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In a first, Supreme Court's constitutional bench hears decades-old pending cases

"Leave Qazi sahib alone," says bench, dismissing plea challenging appointment of ex-CJP Isa as BHC CJ

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The six-member constitutional bench on Thursday started hearing cases that have been pending in the Supreme Court for years, in Court Room No 3, aiming to clear the large backlog and provide justice to petitioners.

This marks the first hearing of cases by the new bench, constituted under the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

The Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan-led bench is to hear around 34 cases as per the cause list for November 14 and 15. Eighteen of these cases are scheduled for hearing today, with the remaining 16 set for Friday (tomorrow).

With Justice Khan in the lead, the constitutional bench includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi,

Justice Musarrat Hilali, and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

Owing to the unavailability of Justice Ayesha A Malik on November 14 and 15, a relevant committee decided that a bench comprising all available judges should be constituted to proceed with cases on these dates.

The bench is also hearing environment-related cases, including some that have been pending in the Supreme Court since 1993.

A review petition against the dismissal of a case challenging the nomination of Justice Qazi Faez Isa as Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court, filed by Advocate Riaz Hanif Rai, was also addressed by the bench.

The bench additionally took up a plea seeking rescheduling of the 2024 elections, with a request before the court for elections to be held between February and March.



Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti presided over the progress review meeting on development projects.

Pakistan, Hungary will establish hotline to resolve issues

APP

HUNGARIAN: Pakistan and Hungary will establish a hotline to resolve illegal immigration and other issues.

This agreement was reached during a meeting between Interior Mohsin Naqvi and his Hungarian counterpart Sándor Pintér in Budapest today.

It was decided that the hotline will be established between the interior ministries of both the countries. Besides, the two sides engaged in fruitful discussions on matters of mutual interest and cooperation in various fields. The Interior Minister thanked his Hungarian counterpart for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made by the Hungarian Government for the 7th Ministerial Conference of Budapest Process.

It was agreed to celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between

Pakistan and Hungary in a grand manner next year.

The Interior Minister, on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, invited the Hungarian Prime Minister to visit Pakistan in 2025 on the occasion of the completion of 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Mohsin Naqvi also invited his Hungarian counterpart to visit Pakistan, who accepted this invitation.

On the proposal of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a high-level Hungarian delegation will visit Pakistan to prevent illegal immigration and encourage legal immigration. The Hungarian delegation will provide assistance in various fields, including illegal immigration and human trafficking. The delegation from Budapest will prepare a report and the Hungarian Interior Minister will visit Pakistan to finalize cooperation in this regard.

2 soldiers martyred, 3 terrorists killed in Balochistan operation: ISPR



APP

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers were martyred, while three terrorists were killed during an operation in Balochistan's Harnai district, the military's media wing said on Thursday.

According to a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), "On 14 Nov 2024, on [the] reported presence of terrorists planning to target innocent civilians

in Harnai District, security forces under Major Muhammad Haseeb were immediately mobilised to sanitise the area."

It added: "Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resolutely three terrorists were sent to hell.

"However, during the operation, an improvised explosive device exploded on the leading vehicle of security forces, resulting, Major Muhammad Haseeb (28), a brave officer, who was leading his troops from the front, along with Havildar Noor Ahmed (38), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat."

The security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging the peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, the statement concluded, the statement added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar Thursday met with Governor of Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Fazlur Rehman denies involvement in efforts for Imran Khan's release

JUI-F also condemned the incident with Khawaja Asif in London, calls for lawful action

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman has clarified that he has no role in the efforts to secure the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Speaking to the media, Fazlur Rehman said that while he has always advocated for constitutional and democratic principles, he was not involved in any negotiations or activities related to Imran Khan's release.

Fazlur Rehman further criticised the broader political landscape, stating that the weakness of democracy in Pakistan is largely due to the actions of the country's politicians.

He emphasised that many politicians had compromised on democratic values for their personal gains, undermining the foundation of the country's political system.

He also condemned the recent incident involving Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif in London. Rehman asserted that it was the responsibility of the UK authorities to handle the matter in accordance with the law.

On the issue of the US's influence on Pakistan's politics, Rehman reiterated that Pakistan should avoid interference in US politics and likewise, should not allow foreign entities to meddle in its own internal matters.

He remarked that whether it is the Republican Party or the

Diplomats in the US, the country's policies remain consistent and do not directly impact Pakistan's political sovereignty.

Fazlur Rehman reiterated his opposition to the imprisonment of any politician.

He expressed his belief that, rather than relying on political manoeuvres, Pakistan's political system should strengthen democracy and the rule of law.

Previously, Fazlur Rehman had condemned the amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act, labelling them as an affront to democracy and a violation of human rights.



Pakistan rejects 'agenda-driven report' asserting China seeks joint security for its citizens

FO says Islamabad, Beijing hold dialogue based on mutual cooperation and respect each other's sovereignty

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has categorically rejected a media report suggesting Beijing urging Islamabad to allow its own security staff for the protection of thousands of Chinese citizens working in the South Asian nation following the Karachi airport bombing.

Beijing had asked Pakistan to "allow its own security staff for Chinese citizens" during talks after a car bombing in Karachi that was seen as "a major security breach", Reuters reported this on Monday quoting sources. Two Chinese citizens among three people were killed in a suicide blast near Karachi airport last month and a banned outfit — Balochistan Liberation Army's (BLA) Majeed Brigade — claimed its responsibility via social media. Reacting to the report at her weekly press briefing on Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch rejected the news report as

"speculation" and "motivated by agenda". She urged the media to ascertain the motives behind such stories. Baloch added that both Pakistan and China had robust dialogue and cooperation based on mutual cooperation and respect for each other's sovereignty as being the iron brothers and strategic partners. "Both countries had the resolve and capabilities to foil any attempt to harm their bilateral relations," she added. The Reuters report claimed that a series of attacks on Chinese citizens have "pushed Pakistan to begin formal negotiations for a joint security management system".

'Pakistan patience must not be tested'

As Pakistan witnessed a surge in terrorist attacks since the Taliban returned to power in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021, Islamabad has reiterated its call for the Afghan authorities to take action against the groups or individuals involved in terror activities against Pakistan, warning that they should not test the patience of the Pakistani people.

