

QUETTA VOICE

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Thursday, January 09, 2025

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Angry JUI F protesters blocked main Quetta-Islamabad highway at Killa Saifullah:
Photo provided by the author

ECP Notifies Ali Madad Jattak's Victory in PB-45 Quetta Election

Qasem Shah:

QUETTA: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has officially notified Ali Madad Jattak as the winner of the PB-45 Quetta Sadar seat after re-election held on January 5, 2025.

Jattak had previously been declared the winner following the general elections on February 8, 2024.



However, his victory was challenged by Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (Fazl) candidate Mir Usman Phani, who alleged irregularities and termed the results fraudulent. The allegations led to a re-election on the constituency as per court orders. The fresh election reaffirmed Jattak's win, prompting the ECP to issue the official notification on Wednesday. The decision ends months of legal and political disputes over the constituency. The PB-45 Quetta Sadar re-election saw high voter turnout and increased scrutiny to ensure transparency. This marks a significant victory for Ali Madad Jattak, whose political career had been under intense focus during the legal challenge.

Stay tuned for more updates on political developments in Quetta and Balochistan.

Jail officials of blocking access to Imran Khan: PTT's Sher Afzal Marwat

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Khan Marwat has expressed frustration over the authorities' failure to facilitate a meeting between the party's leadership and imprisoned founding chairman PFI, Imran Khan.

Speaking outside Adiala Jail, he criticised the jail superintendent, Abdul Ghafoor Anjum, for allegedly intensifying the hardships faced by Imran Khan and disregarding court orders, Express News reported.

Sher Afzal questioned how any demands could be addressed when officials are blocking access to Imran Khan for discussions.

JUI-F Observes Wheel Jam Strike Across Balochistan Against PB-45 Election Results

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: A province-wide wheel jam strike was observed in Balochistan on Wednesday, following a call by Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (Fazl) (JUI-F) to protest what it described as "engineered and rigged elections" in PB-45 Quetta Sadar.

The protest disrupted major highways, including the Karachi Highway, Chaman Highway at Syed Hamid Cross, and the Quetta-Islamabad Highway, as JUI-F supporters blocked roads to demand the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) halt the notification of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidate Ali Madad Jattak's victory.

JUI-F Balochistan chief Maulana Abdul Wasay criticized the election results, stating, "We will not accept the manipulated election results of PB-45. JUI-F will continue its political and legal battle to achieve justice."

He also added, "Our peaceful protest aims to highlight the unfair practices that undermine democracy in the province."

Passengers Face Severe Inconvenience

The strike caused immense difficulties for passengers, especially women, children, elderly individuals, and patients, who were stranded for hours. Long queues of vehicles were seen on blocked highways, leaving travelers frustrated and helpless. Abdul Hameed, a resident of Chaman, expressed his frustration, saying, "I have been waiting for hours to reach Quetta for a hospital appointment, but the strike has brought everything to a halt."

No Untoward Incidents Reported

Despite the widespread roadblocks, the strike concluded without any violent incidents. Authorities ensured that the protests remained peaceful throughout the day. The JUI-F has vowed to continue its protest until the ECP reviews its decision, keeping the political temperature high in the province.

pressed his frustration, saying, "I have been waiting for hours to reach Quetta for a hospital appointment, but the strike has brought everything to a halt."

Similarly, Noor Bibi, traveling from Karachi to Quetta, stated, "These strikes only create problems for ordinary people like us."

Incidents Reported

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Balochistan Government Bans Political Activities in Educational Institutions

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has officially prohibited all political activities within government educational institutions following a directive from the Balochistan High Court. The decision aims to protect students' educational prospects and prevent the misuse of institutions for politically motivated agendas.

According to a notification issued by the College, Higher, and Technical Education Department, the ban comes after a court judgment in Constitutional Petition No. 1973/2024 filed by Advocate Shahbir Ahmed. The High Court

expressed concern over the increasing trend of involving students in political activities, calling it detrimental to the future of the nation.

The decision is likely to face opposition from political parties in Balochistan and may be challenged in court. However, there has been no immediate reaction from any political party regarding the ban on political activities in educational institutions.

The court order states, "No permission in this behalf shall be granted for political gatherings and activities within the premises of educational institutions, and the same shall be completely banned till further orders."

All heads of institutions have been directed to comply strictly with the court orders. Any violation will result in disciplinary action under the Balochistan Employees' Efficiency and Discipline Act (BEEDA) 2011.

