

QUETTA VOICE

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Musarrat Aziz's Killing Sparks Outrage Over Women's Safety

Syed Ali Shah Analysis:

The murder of Musarrat Aziz, a social activist and in-charge of the Toubek Technical Center near Jail Road, Zhoib, underscores the growing violence, intolerance, and alarming torture faced by women in Balochistan. This heinous act, which claimed the life of a woman dedicated to empowering others through skills training, is a stark reminder of the escalating challenges women encounter daily.

Disturbingly, there has been no condemnation from government high-ups, reflecting an appalling indifference toward such incidents. According to District Police Officer (DPO) Zhoib, Syed Saboor Agha, an investigation is underway, and one individual has been taken into custody for questioning. While the authorities' assurances of justice are welcome, they must translate into swift and transparent action. The tragic loss of Musarrat Aziz is not merely an isolated incident but part of a harrowing pattern of violence that targets women striving for progress and change. As highlighted in a recent report by Quetta Voice during 2024, "Balochistan recorded an alarming rise in violence against women, with over 200 cases reported in six months." The report further emphasized the "systemic societal pressures and ineffective law enforcement mechanisms perpetuate a culture of impunity." This culture emboldens perpetrators while leaving victims and their families in despair. Musarrat's case is yet another addition to these grim statistics, shedding light on the state's failure to protect its most



vulnerable citizens. The outpouring of outrage on social media reflects public demand for justice and stricter measures to ensure women's safety. It is imperative for the government to heed this call. Silence from high-ranking officials on such a grave matter is unacceptable and sends a chilling message of apathy. Balochistan's leadership must break this silence and address the systemic issues enabling such atrocities. The government must: Expedite the investigation and ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly. Implement robust policies to combat violence against women, including special task forces and monitoring mechanisms. Launch awareness campaigns emphasizing the importance of women's empowerment and their right to safety. Strengthen law enforcement to ensure swift action against threats to women activists and workers. Musarrat Aziz was more than just a victim; she was a beacon of hope for women in Zhoib, striving to create opportunities in a challenging environment. Her death must not be in vain. This tragedy calls for collective introspection and decisive action. Without accountability and a commitment to change, Balochistan risks alienating and endangering the very individuals who work tirelessly to uplift their communities. Justice for Musarrat Aziz must be a priority. It is time for Balochistan's leadership to demonstrate that the safety and dignity of its women are non-negotiable.

Ali Madad Jattak Declared Winner in PB-45 Quetta Re-Election Amid JUI-F Protests

Manan Mandokhail :

QUETTA, BALOCHISTAN: Ali Madad Jattak, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) candidate and former provincial minister, was declared the winner in the re-election for PB-45 Quetta on Sunday night. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced Jattak's victory, dismissing claims of rigging made by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) candidate Mir Usman Pirkan, who also claimed victory. The re-election on PB-45 was conducted after Jattak's earlier election win was challenged by JUI-F candidate Mir Usman Pirkan. Speaking about his victory, Jattak said, "This victory is a testament to the people's support and their confidence in me. I thank my voters for standing by me despite all challenges. He further stated, "The elections were conducted transparently, and the results reflect the true will of the people."



However, JUI-F chief Maulana Abdul Wasay accused the ECP of orchestrating "massive rigging and electoral engineering." Addressing a press conference, he said, "The administration and ECP blatantly violated electoral laws, making this election a farce." Wasay announced a series of protests, including sit-ins and highway blockades, adding, "We will not accept this fraudulent result and will continue to resist this injustice." The situation in Quetta remains tense as JUI-F supporters staged protests outside the Deputy Commissioner's office, demanding

