

QUETTA VOICE

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Opposition lawmakers staging a sit-in near the chair of the speaker Balochistan Assembly: Photo Muhammad Ismail

Attack on prison vans in Islamabad: PTI MPAs among prisoners escape amid shootout

NEWSDESK: Unidentified gunmen ambushed three prison vans carrying detainees on Friday at the Sangiani Toll Plaza, leading to a chaotic scene as several prisoners, including three Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), managed to escape, according to police sources.

The prisoners, 187 individuals detained during recent protests at D-Chowk, were being transported to Attock Jail following court appearances.

Among those in the vans were MPAs Anwar Zeb, Malik Liaquat, and Yasir Qureshi, alongside K-P government employees and police officers, police sources confirmed.



Armed assailants, seemingly lying in wait, opened fire as the prison vans reached Sangiani, stated a police official. The attack targeted the vehicles' tyres, forcing them to halt, while police officers onboard sustained injuries and were subsequently taken to the hospital.

In the aftermath, law enforcement quickly mobilised reinforcements, securing the area and launching an immediate manhunt. Police report that some escapees have already been recaptured, including the son of an MPA. However, several prisoners remain unaccounted for, believed to have been aided by the attackers in their escape.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police spokesperson confirmed the incident, stating that the assailants numbered between 25 to 30, armed and firing to break the prisoners free. "This was a planned assault, intended to free individuals implicated in terrorism cases related to the recent PTI protests," said the spokesperson.

Express News reported that while many prisoners were successfully prevented from escaping, the attackers did manage to shatter van windows and disable some police vehicles. Local sources reported significant police presence at the scene following the attack, with authorities vowing to pursue those responsible for the daring ambush and the escape of high-profile detainees.

Opposition Stages Sit-In Over Border Closure Before Speaker Balochistan Assembly

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Opposition lawmakers in the Balochistan Assembly staged a sit-in in front of the Speaker's chair, protesting against the extended closure of the Pak-Iran border. The opposition expressed concerns over the economic hardships faced by local traders and workers due to the prolonged closure. During the assembly session, opposition members raised slogans and demanded immediate action to reopen the border, citing critical losses impacting businesses and daily-wage earners in the region. Khair Jan Baloch, the panel chairman engaged in discussions with the lawmakers

but did not commit to an immediate solution. "The federal government's worst policies are suffocating the people of Balochistan," Maulana Rehman said passionately. "By closing borders and allowing illegal trawling to continue, they're snatching the livelihoods of our fishermen in Gwadar and other coastal areas." The protest gained further momentum as lawmakers from the National Party (NP) and JUI-F joined in solidarity with the Maulana. "We stand with the people of Balochistan who are being deprived of economic oppor-

tunities," one NP lawmaker remarked, supporting calls to reopen the border and halt illegal trawling. Opposition leaders argued that the closure has led to severe economic consequences for Balochistan's people, urging the provincial government to negotiate with federal authorities for a resolution. The Pak-Iran border serves as a vital trade route for Balochistan, with thousands dependent on cross-border activities for their livelihood. The protest by opposition lawmakers highlights rising dissatisfaction with the lack of timely interventions from authorities.

Governor Balochistan Lauds New Book, Emphasizes Role of Intellectuals

By Staff Reporter

Quetta: Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail expressed his delight at the launch of "Balochistan: Aerial Panoramas and Landscapes," a book showcasing the province's stunning natural beauty. He believes this publication will not only attract tourists from around the world but also foster a deeper appreciation for Balochistan's unique landscapes among its people. Highlighting the importance of aesthetics, the Governor underscored the book's contribution to understanding and celebrating the beauty of the province. He praised the tireless efforts of pilots Tahir Khan Kayani and

Aziz Ahmad Jamali in capturing these breathtaking aerial views. Aziz Ahmad Jamali, Additional Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan speaking at the occasion, Aziz Ahmad Jamal, Additional Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan speaking at the occasion Governor Mandokhail expressed concern over the declining number of intellectuals who play a crucial role in shaping society. He emphasized the importance of supporting writers, artists, and other creative individuals as they serve as ambassadors of culture and progress. He called upon the government to provide adequate financial support and encouragement to

these individuals. The Governor also stressed the need for a harmonious and inclusive society. He advocated for a friendly environment, respect for diverse opinions, and a strong sense of brotherhood. He emphasized the collective responsibility to build a future characterized by stability, equality, and mutual trust. In conclusion, Governor Mandokhail congratulated the authors of the book and expressed hope for their continued efforts in promoting Balochistan's beauty and culture. Balochistan Governor Lauds New Book, Emphasizes Role of Intellectuals.



