

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Friday, November.15.2024.

dquettavoice@gmail.com



File Photo of a shelterless school in Balochistan's Killa Abdullah district: Photo by Asmat Khan Kakar

Balochistan Minister Claims Foiled Militant Attack on Guest House in Barkhan

News Desk:
Barkhan: Balochistan Minister for Public Health and Engineering, Sardar Abdul Rahman Khetran, reported successfully repelling an attack on his guest house in the Nitu area of Barkhan district. According to the minister, around 20 armed men associated with an outlawed militant organization launched an assault on his guest house. In a statement to the media, Sardar Abdul Rahman Khan praised his security team for their prompt response, which he claimed was instrumental in thwarting the attack.



The minister expressed concern over the presence and activities of militant groups in the region, underscoring the need for enhanced security measures to protect public officials and residents alike. "Thanks to the swift and courageous actions of my security personnel, we managed to repel the assailants and prevent further damage," he stated. Local authorities are investigating the incident, with additional security protocols being reviewed to ensure safety in the area.

Bilawal accuses PML-N of not upholding political agreements

NEWSDESK: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed frustration with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), accusing the party of violating agreements and failing to provide PPP with respect in the federal government. Addressing the media at Bilawal House in Karachi on Thursday, Bilawal stated that the issue was not about personal grievances but about honour and political integrity.

Balochistan CM Launches Strict Action Against Absentee Teachers, 90 Suspended in Dera Bugti

Syed Ali Shah:
 In a historic move to improve education standards across Balochistan, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has initiated a province-wide crackdown on absentee teachers, starting with the suspension of 90 teachers in Dera Bugti district. This bold action marks the first time Balochistan has taken a serious stand against chronic absenteeism among educators, emphasizing the government's commitment to quality education for every child. A notification issued by the provincial government revealed that an Inquiry Committee, led by the Assistant Commissioner of Dera Bugti, will oversee the disciplinary actions. "Even in my constituency, Dera Bugti, I will not tolerate habitually absent teachers," CM Bugti stated, highlighting his commitment to a province-wide, indiscriminate crackdown. Teachers found neglecting their duties will face dismissal, as the government seeks to restore accountability in the education sector. Balochistan's Education Minister, Miss Raheela Hameed Khan Durani, also played a pivotal role in driving these reforms, ensuring a seniority-based postings and rigorous oversight to improve teacher presence in schools. Under her leadership, the education department aims to open every closed school, from Gwadar to Quetta and Zhob to Naseerabad, ensuring no child is left without access to education. "There will be no compromise on education," declared CM Bugti, reinforcing the government's zero-tolerance stance on absenteeism. The people of Balochistan are hopeful that this initiative will transform the province's education system, opening the doors to a brighter future for countless students. With Balochistan's renewed focus on education, this landmark action against absentee teachers is expected to drive positive change and improve academic outcomes across the province.

Polio Cases Surge in Balochistan: New Case Confirmed in Jafarabad, Provincial Tally Hits 24

Ayub Bhattu:



JAFARABAD: Another polio case has been confirmed in Balochistan's Jafarabad district, pushing the total number of cases in the province to 24 for this year. Across Pakistan, the nationwide polio count has climbed to 49, underscoring the country's ongoing struggle against the crippling disease. Health officials confirmed that a child in Jafarabad contracted the virus, with lab results from Islamabad verifying the case. However, no additional information about the child's age or gender was released. Balochistan remains one of the provinces most affected by polio, with recent cases surfacing in areas like Qila Abdullah, Noshki, and Pishin. The provincial government previously declared a health emergency to tackle the virus but has faced significant challenges in eliminating it completely. Vaccine refusals and difficulties in reaching remote populations have further hindered eradication efforts. Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti voiced serious concerns over the rising number of polio cases, directing health authorities and related departments to intensify vaccination and awareness campaigns. "Safeguarding our children from polio is paramount," Bugti stated, urging immediate action to protect vulnerable communities. This latest case highlights the urgent need for stronger vaccination drives, community outreach, and public health initiatives to contain and eradicate polio in Pakistan. Balochistan's polio emergency remains critical, as health officials work to address logistical hurdles and mobilize resources to prevent further spread of this devastating disease.

Major Muhammad Haseeb, Havildar Noor Ahmed Embrace Shahadat in Harnai Anti-Terror Operation: ISPR

Dawood Ahmed:
ISLAMABAD: On 14 Nov 2024, on reported presence of terrorists, planning to target innocent civilians in Harnai District, security forces under Major Muhammad Haseeb were immediately mobilized to sanitize the area, the military's media wing said. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly three terrorists were sent to hell, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. However, during the operation, an improvised explosive device exploded on the leading vehicle of security forces, resultantly, Major Muhammad Haseeb (age: 28 years, resident of District Multan), a brave officer, who was leading his troops from the front, along with Havildar Noor Ahmed (age: 38 years, resident of District Barkhan), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat. Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, the ISPR stated.



Gwadar Free Zone to receive uninterrupted water supply

GWADAR (INP): An agreement has been inked for uninterrupted water supply to local and foreign enterprises in Gwadar North Free Zone. The second water source, from the GDA's airport water tank, will provide water at \$1 per ton to the North Free Zone. The water tank, constructed at a cost of Rs 6 million, has already started storing water from Sawar Dam and Shadi Kor Dam. GPA has laid a 5.5-kilometer pipeline to connect the water tank to the North Free Zone. A Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) official told Gwadar Pro that the pricing agreement is a "breath of fresh air" for investors, as a reliable water supply is crucial for the smooth operation of businesses in the zone. The development will foster new impetus for investors, helping mature their investment plans in Gwadar North Free Zone and contribute to Gwadar's economic growth, he added. Under the agreement, there will be tripartite arrangement among Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), and China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) — the operator of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone. It establishes pricing terms based on two separate water supply pipelines: the fully operational 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant that serves the North Free Zone. A 1.3-kilometer water supply pipeline has already been laid for this purpose. Under the agreement, the competitive commercial price is fixed at \$3.30 per ton from the first source; the fully operational 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant that serves the North Free Zone. A 1.3-kilometer water supply pipeline has already been laid for this purpose.