Sarwat Fatima Meets Balochistan CM, Awarded Cash Prize and Malaysia Training

Qaseem Shah:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti met 12-year-old badminton prodigy Sarwat Fatima, the South Asia Badminton Champion and three-time national champion, to celebrate her exceptional achievements in sports. During the meeting, the Chief Minister appreciated Sarwat Fatima's outstanding accomplishments at a young age and awarded her a cash prize of Rs. 500,000. He also announced that she would be sent to Malaysia for advanced training to further hone her skills. Mir Sarfaraz Bugti described Sarwat Fatima as a "talented daughter of Balochistan" who has brought pride to the province through her hard work and dedication. He assured full support for her education,

including covering expenses if she chooses to study at any educational institution in Pakistan. Sports Adviser Meena Majeed Baloch praised the Chief Minister's initiative, calling it an exemplary step toward encouraging young talent. "Players like Sarwat Fatima are a source of pride for Balochistan," she said. Sarwat Fatima expressed her gratitude to the Chief Minister, stating that his encouragement motivates her to strive for greater success. Secretary Sports Tariq Qamar and Director General Yasir Khan Bazzi were also present at the occasion. This initiative highlights the government's commitment to promoting sports and supporting talented athletes in Balochistan.



Nasrullah Zaire Accuses Election Commission of Rigging PB 45 Elections

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Nasrullah Zaire, Provincial President of the Pashtunخوا National Awami Party, has accused the Election Commission of rigging the January 5, 2024, elections, claiming that the process was manipulated, similar to the February 8 election. Zaire stated that his victory in PB 45 was unfairly overturned and criticized the Election Commission for its involvement in the alleged rigging. He mentioned that after the rigging in the February elections, he had consistently advocated for re-elections, but the January 5 elections were marred by similar issues. Zaire accused a Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) candidate of conspiring with the Election Commission to add additional votes. He alleged that on election day, voter lists were altered across all 15 polling stations, with 5,000 additional votes added. He claimed that when polling agents and voters went to cast their votes, their names were missing



from the voter lists. Zaire also pointed out that some presiding officers at polling stations were not even government employees. Furthermore, he accused the Election Commission of prematurely declaring the PPP candidate as the winner before the results from 15 polling stations had been officially announced. Zaire confirmed that he had filed five formal complaints regarding the missing names from the voter list and condemned the alleged conspiracy involving JUI and the Election Commission. He clarified that he did not participate in JUI's protest and called for the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner. Zaire demanded re-elections in PB 45 to ensure the rightful vote of the public is honored.

JUI-Balochistan Announces Highways Closure on January 8 Over Election Rigging

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA BREAKING NEWS: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Balochistan (JUI-B) has announced a complete shutdown of national highways across Balochistan on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The party is protesting alleged rigging in the PB-45 by-election, claiming their victory was deliberately overturned. The announcement was made by JUI-B's provincial Ameer, Maulana Abdul Wasay, during a high-profile press conference held in Quetta.



Prominent party leaders, including Kamran Murtaza, Agha Mahmood Shah, Maulvi Kamaluddin, Usman Parkani, Maulvi Sarwar Musa Khel, Haji Nawaz Kakar, and Dilwar Khan Kakar, were present in solidarity.

PB-45 By-Election Rigging Sparks Outrage Maulana Abdul Wasay lashed out at the election process, stating, "The re-polling in PB-45 was a premeditated effort to sabotage our victory and convert it into a defeat. Democracy was trampled upon, and records of electoral fraud were shattered." He further highlighted that candidates were barred from leaving the Returning Officer's (RO) office, providing clear evidence of electoral malpractice.

Clash with Balochistan's Leadership The JUI-B leadership disclosed its discontent with the Chief Minister of Balochistan, describing a

contentious conversation in which the CM's tone was deemed inappropriate. After consultations, the party resolved to terminate any negotiations with the provincial government. "The government blatantly used force to declare its candidate victorious," said Maulana Abdul Wasay.

