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Bugti Determined to End Terrorism Menace for Ensuring Durable Peace

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said that the government is determined to end the menace of terrorism to ensure durable peace in the province.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the provincial cabinet at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Monday.

At the beginning of the meeting, prayers were offered for the martyrs of the bomb blast at the Quetta Railway station. The Balochistan Cabinet strongly condemned the railway station bombing and vowed to fight with full force and energy to eradicate terrorism for interest of peace.

Balochistan Security of Venerable Establishment Act 2024 was approved in the provincial cabinet meeting. Under this act, coordinated actions of various security agencies will be made frequent for the restoration of peace in Balochistan.

The Balochistan Cabinet also approved the establishment of new police stations in Rada Shim and Kangri, while the Chaman Master Plan Levies police station.

The Cabinet also approved the appointment of Chairman/Members of Balochistan Sales Tax on Services Revenue Appellate Tribunal.

Funds required for Quetta development package were also approved in the meeting. Addressing the cabinet meeting, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that he is working with firm determination to deal with the menace of terrorism, security forces, government and people would fight together for sustainable peace, the enemies of peace would be completely defeated.

He said that the establishment of new police and Levies police stations established as needed in the province would help in the efforts to restore peace.

The chief minister directed that the boundaries of the proposed new police stations should be determined in accordance with public needs.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that Quetta city is the face of the entire province, therefore the expansion of Quetta development package is indispensable for the improvement of the provincial capital.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif In his address to the Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh.

PM calls for immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza

APP

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, arms embargo on Israel and lifting of blockade against Gaza, ensuring prompt delivery of food, water, electricity and medical aid.

In his address to the Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh today [Monday], he stressed the need to pursue the adoption of UNGA's emergency special session resolution 10/24 that follows up historic advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice.

He also called for a comprehensive review of Israel's membership in the United Nations.

Mentioning Israel's oppression in Gaza, the Prime Minister said the humanitarian crisis has reached a level beyond imagination.

He said that for over a year, the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly Gaza, has fallen into endless darkness and despair, with devastated homes, lives lost, and families torn apart. He questioned how long humanity should shut its eyes to hospitals being blown up, with injured women clutching the lifeless bodies of their infants.

Shehbaz Sharif said these atrocities committed against the Palestinians have rightfully been labeled

as genocide, not only by the media but also by the International Court of Justice. With each passing day, every moral code has been flagrantly violated by Israel. Yet the killing and destruction continue with no end in sight. He asked how long this annihilation will be ignored.

The Prime Minister said Israel has been emboldened by the world's indifference and inaction. There is utter disregard for humanity's repeated calls for a ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian relief, and the protection of civilians, while houses and their occupants are being blown up. He said the most sophisticated weapons continue to be supplied to Israel, which is indeed a show of unconditional assistance and protection. Shehbaz Sharif said that international humanitarian laws, meant to protect the vulnerable, have been torn to shreds. Humanity is being tested and failing, while Gaza bleeds, and the world watches in deafening silence.

He said Pakistan stands firm in its commitment to the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Shehbaz Sharif reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the establishment of an independent, viable, and contiguous state of Palestine, with Quds al-Sharif as its capital, based on pre-1967 borders. This is the only avenue toward justice and durable peace in the holy land.

PM praises Muslim World League's role in advocating Muslim causes

INP

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has commended the remarkable work being done by the Muslim World League in promoting the true image of Islam worldwide.

During a meeting with the Secretary-General of the Muslim World League in Riyadh today [Monday], he praised the Secretary-General's leadership in guiding the organization and fostering unity among the Ummah.

The Prime Minister said the Muslim World League plays a critical role in advocating for Muslim causes and spreading messages of fraternity, tolerance, and mutual respect.

He emphasized the crucial importance of organizations like the Muslim World League, particularly in light of the ongoing conflict in Gaza and the various challenges facing the Muslim world.

Recalling the Secretary-General's recent visit to Pakistan, the Prime Minister expressed his commitment to completing various collaborative projects, particularly the establishment of the Seerat Museum, which will be instrumental in highlighting different aspects of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

President Zardari thanks Xi Jinping for strengthening Pak-China ties

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed heartfelt gratitude to Chinese President Xi Jinping for his message of goodwill following Zardari's recent injury, marking the exchange a testament to the strong Pakistan-China alliance. In a letter dated November 3, President Xi conveyed concern over Zardari's condition and extended wishes for a swift recovery. President Xi also invited Zardari to visit China at a mutually convenient time.

Xi underscored the enduring "all-weather" friendship between Pakistan and China, reiterating their commitment to building a shared future. "China values its relationship with Pakistan deeply, especially as we enter a new era," he said. Responding to the invitation, Zardari expressed eagerness to visit China soon, noting that the visit would further bolster "ironclad" ties between the two nations. He praised President Xi's "visionary leadership" and thanked him for supporting the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China.

IMF mission arrives in Islamabad to review progress on Extended Fund Facility

INP

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission arrived here in Islamabad on Monday for holding negotiations with the federal government over various aspects of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) worth \$7 billion.

According to sources, the government team submitted its report of economic targets to the IMF mission while also briefing the global lender on overall economic situation.

Sources said that Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and authorities from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) attended the meeting.

COAS Gen Asim Munir, Australian army chief agree to boost defence, security ties

Australian Army Chief Lieutenant General Simon Stuart commends Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts

ONLINE

RAWALPINDI: Australian Army Chief Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir in Rawalpindi on Monday to discuss global and regional security issues and mutual defence cooperation.

During the meeting, both military leaders highlighted the importance of strengthening bilateral relations to promote shared goals of peace and stability.

General Munir expressed Pakistan's appreciation for its ties with Australia, saying, "We value our relationship with Australia and the role it plays in fostering peace and stability."

Lieutenant General Stuart commended Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts and expressed his commitment to deepening bilateral defence and security cooperation. Both sides reiterated their resolve to enhance collaboration to support regional and global peace efforts.

Earlier, Lieutenant General Stuart laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, a memorial for Pakistan's fallen soldiers, upon his arrival at the General Headquarters (GHQ). He was received with a guard of honour by a Pakistan Army contingent.

The visit marks a commitment to expanding security ties between Australia and Pakistan, focusing on mutual interest areas in defence and counterterrorism.

China vows to thwart all efforts to sabotage relations with Pakistan

INP

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian, on Monday, reaffirmed Beijing's support for Pakistan, saying no efforts to undermine the trust and cooperation between the two countries would succeed. Lin assured that China would continue backing Pakistan's counterterrorism actions and would "steadfastly protect" Chinese nationals and institutions abroad. He added, "China and Pakistan remain committed to defeating any schemes to sabotage our relations and bringing terrorists to justice."

