

QUETTA VOICE

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A security personnel destroying opium crop in Balochistan: Photo provided by the commissioner's office

Two Killed in Separate Firing Incidents in Quetta

News Desk:

QUETTA: At least two people were killed in separate firing incidents in the provincial capital on Wednesday, police said.

In the first incident, a local shopkeeper was shot dead inside his shop in the Killa Barat area.



The victim's identity has not been disclosed yet. In another incident, Naseebullah, a resident of Kechi Bag, was killed in what police suspect to be a targeted attack.

The motives behind both incidents remain unclear, and investigations are underway. Law enforcement agencies have cordoned off the areas and are collecting evidence to apprehend the culprits.

Quetta has witnessed a rise in violence recently, raising concerns about public safety in the city.

Policeman Injured in Blast on Western Bypass, Quetta

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: A policeman sustained injuries in a blast on Quetta's Western Bypass early Friday morning. Police officials reported that unidentified assailants threw a hand-held bomb, injuring the policeman before fleeing the scene.

The injured officer was immediately taken to Bolan Medical Complex Hospital for treatment. Police and security forces reached the site to initiate an investigation into the incident.



Following the attack, security measures were heightened across Quetta, with additional personnel deployed to maintain law and order. The police have launched a search operation to apprehend the perpetrators.

This incident underscores the need for enhanced security in the provincial capital, which has faced similar attacks in the city.

Balochistan to Block ID Cards, Bank Accounts of Drug Cultivators in Killa Abdullah, Pishin

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has intensified its fight against drug cultivation following reports of poppy crops in Killa Abdullah and Pishin districts. Commissioner Quetta Division, Hanza Shafaqat, announced strict actions against landowners involved in drug cultivation during a high-level meeting.

Key measures include arresting violators, confiscating their land, and blocking their national identity cards, bank accounts, and local certificates. Officials warned that strict legal action would follow any violations.

"Drug cultivation undermines our communities. Those involved will face severe consequences," stated Commissioner Hanza Shafaqat. He also highlighted recent operations that destroyed drug factories and seized thousands of tons of drugs in Pishin and Killa Abdullah.

The meeting, attended by Additional Commissioner Agha Samiullah, Secretary Excise, Sector Commander ANF, and Deputy Commissioners, emphasized joint efforts against cultivation, smuggling, and drug trade.

The crackdown will be led by the provincial task force, supervised by the Additional Chief Secretary Home, ensuring effective implementation across Quetta Division.

The decision to block the national

identity cards, passports, and bank accounts of individuals involved in drug cultivation in Chaman, Killa Abdullah, and Zhob districts of Balochistan has been widely welcomed by residents of the area.

Locals have praised the administration for taking this bold step, which they say addresses their long-standing demand to curb drug cultivation.

The illicit practice has been a major contributor to the rise in drug addiction in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan, prompting calls for stricter measures to combat the issue.

Residents hope this initiative will deter drug cultivation and help tackle the growing addiction problem in the province.

Saudi Arabia is our closest ally; any propaganda against them is treachery: PM Shehbaz



NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commended Saudi Arabia for its unwavering financial, economic, and diplomatic support to Pakistan over the years, noting that the Kingdom has never sought anything in return.

Speaking at the restoration ceremony of the Kachhi Canal in Taunsa on Friday, he stressed that recent statements made against Saudi Arabia are deeply antagonistic and detrimental to Pakistan.

Expressing gratitude to Saudi Arabia, he reiterated, "Saudi Arabia is a brotherly country whose support for Pakistan deserves the highest praise. The Kingdom has stood by Paki-

stan unconditionally through every government." PM Shehbaz warned against the recent wave of propaganda targeting Saudi Arabia, stating that such actions are against the national interest. He urged the nation to counter these efforts, saying, "Our people will not tolerate any propaganda that compromises the integrity of our ties with Saudi Arabia."

He concluded by reaffirming that Saudi Arabia's relationship with Pakistan remains essential, underscoring the historical alliance and Saudi Arabia's steadfast support for Pakistan through all administrations.

Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz criticised the handling of the Kachhi Canal project during General (retired) Pervez Musharraf's regime, claiming it was poorly executed and handed over to contractors without a transparent tender process.

"Everyone is witness to how ruthlessly national resources were squandered. When the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) returned to power, we ensured the canal's completion in 2018," he stated.

However, he mentioned that the devastating floods of 2022 caused significant damage to the canal, making it essential to restore and complete the project again. Credit for the latest reconstruction, he said.

CM Balochistan Urges Swift Completion of Kachhi Canal to Irrigate 8 Lakh Acres

Monitoring Desk:

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has emphasized the need for unity against tribalism and urged the swift completion of the Kachhi Canal project to irrigate 7 to 8 lakh acres of land in the province. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the project, he highlighted the importance of addressing conspiracies aimed at weakening the country on linguistic and tribal grounds.

"Terrorists have no nation or tribe. They have martyred innocent Pakistanis, not just Punjabis or Baloch. We are striving for a united and strong Pakistan," CM Bugti said. He expressed gratitude to the people and government of Punjab for their support in national development projects.

The Kachhi Canal project, initiated in 2002, has faced delays over the years. CM Bugti requested the federal government to ensure that the next 100 km of the canal remains unlined to save costs and expedite the process. "The next phase can be completed in two to three months at the speed of Shahbaz Sharif," he added, stressing its critical role in addressing Balochistan's water scarcity.

The canal is expected to transform agriculture in the province, benefiting society by providing drinking water and irrigation for vast tracts of land. CM Bugti reiterated the government's commitment to uplifting Balochistan, reducing disparities with other provinces, and fostering development.



Balochistan Increases Cadet College Admission Quota to 100, Approves Empowered Governance

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail announced a significant increase in the annual admission quota for cadet colleges across the province. The quota will rise from 70 to 100 students per year, with an additional 10 seats reserved for students from the district where each cadet college is located.

Governor Mandokhail made the announcement while presiding over the 18th Board of Governors meeting for Balochistan's cadet colleges. Key officials, including Education Minister Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Advisor Rababa Baloch, and principals from 11 cadet colleges, attended the meeting.

He also assured support for expanding infrastructure, particularly classrooms, to accommodate the increased student intake. "These initiatives will improve education quality and create better opportunities for students," said Governor Mandokhail, emphasizing the importance of cadet colleges in shaping Balochistan's future.

The 11 cadet colleges discussed include institutions in Mastung, Qila Saifullah, Pishin, Jafarabad, Kulu, Pangur, Nuski, Omara, Kharan, and two female cadet colleges in Quetta and Turbat. The governor stressed the value of board meetings in fostering

creative solutions and making impactful decisions, ensuring cadet colleges remain pillars of quality education and leadership training in Balochistan.

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Protests Continue for 10-Year-Old Kidnapped Boy in Quetta

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Protests entered their eighth day at Balochistan Assembly Chowk as political parties and family members of 10-year-old Mohammed Musawir demanded his safe recovery.

The minor was abducted from the Mutiani Mahalla area of Quetta eight days ago, and police remain clueless about his whereabouts.

Participants of the sit-in, including activists and relatives, have expressed frustration over the lack of progress in the investigation. They have



threatened to intensify their protests if immediate action is not taken to locate the boy. The incident has sparked widespread outrage in Quetta, with calls for stronger efforts to combat kidnapping and ensure the safety of children in the provincial capital.

Zahid Gul: The Visionary Behind Pakistan's Squash Revival

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Call for Immediate Launch and Expansion of Pink Bus Service in Quetta

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Bushra Bibi's statements don't represent party policy: Barrister Saif

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EDITORIAL VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Call for Immediate Launch and Expansion of Pink Bus Service in Quetta

Editorial:

The Balochistan government's recent approval of the Pink Bus Service in Quetta is a landmark step toward providing women with safe, reliable, and dignified public transportation.

Led by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and executed by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, Chief of Public-Private Partnership, this initiative marks a first in Balochistan and follows the successful model implemented in Sindh.

Launching this women-only service with three buses is a promising start, but Quetta's growing demand for a larger fleet.