Governance Failures and Allegations The party criticized the government for widespread failures: Communication Blackout: Suspension of signals across Quetta and other parts of Balochistan, labeled as governmental incompetence. Election Rigging Proof: Discrepancies in vote counts, with Ali Madad Jattak receiving 680 votes, while Usman Parkani secured over 6,000 votes, high-light deliberate fraud. Neglect of Public Services: Educa-

tion and healthcare systems are shambles, while border closures have crippled trade and livelihoods. Farmers' Deceit: The government's solar system initiatives were labeled as a ploy to mislead farmers. **JUI-B's Future Plan: Shutdown and Protests** As part of its resistance strategy, National Highways Closure: Highways across Balochistan will be blocked on January 8, 2025. Provincial Shutdown: JUI-B aims to paralyze the provincial government. Peaceful Resistance: The party concluded its peaceful protest and sit-in but reaffirmed its commitment to political activism. Maulana Abdul Wasay called for immediate corrective measures and demanded an end to government malpractice.

Two policemen martyred in Lakki Marwat: official

NEWS DESK: Two police constables were martyred on Monday when unidentified gunmen riding motorbikes opened fire at them in Lakki Marwat's Jabukhel area, an official said.

Police Department's Spokesperson Shahid Hameed confirmed the incident and said that it occurred within the limits of the Ganikhel police station. He said that the assailants "opened fire on Constables Hikmatullah and Khan Bahadar when they were going to their

duty place on a motorcycle from Khenkhel Pacca area." "Both of them received critical bullet injuries and died instantly while the attackers fled the place on a motorcycle," the spokesperson said. The spokesperson added that the martyred police officials were deployed at the Shaheed Haibat Ali Khan police station of Durra Pezu town and Shahbazkhel police station respectively. "The bodies were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital Tajazai for post-mortem examination," he said, adding that a heavy contingent of law enforcement officers arrived at the scene, launching a search operation to apprehend the attackers.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. The country has lately witnessed a sharp uptick in the number of attacks targeting security forces, other law enforcement agencies, and security checkpoints, particularly in Balochistan and KP.

Levies Personnel Killed in Panjgur Firing Incident

From Our Correspondent: Following the attack, the body was shifted to a nearby hospital for legal formalities. Security forces cordoned off the area and initiated an investigation. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

PANJGUR: A Levies personnel was killed in a firing incident at Football Chowk in Panjgur district, Balochistan, on Monday. The victim, identified as Mumtaz Ahmed, was fatally shot by unidentified assailants. Such incidents highlight the persistent security challenges in the region, with law enforcement agencies often targeted by militants. Stay updated for further developments.

Quetta's Air Quality: A Beacon of Hope in Pakistan's Pollution Crisis

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Pakistan faces undeclared war, says Ahsan Iqbal

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PM Shehbaz directs immediate property confiscation of all human trafficking.

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Kurram incident wouldn't affect peace agreement: Barrister Saif

PESHAWAR (INP) Barrister Saif, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's information adviser, said that an incident in Kurram district will not affect the peace agreement.

"We could not share the details for now that who are the accused and to whom they belong," provincial official said.

Muhammad Ali Saif said, "This sensitive information, we will share the details after completion of the investigation."

He said, the roads will be opened after issuance of security clearance.

It is to be mentioned here that after a peace deal between the warring tribes in Kurram region and it was decided to open the roads, militants opened fire on Deputy

Commissioner Javedullah Mehsud, injuring him and some security personnel.

According to reports two militants involved in the attack on DC Kurram have been arrested. The militants were apprehended during a crackdown in Kurram, police said.

Sources revealed that the arrested militants have also been



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf being briefed about Science projects during The 28th Parents' Day was held at Cadet College Sanghar (C.C.S.)

Overseas Pakistani investor Shiraz Khan abducted, tortured

ISLAMABAD (INP) Overseas Pakistani investor looted by fraudsters, embroiled in false cases after losing millions.

UK-based overseas Pakistani investor Shiraz Khan, also known as Shiraz Khan, shared his ordeal with the media, revealing that on July 26, 2024, he discovered that his vehicle had been fraudulently transferred to Qadeer Hussain through forged documents.

When he tried to block the vehicle's registration, he was advised to come to Pakistan to complete the necessary legal procedures.

Upon his arrival in Pakistan, he contacted an officer named Qamar Shah at the ETO office, who demanded Rs. 800,000 to block the vehicle's file and re-register it under Shiraz's name.