41st Polio Case in Pakistan: Balochistan's Loralai Reports First Infection

Health Desk:

QUETTA: The National Institute of Health's Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication confirmed Pakistan's 41st case of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) on Friday, October 25, 2024. The virus was detected in a child from Loralai District, Balochistan, marking the first recorded infection from the area this year. The child experienced onset of paralysis on October 8, 2024. Balochistan remains a key focus in the polio eradication drive, contributing 21 out of Pakistan's 41 polio cases this year. Other cases include 12

from Sindh, six from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad. Genetic sequencing of the Loralai case is underway, offering insights into the virus's transmission pathways and resistance in the region. Balochistan has faced recurring challenges in eradicating polio, particularly due to vaccine refusal, logistical obstacles, and limited healthcare access. Despite significant efforts, cases continue to rise, highlighting the need for reinforced strategies and outreach in remote areas.



BNP Announces Balochistan Protests, Criticizes Terrorism Cases Against Leaders

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Balochistan National Party (BNP) announced a peaceful protest campaign across Balochistan, starting with a shutter-down strike on October 30 and a wheel-jam strike on highways on November 2. BNP leader Agha Hassan Baloch stated the protests aim to highlight alleged government injustices and rights violations affecting Balochistan's citizens. At a press conference, Baloch condemned recent terrorism-related FIRs filed against BNP leaders, including Sardar Akhtar Mengal, ques-

tioning if free expression is now treated as terrorism. He claimed thousands of Baloch youth are being unfairly targeted, with names added to the Fourth Schedule and ID cards and SIMs blocked. Calling the current government "worst," Baloch pointed out cases against current and former elected representatives, stating BNP's dedication to democracy and fearless stance against intimidation. The BNP, he added, will continue its mission against "ongoing injustices and dictatorship" in Balochistan.



Pakistan-Russia joint anti-terrorism drill concludes with military show of solidarity

NEWSDESK: The Pakistan-Russia joint counter-terrorism exercise, Druzhiba-VII, concluded on Friday with a closing ceremony at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) in Pabbi, where military officials from both nations lauded the exercise as a successful demonstration of tactical skills and inter-military cooperation. The two-week exercise, which commenced on October 13, involved special forces from the Pakistan Army and a contingent of 54 Russian troops, who participated in training drills and counter-terrorism techniques, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. Lieutenant General Fayyaz Hussain Shah, Inspector General Training & Evaluation, attended the closing ceremony as the

chief guest, while Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev also observed the proceedings. "The troops displayed the highest standards of professionalism," ISPR noted, praising the collaboration as instrumental in refining tactical procedures. The exercise, the seventh bilateral engagement of its kind, focused on enhancing skills and sharing expertise in counter-terrorism. "This joint training enhances our historic ties and strengthens our shared commitment to combating terrorism," said an official statement. Druzhiba-VII underscored Pakistan and Russia's evolving military ties, offering a platform for both nations to benefit from each other's specialised experience in counter-terror operations.

Balochistan's Youth Empowered: 30,000 to Gain Global Job Opportunities

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Polio Crisis in Balochistan: A Failure of Campaigns, Vaccine Refusals, and Poor Management

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RDMC Reopens Schools After 13 Years in Chagai's Remote Villages

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Polio Crisis in Balochistan: A Failure of Campaigns, Vaccine Refusals, and Poor Management

Editorial:

The alarming surge in polio cases in Balochistan continues to expose the failures of the ongoing eradication campaigns. With three new cases, the provincial total has now reached 20, and the national tally stands at 37, underscoring the dire need for urgent action.

Despite millions poured into vaccination efforts, the virus remains a persistent threat, especially in remote and underserved areas.

The failure to contain the virus highlights a deep-rooted issue: chronic vaccine refusals and ineffective management of the polio campaigns.

For years, health officials and organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have launched numerous drives, but their impact remains minimal.

One major hurdle is the lack of access to high-risk areas, where families refuse the vaccine due to misinformation, mistrust, or cultural resistance.

Beyond logistical challenges, the absence of political and social ownership further weakens the campaign.

Without the backing of influential leaders, community buy-in is minimal, leaving the burden on health workers who often face resistance.

The failure of local authorities to engage and mobilize communities is a critical factor contributing to the rising cases.

To truly overcome this crisis, a shift toward indigenous solutions is essential. The authorities must trust and engage local staff members who understand the cultural and social dynamics of their communities.

Policies imposed from Islamabad often fail to address the specific challenges faced in Balochistan.

Instead, local leaders—political, religious, and social—should be brought on board to help reshape the strategy, build trust, and engage communities in the fight against polio.

