

QUETTA VOICE

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Thursday, October 10, 2024.

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Balochistan High Court: File Photo

Father Kills Daughter and Son-in-Law in Balochistan Honor Killing

From Our Correspondent:

KILLASAIFULLAH: A tragic incident of honor killing occurred in the Gwal Ismailzai area of Killa Saifullah district, Balochistan, Pakistan. A father allegedly murdered his daughter and her husband due to his opposition to their marriage. The incident has sparked outrage and condemnation in the local community and across the country. Honor killings, a deeply rooted practice in some parts of Pakistan, continue to be a major issue despite efforts to eradicate them.



The incident highlights the urgent need for stricter laws and enforcement to prevent honor killings and protect the lives of women and girls in Pakistan.

FC personnel martyred, 13 injured as security forces foil suicide attack in Zhob

NEWS DESK: A Frontier Corps (FC) official was martyred on Wednesday, while 13 people were injured when security forces foiled a suicide attack in Zhob, officials said.

Speaking to Dawn.com, Zhob Assistant Commissioner Naveed Alam said that an attack was carried out on the Joint Response Centre in Zhob's Sabakzai area at 3:40am today. The centre, he said, was "attacked by terrorists from three sides, while a suicide bomber was killed by security forces as he attempted to enter the building."

Alam said that at the time of the attack, 45 FC officials, 10 Levies personnel, and five soldiers were present in the building.

"During retaliatory fire, Havaldar Jam Sher was martyred," he said, adding that among the 13 injured, two were civilians.

He added that security forces visited the affected area during daylight and collected evidence.

Last month, an officer of the Balochistan Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF).

Balochistan High Court Reserves Judgement on Balochistan Assembly Demolition Case

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Wednesday reserved its judgement on a constitutional petition challenging the provincial government's proposed plan to demolish the Balochistan Assembly building, a structure of historical and cultural significance. The division bench, comprising Chief Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar and Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana, heard arguments from both sides during the proceedings. The petition, filed by former Supreme Court Bar Association president Amanullah Kunrani, contended that the government's plan to replace the

assembly building with a new one violated constitutional safeguards on heritage. The court was urged to issue a restraining order to halt the demolition, which was allegedly driven by political motives without cabinet approval or legal justification. Kunrani argued that spending Rs. 5 billion to demolish a usable, historically significant building would be an unjustifiable waste of public funds. He invoked Article 28 of the Constitution, which mandates the protection of cultural heritage, and Article 199(2), emphasizing the High Court's responsibility to safeguard fundamental rights. The court heard that a discussion

regarding the assembly's renovation took place during a session on June 27, 2024. Former Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, opposition leader Younis Aziz Zehri, Planning Minister Zahoor Balidi, and Speaker Captain Abdul Khaliq Achakzai were part of the talks. However, the petitioners argued that the plan was not approved by the cabinet, making the move illegal. Advocate Rahab Khan Bulidi, representing Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, also assisted the petitioner during the hearing. The court announced that it would issue its verdict based on the evolving circumstances of the case.

All Balochistan Shahid Zaman Khan Squash Championship kicks off in Quetta

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: A new era of squash excellence in Balochistan is dawning as the inaugural All Balochistan Shahid Zaman Khan Squash Championship kicks off in Quetta. Organized by the visionary Zahid Gul, this prestigious event brings together the province's top squash talent to compete for glory. "We are thrilled to witness the incredible talent and passion that our Balochistani squash players possess," said Zahid Gul, the championship's organizer. "This tournament serves as a platform to showcase their skills and inspire future generations." The championship's success is made possible through the generous support of Shahid Zaman Khan, a dedicated patron of the sport in Balochistan. Khan's un-

wavering commitment to promoting squash has been instrumental in creating this exciting event. "We are deeply grateful to Shahid Zaman Khan for his invaluable contributions to the development of squash in Balochistan," added Gul. "His support is a testament to his belief in the power of sports to unite and inspire." The All Balochistan Shahid Zaman Khan Squash Championship promises to be an exhilarating spectacle, featuring intense matches and thrilling displays of athleticism. As the competition unfolds, squash enthusiasts across the province eagerly anticipate the emergence of new champions and the strengthening of Balochistan's squash community.



Balochistan Police Announces 555 ASI Vacancies

QUETTA, BALOCHISTAN: In a significant development for the province, the Balochistan Police has announced the recruitment of 555 Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs). This announcement comes as a result of the dedicated efforts of the Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Muazzam Jah Ansari.

The vacancies have been forwarded to the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BSPSC) to ensure a fair and transparent selection process based on merit. The aim is to bolster the police force with young and educated individuals, contributing to improved law and order in the province. Special Quota for Makran Division: Recognizing the specific needs of the Makran division, 60 out of the 555 vacancies have been reserved for this region. This presents a valuable opportunity for the educated youth of Makran to join the police force and serve their community.

Welfare of Police Families: In a gesture of appreciation for the sacrifices made by police personnel and their families, a 10% quota has been allocated for the children of police martyrs, deceased, and retired police personnel. This initiative aims to support and honor those who have served and continue to serve the province.



PPP Lawmaker Ubaidullah Gorgaj Denotified in PB-44 Quetta; Re-Polling Ordered

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a fresh blow to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in Balochistan, Ubaidullah Gorgej, the lawmaker from PB-44 Quetta, has been denotified.