Transporters Block Quetta-Islamabad Highway in Protest Against Truck Burnings in Duki

Ali Khan Mandokhail:
ZHOB: Transporters staged a protest by blocking the main Quetta-Islamabad Highway, voicing their frustration over repeated incidents of truck burnings in Duki and surrounding areas. The blockade disrupted traffic on this vital route, with long queues of vehicles observed along the highway that links Balochistan with the federal capital. Passengers faced significant delays, emerging as the primary victims of the protest, which was organized by the transporters' community. The protest followed an incident where militants reportedly set fire to three trucks transporting coal to Punjab, escalating concerns over security for transporters in the region. Strict security measures were implemented by the Zhub administration to ensure public safety and prevent further disruptions. Authorities are actively engaging with protestors to find a resolution to their grievances. This protest highlights the ongoing security challenges faced by transporters in Balochistan, with repeated attacks impacting essential supply routes and adding to the hardships of transporters and passengers alike.



Polio Crisis Worsens in Balochistan: 23 Cases, Flawed Strategy Under Fire
 Continued on page 2

Artificial Intelligence Just Taking Baby Steps
 Continued on page 4

Gwadar Free Zone to receive uninterrupted water supply
 Continued on page 4

OPINION VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Polio Crisis Worsens in Balochistan: 23 Cases, Flawed Strategy Under Fire

Editorial:

QUETTA: Balochistan continues to grapple with a worsening polio crisis, with 23 cases now reported in the province, contributing to a nationwide total of 46 cases.

Despite numerous vaccination campaigns and financial aid from international organizations like UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), the virus remains rampant, particularly in Balochistan, which has the highest caseload despite making up only 5% of Pakistan's population.

In a recent high-level meeting, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti instructed health officials to urgently raise the province's polio immunization rate from 38% to 60%.

Chief Minister Bugti, along with Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar and senior health officials, reviewed current strategies and emphasized the need for an efficient, structured approach to eliminate the virus.

Bugti directed Lady Health Visitors (LHV) and Lady Health Workers (LHW) to intensify their roles in the anti-polio drive, stressing community-friendly methods and reducing public inconvenience.

However, the provincial government's response has come under fire as the virus continues to spread. Despite an emergency declaration and ongoing campaigns, critics argue that both the government and international health agencies are failing to address the root causes behind low immunization rates.

Observers note that outdated strategies and ineffective outreach are contributing to persistent gaps, with children in remote and high-risk areas left vulnerable.

This publication has repeatedly advocated for adopting indigenous approaches tailored to the unique needs of Balochistan's communities.

As polio cases rise, the province's struggle highlights governance and management deficiencies in the health sector. Health Secretary Mubeen-ul-Khan acknowledged gaps in routine immunization, but meaningful change remains to be seen as the government's efforts, with rising risks of infections and limited improvements, it is clear that Balochistan needs a revamped, locally driven strategy if Pakistan hopes to become polio-free.

At the crossroads of rivers and rivalries

By Anna Hashmi:

Water is more than just a lifeline - it's a tool of power, diplomacy and survival, especially in regions where access to it is a source of tension and conflict. As the world faces growing water scarcity, managing shared water resources is becoming a geopolitical challenge of the highest order. Nowhere is this more evident than in the water conflicts involving Israel, Palestine, India and Pakistan, where diplomatic maneuvering over rivers and dams shapes the political landscape as much as any border dispute.

In the arid Middle East, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is deeply intertwined with water. Israel controls nearly 85% of the shared water resources in the West Bank including the Mountain Aquifer and Jordan River, leaving Palestinians to survive on the project of the available supply. UN figures say the Israeli population used to be virtually 300 liters per person, whereas the Palestinians are now barely accessing 70 liters, as opposed to 100 - the minimum recommended by WHO.

In South Asia, the stakes are equally high. The Indus Waters Treaty's limitations have become glaringly obvious as India continues to build dams and hydroelectric projects on the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) that are supposed to flow freely into Pakistan. India's Kishanganga and Baglihar dam projects, which, Pakistan claims, reduce the flow of water

into its territories, have led to multiple disputes being taken to international arbitration. For Pakistan, these projects represent not just an environmental concern but an existential threat. The headworks of major Pakistani rivers are located in Indian territory, making Pakistan vulnerable to India's water policies. This dependence is a ticking time bomb, especially in times of drought or political tension.

Internally, Pakistan faces its own water management crisis, with the Kalabagh Dam issue epitomising the deep divisions within the country. Proposed as a 3,600 MW hydroelectric project capable of storing 6.1 mat' water, the Kalabagh Dam has been a political flashpoint for decades. The provinces have different views on the project, with Punjab opposing the project as a measure to regulate floods and provision of electrical power which is much in demand. Sindh, KPK and Balochistan have strong objections to the proposal. Sindh apprehends the dam would curtail the water flow of the Indus river and its farms will be deprived of water. KPK believes the dam will only pave the way for the construction of Nowshera and many will be made homeless. The project has been transformed from one of inundation to the most stark definition of inter-regional distrust, the consequences of which only serve to demonstrate the need for a more participatory approach in dealing with national

water projects. The way forward is clear: regional cooperation and sustainable water management must be prioritised. First, water-sharing agreements, like the Indus Waters Treaty, need to be updated to reflect modern realities - climate change, rising populations and increased water demand. Nations must invest in efficient water infrastructure, from modern irrigation systems to dams that do not disrupt ecosystems or displace large populations. International bodies should oversee disputes to ensure agreements are upheld, and any new projects should be subject to environmental impact assessments that consider not just technical feasibility but the human element. Moreover, governments and populations alike must come to terms with a critical reality: there is no mega project without a mega sacrifice. However, adequate compensation, resettlement plans and livelihood support must be guaranteed to all those displaced by large-scale infrastructure projects.