National polio tally reaches 49 after fresh case reported in Balochistan

INP

QUETTA: Pakistan has confirmed its 49th case of wild poliovirus (WPV1) for 2024, with the latest case reported from Jaffarabad district in Balochistan.

The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad confirmed the detection on Thursday, November 14.

Genetic sequencing of the virus samples collected indicates a connection to the WPV1 strain detected in Pishin earlier this year.

This is the first reported polio case from Jaffarabad, which shares borders with Nasirabad, Jhal Magsi, Jacobabad, and Kambar districts, all of which have recently reported WPV1 presence in sewage samples or human cases.

Balochistan remains the most affected province in 2024, with 24 reported cases. Sindh has reported 13 cases, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 10, and Punjab and Islamabad one case each.

Health authorities continue to encourage widespread vaccination to control the virus, urging parents to ensure their children receive multiple doses of the oral polio vaccine.

Bilawal upset over PML-N-led govt's 'failure to ensure equal representation in JCP'

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that he opted out of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), reconstituted after the enactment of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, after the PML-N-led government "failed to fulfil its promise" to ensure equal representation in the top judicial body.

"I withdrew my name from the [JCP] in protest as the incumbent government did not fulfil the promise regarding equal representation made at the time of the [26th] amendment," he said in an informal conversation with journalists in Karachi.

In response to a question

regarding the nomination of all the existing Sindh High Court judges to be the judges of constitutional benches, Bilawal said had he been present in the JCP meeting, he would have sought clarification over the "indifferent" attitude towards his province.

On Nov 8, the second JCP meeting endorsed the proposal put forth by SHC Chief Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui that all the existing high court judges were nominated to be the judges of constitutional benches to clear the backlog of cases. The PPP chief, while talking to journalists today, pointed out that a counter suggestion was put forward in a meeting that every sitting judge of the Supreme Court should be part of the constitutional bench.

Terrorists Deserve No Leniency: Deputy Chairman Senate

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan on Thursday said that terrorists deserve no leniency and can never weaken Pakistan's resolve against terrorism.

During his visit to those injured in the recent Quetta railway station attack at CMH Quetta, he offered prayers for their swift recovery and extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs.

Syedaal stressed that terrorists will not succeed in their malicious objectives and vowed that they would soon face justice.

He affirmed the government's commitment to prosecuting all those who threaten national sovereignty, commending the vital role of security forces in combating terrorism.

He also highlighted Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's dedication to Balochistan's development, noting the province's strides toward economic growth.

Condemning the Quetta railway station attack as a cowardly act by those who feel threatened by Balochistan's progress, Syedaal reiterated his commitment to ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Qatar lauds Pakistan's role in regional peace, stability

APP

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, on an official visit to Qatar, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Qatar Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al-Thani in Doha.

The Chairman also held a separate meeting with Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces.

During the interaction, both sides discussed evolving regional dynamics and expressed mutual commitment for enhancing bilateral cooperation between both countries.

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza highlighted strong brotherly relations between Pakistan and Qatar, and reaffirmed commitment to further strengthening military-to-military cooperation in defence and security domains.

Qatari leadership acknowledged the positive role of Pakistan in ensuring regional stability and appreciated the professionalism and sacrifices of Pakistan Armed Forces in fight against terrorism.

Int'l community should honor its commitments regarding climate change: Tarar

APP

BAKU: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday called upon the international community to honor the commitments made in the Paris Agreement and on the occasions of COP27 and COP28.

"The international community should honor their commitments so that the lives and property of people could be protected by building climate resilient infrastructure," said the minister while talking to the media during his visit to the Pakistan's Pavilion at COP29 in Baku.

Flanked by Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and a young climate activist Zunaira, Atta Tarar said the climate change is the biggest threat to the lives and property of the people in Pakistan and the government has been taking concerted measures to protect the people and culture from its affects.

The minister cited the recent flash floods due to heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan, and melting glaciers due to the global warming as an example. "The climate change is affecting our people, rendering them shelter less and damaging their crops and livestock," he added.

He said Pakistan has only been contributing 0.5 per cent to the carbon emissions, while there were other countries that had major contribution in this regard.

As regards the Pakistan's pavilion, he termed it vibrant which has been receiving people of international stature who were being sensitized about the damage unleashed by the climate change on Pakistan, and also about the need for establishing the climate finance fund for the country.

To a query, he said every country should have climate finance strategy which would enable donor agencies and developed countries to fund the vulnerable countries as per the existing structure.

The Minister also introduced to the media the young climate activist from Balochistan, saying Zunaira is a voice of Balochistan.

He said Zunaira has been highlighting climate change effects on education in Balochistan. She is an accomplished individual who has contributed to policy paper of the United Nations.

The government, he said, would provide her full support so that she could represent Pakistan including Balochistan at international fora.

"We are proud of you and keep up the good work," he said while appreciating her and calling her as bright future of Pakistan.

Azam Nazir Tarar Meets Governor Balochistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar Thursday met with Governor of Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and MNA Jamal Shah to discuss legal and political issues of the province.

The meeting focused on Balochistan's legal framework, welfare of the legal community, and a range of regional matters impacting the province's development and stability.

HBL Bank Faces Severe Backlash Over Ineffective Online Services and Mishandling of Overseas Clients

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: HBL Bank, one of Pakistan's largest and oldest financial institutions, is under heavy fire as frustration among its customers continues to surge. Clients across the board, particularly overseas Pakistanis who rely on HBL's services for their remittances and financial needs, are voicing their anger over the bank's consistent failures. The criticism has reached a fever pitch, with countless reports highlighting that HBL's online portal is plagued by inefficiencies and chronic outages.

"Enough is enough," says a long-time overseas client who relies on the Roshan Digital Account for crucial transactions. "HBL's so-called digital solutions are nothing but a headache."

The platform is unreliable, and any attempts to raise complaints are met with radio silence. The sentiment is echoed by thousands of others who report that their grievances are either ignored or dismissed without resolution.

The Roshan Digital Account, which was marketed as a game-changer for overseas Pakistanis wishing to invest and contribute

to their homeland, has become a source of sheer frustration. Many customers claim that the account, which should have provided seamless service and convenience, has instead devolved into an ordeal characterized by delayed responses and subpar customer support. These overseas Pakistanis, who contribute billions of dollars in remittances—the backbone of Pakistan's economy—are now questioning their trust in HBL.