By embracing an approach rooted in local ownership and tailored to the province's needs, Balochistan can make meaningful progress in eradicating the virus. Without swift action, Balochistan's battle against polio will continue to stall, putting more young lives at risk. The virus is not just a health issue but a reflection of systemic failures that need to be addressed to protect future generations.

Leviathan that we need

By Dr Muhammad Ali Ehsan:

It is very disheartening to see the disruption of civil society in Pakistan. A great number of people, including students and lawyers are out on streets protesting. In fact, protests on authority and streets have become a new societal norm and we as a society need to find a more dignified and state way to address our issues. Focused on the appalling conditions and circumstances and desperately trying to overcome them and survive, our society is losing its exuberance, excitement, liveliness, all leading to loss of much important and critical enthusiasm at the national level. Can we continue to afford this state of affairs?

What can be done to create the essential social awareness which, in the absence of positive feelings of energetic interests, the society will not be able to balance against and shackle the state?

The best way to shackle a state is by practising and proliferating societal norms and street protests and demonstrations, especially when they turn violent, are the worst of the norms.

If state is like a hospital and its citizens like its patients then the hospital needs to make sure that the patients are not turned away and exposed to live under a

Balochistan's Youth Empowered: 30,000 to Gain Global Job Opportunities

Manzoor Ahmed Magsi :

Balochistan is taking a bold step to combat unemployment with the launch of its Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti deserves appreciation for translating his words into action.

Aimed at equipping 30,000 young people with practical skills, this initiative opens doors for overseas job opportunities, marking a critical move in addressing the province's high unemployment rate.

With limited local job prospects, Balochistan has long struggled to provide adequate employment for its growing youth population.

The program focuses on trades such as Information Tech-



In the first phase, over 2,300 young individuals will be sent abroad by November, with work permits allowing them to gain valuable international experience.

This fair approach helps bridge regional disparities and promotes balanced development across the province. The emphasis on female participation also highlights the program's progressive stance on gender equality, aiming to empower women as critical contributors to Balochistan's economy.

A key aspect of the program is its merit-based selection process, ensuring equal representation from all districts in

judiciary, or, what Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari called the "brutal majority," would have manifested itself with the same result. You'd agree such statements have no 'beauty' about them.

There is always the third possibility that attempts to break the impasse would have failed, stripping the hybrid buffer and pitting the establishment and at least eight judges of the Supreme Court against each other in direct confrontation. How things spin away from such an eventuality is difficult to plot. If the amendment is passed, the hybrid government will think it safe from any threats to its existence, at least in the short term.

While the government has continued to say it has the numbers (whatever the factual position) to pass the amendment but wishes to reach a consensus in order to further the democratic cause, those they have tried to engage with have had their own reasons to enter into a dialogue.

For example, the PML-N's game plan seems to be to "consensus" somehow push the clock until the date changes to Oct 26, so that the cabinet can take over and a new dynamic is triggered which, they hope, will eventually lead to the

Will order follow chaos?

By Abbas Nasir:

The chaos of the past several weeks, triggered by the fast-approaching retirement date of the chief justice of Pakistan on Oct 25 and concerns that his successor may take decisions signaling the beginning of the end of the hybrid government, has left many looking like it may have peaked.

Whether these concerns are valid or whether it is the paranoia of a set-up that lacks mass support, legitimacy and credibility, due to an election where the overall result may not have reflected the will of those who voted, is difficult to say.

What is clear is that there would be few examples of a country amending its constitution to address such concerns pinned to an inability to predict the behaviour or actions of just over half a dozen men and a woman.

Many government politicians have described the ongoing confrontations of the past weeks as the 'beauty of democracy'. I humbly disagree.

Let me tell you why. By the time you read these lines, either the service 'consensus' (with the JUI-F and some smaller players) would have reached a 'consensus' or the government would have been replaced by the PML-N and PPP were guilty of ignoring the evolution of vibrant gestures, and this must be the feeling of the maulana in addition, the replacement

of his party's nominee for governor KP with a PPP politician was something that would not have met with his approval because it stripped his party, with stakes in the province, of the only office they could have had there.

This forced the JUI-F into taking a paradoxical position, aligning itself with the party from its home base of KP.

There can be no denying that the maulana, apart from one fault of letting his party vote for Gen Musharraf, has been pretty consistent in taking democratic positions.

As this column's last few lines were being finalised, a five-member PML team that met the party's founder Imran Khan in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail had emerged from the meeting and told the media that Khan had directed his team members to continue to engage with the maulana on this important piece of legislation.