To effectively address the transportation challenges women face, the government should expand this service to include at least a dozen pink buses.

A more extensive fleet would significantly enhance women's mobility, providing not only a safe travel option but also empowering access to education, employment, and healthcare facilities.

Female commuters often encounter issues like overcrowding, harassment, and long wait times.

A larger pink bus fleet would offer them timely, comfortable, and safe transportation, reducing the daily struggles they face on public transport.

Such an expansion aligns with the provincial government's agenda for social inclusion and gender-focused urban development, creating a supportive environment for women.

The Pink Bus Service represents more than just transportation; it's an investment in women's empowerment and independence.

By increasing the fleet, Balochistan can set a strong precedent for gender-responsive policies that promote equal access to public spaces.

Expanding this service in Quetta can serve as a model for other cities, creating a safer, more inclusive society for women across the province.

Let's call on the Balochistan government to enhance this project by committing to a dozen buses, meeting the demand for decent and secure transportation for women in Quetta.

By Humay Yusuf:

YOU can check out any time you like, but you can never leave." Those famous lyrics are going to haunt American officials after next month's US presidential elections as Washington again considers its Afghanistan problem. How it will broach this problem is unsurprisingly of interest to Pakistan's establishment. But rather than endure a case of déjà vu, could our leaders pitch a new approach?

Just under 24 million Afghans require humanitarian assistance, 48 per cent of them live below the poverty line, and Afghan women's rights are so decimated that women are now prohibited from even speaking in public. Over the past three years, these factors have not been sufficient to draw global attention to Afghanistan.

The world remains focused on the conflict in the Middle East, Russia's posturing, and US-China rivalry. And yet, Afghanistan is creeping back into America's line of sight, and the recent arrest of an Afghan national in Oklahoma for allegedly planning the withdrawal, particularly the failure to act in the name of IS will put the issue into centre focus.

The man was apprehended while trying to stockpile weapons after traveling through online US propaganda. His detention is a reminder that

the US is not secure against terrorism while militant safe havens persist. Even earlier, Afghanistan was back in US headlines, because it has become a useful punching bag in the context of domestic politics. America's chaotic departure from Afghanistan — based on a deal with the Afghan Taliban brokered by the Trump administration, followed by an exit plan executed by the Biden administration — has featured repeatedly on the campaign trail, with Republicans and Democrats blaming each other for all that went wrong.

Afghanistan is creeping back into America's line of sight. The Republican Party timed its publication last month of a report that sharply criticises the Biden administration for failing to plan for the return to power of the Taliban, and taking steps to safely evacuate Americans and their Afghan allies beforehand. It aims to defend the Republicans' record following last year's After Action Review, an internal US government probe into both sides' failings during the withdrawal, particularly the failure to act in the name of IS.

August's deaths of 254 people killed in militant attacks — the highest over the past six years — was an unambiguous warning sign.

Like most ideas that have an occasional figment of truth in it, Hardliners and maximalists are present in any social and political movement, and there is no reason ethnic movements would be different post-1947 because.

But where the NatSec let its analysis wrong is in its reading of history. Hardliners did not necessarily have the upper hand in movements from day one. Instead, the turn towards secessionism usually emerged because of the chain of events featuring

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Zahid Gul: The Visionary Behind Pakistan's Squash Revival

Sports Desk:

In Pakistan, Zahid Gul is a name synonymous with squash excellence. With an impressive career spanning from a junior champion to one of the nation's most influential coaches, Zahid has carved out a lasting legacy from an October 10, 1990, Zahid's journey began with an exceptional junior career and has since evolved into a transformative coaching role that continues to shape Pakistan's squash landscape.

Early Days of Dominance
From a young age, Zahid's talent was undeniable. He won the Bank of Punjab Squash Championship in 2006, followed by triumphs in the CAS Junior Squash Championship and several national titles. In 2007, he represented Pa-

kistan on the international stage at the British Junior Open. By 2009, Zahid was captain of Pakistan's Junior National Squash Team—a transition that set the stage for his future as a mentor and coach.