The Advocate General Balochistan communicated the judgment to the education department, emphasizing its immediate implementation to ensure educational institutions remain focused on academic pursuits.

Youth Killed, Companion Abducted in Killa Saifullah Attack

Abdul Nafi Kakar:

KILLASAIFULLAH: A tragic incident unfolded in the Gawal Ismailzai area of Killa Saifullah district, Balochistan, where armed assailants killed a young man and abducted his companion.

According to Levis sources, the attack occurred at the Gawal Ismailzai.

The victim, Gawal Ismailzai, a resident of Masood Khan, was fatally shot, while his companion, Juma Rahim, was taken hostage by the attackers. The body of the deceased was shifted to a hos-

pital and later handed over to his family.

In response to the incident, political parties staged a protest by blocking the Quetta-Islamabad highway at Zhub. Protesters demanded immediate action to ensure justice, enhance security, and curb the escalating violence in the region.

Law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing the attackers and working to secure the safe release of the abducted individual. Further developments are awaited.



Pakistan to honour IMF commitments, but excessive taxes unsustainable: PM

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stated that Pakistan will honour its commitments to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but emphasized that excessive taxation cannot sustain the country's economy.

Speaking at the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi on Wednesday, the prime minister reiterated plans for self-reliance. PM Shehbaz remarked that while IMF agreements are currently necessary, Pakistan will part ways with the institution "when the time is right."

Highlighting Karachi's significance, he noted its resurgence as a financial and export hub, crediting collective government efforts for the city's brighter outlook.

"Karachi's lights had dimmed in the past, but today, it is shining once again," PM Shehbaz said, adding that the city remains the centre of Pakistan's trade and finance. He underscored the importance of harnessing stock market momentum for economic growth.

The premier expressed optimism about future initiatives, including the "Uraan Pakistan" programme aimed at propelling the nation's economy upward. He described recent successes as a result of teamwork but stressed the need for continued growth-focused reforms.

Earlier, PM Shehbaz was welcomed at the Pakistan Air Force Base Faisal by Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah.



IT Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja reviews progress on Starlink licence

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja held a meeting on Tuesday with a delegation from Starlink to discuss the progress on the licensing of the satellite-based internet service provider.

Starlink Services, owned by Elon Musk, is one of the most technologically advanced companies globally among those providing internet via Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites. The company has already registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), but the government is still in the process of formulating a regulatory framework for LEO satellite landing rights for internet services.

The government aims to address the internet demand and supply gap in the country and expand its outreach to unconnected areas through satellite-based internet connections. Currently, internet service providers (ISPs)

receive internet from 13 high-orbit satellites, while four of these satellites provide communication services to TV channels licensed by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra). These geosynchronous orbit (GSO) satellites orbit the Earth at about 3,600 kilometers above the surface. In contrast, LEO satellites orbit between 300 and 500 kilometres above the ground and can provide direct internet services to individual and commercial consumers. Due to regular internet slowdowns and throttling, mainly driven by political reasons last year, many IT service providers with significant international clientele have opted for Starlink internet connections to ensure seamless and uninterrupted service. A senior executive of one IT company said they were using Starlink's seamless connection through equipment sourced from the UK.

NEWS DESK: Senate body directs PMDC to revoke licences of private medical colleges upon non-compliance

OPINION VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Crisis at Balochistan's Oldest University: Mismanagement, Protests, and Financial Woes

The University of Balochistan (UoB), the oldest and most prestigious institution of higher education in the province of the country, finds itself grappling with a severe financial crisis.

With monthly expenditures of Rs 28 crore to pay 1,450 employees and dwindling grants from the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the situation demands urgent and comprehensive action.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by Asghar Ali Tareen, has shed light on alarming issues, including overstaffing, fund misuse, and administrative failures. These revelations highlight the long-standing mismanagement that has pushed this vital institution to the brink.

Overstaffing and Mismanagement: The university's bloated workforce has exacerbated financial burdens, with questionable appointments of unqualified or connected individuals.

Non-Returning Teachers: Thirteen faculty members sent abroad for higher education failed to return, prompting PAC to call for strict legal actions, including FIRs against their guarantors.

Role of the Government: While the Government of Balochistan has provided Rs 22 crore, it is evident that this support falls short of addressing the financial demands of an institution of this scale.