At the same time, PPP leader Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari told the media outside the maulana's Islamabad residence that he had been one of the chief JUI-F negotiator Kamran Murtaza, and that the two parties had agreed on a joint amendment that the PML-N would also support and that the PML should make up its

mind as to what it wanted to do.

It appeared that the PML's strategy to buy time had run its course and that perhaps now the JUI-F and PML may part ways in favour of the vote and support the amendment.

Of course, there is many a slip between the cup and lip. And the job isn't done till it is. If the amendment is passed, the hybrid government will think it will remove any threats to its existence at least in the short term.

The longer term is another story. So far, Imran Khan does not seem to have bowed to the pressure exerted by a number of court cases and his imprisonment. There can be no doubt he continues to enjoy considerable support from the streets for either the pressure exerted by a number of court cases and his imprisonment. There can be no doubt he continues to enjoy considerable support from the streets for either the pressure exerted by a number of court cases and his imprisonment. There can be no doubt he continues to enjoy considerable support from the streets for either the pressure exerted by a number of court cases and his imprisonment.

Civil Service reforms: breaking the cycle of failure

By Dr Imtiaz Bhatti:

Pakistan has a long history of failed attempts at civil service reform. Each government announces ambitious plans to revamp the bureaucratic machinery, promising a more efficient, transparent and accountable civil service.

Yet, every such effort ultimately fizzles out, leaving us back where we started. The root cause of this cyclical failure lies in who we entrust to lead these reform efforts—reform commissions dominated by retired civil servants who once operated within the flawed system they are now expected to reform. This approach can be likened to "asking the gatekeeper to change the rules of entry", as their familiarity with the system often limits their ability to pursue transformative change.

The problem with bureaucracy is not just about conflict of interest, it is also about perspective. Long-term civil servants understand the system deeply but often lack an outsider's vision for radical change. They are part of a culture of reform frequently reverting to their expertise and insider understanding of effective practices.

However, this can also limit their perspective, tethering them to traditional thinking. It is not surprising that those who bring reform to them to significantly change a system they have long supported, particularly if it involves altering certain established privileges.

Instead, we need reformers who bring a fresh perspective—experts, both domestic and international, who are not beholden to the system they need to change.

Academics, policy specialists, professionals from the private sector and members of civil society must be at the forefront of these efforts. These are people who can bring innovative

thinking, a willingness to challenge norms, and an unencumbered vision of what an efficient, responsive civil service could look like. Their leadership would focus on dismantling archaic practices and ensuring a merit-based, citizen-centric service, rather than protecting the old guard.

True civil service reform requires disrupting the cozy club of power and privilege that the bureaucracy has become. It demands leaders willing to ask uncomfortable questions, tackle corruption head-on, and dismantle the hierarchies that prevent talented individuals from rising through the ranks.

This cannot be achieved by those who have benefited from the system their entire lives. If Pakistan is to build a 21st-century civil service, we need new champions—those with the courage and independence to see the system and the re-

form to fix them. Previous reform attempts have failed to address the fundamental issue: the flawed structure of the civil service inherited from British colonialisers.

The British colonial administration's key motivation was to control a vast population of 390 million through an elite corps of westernised officials, who numbered just 4,000 at the time of Partition in 1947.

These civil servants were inducted with the mindset that local people were inferior, and they relied on influential landowners to keep the common people in line.

This legacy has seeped into the current bureaucratic structure in Pakistan: bureaucrats still consider themselves the true, all-knowing ruling class, and civil servants common people and their elected representatives.

The colonial legacy of centralising power has significantly hampered

the professionalisation and development of provincial civil services in Pakistan. Despite constitutional guarantees of provincial autonomy, especially regarding the 18th Amendment, the practice of appointing central bureaucrats to provincial positions has perpetuated a mindset more akin to ruling rather than serving, hampering the evolution of vibrant, effective provincial administrations.

The chief secretaries appointed by the federal government often prioritise perks and privileges, favour central government employees over local talent, and resist the implementation of sustainable reforms that could enhance service delivery and governance at local levels.

This systemic suppression of local talent and civil services from emerging as robust structures capable of autonomous operation and local governance improvement.

Experience from advanced countries shows that effective governance happens at the grassroots level, and establishing a competent, responsive bureaucracy at lower tiers is crucial for meaningful service delivery.

Breaking free from historical and structural barriers demands a bold reimagination of civil service reform, focusing on transparency, accountability and genuine public service. The impetus for this change must come from those outside the entrenched system—innovators committed to transforming how governance operates, starting with leadership. The prevailing mindset, a culture of accountability, and the presence of bureaucrats as rulers over the populace, not as servants to the public and their representatives.

This outdated perspective necessitates a transformative shift towards governance that

commitment to covering all costs, including training, visas, and job placements.