"Why should we send our hard-earned money back home when we're treated like this?" another dissatisfied customer lamented. The lack of efficiency in handling accounts and providing prompt assistance has left many feeling betrayed by an institution that once promised reliability and innovation.

The outrage is not unwarranted. In today's age of digital banking, the expectation for basic online functionality and effective customer service should be standard, not a luxury.

However, HBL seems to have turned a blind eye to the needs of its most vital clients, opting instead to operate under outdated practices that show little concern for the customer experience.



QUETTA: Federal Levies Employee Balochistan head Prof Saher Haider Sherani addressing a press conference.

Gwadar Free Zone to receive uninterrupted water supply

INP

Gwadar: An agreement has been inked for uninterrupted water supply to local and foreign enterprises in Gwadar North Free Zone.

Under the agreement, there will be tripartite arrangement among Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), and China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) the operator of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone.

It establishes pricing terms based on two separate water supply sources in Gwadar.

Under the agreement, the competitive commercial price is fixed at \$3.30 per ton from the first source; the fully operational 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant that serves the North Free Zone.

A 11.3-kilometer water supply pipeline has already been laid for this purpose.

The second water source, from the GDA's airport water

tank, will provide water at \$1 per ton to the North Free Zone.

The water tank, constructed at a cost of Rs 6 million, has already started storing water from Sawar Dam and Shadi Kor Dam.

GPA has laid a 5.5-kilometer pipeline to connect the water tank to the North Free Zone.

Speaker urges govt, civil society, and media to work together in raising awareness

APP

ISLAMABAD: Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday called the government, civil society, and media to work together in raising awareness and educating the public about diabetes.

In a message on World Diabetes Day, Sadiq said alarming rise in diabetes rates worldwide, including in Pakistan, is a matter of great concern. Pakistan's cuisine

He emphasized the primary reason for the spread of diabetes is lack of awareness among the public.

Raising awareness and educating people on diabetes prevention and its adverse effects on health is essential, he added. Sadiq highlighted that the widespread consumption of unhealthy foods and lack of physical activity are accelerating the spread of diabetes.



Participants are holding awareness walk on the occasion of National Diabetes Day organized by Health Department, at Civil Hospital in Quetta

Romina lauds Acumen climate action fund to transform agriculture

APP

BAKU: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam lauded the Acumen Climate Action Fund for Pakistan as a significant milestone in enhancing the country's agricultural resilience. Pakistan's cuisine

She made these remarks at the event "Acumen's Climate Action Fund for Pakistan," held at the Pakistan Pavilion during the COP29 summit in Baku on Thursday.

She explained that the fund focuses on providing patient capital to agri-businesses, especially small-holder farmers who make up 90% of Pakistan's agricultural workforce.

Given Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change—expected to reduce agricultural productivity by 8-10% by 2040—this initiative is critical to ensuring food security and promoting.

Country's Unemployment Rate Stands at 6.3pc, Youth Most Affected: NA Body Told

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The unemployment rate in Pakistan stands at 6.3 percent, with the highest percentage affecting youth aged 15-34, Secretary of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development told the National Assembly Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development chaired by Junaid Akbar here Thursday.

In an online briefing to the Committee, the Secretary highlighted the importance of remittances from the Pakistani diaspora as a crucial source of income for the coun-

try. He emphasized that the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOP & HRD) could play a pivotal role in national development by focusing on skilled labor and leveraging the diaspora's potential to drive investment and knowledge transfer back to Pakistan.

The Secretary also discussed the ongoing demand for overseas workers, the diversification of skills to meet employers' needs and the improvements in the governance of the emigration process to reduce response times. He further informed the Committee about institutional restructuring efforts aimed at boost-

ing remittances, promoting investment, and engaging the diaspora effectively to support national development. Besides Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, the meeting was attended by Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Zaman, Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Nasir Iqbal Bhosal, Zilfiqar Ali Behan, Syed Rafiqullah, Ms. Shahida Rehmani, Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto, Farhan Chishti, Muhammad Ilyas Choudhary, Sahibzada Sibghatullah, Sajid Khan, Ms. Saba Sadiq MNA's and senior officers from the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

Pak-Lebanon Shares Historical Relations: Rana Mashhood

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Thursday expressed hope that peace would be restored soon in Lebanon.

During a meeting with the Lebanese Ambassador Ghassan El Khatib to discuss various initiatives and collaborations aimed at empowering the youth of both countries, he said that Pakistan and Lebanon shared a history of friendly and cooperative relations rooted in shared cul-

tural and religious values.

He emphasized his long-standing commitment to youth affairs, having served in this domain since 2002. He added that though Lebanon was currently experiencing a difficult period, the miseries of the Lebanese people would soon be resolved.

Mashhood said that Pakistan attaches special importance to Lebanon and that both countries enjoy excellent cooperation at various multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the OIC.



QUETTA: Employee of Agriculture Department Farzana Ali addressing a press conference.



Pakistan seek to replicate ODI show in T20s against Aussies

SPORTS D ESK

BRISBANE: Fresh from a rare yet emphatic One-day International series triumph in Australia, Pakistan take on the hosts in a three-match T20 International rubber starting here at the Gabba on Thursday. The Mohammad Rizwan-led Green shirts came back after losing the first ODI to stun Australia 2-1 in a three-game series.

Though Australia's side largely comprised youngsters which lowered the profile of Pakistan's ODI series win Down Under after 22 years, the tourists with their impressive all-round performance on the ground showed they meant business under the new white-ball captain.

And Rizwan naturally sounded optimistic about the T20 series against Australia, maintaining the team would want to continue with the momentum they had developed in the ODI series.

"Right now, our focus is on the current [T20] series and how we can field the best [playing] XI. We're working on it and have something in mind for that," Rizwan said while talking to media in Brisbane.

"We are confident after beating Australia in the ODI series but international cricket is always challenging so we aim to do things as better as we can, going into this T20 series against Australia," he added.

"We have determined the roles of various players in the team and look forward to executing our best plans not just in this series but also in the upcoming white-ball fixtures against Zimbabwe and South Africa.

"My intent is to keep everyone in the group involved and positive about the game. Of course, the conditions have helped the bowlers on this tour so far but we also want to prove our mettle as a batting unit and I look forward to an exciting contest in the three matches," Rizwan further said.