Revenue Generation: As an autonomous body, the university must explore innovative ways to generate revenue, such as partnerships with the private sector and offering market-relevant programs.

Protests and Employee Rights: The University Act 2022, which imposes fines and imprisonment on protesting employees, must be revisited. Silencing staff is not a solution, addressing their grievances is.

Call for Balance: It is crucial to separate the actions of a few self-serving individuals from the institution as a whole. Punishing the university, its students, and its dedicated faculty for the misdeeds of a few will only exacerbate the crisis.

Balochistan University has played a pivotal role in shaping the province's educational landscape. The government, university administration, and all stakeholders must collaborate to restore its financial and academic integrity. The future of higher education in Balochistan depends on it.

Educating for the future through STEM and STEAM

By Dr Intikhab Ulfat:

Global technical developments are changing the world. Experts estimate that as 2030 approaches, AI may completely replace human management, outperforming humans in many domains. Notwithstanding these noteworthy advancements, it is probable that technology will ever fully replace some of the fundamental human abilities - such as creativity, collaboration and flexibility - that are necessary for innovation and problem-solving in the contemporary environment. To prepare students for the future of innovation, new educational strategies are being introduced that emphasise both technical expertise and soft skills.

STEM education emphasises the value of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in solving difficult global issues while giving students the information and abilities they need to succeed in technical disciplines.

By Talat Masood:

The year has begun, my hope and aspiration like millions of my countrymen is that the country takes a turn towards a better future.

Our people have suffered for long and the progress the country has made in respect of achieving political stability, economic self-sufficiency, an international standing falls far short of what its people deserve. For these failings, the primary responsibility rests with the political leadership.

However, all this could change for the better if there is a realisation and commitment by all institutions to abide by constitutional and legal norms. We do have a civilian government and a Constitution that lays down a democratic order.

Obviously, this level of dependence for prolonged periods with no certainty or real effort to achieve economic autonomy compromises political independence and results in the uplift of the masses.

It is not surprising that 23 per cent of the population of our country still remains poverty-stricken. Some serious underlying issues persist. Areas close to the

border in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, terrorist activity persists, and deep poverty prevails in certain rural and urban areas. More disturbing is that parts of the country close to the Afghan border are threatened by Talibanisation. The society there has been used to a federally-governed democratic Pakistan. The uneven development in the country is a common sight. All these weaknesses are a cause for serious concern.

It is however expected that the policies being adopted by the state and especially its finance ministry under its present leadership are expected to steer the economy toward greater self-reliance and improving the quality of life for the people.

Foreign relations too have been challenging. The high level of conflictual relations with India from the very birth of Pakistan required that sufficient funds be allotted to the three services.

European countries. But the country would attract attention and support if it has something substantive to offer. It is necessary for the government to focus on making tourist resorts attractive by ensuring that the security situation is under control and the visitors stay is comfortable.

At present the close strategic relations with China are a great source of strength for Pakistan. Pakistan relies mainly on China for procurement of military equipment. Its assistance in developing the country's indigenous capability for manufacture of weapon systems has been commendable.

Clearly, all this has to change if the interests of the country and of our people are to be protected.

By Zahid Hussain:

The new year has not brought much hope for an end to Israel's genocidal war in Gaza, which has killed more than 46,000 Palestinians since it began in October 2023. The Zionist regime has intensified its bombardment of the enclave, targeting whatever has been left of the health facilities in Gaza and killing scores more amid a renewed push for a ceasefire.

The surge in Israeli air strikes has only brought more death and misery to the hapless population of Gaza. The relentless bombing has worsened living conditions in the territory, leaving over a million people homeless. With no shelter and medical

facilities, children are freezing to death in the biting cold - the Israeli onslaught has restricted the entry of humanitarian aid, including blankets and tents.

The war, which is backed and financed by the outgoing Joe Biden administration in the US, has left scores of children dead. According to UN data, Israeli bombings have destroyed or damaged over 90 per cent of Gaza's homes.

The sustained attacks on hospitals and medical workers have brought the healthcare system in the enclave to the brink of total collapse, according to a recent report by the UN's human rights office, which "catalogues the besieging and targeting of hospitals and their immediate grounds with explosive weapons".

The attacks have killed hundreds of medical workers and damaged lifesaving systems. The presence of 80pc of Gaza's healthcare system has been destroyed. Many preventable deaths have occurred due to lack of care, including of mothers and newborn babies.