Describing the China-Pakistan partnership as an "evergreen strategic cooperative partnership," Lin emphasised the strength of mutual trust between the two nations. "Any attempt to weaken our mutual trust and cooperation will not succeed," he declared.

He further noted China's ongoing commitment to Pakistan's economic and social progress, adding that cooperation across various sectors would persist, aiming to benefit the people of both nations.

All the departments will be cleansed from interest from 2028: Maulana Fazl

ONLINE

LONDON: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said all the departments will be cleansed from interest from 2028.

Pakistan cannot make progress without the enforcement of Islamic order and elimination of interest

based system, he said while addressing here.

He went on to say Pakistan survival lies in Islamic order. In 26th constitutional amendment, elimination of interest based

system has been made part of constitution.

Constitution is of all of us, he said adding we will have to respect it. We will continue movement in Pakistan for survival of democracy and enforcement of Islamic system.

We will have to be united for peace in Pakistan, he urged.

Detaining any one for 90 days on basis of suspicion is violation of fundamental human rights, he added.

We are convinced to stronger army for safe Pakistan, he remarked.

Sindh Police arrest mastermind of Karachi airport suicide attack

ONLINE

KARACHI: Sindh's Interior Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar on Monday announced the arrest of the mastermind behind the recent suicide attack targeting Chinese engineers near Karachi airport.

In a press conference alongside Inspector General Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, the minister also confirmed the apprehension of a woman facilitator involved in orchestrating the attack.

Lanjar provided details on the suicide bombing incident, which took place at the airport signal, resulting in the deaths of two Chinese nationals and a Pakistani citizen. The attack, for which the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility, marked another instance of rising security challenges targeting foreign nationals and critical infrastruc-

ture.

"The security forces swiftly initiated investigations, focusing on the vehicle and its origins," Lanjar said. "With the help of CCTV footage, we identified the suicide bomber and two facilitators, uncovering details that led to the female accomplice's arrest." The interior minister revealed that the explosives-packed vehicle, weighing an estimated 30 to 40 kilograms, was originally brought from Karachi and transported from Hub on October 4, 2024. Authorities traced the vehicle's purchase to a Karachi-based showroom, where it was acquired for Rs 7.1 million, paid via bank transfer.

Officials named the suicide bomber as Shah Fahad, also known as Aftab. Further investigation connected a rickshaw to the incident, with its driver, Farhan, and an associate named Muhammad Sharif also identified as involved.



RAWALPINDI: Australian Army Chief Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ).



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti while presiding over a meeting of the provincial cabinet at the Chief Minister's Secretariat

Saudi Arabia demands immediate ceasefires in Gaza, Lebanon

Crown Prince MBS reaffirms support to overcome humanitarian impact of ongoing Israeli aggression at Arab League summit

MONITORING DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia called for immediate ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon at a joint Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation summit that will renew calls for a Palestinian state on Monday.

Arab and Muslim leaders gathered in Riyadh, more than a year into the Israel-Hamas war and regional escalation, in what is seen as a chance to send a message to US president-elect Donald Trump.

Opening the summit, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said the international community must "immediately halt the Israeli actions against our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon", condemning Israel's campaign in Gaza as "genocide".

"(Saudi Arabia) affirms its support for the brothers in Palestine and Lebanon to overcome the disastrous humanitarian consequences of the ongoing Israeli aggression," he said.

A draft resolution for the summit stresses "firm support" for "national rights" for the Palestinian people, "foremost among which is their right to freedom and to an independent, sovereign state".

Just hours earlier, newly appointed Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said it was not "realistic" to establish a Palestinian state, dismissing it as a "Hamas state".

"I don't think this position is realistic today and we must be realistic,"

Saar said in response to a question during an appearance in Jerusalem. The Saudi foreign ministry announced plans for the summit in late October during a meeting, also in Riyadh, of a new "international alliance" to press for the establishment of a Palestinian state. It comes one year after a similar gathering in Riyadh of the Cairo-based Arab League and the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation during which leaders condemned Israeli forces' actions in Gaza as "barbaric".

"Calling out" Israel

This time around, Trump's election last week for a second term in the White House is likely to be on leaders' minds, said Anna Jacobs, senior Gulf analyst for the International Crisis Group think tank.

"This summit is very much an opportunity for regional leaders to signal to the incoming Trump administration what they want in terms of US engagement," she said.

"The message will likely be one of dialogue, de-escalation and calling out Israeli military campaigns in the region."

The war in Gaza began with Hamas's unprecedented attack on southern Israel on October 7 last year, which resulted in 1,206 deaths, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures.

Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed more than 43,600 people in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to data from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry that the United Nations considers reliable.

Lebanon-based Hezbollah, which like Hamas is backed by Iran, began firing on Israel after the October 7 attack. The regular cross-border exchanges escalated in late September when Israel intensified its air strikes and sent ground troops into southern Lebanon.

Despite criticism of the impact Israel's military campaign has had on Gaza civilians, outgoing US President Joe Biden ensured that Washington remained Israel's most important military backer during more than a year of fighting.

"Rely on the Saudis"

In his first term, Trump's actions showed him as an even firmer supporter of Israel. He defied international consensus by recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving Washington's embassy there.

He also endorsed Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, which are illegal under international law.

Under the Abraham Accords, Trump oversaw the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, as well as Morocco. Though Saudi Arabia did not join those agreements, Trump cultivated warm ties with the Gulf kingdom while in office and has deepened his business connections to the region during the Biden years. Saudi Arabia has pressed pause on a US-brokered deal where it would recognise Israel in return for security and economic benefits, insisting there will be no diplomatic ties without a Palestinian state.

NA Committee on Interior passes Citizenship Law Amendment Bill

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's (NA) Standing Committee on Interior, which met with Raja Khuram Nawaz in the chair on Monday, unanimously passed the Citizenship Law Amendment Bill.

As per the amendment, no child of a foreigner born in Pakistan would be given the citizenship of the country.

DG Immigration and Passports, on the occasion, briefed the committee on the steps taken to ensure the issuance of passports without any delay.

He said that for one whole year, his department kept demanding the Finance Ministry to release money since new printing machines had to be bought in place of old ones. "Now with 25 machines, our capacity has been enhanced."

The DG expressed the hope that the backlog of passports would be cleared in two to three weeks. "We earned Rs50 billion last year. And this year so far we have earned Rs20 billion."

