculum development, and school management. By incorporating private sector efficiency with public accountability, it could address the chronic problems of absenteeism and underdevelopment. It also allows for innovative educational approaches, as well as better oversight through community involvement, echoing the role SMCs are already playing in Balochistan.

While the province's government has made significant strides in improving the education and adapting the PPP model could be a game changer. A partnership between public and private entities has the potential to create a sustainable system, offering both modern educational resources and stringent oversight to ensure that students receive the education they deserve.

Rabeela Hameed Khan Durran's vision of a robust, effective education system is laudable, and the ongoing reforms are a step in the right direction. But if Balochistan is to truly turn the page on its troubled education sector, it must embrace innovative solutions like public-private partnerships to bring about the transformative changes that its children so desperately need. Only by doing so can the province ensure a brighter, more promising future for the next generation.

Economic revival

By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry:

IN 1992, Bill Clinton ran his campaign for US presidency on three slogans, one of which was "It's the economy, stupid". In the backdrop of the economic downturn of the early 1990s, Clinton's focus on economic revival resonated well with his voters, and within three years, economic growth picked up. Ever since, the phrase "It's the economy, stupid" has been used extensively to emphasise the pivotal role of economic management in a nation's prosperity.

In Pakistan today, the imperative of economic revival can hardly be overemphasised. For decades, we have been living beyond our means, collecting a mountain of debt along the way. Interest payments consume the bulk of our revenues, and per capita loans are sought to run the government. Effectively, that means much of what the government does is with borrowed money.

This is unsustainable, either we increase our revenues, or reduce our expenses — preferably both.

Pursuant to the agreement with the IMF, the government plans to tax the retail sector as part of its efforts to document the informal economy.

This will certainly help broaden the tax base. Opposite my house is a supermarket frequented by so many customers that I have rarely seen the cashier desk without a queue before it.

Yet, when it comes to paying taxes, this shop, like many retailers, is reluctant to enter the tax net.

Our people need to realise that the roads we travel on, the public services we avail of, and the higher quality of life we desire can only be available if we pay taxes. An argument often made in response to the topic of increasing the tax net is that the revenue collected from the common man's taxes is used by high officials of the government to finance their over-extended lifestyles.

It is, therefore, important that while broadening the tax base, the government make an equally robust and visible effort to cut wasteful public expense.

However, we have yet to see any concrete step being taken to give credence to the government's claims of being tight-fisted.

For instance, when the government announced cost cuts on international travel, I saw a long list of the categories of public office holders who would be exempted to travel business class.

When we are knee-deep in debt, should these not be minimised? Similarly, many high-ranking officials use protocol cavalcades to move about, can cuts not be made here? The larger point is that austerity flows top down. As such, the grandeur of a second car by the chief justice is foreign involvement in the attacks, especially those targeting Chinese nationals or CPEC-related projects.

Three names of terrorist groups spring to mind: the "Jaish-e-Islam" in Pakistan (TIP), Balochistan Liberation Army, and the Islamic State-Khorasan. They guess a specific group's involvement depends on the region; these three groups have specific operational bases.

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In the vast and rugged landscape of Balochistan, where challenges ranging from climate change impacts to educational disparities persist, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has emerged as a beacon of hope, spearheading initiatives to tackle these pressing issues head-on.

With climate change wreaking havoc on communities and ecosystems across the globe, Balochistan has not been spared from its effects.

In response, the UNDP has been implementing a series of projects in collaboration with various stakeholders, including civil society, government bodies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

These projects aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change, rehabilitate flood-affected areas like Hanna Urak in Quetta, provide skill trainings and financial aid to improve livelihoods, and enhance access to education, particularly for girls.

UNDP Supporting 43 Schools To Improve Educational Opportunities For Girls

In a region where the female literacy rate hovers at a mere 17 percent, the UNDP's focus on improving edu-

cational opportunities for girls is particularly crucial.

By supporting the rehabilitation of 43 schools in four districts of Balochistan, the UNDP aims to provide over 8,000 students, predominantly girls, with improved learning facilities.

This concerted effort not only empowers girls with education but also paves the way for a more equitable and prosperous future for the entire region.