For the next US administration, there is no concept of a two-state solution to end the conflict. The report says that the attacks could "amount to war crimes".

The escalation comes at a time when a new administration is about to take over in the US. Not that the Biden administration has been any less supportive of Israel's war of aggression.

While Trump has vowed to bring peace to the Middle East, analysts believe that his return to the White House will only bring more death and destruction to Gaza. He has repeatedly declared his blanket support for Israel. During an address to a Republican Jewish convention in 2023, he said he would "defend my friend and ally in the State of Israel like nobody has ever".

In his first term as president, Trump had recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, a permanent departure from Washington's original position that had opposed the city as the capital of Israel. His administration had also declared the settlements in the West Bank to be legal.

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Parachinar and other erstwhile tribal zones need a reset

By Ishfaq Ali Mehkri:

I can vividly recall a Parachinar that was serene, harmonious and customary in tribal traditions. The picturesque valley under the hadloepetis snow-capped Afghan mountains was once a preferred recreation place too. The swirling Kabul River passes through its horizons among the orchards of Chinhar where watermelons and mulberries are aplenty, and one could see the migratory birds flocking over its skies, deer in the woods, as well as greyhounds that people kept as pets. The security of Shalwar, Zeran, Petwar Pass and adjoining areas is instilled in my memory, where it was an arduous task to frequent out in the hills of winter.

Likewise, Parachinar's ideological inclination towards Iran and its revolutionary ardour plunged the locals in a nexus of solidarity with the non-state actors in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. The mushrooming of Zaineboun Brigade is a case in point, which allegedly had recruited thousands of men from Parachinar to end up as fodder in the Middle East. Parachinar and the broader Kurram, as well as the adjoining territories, have many other causes to bleed and explode, and land disputes sit at the pinnacle.

land reforms mission, but are unable to implement its report to this day. This lethal combination of sectarian and tribal animosities that ignite into a full-fledged war as and when desired in a jaundiced society. The prevalence of heavy weapons, moreover, acts as a catalyst in pushing the entire zone into a warfare. It inevitably turns into a free-for-all brawl, with

the first bullet fired and the first casualty reaped. Then tribes fight on in the name of honour, faith and enmity to revenge until a new thaw in policy-makers who play behind by then is a new chronology of death and destruction. Provincial and federal governments have long been conspicuous by their absence, and so is the case with the tribal zone.

tribals is the way to go. Let the tribesmen take pride in their value of consultations, and agree to disagree for a better tomorrow. It is ironic that these tribal zones that had lived in harmony with Sikhs and Hindus days for ages in the pre-partition are now at each other's throat despite both being matters from the great religion!

NUML, Hunerkada sign MoU to foster 'Arts and Design Education'

ISLAMABAD (INP): National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and Hunerkada signed MoU to foster 'Arts and Design Education' at its main campus.

An MoU was signed by Brigadier Shahzad Munir, Director General NUML, and Syed Jamal Shah, Chairman of Hunerkada, at a formal ceremony held at the NUML Main campus.

The collaboration

aims to establish 'Fine Arts' and 'Fashion Design' courses at NUML, which have already been approved by the university's Academic Council.

Under the agreement, Hunerkada will play a pivotal role in designing and delivering these courses.

This includes developing course outlines that align with NUML's academic standards and providing experienced faculty to ensure a high-quality learning experience.

Moreover, the partnership emphasizes career opportunities for NUML students and alumni.

Hunerkada will facilitate internships, placements, and job opportunities in the arts, design, and corporate sectors, bridging the gap between education and industry.

During the signing ceremony, Syed Jamal Shah highlighted the importance of fostering creativity and innovation in higher education and commended NUML's commitment to diversifying its academic offerings.

Speaking on the occasion, Brigadier Shahzad Munir expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, noting, "This partnership with Hunerkada is a milestone in NUML's journey towards providing world-class education in arts and design. It will not only enhance the creative potential of our students but also open new doors for their professional growth."



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of Officers from the 42nd Mid Career Management Course (MCMC) with Chairperson Ambassador (R) Farukh Anil and Director General Ms. Shazia Adnan during their visit to the IPO-Pakistan Headquarters.

APHC urges peaceful resolution of dispute through UN-supervised plebiscite

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has reiterated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir seek a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute by exercising their right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite, held under the supervision of the United Nations.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC stressed that Kashmiris have been making sacrifices for this purpose for several decades.