He said the department was extremely

short of funds. "We are given targets. But not funds," the DG complained.

He told the body that two new e-passport machines were also on their way.

The chairman said that now when the passports department was generating so much revenue, it should also be paid funds. "Either make the department a separate Authority or shift it to NADRA."

The committee members opposed the proposal to give powers to the police to take action against those involved in power pilferage.

The Power Division official, on the occasion, said that eliminating the practice of power theft was extremely necessary. "Right now, the government has to recover Rs1.8 trillion from power pilferers, which has not been recovered as yet."

Opposing the delegation of powers to the police, PTI MNA Zartaj Gul told the body that in her constituency, the Force attacked consumers on the pretext of checking.

PPP MNA Nabeel Gabol said earlier cases were registered on petty issues such as taking away somebody's buffalo.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar Inauguration CT Scan Ward Sheikh Bin Zayed Hospital.

Pakistan Information Commission Hosts Seminar on Role Of Public Information Officers

APP

QUETTA: The Pakistan Information Commission on Monday organized a seminar aimed at developing skills related to the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 and the responsibilities of Public Information Officers.

Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui highlighted the purpose of the seminar, expressing his appreciation for hosting the event in Pakistan's largest province, Balochistan.

Siddiqui praised the constructive mindset of the people of Balochistan, noting that their perspectives and suggestions on the right to access information are

invaluable and can benefit all Pakistanis. He emphasized the Commission's commitment to organizing similar seminars across provinces to ensure the public can benefit equally from their collective efforts to enhance access to information.

He further stated that the Right of Access to Information is the essence and foundation of democracy, upon which true democracy relies. Transparency and accountability are essential for the growth of genuine democratic values. Societies lacking a culture of access to information are unable to progress.

He stressed the need for awareness of information about our affairs to ensure a prosperous nation for

future generations.

Highlighting the salient features of the RTI 2017, he said it gives citizens the right to access information held by public bodies. The law is based on the idea that citizens are owners of public information as taxpayers. The RTI aims to: Improve public service delivery, Increase transparency and accountability, and Reduce corruption.

He further noted that the RTI applies to all public bodies of the Federal government, and citizens can submit an application to a designated official for information. The law also allows citizens to access information from private bodies that are substantially financed by the government

Salik calls health, safety of workers prime responsibility

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday said that the health and safety of workers was the prime responsibility of the government. Addressing the national tripartite labour conference on Monday, he said that workers play an important role in the development of the country and contribute a major share to the economy. "We are working to bring such an environment that would eliminate the hurdles in the life of workers", he added. He said that Pakistan ranked better on the list of countries that provide health and safety to workers due to the efforts of the government. He said that the first Occupational Safety and Health Profile (OSH) was opened in Pakistan to monitor the health and other concerns of workers.



QUETTA: President Balochistan Goods Truck Owners Association Noor Muhammad Shahwani addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club.

Two die, two injured in Surab road mishap

APP

Quetta: Two women died and two sustained injuries in a road mishap at Batgo Check Post near Surab area of Kalat district on Monday.

According to Levies sources, a vehicle carrying four people including two women was on way to Pajgur from Quetta when it turned over on National Highway near Bago Check Post due to its tyre burst.

As a result, two women died on the spot while a child and a man received injuries.

The bodies and the injured were rushed to nearby hospital where the injured treatments were started.

The victims' identity could not be ascertained so far.

Javed Najm Al-Saqib strongly condemned the bomb blast at Quetta Railway Station

By Khawaja Farooq

MIRPUR: Javed Najm Al-Saqib, Advocate and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, has strongly condemned the bomb blast at Quetta Railway Station, expressing heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and praying for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The President of the Supreme Court Bar Association stated that terrorists are enemies of humanity who target unarmed civilians.



He further emphasized that terrorist elements seek to achieve their nefarious objectives by destroying national peace, but their conspiracies will never succeed. Playing with innocent human lives is severe terrorism, and such anti-social elements do not deserve any leniency. He called on the public to unite and stand against these malicious forces.



QUETTA: A Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) worker repairing the transformer at Adalat road.



Pakistan 'may withdraw' from Champions Trophy after India refuse to cross the border

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Pakistan may withdraw from next year's ICC Champions Trophy in case the tournament's hosting rights are stripped of the country in the wake of India's refusal to travel across the border for it, official sources told Dawn on Sunday.

After the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) spokesperson's confirmation on the same day, that the board had "received an email from the ICC, stating that the BCCI had informed them that their team will not travel to Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025", the matter has been forwarded "to the Government of Pakistan for their advice and guidance".

With PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi having ruled out the possibility of a "hybrid model" — under which India would play their matches at a neutral venue while the remaining tournament is played in Pakistan — the International Cricket Council (ICC) may propose shifting the tournament entirely to another country.

"In such a case, one of the options the government is mulling is that of asking the PCB to ensure Pakistan don't participate in the Champions Trophy," a source said, adding that the federal government was looking at the issue "seriously".

While addressing reporters on Friday, Mohsin had said that the PCB should not be expected to "carry on with their good gestures", pointing at Pakistan's flexibility toward the Indian government's stance of not sending their cricket team to the neighbouring country.

According to sources, a similar narrative prevails in the offices of the federal government, of which Mohsin is a part of as Pakistan's interior minister.