After paying the amount, he was advised to register the vehicle with the police. Subsequently, he filed an FIR against Qadeer Hussain at the Dadial Police Station in Azad

Kashmir for fraudulently transferring the vehicle.

On August 17, 2024, while dining at a restaurant in Bahria Town Phase 7, Shiraz and his friend, contractor Rizaf, were abducted by Attock police and armed men.

Despite their repeated inquiries, they were told they were being taken to Civil Lines Police Station in Rawalpindi. However, they were taken directly to Attock Police Station, where they were severely tortured. Shiraz reported that he had £6,500 and Rs. 87,000 in cash at the time, which ASI forcibly took from him.

Later, when Shiraz was instructed to make another call, Shehzad informed him that his location had been traced and that he would soon be recovered.

He also mentioned that Shiraz's family had alerted the British High Commission, which was actively involved in securing his release. Alarmed by this, Attock police fabricated false cases

against Shiraz and sent him to Adiala Jail on August 27, 2024. Even in jail, Shiraz reported being forced to pay large bribes.

He was eventually released on bail by the High Court on November 11.

Shiraz has appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Senate, IG Punjab, the Director General of FIA, and other relevant authorities to take immediate action against those responsible.

He also requested the return of the money that was extorted from him through torture and blackmail.

The overseas Pakistani community has strongly condemned this abduction, urging the government to take swift legal action to restore the confidence of overseas investors.

The incident has deeply disheartened the overseas community, highlighting the urgent need for justice and reforms to protect their interests.

West Indies cricket team accorded presidential security protocol

ISLAMABAD (INP) Following Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's approval, the Ministry of Interior on Monday announced presidential security protocol for the West Indies cricket team that arrived in Pakistan to play two test matches after 19 years.

The team will be provided with full security protocol during its stay in Islamabad and Punjab.

The personnel of police, Elite Force and

Rangers will escort the visitors to the stadium and hotel.

The protocol will be given to the team until its departure.

Earlier, West Indies cricket team reached Islamabad from Dubai onboard flight EK-612 to play two test matches and a three-day match.

Strict security arrangements were taken from the airport to a hotel.

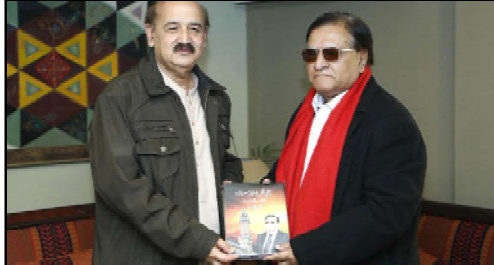
The visitors will

face the hosts in two tests to be played as part of the ICC's World Test Championship in Multan.

The first test will commence on January 17 while the second on January 25.

The tourists will also take on the hosts in a three-day match to be played at Islamabad Club from January 10 to January 12.

Last time both sides had faced each other in tests was in



ISLAMABAD: Zafar Bakhtawar, Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum is presenting his book to Ayub Jamal DG PNCA during his meeting at his office.



QUETTA: Provincial Agriculture Minister Mir Ali Hasan Zehri is meeting Balochistan Chief Minister Nasir Azhar Bugti.

Harmanpreet, Renuka rested for Ireland ODIs; Mandhana to lead India

NEW DELHI (INP) India's regular captain Harmanpreet Kaur and fast bowler Renuka Singh have been rested for the three ODIs against Ireland, set to begin on January 10 in Rakor.

Smriti Mandhana has been named captain in Harmanpreet's absence, while Deepthi Sharma is the vice-captain.

Raghvi Bist and Sayali Satghare have been called up for the series, while the likes of Arundhati Reddy, Shafali Verma and Rachael Devon are to miss out. Bist recently made her T20I debut in the T20I series against West Indies in Navli Mumbai in December last year, where she played two games and made scores of 5 and 31.

Satghare, meanwhile, received her India call-up for the ODIs against New Zealand in October 2024, but did not get a game.