Pioneering Pakistan's Modern Coaching Legacy
Over the past decade, Zahid has become a cornerstone in Pakistan's squash landscape, blending leadership with technical expertise to develop some of the country's brightest talents. His trainees include Shahid Zaman Khan, ranked as high as world number 4, Mansoor Zaman, who reached world number 11, Noor Zaman, a top player in Pakistan, and Farhan Zaman, who was ranked number 1 in Pakistan and

among the top 50 globally. Zahid's holistic approach to coaching, which emphasizes technical skills alongside mental and physical development, has been widely praised. His tailored training programs and sustained growth in competition have earned him, in particular, respect through the ranks due to Zahid's innovative training regimen.

International Recognition
Zahid's expertise has not gone unnoticed internationally. His coaching career has taken him to India, the UK, and Sri Lanka, where he coached the national team for the 2016 Asian Squash Championships in Taipei, making an immediate impact.

Kashmir's no to BJP

By Malecha Lodhi:

The resounding message from occupied Jammu and Kashmir's recent legislative elections is the rejection of India's August 2019 action that robbed the state of even the nominal sovereignty it previously had.

The verdict handed a decisive victory to the National Conference (NC) and was a setback for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aim of securing endorsement for his post-2019 policy.

On August 5, 2019, his government had abrogated Article 370 of the Indian constitution, which gave the state special status. The state's bifurcation and absorption into the Indian union was in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and denounced across the occupied territory. This opened another bleak chapter in the disputed state's tortured history, which involved intensified repression, incarceration of Kashmiri leaders, grave violations of human rights and crackdown on the media.

Many in the Indian media read the outcome of the J&K election as a blow to the BJP and reputation of its post-2019 actions. Harish Khare wrote in 'The Wire', "This is a strategic setback, whichever way

the Modi apologists may want to slice it." Another writer called it "an electoral and moral defeat" for BJP.

The New York Times acknowledged that "Modi's heavy manoeuvring to assert his ascendancy was high profile" and "NC leader Farooq Abdullah said, "The results were a verdict against Modi's government." They projected the steps taken on August 5 are not acceptable to the people.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) declared: "By the vote people have rejected the unilateral change imposed in August 2019, which led to their systematic disempowerment."

The final blow came weeks before the state was to go to the polls. The BJP government substantially increased the

demographic changes involved including by pro-Indian outsiders who became eligible to vote after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the constitution. Temporary residents were also given voting rights. These measures were roundly denounced by J&K including by pro-Indian Kashmiri politicians and they deepened the resentment and alienation of the Kashmiri people.

The BJP government's disempowerment of Kashmiri politicians and the absence of any resistance, especially as the election was seen as a referendum on the BJP government's policies. The National Conference, which won 42 seats out of 90 secured an absolute majority with its ally Congress, which won six seats.

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A Historic Victory for Pakistan
In 2023, Zahid coached Muhammad Hamza Khan to victory in the World Junior Squash Championship, marking Pakistan's first title win in 37 years. Hamza's win over Egypt's Mohamed Zakaria in Melbourne re-established Pakistan's prominence in squash, a sport the nation once dominated. Zahid's influence was crucial in preparing Hamza for the victory, bringing Pakistan back into the global spotlight.

A Lasting Legacy
Zahid Gul's career is a testament to his dedication to squash. From player to coach, his impact is undeniable. With a relentless pursuit of excellence and an eye for talent, Zahid has revived Pakistan's storied squash legacy, ensuring the country's place in international squash for years to come. His story is one of passion, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to the sport.

Shaping the Next Generation
Zahid's commitment to squash extends beyond the court. Since 2008, he has been involved in training programs at Quetta College, Army Staff College, and the Pakistan Air Force

Squash Academy, where he has mentored numerous promising players. His leadership in organizing national and regional training camps aims to nurture future squash champions, building an ecosystem of excellence to ensure that Pakistan remains competitive on the global stage.

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Zahid Gul's career

North Korea's Kim accuses US of stoking tension, warns of nuclear war

SEOUL (INP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has accused the United States of ramping up tension and provocations, saying the Korean peninsula has never faced such risks of nuclear war as now, state media KCNA said on Friday.