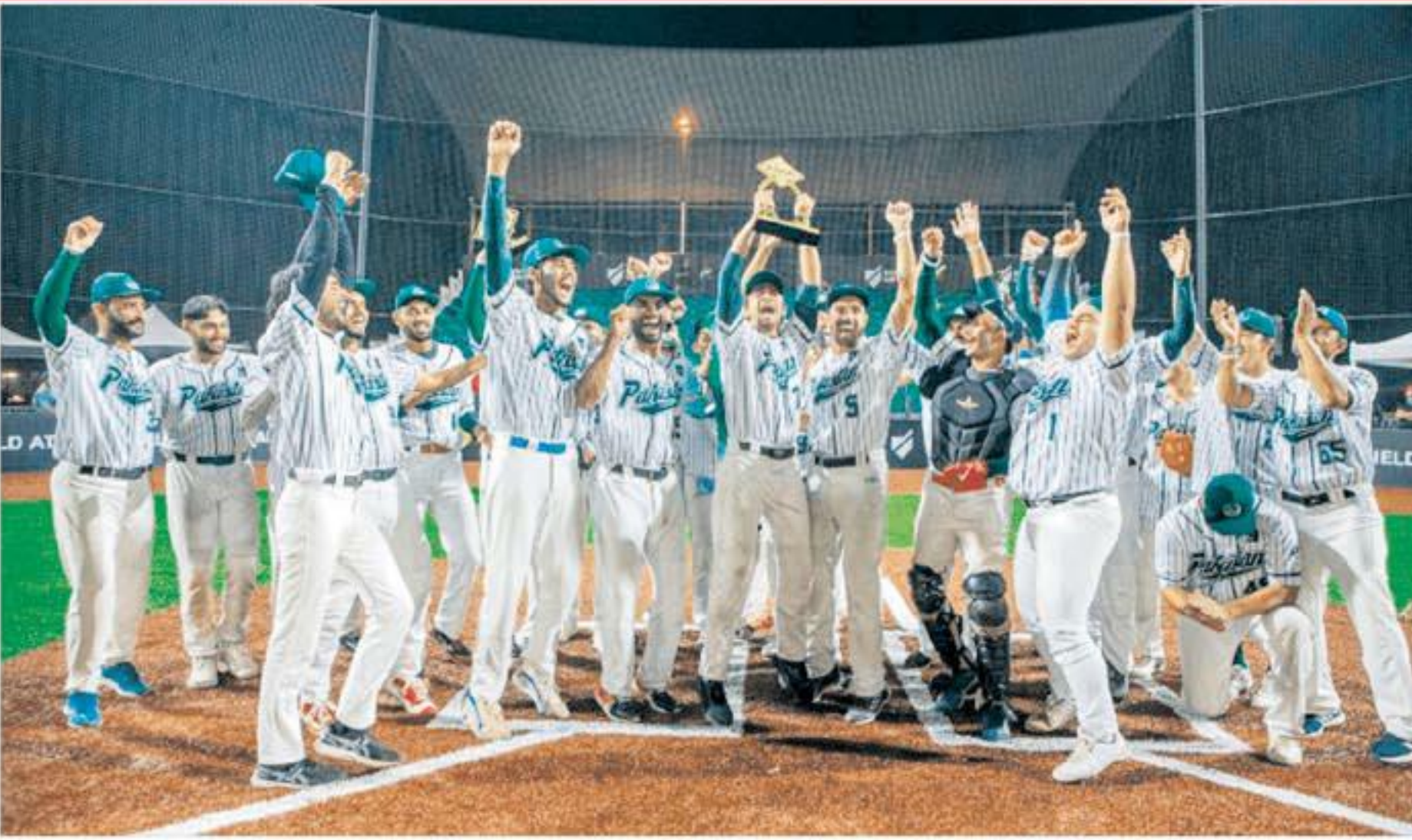
Dawn understands that the government may go on to ask the PCB to refuse playing against India in any of the ICC or Asian Cricket Council tournaments until issues are resolved between India and Pakistan at the government level.

Amid political tensions between the two neighbours, the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) has stood firm by the Indian government's policy of not engaging with Pakistan in terms of bilateral cricket over the years.

However, after having played the last bilateral series against each other in 2012, Pakistan and India have competed in ICC tournaments and the Asia Cup. Pakistan, in fact, visited India to feature in the ICC World Cup last year.

The visit, if anything, heightened expectations of India returning the favour by touring Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, which is set to be held in Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi from Feb 19 to March 9 next year.

India's refusal to travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup, which the latter hosted last year, saw the PCB compromise by implementing the "hybrid model", which saw Rohit Sharma's side play its matches in Sri Lanka, with only four matches of the tournament played in Pakistan, excluding the final.



Pakistan celebrate their victory over UAE at the Baseball United Arab Classic

Pakistan remain unbeaten to win Baseball United Arab Classic 2024

SPORTS DESK

Pakistan thrashed hosts UAE 12-1 to take home the trophy at the inaugural Baseball United Arab Classic on Sunday, remaining undefeated throughout the tournament.

A total of nine nations took part in the tournament held at the Baseball United Ballpark at The Sevens in Dubai. Pakistan began the series with a 10-0 win over Bangladesh, followed by a commanding 10-3 win over the United Arab Emirates in Dubai on Friday.

Pakistan then recorded back-to-back victories against India (12-0) and Afghanistan (17-3) to enter the semi-finals.

Muhammad Hussain was named MVP (Most Valuable Player) for the tournament.

Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the team.

"Pakistan's victory in a sport that is not widely played back home has taken everyone by surprise. This win reflects the determination, skill, and dedication of our athletes," Tirmizi was quoted as saying in a statement posted on X by Pakistan's Embassy in the UAE.

He emphasised that this success strengthens Pakistan's sports reputation internationally. "We look forward to more such achievements and to furthering the spirit of sportsmanship between our nations," he added.

Hussain Muhammad, Consul General along with other diplomats of the Pakistan Consulate in Dubai, were present at the stadium. While celebrating the remarkable win, the Consul General congratulated the players and management of the team for their efforts and dedication, the statement added.

"Congratulations to Pakistan on their incredible victory," said Kash Shaikh, Chairman, CEO, and Co-Founder, of Baseball United.

"This was the largest and most competitive baseball tournament in the history of the region, and the Pakistan team showed they are not only one of Asia's top teams, but they are on the path

to compete with the best baseball-playing nations in the world. Congratulations to Manager, Syed Shah, the entire team, and the country of Pakistan on this impressive championship."

Baseball United is the first professional baseball league focused on the Middle East and the Subcontinent and was founded in 2022, according to its website.

Chelsea and Arsenal draw 1-1 in lively London derby

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Chelsea and Arsenal shared the spoils in a tense and at times bruising 1-1 battle at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, keeping the London sides level in the Premier League, but still nine points adrift of leaders Liverpool.

Gabriel Martinelli put the visitors in front in the 60th minute, turning in a neatly lifted ball from Martin Odegaard, whose influence on his return from injury proved crucial after the Gunners' fail-u-re to score in their last two games.

Chelsea equalised 10 minutes later when substitute Enzo Fernandez pushed the ball to the ever-lively Pedro Neto just outside the Arsenal area and the Portuguese stepped to one side and shot low to David Raya's left.

The result lifted Chelsea to third and Arsenal to fourth in the table, both on 19 points.

In Sunday's earlier matches, Manchester United recorded a 3-0 win over Leicester City while Ipswich Town stunned Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 for their first Premier League victory in 22 years.

Third-placed Nottingham Forest's fine run came to an end in a 3-1 home defeat to Newcastle United.

Under Interim coach Ruud van Nistelrooy United are on a four-game unbeaten run since the sacking of Erik ten Hag.