Responding to a question about Pakistan's line-up for the first game, the wicketkeeper/batter maintained an air of mystery, saying that the team management had chosen to keep it confidential for now.

"There's been a lot of talk about the playing XI, but we've kept it a secret for now because there are some things I want to keep to myself," Rizwan said. "Once the decisions are finalised, we'll share them."

On the opening pair, Rizwan insisted the team's focus on stability and consistency while also addressing key areas for improvement.

"We always aim to stick with what's working best, while also focusing on areas that need improvement," he added. "I always try to consult with others and make decisions that are in the best interest of Pakistan."

Leading a squad with fresh faces, Rizwan acknowledged the impact of senior players' absence — such as Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Amir, Imad Wasim and Ifkhar Ahmed — whose experience had been pivotal for Pakistan in T20s.

"The names you've mentioned, it's not easy to fill the gap they have left. You can't replace them overnight; it takes time," the skipper stated. "All four have contributed a lot, and it's hard to say how long it will take to fully fill their roles in our line-up."

NO SECOND-STRING SQUAD

Josh Inglis, Australia's stand-in T20 captain, opened up about the criticism over the management announcing a second-string squad for the shortest-format series against Pakistan. The wicket-keeper/batter said that certain decisions are 'above his pay-grade' and highlighted that certain players were needed for the other format as well, looking at the scheduling.



Australia's Nathan Ellis (R) bowls during the first Twenty20 international cricket match between Australia and Pakistan at The Gabba in Brisbane.

Australia dominates Pakistan in truncated T20I series-opener

SPORTS D ESK

Veteran batter Glenn Maxwell returned to form before quicks Xavier Bartlett and Nathan Ellis claimed three wickets apiece as Australia downed Pakistan by 29 runs in a truncated T20I series-opener in Brisbane on Thursday.

The match was reduced to a contest with seven overs per side after a delayed start due to heavy rain and lightning.

After Maxwell's blistering 43 off 19 balls powered a shorthanded Australia to an imposing 93-4, Pakistan's batting-order crumbled under lights to finish well short on 64-9.

Ellis and Bartlett, who both enjoyed successful comebacks to the side after recent injuries, led an aggressive attack.

It was a resounding performance from an Australia side missing several top players, who are preparing for the upcoming blockbuster Test series against India.

"We almost had our bags packed because we thought we wouldn't get a game in," Maxwell said. "We certainly had a lot of fun out there."

The series shifts to the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday before the finale in Hobart on Monday.

"It's difficult to keep things normal in this type of match because it went very fast," Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan said.

Under the revised playing conditions, bowlers were not allowed to bowl more than two overs each in a match that started more than two hours after schedule due to thunderstorms that have lashed Brisbane in recent days.

Pakistan had been buoyed after a surprising recent 2-1 ODI series victory ended a 22-year drought against the Australians in Australia.

But after new T20 captain Rizwan elected to bowl, Pakistan's in-form fast bowlers were under siege against Australia's aggressive batters going for broke.

Openers Jake Fraser-McGurk and Matt Short set the tone by smashing 16 runs off the first over.

Fraser-McGurk (9) fell off the first ball in the second over by quick Naseem Shah before Maxwell took over with four boundaries in his first six deliveries faced.

Maxwell's trademark inventiveness came to the fore as he smashed in-form quick Haris Rauf, his tormentor in the ODI series, for a huge six over deep midwicket.

The 36-year-old appeared headed for a half-century before being out to pacesman Abbas Afridi in the sixth over.

Allrounder Marcus Stoinis finished Australia's innings strongly with an unbeaten 21 off seven balls.

In reply, Pakistan opener Sahibzada Farhan signalled his intent with consecutive boundaries off left-arm quick Spencer Johnson to start the innings.

But he fell two balls later after miscuing a pull short and Pakistan's chase

quickly nosedived. Rizwan fell for a second ball duck off Bartlett, who later in the second over dismissed Usman Khan.

When talisman Babar Azam (3) holed out second ball to Ellis, Pakistan crashed to 16-4 and they never were in the hunt despite late hitting from Abbas, who top-scored with an unbeaten 20 off 10 balls.

Alcaraz beats Rublev to open ATP Finals account

SPORTS D ESK

TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz opened his account at the ATP Finals on Wednesday with an entertaining 6-3, 7-6 (10/8) win over Andrey Rublev which boosted his hopes of reaching the semi-finals.

World number three Alcaraz comfortably defeated Rublev to lift himself off the bottom of the John Newcombe Group and looked in much better form despite struggling with fatigue and illness in the lead-up to the match.

There had been some doubt as to whether Alcaraz, who lost his opening match in straight sets to Casper Ruud, would continue in Turin after quickly ending his training session on Tuesday, with his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero saying that he had trouble breathing.

"I could be better, I'm not going to lie," said Alcaraz on court after beating Rublev.

"I've been struggling with my health the last week and today I thought I was going to feel better. I was OK to play, but thinking about the first match I was thinking a lot about that I was sick, that I couldn't play."

"Today I really wanted to step on the court and just think about tennis, try to play a high level ... When I played the first match I felt like I did not entertain the people, I did not play good tennis."

Alcaraz, who has won the Wimbledon and French Open titles this season, cruised to the first set in 38 minutes, breaking Rublev in game seven and quickly winning the next two to go one set ahead.

And although the Spaniard had a harder time of it in the second set he delighted the spectators with a series of spectacular shots which suggested he might be approaching his best form.