Nine Oxygen plants set to be installed in public hospitals across Balochistan

Furthermore, recognizing the importance of access to healthcare, the UNDP

is set to install nine oxygen plants in public hospitals across Balochistan, including the renowned Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Quetta.

This initiative seeks to enhance the healthcare infrastructure and capacity of these facilities, thereby improving access to vital medical services for communities across the province.

UN Assistant Secretary-General Kanni Wignaraja Reviews Projects In Balochistan

Recently, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director Kanni

Wignaraja visited Quetta to assess the progress of these initiatives alongside UNDP Balochistan Chief Zulfikar Durran.

During her visit, she held detailed discussions with Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, reaffirming the UNDP's commitment to supporting the government of Balochistan in addressing the region's most pressing challenges.

As these projects continue to unfold, they stand as testament to the transformative power of international cooperation and collective action in building a more resilient and sustainable future for Balochistan and its people.

Targeting Chinese nationals

involved in the 2013 terrorist attack on the Nanga Parbat base camp targeting foreign climbers — and an end to women's sporting activities in GB for the minister's release. They claimed they blocked the road because the state failed to honour a 2019 agreement, and issued a 24-hour ultimatum for the government to meet their demands.

Although a prominent actor, it is not the only one in the region. The MGB and other local militant groups reportedly maintain close links with TTP and sectarian outfits based in Punjab.

These external groups appear to support local militants, as evidenced by the TTP's involvement in the 2022 Bhaswan Pass blockade. The state's history of compromise with militant groups has emboldened them. For instance, in the kidnapping incident, the administration agreed to ban girls' sports in the region. Similarly, a 2019 agreement had reportedly allowed for the displacement of some Islamic laws to resolve them through local jirgas and by involving religious scholars. This can result in leniency towards criminals, with many extremists and religious scholars taking the law into their own hands.

The Mujahideen Gilgit-Balistan and Kohistan (MGB) are a perception of a "win-win" scenario for militants and religious figures. But the question is why are an increasing number of Chinese nationals being targeted in these areas, which are seemingly benefiting from the development

UNDP Empowers Balochistan: Education, Climate, and Healthcare Initiatives

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While anti-development sentiments are not that high in the area, many residents and wider roads will trigger urbanisation, women's emancipation, and modernisation, which they perceive as threats to their religion and culture. The dominant view suggests that most people are happy with the compensation money and employment prospects.

However, this doesn't diminish the level of religious extremism present. Some residents may sympathise with the Uighur community in Xinjiang and others may dislike the presence of foreigners on their land. These factors could be nurturing negative sentiments among Chinese nationals in the region.

One possible explanation is the local dynamics is seen in the blasphemy accusation against a Chinese official last year. The incident highlighted that tensions could erupt.

While local groups may lack the capability to carry out large-scale attacks independently, the presence of religious scholars for mediation in crises can be problematic. Local accounts suggest that some scholars may be sympathetic to the militants' demands, leading to partial concessions that create a perception of a "win-win" scenario for militants and religious figures. But the question is why are an increasing number of Chinese nationals being targeted in these areas, which are seemingly benefiting from the development

By Hassan Nawaz Sheikh:

PAKISTAN'S ailing economy is undergoing a process of revival. The economic wizards have placed a lot of bets on IT in the hope that the enormous potential of this sector can help alleviate the economic woes. There have been claims by former federal IT ministers that Pakistan's IT exports would reach between \$10 billion to \$20bn from the existing mark of \$2.6bn within the next few years. The premise on which these claims are being made is that the IT sector has been recording consistent upward growth since the last few years.