Bruno Fernandes smashed in his fourth goal in four games and created the second goal as his glancing touch deflected off Leicester defender Victor Kristiansen for an own goal.

Alejandro Garnacho came off the bench and scored with a stunning strike into the top corner to round off the scoring.

United remain down in 13th but are now just three points off fifth.

Meanwhile, Spurs were finally made to pay for their slow starts at home as they went behind for the 13th time in 15 Premier League games at home this year.

Ipswich's Sammie Szmodics opened the scoring with an overhead kick on 31 minutes and Liam Delap doubled the visitors' lead.

Rodrigo Bentancur reduced the arrears for Spurs with a powerful header but they fell to a fifth league defeat in 11 games. Ipswich move out of the relegation zone, while Spurs slip to 10th. At the City Ground, Forest, who are only behind Liverpool and Manchester City at the top of the table, took the lead through Muri-Illo's towering header from Anthony Elanga's free-kick.



LONDON: Chelsea's Pedro Neto (R) scores during the Premier League match against Arsenal at Stamford Bridge.

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Time to deliver

COUNTRIES, big and small, are gathering today in Baku, Azerbaijan, for COP29. Pakistan's participation in the climate summit will centre on three daily events at its pavilion, focusing on climate justice, energy transition, and gender-responsive climate policies. We will showcase our commitment to climate adaptation and sustainability with national initiatives such as the Living Indus project and Recharge Pakistan. However, the real challenge lies in securing meaningful financial support for these programmes. Never has it been more urgent to take climate action. While developed nations are trumpeting a rise in international public adaptation financing from \$22bn in 2021 to \$28bn in 2022, the truth is it is a meagre increase. For Pakistan alone, the World Bank estimates a need of \$348bn by 2030 for climate resilience. Add to this the current pledges to the Loss and Damage Fund, which stands at a mere \$770m, and it is clear that global financial commitments are grossly inadequate.

Senator Sherry Rehman's call for 'Internationally Determined Contributions' from developed nations in aid of climate-vulnerable countries deserves serious consideration at COP29. The fact is that countries like Pakistan, which hardly contribute to global emissions, bear disproportionate climate impacts. The devastating floods of 2022, causing \$30bn in damage, and this year's severe cross-border smog in Punjab show our vulnerability to sudden disasters and chronic pollution.

This year's discussions will focus on creating a new climate finance goal that surpasses the previous \$100bn annual commitment set by the Paris Agreement. Developing nations are advocating for climate finance to be provided with major concessions or as grants, instead of the typical loans, to alleviate their growing debt burdens. Azerbaijan's proposed \$1bn Climate Finance Action Fund, funded by fossil fuel producers, aims to support disaster response and community initiatives, offering a fresh approach to financing.

Pakistan's government seems to be concerned about our participation at the summit. The parliamentary committee on climate change has stressed transparency and measurable outcomes. In the long run, success will require more than just government action. The private sector must be engaged and provincial climate initiatives strengthened.

The Global Climate Finance Framework, already signed by 15 nations, offers Pakistan an opportunity to strengthen its position in climate negotiations.

By Dr.Khula Walayat

"Trump Cards and Trapped Dreams: PTI's Spectacular Mirage of a Trump Rescue"

Picture this: Trump waltzes back into the Oval Office, and Pakistan's PTI throws a full-blown party, complete with fireworks and maybe even a commemorative mural. They're waiting for the "Trump Rescue Package" like it's some mystical raincloud ready to quench Pakistan's parched economy. But hold on—did someone miss the memo on the last four years? Trump, the very same guy who axed U.S. aid to Pakistan and barely looked back, is somehow supposed to reemerge as Islamabad's ATM? PTI supporters might as well be expecting a camel to win the Kentucky Derby.

The fantasy here is downright cinematic: Trump, famous for his "America First" and "what's-in-it-for-me" style of diplomacy, will now shed his transactional persona just to help out Pakistan? Let's get real: Trump's generosity is about as reliable as a Wi-Fi signal in a thunderstorm. If he even considers sending "support," it'll come in packaging with more fine print than an insurance contract. PTI, get ready, because any "aid" from Trump will be wrapped up in conditions so tight you'll need a crowbar to get out of them. If there's one thing the PTI faithful should know by now, it's that Trump's idea of cooperation is roughly akin to the fox guarding the henhouse.

Then, there's the PTI's dazzling belief that Trump will somehow help them "balance" between the U.S. and China, as if he's a diplomat extraordinaire. Well, wake up and smell the biryani, because Trump's playbook with allies typically boils down to three words: pick a side. And if he had his way, the "side" would most certainly not be China's. Pakistan, already juggling its "iron brother" relationship with China and whatever is left of its "strategic partnership" with the U.S., could soon find itself getting a brutal reality check.

With Trump back at the helm, Pakistan might be staring down a choice fit for a twisted game show. Imagine it now: "Who Wants to Be a U.S. Ally (Terms and Conditions Apply)?" Pakistan will have to "rethink" its relationship with China—a delicate way of saying "stand down or stand alone." PTI supporters might

think this is some grand diplomatic victory, but in reality, it's more like being asked to pick your poison. Go with China and risk losing critical U.S. funding, or stay cozy with the U.S. and face China's wrath.

Then, we have PTI's daydream that Trump will wave a magic wand over Pakistan's economy. This isn't Hogwarts, and Trump doesn't do philanthropy. His "support," if it arrives, will likely be wrapped in demands that would give a seasoned negotiator whiplash. He won't just send a blank check; he'll be writing a list of "dos and don'ts" that could rival a tax code. PTI's faithful might imagine a Trump-led economic renaissance, but in reality, they'll likely get a carefully calculated "deal" that helps precisely one party: Trump's America.

And, of course, the PTI faithful aren't just hoping for economic miracles—they're expecting Trump's love to extend to the Pakistani diaspora, as if his stance on immigration was simply misunderstood. Here's a newsflash: Trump's immigration policy isn't about to soften because of some starry-eyed PTI dream. In all likelihood, Pakistani immigrants could find themselves navigating a thicket of red tape, as Trump's stance on who's welcome hasn't exactly been inclusive. PTI, brace yourselves: thinking Trump is about to welcome Pakistani immigrants with open arms is like expecting a bull to politely excuse itself from a china shop.

Let's get one thing straight—Trump doesn't do anything halfway, and he certainly doesn't do "unconditional."

