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Govt, opposition move towards 'joint draft' for amendments to Constitution

"We have just agreed to reach agreement on proposed constitutional amendments:" JUI-F's Fazl

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Major political parties, including the opposition, on Friday decided to move towards reaching a consensus and bring about a "joint draft" later on for amending the Constitution, a first breakthrough after days of deadlock, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said.

The 'Constitutional Package', among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years.

The government had aimed to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the administration to begin a consultation process.

Fazl, while talking to journalists today, said that the government presented their draft for the constitutional amendments before his party for the first time.

The statement came after a meeting of the

Special Committee of Parliament today to hold a discussion on the proposed constitutional amendments.

The fifth in-camera meeting was attended by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) parliamentarians and federal ministers. The JUI-F top leader said that the PPP had also given suggestions, adding that the parties will begin consultations with the government in this regard. He said that the JUI-F would hold consultations with the PPP separately. Moreover, the party will also share its draft with the PTI as well to reach a consensus, the veteran politician added.

Fazl, however, declined to mention the time by which the constitutional matter will be resolved. "Right now, we have just agreed to reach an agreement on the proposed constitutional amendments." Speaking with journalists after the meeting, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that many suggestions have been presented before the committee.



President, Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo along with Heads of States/Governments/Parliaments participating in the International Forum on Interrelation of Times and Civilizations-Basis of Peace and Development, in Ashgabat.

Pakistani, Russian Presidents call for strengthening ties President calls for enhanced connectivity to foster regional cooperation

ONLINE

Ashgabat: President Asif Ali Zardari has stressed need to focus on promoting connectivity among regional countries and help strengthen cultures and economic cooperation.

He was addressing International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations-Basis of Peace and Development" at Ashgabat in Turkmenistan today (Friday).

International Forum is being held to mark 300th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Faragi, a great Turkmen thinker, poet and philosopher.

The President said Pakistan and Turkmenistan share a deep rooted bond of brotherhood which is built on a mutual respect, commonality of faith and a shared vision of a better peaceful future.

The President extended his heartfelt appreciation to the government and brotherly people of Turkmenistan for organizing prestigious event aimed at promoting understanding, peace and dialogue among cultures.

The President expressed his delight to share that our national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and towering figure of Turkmen literature, Makhdum Gulli Fraghi share several commonalities in their poetry and thoughts on Sufism and nationalism.

He commend the President of Turkmenistan, Sardar Berdi Muhammedov, for organizing this event to promote the works of Makhdum Gulli Fraghi as well as providing an opportunity to interact with the leadership of regional countries that would help strengthen our bonds of friendship.

Therefore, President Asif Ali Zardari and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin held an informal meeting on the sidelines of International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development" at Ashgabat in Turkmenistan on Friday.

During the meeting, both the Presidents underlined the need of further strengthening bilateral ties.

20 coal miners killed, 7 injured in terrorist attack in Duki, Balochistan

ONLINE

Duki: In Balochistan, at least twenty coal miners were killed and seven others injured in a terrorist attack in Duki district early this morning.

According to police sources, the incident occurred when some unknown armed assailants attacked a private coal mine with heavy arms. According to SHO Duki, Hummayun Nasir Khan, 20 coal miners including civil security personal Ajmal were killed and 7 were injured. All the persons who were killed and injured in the incident were Pushtoons.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on miners in Duki district of Balochistan. In a

statement, he expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the incident. Commiserating with the bereaved families, he prayed for the departed souls.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to root out terrorism in all its forms.

Meanwhile, Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani also strongly condemned attack in Duki area of Balochistan, which claimed lives of several miners.

In a statement, he expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in the attack and conveyed his sympathies to the families of the deceased workers.

The Acting President said perpetrators of this heinous incident should be awarded strict punishment.

Full court reference for CJP Qazi Faez Isa set for Oct 25

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's registrar issued a notice of full court reference over the matter of retirement of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

According to the notice, the full court reference would take place on October 25.

Senior lawyers including Supreme Court Bar Association president have been invited.

It merits mention that the Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa is retiring on October 25.

Earlier, in an informal conversation with journalists at the start of the new judicial year, the outgoing chief justice was asked about a statement by Rana Sanaullah suggesting that if the retirement age for all judges were extended, the chief justice might agree to an extension himself.

The CJ responded that Rana Sanaullah should be brought before him.

During that meeting, it was discussed that the tenure of all chief justices would be extended, but he made it clear that he would not accept an extension for himself, although he had no objection if it applied to other judges.

Balochistan Governor, CM, ministers condemn attack on colliers in Duki

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandukhail along with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Balochistan Assembly Speaker, and provincial ministers strongly condemned attack on mine workers in Duki which left 20 dead and several injured.

In separate statements, Balochistan Governor and Chief Minister expressed their concerns over the incident and directed immediate and effective action against the terrorist to bring them to justice.

The Chief Minister directed concerned officials to take measures to seal and surrounded area to arrest anti-peace elements in

order to maintain peace in the area. He said that militants have once again targeted the poor labourers saying that militants' agenda is to destabilize Pakistan and the province with the aim to halt development process the areas.

Ordinary poor labourers are targeted as soft targets, terrorists are cowards' acts, he said and added that anti peace elements would be brought to their logical end for sustaining durable peace.

He said that the blood of innocent people would not go in vain adding that measures would be taken to foil nefarious design of anti-peace from the areas with contribution of security force and public.

Acting President calls for further strengthening bilateral cooperation with Iran

APP

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has called for further strengthening bilateral cooperation with Iran in trade, security, culture and education.

He was talking to Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, who called on him in Islamabad today.