Water diplomacy is no longer an option - it is a necessity. Countries must view cooperation, not competition, as the only way forward. Whether it's sharing the Kalabagh Dam debate, the future of water diplomacy will determine the fate of millions. Only by we hope to secure a future where water flows not just as a resource, but as a tool of peace and stability.

Poets and artists have sought to unravel these malicious yarns with words and paint; not all have succeeded, though some have left a positive imprint.

Artificial Intelligence Just Taking Baby Steps

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence in computer systems. In simple words, AI enables machines to perform tasks that require human intelligence. Those tasks can be learning from past experiences, solving problems, and making predictions based on provided data. Until now, AI has just started taking baby steps but it is growing at a much rapid rate.

Every invention had various positive and negative impacts on human civilization. According to Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai 'AI will have a more profound impact on human beings than fire, electricity, and the internet'. This innovation also has both positive and negative impacts on human beings. If it is left unchecked it will have severe impacts on human creativity, the job market, and the flow of information. However, the positive use of AI will bring major advancements in medical science, education, agriculture, etc.

Negative Impacts of AI: AI is a technological tool and its use can be both positive and negative, although, it is in the hands of human beings on how to use it. Following are some negative impacts of AI on humans.

Deep Fakes Through Generative AI: In the age of information technology, misinformation is a major issue. The introduction of generative AI into public space has further worsened the predicament of misinformation. Through generative AI, deep fakes are generated.

These deep fakes are difficult to judge, as original or fake, for a person who has no knowledge of AI. The deep fakes can be an image, a video, or

a voice note. Recently in Slovakia's 2023 elections, a fake voice of a party's leader and a journalist shared on social media, in which they were talking about purchasing votes from the poor population. This voice badly reduced the vote bank of that party during elections.

Another example of the deep fakes that created uncertainty was pictures of the former US president, Donald Trump's arrest, which provoked his supporter's sentiments against the state. Therefore, if the use of generative AI is left unchecked, bad actors in society will use it for their own purposes and spread wrong information.

AI's use in War: Using AI for the purpose of war has become ferocious unless. Because AI unlike humans has no fear, doesn't get tired, and doesn't get tired, and can fight much better than a soldier.

Thus, Countries are trying to develop AI fighters, robots, and drones for the militarization of power. This will attract the attention of their rival countries to build AI for military purposes for the balance of power. Hence, like nuclear weapons, AI will further increase the arms race as it has no mercy. So, it can fight much better than a soldier.

AI is a Major Threat to Human Creativity: Creativity is a unique characteristic of human beings due to which they invent, develop, prosper, and sustain themselves in their lives. But machine intelligence is growing so rapidly that it has posed a great threat to the creativity of God's handiwork. With only a few clicks and in some seconds, an AI program can write a book, a novel, a poem, an assignment and an article. Furthermore, it can sing a song, draw a painting, solve a problem, and make a prediction. On the

other side, it takes much effort and time for a human to do all these tasks. Due to the lazy and comfort-seeking nature of human beings, now they mostly rely on AI to perform these tasks. With the passage of time, AI is learning more skills and human's reliance on AI is further increasing. This increase in reliance on AI will cause the death of creativity in humans.

AI and Job Market: "AI is coming to take your job", this news was seen on many news platforms when ChatGPT was launched in Nov 2022. As stated earlier, AI is efficient and less time-consuming in performing a task. Therefore, it has made millions of people jobless in almost every field, whether they are hotel waiters, drivers, journalists, software engineers and content writers etc.

AI-driven cars neither have sleep problems, consequently, companies are manufacturing AI-driven cars to avoid road accidents. Journalists and content writers demand huge salaries for their work, while ChatGPT is a free AI app that can do the same tasks freely and quickly. More interestingly, AI will replace its own founders (Software Engineers) as AI can write code and find errors in it. To sum up, AI has much potential to replace the human workforce.

Positive Impacts of AI: Along with negative impacts, AI can also be advantageous for humans if used for welfare purposes. In the following paragraphs, some advantages of AI are described if AI is used positively.

AI can Revolutionize the Medical Field: AI along with synthetic biology can transform the world shaped until now. AI and synthetic biology can eradicate debilitating diseases, and find treat-

ments for pandemics, thus providing health benefits. AI has also made a lot of achievements in the field of surgery. Last year, an AI robot performed a successful egg surgery in which the inner layer of an egg was stitched. Additionally, an AI Chatbot can also prescribe medicines and treatment for the provided symptoms. In the coming years, AI will further advance itself in the medical field and people will take numerous benefits from it.

Prediction Based on Provided Data: Humans remain curious to predict things of the outcome of events. If data is fed to an AI, it can find patterns in that data, and based on those patterns it can give predictions. For example,

AI can predict election results, market demand for a product, predict weather etc. In the US 2020 presidential elections, an AI model was trained to predict the outcome of elections.

Tweets and Facebook posts were fed to the model from which AI separated positive and negative sentiments about former US President Trump and current US President Joe Biden. Based on the high number of positive sentiments, the AI model predicted that Trump would win the elections, and he won. So, humans can take advantage of this feature of AI and can reap its benefits.