If he's re-elected, Pakistan's leaders can expect a series of ultimatums wrapped up in diplomatic language as subtle as a neon sign. Pakistan will have to walk a line so fine it might as well be invisible. PTI's "Trump fantasy" is destined to be about as realistic as expecting snow in the Sahara. If the party faithful keep banking on a Trump fairy tale, they're setting themselves up for a harsh wake-up call.

In the end, Pakistan will be stuck holding a deck of "Trump cards," each one more loaded than the last, as they're forced to navigate a choice with stakes higher than a midnight stock market.

By Saddam Hussain and Syed Mohsin Bukhari

Mitochondrial DNA diversity, phylogeography and geographic information system (gis) based distribution of snake fauna from cholistan desert pakistan

The study was carried out in various ecosystems across the Cholistan desert (28.5062° N, 71.5724° E), Punjab, Pakistan figure. The Cholistan Desert is around 480 kilometers long and 32 to 192 kilometers wide. Cholistan Desert's bleak but lovely landscape. Situated about 30 kilometers from Bahawalpur city, Punjab, Pakistan. The Cholistan Desert is separated into two distinct geomorphic zones based on terrain, core material, dust, and vegetation cover. The northern section, known as "Less Cholistan," is confined by the canal irrigation zone and spans 7,770 square kilometers, while the southern region, known as "Greater Cholistan," spans 18,130 square kilometers.

Snake samples were assembled from specific locations inside the Cholistan Desert. Field surveys were made during early morning and evening times and specimens were collected using snake stick. The Tail tip biopsies were collected from specimen with the help of forceps and brought into post graduate lab of microbiology, Department of Wildlife and Ecology, C Block, UVAS, Ravi campus. The data related to samples viz, habitat, date, time, species, sex, distribution, GPS coordinates and location was noted on proformas. Collectively samples were identified using taxonomic identification keys.

To determine mitochondrial DNA diversity and distribution of snakespecies in different habitats of the Cholistan desert. Field surveys were done to collect as many as possible snake species from study area during dawn and dusk time. A total of (n=5) specimens of each species were collected using hand picking method with snake stick, pitfall traps and indirectly by interviewing the local community, volunteer snake friends, reports on road and community kills and encounter during amateur tracking. DNA was extracted from tail tip tissue and internal organs of dead specimen e.g, liver and spleen by using Qiagen amp Tissue Genomic Extraction kit according to manufacturer instructions. Agarose Gel electrophoresis and Nano Drop (2000 and 2000c Thermo Scientific™) was used to check the presence and concentration of extracted DNA.

With the help of the primers 16S rRNA, 12S rRNA and COI primer, the polymerase chain reaction was performed. Each reac-

tion was carried out in a 200 µL epi tube and 25µL of reaction mixture. For the preparation of the 25µL reaction, add 6µL of distilled water, 1µL (25 mM) primer F, 1µL (25 mM) primer R, 12 µL of master mix, and 5µL of DNA sample was mixed. DNA was amplified using primers 16S rRNA, 12S rRNA and COI primer set LCO1490 and HCO2198. The subsequent actions were taken for the amplification of gene. Using a thermal cycler, the initial denaturing stage takes three minutes at 94°C. Thereafter, there are forty cycles of denaturing for thirty seconds at 94°C, primer annealing for thirty seconds at 55°C, and elongation for one minute at 72°C. The last elongation step takes ten minutes at 72°C and infinity at 4°C. The Qiagen PCR purification kit was used to purify the PCR products. After purification of gel from agarose gel following steps are performed according to PCR purification kit instructions. First of all add 5 µL of PB buffer and 1 µL of PCR products then it was turned into yellow, then mix it by vortex. Sample was added into column spin tube and centrifuge for 2 minutes at 14000 rpm. Remove the flow through and set column back at same tube. Now add 750µL of PE buffer and centrifuge for 1-2 minutes at 14000 rpm. Next, insert the column tube into a fresh 1.5 ml eppendorf tube and fill it with 50 µL of EB buffer. Centrifuge it for almost 1 minutes. Purified PCR products were collected after centrifugation and washing with Eb buffer. Again purified PCR products were confirmed and sent to Twist Bioscience China for direct sanger sequence.

Bioedit software 7.0 was used to evaluate and edit/ draw sequences of selected genes. Clustal W was used to align them. Every sample's consensus sequence was run with BLAST (basic local alignment tool search) study to compare the sequence's % identity through search in the National center for biotechnology information (NCBI) DNA databanks.

The closely connected sequences were collected and integrated in Neighbor-joining tree analyses with bootstrap value of 100 repetitions using MEGA X. Mega X was used to calculate genetic distances within and between species based on p-distance.

The specimens were collected throughout one year study that extended from March 2022 to March 2023. A significant

portion of the overall ecological zones that exist there are explored by the study period. There are attempts being made to reveal the concealed prosperity of a description of the Cholistan Desert with special emphasis on the snake fauna. During present field survey total 11 species and 36 specimens of snakes were recorded from different habitats of study area. The relative abundance (Pi) of Eryx johnii 0.14, Platyceps rhodorachis 0.14, Lycodon aulicus 0.08, Ptyas mucosus 0.05, Bungarus caeruleus 0.08, Naja naja 0.05, Echis carinatus 0.11, Eryx conicus 0.11, Spalerosophis diadema 0.05, Eryx tataricus 0.08 and Eryx sistanensis were 0.08 respectively.

A total six species and ten specimens were successfully amplified, sequenced and attained accession numbers from GenBank. After trimming ambiguous bases, the obtained Cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COX1) fragments of Spalerosophis diadema was 645 bp, Eryx sistanensis was 697 bp, Platyceps rhodorachis 696bp, Ptyas macosa 696bp, Bungarus caeruleus 704bp and Eryx tataricus was 657 bp. The summarizes of positive amplified species and the GenBank accession numbers.

In current study, six DNA sequences of Spalerosophis diadema, Eryx sistanensis, Platyceps rhodorachis, Ptyas macosa, Bungarus caeruleus and Eryx tataricus were obtained.

The species identifications provided by these DNA sequences are accurate and distinct of almost all the species specimens. However, few specimens were morphologically identified as Eryx johnii but (COX1) sequence analysis identifies as Eryx sistanensis that is first record of the specie from Pakistan.

Although, closely matched sequences of Cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COX1) were often obtained from blast searches of open databases to check the closeness of species through Neighbor-joining trees. There have been few recent Asian snake DNA barcoding investigations have been accepted and sequences for related snakes were accessible at NCBI.

Neighbor-joining trees of Cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COX1) sequences are based on Kimura 2-parameter distance.