This ensures that financial barriers do not prevent talented individuals from seizing these opportunities.

By focusing on skill-building and international employment, Balochistan's Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program has the potential to uplift thousands of young people.

With strong implications, this initiative can transform the province's economic landscape, reduce poverty through remittances, and promote long-term prosperity.

The writer is a former press secretary to chief minister Balochistan and currently serves as the assistant director in the Balochistan Information Department

Centre, Sindh agree to construct M6 motorway from Karachi to Sukkur

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government and Centre agreed to construct the M6 Motorway on a separate track from Karachi to Sukkur, instead of initiating from Hyderabad to Sukkur.

The agreement came in a meeting at the CM House which was also attended by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, CM's Secretary Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Works Mohammad

Ali Shaikh, Federal Communication Secretary, Ali Sher Mehsud, NHA Chairman Shaharaz Sultan, Director Hassan Shah, Member NHA Sindh Zone Parkash Lehano and Member West Zone Bashtar. The Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway project envisages the construction of a 306-kilometre-long, six-lane, access-controlled motorway.

The motorway is proposed as a high-speed toll road facility for efficient and safe transportation, which will start from Hyderabad and end at Naro Canal.

on equal partnership. To this, CM Shah said that his team would study the proposal and get back to the federal ministry. At the meeting, the chief minister also urged the federal minister to approve handover of the Lyari Expressway so that it could be opened for heavy traffic.

In the meeting, the CM pointed out that the work on the 90-km road from Ghoro to Keti Bundar was started in 2015 and 15 years had passed but it was not completed yet.



QUETTA: DG Levis Naseebullah and Deputy Commissioner Pishin Zahid Khan are meeting Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

Speakers urge United Nation (UN) to uphold resolutions on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speakers at a seminar in Islamabad raised serious concerns about the credibility of the United Nations, emphasizing the government's ongoing violations of UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Kashmir dispute.

According to Kashmir Media Service, titled "United Nations and the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," the event coincided with UN Day and was organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

According to Kashmir Media Service, titled "United Nations and the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," the event coincided with UN Day and was organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the significance of UN Day as an opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the UN Charter and multilateralism.

He advocated for a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices, enabling Kashmiris to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. He firmly rejected any attempts to equate this just struggle with terrorism and called on the international community to fulfill its commitments to the Kashmiri people, urging India to honor its own obligations.

He stressed that the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora must come together to raise global awareness through extensive parliamentary and media outreach. DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the significance of UN Day as an opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the UN Charter and multilateralism.

While acknowledging the UN's humanitarian efforts, he noted that both multilateralism and the UN institution are facing challenges from certain member states. He urged states and the UN to address international peace and security issues based on principles rather than power. In his address, chief guest Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, reflected on the historical events leading to the ongoing Kashmir tragedy since 1947.

Kashmiris' rights. Farzana Yaqoob condemned India's settler colonialism and urged some Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to reconsider their investments and partnerships with India. Dr. Mariam Fatima highlighted the legal dimensions of the Kashmiri freedom struggle, affirming that the right to self-determination is universal and firmly rooted in UN Security Council resolutions. She condemned the misleading equating of Kashmir's struggle with terrorism. Altaf Hussain Wani addressed the implications of Hindutva ideology and demographic changes in IIOJK, noting that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, along with democratic politics, serve to advance Modi's agenda while undermining the Kashmiri freedom struggle.



ISLAMABAD: DISCO's Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan and Minister for Power Sardar Awais Leghari presided review meeting in Islamabad.

China-Pakistan cooperation underpinned by SCO Agricultural Base

YANGLING (INP): China-Pakistan cooperation has been underpinned by SCO Agricultural Base, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

The Pakistani products are well received by Chinese consumers at the SCO Demonstration Base for Agricultural Technology Exchange and Training in Yangling, China's agriculture, science-city, according to Chen Qihui, Deputy Chief, Exhibition Bureau, Yangling Agricultural Hi-tech Industrial Demonstration Zone.

"Pakistan rice, pine nuts and tea are especially popular here, and we are looking forward to seeing more high-quality Pakistani products gain presence in the Chinese market through us," he added.

Imported from the comprehensive bonded zone, the Pakistani products displayed in the exhibition hall are already being sold in big local

supermarkets as well as e-commerce platforms. This is only a microcosm of China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation in SCO Agricultural Base. Since 2019, the year that the Base was initiated, various achievements have been accomplished between the two countries. In 2021, 49 Pakistani experts attended joint scientific research, agricultural education and training, technology demonstration and import and export trade.