This follows the recent denotification of PPP's Ali Madad Jattak, with re-elections scheduled for October 17, further intensifying the political stakes for the ruling party in the province.

The Election Tribunal of the Balochistan High Court nullified results from 16 polling stations in the PB-44 constituency after National Party candidate Atta Muhammad Bangulzai challenged Gorgej's election. The tribunal ruled that re-polling should be held and directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to appoint a Returning Officer (RO) and District Returning Officer (DRO) for the upcoming election.

Nadar Chahghari, counsel for Bangulzai, praised the tribunal's decision, stating that it protects the integrity of the election process.

This development compounds the challenges faced by the PPP, which is already grappling with political uncertainty ahead of the re-polling in PB-44 Quetta.



Coal Miner Killed in Landslide in Shahrag, Harnai

Hanif Tareen:

HARNAI: A coal miner tragically lost his life in a landslide while working deep inside a coal mine in the Shahrag area of District Hamai.

Levies sources reported that the miner was carrying out his duties when the sudden landslide occurred, trapping him under debris.

Rescue teams managed to retrieve the body, and it was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for further procedures.

raised concerns about the safety standards in the region's coal mines.

The lack of adequate safety measures and proper equipment to protect workers puts their lives at constant risk.

Local authorities are urged to enforce stricter regulations to ensure the safety of laborers and prevent further loss of life.

Despite multiple accidents and fatalities, coal mining continues to be one



The incident highlights the persistent dangers miners face in Balochistan's coal mining industry, where hazardous working conditions continue to claim the lives of workers. This tragedy has once again

of the most dangerous professions in the region, affecting countless families. The government must prioritize reforms and investment in improving safety protocols to protect workers from such disasters.

Two terrorists killed in Mir Ali intelligence-based operation: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to the statement, security forces conducted the operation in Mir Ali area of the district when they were informed of the presence of terrorists therein. On 09 October 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in general area Mir Ali in North Waziristan District, on [ite] reported presence of Khawarij," the ISPR said in the statement.

It added an intense firefight took place between security forces and "khawarij", with two terrorists being killed.

"Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from killed Khawarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as target killing of innocent civilians in the area," the statement added.

In July, the government, through an official notification, designated the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as Fitna al Khawarij, while mandating all



institutions to use the term Khawarij (outcast) when referring to the perpetrators of terrorist attacks on Pakistan. The media wing added that a sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists in the area. "[The] security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the military's media wing announced that it had neutralised two terrorists while repelling a suicide attack on the Joint Response Centre in Zhob, Balochistan.

"The attempt to enter the camp was effectively thwarted by the security forces personnel, and resulted in two terrorists, including a suicide bomber and HVT Terrorist Umar @ Umari, were sent to hell before they could cause the intended damage," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement read. **NEWS DESK.**

Pakistan's Tax Reforms: A Daunting Task Under IMF Conditions

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Aurangzeb terms changing DNA of economy vital for inclusive, sustainable growth

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Misplaced Priorities In Balochistan

Editorial:

QUETTA: The ongoing hunger strike by professors and lecturers from the University of Balochistan and BUTEMS outside the Quetta Press Club is a sobering reflection of the government's misplaced priorities. As these dedicated educators protest unpaid salaries and rampant corruption within their institutions, the Balochistan government has inexplicably allocated Rs. 5 billion for the construction of a new provincial assembly. This stark contrast raises fundamental questions about the government's commitment to education and the welfare of its citizens.

Education is the backbone of any society, and the deteriorating conditions in Balochistan's universities signal a growing crisis. Faculty members, led by esteemed professors such as Kalemullahi Areech, Fareed Achakzai, and Haseeb Hussain Shah, are fighting not just for their livelihoods but for the future of education in the province. Months without salaries have left these educators struggling to support their families, while institutional corruption further cripples the academic environment. Yet, the government's response has been indifferent at best, neglecting the very people responsible for shaping the next generation of leaders.

Professor Barch's poignant statement, "We have not received our salaries for months. How are we supposed to sustain our families and continue our work under such conditions?" echoes the frustrations of many across the province. Meanwhile, Professor Achakzai's allegations of corruption within the universities, where funds intended for academic development are being siphoned off, only add to the sense of injustice. These are not minor grievances, they are symptomatic of a failing system that urgently needs reform.

Yet, instead of addressing these pressing concerns, the government has chosen to funnel an astonishing Rs. 5 billion into constructing a new assembly building. While the need for infrastructure in governance is understandable, it pales in comparison to the immediate and critical needs of the education sector. What message does it send to the people of Balochistan when their educators must resort to hunger strikes to receive what is rightfully theirs, while such vast sums are spent on a building that, in all likelihood, will benefit only a few?

Professor Hasrat's concerns about the impact on students should be a wake-up call for the authorities. The students of Balochistan are the ones who will ultimately pay the price for the government's neglect. With teachers protesting on the streets and administrative failures plaguing the universities, how can we expect students to receive a quality education? The long-term damage to Balochistan's higher education system will be profound if these issues are not addressed swiftly.

The government must rethink its priorities. Rather than pouring billions into grand construction projects, it should focus on resolving the immediate crises facing the education sector. This means paying the salaries owed to the professors and lecturers, launching investigations into the corruption allegations, and ensuring that funds meant for academic development are used for their intended purposes.