The authors are from Department of Wildlife and Ecology, University of veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore

DAILY MIRROR

Imran's political future uncertain; PTI must engage politically: Rana Sanaullah

INP

MULTAN: In a recent interview, Federal Adviser on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, discussed a range of political issues surrounding the current political landscape in Pakistan, particularly focusing on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and its leader, Imran Khan.

Sanaullah's comments offered a mix of political insights, allegations, and speculation about the future of Pakistan's political environment. Rana Sanaullah, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), emphasized that the political situation in the country could only be resolved through political dialogue.

According to Sanaullah, while the establishment is currently led by a figure who is neither "an eye-winner" nor one to seek "winks," he insisted that political forces need to engage directly with each other. He particularly stressed that PTI must approach political problems through dialogue, acknowledging that Imran Khan himself was largely responsible for his

own political troubles.

Sanaullah made a pointed reference to the ongoing legal challenges faced by Imran Khan, specifically his involvement in the high-profile £190 million case.

He expressed confidence that Khan would eventually be punished in this case, though he refrained from providing further details at this time. "Imran Khan is his own enemy," Sanaullah remarked, suggesting that the PTI leader's actions had brought him to a difficult political juncture.

Further addressing the broader political landscape, Sanaullah revealed that leaders like Mehmood Achakzai and Maulana Fazlur Rehman are in contact with PTI members, indicating that there might be room for political reconciliation, even with political adversaries. He suggested that such discussions were

essential, as political solutions could only be found through engagement and understanding among the political forces.

In a response to a question about the PML-N's stance on historical polit-

ical matters, Sanaullah criticized PTI for its past actions during the 26th Constitutional Amendment, suggesting that PTI, and particularly Imran Khan, were well aware of the political maneuvers that occurred at that time. He alluded to the idea that PTI members, who once facilitated certain political moves, should now recognize their role in shaping the current political reality and be more accountable to the political process.

Finally, when asked about the political future of PTI's Ali Amin Gandapur, Sanaullah expressed skepticism. He questioned whether Gandapur could recover politically, particularly in light of his recent actions, which seemed driven more by party loyalty than by genuine political conviction.

"Gandapur may recover on his own, but it plays both ways," said Sanaullah, referring to his apparent attempt to please both party leadership and the establishment. He added that some of Gandapur's recent actions, such as trying to influence political outcomes at D-Chowk, reflected a lack of consistency in his approach.



RIYADH: Saudi Investment Minister Engr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Advisor Royal Court Mohammed Al-Tuwaijri call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit.

Quetta Railway Station Blast: Balochistan Govt Observes Three-day Mourning

APP

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has announced to observe three-day mourning, from Monday (today) to Wednesday, over the martyrdom of innocent lives in the recent tragic suicide blast at Quetta Railway Station.

In an official press release, the provincial government said, "The national flag of Pakistan shall fly at half-mast across the province during this period."

The three-day of mourning from November 11-13, on account of the tragic incident of suicide blast Quetta Railway, resulting in the loss of innocent lives and injuries has to express solidarity with bereaved families.

At least 40 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza, medics say

MONITORING DESK

CAIRO: At least 40 Palestinians were killed by Israeli strikes across Gaza, including two dozen when a residential building in the northern town of Jabalia was hit, Palestinian health officials and a human rights group said.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) in Gaza said at least 24 people were killed when an Israeli strike destroyed the three-storey building in Jabalia at dawn. Thirty other people from nearby houses were wounded, PCHR said in a statement.

Footage circulating on social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed about a dozen bodies wrapped in blankets and laid on the ground outside a hospital near Jabalia. Local media said they were the bodies of people killed in the attack on the residential building, which housed at least 30 people, according to residents.

The Israeli military said it struck a site in Jabalia in which "terrorists were operating." "These terrorists posed a threat to IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) troops operating in the area. The details are under review," the Israel military said.

No one can question even if regular bench hears constitutional cases: Justice Shah

INP

ISLAMABAD: During the hearing of a tax-related case in the Supreme Court on Monday, the judges got into a debate over the necessity of a constitutional bench, it reported in media.

Senior judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah raised the question if the regular bench they were on was unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established.

He also remarked that even if the present bench heard the case, no one could question it. "Even if we decide the case, what will happen? If a review plea comes before us, we'll say it's our jurisdiction," he added.

At the outset of the hearing, Justice Ayesha Malik remarked that this case would be heard by the constitutional bench. Justice Shah asked that since there was no constitutional bench as of now, what should be done about the "unconstitutional bench" they were a part of.

"Are we unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established?" he asked, adding that this means constitutional cases would not be heard until the constitutional bench comes into force.

He further remarked that even if this regular bench heard the case, nobody could question it. Even if the regular bench decided the case, who could stop it, he asked further.

"If a review plea comes before us, we will say that it is under our jurisdiction," Justice Shah added.

Justice Malik stated that under Article 2A, the Practice and Procedure Committee would decide whether the case should be assigned to a constitutional or regular bench, but added that it would take time. Justice Shah also acknowledged the need to give the matter more time, suggesting that they wait for clarity on which bench has jurisdiction. The hearing was ultimately adjourned indefinitely.

Shehbaz led PML-N government doesn't have mandate or performance: Abbasi

INP

MURREE: Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the head of the Awam Pakistan Party (APP), has harshly criticized the current central government, claiming it lacks both the mandate and the governance necessary to provide stability in the country.

Speaking with a private TV channel, Abbasi stated that the government believes it has achieved stability due to the incompetence of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), but emphasized that true political power stems from both a legitimate mandate and strong governance, neither of which, according to Abbasi, the current government possesses.

"The government is strong when the country is strong. It is clear that this government does not have either the mandate or the performance," Abbasi said, highlighting that effective governance requires both a solid mandate and the ability to deliver results, which he believes the present administration lacks.

In response to ongoing discussions

regarding the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Abbasi expressed skepticism over the government's expectations of raising 85 billion rupees from the sale of the national carrier. He suggested that the market was not inclined to accept such a high valuation and that a more realistic figure for PIA's privatization would be around 10 billion rupees, which he still considered excessive given the airline's current financial structure.

Abbasi also took aim at the role of the opposition in current Pakistani politics. Criticizing PTI's approach, he argued that the party was more focused on securing the release of its leader, Imran Khan, from prison, rather than addressing the pressing issues facing the nation. "The opposition's primary goal today is not to engage with the country's problems. PTI is obsessed with getting Imran Khan out of jail, and they continue to hope for external intervention, particularly from figures like Donald Trump, to force Pakistan to release him. This is a crude illusion," he remarked.