Boosting Agriculture Through AI: Pakistan is an agriculture-based country, and enhancing the agriculture sector will boost the country's economic performance. AI can increase agricultural production by predicting the best time to cultivate and harvest a crop. It is also capable of identifying soil conditions, plant diseases, weather forecasts, and when plants need to be irrigated. Moreover, AI can analyze the

market's supply and demand chain. AI will be efficient in saving the loss of water during irrigation. Secondly, it will provide a suitable environment for the plants to grow through maintaining soil fertility and water needs.

To sum up, equipping agriculture with AI systems will boost agricultural production and prevent heavy water losses.

Recommendations for the Pakistani Government: The world has entered into the race of AI development. Fortunately, Pakistan has a huge human resource, but making them skillful in the field of AI is a hard task to do. All provincial governments should include AI in the school curriculum.

There should be an AI portal for students, from where they can get updates about AI developments around the globe and jobs announced by the government. Furthermore, universities must be directed to increase practical work in AI rather than theoretical.

Conclusion: In conclusion, AI nevertheless advantageous, poses a grave threat to human civilization. If AI is left unchecked, it can spread misinformation through deep fakes, worsen the status quo of security dilemmas, cause the death of human creativity, and take jobs.

So, all countries should adopt a single platform and form laws to control the development and introduction of AI tools in public space. In addition,

AI companies should include a watermark to the content generated through AI to cope with misinformation. In the end, AI will be more hazardous if it gets consciousness and moves physically freely without being dependant on humans.

A vision to behold

By Rafia Zakaria:

Q UER the course of its tumultuous existence, the story of Pakistan has been told in myriad ways.

In keeping with the debate surrounding its very creation, the country's narrative has often been manipulated by enemies who wished to see its annihilation by dictators who sought control, and by terrorists and nihilists wanting to impose their own ideology.

Poets and artists have sought to unravel these malicious yarns with words and paint; not all have succeeded, though some have left a positive imprint.

A laudable effort to showcase the country's talents was initiated recently and is ongoing.

The Manzara exhibition, Architecture from Pakistan 1940s to today' is open for viewing at the Qatar National Museum in Doha, Qatar.

Designed by architect Raza Ali Dada, and curated by the team of the ArtMill, Qatar's Museum of Modern Art, with Indus Valley School's director of graduate studies Zameen Shah, Manzara was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the ruler of Qatar and Shaykha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad whose vision has been instrumental in creating

a vibrant museum culture in Qatar.

Featuring some 200 works of art, Manzara includes a multi-dimensional, multilayered and dynamic narrative of the country that can only be told through its art.

It eloquently captures a moment of simultaneity in time and space as reflected in Salima Hashmi's painting 'Zones of Dreams', which delivers a complicated texture of Pakistani history and visual culture.

Manzara does not limit itself to paintings, its multidimensional approach includes sculpture, architecture, and installations that together weave the tapestry of

Pakistan's visual legacy. While it is impossible to enumerate and mention the many iconic pieces included in the exhibition, one of the unmistakable stunners is Rashid Rana's 'The Red Carpet'.

Viewed from afar, the piece appears to be a print of a beautiful and intricate red Persian rug. On closer inspection, it is revealed to be a mosaic compilation of hundreds of photographs of butchered meat.

The beguiling red of the carpet is, in fact, an apt metaphor for the story of a very complicated country. The salt in Doha's air recalls a Pakistani city on another shore that has too often

been erased or overlooked in the recollections of art culture. Also remarkable is acclaimed Pakistani artist Shazia Sikander whose pioneering reclamation of Mughal miniature is presaged through some resplendent pieces including two stills from her 2016 animation 'Disrupt' on the Kapture. Sikander's work underscores the interpretive genius of Pakistani art and its ability to reclaim ancient form for modern times. Sikander, whose work has been exhibited everywhere - from America to New Zealand, is a prime example of a Pakistani artist who began her journey at the National College.

Nobel lessons: fixing Pakistan's broken institutions

By Shakeel Ahmed Shah:

Economists Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson have been awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics for their groundbreaking research on the vital role institutions play in driving economic development. Their findings carry profound implications for Pakistan, a country grappling with economic struggles intricately linked to governance and institutional quality.

The trio's work reveals that the key difference between prosperous and struggling nations lies not in natural

resources or geography, but in the strength and inclusiveness of their institutions. They argue that inclusive institutions - those that encourage equality, innovation and investment - are the bedrock of sustained economic growth. In contrast, extractive institutions, which concentrate power in the hands of a few, hinder progress and lead to poverty and instability. Pakistan's persistent challenges, both related to economy and governance, can be traced to long-standing institutional weaknesses that perpetuate

inequality, corruption and inefficiency. The country has endured "elite capture", where a small group of powerful families, politicians and military leaders dominate resources and shape institutions to serve their interests. This dynamic closely mirrors the extractive institutions identified by Acemoglu and his colleagues, which stifle long-term prosperity.

While the Nobel-winning economists focus on the broader role of institutions, the role of civil society, though implied, is critical to the success of inclusive systems. Inclusive institutions often rely on

mechanisms supported by a vibrant civil society, including a free press, the rule of law, and public participation in decision-making. These components are essential for keeping governments accountable, preventing corruption, and ensuring that inclusive institutions remain resilient.

In the Pakistani context, this analysis underscores the pivotal role civil society must play in addressing institutional shortcomings. For too long, Pakistan's political instability and concentration of power have fostered extractive institutions that prevent

equitable growth. Civil society must be strengthened to foster more inclusive systems that promote citizen engagement and accountability.