Up till now, over 120 Pakistani officials, experts, enterprise leaders and farm owners have participated in agricultural technology training in Yangling. At present, there're 142 Pakistani students studying at Northwest A&F University, which is closely cooperating with renowned Pakistani universities and institutions including Quaid-i-Azam University, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, University of Sindh, University of

visiting the Institute of Water-saving Agriculture in Arid Areas of China (IWAAC), Northwest A&F University, one of China's top agricultural universities located in Yangling. Lahore, etc. in nanotechnology and carbon worm biotechnology research under the Silk Road Agricultural Education and Research Innovation Alliance. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the UN's crucial role in the Kashmir conflict, commending its support for a solution based on relevant Security Council resolutions.

What China is doing for SCO countries is amazing because it is providing them the base, the research centers, political guidance, economic guidance, capital, etc. Pakistan being a member of SCO will be one of the beneficiaries of the great work that China is doing," said Qamar Bashir, Former Press Secretary to the Pakistani President.

Dr. Zahid Majeed honored with AAOU Meritorious Service Award 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) has awarded member the AAOU Meritorious Service Award 2024 to Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director of Academic Planning & Course Production at AIOU.

This award acknowledges and appreciates Dr. Zahid's 23 years of effort and contribution to the field of Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

The AAOU, established in 1987, is an association of Asian Open Universities, currently comprising over 60 full-time members and around 30 associate members. Each year the

association invites applications for the AAOU Meritorious Service Award Learning. Ultimately, they unanimously selected Dr. Zahid Majeed of AIOU, Pakistan.

The jury recognized Dr. Zahid's 25 years of contributions to ODL, particularly his research, writing, curriculum development, and innovative approaches to include students with special needs in the ODL system. They also commended his efforts to raise awareness within higher education institutions, particularly open universities, about the importance of supporting special



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Begum Reema Ayaz Sadig and principal Prof Rozina Faheem cutting cake along with newly elected students council in a ceremony held at FG Home Economics and Management Sciences College F-II.

Pakistan calls for ending women's suffering in IIOJK & Palestine

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 25 (INP): Reaffirming its strong commitment to advancing the gender perspective in UN peace operations, Pakistan has called for ending the suffering of women and girls under foreign occupation, such as in Kashmir and Palestine.

"The most egregious violations against women and girls occur in situations of foreign occupation, since one of the objectives of the occupation is the subjugation of the occupied population, among whom women and girls are the most vulnerable," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council on Thursday.

In this regard, he called on the Security Council to address "the dire and unacceptable" situation of the occupied population, among whom women and girls are the most vulnerable.

engagement team to Africa, which undertook several successful initiatives including vocational training for local students, teachers and women. An increasing number of Pakistani women peacekeepers in recent years have served as doctors, nurses and police officers in some of the most challenging environments, with Shahzadi Gulfam, becoming the first-ever recipient of the International Female Police Peacekeeper Award in 2011. Pakistan's highly trained UN peacekeepers, including female peacekeepers, continue to set the highest standards in fulfilling peacekeeping mandates, and protecting all vulnerable segments of the population, including women, from violence, he added.

Over 60 speakers took part in the day long debate, calling for women's involvement in Peace Processes and participation in decision-making on equal footing with men. On his part, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan was the first country to endorse the UN Secretary General's Declaration of shared commitments which identified Women, Peace and Security as a central priority to strengthen UN peacekeeping.

pointing out that the country's political commitment was matched with practical steps in the field. As an example, he said, Pakistan dispatched in 2019 its first all-female contingent.

Table with 4 columns: Date, Item Name, Quantity, and Price. It lists various items like 'کھانسی', 'کھانسی', 'کھانسی', etc., with their respective quantities and prices.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Electronic Bids Only. TSE # 242516979741. Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat invites electronic bids as per Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) Rules, 2014 form and invited and authorized dealers of the vehicles' manufacturers/assemblers in Pakistan having registration and active status of NTN/MSD with Federal Board of Revenue for procurement of vehicles.

Muhammad Aurangzeb meets IDB chief, lauds support for Pakistan

WASHINGTON (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the President of the Islamic Development Bank Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser in Washington.

He acknowledged the Bank's role as a reliable partner in Pakistan's progress and appreciated its financing in various sectors including energy, transportation, education, and health. Muhammad Aurangzeb lauded Bank's investment in the Mohmand Dam, along with other members of the Arab Coordination Group, as a model for co-

financing similar or larger projects in the future.

The finance minister also held a meeting with the leadership of Mashreq Bank. He appreciated the Bank's longstanding partnership with Pakistan and highlighted the performance of the economy over the past year.