Pratika Rawal and Tanuja Kanwar, who made their India debuts in the West Indies ODIs in Vadodra, keep their places in the squad.

Mandhana also stood in as captain when Harmanpreet sat out of the last two T20Is against West Indies.

Harmanpreet, however, returned for the ODIs, making 88 runs in three matches.

Shafali, who was dropped for the series against Australia and West Indies late last year, misses out on selection despite finishing as the top run-getter in the Senior Women's One-Day Trophy that concluded on December 30. She scored 527 in seven games at 75.29, including a 197 against Bengal. More recently, on January 5, she scored a match-winning 91 off 71 balls for Team A in the chase against Team B in the ongoing One Day Challenger Trophy.

The India vs Ireland series, part of the

2022-2025 future tours programme, will be Ireland's first-ever bilateral tour of India, and the teams' first series against each other since 2006. Ireland have lost all of the 12 ODIs they have played against India so far. The sides last met in the T20 World Cup in 2023, when India won by five runs.

Smriti Mandhana (capt), Deepthi Sharma (vice-capt), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwar, Titus Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Sayali Satghare

Victim families of Sopore massacre await justice in IIOJK

SRINAGAR (INP) Justice continues to elude the victim families of the gory Sopore massacre that has killed 32 years, whose loved ones lost their lives at the hands of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Sopore town on the chilly morning of January 6, 1993, in Indian Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, over 50 innocent civilians were killed, and the main business area of the town was set ablaze and looted by the Indian BSF troops on that fateful day when they went on a rampage after a rifle was allegedly snatched from a BSF soldier by an unknown individual.

Shortly after the incident, Indian BSF

personnel from the 94th Battalion butchered 57 civilians. Witnesses of the gruesome massacre recounted that the marauding troops dragged a bus driver out of the vehicle and pumped bullets into the bus passengers, killing 20 of them on the spot.

"After killing the passengers, the troops started spraying gunpowder, petrol, and kerosene on the surrounding buildings and then torched them," they said.

"Among the 57 dead civilians, 48 died due to gunfire, and nine were burnt alive. More than 400 commercial establishments and 75 residential houses were set ablaze in five localities of Sopore - Arampora, Muslimeer, Kralteng, Shallapora, Shahabad, and Bobimir Sahab. Among the burnt buildings and shops

were landmark structures like the Women's Degree College," said a witness.

"We couldn't comprehend anything as we watched BSF personnel targeting every civilian with bullets."

Days after the gruesome massacre, we came to know that a BSF soldier was robbed of his rifle by an unknown man, and to avenge that incident, they targeted innocent civilians," added another eyewitness.

Manzoor Ahmed, who witnessed the massacre and arson, said the marauding troops dragged the driver of a bus (JKY-1901) from the vehicle and fired into the passengers, killing 20 of them.

"The troops then set shops and buildings on fire after sprinkling

gunpowder. About 400 shops and buildings, including 75 residential houses, were gutted in Chaltapora, Shahabad, Muslimeer, Kralteng, and Arampora areas of the town," he said.

Among the gutted buildings were the Women's Degree College and Samad falkies.

The Shalla family of Shalpora suffered the highest number of casualties, with four of its members killed.

The Sopore massacre, which serves as a horrific example of brutal Indian military actions in IIOJK, was described by Time Magazine as one of the worst atrocities in Kashmir's history.

Meanwhile, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders and rights activists, while paying glowing tributes to the victims of the Sopore massacre.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Kana Tanveer Hussain visited the Development of Plant protection.

'Lack of trust' halts third round of PTI-govt talks

ISLAMABAD (INP) Negotiations between the government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have hit a standstill, with no progress made toward scheduling the third round of talks.

It reports in media that PTI's failure to present a written Charter of Demands has become the primary reason for the impasse.