In a speech at a military exhibition on Thursday in Pyongyang, Kim said his previous experience of negotiations with Washington only highlighted its "aggressive and hostile" policy against Pyongyang, KCNA said.

"Never before have the warring parties on the Korean peninsula faced such a dangerous and acute confrontation that it could escalate into the most destructive thermonuclear war," Kim said, according to KCNA.

"We have already gone as far as we can on negotiating with the United States, but what we became certain of from the result is not the superpowers willingness to coexist, but its thorough stance of power and aggressive and hostile policy towards us that can never change."

During US President-elect Donald Trump's first term, he and Kim held three unprecedented meetings in Singapore, Hanoi, and at the Korean border in 2018 and 2019. But their diplomacy failed to achieve any concrete outcome due to differences between U.S. calls for North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons and Kim's demands for sanctions relief.

Trump has long touted his ties with Kim, saying last month that "would've had a nuclear war with millions of people killed" but he stopped it thanks to their relationship.

North Korea state media has not yet publicly mentioned Trump's reelection.

Last week, Kim urged the country's military to improve capabilities for fighting a war, blaming the United States and its allies for stoking tension to "the worst phase in history" and calling the Korean peninsula "the world's biggest hotspot."

The event, called the Defence Development Exhibition, featured strategic and tactical weapons.

Kim's latest speech came amid international criticism over increasingly deepening military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow, with North Korea having sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

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QUETTA: Federal Secretary of Law Raja Naeem Akbar is meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

Putin says Ukraine war is going global conflict after the United States and Britain

MOSCOW (INP): President Vladimir Putin stated that the Ukraine war was escalating towards a global conflict after the United States and Britain allowed Ukraine to hit Russia with its weapons, and warned the West that Moscow could strike back.

Putin said Moscow had tested a new medium-range hypersonic non-nuclear ballistic missile known as "Oreshnik" (the hazel) by firing it at a missile and defence enterprise in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro, where missile and space rocket company said it was developing short and medium range missiles in response to the planned production and then deployment by the United States of medium and shorter range missiles in Europe and the far east.

"I believe that the United States made a mistake by unilaterally destroying the treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles in 2019 under a far-fetched pretext," Putin said, referring to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

The United States formally withdrew from the landmark 1987 (INF) Treaty with Russia in 2019 after saying that Moscow was violating the accord, an accusation the Kremlin denied.

Vladimir Putin imposed a unilateral moratorium on the development of missiles previously banned by the INF treaty. He said Russia's future actions would depend on the West's actions - and threats against Russia.

"Let me remind you that Russia has voluntarily, unilaterally committed itself not to deploy medium-range and shorter-range missiles until such time as American weapons of this kind appear in any region of the world."

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ISLAMABAD: Mr. John Tchnout CMG MBE meets with Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Israeli strikes kill 47 people in eastern Lebanon, official says

JERUSALEM (INP): Israeli strikes killed at least 47 people in eastern Lebanon, a Lebanese official said, pressing the campaign against the Iran-backed Hezbollah group as a US mediator sought to advance ceasefire talks in Israel.

US mediator Amos Hochstein, who said a ceasefire was "within our grasp" during a visit to Lebanon on Tuesday, met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz. There were no immediate statements. Indicating there were still gaps to close, a senior Lebanese official told Reuters that Beirut had sought changes to the U.S. ceasefire proposal, to include ensuring a speedier withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon.

The diplomacy marks the most serious attempt yet to end the conflict between Israel and the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hezbollah, part of the regional spillover of the Gaza war.

Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs about a dozen times, sending up clouds of debris, in some of the most intense airstrikes yet.

Residents have largely fled the area since Israel went on the offensive against Hezbollah in September.

The Israeli army said its strikes were against Hezbollah infrastructure and that it had mitigated civilian harm through advance warnings and other steps.

In Israel, a 30-year-old man was killed when shrapnel from a rocket struck a playground in the northern town of Nahariya, Israel's MDA medical service said.