Civil society's role in promoting inclusivity is multifaceted. First, it serves as a watchdog, holding officials accountable for their actions. Second, it advocates for inclusive policies, such as investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure. Finally, civil society mobilises and fosters civic engagement, which

creates a more favourable environment for inclusive institutions to flourish. However, civil society in Pakistan faces considerable challenges, including government restrictions, censorship and resource limitations. Additionally, resource constraints often reduce the impact of civil society organisations.

The insights from the Nobel laureates offer a clear path forward: institutional failures that have plagued Pakistan. Their work leaves no doubt that the millions trapped in poverty and instability are often

held back by self-serving elites who manipulate weak institutions to consolidate power.

In the current extractive system, a few benefit at the expense of the many, stifling innovation, equality and true economic progress. Additionally, resource limitations and capacity constraints often reduce the impact of civil society organisations.

The legislation and execution must be directed at taking decisive, courageous steps to dismantle the stranglehold of the entrenched elite. This means not only reforming institutions on paper but ensuring that these

changes are backed by genuine enforcement. Civil society must be empowered to hold the government accountable.

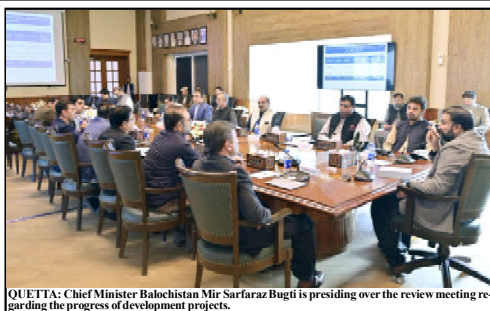
Lifting restrictions on free speech, dismantling laws that allow for harassment of activists, and fostering a free press are crucial first steps. If the government truly intends to build inclusive institutions, it must allow civil society to operate freely, without fear of retaliation.

Only by embracing these bold actions can Pakistan hope to break free from its cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.

Court acquits 3 Muslims in 2006 blast case, cites no proof

AHMEDABAD (INP): In a judgment that raises questions about India's justice system handling of cases against Muslims, a sessions court in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, acquitted three Muslim men accused in the 2006 Kalupur railway station bomb blast, citing no proof against them. The accused—Mohammed Amir Shaikh, Aqub Sayed, and Aslam Kashmiri—had spent years behind bars during their trial, only to be exonerated as the court found no proof linking them to the crime. In his decision, Additional Sessions Judge S.L. Thakkar remarked, "There is no evidence from any witness that suggests the accused played any role in planning or executing the bomb blast. The judge also pointed out that the documentary evidence presented failed to substantiate the prosecution's allegations. Despite their acquittal, only Kashmiri is likely to regain his freedom. Shaikh and Sayed remain incarcerated, serving life sentences in unrelated cases in Amravati and Ahmedabad jails, underscoring the complicated reality for Muslim individuals charged under India's anti-terror laws. The case, handled by the Anti-Terror Squad (ATS), alleged that a bag containing RDX explosive timer had been planted on the Karnavati Express, departing from Mumbai, which exploded at Kalupur station, injuring 10-15 passengers. Investigators initially accused Kamlesh Bhagora, a railway police constable, and a porter, whom they claimed placed the bomb under Bhagora's instructions. Surprisingly, Bhagora was booked for conspiracy and negligence and was acquitted in 2013. Nine people, including Shaikh, Sayed, and Kashmiri, faced terrorism charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. During the trial, the prosecution called 34 witnesses and submitted 22 documents but failed to prove any direct involvement of the three men in the blast. This verdict is the latest in a series of acquittals involving hundreds of Muslim individuals across India, who have been accused and later cleared of terror-related charges due to lack of evidence. Many have endured prolonged detention and trials, only to be released after years in prison. In January 2023, six Muslim men in Ahmedabad were acquitted nearly two decades after being accused under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).

trial, the prosecution called 34 witnesses and submitted 22 documents but failed to prove any direct involvement of the three men in the blast. This verdict is the latest in a series of acquittals involving hundreds of Muslim individuals across India, who have been accused and later cleared of terror-related charges due to lack of evidence. Many have endured prolonged detention and trials, only to be released after years in prison. In January 2023, six Muslim men in Ahmedabad were acquitted nearly two decades after being accused under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti is presiding over the review meeting regarding the progress of development projects.

Chinese firm to drive sustainable urban development in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Shanghai-based Yuanhe Group, an eco-city investment and construction firm, has recently signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Blue World City in Pakistan. This collaboration will focus on advancing sustainable development and urban modernization efforts in the region. The partnership was facilitated by the Sino-International Entrepreneurs Federation and China Rail Sixth Group. Blue World City's ambitious Blue World Economic Zone is under development along the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway, strategically linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project is designed to foster growth for small and medium-sized enterprises through the establishment of an industrial zone, dry port, warehousing, and wholesale facilities, creating a business-friendly environment aligned with the CPEC initiative. As part of the agreement, Yuanhe Group will also collaborate on various aspects of the project, including the development of a master plan for the Blue World City demonstration zone. This will contribute significantly to Pakistan's urban modernization and economic transformation along the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway, strategically linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Yuanhe Group will provide a comprehensive suite of services, including the development of technology parks and smart communities, green construction solutions, and low-carbon infrastructure. The company's expertise in sustainable and modern development models will be instrumental in ensuring that Blue World City meets international standards of urban excellence. Strategically located along the CPEC route, Blue World City is set to unlock Pakistan's untapped potential. Spanning over 250,000 Kanals on both sides of the M2 Motorway, this visionary city is rapidly emerging as a global tourist and investment hub, enhancing Pakistan's international profile.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal (right) chairing a meeting to review the progress and challenges of two major national projects, the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP) and the Diamer Bhasha Dam.