According to sources, there has been no contact from either side with the Speaker's office to arrange the third round of negotiations. PTI, following its meeting with the party founder, is expected to finalize its position on the Charter of Demands.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242591621733, TSE-242591621743 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Buildings CW, PFI&H District Jaffarabad invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates, 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 2% for each work

S.No	Name of Works	E/Coef
1	PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL ROOMS FOR ALREADY NEWLY UPGRADED SCHOOLS NOTIFIED BEFORE 30-06-2024 (GMSR) ABDUL GHANI BROWN BEEMS CODE 3643 DISTRICHT JAFFARABAD/PFSP/NO 646/2024/2586	16,763,768
2	PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL ROOMS FOR ALREADY NEWLY UPGRADED SCHOOLS NOTIFIED BEFORE 30-06-2024 (GMSR)RAZAMUHAMMAD RAHOJAH BEAMS CODE 6670 DISTRICHT JAFFARABAD/PFSP/NO 644/2024/2588	14,718,506

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 11,70,46,000 PKR & 10,302,854 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany bank security in the form of Bank Guarantee Deposit of Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under signed on a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under signed 1,000 PKR issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of BNF to 22 January, 2025 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 22 January, 2025 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 12:00 PM. Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Buildings CW, PFI&H Department District Jaffarabad Phone No: 03318472491 Email: teos@pti.com.pk

PRO NO.2708/06-01-2025

Executive Engineer Buildings CW, PFI&H Department District Jaffarabad

BUMHS MDCAT Aspirants Stage Protest Against Alleged Irregularities in MDCAT Balochistan

QUETTA: A wave of discontent among medical aspirants erupted as students gathered to protest alleged irregularities in the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) conducted under the Balochistan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS).

The protest, held in Khuzdar, attracted a significant number of students and their families demanding transparency in the admission process.

The protesters raised concerns over discrepancies in test results, claims of paper leaks, and mismanagement during the examination process. Many aspirants reported inconsistencies in marking and alleged favoritism in results, which they believe has jeopardized the future of deserving candidates.

Speaking to the media, one of the protesting students said,

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

"We have worked tirelessly for this exam, but the irregularities have crushed our hopes. We demand justice and a fair re-evaluation of the results."

Parents of the affected students also joined the protest, expressing their frustration with the administration's alleged inability to ensure a fair and transparent examination process. "Our children's future is at stake. The authorities must address these issues and take action against those responsible," one parent said.

The protesters called for an independent inquiry into the alleged irregularities, urging higher authorities, including the Balochistan government, to intervene and ensure accountability. In response to the protests, a spokesperson from BUMHS stated, "We are aware of the concerns raised by the students and

are reviewing the situation. The university is committed to maintaining transparency and will address any genuine grievances."

This controversy has sparked widespread criticism of the examination process in Balochistan, with education experts emphasizing the need for stringent measures to prevent such issues in future examinations.

The MDCAT serves as a crucial gateway for students aspiring to join medical and dental colleges. Allegations of mismanagement have heightened anxieties among students, parents, and education stakeholders across the province.

As protests continue, all eyes are on the authorities to take swift and decisive action to restore trust in the system and ensure a fair resolution for the affected students.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Population Council led by President Dr Rana Hajjeh called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Verdict against Imran, Bushra in £190m Al-Qadir Trust case postponed yet again to Jan 13

ISLAMABAD (INP): An Islamabad accountability court on Monday yet again postponed its verdict expected on Monday in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust corruption reference against premier Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi due to the unavailability of a judge.

Imran and Bushra were indicted in the case on February 27, shortly after the general elections.

The case alleges that Imran and Bushra obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals from Bahra Town Ltd for legalising Rs50 billion that was identified and returned to the country by the United Kingdom during the previous PTI government. Yesterday, amid rumours about the verdict being deferred, Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry, one of the lawyers representing Imran and Bushra, stated that there had been no confirmation that the verdict had been postponed. The decision could not be pronounced today because Judge Nasir Javed Rana was on leave.

This is the second time the verdict for this case has been postponed.

On December 18, the court reserved its verdict after the defence wrapped its reasoning, saying the verdict would be announced on Dec 23.

Then while presiding over the

hearing on Dec 23, Judge Rana postponed the hearing till Jan 6, owing to the court going on winter vacation from Dec 24 to Jan 1.