The IT industry has gained further focus when it was picked up by the newly christened Special Investments Facilitation Council as one

of the five core areas on which Pakistan's economic revival is predicated. Under the auspices of SITF, investment opportunities are available for setting up special technology zones (STZs) at seven prime locations including Lahore, Peshawar, Swat, Abbottabad, Faisalabad, Karachi, and Islamabad. The Ministry of Information Technology & Tele-communication has granted the establishment of 25 software technology parks (STPs) through Pakistan's converting public/privately owned dilapidated or non-operational office buildings/ premises to IT-enabled office spaces to IT and ITES companies at affordable rates. Investment opportunities are also being provided to IT firms shift their offices to the proposed STZs or start-ups occupy rental spaces in the vicinity of STZs, the next step would be to sustain their existence. How then do they generate employment? Without business opportunities how can we achieve the emergence of digital and IT-related trade as more and more businesses and start-ups would be tempted to move their offices within these zones to avail tax benefits. However, there are just infrastructural develop-

ments at best, whereby, a conducive environment for setting up businesses is being provided. The term "digital trade" has no clear definition, yet it is believed to refer to "commerce enabled by digital means in both goods and services". The Digital Trade Principles, as agreed upon by the G7, cover five areas: (1) open digital markets; (2) data free flow with trust; (3) safety and security for consumers, and businesses; (4) digital trading systems; and (5) fair and equitable digital governance. While there is no clear measurement of this sector, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates it to constitute approximately 25 per cent of the entire world trade. How-

ever, given how quickly this sector is expanding, the domestic regulatory environment will become increasingly complex, making it more difficult for consumers and businesses to seize some of the opportunities. How are these problems to be tackled? How would a country needs to not be hampered by such problems? How will our domestic businesses emerge from the regulatory requirements as violations thereof might restrict their access to the global market with their customers? For all these key problems and other related issues, our country needs to have a robust and dynamic digital trade policy for sustainable growth in this sector. Digital economy trade agree-

ments: While digital trade policy would bring a holistic and competitive edge to our IT entrepreneurs, so that they're able to compete at the international stage, digital trade agreements would bring bilateral and preferential market access. DTAs are just a niche version of the traditional free trade agreements.

Whilst Pakistan is struggling to gain benefit from the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) model, the developed world is moving swiftly towards the advanced form of an FTA in the shape of DTAs. For instance, digital trade is a key element of the European Union's trade policy and every modern trade agreement that EU has concluded contains a dedicated digital trade

chapter. Pakistan should, thus, aim to have a DTa with the EU that is the world's largest exporter and importer of digitally deliverable services. Singapore can be taken as another example that has a trade agreement that includes digital trade negotiations on digital economy agreements with Chile, New Zealand, Australia, the UK and South Korea. So, the trend of digital economy and trade agreements is definitely picking up. If our IT entrepreneurs can have direct and preferential access to developed economies — through the medium of DTAs — then we can keep our hopes high that sustainable and continued business will come our way and that would then justify the infrastructure growth of STZs.

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Dacoits killed in attack on police van in Kot Radha Kishan

KOT RADHA KISHAN (INP): One dacoit was killed while his two companions and four policemen were critically injured when five dacoits attacked a police van to get freed their companions in Kot Radha Kishan Police Station in Phoolnagar jurisdiction on Monday.

Mushtaq alias Mahki from Bagarian Lahore, Ahmad Raza and Shaheel were injured. Four policemen also received bullet injuries while the remaining dacoits escaped after freeing their companion Ali Waris from police custody. They also took away a police rifle.



BELLING: The Embassy of Pakistan in China commemorated Defence & Martyrs Day with a solemn ceremony...



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Nepal surveys flood wreckage as death toll reaches 192

KHATMANDU (INP): Search and rescue teams in Nepal's capital picked up the bodies of 192 people around the worst-hit area of the Himalayan republic.

home ministry spokesman Rishi Ram Tiwari said, "192 people have been reported dead, and another 31 are missing," he added.

At least 35 of those killed were buried alive when earth from a landslide careened into vehicles on a highway south of Kathmandu.

Merchants in Kathmandu said that damage to intercity roads had drastically cut the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables into the capital.

Helene kills at least 90, homes and memories washed away

FLORIDA (INP): The Southeastern U.S. began a huge cleanup and recovery effort on Sunday after Hurricane Helene struck the state.

customers throughout the South were without power on Sunday, a U.S. Energy Department official said, down 40% from Friday after unprecedented storm surges, ferocious winds and perilous conditions extended hundreds of miles inland.

In North Carolina, nearly all the deaths were in Buncombe County, where 30 people died, Sheriff Quentin Miller told a video conference call with reporters.