Modi regime has turned IIOJK into open prison and war zone: APHC

SRINAGAR (INP): The human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the Modi government has transformed the territory into an open prison and cantonment war zone. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC leaders, in a meeting held in Srinagar, decried ongoing curfew and search operations, mass arrests, property seizures, and other violations carried out under the banner of Hindutva ideology. A statement issued by APHC spokesperson Abdul Rashid Minhas after the meeting emphasized that despite extreme repression, the commitment and sacrifices of Kashmiri detainees and martyrs would eventually compel India to relinquish its illegal hold over IIOJK. "The day is not far," said Minhas, "when Kashmir will be free from Indian hegemony." The meeting sought the intervention by international human rights organizations to pressure the Indian government led by Modi and Amit Shah from sealing properties of the Kashmiri people, especially those demanding peace and freedom in the occupied territory. They urged the world major powers to stop India from carrying out ethnic cleansing of the Kashmiris in the territory. The APHC reiterated that the Indian government's attempts to subdue the Kashmiri people will not succeed, as the struggle for a fair and democratic, self-determined plebiscite continues. The meeting further maintained that the occupation regime is deliberately endangering the lives of Kashmiri detainees by denying them adequate food and medical care. The APHC expressed profound admiration for the resilience and courage of Kashmiri detainees, pledging that their contributions to the freedom movement will be honored in the annals of Kashmir's history. They raised urgent concerns about the worsening conditions in IIOJK, citing that the BJP-led administration and Lieutenant Governor's office have "crossed all limits" of brutality.

demanding peace and freedom in the occupied territory. They urged the world major powers to stop India from carrying out ethnic cleansing of the Kashmiris in the territory. The APHC reiterated that the Indian government's attempts to subdue the Kashmiri people will not succeed, as the struggle for a fair and democratic, self-determined plebiscite continues. The meeting further maintained that the occupation regime is deliberately endangering the lives of Kashmiri detainees by denying them adequate food and medical care. The APHC expressed profound admiration for the resilience and courage of Kashmiri detainees, pledging that their contributions to the freedom movement will be honored in the annals of Kashmir's history. They raised urgent concerns about the worsening conditions in IIOJK, citing that the BJP-led administration and Lieutenant Governor's office have "crossed all limits" of brutality.

Chinese-invested solar project provides clean energy for Pakistan

BEIJING (INP): The 350kW rooftop photovoltaic (PV) project at Super Modern Cold Store in Lahore, supplied by CHINT Solar, has been successfully commissioned at full capacity. This marks a significant milestone for CHINT Solar's clean energy solutions in Pakistan, contributing to the country's sustainable development goals while providing a reliable source of clean, efficient energy. According to project manager Muhammad Yousof, once connected to the grid, the system is expected to generate approximately 498,225 kWh annually. This will save about 200 tons of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 497 tons each year, demonstrating substantial environmental benefits. The project utilizes CHINT Solar's ASTRO N5 series modules, which incorporate the company's independent developed N-type TOPCon 4.0 battery technology. Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday, Shandong by 41% and 59%, respectively. However, in the past, the high cost and technological limitations of solar power have hindered its widespread adoption in Pakistan. CHINT Solar has consistently recognized Pakistan's renewable energy potential and has proactively engaged with local stakeholders to understand the market's needs. In addition to this project, CHINT Solar has rapidly expanded its presence in Pakistan, with its headquarters in Haining, leading to the signing of strategic cooperation agreements with two key Pakistani energy firms—Bahum Associates and Pantera Energy. The successful completion of the Super Modern Cold Store rooftop PV project is a testament to CHINT Solar's commitment to expanding its footprint in Pakistan and contributing to the country's clean energy future.

RE-APPLICATIONS ARE REQUIRED. According to the Government of Balochistan, The Greater Industrial Estates Development Authority, is required applications from the subject candidates to fill up the following vacant positions, which should reach Newtown Phase 1, Coastal at the office of Greater Industrial Estates Development Authority on or before 30th November 2024. Applicants must have Balochistan local domicile. Note: All the candidates who had submitted applications for various vacancies in Greater Industrial Estates Development Authority under G.I.E.D No. 2023-06-548/27 are hereby informed that the vacancies are cancelled due to some unavoidable reasons are going. They should re-submit new applications again.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., NAME OF POST, GRADE, NO OF POSITS, QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE. It lists various positions like Manager, Assistant Engineer, Law Officer, etc., with their respective grades and requirements.

TERMS & CONDITION: 1. Applications along with attested photocopies of Educational / Experience certificate, CNIC, Local / Domicile Certificate (All Balochistan), 2) Passport size photographs should reach the undersigned office within 15 days of announced advertisement. 2. Selected candidates must bring their Original Documents / Certificates, CNIC at the time of interview test. 3. Applications should include complete details, name of post, contact number along with self-addressed envelope. 4. Only suitable candidates having required qualification will be called for Test/Interview. 5. No TADA will be admissible for interview / Test. 6. Applicants already in Government Service should apply through proper channel. 7. Class Four posts are only for District/Gadud. 8. Authority has the reserved rights to increase the post or decrease the posts. 9. Disable Quota / Minorities quota shall be considered as per Government policy. G.I.E.D OFFICE: New Town Phase-1 House No. 32, Block-II Near Coast Guard, Gwadar. Tel: 086-421000-086-4210011

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT. SUIT NO.33/2024. ASKARI BANK LIMITED, M.A Jinnah Road Branch Quetta. VERSUS MUZAFAR ALI VA MANZOOR ALI, Designation, Store Main Supply 261 Supply Paltoon ASC, Pakistan Army. Address: 1. Gali No. 1, Behins Colony Larkana. 2. 171 PSP ASC Quetta Cant. Cell: 0312-0346874. CNIC: 43203-4317610-1.