In December 2023, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had filed a corruption reference against Imran and seven others, including his wife, in connection with the Al-Qadir University Trust.

The reference filed by NAB alleged that Imran, who is currently in jail, played a "pivotal role in the illicit transfer of funds meant for the state of Pakistan into an account designated for the payment of land by Bahra Town, Karachi". It also claimed that despite being given multiple opportunities to justify and provide information, the accused deliberately, with mala fide intention, refused to give information on one pretext or another. The reference said the "accused [...] were given multiple opportunities to justify and provide information, but they deliberately, with mala fide intention, refused to provide the information on one or the other pretext. "Furthermore, it is established through their responses that they have nothing in their defence to rebut the above-mentioned allegations."

Thus, they all have committed an offence under the National Accountability Ordinance

(NAO). It added that the investigation proceedings and findings so far "established that accused persons in connivance with each other have committed the offence of corruption and corrupt practices" as defined under the NAO.

The reference said Imran played a "pivotal role" in the illicit transfer of funds which were meant for the state which ultimately benefited Riaz.

Akbar, a former special assistant to the premier and Asset Recovery Unit chief, played a "crucial role" in the "illegal design of the funds" which were meant for the state, the reference said.

Malik, the reference said, had "actively aided, abetted and assisted and acted in conspiracy" with the other respondents for the diversion of funds earmarked for the state. Bushra Bibi and Shahzadi also played a "significant" and "crucial" role in the "illegal activities", the latter also a "frontwoman" for Imran and his wife, it said.

The reference said that it was "just and proper" to proceed against the eight suspects as there was "sufficient incriminating evidence" available to justify the reference. It pleaded that the eight suspects be tried and punished under the law by the court or any other to which the reference was entrusted.

Pakistan faces undeclared war, says Ahsan Iqbal

KARACHI (INP): Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that the country is facing an undeclared war.

Addressing a press conference Pakistan's Planning Minister said that the technology while opening new opportunities also bring challenges with it.

"The government's measures are inevitable to tackle the cybersecurity challenges," he stressed.

He said the PTI's founder will be acquitted when he will show the original receipts. "You could not swallow 50 bil-

lion of the country," he said. "You were demanding receipts from others, on your turn you are refusing to do so," PML-N leader said.

The Sindh government also presented a sketch of its schemes for the new financial year.

The session also discussed proposed Coastal Highway and schemes for improvement of the canal system in the province.

A briefing was also given with regard to the scheme of 2.1 million houses construction for flood affected people.

Nasir Shah attended briefing of the P&D department, with regard to the ongoing federal as well as the foreign funded projects in Sindh.

Earlier, Ahsan Iqbal and



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal speaks at media briefing at the Sindh Secretariat.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting on progress upon the measures taken against human trafficking.

PM Shehbaz directs immediate property confiscation of all human trafficking groups

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed that strict legal action be taken against all human trafficking groups in the country to set an example, including immediate legal action to confiscate the properties and assets of human traffickers. Last month, several Pakistanis died in a boat capsizing incident in Greece. As per the estimate, more than 80 Pakistanis drowned in the accident, 36 of whom were rescued. The remaining have been presumed dead.

A spokesman for the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Islamabad had said in a statement that following an investigation into the Greek boat capsizing, two FIA immigration officers were arrested, and a case was registered against three human smugglers, including the FIA officials.

More than 30 FIA officers have been booked and dismissed from service over their alleged collusion with human smugglers in illegally sending Pakistanis abroad.

PM Shehbaz chaired a review meeting today on measures taken against human trafficking in the country, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister appreciated the recent actions taken by the Federal Investigation Agency against government officials involved in human trafficking.

Following disciplinary actions, he further directed that strict punitive measures should also be taken against facilitators. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the measures taken against human trafficking, progress in the legal actions against facilitators, and in legislation for the eradication of human trafficking.