South Carolina reported 25 dead, Georgia 17 and Florida 11, according to the governors of those states.

SHC directs to place names of accused of Dr Shahnwaz's murder case on ECL

MIRPUR KHAS (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday directed to place the names of all accused involved in murder of blasphemy accused Dr. Shahnwaz Kumbhar through social media, leading to violent actions.

investigation of Umerkot incident and exposed the misconduct of Sindh police. The inquiry report, issued after intense public pressure, has revealed severe violations of law by police officials from Umerkot and Mirpur Khas.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investment & Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announces ticket prices for England Tests

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan will play three-match Test series in Multan and Rawalpindi from 7 to 28 October as tickets would be available at a low price of PKR 50.

0900am (details attached). The series is part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25, with the first and second Test matches to be played at the Multan Cricket Stadium (MCS) from 7 to 19 October.

As many as 45 individuals including the high-ranking police officers, including DIG Javed Jaskani, SSP Asad Chaudhry, SSP Asif Raza Baloch, SHO Sindhar and CIA team officials. Lodged under charges of murder, terrorism, and the Torture and Custodial Death Prevention Act 2022, the FIR also include Umar Jan Sindhar who allegedly incited public outrage through social media, leading to violent actions.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. In all procurements of GOES whether through electronic or manual bid submission, it is mandatory for all bidders to use registered at Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA 006.

University of Balochistan to Host International Conference on Linguistics and Literature

QUETTA: The University of Balochistan, in collaboration with the Linguistic Association of Pakistan, is set to host the International Conference on Linguistics and Literature from October 3-4, 2024, in Quetta.

This prestigious two-day event will gather leading national and international scholars to explore and discuss key issues in the fields of linguistics and literature.

The conference will place a special emphasis on the preservation and promotion of Pakistan's indigenous languages and cultural heritage. By highlighting the importance of safeguarding linguistic diversity, the event aims to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the rich linguistic tapestry of Pakistan.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a series of presentations, panel discussions,

Education Desk:



and workshops, addressing a wide range of topics related to linguistics and literature. The conference will also provide a platform for scholars to share their research findings, exchange ideas, and collaborate on future projects.

Maulana Fazal Elected Central Amir Maulana Hydri As GS of JUI

From Our Correspondent:

PESHAWAR: In the final phase of intra-party elections held on Sunday, Maulana Ghaffar Hydri was elected unopposed as the central Amir of Jamiat ul Ulema Islam (JUI). The elections took place in Peshawar, where party members gathered to cast their votes.

Alongside Maulana Fazul Rehman, Maulana Ghaffar Hydri was also elected unopposed as the central secretary of the party. The smooth and uncontested election process reflects the strong support and unity within the party ranks.

The newly elected leaders have expressed their commitment to furthering the party's mission and addressing the challenges faced by the community.

"We are dedicated to upholding the principles of justice and



equality, and we will continue to work tirelessly for the betterment of our people," said Maulana Ghaffar Hydri in his acceptance speech.

The JUI's intra-party elections are a significant event, high-

lighting the democratic processes within the party and setting the stage for its future direction. Party members and supporters have welcomed the new leadership, expressing optimism for the party's continued growth and influence.

Earthquake Tremors Felt in Kalat

Staff Reporter:

KALAT: Residents of Kalat district in Balochistan experienced earthquake tremors on Sunday afternoon. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the earthquake originated at 16:47 PST.

Registering a magnitude

of 4.5, the seismic activity was recorded at a depth of 25 kilometers, with the epicenter located approximately 13 kilometers southeast of Kalat.

The tremors caused panic among the residents.

Prompting many to rush out of their homes and build-

ings. Fortunately, there have been no immediate reports of casualties or significant damage.

However, authorities are conducting assessments to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population.

Religious scholar Dr Zakir Naik lands in Islamabad on 15-day visit

ISLAMABAD (INP): Renowned Indian Islamic scholar Dr. Zakir Naik landed in Islamabad on Monday morning on a 15-day visit which will take him to three major Pakistani cities to deliver lectures.

Dr. Zakir Naik arrived in Pakistan on the special invitation of the government.