The Acting President said Pakistan and Iran have deep-rooted historical, religious and cultural ties and the people of Pakistan have great respect and affection for the people of Iran. He said there is a need to harness the true potential of the existing cooperation for promoting connectivity between the two countries as well as with the broader region.

The Acting President highlight-

ed the significance of enhancing people-to-people contacts including exchanging Parliamentary delegations to further strengthen bonds of friendship between the two brotherly countries.

In his remarks, the Iranian Ambassador said Pakistan remained the fifth-largest trading partner of Iran last year. He stressed the need to further explore options for expanding the existing volume of bilateral trade to ten billion dollars.

While discussing Israel's atrocities in Palestine and Lebanon, both the leaders condemned the acts of genocide perpetrated by the Israeli forces. The Iranian Ambassador the All Parties Conference convened by the government of Pakistan in support of Palestine, can serve as a model for the Islamic World.

Drum beaters should first read court's decision and then criticize: CJP

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has refused to give more adjournment in intra party election review case due to absence of PTI lawyers from hearing remarking dilatory tactics are being used.

The CJP further remarked they want headlines but Supreme Court (SC) will not give them any such headline.

Intra Party Election review case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa Friday.

No lawyer from PTI side appeared in the court. Ahmad Hassan counsel for Akbar S Babar said application for adjournment has come from advocate Hamid Khan.

The CJP while moving to counsel for

Akbar S Babar remarked " read paragraph No 2 of application for adjournment. Paragraph regarding the family engagement of Hamid Khan was read.

The CJP remarked this is application for some novel adjournment. Application of such nature has not been seen before. This case was to be fixed for hearing in proposed cause list of May 29. There was application from advocate Ali Zafar for general adjournment till June 4. Open heat surgery of one member of bench took place.

He further remarked the drum beaters made the intra party election case as case of election symbol of bat. The drum beaters should read court's decision first and then criticize it. They should go out side and make propaganda but should not come to court. It is appropriate.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman during a meeting at his residence, in the Federal Capital.

PM Shehbaz calls for modernisation of education system, focus on technical training

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has emphasised the importance of providing quality education and technical training, highlighting the growing need for skills development, information technology, and digitalisation in modern educational systems.

He urged the country to align its education system with these modern requirements.

Chairing a key review meeting on the Federal Ministry of Education and Technical Training, Shehbaz stated that no nation can progress without a high-quality education system. He reiterated that delivering quality education and technical training is a top priority for the government.

The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that no child is left out of school. He noted that an educational emergency had been declared immediately after his administration took office, underlining the urgency of improving education in Pakistan.

Shehbaz Sharif also called for a national curriculum leadership conference to implement a uniform education system across the country.

Additionally, he directed authorities to accelerate the con-

struction of Daanish Schools in underprivileged areas such as Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Balochistan.

The prime minister ordered the establishment of day-care centres in all educational institutions in Islamabad for female teachers and further instructed that e-libraries be set up in parks and recreational spots with free public access and internet.

In efforts to increase female student enrolment, Shehbaz Sharif proposed monthly stipends for female students in rural areas of Islamabad and directed that technical training be incorporated into school curriculums.

He also stressed the need to provide free technical training to students who had dropped out of school and to launch awareness campaigns to encourage them to re-engage with education.

The prime minister highlighted the importance of teacher training, calling for a top-tier teacher training institution in Islamabad and a third-party audit to assess teachers' capabilities. He stressed the need for transparency and merit in hiring teachers and warned that no negligence would be tolerated.

During the meeting, it was revealed that the buses provid-

ed for student transport in 2017 had been out of service for years. The prime minister ordered an inquiry into the matter.

The Federal Ministry of Education briefed the prime minister on several initiatives, including providing lunch to students in Islamabad's schools, which has led to improved enrolment.

Early childhood education centres have been set up, and digital training centres have been established in colleges across the capital, offering courses in data sciences, artificial intelligence, and blockchain technology.

The briefing also revealed that renovations are underway at 167 schools in Islamabad and that five model colleges are being equipped with software technology parks.

Fifty digital hubs have been created in rural areas, and after repairs, 45 school buses, now dubbed "pink buses," are transporting female students from rural areas to schools in Islamabad, benefiting 8,000 girls.

Additionally, smart classrooms have been established with digital boards and screens, and 100 rural schools are being converted to solar energy under a public-private partnership.

Language courses in Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Japanese, and German have also been introduced in collaboration with the National University of Modern Languages (NUML).

Train service from Quetta restored after 45-day suspension

INP

QUETTA: The train service from Quetta to the rest of the country has been successfully restored after a 45-day suspension.

According to Imran Hayat, the divisional superintendent of Railways, the Jaffar Express comprising nine bogies departed for Peshawar with 315 passengers on board, marking the resumption of operations.

The train service was halted due to the destruction of the railway bridge at Dozan by terrorists. The Pakistan Railways team repaired the damaged bridge in just one and a half month.

In addition to the Jaffar Express, the Bolan Mail from Karachi is also scheduled to depart for Quetta today. Authorities have assured that foolproof security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the safety of passengers.

Due to the suspension of the train service, the department was facing a loss Rs1.5 million a day.

Mine martyrs of relatives end protest in Duki after assuring them by ministers

APP

Quetta: Collier martyrs of relatives on Friday ended their protest in Duki after assuring them by provincial ministers and measures would be taken to arrest anti-peace elements to bring them to justice and maintain durable peace. On Special directive of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Provincial Ministers Mir Shuaib Noshervani, Noor Muhammad Dummer, Tuor Khan Utmakhail, Sardar Masood Loni, Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani reached Duki and met the heirs of the workers who were victims of terrorism last night and talked to the protesters and end protest after assuring them. Officials of Home Department, Department of Labour and Manpower, Commissioner Lorlai Division Saadat Hassan, Nasir Khan Dotani, DIG Abdul Ghaffar Qaisrani, Deputy Commissioner Duki Kaleemullah and other officers also participated in the talks. In the talks between the provincial ministers and protesters, it was agreed to work together to prevent the incidents of terrorism and it was decided that the provincial government would pay 1.5 million rupees per person to the heirs of the martyrs, 0.5 million for seriously injured and Rs 0.2 million for minor injured. After successful negotiations between the government ministers and the protesters, the protest was called off and the heirs left for the burial of the bodies. Earlier, condolence and Fateha were recited for the martyrs.

KP CM orders full facilitation of Jamrud jirga participants in site visit

INP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday visited the site of a peace jirga in Khyber district to oversee arrangements for the gathering and ordered the administration to fully facilitate the participants with whatever they needed.

Earlier today, he had announced that the provincial administration would host the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement's (PTM) three-day jirga and ensure that all the matters were resolved peacefully.

The federal government agreed, in principle, to lift a recently-imposed ban on the PTM during a multiparty grand jirga, hosted by the provincial government on Thursday. The jirga agreed that the "proscribed" PTM would be allowed to hold its scheduled Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga today, which would be hosted by the KP government and attended by CM Gandapur.

Visiting the site at the district's Jamrud area, the chief minister reviewed security and other arrangements for holding the jirga after being briefed by the relevant authorities.

Representatives of the provincial government, divisional and district administration officials and police officers were present on the occasion.

CM Gandapur directed the administration to provide all the facilities required by the jirga's attendants on a priority basis. "Water, temporary washrooms, lighting, medical campus and other basic needs should be arranged for the jirga participants," the chief minister ordered, adding that 5,000 blankets should also be immediately provided.

NDMA hosts national conference on Humanitarian Response for Gaza, Lebanon

APP

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday convened a National Conference on Humanitarian Response for the war-ravaged people of Gaza and Lebanon under the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The session was convened at National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters which was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal along with Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Atta Tarrar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Cheema, PM's Advisor on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, Federal Secretaries and representatives from the media, NGOs, and international NGOs, a news release said.

The primary objective of the conference was to mobilize support from humanitarian partners and the community for relief efforts in Gaza and Lebanon.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the severe humanitarian needs arising

from the ongoing crises in Palestine and Lebanon, emphasizing the urgent necessity to extend support to the affected population. He reaffirmed Government of Pakistan's commitment to aiding the people in distress and underscored the importance of partnerships with humanitarian organizations and the people of Pakistan to amplify these efforts.

Minister Iqbal announced the establishment of a special account titled "Prime Minister Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon," created under the Prime Minister's directives to gather and channelize aid from the people of Pakistan for those in Gaza and Lebanon. The Chairman NDMA provided an overview of the humanitarian assistance dispatched to Gaza and Lebanon from October 2023 to October 2024. He apprised that the Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with various NGOs, has already sent 11 relief consignments totaling approximately 1,154 tons to Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon. The humanitarian assistance included 10x consignments of approximately 1,151 tons to Palestine and one consignment of medicines to Lebanon, along with the safe evacuation of 71 Pakistanis.



President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Serdar Berdimuhammadov, President of Turkmenistan during meeting held in Ashgabat

Eid Meelad-u-Nabi SAWS Celebrated in Shikarpur

By Abdul Sami Bhutto

SHIKARPUR: The Eid Meelad-u-Nabi SAWS Khatam-e-Naboo wa Taqat Conference was held here in Shikarpur on Tuesday by AHL-e-Sunnat Jamait Shikarpur chapter.

The large number of Ashiq-e-Rasool and citizens attended the blessed gathering arranged by AHL-e-Sunnat Jamait Shikarpur chapter.

The prominent Religious Scholar Syed Gul Ahmed Shah Jeelani lightened the life of our Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa Salle Allah Aleh Waalihi Wassalam and said we all Muslims have to adopt the way of our Holy Prophet by spreading the love and happiness with the message of brotherhood.

Similarly Ameer Jamait AHL-e-Sunnat Shikarpur District Abdul Hafeez Mughal, Peer Mufti Shafiq Ahmed Qaderi, Mufti Bashir Ahmed Naqshbandi and others have briefly speeched on the occasion and said we are Celebrating every date of 11th Shareef with Love. The audience said they will celebrate 11th Shareef with Religious Love and Care by lightening their houses. Among others Faqeer Assasullah Naqshbandi, Waseem Ahmed Lashari, Mudasir Ali Khoso, Ghulam Farooque Lashari and others had served the audience.

Mir Izhar Hussain Khosa condemn attack on colliers in Duki

Press Release

Jafarabad: Senior Politician and former provincial minister Mir Izhar Hussain Khosa of Naseerabad, Jafarabad and Sahabatpur areas of Balochistan has condemned the incident. Expressing condolences to the families of the martyred miners, they have prayed for forgiveness for the deceased and patience and patience for the bereaved. In his statement of condemnation, He said that those who kill poor innocent workers do not deserve any concession. Killing poor workers is a cowardly act. He said that my sympathies are with the oppressed families of martyred workers, the families of martyrs.

Financial aid should be given, the terrorists involved in the attack are enemies of humanity. The brutal beasts involved in this do not deserve to be called human beings. The shameful and cowardly incident of attack on innocent miners cannot be condemned.



Coal mine workers are being treating by doctors after an attack by armed men on a private coal mine in Duki area of Balochistan, at Civil Hospital in Quetta.

Two terrorists involved in Dasu hydel project attack killed in crossfire: CTD

INP

LAHORE: Two terrorists including the mastermind of July 2021 Dasu hydel power project attack have been killed by their accomplices, while they were being shifted from the Sahiwal prison, law enforcers said.

A spokesperson for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said the terrorists were on death row and they were being transferred from the prison because of security concerns. "Accomplices of the arrested terrorists opened fire on police to get them freed, resultantly shooting both of them dead," the spokesperson said, adding that the incident took place on Samundari road in Sahiwal. At least 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals working on the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP), were killed in an explosion on July 14, 2021.

Govt has started implementing 18th Amendment, all ministries abolished: Sindh CM

APP

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that the federal government has begun the implementation of the 18th Amendment, leading to the dissolution of various ministries.

Murad Ali Shah has stated that neither the federal government nor the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has discussed the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award

or the 18th Amendment with him.

Speaking to the media, Shah said that while there are concerns over other matters, however discussions with the federal government are underway. He emphasised that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will act in the nation's best interests and clarified that no land has been allocated to any housing schemes by the provincial government. Shah also addressed the cancellation of agreements with five independent power producers (IPPs),

saying that he had learned today that these contracts, which were signed in 1994 for around 25 to 30 years, are being terminated. He suggested that this move might lead to a reduction in electricity costs, though he added that the surplus power available may not be sufficient to fully utilise. The chief minister further noted that the Sindh government had proposed providing electricity at lower rates to industrial units to boost production and employment.

'PTI has used propaganda cell to malign people:' Azma Bokhari

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Friday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has used the propaganda cell to malign people.

Expressing her thoughts, Bokhari said: "The PTI leaders stage drama of innocence in the courts. The PTI's social media wing is active to threaten the state institutions." "No one should be attacked personally," she said.

"There are many things that have been presented before the court pertaining to

the fake video case," she said.

Bokhari lambasted Gandapur for "conspiring against federation".

Lashing out at CM Gandapur, Bokhari said: "CM Gandapur's meeting with the Afghan consul general was openly a revolt against the federation."

She questioned: "Why is Ali Amin Gandapur doing all this? Who is giving instructions to Gandapur?"

Bokhari took a swipe at the PTI, saying, "The party that has spread unrest is now looking to repeat the sequel of the 2014 protest."



Relatives of dead employees of Food Department, Abdul Rasheed, Khalil-ur-Rehman and Arshad addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.



Shakib apologises for silence during Bangladesh protests

SPORTS DESK

NEW DELHI: Retiring Bangladesh cricketer Shakib Al Hasan has apologised for remaining silent during a student-led revolution but defended his contentious decision to serve the autocratic regime it toppled.

Shakib, 37, is among dozens of figures from ousted premier Sheikh Hasina's party facing murder investigations for a deadly police crackdown on protesters during the summer uprising.

The former captain had been elected as a lawmaker earlier this year and served until parliament was dissolved after Hasina's August resignation and exile to neighbouring India at the peak of the unrest.

In a long note posted on his official Facebook page late Wednesday, Hasan said he was "sincerely apologetic" for not speaking up during the protests.

"I pay my respects to all the students who sacrificed their lives," the note said. "While nothing can fill the void of losing a child or a brother, I sincerely apologise to everyone who was hurt by my silence. I too would have been upset if I were in your place."

More than 700 people were killed in the unrest leading up to Hasina's ouster, according to Bangladesh's health ministry.

Shakib was playing in a domestic Twenty20 cricket competition in Canada when the regime collapsed and has not returned to Bangladesh since.

But he has toured Pakistan and India with the Bangladeshi team with the approval of the interim government established to govern the country after Hasina's departure.

Shakib's election to parliament in January came after a poll boycotted by Hasina's opponents and criticised by observers as unfair and unjust.

He said he had decided to contest the vote because he wanted to "contribute to the development of my hometown".

"It is difficult to directly play a part in the development of your area in Bangladesh if you don't have a designated position," he wrote.

Shakib announced his retirement from international cricket last month but said then that he wanted to play one last Test series at home, with South Africa slated to tour later this month.

He said in his Facebook post that he wanted the opportunity to "say goodbye" to all of his fans.

"You all know that I will soon be playing my last match," he said. "I hope — not just hope but believe — that at my farewell hour, you will all be with me."



England's captain Ollie Pope and his teammate Jamie Smith (L) successfully appeals for leg before wicket (LBW) against Pakistan's Salman Agha (R) during the fifth and last day of the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and England at the Multan Cricket Stadium in Multan

Leach leads England's rout of Pakistan in first Test in Multan

SPORTS DESK

England's bowlers, led by spinner Jack Leach, tore through the Pakistan line-up to secure victory in the first Test in Multan on Friday after a record partnership between Harry Brook and Joe Root turned the match on its head.

England's attack made short work of the last four Pakistan batters on Day 5, dismissing the hosts for 220 to win by an innings and 47 runs and draw first blood in the three-match series.

The win is England's fourth consecutive Test triumph on Pakistan soil, after a 3-0 whitewash two years ago. England had only won two away Tests against Pakistan in the previous 61 years.

It was also filled with several new milestones for England.

"This win would be right up there. Definitely top three," said captain Ollie Pope, standing in for injured skipper Ben Stokes.

Brook smashed 317 and Root a record-setting 262 in England's mammoth 823-7 declared, giving the visitors a 267-run lead and both players their highest Test scores.

Their 454, England's highest-ever partnership for any wicket in Test cricket, also delivered an improbable advantage after Pakistan amassed an impressive 556 first-innings total.

Pope was full of praise for Brook and Root's heroics. "Credit to them for the skills and determination to put the team in a winning position," he said.

By close of play on the fourth day on a lifeless pitch, England had posted the fourth-highest Test innings total of 823-7 and taken total control of the match with the hosts teetering at 152-6.

Along the way, Root became the highest run scorer for England in Test history.

England's bowlers then delivered a dagger blow on a lifeless Multan pitch where the first 17 wickets fell for a mammoth 1,379 runs.

Towards the end of the fourth day, Pakistan were reeling at 82-6 before Salman Agha and Aamer Jamal came together for Pakistan's only meaningful partnership.

The pair added 109 before Leach, who marshalled the attack with 4-30, provided the first breakthrough on the fifth day when he dislodged Salman for a fighting 63 and opened the floodgates.

Leach then took a smart return catch to get Shaheen Shah Afridi for ten and then had Naseem Shah stumped for six, wrapping up Pakistan's second innings.

Last man Abrar Ahmed was unable to bat after being taken to hospital with a high fever.

"When you come out to bat again and you're 260 runs behind and the pitch is three days older, it's never easy," said Pope of Pakistan's second-innings predicament.

Pope also lauded the grit shown by England's inexperienced attack.

"Our bowlers got the odd ball to reverse and spin," he said of Gus Atkinson who took 2-46 and debutant Brydon Cartwright who finished with 2-66.

"Can't be more disappointing"

The loss continues a painful stretch for Pakistan and will compound the pressure on captain Shan Masood.

His tenure has begun with six consecutive defeats, including three in Australia and two at home at the hands of Bangladesh — the worst start for any Pakistan captain.

"It can't be more disappointing than this," said Masood. "Harsh reality is that England found a way to win after two days under the sun and 556 behind."

South Korea down Jordan to remain unbeaten in World Cup

SPORTS DESK

HONG KONG: South Korea beat Jordan 2-0 in Amman on Thursday to move top of Group 'B' in the third round of Asia's World Cup preliminaries as Australia won their first match under new coach Tony Popovic.

Goals from Lee Jae-sung and Oh Hyeon-gu gave underfire coach Hong Myung-bo his second win in a row and lifted the Koreans on to seven points from three matches.

Hong had been booed after Korea's opening 0-0 draw with Palestine in Seoul but back-to-back wins mean the Taeguk Warriors are in a strong position to continue their record of qualifying for every World Cup since 1986.

A header from Jae-sung gave South Korea, missing injured captain Son Heung-min, the lead in the 38th minute and Hyeon-gu doubled the advantage 23 minutes into the second half when he wrong-footed Yazeed Abulaila to score from inside the area.

In Group 'A', Uzbekistan were unable to find a way past Iran's defence despite the visitors having only 10 players for the final 35 minutes of their top-of-the-table clash as they played out a 0-0 draw in Tashkent.

Defender Saleh Hardani was shown a red card 10 minutes into the second half for a dangerous tackle on Uzbekistan captain Eldor Shomurodov.

Earlier, Australia picked up their first win of the campaign at the third attempt as Popovic led them to a 3-1 victory over China in Adelaide in his first game since replacing Graham Arnold as coach.

Home-town favourite Craig Goodwin powered home a long-range strike in the 53rd minute after setting up Australia's first goal just before halftime with a free kick that was headed in by Lewis Miller to cancel out Xie Wenneng's opener.

Nishan Velupillay made sure of the win on his international debut with a stoppage-time goal.

The win revived Australia's chances of finishing the third phase of qualifying with a top-two spot and an automatic ticket to the 2026 finals. "I think we did really well, even in the first half. China were very, very compact," said Saudi-based Goodwin. "Hats off to the boys, we were 1-0 down and after the first two games with the results we had we could have gone into our shell."



ADELAIDE: Australia's Lewis Miller (obscure) scores past Chinese goalkeeper Wang Dalei during their World Cup qualifying match at the Adelaide Oval

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Banning PTM

There is more than enough evidence to suggest how the Pakhtun Tahaffuz Movement leadership has, ever since its foray into national prominence in 2018, used its popularity to pass intemperate remarks and strike unnecessary controversies.

Surely, a group formed to advocate for the rights of Pashtuns could have done better than to foster an increasingly divisive environment or rely on propaganda peddlers sitting overseas for controversial projection.

On Sunday, the federal government's ban on the Manzoor Pashteen-led PTM citing security threats in a move that prompted widespread and instantaneous condemnation from the Eastern front, with many questioning what could be so earth-shattering in a purely domestic matter of a country that would spearhead a concerted media campaign, that too, on such short notice.

One of the main arguments put forward by Islamabad is that PTM is a foreign-backed proxy whose aim is not to solve real issues but to create divisions. This is something the well-eloquent leadership could have easily settled by clearing the air about its funding sources and connections with the Indian platforms actively amplifying their voices.

These pages have always emphasised those at the helm of the affairs to prioritise restraint over kneejerk reactions, always sending out a reminder that the tighter you clench the fist, the faster the power slips away. Even today, the need for dialogue to address the core of what PTM stands for remains just as crucial. Meanwhile, it takes two to tango.

While claiming to be an anti-war peace movement, PTM uses hate speech and racism. No qualms about the ease with which such banter gains societal support, but whenever laid bare against the actual writing on the wall, such a narrative almost always fizzles out. If government after government is responsible for a crippling failure to take the PTM on board as a natural ally in its fight against militancy, the latter (at least, some of its overambitious voices) also has yet to distance themselves from half-truths.

The coming days will reveal the true impact of this decision on the Pashtun community and the overall political landscape of Pakistan. But one thing is clear as daylight: the ordinary Pashtuns deserve better than controversial, xenophobic tirades and interference by hawks sitting outside.

By Dr Nasir Khan

From Information Overload to Disconnection

The global digital space has become more saturated with information than ever before. With over 5 billion internet users, the amount of data produced daily exceeds 2.5 quintillion bytes.

Social media platforms, online news outlets, and messaging apps flood users with an incessant flow of information. The sheer volume of content available makes it increasingly difficult for individuals to filter what is relevant, contributing to widespread cognitive fatigue. This phenomenon, known as "information overload," is now a leading cause of anxiety and mental exhaustion across various demographics, as people struggle to keep pace with the constant barrage of data.

The bombardment of information forces individuals to make rapid decisions about what to read, trust, and engage with. This constant decision-making leads to cognitive overload and decision fatigue, where the brain's ability to process information deteriorates over time. A 2023 study by the American Psychological Association found that decision fatigue significantly impacts productivity and mental health. With so much information to process, people often experience paralysis, unable to take action due to being overwhelmed by choices, further exacerbating feelings of disconnection. Social media platforms like Instagram, Twitter (now X), and TikTok have become primary sources of news and information. While these platforms offer real-time access to global events, they also contribute to misinformation and emotional overload. Governments, corporations, and individuals alike must work together to create a more balanced digital ecosystem.

Algorithms designed to maximize engagement prioritize sensational or emotionally charged content, leading to increased anxiety and stress among users. This endless cycle of engagement not only distracts but can also lead to feelings of alienation and mental fatigue. Despite the promise of "connectedness," social media users are reporting higher rates of loneliness and depression, a paradoxical outcome of the information age.

The constant influx of information frag-

ments our ability to concentrate. The average attention span in 2024 has decreased to 8 seconds, compared to 12 seconds in the early years. This reduction is partly due to the overwhelming number of digital stimuli competing for attention.

For instance, users switch between tasks every 3 minutes, with over 50 percent reporting a decline in productivity due to digital distractions. This fragmentation of focus leads to shallow work, where deep, meaningful engagement with tasks is replaced by superficial multitasking, ultimately harming both professional and personal growth. The rise of information overload has also seen a corresponding increase in mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and burnout. A 2024 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted that excessive digital consumption is one of the leading contributors to the global mental health crisis.

Constant exposure to alarming news, global crises, and social pressures creates a sense of helplessness and anxiety among users. Burnout is becoming increasingly common, especially among professionals who are expected to be "always on" in the digital world, leading to disengagement from both work and personal relationships. Ironically, the more we connect digitally, the more

we risk becoming disconnected socially. With digital communication often replacing face-to-face interactions, people are losing the skills required for meaningful, deep connections. A recent survey conducted by an American University found that 60 percent of respondents felt more isolated despite being more connected online. This phenomenon, termed "digital disconnection," highlights the emotional gap that grows when digital interactions replace real-world relationships. It highlights the importance of quality over quantity in human connections, something that is lost in the information age.

Another aspect of information overload is the proliferation of misinformation, which has eroded public trust in institutions and media. In the contemporary era, fake news and conspiracy theories are rampant, making it harder for individuals to discern fact

from fiction.

The sheer volume of contradictory information leads to confusion, frustration, and disengagement from current affairs. Misinformation not only polarizes society but also discourages participation in meaningful dialogue, further deepening societal divisions and contributing to a sense of collective disconnection.

In response to this overload, the concept of "digital detox" has gained traction. Many individuals are opting to disconnect from technology temporarily to reclaim their mental space and reduce stress. In a survey conducted in 2024, 30 percent of millennials reported taking deliberate breaks from social media and other digital platforms.

These detoxes allow individuals to reset, focus on real-world experiences, and rebuild meaningful human connections. Digital detoxing is becoming a serious strategy in combating the adverse effects of information overload and fostering a healthier relationship with technology. Technological advancements also offer solutions to the problem of information overload. Mindfulness apps, such as Headspace and Calm, have become popular tools for helping individuals manage stress and maintain mental clarity. The market for wellness apps grew by 20 percent, reflecting a growing demand for tools that promote digital well-being. These apps encourage users to practice mindfulness, disconnect from digital distractions, and focus on the present moment, which helps counteract the negative effects of information overload. To combat the challenges of information overload and the resulting disconnection, society must prioritize responsible digital consumption.

This involves creating personal boundaries around digital use, promoting digital literacy, and encouraging platforms to adopt ethical design practices that prioritize user well-being over engagement. Governments, corporations, and individuals alike must work together to create a more balanced digital ecosystem. As we navigate the complexities of the information age, finding harmony between technology and mental health will be essential to ensuring a connected, informed, yet emotionally resilient society in recent times and beyond.

SC strikes down 2022 ruling on defection clause under Article 63-A



DAILY MIRROR

Constitution Ensures Supremacy Of Law In Modern Democracies: Rana Mashhood

APP

DUSHANBE: of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Friday highlighted the critical role of the Constitutions in safeguarding society, promoting justice, and ensuring the supremacy of the law in modern democracies.

Addressing the International Parliamentary Conference and the 30th Anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, Rana Mashhood emphasized that the Constitution is the cornerstone of any nation, providing a framework that guarantees fundamental rights, justice, and equality for all citizens.

During his speech, he stressed the importance of upholding the supremacy of the Constitution, particularly in protecting vulnerable communities and ensuring that national laws remain the highest authority.

"Constitutions are the bedrock of democratic societies. They protect the

rights of individuals, ensure equality, and provide a clear legal structure that strengthens the rule of law. It is the responsibility of each parliamentarian to ensure that the constitution is upheld and to advocate for the rights of the oppressed wherever they may be," said Rana Mashhood.

He also underscored the collective responsibility of parliamentarians to raise their voices against the ongoing atrocities faced by the people of Gaza and Indian-occupied Kashmir. The Chairman PMYP called on the international community to pay greater attention to the human rights violations in both regions and demanded that action be taken to protect innocent lives and restore peace.

"We must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of people in Gaza and Kashmir. It is our moral duty, as custodians of justice, to stand in solidarity with those who face oppression and to use our platforms to raise awareness and demand accountability," Rana Mashhood stated.

Additionally, he reiterated the brotherly ties between Pakistan and

Tajikistan, noting that both nations share deep-rooted cultural, historical, and political bonds. He praised the ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in various sectors, including trade, security, and regional stability.

"The relationship between Pakistan and Tajikistan is built on mutual respect and common goals. As we commemorate this milestone in Tajikistan's constitutional journey, we also reaffirm our commitment to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries," he remarked.

Rana Mashhood also acknowledged the significance of the event in promoting global dialogue on the importance of democratic governance, the rule of law, and human rights.

He expressed hope that such international forums will continue to foster cooperation, understanding, and a shared commitment to peace and justice across the world.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, in Islamabad

JUI-F Chief Condemns Attack On Balochistan's Dukki Coal Mines

APP

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, expressed deep sorrow over the recent attack on laborers in the Dukki coal mines, Balochistan province that killed several 20 miners and left several others injured on Friday.

In a statement, the seasoned political leader emphasized his party's long-standing commitment to upholding provincial and national rights, while rejecting all forms of violence.

"We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the laborers who lost their lives in this heinous act. We stand against all forms of prejudice and violence, whether perpetrated in the name of religion or Islam," Maulana Fazlur Rehman said.

Rehman reiterated that the JUI-F has always been an advocate for the rights of the provinces and the nation, pushing for justice and equality across the country.

He stressed that peace and harmony must prevail over all forms of hatred and extremism, which have harmed the country's social fabric.

Jam Kamal condemns terrorist attack in Balochistan's Duki area

INP

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan on Friday strongly condemned the terrorist attack that killed several miners in the Duki area of Balochistan.

In a video message, he stated that only those loyal to the province's development and prosperity should work for its betterment.

Jam Kamal emphasized that another tragic event has occurred in Balochistan, specifically in a region known for its peaceful and hardworking people.

He said that the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and other banned organizations are involved in terrorist activities in the region. Balochistan is a vast province and rich in minerals, he remarked. He encouraged the people to take charge of how to safeguard Balochistan, as everyone deserves improvement in their lives.

Constitutional amendments not 'do or die' issue for govt: Khawaja Asif

INP

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that passing constitutional amendments is not a 'do or die' issue for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led federal government. Speaking at a private TV channel program, he said that the government is going to table three constitutional amendments all of which are in 'accordance' with the Charter of Democracy.

"The establishment of a constitutional court is also among the proposed amendments," the defence minister added. He said that the government wants the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), led by Maulana Fazlur Rehman, to back the constitutional amendments.

"Maulana Fazlur Rehman is being persuaded to support constitutional amendments," Khawaja Asif said.

Speaking on the stance of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkwa, the defence minister said that Ali Amin Gandapur's actions have gone beyond a 'simple software update'.

PPP draft includes establishment of Constitutional Court: Bilawal

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Friday said that the proposed draft of constitutional amendments presented by his party included the establishment of a Constitutional Court and amendments to Articles 175 A, B, D, E, and F.

Speaking to the media in his chamber at Parliament House, he said that the government has given time to reach a consensus on constitutional amendments related to judicial reforms.

Bilawal said that while the PPP's final document has been released, the draft from Maulana Fazlur Rahman has not yet been formally received.

He also mentioned that the PPP's draft has been with Kamran Murtaza for over a week. "If the government has a two-thirds of majority and still seeks consensus, it is commendable," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stressed that the government intends to work within the framework of the constitution and the

up after doing all the work (violent protests). Politics of reconciliation and resistance cannot be done together," Khawaja Asif said.

The defence minister also questioned the 'silence' of PTI founder Imran Khan on Ali Amin Gandapur's actions, suggesting that there must be a reason behind it.

Khawaja Asif said that the chief minister's script was written beforehand and the PTI founder has been saving him for a rainy day.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders met with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to discuss proposed constitutional amendments.

Speaking to newsmen after the meeting, PTI leader Salman Akram Raja said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman stands firm on his 'historical' stance on the constitutional amendments.

"The nation will receive good news in the coming days," Salman Akram Raja said.

He added that Maulana Fazlur Rehman has saved the nation by not supporting the constitutional amendments.

law, noting that the PPP has always pursued constitutional amendments through consensus.

"The PML-N has the right to amend the constitution in line with the Charter of Democracy," he said.

Expressing gratitude to the government, Bilawal said, "I appreciate their willingness to insist on consensus among all political parties. However, if consensus cannot be reached, how long will the government wait?" He reiterated that only the PPP's full draft has been released, and the JUI's draft is still pending.

He shared that a detailed meeting of the Parliamentary Committee took place on Friday, where all parties presented their views. The PPP presented its original draft proposals, which focused on issues related to the Constitutional Court.

Bilawal also mentioned that the Law Minister conducted thorough consultations with lawyers, whose suggestions were considered during the meeting. Opposition parties also shared their feedback on the proposals.

Health Department Directs NGOs To Obtain NOC From MNCH

APP

QUETTA: The Balochistan Health Department has informed all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on maternal and child healthcare to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the provincial coordinator of the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) program before operating in any district of the province.

The directive aims to ensure the proper utilization of available resources and prevent duplication of efforts.

According to the circular issued by the Director General of Health Services, obtaining an NOC will be mandatory for all NGOs working on maternal and child healthcare services.

Failure to comply will result in denial of permission to work on related projects.

Additionally, the circular states that implementation of such projects will be contingent upon obtaining an NOC after the issuance of these directives. Previously issued NOCs will be considered null and void, and affected organizations will need to reapply for the certificate.

Imran, Bushra should be allowed to meet family: Salman Akram Raja

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Barrister Salman Akram Raja on Friday said that the PTI founder Imran Khan and former first lady Bushra Bibi must be allowed to meet the family, adding that it was a basic human right to let inmates see their families.

Speaking outside the Islamabad High Court (IHC), the PTI Secretary General said that he would plead before the court to let Khan meet his sister and doctor while hoping that the government may show a more humane approach this time.

"It is necessary for us during these distressing times to consult Imran Khan on political matters. Everything is being done to sabotage the political process. The people of Pakistan want the orders passed on the basis of human rights. Anything can be expected from this fascist regime," he deplored.

He said that he was appearing in court cases on a daily basis, adding that the PTI founder was only allowed to meet twice during Toshakhana case hearing.

PM pledges financial support for capacity building of police

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says all possible financial support will be extended for professional training and capacity building of police to make it a model force.

Addressing 'Police Darbar' at Police Lines Headquarters in Islamabad on Friday, he paid glowing tribute to the police force for its bravery and courage.

The Prime Minister said Islamabad Police effectively thwarted a recent violent political rally in the federal capital that was aimed at creating chaos.

He announced to increase the salaries of Islamabad Police, equalizing them with those of Punjab Police.

Mentioning the initiatives like Punjab Safe City, Dolphin Force and Elite Force during his tenure as Chief Minister Punjab, Shehbaz Sharif said the PML-N has always focused on reforms in the police force.

Earlier, addressing the ceremony, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Prime Minister's visit to the Police Lines Headquarter is aimed at acknowledging the services being rendered by the police for the protection of the people.

He said during the past five months, the crime rate in the federal capital has decreased by 38 percent. He said in the

recent days, the security forces performed their duties untiringly round the clock which is highly commendable.

The Minister said case for promotion of four hundred personnel of the police department has been processed to acknowledge their services.

He said a police station has been established in safe city, while 27 police stations are being revamped with the help of Capital Development Authority.

Mohsin Naqvi said 10 Khidmat Centers have already started working while another center is being established for diplomats and foreigners.

He said the safe city project is being expanded to 7700 cameras.

Earlier, upon his arrival at the Police Lines, a smartly turned-out contingent of police presented guard of honour to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister laid the floral wreath at the Monument of Martyrs and offered feteiha. He also wrote his remarks in the visitor's book.

The Prime Minister met with the families of the martyrs and commiserated with the bereaved families and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar was also present on the occasion.



Acting President, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani exchanging views with Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Modern education must for girls for survival of future generations: Speaker

INP

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday suggested that the modern education & training must for the girls for the survival of future generations.

In a message on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, he said the day holds great significance in highlighting and addressing the protection of girls' rights and the challenges they are facing.

He said that the protection of girls' rights, their proper upbringing, and ensuring their education and health are top priorities. He said that Islam and the Constitution of Pakistan provide women

equal rights. The Constitution of the country guarantees children, both boys and girls aged 5 to 16, the right to free education without any gender discrimination.

"With over half of the country's population consisting of women, ensuring their participation in all sectors of life is crucial for the nation's social and economic development," he added.

He also highlighted that legislation to prevent child marriages is a testament to the government's commitment to protecting children from exploitation.

The Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights is actively working to ensure the welfare and protection of children, he said.

Termination of IPP accords marks beginning of broader reforms providing economic relief to public: PBF

APP

Quetta: Chairman of the Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) for Balochistan and former President FPCCI, Daroo Khan Achakzai lauded the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and federal cabinet efforts to terminate five Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) termed a first step for an efficient electricity tariff for the public and industry.

As this move will benefit electricity consumers to the tune of Rs60 billion annually, reducing per-unit electricity costs, and saving the national treasury Rs411 billion overall.

Addressing the press conference on Friday, he said PBF believes that the termination of the IPP agreements marks the beginning of broader reforms aimed at providing economic relief to the public while ensuring the sustainability of the energy sector.

Daroo Khan said the recent approval by Federal Cabinet to terminate Power Purchase Agreements with five Independent Power Producers (IPPs) marks a significant step in the country's efforts to reform its struggling power sector. The decision, stemming from recommendations by the Task Force on Power Sector Reforms, targets HUBCO, Lalpur Power Limited, Saba Power,

Roush Power, and Atlas Power, he said.

He also recalled that on July 2024, PBF President sent a letter addressed to Federal Minister for Power Awais Khan Laghari, to express strong dismay over the electricity tariff hike in Pakistan, emphasizing its adverse effects on both industries and the general public.

The PBF urged the government to reevaluate its agreements with IPPs, citing substantial disparities in electricity costs compared to neighboring countries. With the comparison that electricity costs are approximately Rs3.92 per unit in Afghanistan, Rs17.07 per unit in Bangladesh, and Rs6.29 per unit in India, whereas in Pakistan, rates for domestic consumers have surged from Rs5.72 to Rs. 7.12 per unit, with additional sales taxes amounting to Rs48.84 per unit, he said. He said that after adjustments and taxes, the rate is likely to exceed Rs65 per unit, putting a tremendous burden on ordinary people." The letter were also highlighted a significant gap between Pakistan's installed generation capacity (over 40,000 MW) and its peak demand and transmission capacity (25,000 MW).

In this regard we are thankful to the government that they undertaken the PBF proposal too, he noted.



Members of Pakistan Mine Workers Federation are holding protest demonstration against the attack on miners in Duki area of Balochistan, at Quetta press club