The prime minister said that the prosecution process against all individuals involved in the heinous trade should be made more effective, adding that top lawyers should be appointed for prosecution taken against human trafficking, progress in the legal actions against facilitators, and in legislation for the eradication of human trafficking.

He said the country should promote technical training institutions that can provide certified professionals to the international market according to modern requirements, adding that the screening process for individuals travelling abroad at airports should be made more effective.

CM Maryam promises international scholarships for students

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the government will provide all necessary facilities and scholarships to brilliant (honaahar) students to enable them to meet their educational expenditure.

While addressing the students of Bahauddin Zakriya University in Multan on Monday, Maryam Nawaz said that there is no need to worry for good students regarding their educational expenditure.

She said that public's resources were not being spent on the welfare of the people for the last 75 years but Honaahar Scholarship Program will be gradually expanded and will introduce international scholarships.

She announced to distribute laptops among the students in near future. Maryam Nawaz said that she felt pleasure to know that 60 per cent female students obtained Honaahar Scholarship.

She said that we have to use e-vehicles to promote healthy environment in the province. She informed the participants a Chinese company expressed interest to establish an electric bikes plant in Punjab.

Maryam Nawaz said that deserving honahaar students will be provided interest-free loans so they can start a business.

Over Rs100 million loan will be provided to students after completion of their studies to start a business.

Heavy Rain, snowfall grip Hazara division

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Heavy rainfall across the Hazara Division and this spell of intermittent snowfall in its upper regions Monday have significantly intensified the cold wave, affecting daily life and increasing challenges for residents and travelers alike.

In Kaghan Valley, snowfall continues in popular tourist destination including Narain, Battakundi, and Shogran. Tourist areas.

Naran and Battakundi have recorded over a foot of snow, while Shogran has received more than four inches. Kaghan Bazaar has accumulated nearly two inches of snow. The heavy snowfall has heightened the severity of the cold, disrupting

normal life and travel in the region.

Similarly, light snowfall persists in Galyati, where Abbottabad Traffic Police, under the directives of DIG Hazara Nasir Mehmood Satti and the supervision of DPO Abbottabad Umar Tufail and SSP Traffic Tariq Mehmood Khan, are actively assisting and guiding tourists.

On the special instructions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur and Advisor for Tourism, Culture, and Archaeology Zahid Chanzab, the Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) has deployed machinery and staff at high-alert positions across Kaghan Valley. Roads

blocked due to snow, including Shogran Road, have been cleared to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

The KDA has stationed additional staff and machinery at various key points to assist tourists and locals.

Tourism police have been deployed in areas such as Kawai, Shogran, Paras, and Kaghan to ensure the safety and convenience of visitors.

Despite the harsh weather conditions, tourists continue to flock to these scenic regions, attracted by the breathtaking snow-covered landscapes. Authorities have advised travelers to exercise caution and adhere to safety guidelines while visiting these areas.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing a seminar on "Post COP" dialogue on operationalization of article 6 the Paris agreement.

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovers 1231kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (INP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country recovered more than four tonnes worth of 220 million and arrested nine suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Monday.

He informed that 250 grams of heroin was recovered from the possession of a motorcyclist near Main Korangi Road, Karachi. The arrested suspect confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

40 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the stom-

ach of a passenger going to Bahrain at Lahore International Airport. 64 ice-filled capsules were recovered from the stomach of a passenger going to Jeddah through Lahore Airport. 1208 kg hashish was recovered from two different areas of Pishin in Balochistan.

8.4 kg hashish was recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle intercepted near M-1 Interchange, Islamabad and a suspect was arrested. 3 kg heroin, 2 kg ice and 1.2 kg hashish were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near Daska Chowk, Sialkot. 4.8 kg hash-

ish was recovered from the possession of two accused held near Sargodha Mor, Mianwali.

In an operation, 2.5 kg heroin was recovered from secret cavities of a truck near Kamunki Toll Plaza, Gujranwala and an accused was arrested. In 10th operation, 700 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of a drug dealer nabbed near Burhan Toll Plaza, Attock. Separate cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act and further investigations are under process.