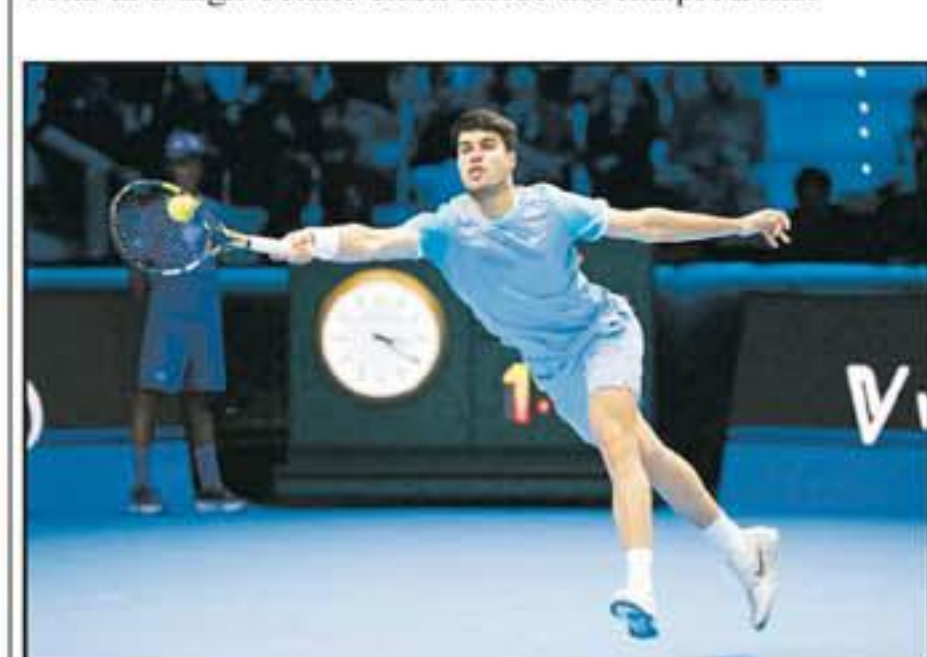
Alcaraz winning in straight sets means that Ruud will reach the semi-finals if he beats two-time Finals champion Alexander Zverev.

Rublev meanwhile drops to last place after losing his sixth straight Finals match.

The Russian will be cheering on Zverev later as he will be eliminated should Ruud win and secure passage to the knockout stage.

SINNER RECORDS SECOND STRAIGHT WIN

In Tuesday's late match, world number one Jannik Sinner made it two wins out of two as he fought off Taylor Fritz in a high-octane clash inside the Inalpi Arena.



TURIN: Spain's Carlos Alcaraz hits a return to Andrew Rublev of Russia during their ATP Finals match.

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China security ties

AFTER a slightly turbulent patch, during which officials publicly used uncharacteristically direct language, Pakistan-China ties appear to have returned to cordiality.

While speaking to the media on Monday, the Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson reiterated Beijing's desire to strengthen bilateral ties with Pakistan. He said China would help Pakistan in its fight against terrorism, while resolving to "foil any attempt" to destabilise ties. The relationship has mainly been tested by the targeting of Chinese personnel in Pakistan by terrorists. Two major deadly attacks have occurred this year — last month in Karachi and in March in KP.

While reacting to unguarded comments by the foreign minister at an Islamabad seminar in October, the Chinese ambassador reiterated the need for Pakistan to take steps to safeguard the lives of his compatriots working in this country. Matters were further complicated after the Foreign Office termed the ambassador's remarks "perplexing". However, the latest comments from Beijing indicate that this incident may be behind us.

Yet the fact remains that Beijing remains concerned about the security of its nationals in Pakistan, and if this matter is not addressed satisfactorily, it may affect bilateral ties. Some media reports have stated that China wants a joint security mechanism with Pakistan. These reports say the Chinese proposal involves the deployment of their own security personnel in this country. Pakistani officials are reportedly not comfortable with this suggestion, and no one in Islamabad or Rawalpindi has publicly commented on these plans.

While training of local forces and intelligence-sharing can be considered, putting Chinese boots on the ground in Pakistan is not a good idea. In fact, having any foreign armed force present in the country should be discouraged. Security should solely be the prerogative of Pakistan's military and civil armed forces. The Chinese concerns cannot be dismissed, as the relationship with Beijing, particularly in view of CPEC, is a key pillar of our foreign and economic policy. It is also a fact that lapses on Pakistan's part have allowed terrorists to target Chinese nationals. Yet instead of allowing foreign forces to operate on Pakistani soil to protect their nationals, closer CT cooperation with Beijing should be pursued. A dedicated division to protect CPEC schemes — manned by thousands of personnel — already exists. Capacity-building of this division, such as the provision of modern equipment and improvement in intelligence-gathering capabilities, should be the state's priority to ensure the security of Chinese nationals and projects.

By Shahab Usto

Judiciary's debacle

ON the International Day of Democracy in September, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extolled the virtues of democracy, calling it the "cornerstone of a just and progressive society" and stressing continued efforts to strengthen it.

But soon after, his government pushed through a slew of amendments to the Constitution and laws widely seen as destructive to judicial independence — which is a cornerstone of democracy. The government's legal wizards are suggesting further changes in the laws on the pretext of combating terrorism and anti-state elements.

Why is the government reshaping the legal and constitutional framework to drastically tilt power in favour of the executive, virtually relegating the judiciary to the status of an attached department? Why is it instilling more repression and divisions in the polity at a time when the country desperately needs stability and the rule of law to win the confidence of foreign and local investors? The short answer is: survival. This requires further elaboration.

Historically, Pakistan's civilian governments have faced challenges from a combination of forces, including the political opposition, the judiciary, and the establishment. In fact, the establishment has been a key factor in the induction and removal of governments, while the judiciary and political opposition have generally played a complimentary or 'enabling' role in the making or unmaking of a political system. The current dispensation has also been confronting threats to its legitimacy and endurance from its 'questionable' inception, given the controversial elections and resulting litigations which could drastically reduce the number of seats 'unfairly' claimed by the coalition government. In short, the government's fate hangs in the balance.

But this time around, the judiciary — at least a substantial part of it — refused to fall in line. In fact, a new breed of judges sitting in the high courts not only resisted the extraneous pressures, but also hit back by exposing the powerful intelligence agencies' strong-arm tactics against them to get the 'desired results.' Therefore, it was in the interest of both the government and its powerful backers in the security establishment to 'tackle' the increasingly independent-minded judiciary, before it was too late.

Why are the rulers, through their actions, relegating the judiciary to the status of an attached department?

In fact, much more was at stake. Had the judiciary rectified the electoral wrongs allegedly committed by the Election Commission of Pakistan in collusion with the powerful forces, it would have impacted the political system in three critical ways. First, the PTI's narrative of elections being rigged would

have been vindicated, which could have toppled the government, delegitimised the ECP, and, perhaps for the first time, made the powerful establishment — a guarantor of the current system — uneasy.

Second, by rectifying the electoral results and returning duly elected members to their respective legislatures, the judiciary would have emerged in the eyes of people as the ultimate and creditworthy arbiter, which, in turn, would have substantially restored the public's confidence both in the judiciary and the resilience of the constitutional machinery.