SUIT FOR RECOVERY RS. 220,280,377/- BEARING ACCOUNT NO. 119AKP00003247, US 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCE ORDINANCE XLVLI 2001). NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P. 1908. Notice to: The above noted defendant. WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS. 220,280,377/- balance of principal & interest/mark up rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you. In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 16-12-2024. GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 14th day of November, 2024. (SAIFULLAH KHAN) Registrar Banking Court Quetta

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Undersigned invites sealed percentage rates based on composite schedule of rates 2024 Government of Balochistan and item rates from interested contractors/firms for the works mentioned below. Tender fee 1500 Deposited in head of account G-02725-02 through bank Chaitan in NBP bank of Pakistan. Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of Work, Quantity, Estimated Cost, E/Money in shape of call deposit %, TSENO. It lists various construction and supply works.

Barrister Raja Jawad Runs for Lincoln's Inn Bar Committee

QUETTA: In a groundbreaking moment for Balochistan's legal community, Barrister Raja Jawad Advocate has announced his candidacy in the prestigious Lincoln's Inn international election for the Bar Representation Committee (BRC). This election, which determines representation for one of the oldest and most esteemed Inns of Court in the UK, offers a significant opportunity for the province to have its voice heard on a global stage. Barrister Raja Jawad, a distinguished lawyer from Balochistan, is the first from



Syed Ali Shah:

his province to compete in the international BRC elections. With over a decade of legal practice, he has handled several high-profile cases, including the Reko Diq NAB references, the disqualification case of former Chief Minister Sardar Akhtar Mengal, and a case involving former Prime Min-

ister Inran Khan. His track record also includes representing numerous parliamentarians from Balochistan, underscoring his influence within the province's legal and political circles. Barrister Jawad's campaign focuses on bridging the gap between Balochistan and the UK by promoting greater opportunities for Baloch youth in Bar-at-Law programs, specifically at Lincoln's Inn. Notably, Lincoln's Inn is where Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was called to the Bar, adding historical significance to Barrister Jawad's candidacy.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatisation and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan presided meeting of NHA.

Constitutional bench takes up 31-year-old plea on environment pollution

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court in its first proceedings on Thursday took up a 31-year-old plea on environment pollution and sought a report from the provinces on measures taken to eradicate the scourge. There are three cases on the issue of environment, the oldest case of which was filed in 1993. The second case was filed in 2003 and the third in 2016. A six-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Aminud Din Khan and including Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Justice Nasir Mehmood and Justice Saqib Nisar started the hearing. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar remarked that the bench would look into all matters related to the environment. Justice Musrat Hilihi remarked that housing societies

were being built everywhere in the country. Justice Nasim Hasan Shah received a letter that Islamabad was being converted into an industrial zone. Justice Jamal Mandokhel observed that environmental pollution was not Islamabad's problem only, it's the whole country's problem. The whole country would have to make concerted efforts to resolve the issue. Justice Mandokhel raised the question of delay in appointment of chairman of Environmental Protection Authority. He observed that the authority would be active after appointment of chairman. He remarked that smoke emitted by vehicles was a major cause of environmental pollution. Have any steps been taken to cut emissions? Justice Akhtar observed that farmland was being converted into housing societies. Allahs has blessed us with fertile land for agriculture but everyone is bent

on destroying it. Steps should be taken to protect farmers, said the justice. "What are you doing for your generations," Justice Akhtar expressed his concern. Justice Mandokhel said that the situation of Punjab is in front of everyone. There was similar situations in Islamabad a few days ago. The entire country was facing serious environmental problems, he continued. Justice Mazhar questioned why the Environment Protection Authority is not playing its role? The case has been going on since 1993. This matter should have been resolved. Justice Hilihi said that there were poultry farms and marble factories working in Mansehra. Environment of beautiful valleys in Swat have been polluted. Later the bench adjourned the hearing for three weeks on the request of the Additional Attorney General.

Pakistan urges Afghan authorities to take action against terrorists, cautions not to test Pakistanis' patience

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Thursday reiterated its call for the Afghan authorities to take action against the groups or individuals involved in terror activities in Pakistan and cautioned that they should not test the patience of the Pakistani people. "We urge Afghan authorities to take Pakistan's repeated requests seriously and ensure that action is taken against these terror groups. The patience of Pakistani people must not be tested with respect to the terror threat we continue to face from entities and individuals in Afghanistan," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing. She told the media that not only Pakistan but also the Moscow Format and Neighboring Countries Format states had also called for the responsibility of Afghan authorities to act against such groups and ensure that their soil was not used against Pakistan or any other neighboring country. The spokesperson rejected

as "speculation" and "motivated by agenda" a news report on any joint security mechanism between Pakistan and China for the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan, and urged the media to ascertain the motives behind such stories as being the iron brothers and strategic partners, both Pakistan and China had robust dialogue and cooperation based on mutual cooperation and respect for each other's sovereignty. She said both countries had the resolve and capabilities to foil any attempt to harm their bilateral relations. Highlighting the diplomatic activities took place during the last week, the spokesperson mentioned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's participation in the World Leaders' Climate Action Summit of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, held from 11 to 22nd November in Baku where he addressed the World Leaders' Climate Action Summit and high level sideline events of the summit, including the Climate Finance

Roundtable hosted by Pakistan and the Glaciers 2025: Action for Joint Security by Tajikistan. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also represented Pakistan at the high-level event, delivering an early warning for all and addressing extreme heat besides highlighting the importance of early warning systems for climate-induced hazards. She also mentioned the prime minister's meetings with the presidents of Azerbaijan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Nepal and the prime ministers of the United Kingdom, Czech Republic, and Denmark, the Chinese Vice Premier, and the Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh. The spokesperson apprised the media of the prime minister's participation in the Extraordinary Arab Islamic Summit on the situation in the Middle East held in Riyadh where Pakistan condemned the Gaza genocide, Israeli aggression against Palestine and Lebanon, and the recent strikes on Iran.