In a meeting held in Srinagar, APHC leaders condemned the Indian government's con-

spiracies to weaken the morale of Kashmiris through false narratives and propaganda against the Hurriyat camp and Pakistan.

APHC spokesman, Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement issued after the meeting said that the Indian government continues to subject the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to collective punishment through the implementation of the UN-mandated plebiscite.

The APHC leaders reminded that the UN had recognized the Kashmiri's right to self-determination in numerous resolutions, particularly one passed on January 5, 1949. Despite enduring 77 years of brutal Indian occupation, the Kashmiris remain firm in their demand for an UN-supervised plebiscite. The meeting further noted that the right to a plebiscite was also acknowledged by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

The APHC meeting called on New Delhi to halt its ongoing harassment in the territory, reaffirming that the people of IIOJK desire a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute. They stressed that dialogue is essential to resolve the issue, and that India must engage in negotiations

with both Pakistan and the Kashmiri leadership.

The meeting also expressed concern over India's actions on August 5, 2019, which aimed to make UN resolutions on Kashmir obsolete.

The APHC condemned the demographic changes and the seizure of land for so-called railway projects and satellite townships, which are seen as efforts to influence the future plebiscite results.

The APHC concluded that lasting peace in the region is impossible without resolving the Kashmir dispute in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Research-based exhibition organized in Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU)

ISLAMABAD (INP): A research exhibition titled 'Poster Presentations' was organized at the Central Library of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU).

MPhil and PhD students from the Department of Library Science showcased their research work during the event.

A total of 28 research papers were presented, including 10 by PhD students and 18 by MPhil students.

Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, examined all the projects, scholars individually gave presentation on their research projects to him.

Commending the efforts of the Department of Library Science, Dr. Sahir emphasized the importance of aligning research with contemporary social and societal needs.

He acknowledged that all the research projects prepared by the students addressed current demands effectively.

Speaking about the history, significance, and necessity of libraries, Prof. Dr. Abdul Sahir remarked that there was a time when libraries held a central position in society. However, the younger generation's interest in reading books has declined compared to the past.

He stressed the need to restore the bond with books and rebuild the strong connection that once existed to achieve prominence in society.

This research-based poster presentation was organized by the Department of Library and Information Science.

ment of Library and Information Science.

According to the Chairman of the Department, Dr. Parvez Ahmad, the aim of exhibition was to encourage scholars and highlight the research work of students.

The senior faculty member of the department, Dr. Munazza Jabben, supervised the research work.

She stated that the MPhil and PhD students had completed their coursework, and the poster presentation was intended to give scholars the opportunity to create and display posters while discussing their research.

It is worth mentioning that the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has been paying special attention to the quality of education and research in its achievement in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024.

According to the report, the university secured the first position among 89 Pakistani universities in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: Quality Education.



ISLAMABAD: DIG Syed Ali Raza, SP City Khalid Awan and other officers are listening to the problems of the people during the open court in Aabpara Police Station.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, is seen at a high-level meeting on the operationalization of Gwadar Port.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) provides stadia upgradation update

LAHORE, January 08 (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Tuesday announced that preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 were in full swing.

The board expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, noting, "This partnership with Hunerkada is a milestone in NUML's journey towards providing world-class education in arts and design. It will not only enhance the creative potential of our students but also open new doors for their professional growth."

Upgrades at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore and National Bank Stadium in Karachi are nearing completion to host tournament matches.

In a regular update, the PCB assured the fans, spectators and media that all upgradation work was progressing on schedule and will be completed before or around the set deadlines.

Given the advanced stage of preparations at Gaddafi Stadium and National Bank Stadium, the PCB has decided to relocate the upcoming tri-nation ODI series to these two venues.

The series, featuring New Zealand and South Africa alongside Pakistan, was originally scheduled to be held in Multan. This decision reflects the PCB's confidence in the readiness of these upgraded venues and their ability to deliver a world-class experience for players, officials, and fans alike.

Further details regarding the series will be shared in due course.

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Kashmiri huddle urges economic sanctions on India over atrocities in IIOJK

LONDON (INP): The All Parties International Kashmir Coordination Committee through a resolution strongly condemning Indian atrocities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir calling for economic sanctions against India until it complies with United Nations resolutions on Kashmir.

The resolution was passed during an online meeting held in connection with Self-Determination Day. The meeting reaffirmed the committee's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom and self-determination.

The meeting was chaired by Fahim Kayani, President of the Committee, and moderated by Secretary General Khawaja Inamul Haq, prominent political, social, and religious leader, including Hamid Raja MBE, Muhammad Raja Sikandar, Maulana Fazal Ahmad Qadri, Syed Zafar Hussain Shah, Muhammad Ayub Muslim, Kram ul Haq Chaudhry, Shaheel

Chaudhry, Ch Zahid Iqbal, Sarfaraz Qayyum, Zohaib Sadiq, Arif Mughal, Engineer Muhammad Yussuf, Nazir Johar, and others, participated in the session.

The participants discussed the Kashmiri people's malleable right to self-determination and paid tribute to their ongoing resistance against Indian occupation.

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QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engineer Shafqat Ali is meeting Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council Engineer Waseem Nazir at QESCO Headquarters.

Events amplify call for end to Indian tyranny in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): Events held worldwide in connection with Self-Determination Day have amplified calls for an end to India's brutal oppression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmiri people's right to self-determination under international law.

Participants in these events, spanning multiple countries, denounced India's decades-long tyranny in IIOJK, where military force has been used to suppress the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The gatherings emphasized that no nation has ever been subdued by force, and the Kashmiri struggle for freedom stands as a testament to this truth.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
The Deputy Director, Agriculture (On Farm Water Management), Zhob, in his capacity as Tender/Bid for execution of various development works under the PSPDP 2024-25 schemes, from eligible contractors/firms with the Bid Security @ 2% of estimated cost in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Fee for each work to be separately deposited in any National Bank of Pakistan Branches situated in Balochistan Province through Green Bank Chalan in a head of account (038556) (verified by the District Accounts Officer), against which tender is being submitted. The scheduled items rates of Bids are based on BCSR 2023. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- for each work.					
S#	Name of Works	Last Date of Bid Submission	Tender Opening	Total Estimated Cost (Rupees)	
1	DD OF BORES, INST. OF SOLAR SYSTEM ON BORES, CONST. OF WATER STORAGE TANKS & INSTALLATION OF HOPE PIPE IN ERAB ZA VYLA, BRUNI, TAL. OZGA, MARIYAMA, ABDULLA ZA HIRABAN, RAHPAR, AJI, HANJANI, BADIN, ZI MENA, DANA DISTRICT ZHOB UNDER PSPDP 2024-25, S.NO. 11592023/0171246868244	24 January 2025 11:00 AM	12:00 PM	34,660,000	
2	DD OF BORES, INST. OF SOLAR SYSTEM ON BORES, CONST. OF WATER STORAGE TANKS & INSTALLATION OF HOPE PIPE IN KAKAR UC KANRAN UC GAMRAN UC MANZAL UC KANRAN UC KANRAN UC KANRAN UC TORAB DISTRICT ZHOB UNDER PSPDP 2024-25, S.NO. 11592023/0171246868244	24 January 2025 11:00 AM	12:30 PM	34,660,000	

Procurements shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility Criteria for Bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents Method of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Method. The bid must accompany Bid Security (2% in the form of Call Deposit in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or can be downloaded from the BPPRA website under the heading 'Bidding Documents'. All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned after one hour of closing time. Address: Office of the Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management, Zhob. Note: a) The Contractor/Firm not qualifying the basic eligibility criteria will be entertained in the bidding process. b) The bidder firm should quote all the rates in BIDS otherwise the bidding would be considered as non-responsive. c) All the bidders are required to get registered at Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Bidders not registered with BPPRA shall not be entertained in the bidding process. Contact No. 9625212131 Email: imminirahag@gmail.com

PRO No. 27/17/08.01.2025
On Farm Water Management, Zhob

'Youth can play vital role in addressing challenges of climate change'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Fossil fuel and climate change are the real issues, and there is a need to take practical measures to engage youth in combating these challenges, said Sher Shah Khan, Founder of Skillistan, a platform dedicated to empowering youth through green skills and sustainability in Development Chronicles podcast in Islamabad.

Sher Shah Khan discussed the transformative journey that led him from working in the oil and gas industry to dedicating himself to fighting for a sustainable future, said a press

release here on Wednesday. He said that, back in 2020, while working in the fossil fuel industry, he realized that this was the real issue we needed to confront.