Third, the undoing of a politically engineered system single-handedly by the judiciary would have dented the hitherto establishment-dominated matrix of power. Possibly, the political system would have seen a new alignment of forces within the state organs, driven by the common intention of building a much-needed firewall against the intrusion of undemocratic forces.

Of course, the traditional wielders of power and their opportunistic political allies would have never allowed the judiciary to disturb the long-existing power axis, or to crystallise its institutional resistance into a permanent countervailing force. As a result, the Constitution was drastically amended — and, that too, in the most questionable, if not utterly detestable, manner — in order to weaken, divide, and dominate the judiciary in general, and the Supreme Court, in particular.

But unfortunately, the enactments go against the very concept of a modern democratic judicial system, which features three essential components — independence, integrity, and efficiency. Thus, the new law is tailored so as to reward the malleable and opportunistic elements in the judiciary and punish the independent and fair-minded ones.

Moreover, it compromises judicial independence by allowing parliamentarians (read: politicians) to meddle in its internal administrative and disciplinary affairs, including fixing the benches and monitoring and evaluating the performance of judges. And finally, the induction of judges to the higher judiciary and the 'selection' of the chief justice of Pakistan would also be largely tempered by narrow political considerations in order to bring in judges seen as 'pliable', rather than those known for their efficiency and character. Historically, whenever a democratic constitutional order or one of its organs has come under attack, it is saved by a confederacy of pro-democracy forces — lawyers, judges, civil society, academia, political opposition, and the media. Indian democracy was also derailed during the 1970s by the then-prime minister Indira Gandhi, who imposed an internal emergency. She amended the constitution and laws to crush the opposition and rush through her controversial 'socialist' agenda.

By F.S. Aijazuddin

Time to find out

HOW could 74.5 million Republican voters in the US have got it right, and the rest of the world got it wrong? Nothing in recent history can match Donald Trump's dramatic re-entry into the White House. Adolf Hitler's success in the federal German elections of 1933 offers a pale parallel. Hitler's impact though was local, European, until it exploded across the globe. Trump's effect is ab initio international, with domestic undertones such as immigration and jobs.

Hitler never disguised his intentions. They were apparent in his incendiary manifesto Mein Kampf, published in 1925-26. (It sold 5.2m copies.) Hitler had written: "All great cultures of the past perished only because the original creative race died out from blood poisoning." He declared that it was "the sacred mission of the German people ... to assemble and preserve the most valuable racial elements ... and raise them to the dominant position."

Trump, too, has made no secret of his abrasive nationalism. America First. America uber alles. Trump claims that he has never read Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf. His first wife Ivana reportedly told her attorney that "Trump kept a book of Hitler's speeches in a bedside cabinet."

Our relationship with the US has slipped down many notches.

Trump may not have owned or read Mein Kampf. He has — as if by osmosis — absorbed its vitriolic xenophobia. In December 2023, at a campaign rally in Iowa, he asserted that "illegal immigrants inside the US are poisoning and destroying the blood of America". (Iowa voted loyally for Trump in 2016,

2020, and in 2024.)

Hitler, once in power, consolidated his authority by legislating the Enabling Act, which gave him dictatorial powers. Trump has secured the White House, a majority in the Senate, and expects a majority in the House of Representatives. If he appoints two more judges to the US Supreme Court (he put three in during his first term), he will have a majority of five to four there as well. Such unbridled power should come with self-restraint.

Almost a century ago, in 1937, Jawaharlal Nehru (elected president of the Indian National Congress for a third time) wrote an anonymous essay warning himself against the dangers of cultism.

Published under the pseudonym Chana-kya, Nehru cautioned his public persona: "Men like Jawaharlal, with all their capacity for great and good work, are unsafe in de--mocracy. He calls himself a democrat and a socialist, and no doubt he does so in all earnestness, but every psychologist knows that the mind is ultimately a slave to the heart, and logic can always be made to fit in with the desires and irrepressible urges of a person."

He continued: "A little twist and Jawa-harlal might turn a dictator sweeping aside the paraphernalia of a slow-moving democracy. He might still use the language and slogans of democracy and socialism, but we all know how fascism has fattened on this language and then cast it away as useless lumber."

Such brave self-analysis was cremated with Nehru. Modern elected autocrats, once in power, regard voters as "useless lumber", firewood to be used only to stoke the next election.

Leaders most beholden to the United States — Great Britain's Keir Starmer, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky — were quick off the block to congratulate president-elect Trump. Our message of congratulations was not amongst Trump's top 20.

We need to admit that our relationship with the United States has slipped down many notches. That happened when the US re-hyphenated us, replacing Indo-Pak with Af-Pak. With Afghanistan off the US radar, we have little relevance on our own.

There was a time when the Shah's Iran was used as the conduit for America's policies in the region. Today, that role has been subcont-ra-cted to Saudi Arabia. Only a fly on the wall will know what was discussed between our COAS (whose tenure has been extended by three years) and Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman, meeting so soon after Trump's re-election.

Outsiders see Pakistan as a multi-headed gorgon, with many power centres. As Dr Henry Kissinger once famously asked: "Who do I call if I want to call Europe?" Who does PM Narendra Modi call if he wants to parley with Pakistan over Jammu & Kashmir, or the Indus Waters Treaty, or to discuss cross-border pollution? The Sharifs, and if so, which? The establishment, and if so, with whom and how?

We should not expect equivalence with India. It has over \$650 billion in foreign exchange reserves. We have \$15bn, mainly rotating deposits provided by 'friendly countries'. A nuclear-tipped peace is our only affordable option.

DAILY MIRROR

'PTI leadership faces jail if foreign funding verdict implemented': Akbar S Babar

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) estranged founding member Akbar S. Babar highlights alleged fraud in PTI's intra-party elections held on March 3, and claimed that if the decision in the foreign funding case is enforced, PTI's top leadership will face imprisonment due to large-scale irregularities.

He reiterated that he had filed the foreign funding case a decade ago. "I was the first to expose the fraud and corruption within this so-called tsunami," Babar added.

He noted that while a verdict had been reached in the foreign funding case, its implementation had not been carried out. He states that calls for protests and marches are being made on a daily basis and criticized the justice system, urging it to play a more active role in maintaining the rule of law.