If the government continues down this path, it risks not only alienating the academic community but also undermining the future of the province itself. The education of Balochistan's youth is compromised for the sake of short-term political monuments. It is time for the government to act decisively, meet the demands of the protesting faculty members, and invest in the future of education in Balochistan. Anything less is a betrayal of the province's students and educators.

Modern facsimiles

By F.S. Aijazuddin:

MUSTAFA Kemal Atatürk was born in Turkey, in 1881. Since then, facsimiles have been spawned many times: Soekarno in Indonesia, Lt-Col Rawlings in Ghana, Col Nasser in Egypt, Field Marshal Ayub Khan et al in Pakistan. Each wore the uniform of a patriot, tailored for him, as he believed, by destiny.

Patrick Kinross' definitive biography, *Atatürk: The Rebirth of a Nation* (1964) is a must-read for anyone (in jail or out of it), with time on his hands and thwarted patriotism smouldering in his heart.

Atatürk's political ideas assumed a "coherent shape" early in his life, while he was still a lieutenant at the military training school at Montasir. "He began to devour history as he had previously devoured mathematics and poetry. He read all he could about the career of Napoleon who became famous (with qualifications) one of his heroes."

Like Napoleon, Atatürk suffered from the highest form of narcissism.

"In so far as Atatürk

was capable of love," Kinross analyses many of our own Atatürk facsimiles.

When Latife became too demanding and possessive, he divorced her. Childless, Atatürk adopted eight children. Turkey though remained the enduring love of his life. That, and the people of Turkey.

Two incidents in Kinross's biography present little-known facets of Atatürk's innate egalitarianism. One day in Sofia, Atatürk notices a peasant being denied service in a tea house. He chides the waiter: "As long as the peasant is not master of the country, there can be no real progress in the country."

"It was this was born his slogan: 'The peasant is master of this country.'"

In another, at a dinner in their embassy, he

tweaked his communist hosts: "I do not see among us any of the men who prepared this feast."

Within minutes, the cook turned to him and he called to the "classless table".

Daringly for his time, Atatürk advocated gender equality. In a national meeting of teachers, he taunted the organisers: "Why did you make them sit apart from the men? Don't you trust yourselves, or have you no faith in the virtue of these ladies?"

Regarding religion, Kinross tells us that Atatürk was not for the eradication of Islam.

What he sought was "to disengage it from the condition of being a political instrument, which it had been for centuries of habit".

Kinross describes Atatürk's tortuous efforts to reform the Turkish alphabet. Atatürk spent hours poring over old and new dictionaries in search of "pure Turkish words".

"The aim was to purify the language of Arabic and Persian infusions. Eventually, it was given by 'naturalising' words that had no Turkish equivalent.

Pakistan's Tax Reforms: A Daunting Task Under IMF Conditions

Subhan Dotani:

Pakistan has been grappling with a myriad of economic challenges, exacerbated by fiscal mismanagement, debt burdens, and external factors. To address these underlying financial imbalances, the country has repeatedly sought assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). While IMF agreements provide short-term relief, they often come with stringent conditions, particularly emphasizing structural reforms in taxation. These reforms, driven by the need to increase revenue and reduce fiscal deficits, present both opportunities and significant challenges.

The IMF has played a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's fiscal policies for decades. However, recent IMF agreements, such as the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), have placed a renewed emphasis on tax reforms. The country's low tax-to-GDP ratio compared to global standards hinders its ability to mobilize sufficient resources for essential services, development, and public expenditures. The IMF has advocated for expanding the tax base, combating tax avoidance, and reducing tax incentives that contribute to revenue shortfalls. However, implementing these measures can be politically

challenging. One of the most significant challenges facing Pakistan's tax reforms is the narrow tax base. A large portion of the economy, especially agriculture, remains exempt from taxation. Moreover, a small percentage of the population, primarily in the upper echelons of society, pays a disproportionate amount of taxes. The IMF has advised Pakistan to shift towards direct taxes, including income tax and corporate tax, but this requires fundamental changes in tax administration, enhanced compliance, and greater efforts from the upper echelons of society. IMF-backed tax reforms can have negative economic shocks in the short term. Measures like reducing subsidies, devaluing currencies, and increasing taxation can lead to higher prices, inflation, and reduced investment. While these measures may be necessary for long-term economic growth, they can impose social costs and create challenges for businesses and consumers. The business community in Pakistan has been critical of certain tax measures implemented under IMF programs. The "super tax" on large companies has been particularly controversial, as it is seen as unfair and discouraging investment. Businesses argue that such taxes introduce uncertainty and reduced investment and economic development.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face unique challenges in complying with complex tax measures. The costs of compliance can outweigh the potential benefits, especially for smaller businesses. While the government has introduced simplified regimes and tax pardons, these measures do not address the underlying structural obstacles. Many SMEs, especially those operating in the informal sector, view tax reforms as an imposition rather than a positive development. The middle class and salaried workers are also significantly impacted by tax reforms. While the IMF emphasizes the importance of direct taxes, those within the tax base often bear the brunt of new measures. Civil servants and individuals with pay-as-you-earn arrangements have fewer opportunities for tax evasion and may experience significant cuts to their discretionary income, particularly in the face of rising inflation. Despite the challenges, successful tax reforms can yield long-term benefits. Increased reliance on personal income taxes and improved tax administration can strengthen the fiscal foundation, reduce dependence on borrowing, and enable the government to invest in critical sectors. This

can ultimately lead to enhanced public services, more stable economic growth, and greater inclusivity. However, realizing these benefits requires careful management of short-term costs and ensuring that reforms are implemented fairly. Key factors for successful tax reforms include: Improved tax administration: Strengthening enforcement mechanisms, combating corruption, and utilizing digital technologies to increase transparency and efficiency. Stakeholder involvement: Building consensus and support from various stakeholders, including businesses, trade unions, and civil society. Tax system simplification: Reducing the complexity of tax laws and procedures to make compliance easier for taxpayers.

Implementing tax reforms in Pakistan is a complex and challenging task, but it is essential for achieving fiscal balance and reducing dependence on foreign funding. By addressing the economic, political, and social ramifications, the government can create a more sustainable and equitable tax system that benefits the country in the long run. The writer is a Legal Intern at FBR and a Lecturer at I & Q Law Firm. He can be contacted at Email: subhantdotani@gmail.com

Mixed developments

By Khurram Husain:

THE news is not all bad, though the outlook remains gloomy. The take at least a year to rectify. The stabilisation package of economic management is drawing to a close.

The government is making the right moves regarding the tax debt buyback to retrieve a large amount of maturing Treasury bills, although one hopes this won't simply be swapped with one debt instrument or another. The sheer size of the domestic debt, standing at slightly below 50 per cent of the total GDP (at current market prices), certainly makes it the elephant in the room, and it seems the government's current aim was to turn its attention to bringing this under control.

Inflation dropping to below 7pc, based on the year-on-year increase in the Consumer Price Index, is also a welcome development. This was supposed to happen in the next year as per projections, but tightly controlling money supply has managed to nip the problem in the bud. As an aside, this should put to rest the questions raised by the period of the State Bank ran record-high interest rates to combat the record-high inflation.

Numerous people have asked whether higher interest rates have ever helped bring inflation down in Pakistan. The answer is that high interest rates are pretty much the only tool that has ever succeeded in putting out inflationary "burning" fires in the late 2000s or the early 2020s.

But compare some macroeconomic indicators shared in the latest IMF statement following the Executive Board's approval.

The final report has still not been released, so we have to wait a few more days for the finer details. Broadly speaking, though, almost all projections show improvement in the current fiscal year, but something is driving the back up again next year.

To find out why it is projected to rise in the next fiscal year, we will have to wait for the staff report.

The economy has not seen a period of stability like this since at least 2019.

Calm is returning to the markets, to the outlook, to the macro indicators, the fiscal equation, and the monetary aggregates after a period of intense volatility that ran at least from 2021 to 2023. The financial is undeniably stable, and it needs to be said.

However, another thing also needs to be said. This is a fragile calm reached after a hard-fought struggle.

May, general government and government-guaranteed debt was projected to come in at 76pc and 73pc of GDP for both fiscal years. Today, it is projected at 72pc and 75pc, showing some improvement in the current fiscal year, but something is driving the back up again next year.

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respectively. Projections of gross reserves are more or less unchanged with some improvement possibly at higher debt-service payments on the external side in the next fiscal year, but once again, we will have to wait for the final staff report to be released before being able to say anything definitively.

The story goes on and on. The economy has not seen a period of stability like this since at least 2019.

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Constitutional amendments

By Parvez Hassan:

IT is not a cliché but constitutions are, in fact, the glue that normally hold a country and its people bound to oneness. As such, they are a life-giving source to statehood, constitutions are and should be venerated as a solemn social contract overarching the existence of the state, its institutions and the people.

However, not being divine or holy scriptures, constitutions ordinarily provide a mechanism for amendments to incorporate new and unanticipated events or to correct course based on the experience and usage.

Pakistan recently witnessed an attempt by the coalition government to pass a constitutional package which it wanted to introduce for approval in the National Assembly and the Senate on one fateful Sunday without any prior notice of the proximity of the amendments to the members of the NA or the Senate.

Had it succeeded in the numbers game that Sunday, the Constitution, adopted in 1973, with the informed consent of all the provinces through a protracted process of deliberations and debate, would have been transformed, some would say mutilated or disfigured, by the far-reaching changes of its basic structure, by the constitutional package. All without notice, without disclosure of the constitutional package and all without the informed participation of the people of Pakistan and their representatives.

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Senate have flowed from the elections in Pakistan in 2024. That they were manipulated and rigged — particularly against the PTI — is not credibly contested. The post-election decisions and role of the establishment have substantiated the flawed process through which a minority has been imposed to rule a majority.

Respective of the claims of the coalition government, it is undeniable that there are serious questions about the legitimacy of the government and, absent the moral force of acceptability in the public, the coalition government totally lacks the competence to engage in the process of amending the Constitution.

The second guideline is that the proposed amendments do not erode the basic structure of the Constitution. The 1973 Constitution and the earlier constitutional dispensations in the reserved seats in national and provincial assemblies and the earlier bold stance of the six judges of the Islamabad High Court alleging interference/dictation by the security establishment in the judicial process, as alleged that the real objective of the constitutional package was to neutralise or sideline against an upcoming "hostile" leadership of the Supreme Court.

And the perception of a person-specific guideline for seeking constitutional amendments, which has been eroded by the government, is that the proposed amendments do not erode the basic structure of the Constitution. The 1973 Constitution and the earlier constitutional dispensations in the reserved seats in national and provincial assemblies and the earlier bold stance of the six judges of the Islamabad High Court alleging interference/dictation by the security establishment in the judicial process, as alleged that the real objective of the constitutional package was to neutralise or sideline against an upcoming "hostile" leadership of the Supreme Court.

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the use of constitutional benches in the Supreme Court already enabled by the Constitution instead of the surgical solution of the establishment of a constitutional court, which will violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

Fifth, each proposed amendment should be supported by a robust process anchored in transparency, full and time-bound disclosure, adequate notice, and facilitating right to comment and meaningful participation of the provinces, bar associations, CSOs and professional bodies. It would be helpful to evolve a mechanism for the review of comments and suggestions, to ensure an open national conversation.

The seventh stage, built on the edifice of the preceding six factors, would be open and free debates in the NA and Senate in full view of our national news, print and electronic media, to the requirement of a two-thirds majority in both Houses. The Constitution requires the approval of two-thirds membership of each of the Houses for passing the package and it would be a travesty of justice if such a holistic approach is without a full disclosure of the amendments and providing adequate time for their consideration and discussion. International practices have moved from "consent to comment" to "consent as a condition to each approval."

It is shameful to highlight the eighth condition of the constitutional amendments: the voting and its counting must be done in accordance with law and the decisions of the superior courts, totally free from the coercive apparatus of the establishment that has become, increasingly, a regular feature of our political governance.

A verdict for the adoption of the amendments will be legally and morally acceptable only if it is fair and abides by the common-sense and the spirit of justice in this piece. Such a course would avoid the arbitrariness, ugliness and disgrace of the recent Sunday night fiasco.

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Three million UK children living below poverty line: study

LONDON (INP): A record 9.3 million people, including three million children, are facing extreme poverty, a study said Wednesday, with the new Labour government under pressure to do more to tackle child poverty.

The findings come before the government's first budget later this month, and with a cost of living crisis that has driven soaring use of food banks.

According to the report by non-governmental organisation the Trussell Trust, al-

most a quarter of children under four are facing extreme poverty.

"Shockingly, 46 percent more children are facing hunger and hardship than two decades ago. That equates to one in five children growing up trapped in this situation," the trust said in a statement.

A UNICEF report last year found that the UK -- a G7 and NATO member, and the world's sixth biggest economy -- has one of the highest rates of child poverty among richer countries.

The charity defined the poverty line as £152 (\$199) a week for someone living on their own and £204 for a single parent with one child. This includes paying electricity, water and property tax bills as well as food. Removing a two-child benefit cap - meaning families cannot claim state sub-

sides for a third child born after April 2017 - is one of the measures that could ease poverty levels, the trust said.

Labour, however, has refused to abolish it in the teeth of fierce opposition from campaigners, unions and some of its own lawmakers.

Finance minister Rachel Reeves has said she will not be able to reverse the cap in her October 30 budget due to what Labour claims is a £22 billion (\$28.8 billion) black hole left by the last Conservative government.



QUETTA: Balochistan Civil Secretariat Staff Association President Younus Zehri addressing a press conference.

Police dismantle banned Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM)'s camp in Khyber

KHYBER (INP): The police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa uprooted a camp set up by the banned Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) to facilitate holding of a three-day Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga in Rigi area of Khyber District late Tuesday night, police sources said.

The sources further divulged that the internet services in areas around the Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga venue was also suspended.

The district administration said the camp was dismantled and all the equipment of the banned PTM was seized. The police also made several arrests.

Khyber Deputy Commissioner Captain (ret) Sanaullah Khan issued an order imposing Section 144 in the district for 30 days.

The Khyber deputy commissioner has also imposed section 144 throughout the district.

After the Interior Ministry's declaration to ban the PTM, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary had issued a notification on Tuesday barring provincial government officials and employees from engaging with the PTM's Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga and issued public warning against any association.

On Sunday, the federal government had slapped a ban on the PTM, citing threats to national peace and security.

The party was declared "unlawful" under Section 11B of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997. A notification issued by the interior ministry mentioned that the PTM posed a "significant danger" to public order and safety in the country.

The move comes in the lead-up to the Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga, scheduled for October 11

in Khyber district.

The notification issued by the office of the KP chief secretary also said the PTM had shown its intent to hold an event, adding neither a "proscribed organisation" holding an event nor participation in it were permissible under the law.

It ordered that the following instructions be implemented: "Employees of all government departments/attached departments/police/autonomous and semi-autonomous public sector institutions and their employees are informed, and stand informed, that participation, overt or covert, physically, financially or otherwise in any programme or activity of a proscribed organisation is unlawful and will make them liable to lawful action."

The notification further said that the following "fact" should also be known, adding that the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) "has also extended its support to the activities of the proscribed PTM and therefore any participation, overt or covert, will make the individual so participating facilitator/supporter of a terrorist organisation working against the state and people of Pakistan and shall be acted against under the law."

"The heads shall ensure that this fact/legal position is communicated to all employees under their respective commands."

It continued: "General public, including all segments of society are informed and stand informed, that participation, overt or covert, physically, financially or otherwise in any programme or activity of a proscribed organisation is unlawful and will make them liable to lawful action."

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"The heads shall ensure that this fact/legal position is communicated to all employees under their respective commands."

State Bank increases loan amount for SMEs, industries

ISLAMABAD (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has announced a significant increase in loan availability, with the limit for small businesses and medium enterprises (SMEs) and industries by increasing loan limits under some changes to its SME Loan Regulations.

According to a recent circular issued by the State Bank regarding the amended loan regulations, businesses can now access loans of up to Rs100 million for setting up small enter-

prises and up to Rs500 million for medium-sized businesses. This marks a substantial increase in loan availability, with the limit for small businesses raised by 300% and for medium businesses by 150%.

Experts believe that this initiative will encourage private sector borrowing, particularly with the recent cut in interest rates. The availability of affordable bank loans is expected to accelerate economic development across the country, en-

abling entrepreneurs to invest in new ventures and expand existing ones.

Meanwhile, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has introduced an attractive incentive package for money changers who facilitate the influx of dollars into the country.

This initiative aims to boost remittances and strengthen the country's foreign exchange reserves.

According to a circular released by the

SBP, exchange companies will receive varying amounts for each dollar brought into Pakistan based on the volume of remittances.

Specifically, companies issuing fixed home remittances will earn Rs2 for every dollar.

For money changers bringing in more than \$25 million in remittances, the rate will be Rs2 per dollar.



QUETTA: National party PB 44 candidate Haji Ata Muhammad Bangzai talking to media after attending hearing at Balochistan High Court.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administering the oath of office to the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), Lt. General (R) Akhtar Nawaz Satti, at Aiwana-e-Sadr.

United Nations (UN) Security Council condemn Karachi terror attack

UNITED NATIONS (INP): The UN Security Council has condemned the terrorist attack in Pakistani city of Karachi in which three people including two Chinese engineers.

The UN Security Council issued a press statement on Tuesday strongly condemning the terrorist attack in Karachi on Sunday night.

The members of the Security Council "condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly

terrorist attack near Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, Pakistan", the statement said.

They expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and the governments of China and Pakistan, and wished a speedy and full recovery to those injured, it added.

The council members reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and se-

curity, underlining the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.

They urged all states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the governments of China and Pakistan,

as well as all other relevant authorities in this regard.

"The members of the Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed,"

the statement said, stressing the need for all states to combat by all means, in accordance with the UN Charter and other obligations under international law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

Afghan man arrested for plotting United State (US) election day attack

OKALAHOMA (INP): An Afghan man has been arrested for allegedly plotting to carry out an attack on US election day on behalf of the Islamic State group, the Justice Department said Tuesday.

Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, was arrested on Monday in the western US state of Oklahoma and has been charged with attempting to provide material support to IS.

"The Justice Department foiled the defendant's plot to acquire semi-auto-

matic weapons and commit a violent attack in the name of (IS) on US soil on Election Day," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

US voters go to the polls on November 5. The Justice Department said Tawhedi was arrested after he "allegedly took steps to liquidate his family's assets, resettle members of his family overseas, acquire AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition, and commit a terrorist attack in the United States."

It said he conspired to carry out the attack with another Afghan national, a juvenile who was not named but was identified in court documents as his brother-in-law.

According to the criminal complaint, Tawhedi entered the United States on September 9, 2021 on a special immigrant visa.

It said an FBI "confidential human source" contacted Tawhedi after he recently advertised the sale of his family's personal property on Facebook.

The FBI source said he needed a computer for a gun business he was starting and Tawhedi expressed interest in purchasing two AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition, according to the complaint.

On Monday, Tawhedi and the juvenile met with "FBI assets" at a rural location in Oklahoma and purchased two AK-47 assault rifles, 10 magazines, and 500 rounds of ammunition, it said.

They were immediately arrested.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Abad Cheema is presenting souvenir to Donald Bobiash Executive Director of Asian Development Bank.

SC seeks opinion from govt, WAPDA on keeping dam funds in private banks

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday sought an opinion from the federal government as well as from WAPDA about whether the funds meant for the construction of a dam could be deposited in a private bank for a markup.

During the hearing of Diamer Bhasha Dam and Mohmand Dam funds case, the additional auditor general (AAG) told the court that it could not keep the amount. "I have never seen this happening during 37 years of my service," he added.

A three-member bench of the SC, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the case.

The AAG said that in the light of the apex court's verdict, Prime Minister Chief Justice

Dam Fund Account had been opened. "And the SC registrar looks after the account."

He informed that the audit revealed that there was no misappropriation of the funds or of the markup.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked that the account was not an appropriate word.

"It has always been my priority not to prefer court decisions to what is laid down in the constitution."

"We are not hearing a review petition. All we are trying to know is whether the SC can keep funds," the CJP added.

The former attorney general (AG) said plenty

of things were published in newspapers these days. The CJP said he would not let him read newspapers in the courtroom. "Instead of discussing politics, please assist the court in the light of the constitution."

The former AG said that as a matter of fact, the funds meant for dams should be spent should be spent for the same purpose.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Short Tender Notice is invited from registered firms for the purchase of Stationery & Printing Paper, as per to reach the office till 09:00 hours on 25 Oct 2024. This tender will be opened at 10:00 hours on 25 Oct 2024. The price shall be in Indian Rupees (INR) only. For more information visit www.ecoqa.com. For more information visit www.ecoqa.com.

The authority of accepting/rejecting the bids lies with the issuing authority.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
The bids must be 100% B/NM (non-refundable) in case of acceptance, 50% refundable in case of non-acceptance.

Lieutenant Colonel
General Staff Officer (Grade-I Coordination)
Command and Staff College Quetta
Telephone: 081-9281194

ID CARD LOST

My identity card was lost in the Airport Road area of Quetta, 1 month ago in September 2024. If found, please contact me at (03108501917). Following are the details of ID card:
Named Ifkhar Khan, Father Nizam Uddin, CNIC: 56202-7451675-5

Cabinet body okays independent multiplayer market for electricity purchase, generation

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Cabinet Committee on Energy has approved the establishment of an independent multiplayer market for power generation and purchase to create a competitive environment and gradually end the government's role as a sole purchaser of electricity.

The committee, in its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Wednesday, principally approved the formation of an Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) which will be later endorsed by the federal cabinet and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan under the Companies Act 2017, according to a PM Office press release.

The ISMO is aimed at gradually doing away with the government's role as a sole buyer of electricity and turning the electricity market into a multiplayer independent, transparent and competitive market. It will also allow the power consumers to purchase electricity from suppliers other than power distribution companies.

Under the ISMO, a long-term planning would be made to produce low-cost electricity and its transmission besides reducing the power prices and circular debt.

The ISMO Board will comprise the experts from the power sector.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Affairs Chaudhry Salik is speaking on the occasion of distribution of marriage and death grant checks to industrial workers organized by the Government of Pakistan Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis Human Rights Department Worker Welfare.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz said the priority measures were being taken for the power sector reforms and instructed accelerated actions to reduce power theft and losses besides taking disciplinary action against the employees of the distribution companies involved in the theft.

The prime minister also directed the authorities concerned to utilise modern technology to bring reforms and curb power theft.

Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Sardar Awais Ahmed Leghari, and Dr Musaddik Malik, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik and other members of the committee attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired meeting of Cabinet Committee on Energy.

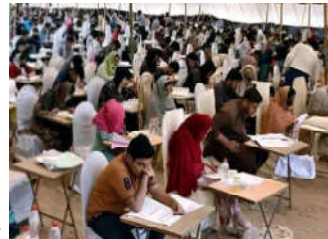
Sindh High Court Halts DUHS MDCAT merit list amid paper leak allegations

Education Desk:

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has issued a 15-day stay order on the DUHS Medical and Dental Admissions Test (MDCAT) 2024 admissions following allegations of paper leakage.

The stay order was granted after several MDCAT aspirants filed a case against the DUHS administration claiming that questions from the leaked paper appeared on social media platforms the night before the exam.

The Young Doctors Association (YDA) Sindh has also called for the re-conduct of the MDCAT 2024 exam in light of these allegations. The high court has directed the DUHS authorities to investigate the matter and compare the official MDCAT booklet with the questions shared online.



Until the next hearing all medical and dental colleges in Sindh have been instructed to halt admissions.

Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) kills 209 terrorists in IBOs across KP

PESHAWAR (INP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in its report issued here Wednesday said that as many as 209 terrorists killed and 244 were held during intelligence based operations across the province during the last nine months.

It said that a total 497 incidents of terrorism took place in 27 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last nine months in which 1,154 terrorists of banned organizations were nominated in FIRs, adding that so far 16 accused had so far been punished by the relevant courts.

Sharing the details, the CTD report stated that 39 terrorists were killed in 52 incidents of terrorism occurred in district Dera Ismail Khan, the hometown of the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and provincial Chief Minister. The police arrested four terrorists.

Similarly, 22 miscreants were killed and 25 were held in 55 incidents in Khyber district, it said, adding that 54 incidents of terrorism were reported from North Waziristan wherein the CTD police killed 27 terrorists and arrested eight others during the operations.

The provincial capital witnessed 33 incidents of terrorism during the last nine months where 66 terrorists were arrested and eight were killed.

In district Shangla, six incidents of terrorism were reported in which 33 terrorists were arrested and one was killed.

The CTD police killed two terrorists and held three others in ten different incidents of terrorism during the period. Likewise, 11 terrorists were killed in 39 incidents in South Waziristan, while one was arrested.

In 39 incidents of terrorism registered in district Bajaur, some five terrorists were killed while eight were arrested.

District Bannu witnessed 40 incidents of terrorism wherein 21 terrorists were arrested while 15 were killed.

Two terrorists were killed in two incidents of terrorism in district Buner, four were held and four others were killed in one incident in district Charsadda. The CTD said that six incidents of terrorism occurred in district Lower Dir where two suspects were apprehended. Similarly, two terrorists were held in district

Hangu where nine incidents of terrorism were reported.

In Karak, three suspects were arrested in connection with five incidents of terrorism.

Four terrorists were killed in Kohat where five incidents occurred.

Six terrorists were held and one killed in 17 incidents of terrorism in District Kurram. 14 terrorists were killed and eight arrested in 37 incidents of terrorism in District Lakki Marwat. 25 terrorists were arrested in four incidents of terrorism in Malakand.

Similarly, four suspects were arrested in one incident of terrorism in Mansehra district. 11 terrorists were killed and nine were arrested in nine incidents in Mardan.

In Mohnand district, eight incidents were reported wherein six terrorists were killed and one was arrested. Five terrorists were arrested while two were killed in seven incidents in Nowshera district.

The CTD killed 28 terrorists and arrested six suspects in 51 terrorist incidents in Tank District. One militant was killed in a terrorist incident that occurred in Swabi during the last nine months.

Bushra Gohar challenges proposed constitutional amendments

PESHAWAR (INP): Senior leader of National Democratic Movement (NDM) Bushra Gohar Wednesday challenged proposed constitutional amendments in the Peshawar High Court (PHC).

The petition was filed by Bushra Gohar through Advocate Ali Gauhar Durrani. The federal government and the Ministry of Law have been named as respondents in the petition.

The petition calls for the draft of the constitutional amendments to be made public. The petitioner urged that if the public has con-

cerns, they should be addressed through consultation.

Bushra Gohar further argued that a committee was formed for the 18th Amendment, and time was given to hear public opinion. It further states that over 800 suggestions were submitted during the 18th Amendment process.

Earlier, a new petition challenging constitutional amendments was filed in the Supreme Court (SC). According to details, the petition against the constitutional amendments was moved by Advocate Saem Chaudhry in the

Supreme Court.

The petition argues that Article 179, concerning the retirement age of judges, should be declared a fundamental part of the Constitution.

It also requested a ruling that with the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

The petition calls for the constitutional amendments to be declared null and void, stating that they violate fundamental rights, the Constitution, and the independence of the judiciary.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with a high level delegation from the Asian Development Bank at the Finance Division.

Pakistan expects \$2 Billion investment agreements from Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan is expected to finalise investment agreements worth \$2 billion with Saudi Arabia.

According to sources in the Ministry of Commerce, Saudi Arabia is set to invest over \$5 billion by 2027, with signing of nearly 30 agreements across various sectors.

A delegation of approximately 40 companies from both the government

and private sectors will arrive in Pakistan for investment discussions.

The agreements with Saudi Arabia will focus on sectors such as agriculture, information technology, and construction.

The Saudi delegation will

also sign contracts related to the petroleum and power sectors, as well as agreements for food security, meat exports, and Pakistani rice exports.

Sources indicated that progress on established agreements in mining, oil refining, and railways will also be reviewed.

The Ministry of Commerce has developed a framework for investment agreements with Saudi Arabia, projecting total investments exceeding \$5 billion by 2027, with initial agreements of \$2 billion expected soon.

In the first phase, the private sector from Saudi Arabia is expected to invest around \$1 billion in Pakistan, with plans

to enhance investment through local representatives.

The majority of investments from Saudi Arabia are anticipated to come from the private sector.

The official Saudi delegation will engage in discussions regarding projects under the Saudi Fund for Development.

Meetings with both public and private sector officials in Pakistan are scheduled, with regulatory approvals and NOCs being reviewed at the governmental level.

Notably, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif mentioned yesterday that Pakistan will sign agreements worth over \$2 billion with the Saudi delegation arriving later this week.



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Molsin Naqvi addressing a press conference.

Aurangzeb terms changing DNA of economy vital for inclusive, sustainable growth

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the incumbent government is committed to implement its reform agenda and meeting structural benchmarks to lend permanence to macroeconomic stability, promote inclusive, sustainable growth and end Pakistan's reliance on external borrowing.

He clarified, "The only way this goal can be successfully achieved is by changing the DNA of the economy by moving it from away its usual boom-and-bust cycles and leading it to a sustained export-led growth encouraging investment and FDI flows into export-oriented sectors and getting access back to the international capital market."

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb was speaking during a meeting with a high-level delegation from the Asian Development Bank that called on him at Finance Division on Wednesday. The visiting delegation was led by Mr. Donald Bobash, Executive Director of Asian Development Bank and Mr. Shigeo Shimizu, Execu-

utive Director Asian Development Bank while Mr. Yong Ye, Country Director Asian Development Bank and senior officers from the ADB and Finance Division were also present.

The finance minister welcomed the delegation and shared with them a roundup of ongoing structural reforms and the resultant growth trajectory and improvement in key economic indicators.

He particularly highlighted an efficient management of twin deficits backed by buoyant remittances and healthy exports, a steep fall in

inflation from a 38 pc high last year to 44-month low of 9.9 pc in September last, and reduction in the policy rate by 450 bps with expectations of more cuts in coming months.

Muhammad Aurangzeb also mentioned the stability in exchange rate, growth in forex reserves to \$107 billion after the signing of the IMF accord and the stock exchange index crossing 85,000 figure to indicate a growing business confidence and favourable

investment climate leading to further institutional flows into the country.

He credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with personally overseeing and spearheading the implementation of wide-ranging structural reforms in key sectors, including taxation, energy, SOEs, privatization, rightsizing of government and pension reforms.

The finance minister called the recent signing of a National Fiscal Pact between federation and the provinces a milestone in achieving harmony in driving the pace of structural reforms and incentivizing the provinces to mobilise greater tax resources, rationalize their development expenditures and improve their governance to meet the development goals.

Muhammad Aurangzeb thanked ADB for its continued support to Pakistan's development agenda and its assistance provided in key sectors.

He said Pakistan looked forward to further deepen its partnership with the ADB through enhanced assistance and support for its reform programme.