"The Israeli government is not safeguarding my security, my residents or the residents of the north (of Israel). It is not possible to live in such a situation like this," Nahariya Mayor Ronen Marely told public broadcaster Kan.

The Israeli military said about 10 rockets were launched from southern Lebanon towards Nahariya. "Most of the projectiles were intercepted and fallen projectiles were identified," the military said in a statement.

Hezbollah's al-Manar television station, citing its correspondent, confirmed rocket fire towards Nahariya and the surrounding area.

White House envoy Hochstein left for Israel after declaring progress in two days of talks in Lebanon with officials including Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, endorsed to negotiate with Hezbollah.

Speaking before he left Beirut, Hochstein said he was going to Israel to secure the return home of tens of thousands of people evacuated from its north due to rocket attacks by Hezbollah, which opened fire in support of Hamas at the start of the Gaza war in October 2023.

Hezbollah, which has suffered major blows since Israel began its offensive in September, has kept rocket fire into Israel, attacking Tel Aviv this week.

Its fighters are battling Israeli troops on the ground in the south.

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JOBS FOR DOCTORS IN ZHOBI DIVISION

Subsequent to the approval of Government of Balochistan, Divisional Health Committee Zhoibi invites qualified doctors and nurses for WALK IN INTERVIEW to fill purely contractual non-transferable posts against specific health facilities mentioned against serial numbers.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of Post, SPS, Place of Posting, No. of Vacancies, Interview Schedule. Lists various medical posts like Assistant Professor, Senior Registrar, etc., across different hospitals in District Zhoibi.

District Killis Sufaid

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of Post, SPS, Place of Posting, No. of Vacancies, Interview Schedule. Lists medical posts in District Killis Sufaid.

District Sherani

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of Post, SPS, Place of Posting, No. of Vacancies, Interview Schedule. Lists medical posts in District Sherani.

Eligibility Criteria: i. MBBS degree from PMDC recognized institution. ii. Permanent PMDC Registration. iii. Specialist (BPS-18). iv. MBS degree from PMDC recognized institution. v. Postgraduate clinical diploma in a specialty from PMDC recognized institution. vi. Permanent PMDC Registration with postgraduate qualification mentioned therein. vii. Assistant Professor & Senior Registrar (BPS-18). viii. MBS degree from PMDC recognized institution. ix. FCPSPS/MDS/MDMS. x. Permanent PMDC Registration with postgraduate qualification mentioned therein. xi. Must be Local Domicile of Balochistan. xii. Permanent employment in Government of Balochistan as Medical Officer (BPS-17), Lady Medical Officer (BPS-17), or Specialist (BPS-18). xiii. Staff Nurse (BPS-14). xiv. BS Nursing from an institute recognized by Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC).

Terms & Conditions: a. Selection shall be based on qualification, relevant experience and performance in interview. b. Candidates from respective and adjoining districts will be preferred. c. Age as per Government Policy. d. Candidates must show original academic and identity documents at the time of interview. e. Candidate must submit two attested copies of documents which shall be verified and if found bogus legal action shall ensue. f. Candidates working in public sector produce NOC from the existing employer. g. The positions are purely contractual for the period of two years with first year on probation, and faculty specific and non-transferable. However, tenure may be extended subject to requirement, utility and performance evaluation. h. Divisional Health Committee Zhoibi reserves the right to cancel the interview process or change the number of vacancies. i. Postage as per Government Policy. j. No TA/DA is admissible for the interview.

PRO No. 2046/22-11-2024

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Divisional Health Committee Zhoibi



PESHAWAR: Residents of Parachinar hold protest outside Peshawar Press Club (PPC).

Pakistan's IT exports could exceed \$25b through better utilization of resources: PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan's IT exports could exceed twenty-five billion dollars through better utilization of resources and provision of training and education to the workforce.

Chairing a review meeting regarding reforms in IT sector in Islamabad, he directed Higher Education Commission to develop a roadmap for provision of international standard education, training and skills to the youth.

He pointed out there is a demand for Pakistani IT exports in Gulf countries and proposals related to this should be implemented soon.

Appreciating the proposed strategy for IT sector reforms, he said he would personally oversee its implementation.