Babar referred to the swift convictions handed down in the UK for those

involved in unrest, contrasting it with the justice system in Pakistan, which he believes is failing to uphold accountability.

"Every day, there is a new call for chaos and protests," he said. Furthermore, he accused PTI of engaging in unlawful practices and warned of consequences for the party's leaders.

The PTI founder also criticised the party for waving the American flag during rallies, calling it a symbol of subjugation.

"Those who waved the American flag at PTI rallies should be ashamed," he remarked, asserting that PTI had never condemned the genocide in Palestine and Lebanon.

Babar concluded by alleging that PTI has been hijacked by extremists, who have endangered the basic rights of the people through protests and sit-ins.

In March 2024, Babar demanded an investigation into the party's 'secret' foreign bank accounts.

Babar, in a letter to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, wrote that no action was taken even after the verdict on the PTI foreign funding case which was

announced 20 months back.

He added that legal action against PTI's foreign bank accounts was still awaited alleging that "the accounts may be used for anti-state activities".

"Despite PTI's illegal foreign funding being proved, no action to protect the national security of Pakistan was worrisome," said Babar in the letter.

He also asserted that all provisions of the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) August 2022 order must be implemented. Terming the secret foreign bank accounts a 'crime', the estranged PTI leader demanded accountability.

In a long-awaited verdict on PTI's prohibited funding, the ECP in August 2022 ruled that the party of former prime minister Imran Khan did indeed receive illegal funding.

Previously, Islamabad Judicial Magistrate has accepted the acquittal pleas of PTI founder Imran Khan, former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid, and other co-accused in a case registered under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), along with violations of the Amplifier Act and other related provisions.



Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with Faryal Talpur, President PPP Women Wing in a group photo along with PPP Senior Leaders, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Khurshed Shah, at Bilawal House in Karachi

Zero tolerance for corruption: Aleem orders cleanup, 6-lane expansion for key motorways

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan on Thursday has adopted a zero-tolerance policy within the National Highway Authority (NHA), directing for taking strict and indiscriminate action against corrupt officers and officials. In this regard, the NHA Chairman has been given a one-week deadline to initiate necessary measures.

Aleem Khan emphasized that the cleanup effort would tolerate no leniency or influence ('Sifarish'), stressing that only qualified, honest, and capable officers should occupy all positions, according to a press release.

During a high-level meeting of NHA here, Abdul Aleem Khan outlined a comprehensive plan to enhance the efficiency and capacity of Pakistan's motorway network, which includes increasing the Lahore, Sialkot, and Kharian-to-Islamabad Motorway to six lanes to accommodate growing traffic demands. Pakistan's cuisine, Aleem Khan further directed the NHA to work towards removing barriers on motorways and introducing electronic toll plazas to prevent lengthy queues.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that all high-ways and motorways should be connected to cameras and CCTVs so that every vehicle can be monitored. In addition to these modernization efforts, the meeting addressed the construction of critical highway projects, including the Baila-to-Awaran and Zhoib-to-Loralai highways, and discussed the new bypass construction on the Kala Shah Kaku-to-Multan Road and the road from Sagian to the Ravi Bridge.

Expansion of the Margalla Highway, connecting it to the M-1, was also reviewed, with an emphasis on accelerating ongoing projects across all four provinces. The minister encouraged provincial governments to collaborate with the NHA on new road and highway projects, stressing the importance of interconnectivity and regional development.

The meeting expressed that the provinces can also join the NHA in the construction of new roads and highways.

The Federal Secretary for Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority gave a detailed briefing to the federal minister on important departmental matters and various proposals were finalized.

NAB holds Inter-University competitions annually as part of NAB's commitment to raise awareness and promote prevention strategies against corruption

PRESS RELEASE

Quetta: NAB holds Inter-University competitions annually as part of NAB's commitment to raise awareness and promote prevention strategies against corruption. In line with the Chairman NAB's directives, such initiatives form an essential component of NAB's annual plan for awareness and prevention activities, emphasizing its role in combating corruption.

In this regard the NAB (Balochistan) recently invited various universities of Balochistan to take part in an inter-university competition held in different categories. The students from various universities participated in competitions of Short Film, Declamation, and Essay writing (English & Urdu), Poster & Calligraphy. The universities were pooled in two groups. The competitions were held in Gwadar on 07th Nov, 2024 amongst students of universities of Mekran division whereas students of Quetta and its peripheries gathered in Al-



Hamd University and SBK Women University for competing in above mentioned categories during 11-13 November, 2024.

The hosting universities extended their full cooperation to facilitate these competitions.

The winners of these competitions were announced by the esteemed judges/evaluators in a closing ceremony held at Al-Hamd University after the conclusion of the events. The objective behind these competitions was to engage university students and encourage them to actively participate in the fight against corruption. Through their work it has been reminded to the audience of the importance of honesty in personal and professional lives. The creativity and thoughtfulness highlighted the potential of our youth to bring about positive change.

Pakistan can join world's leading economies through women entrepreneurs: Ahsan Iqbal

INP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday expressed confidence that Pakistan could join the ranks of the world's leading economies by 2047 through the active participation of youth, especially women entrepreneurs.

"The country's progress and prosperity are closely linked with the development of youth and women entrepreneurs. Their active role and participation in national development can make it possible for Pakistan to join the world's top economies by 2047," he said. He made these remarks while addressing the fifth edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Conference titled "Mumkin Hai" (It is possible), organized by the National Incubation Centre at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) here.

The conference featured panel discussions on aligning entrepreneurial goals with the digital economy in Pakistan.

Addressing the participants, the minister assured that the recommendations made by experts at the conference would be "put into implementation" because the incumbent government believed that the future of the nation was in the hands of youth and women.

"It is our job to make everything possible for them," he added. Ahsan Iqbal said the intellect and innovation of youth and women could help establish start-ups, introduce made-in-Pakistan products and effectively compete in international markets, contributing billions of dollars in revenue to the national exchequer.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government hoped that, in 23 years, when both Pakistan and India celebrate their 100th year of independence, Pakistan's youth would celebrate it with pride, without any excuses for lagging behind in development.



BUDAPEST: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in meeting with Hungarian Counterpart Sándor Pintér in Budapest on Thursday.

President, PM Pay Tribute to Security Personnel for Embracing Martyrdom

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to Pakistan Army's Major Muhammad Haseeb and Havaldar Noor Ahmed for embracing martyrdom during an operation against terrorists in district Hamai.

The entire nation is thankful to the martyrs for sacrificing their lives in defence of their motherland, the president said in a statement issued by the President House Press Wing.

He also lauded the security forces for killing three terrorists during the operation.

PM Shehbaz Sharif, in a statement, said that the sacrifices of the officers and soldiers of Pakistan Army in war against terrorism will never go in vain.

He expressed the determination to completely eliminate all forms of terrorism from the country.

The president and the prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the martyrs in Jannah and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity.

Pakistan, Russia call for enhanced coordination among regional countries for peaceful Afghanistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia on Thursday called for enhanced coordination among the regional countries for a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

The Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation on Afghanistan, Ambassador Zamir Kabulov paid a day long visit to Pakistan.

He called on Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and later had detailed discussions with Additional Secretary (Afghanistan and West Asia), Ambassador Ahmad Naseem Warraich.

The two sides exchanged views on relations with Afghanistan and called for enhanced coordination among the regional countries for a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. They also agreed to remain engaged towards this end.

Gilani Calls for Increased Collaboration Between Pakistan, Spain in Diverse Sectors

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Thursday called for increased collaboration between Pakistan and Spain in diverse sectors as the two countries share commonalities and both have a shared vision for peace and sustainable development.

The Chairman Senate expressed these views in a meeting with 4-member parliamentary delegation of the Spanish Senate said a news release.

Welcoming the delegation, the Chairman Senate termed the relations between Pakistan and Spain as historic, however, he observed that there is still a huge scope for further deepening the mutual collaboration in diverse sectors.

The Chairman Senate recognized the longstanding diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Spain, rooted in mutual respect and shared values and emphasized that this visit marks a valuable opportunity to further deepen these bonds and explore avenues for productive collaboration.

He recalled his visit to Spain in 2010 as Prime Minister and said that productive dialogue with Spanish and EU officials regarding Pakistan's textile industry, led to the EU's special trade package to boost Pakistani textile exports.

He further mentioned the visit to WTO headquarters, and the fruitful discussions on expanding Pakistan access to international markets and strengthen-

ing trade relations, which aligned with Pakistan broader economic goals.

He emphasized that the EU trade concessions were a milestone, facilitated by support from Spain, which provided significant economic benefits to Pakistan's textile industry.

The Chairman Senate also highlighted importance of inter-parliamentary relations in strengthening bilateral ties. He commended the Spanish Senate for prioritizing diplomatic outreach with Pakistan.

He underlined the need to continue parliamentary interaction, especially through parliamentary friendship groups and other higher level to promote people to people contacts.

The Chairman Senate underscored the potential for collaborative exchanges to strengthen democratic institutions.

Gilani also emphasized trade relations between Pakistan and Spain mentioning key exports such as textiles, agricultural products,

and called for further encouraging investment in sectors like renewable energy, tourism and agri sectors.

He suggested increased cultural and educational exchanges to foster mutual understanding between the people of both the countries.

He also acknowledged the Pakistani diaspora positive role in Spain, which enhances bilateral relations. Gilani also informed the delegation about the Gaza, Kashmir and Palestine situation.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in a meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani.

Aleema Khan urges youth, students and social media tigers to heed Imran Khan's protest call

INP

RAWALPINDI: Aleema Khan has called on the youth, students, and social media tigers to rally behind the November 24 call for protest issued by her brother Imran Khan, founding chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Aleema Khan, conveyed the message on Thursday during an interaction with media persons in Rawalpindi, labelling the upcoming protest as the "final round."

She stated that Imran Khan considers the protest a constitutional right, calling on students, overseas Pakistanis, and social media activists to prepare for November 24. "Imran Khan has asked the youth to stand up for their future and

resist the urge to leave Pakistan. He believes the younger generation has a role in saving the country," she said.

Aleema also mentioned that overseas Pakistanis have pledged to hold protests globally on the same day.

Imran Khan has reportedly laid out a strategy for the demonstration, insisting that supporters must persevere regardless of government attempts to hinder them. The PTI leader's sister added that Imran Khan has urged even "80-year-old aunties" to participate, while also asking Karachi and Quetta residents to rally within their provinces. She stated that this is the call of the founder of PTI and it will be fully implemented adding that Imran Khan has sent a direct message to everyone, and in this protest, MNAs and MPAs will lead the way.

Trump's Resurgence Sparks Renewed Hope Among Americans and Pakistani Community Alike

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: In an atmosphere of political division and uncertainty, Donald Trump's return to the forefront of American politics is being met with a renewed sense of optimism among his supporters. Many Americans, feeling the strains of economic and social challenges, are looking to Trump's leadership as a source of stability and assertive policymaking. His reputation as a dealmaker and a voice for American resilience has sparked hope for tangible solutions on domestic and international fronts. Particularly notable is the growing anticipation within the Pakistani-American community. This group, deeply invested in both the prosperity of their adopted homeland and the welfare of their native region, is optimistic that Trump could play a pivotal role in addressing humanitarian issues that have plagued Pakistan in recent years. With his well-documented record of strong international diplomacy and a bold approach to foreign policy, many believe that Trump could leverage his influence to advocate for human rights and push for stability in South Asia.

"We've seen his decisive moves on complex international matters before, and there's hope he could use that same energy to foster constructive dialogue regarding humanitarian challenges," says Ali Rehman, a Pakistani-American business owner based in New York. Rehman, like



many others in the community, sees Trump's potential return as an opportunity for America to extend its influence towards promoting peace and human rights abroad.

The notion of Trump engaging in a more proactive role in addressing these issues aligns with the broader desire of many Americans for a leadership approach that tackles not only domestic but global concerns. In this critical period, where human rights abuses continue to raise alarms across the world, many see Trump as a figure who could pressure international bodies to act and create solutions that resonate beyond U.S. borders.

The faith placed in Trump is a testament to the expectations that he will once again put "America First" while also extending that priority to include meaningful action on the international stage. For many in the Pakistani community and other minority groups, Trump's legacy of breaking the mold offers a glimmer of hope that their voices will be heard, and their issues addressed. As election season draws near, the anticipation is building, with millions of eyes on Trump to see if he can deliver not just for America, but for allies and communities across the world that have put their trust in him.