Aurangzeb expressed satisfaction that the Bank is expanding its operations in Pakistan and would soon launch a new office.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Aurangzeb also held a meeting with the representatives of JP Morgan Bank in Wash-

ington. He provided an overview of the improvements in Pakistan's economic outlook and emphasized the importance of the IMF's Extended Fund Facility for lending permanence to macroeconomic stability and executing structural reforms. The finance minister highlighted significant reforms in taxation, privatization, and the overhauling of state-owned enterprises.

He also expressed Pakistan's resolve to tap into International Capital Markets through the issuance of its inaugural Bond.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, accompanied by Governor SBP, held a meeting with the lead of JP Morgan Bank.

Measures underway to ensure drug free society: Attaullah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said the government is taking all possible measures to ensure a drug free society in the country. He was responding to a question during the Question Hour in the National Assembly on Friday.

The Minister said the Anti-Narcotics Force regularly conducts raids against drugs traffickers. He, however, urged parents and administration of educational institutions to keep a vigilant eye to protect children from the menace of narcotics.

The Minister also stressed the need to launch an awareness campaign in the media to counter narcotics. He said the federal government has allocated funds to create awareness among masses about the menace of drugs through films and dramas.

Attaullah Tarar further informed that Pakistan has bilateral engagements with counter-narcotics authorities of partner countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and Iran.

He added that thirty-seven Memorandums of Understanding have been signed for cooperation with other countries to curb narcotics while MoUs with twenty-nine countries are under process.

or under revision.

Replying to another question, he said a smart city App in the name of 'My Islamabad' is being launched to provide all kinds of facilities to the citizens on a touch of a button.

Answering a question, Attaullah Tarar said the feeder route F-11 will start from I-16 to N-5 Metro Station and is expected to be operational by January next year. This will connect I-16 to Islamabad and Rawalpindi through Orange Line and Red Line Metro Bus services.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said the government is focusing on bringing down the electricity tariff.

He pointed out that additional subsidy was given to power consumers during this summer season. He said contracts with five IPPs have been terminated while contracts have been negotiated with eight IPPs. He said this will help bring down the electricity prices which will have positive impact on the economy as well.

The Minister also laid before the House two bills. These are The Naturalization (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and Pakistan citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Responding to a question,

Parliamentary Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination, Kiran Dar said the Federal Government is committed to promote game of hockey in the country. She said the government provides financial grants to the Pakistan Hockey Federation for the promotion of the game.

The Parliamentary Secretary said revival of departmental sports is a priority to attract new talent towards sports to ventilate the financial sufferings of sportspersons.

She added departments like Pakistan Armed Forces, HEC, WAPDA, Railways, FBR, ZTBL and Police have been requested to provide quota in jobs to sportspersons. Meanwhile, the National Assembly today passed a unanimous resolution, reiterating Pakistan's full diplomatic, political and moral support to the people of Kashmir for their right to self-determination.

The resolution was moved by Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on the 77th anniversary of Indian invasion of Kashmir on 27th October 1947. The House stressed that durable peace in the South Asia depends on the resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti is presiding over the review meeting regarding occupied lands in the province.

SC holds full court reference to bid CJP Isa farewell

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court on Friday held a full court reference to bid outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa farewell, where lawyers and fellow judges recounted his tenure's highlights.

Justice Isa was sworn in as the 29th CJP on Sept 17, 2023 at a symbolic ceremony, where his wife Sarina Isa was standing beside him as he read out the oath.

Justice's Yalga Afridi, who was nominated by a newly formed Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC), is set to take oath as the next CJP tomorrow (Saturday).

The full court reference was live-streamed on the Supreme Court's website and its YouTube channel.

Senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who would have become the CJP had the 26th Amendment not been in place, was unable to attend the gathering as he was gone for

Umrah along with his family. The seats next to the CJP usually occupied by Justice Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar were seen taken by Justice Afridi and Justice Aminuddin Khan instead due to their absence.

Justices Ayesha Malik, Athar Minallah and Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan were also not present at the occasion.

A total of 16 judges, including two ad-hoc and two of the Federal Shariat Court, attended the event. Among the 16 judges were also Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Shahid Waheed. In his speech, CJP-designate Afridi described Justice Isa as a "good, hearing human being" but also warned of his "fury".

Justice Afridi said: "If you meet, greet and treat Justice Faez Isa with a smile and humility, he will reciprocate with

such gentle softness, likeness and care that it will leave you astonished.

"But mind you, if you in any way provoke him, or if I may say so poke the bear, then even hell hath no fury to match his scorn and only God may help and save you," he added.

The incoming chief justice said he had "mixed feelings" about bidding his predecessor farewell as he would "surely miss your sense of humour and abruptness," but also was glad that he was leaving in good health to enjoy his time ahead.