The Prime Minister directed to set clear targets for increasing IT exports and to establish specific timeframes for each action.

Shehbaz Sharif directed the formation of a committee to implement reforms in the IT sector and promote collaboration among various institutions.

The meeting was informed that the target for the next five years is to achieve fifteen billion dollars in

IT sector exports, one billion dollars from telecom exports, and ten billion dollars

from digitization.

The meeting was informed that Pakistan's global ranking in e-governance has improved by fourteen spots.

2,500 new IT companies have been registered and Pakistan's IT ranking has improved from seventy nine to forty.

The meeting was also informed about the proposed plan to facilitate remittances for young people associated with the IT sector, especially freelancers.

The Prime Minister praised this initiative regarding international payment gateways and issued instructions for its swift implementation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairing a high-level consultative meeting on enhancing the efficiency of Karachi ports by improving hinterland connectivity here.

KP abolishes quota-based job appointments following SC orders

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has put an end to quota-based job appointments in the province, following orders from the Supreme Court.

As per details, Chief Secretary KP issued a notification to all government departments, stating that all recruitments will now be made on an open merit basis.

The decision comes after the Supreme Court ruled against the quota-based appointments.

The KP government has also made it clear that appointments without merit will be considered a violation of the Constitution.

However, the order would

not affect compensation packages of the federal and provincial governments to the benefit of the legal heirs of martyred personnel of law enforcement agencies and civil servants who lost their lives in terrorist activities.

In a separate development, earlier the Punjab government made significant changes to the Punjab Civil Servants Act, 1974 by abolishing rule 17-A.

The secretary regulation services and General Administration issued a notification in this connection.

The KP government has also made it clear that appointments without merit will be considered a violation of the Constitution.

However, the order would

exercise of the powers conferred under Section 23 of the Punjab Civil Servants Act, 1974 (VIII of 1974), the Governor of Punjab is pleased to make the following amendment in the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1974, with immediate effect.

"In the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1974, Rule 17-A shall be omitted," the notification read.

Previously, under Rule 17-A, jobs were given to the family members of government employees in case of the death of a government employee, one of the spouses or children was eligible for the job.

Gandapur declared proclaimed offender by Anti-Terrorism court

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has declared Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur a proclaimed offender.

The decision pertains to a case registered against him at Islamabad's I-9 Police Station under anti-terrorism laws.

In a written order issued by ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra, the court stated that the case against Gandapur has been separated from the cases against other accused.

Non-bailable arrest warrants were issued for co-accused Raja Rashid Haider, Wasif Qayyum, Raja Khum Nawaz, Faisal Javed, and Umar Tanvir. The lawyers for these absconding accused—Sardar Masroof, Muraza Ton and Zahid Bashir Dar—had filed applications for exemption from attendance, which were rejected by the court.

Their bail bonds were also cancelled. The court adjourned the hearing until November 28th. The case against PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur, Faisal Javed, Raja Khum, and Wasif Qayyum was registered at the I-9 police station under anti-terrorism provisions. This development follows remarks made three days prior by the Islamabad District and Sessions Courts.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gillani along with Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed Kakar, Senator from Balochistan, visited National Emergencies Operations Center (NEOC) at the NDMA Headquarters.

Bomb Defused at Former CM Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch's Farmhouse in Turbat

From Our Correspondent:

TURBAT: Police thwarted a potential terrorist attack by defusing an improvised explosive device (IED) planted at the agricultural farmhouse of former Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch in Turbat on Friday.

According to police, unidentified suspects had planted the device in the farmhouse located in the outskirts of Turbat.

The bomb disposal team successfully neutralized the IED and conducted a thorough sweep of the area to prevent any untoward incident.

Security in the area has been heightened, and police have launched an investigation to identify and apprehend the culprits behind the attempt.

The incident highlights on-



going security challenges in Balochistan, with authorities urging vigilance to safeguard key locations.

Khawaja Asif denounces Bushra Bibi, PTI founder for exploiting religious norms for 'personal and political gains

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defense Minister Khawaja Asif Friday launched a scathing critique of Bushra Bibi and PTI founder Imran Khan, accusing them of exploiting religious and political norms for 'personal and political gains.'