Dr. Naik was welcomed by Prime Minister Youth Program head Rana Mashhood at Islamabad International Airport. Parliamentary Secretary Religious Affairs Shamsheer Ali Mazari was also present at the airport to welcome Dr. Naik. Dr. Naik landed at the airport early Monday and was also welcomed by officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs including Syed Dr. Aftab Rehman.

The tour, which kicks off on

October 5 in Karachi and concludes in Islamabad on October 20, will see Dr. Naik deliver lectures in three major cities: Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.

Dr. Naik, who is visiting Pakistan on the special invitation of the government, grabbed the attention of numerous passengers at the airport, who greeted him with enthusiasm and respect. Security around the airport was heightened as Dr. Naik was escorted to his destination in Islamabad under tight measures.

Schedule of Dr. Zakir Naik's lectures Dr. Naik shared further details in a separate post, revealing that the Karachi event will be held at Bagh-e-Quaid, across from the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah mausoleum.

Justice Akhtar skips hearing on plea seeking review of defection law verdict

ISLAMABAD, Sept 30 (INP): Justice Munsif Akhtar on Monday skipped a hearing on a petition seeking a review of the 2022 verdict on the defection clause under Article 63A of the Constitution.

The review plea, filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), was set to be taken up by a five-member larger bench at 11:30am today.

Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, the bench was supposed to comprise

Justices Akhtar, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel.

Justice Akhtar's decision comes against the backdrop of his removal from the three-judge committee established under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 after the promulgation of an amendment ordinance granting the CJP authority to select any judge as the committee's third member.

In a letter, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, a member of the three-

judge committee, had announced boycotting the panel over "unfettered and arbitrary discretion" vested in CJP's role, while protesting Justice Akhtar's removal.

In response to Justice Shah, CJP Isa listed several reasons for Justice Akhtar's removal from the committee, including his alleged indifference to a piling backlog of cases. On Monday, all judges except Justice Akhtar appeared in the courtroom. Justice Isa noted that the judge had penned him a letter stating,



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan, ILE Mr. Olyntho Vieira, called on Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti speaking at the distribution ceremony of relief Cheques to flood victims

Ambassador Albert terms Ukrainians attack attempts to destabilize political situation in Russia

ISLAMABAD, Sept 30 (INP): Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P. Khovov has termed the Ukrainians attack in the Russian Kursk region as an attempt to undermine the stable domestic political situation in Russia.

Addressing a press conference on the situation in and around Ukraine war, the ambassador said that the strategic initiative "on the ground" is in Russia's hands along the entire line of contact, the Kiev regime unleashed large-scale military activities against the civilian population of our regions, and on August 6 this year the Ukrainian army set out in detail in a speech by the President of Russia on June 14 of this year at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"I would like to reiterate that Russia is in favor of a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict. The conditions for such a settlement, if you like, the "Putin formula" was set out in detail in a speech by the President of Russia on June 14 of this year at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

He said the withdrawal of Ukrainian armed forces from the territories of the Donetsk People's Republic, Luhansk People's Republic, Kherson and Zaporozhya regions of Russia, Kiev's refusal to join NATO, the abolition of all illegal sanctions against Russia adopted without the approval of the UN Security Council, and respect for the rights of the Rus-

sian-speaking population of Ukraine.

The Russian envoy said that an early negotiated end to the conflict will be in the interest of the Global South, including Pakistan.

Russia is a reliable trade and investment partner that offers opportunities for equitable, mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan, he added.

Ambassador Albert said the lifting of illegal Western sanctions on the transportation of Russian products would significantly contribute to Pakistan's energy and food security, as Russia is the largest exporter of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium fertilizers and has vast oil and gas reserves.

The escalation of geopolitical tensions provoked by the West is largely due to the changing nature of the global world order to maintain its world domination at any cost on the basis of "Divide and Rule", he added.

The Russian envoy said that against the backdrop of changing economic patterns and the emergence of new centers of power, they rapidly losing its monopoly in a number of areas, particularly in the area of development financing. But what kind of negotiations can we talk about with a regime that attacks civilians, threatens the entire world

with nuclear catastrophe, and seeks to attack nuclear power plants, he questioned.

According to statistics, since the beginning of the special Russia and Ukraine, 39,005 shelling incidents have been recorded in this region, which has suffered the most at the hands of the Kiev regime, including 38,063 with the use of heavy weapons, he added.

Ambassador Albert said that over this period, 5,063 civilians, including 151 children, were killed on the territory of Donbass, 6,944 people, including 466 children, were injured with varying degrees of severity, 164 civilians, including 11 children, were blown up by "Lepesotk" anti-personnel mines. Three victims died as a result.

He said that in total, 9,437 people, including 242 children, were killed and 1,763 people, including 935 children, were injured in the Donetsk People's Republic between 2014 and 2024.

In the Zaporozhya region, the Ukrainian armed forces regularly shell the Zaporozhya nuclear power plant, the largest civilian nuclear facility in Europe, endangering the lives not only of the region's inhabitants, but also of the entire continent, he said.

The Russian envoy said the fact of the shelling, which once again brought the world to the brink of disaster, was recorded on August 11 this year by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi.

Imran to be released through court not from any other channel: Ali Muhammad

SWAT (INP): Central leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Ali Muhammad Khan has stated that Imran Khan will be released through the court, when a party says that they will take out their leader, it does not mean with a gun, if we take Imran Khan out of jail without the court, there will be more problems.

He expressed this while talking to a private TV channel. PTI leader added that he protested for 12 hours without leadership in the parliament. He said that the revolution in this country has been brought by the nation on February 8. Nation is with Tehreek-e-Insaf. Fake government wants to bring constitutional amendment.

They also want to close the door of justice of the Supreme Court forever. We will not let the door of justice be closed. Responding a question, he stated that a fake government has been imposed on the nation. Will the amendment be passed at two o'clock in the night? Is this a constitutional amendment or is it a bomb? Doubts of Jurat want to explode? During the conversation, PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan further said that only Bhutto's grandson is trying to destroy the constitution.

It seems younger brother Bilawal has been given some lollipop. MN Azko was picked up from the Parliament in the dark of night. Pressure is being put on our MNAs to support the constitutional amendments.

He said "We will not allow bullying and rigging in any way. These people want to bring the judiciary under their pressure and make their own decisions. The government is worried that if the election judicial commission is formed, milk will turn into water. We have no expectations from Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

We only want that appointments should be made according to seniority in the courts. On February 8, the nation voted for the founder PTI, Imran Khan. We told by our vote who is the popular leader in this country.

The fake government first snatched our mandate, then they snatched our reserved seats, now they want to attack the judiciary. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will continue its struggle for the rule of law and constitution.



OMAN: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony Chaudhry Saik Hussain meeting with Oman's Minister of Aqaf and Religious Affairs Mohammad Bin Said Bin Khalifa Al-Mamari.

PTI raises objections to bench formation in SC's article 63A review case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has raised formal objections regarding the constitution of the Supreme Court bench hearing the review case on the interpretation of Article 63-A.

A petition was filed by PTI's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar challenging the bench's formation. In the petition, Zafar argued that the bench was not constituted in accordance with Section 2 of the Act under the Presidential Ordinance, which requires the Judges' Committee to consist of three members.

According to the law, a minimum of three judges is necessary to decide on the composition of

the bench.

The petition further stated that the bench can only be constituted through the collective wisdom of three judges. However, the application pointed out that only two judges, instead of the required three, were present at the committee meeting on September 23, as Justice Mansoor did not attend. As a result, the petition contends that the decision made by two judges cannot be considered valid under the law rendering the formation of the bench improper.

During the proceedings, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa responded to the objections raised

by Barrister Ali Zafar, stating, "I do not agree with you. If this happens, then this court will become inactive."

He emphasized that not all cases can be left to the discretion of a single person, countering PTI's claims.

Barrister Ali Zafar maintained that the Practice and Procedure Committee can only form a bench when all three members are present.

Chief Justice Isa, however, rejected this interpretation, arguing that restricting the court's ability to function due to the absence of one judge would hinder the Supreme Court's operations.