Justice Afridi praised the outgoing top judge for cases pertaining to women's rights, highlighting that Justice Isa "would leave no bounds to ensure the preservation of their rights and that with the full might of the court".

Justice Afridi also took the opportunity to indicate his priorities and principles according to which he would guide the apex court as its chief justice.

APHC-AJK delegation meets United Kashmir Welfare Alliance Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The delegation of All Parties Hurriyat Conference led by APHC-AJK Chapter Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi met the officials and workers of United Kashmir Welfare Alliance Karachi.

They discussed the ongoing human rights situation prevalent in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and ongoing suppression by Indian occupation forces.

The visiting Hurriyat delegation highlighted the ongoing killings, forced disappearances and human rights violations of Kashmiris by the Indian troops in the occupied territory and strongly condemned the atrocities inflicted on innocent Kashmiris.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi emphasized on highlighting the longstanding dispute of Kashmir at the global level, saying that India is

committing serious violations of human rights in Kashmir, which cannot be ignored anymore and will be raised on international forums.

Safi highlighted the difficulties faced by the people of IOJK, saying that the voice should be raised for the rights of Kashmiris not only in Azad Jammu and Kashmir but in the whole world.

Chairman United Kashmir Welfare Alliance, Sardar Zulfiqar, President Sudhanuti Welfare Association, Sardar Farooq Mahmood, President Rajput Association Raja Zaheer, President AI-Awan Organization Azhar Awan, President Nannota Welfare Sardar Karim Khan, Vice President Minto Welfare Trust Sardar Mubasher Hussain and others were also present where part of the delegation met APHC-AJK leaders.

They were of the view that extremist and oppressive policies are being resorted to suppress the freedom struggle of Kashmir, saying that any conspiracy to erase the existence of Kashmiri people will not be allowed.

They emphasized that it is the need of the hour to defeat the ideology of Hindutva and to achieve this goal, all the sections have to make united efforts. They also condemned the Indian move of August 5, 2019. They termed this move as an attack on the rights of Kashmiri people and it is a violation of international law.

There was also a discussion regarding Black Day on October 27, which is celebrated as a protest against the Indian occupation of Kashmir. On this occasion, a protest rally will be held from Arts Council Karachi to Karachi Press Club.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Pervaiz Ali Sandela and Olympian Khawaja Junaid.

Free Media a cornerstone of democracy: German Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Embassy of Germany and the Embassy of the Netherlands, both members of the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC), hosted a panel discussion titled "Media Freedom and Democracy - Challenges and Opportunities".

This event brought together journalists, diplomats, and community members for an open dialogue about the crucial role of media in shaping democracy.

Both representatives of the countries emphasized the role of a free press in strengthening democracy and fostering informed societies.

Commenting on the occasion, Ambassador Alfred Gramnas highlighted:

"A free press is a precondition for a thriving democracy, this is why, for instance, we offer journalists from all over the world additional training courses with the DW Academy, both in Germany and online."

Mr Hajo Provó Kluit, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Netherlands Embassy added:

"That is why the Netherlands supports a 3-year project of NGO Free Press Unlimited helping rural journalists in Pakistan enhance their role as

accountability advocates. During the discussion German Ambassador Alfred Gramnas, said that free and independent media was indispensable for democratic booming.

Democracy couldn't thrive sans freedom of expression. The event underscored the commitment of both Germany and the Netherlands to upholding media freedom as a cornerstone of democracy.

The discussants acknowledged ongoing challenges while also highlighting opportunities for collaboration and growth within the country's media landscape.

RDMC Reopens Schools After 13 Years in Chagai's Remote Villages

News Desk:

NOKKUNDI: Two primary schools in the remote villages of Bedok and Saray District Chagai, have reopened after 13 years, thanks to support from Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC).

This initiative, part of RDMC's community development efforts, includes providing teachers, free uniforms, books, and stationery to local children. Guided by its Community Development Committees (CDC), RDMC responded to local calls for accessible education. As the original school buildings are in disrepair, classes are temporarily held in spaces provided by the community, with infrastructure upgrades planned.

"Education is a cornerstone of RDMC's sustainable development goals, alongside health, wa-



ter, food security, and economic growth," said RDMC's Community Investment Lead Mohamud Essa Tahir.

The company also supports skill training through a Nokkundi center in partnership with Hunar

Foundation, serving 286 students, including local women. RDMC aims to foster long-term community partnerships and sustainable impact, with Reko Diq poised to create 4,000 jobs and a 40-year mining life.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam taking briefing on the G-Tech Hub initiative at the NUST Islamabad Campus.