If Bushra Bibi considers herself synonymous with Sharia, then only God can protect us,"

Khawaja Asif said while addressing a press conference in the federal capital.

He termed the claims as an affront to religion, further alleging,

"Such acts to save a sinking political ship reflect the lowest levels of desperation."

Referring to the video

The PML-N stalwart also addressed PTI's internal conflict, calling the rivalry between family members over political inheritance "the ugliest face of dynastic politics."

Referring to the 'feud' to take over the party, he remarked,

"Tug of war is on between a Bushra Bibi and Khan's sisters—a disgraceful chapter in Pakistan's political history."

Khawaja Asif also criticized the PTI's alleged misuse of diplomatic ties, highlighting the Saudi Arabia watch controversy and the misappropriation of gifts from the Toshakhana.

Referring to the video

message of Bushra Bibi, the defense minister said: "The statement was issued against a country in which watch was used for trading."

He accused the party of hypocrisy, stating, "They accuse others of dynastic politics while they themselves bow to material gains."

The defense minister called upon former COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa to personally refute the allegations surrounding him, emphasizing the need for accountability at all levels.

Asif concluded by lamenting the current state of politics, describing it as "the dirtiest situation in Pakistan's history."

According to the ISPR, General Munir was given a comprehensive briefing on the current security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), where counter-terrorism efforts continue.

The briefing was attended by the province's Chief Minister and senior field commanders.

During his visit, General Munir paid tribute to Pakistan's Shuhada (martyrs) and Ghazis, commending the "unparalleled sacrifices" they have made for the country's defence.

He highlighted that these sacrifices form a "cornerstone of national resilience," bolstering the morale and commitment of

Pakistan's armed forces and LEAs.

The COAS praised the high morale, operational readiness, and steadfast dedication of the troops facing security threats,

reiterating that dismantling illegal and hostile networks remains essential to Pakistan's stability.

Upon his arrival in Peshawar, General Munir was received by the Corps Commander, Peshawar, who accompanied him through briefings and discussions.

On Thursday, at least 38 people lost their lives and several others were injured when unidentified gunmen attacked a convoy in the Oshdar area of K-P Kurram district.

The convoy, travelling from Parachinar to Peshawar, came under heavy gunfire, with attackers positioned on surrounding hills using automatic weapons to target the vehicles.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviewing parade during the passing out ceremony of ASPs' 50th STP at National Police Academy.

Bushra Bibi's statements don't represent party policy: Barrister Saif

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's Adviser on Information Barrister Saif on Friday made it clear that Bushra Bibi's recent statements about Saudi Arabia's alleged role in Imran Khan's ouster were her personal opinion and didn't represent the party policy.

"She (Bushra Bibi) does not hold any party position therefore her statements don't represent party stance. The party policy can only be defined by the chairman, secretary general or spokesperson," Saif emphasised.

At the same time, Saif also claimed that the statements of Imran Khan's spouse had been taken out of context. He said she had not levelled any allegation against Saudi

Arabia or Saudi Crown Prince.

There was no fissure between Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman and Imran Khan, instead they had an exemplary relationship but the government was trying to create a rift between them, according to Saif.

The like government, he said, was making cowardly attempts by misinterpreting Bushra Bibi's claims to divert attention from the PTI protest scheduled for Nov 24.

Saif said PTI's protest was getting on government's nerves.

Bushra Bibi claimed on Thursday that after Imran Khan returned barefoot from Medina, "calls began pouring in for retired Gen Bajwa, questioning the choice of bringing

him into leadership."

In a video message posted on X, Bushra Bibi said former army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was told, "Who have you brought? We don't want such individuals. We are working to end Shariah, and you have brought someone advocating for it."

She added that since then, baseless propaganda was launched against them, including accusations against her and labelling Imran Khan a "Jewish agent."

She said Imran Khan would not seek revenge from anyone after coming into power and the slogans of jihad were not launched by Imran Khan but it's the voice of people against the corrupt regime.