Imran Khan's family protest may secure his release: Fawad Ch.

INP

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry stated that Imran Khan's family has to lead the protest to secure the release of the PTI founder.

Speaking to a private TV channel program, Chaudhry expressed concern over the lack of revolutionary leadership within PTI, noting that recent strategic decisions were poorly handled.

Chaudhry acknowledged certain mistakes made by the party, emphasizing that PTI's founder had no intent to undermine the party's image.

Reflecting on PTI's Afghan policy stance, he stated that Imran Khan and Fazlur Rehman share similar positions on the matter.

Taking aim at Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Chaudhry alleged that Asif "never speaks the truth" and that PTI's failure to build alliances with other parties.

He further added that Bushra Bibi and Aleema Khan should come forward to clarify matters surrounding Imran Khan's recent actions, stressing that PTI does not support dynastic politics.

Chaudhry also remarked that while current leaders have not encountered the same challenges he and his contemporaries faced.

Denmark announces \$2b investment in Pakistan's maritime sector

APP

ISLAMABAD: Denmark's shipping company, Maersk Line, has announced a landmark investment of two billion dollars in Pakistan's maritime sector. The announcement was made during a meeting between Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh and senior officials from Maersk Line in Islamabad today.

During the meeting, the Minister for Maritime Affairs described this investment as a significant achievement for Pakistan's shipping and logistics industry, highlighting its potential for long-term economic benefits through enhanced cooperation.

Officials from Maersk Line conveyed their confidence in the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, expressing satisfaction with the progress made leading up to this major investment breakthrough.

Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh assured Maersk officials of the Ministry's full support in facilitating their operations and addressing any challenges to ensure a smooth and efficient process for their investment.

Government announces Hajj Policy 2025

APP

ISLAMABAD: One hundred seventy-nine thousand, and two hundred ten Pakistani pilgrims will perform Hajj in 2025.

This was announced by Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain, while unveiling the Hajj Policy 2025 in Islamabad on Monday.

He said the Hajj quota has been divided with a ratio of 50:50 between the government and private Hajj schemes.

The Minister said 89,605 seats have been reserved each for the government and the private Hajj schemes. He said five thousand seats will be kept for sponsorship scheme under the government Hajj Scheme, while 30,000 seats will be allocated to the private hajj tour operators for sponsorship.

He further said it is mandatory to send foreign exchange through the banking channel to participate in the sponsorship scheme.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain clarified that the government sponsorship scheme will operate on a 'first come, first served' basis and will be exempted from balloting. He said the foreign exchange collected through the sponsorship scheme will be used solely for Hajj-related expenses in Saudi Arabia.

The Minister further elaborated that under the Government Hajj Scheme, the traditional long stay will be of 38 to 42 days, and the short stay will be 20 to 25 days. He said each organized private

Hajj group must consist of at least 2,000 pilgrims as per Saudi regulations.

Talking about the Hajj expenses, Chaudhry Salik Hussain said the cost for the Government Hajj Scheme for 2025 is expected to range between 1,075,000 to 1,175,000 rupees, while the additional cost for the sacrifice will be 55,000 rupees.

Regarding pilgrims residences, the Minister said applicants opting for double-bed and triple-bed accommodations in Makkah will need to deposit an additional amount of 220,000 and 75,000 rupees respectively.

He said the first installment of Hajj dues,

amounting to 200,000 rupees, must be deposited along with the Hajj application under the Government Hajj Scheme, while the second installment of 400,000 rupees must be deposited within ten days of the balloting. He further said the remaining amount must be deposited by February 10 next year.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain said there will be no deduction for refunds if an application is withdrawn before the last date of submission. However, there will be a deduction of 50,000 rupees on refund of the first installment after the balloting. A deduction of 200,000 rupees will be made if the third installment is not deposited.

The Minister said no refund of the remaining amount will be made after February 10 next year. However, in case of the applicant's death, the aforementioned deductions will not be applied.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel in a meeting with MPA Jamal Shah Kakar.

Governor announces Computer Sciences Dept for Girls Degree College

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Monday announced the establishment of Computer Sciences Department for Government Girls Degree College Quarry Road Quetta.

He also directed the appointment of qualified faculty for it. He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the convocation of Girls Degree College, Quarry Road Quetta. In the first convocation of the college, 109 talented graduates were awarded BS degrees.

On this occasion, Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan, Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai, Principal Secretary to

Governor Balochistan Hashim Khan Ghalzai, Principal Girls College Prof. Dr. Sheerin Gul Kakar, representatives of the education department, education experts, parents and a large number of students were present. Addressing the participants of the convocation, Governor Balochistan said that Quetta city is playing an important role in the education of the province which meets 40 percent of the educational needs of the entire province.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to increase the necessary facilities to make it an effective and active educational center, he said. He said that the convocation is indeed a joyous occasion for the graduates, their parents and the teachers of the respective educational institution.

Trump asks Putin to avoid Ukraine war escalation

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and advised him not to escalate the Ukraine war, a source familiar with the conversation told Reuters, as President Joe Biden plans to urge Trump not to abandon Kyiv.

Trump and Putin spoke in recent days, said the source. Trump spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Wednesday. Trump has criticised the scale of US military and financial support for Kyiv, vowing to end the war quickly, without saying how.

Ukraine's foreign ministry said it was not informed in advance of the call between Trump and Putin and subsequently could neither endorse or object to it.

"We do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders," said Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, when asked about the phone call, which was first reported by The Washington Post.

The Russian embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Republican Trump will take office on Jan 20 after defeating Vice President

Kamala Harris in the Nov 5 presidential election. Biden has invited Trump to come to the Oval Office on Wednesday, the White House said.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday that Biden's top message will be his commitment to ensure a peaceful transfer of power, and he will also talk to Trump about what's happening in Europe, in Asia and the Middle East.

"President Biden will have the opportunity over the next 70 days to make the case to the Congress and to the incoming administration that the United States should not walk away from Ukraine, that walking away from Ukraine means more instability in Europe," Sullivan told CBS News' "Face the Nation" show.

Sullivan's comments came as Ukraine attacked Moscow on Sunday with at least 34 drones, the biggest drone strike on the Russian capital since the beginning of the war.

When asked if Biden would ask Congress to pass legislation to authorize more funding for Ukraine, Sullivan deferred.

"I'm not here to put forward a specific legislative proposal. President Biden will make the case that we do need ongoing resources for Ukraine beyond the end of his term," Sullivan said.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Irfan Neziroglu, the newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Pakistan called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at the Finance Division.