He emphasized the importance of creating platforms that equip young people with skills, especially green skills, to help them actively engage in combating climate change.

Youth are in the majority, yet they are often sidelined. It's about more than just bringing them to the table; they need to have a real voice, which is why initiatives like LCOY Pakistan

allow youth to take center stage and speak out.

Khan also addressed the challenges of organizing climate events in Pakistan due to security concerns, particularly the difficulties in bringing international participants to the country.

Despite the challenges, it is believed that, we can still bring global youth together for networking, learning, and capacity-building. It's crucial that we work on improving the security outlook so that such events can take place," he stated.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Ms. Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Experts call for enhanced China-Pakistan cooperation to combat threat of terrorism

LAHORE (INP): Experts on security and counter-terrorism have emphasized the need for strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and China for combating the threat of terrorism which they argued is impeding progress on economic initiatives and projects between the two countries.

Dr. Naveed Elahi, former Joint Director General of the Intelligence Bureau and currently the Dean of National Institute of Public Policy (NIPP) and Amir Rana, the President of the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPPS) were speaking at the Beaconhouse National University (BNU)'s Center for Policy Research (BCPR) in Lahore.

The session moderated by former Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Khan who now heads the BCPR was attended by leading academics and researchers in the field of counter-terrorism.

The presentations of the two speakers were followed by an absorbing question and answer session.

In his remarks, Dr. Naveed Elahi traced the progressive growth of terrorism in Pakistan in the past several decades due to multiple factors

with political, societal and economic dimensions. He noted that starting primarily as sectarian violence the terrorism received ideological stimulus from Afghan Jihad in the 1980s and Taliban insurgency against the US and NATO presence in that country. He added that the emergence of organizations like Al-Qaeda and Daesh have provided a global umbrella of support and patronage to violent extremism in the modern age of social and IT-based media cannot be just fought through a security based approach of the past. He added that the state has to be ahead of the thinking and publicity campaign of the terrorist groups who continue to bombard the population with disinformation.

He further highlighted that the fight against terrorism and violent extremism in the modern age of social and IT-based media cannot be just fought through a security based approach of the past. He added that the state has to be ahead of the thinking and publicity campaign of the terrorist groups who continue to bombard the population with disinformation.

The authorities have to, therefore, build an environment in which the population perceives the government's policies and measures as pro-people.

Both security experts suggested the need for deepening Pakistan's engagement with China towards creating effective counter-terrorism cooperation mechanisms with a view to overcome the current challenges caused by rise in the terrorist attacks on Chinese workers in Pakistan.

issues within Pakistan's institutional structure and bureaucratic inertia. He elaborated that while various policies were enacted in the past three decades to fight terrorism but these have remained on paper and there has been no serious follow up or implementation at the operational level.

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Jan 5, 1949 resolution remains foundation of Kashmiris' struggle.

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Masood Ahmed Khan, reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Kashmiri people to their right to self-determination. Speaking at a seminar organized by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter in connection with the Right to Self-Determination Day, he highlighted the immense sacrifices made by Kashmiris in pursuit of their freedom.

Khan emphasized that the United Nations resolution passed on January 5, 1949, remains the foundation of the Kashmiris' struggle. He criticized India's deviation from this resolution, which has escalated

tensions in the region. "Despite relentless efforts to suppress their spirit, the people of Kashmir remain steadfast in their quest for freedom," he stated. Ambassador Sohai Mahmood, Director General of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), called on the United Nations and international human rights organizations to exert greater pressure on India to end its ongoing atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

He underscored the urgent need for the global community to uphold its responsibility to ensure justice and peace. Prominent speakers, including Faizullah Firaq and Farooq Rahman, also addressed the seminar, echoing calls for

international intervention. Firaq warned of the potential for a major disaster if the global community remains silent. "The United Nations must act now to protect the fundamental rights of Kashmiris and safeguard regional stability," he urged.

This seminar marks another milestone in the continued struggle of Kashmiris for their right to self-determination, a cause rooted in international law and human rights principles. The speakers collectively urged the global community to act decisively to address the humanitarian crisis in occupied Kashmir and to honor the commitments made to the Kashmiri people under the United Nations resolution.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar is listening to people's problems in his office.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at a round table discussion with the leading health professionals at Agha Khan University.

Policy rate might be reduced by more 8 percentage points

KARACHI (INP): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif said that the policy rate might be reduced by an additional 8 percentage points, despite having already been decreased to 13 percent.

Addressing a ceremony at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), the prime minister said that the policy rate has been reduced to 13%, and there is still room for an 8-point reduction. I would like the interest rate to be further reduced to 6% Prime Minister.

He said that the main goal of the government is to convert macroeconomic stability into economic growth, adding that he will be sitting with the financial experts of Karachi and other cities to move Pakistan forward with unity of thought and action, and achieve economic targets.

PM Shehbaz expressed his anticipation of receiving proposals to implement an export-led growth agenda and

would say goodbye to the IMF.

He also noted the tax targets for the next six months, which were set clearly and would be met through diligent efforts.

The premier, who is in Karachi for a day, highlighted the significance of economic progress in the country and expressed his happiness at seeing the stock market for the first time. He said that Karachi is the hub Pakistan's economy, adding that the city's once-dimmed lights have now returned, signifying the country's economic resurgence.

The prime minister called on experienced economists to guide the country's financial recovery and sought actionable recommendations for further improvements.

He stressed the need for the private sector to play a larger role in the economy's growth, with an emphasis on the importance of increasing tax revenues.

Senate body directs PMDC to revoke licences of private medical colleges upon non-compliance

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Sub-Committee of Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, chaired by Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, convened today to discuss the hefty fees charged by the medical colleges and the steps taken by the PMDC in this regard.

The Committee has received complaints from students of Sargodha Medical University stating that private medical colleges are charging hefty fees without providing state-of-the-art facilities. The Committee forwarded these complaints to the Health Ministry and recommended that the anonymity of the students

be maintained. Senator Palwasha Khan stated that the PMDC should take action against private medical colleges charging excessive fees. The Committee recommended that the PMDC reimburse students for the extra fees charged before introducing the fee structure for the year 2024-25.

The President of PMDC informed that the recommendations have been sent to Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar regarding the fee structure for the year 2024-25. The Committee also directed the PMDC to cancel the licences of private medical colleges within two weeks if they fail to comply with the Committee's recommenda-

tions. Regarding the non-implementation of the rebate regulations by private medical colleges in Islamabad, the President of PMDC informed that the private medical colleges have agreed to rebate the amount claimed by the students. The Committee also decided to visit the private medical colleges in Islamabad to observe the facilities provided to students in exchange for the hefty fees.

In attendance were Senators Syed Masroor Ahsan, Special Secretary for NHR&C Mirza Nasir ud din Mashud, President PMDC Dr. Rizwan Taj and other senior officials from relevant Departments.



CHAMAN: DC Chaman Habib Ahmed Bengalzai is presiding over the meeting held regarding the 2025 plantation drive.

Railways leases out around 14,893 acres of its land through open competition

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Railways has leased out around 14,893 acres of its land to private individuals and various government departments under an open competition policy to generate revenue.

An official from the Ministry of Railways told APP that the leasing process is being done according to the Pakistan Railway Property & Land Rules-2023, which were approved by the Federal Cabinet.

Out of the total leased land, around 11,074 acres have been allocated to private individuals through open competition for agricultural, commercial, and stacking purposes, while 3,819 acres have been leased to different government departments.

To a question, the official said Pakistan Railways has intensified efforts to reclaim ap-

proximately 13,972 acres of land, worth billions of rupees, which is currently under illegal occupation by private individuals and various government departments across the country.

The breakdown of illegally occupied land includes 5,809 acres in Punjab, 1,181 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,948 acres in Sindh, and 1,034 acres in Balochistan.

Giving details of the land, the official said that around 769 acres were commercial in all the provinces, 3,309 residential, 5,512 acres agricultural and 4382 were under encroachment of various persons or departments.

To address this issue, Pakistan Railways has decided to intensify its anti-encroachment operations nationwide to recover its land from individuals,

groups, and business organizations who have been using it for residential, commercial, or agricultural purposes for decades. Joint procedural orders have been issued to all Divisional Superintendents of Pakistan Railways to reclaim encroached land," the official said.

He explained that anti-encroachment operations are being initiated across the railway network by the concerned divisions. Notices are issued to encroachers under the Possession Ordinance of 1965, requiring them to vacate railway land or structures within 14 days.

The official added that Pakistan Railway Police, district administrations, and law enforcement agencies are being informed to provide necessary assistance during these operations.