Pakistan can join world's leading economies through women entrepreneurs: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday expressed confidence that Pakistan could join the ranks of the world's leading economies by 2047 through the active participation of youth, especially women entrepreneurs. "The country's progress and prosperity are closely linked with the development of youth and women entrepreneurs. Their active role and participation in national development can make it possible for Pakistan to join the world's top economies by 2047," he said. He made these remarks while

addressing the fifth edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Conference titled "Mumkin Hai" (It is possible), organized by the National Incubation Centre at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) here. The conference featured panel discussions on aligning entrepreneurial goals with the digital economy in Pakistan. Addressing the participants, the minister assured that the recommendations made by experts at the conference would be "put into implementation" because the incumbent government believed that the future of the nation was in the hands of youth and women.

"It is our job to make everything possible for them," he added. Ahsan Iqbal said the intellect and innovation of youth and women could help establish startups, introduce made-in-Pakistan products and effectively compete in international markets, contributing billions of dollars in revenue to the national exchequer. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government hoped that, in 23 years, when both Pakistan and India celebrate their 100th year of independence, Pakistan's youth would celebrate it with pride, without any excuses for lagging behind in development.



This photo combo shows (from L to R) Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Aminuddin Khan, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Musarrat Hilihi and Naeem Akhtar Afghan — via SC website

FO terms media reports on Pak-China joint security 'motivated by agenda to create confusion'

NEWS DESK: The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday dismissed reports of Beijing pushing Islamabad to join security efforts in Pakistan, terming them as "speculations [...] motivated by an agenda to create confusion". The statement by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch comes amid heightened security concerns, with China's envoy recently expressing frustration over the attacks, which Baloch said were "perplexing" remarks. However, on Monday, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson reaffirmed Beijing's support for Pakistan in countering terrorism. Lin Jian also asserted that China and Pakistan had "the resolve and capability to foil any attempt to harm China-Pakistan relations and ensure that terrorists will pay the price". Responding to queries dur-

ing a weekly press briefing in Islamabad today, Baloch said: "We do not respond to media speculations that are based on unreliable sources and motivated by an agenda to create confusion about the nature of this relationship. We advise media to ascertain the motivation of individuals who feed them such stories," she stressed. The spokesperson further asserted: "We would not allow any effort to derail the Pakistan-China strategic partnership." Two major deadly attacks have occurred this year — a March blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bisham killed five Chinese nationals while another blast near Karachi airport last month killed two citizens of the neighbouring country. A media report this week, citing "five Pakistani security and government sources", stated

Beijing was pushing Islamabad to allow its own security staff to protect thousands of Chinese citizens working in Pakistan. Neither Beijing nor Islamabad have confirmed the talks officially. The interior and planning ministries had not responded to Reuters' requests for comment on the report, which also cited a "written proposal sent by Beijing to Islamabad". Echoing her Chinese counterpart's remarks, Baloch asserted today: "Pakistan and China have the resolve and capability to foil any attempt to harm China-Pakistan relations, including by spreading stories about the nature of our cooperation." "Pakistan and China have robust dialogue and cooperation on [a] range of issues, including counterterrorism and security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan," she said.

AIOU will hold its Sindh chapter convocation on Nov 17 in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will hold its Sindh chapter convocation on November 17 in Karachi as part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations. According to AIOU, Federal Minister for Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui will grace the event as chief guest. Heads of educational institutions, Sindh's prominent journalists, and notable political and social figures will attend the event. Degrees and gold medals will

be awarded to graduates of AIOU from Fall 2004 to Spring 2022 semesters belonging to Sindh Province Students' families are also invited to join them. Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood will distribute gold medals and degrees among the students. It is to be mentioned here that Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood has designated 2024 as the Golden Jubilee year of AIOU and decided to hold events

throughout the year. To facilitate students, Dr. Nasir has directed to hold convocation chapter-wise in all four provinces and the federal capital, Islamabad. The Islamabad chapter's convocation was held on January 28, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter's on June 9, the Balochistan chapter's on September 8, and now the Sindh chapter's convocation will take place on November 17.



QUETTA: Federal Leves Employee Balochistan head Prof Saher Haider Sherani addressing a press conference.

Police carry out search operations, arrest rules violators

BEFORE THE JUDGE BENKING COURT QUETTA OFFICE AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBOL QUETTA

SUIT NO.32/2024

PLAINTIFF
Askari Bank Limited,
M.A.Jinnah Road Branch Quetta.

VERSUS
Jani S/o Oodharan,

DEFENDANT
1. House No. 9-13/20, Mashwani Street, Near Children Hospital Stewart Road Quetta, Balochistan
2. Office Address: Al-Falah Plaza, Room # 5, 2nd Floor, Munsafi Road, Near Gulf Hotel Quetta.
Cell: 0333-7303605.
CNIC: 43503-0415930-1.

SUIT FOR RECOVERY RS: 177,073,166- US 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE XLVI, 2001.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to - The above noted defendants,

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 177,073,166- balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 16-12-2024.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 14th day of November, 2024.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta