

DAILY MIRROR

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President Zardari assents to contentious Peca amendment bill amid uproar by opposition, journalists

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari assented on Wednesday to the contentious Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Peca) (Amendment) Bill 2025, passed by both houses of parliament, despite serious reservations and protests by the journalist fraternity. According to a press release issued by the President House, the president signed the bill into law after it was passed by the National Assembly and Senate.

He also signed the Digital Nation Pakistan Bill 2025 as well as the National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Bill 2025.

The development comes a day after the Senate passed amendments to the controversial bill, triggering protests across the country. Opposition parties and journalists' bodies staged joint protests across the country against the contentious tweaks to the Peca law after declaring it "controversial" over

"lack of clarity" in many legal aspects, including the use of the term "fake news". Media workers fear the amended law will also be used to target them and will impact the freedom of press.

Additionally, the media fraternity also expressed anger over the incumbent government for passing the amendments without either consulting them or taking them into confidence.

Meanwhile, ANP's Aimal Wali said it was a "draconian law" as it imposed restrictions on freedom of speech. "The bill smells of boots," he said, announcing a walkout from the parliament with other members of his party.

Peca bill
The bill titled "Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Act, 2025" included new definitions, the establishment of regulatory and investigative bodies, and stricter penalties for disseminating "false" information.



Islamabad : A delegation of leading US Investors led by Mr. Gentry Beach called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif .

Military court judges work under relevant authorities: Justice Mandokhail

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail on Wednesday said that the jurists conducting military trials operate under the relevant authorities.

The remarks came during the hearing of an intra-court plea regarding the trial of civilians in military courts.

A seven-member bench constitutional bench, led by Justice Aminuddin Khan and comprising Justice Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, was holding the proceedings.

At the outset of the hearing, Justice Hilali asked whether an investigation took place before the framing of charges. Justice Mazhar responded that investigations were conducted first, followed by formal charges.

Defence ministry's counsel Khawaja Haris added that the law clearly distinguishes between a trial and a fair trial. Justice Azhar inquired whether an accused in a military trial is provided

a state-appointed lawyer if they cannot afford one, to which Haris confirmed that state-funded legal representation was available.

Justice Mandokhail remarked that courts generally considered the accused as the "favourite child" of justice, questioning whether the same applies in military trials. At this, Haris replied that under the Army Act rules, the accused is given full protection.

Justice Mandokhail then said that an accused is considered the "favourite child" of the court, questioning whether the same applies in military courts. The defence ministry's counsel assured that under the Army Act's rules, complete protection is provided to the accused.

Justice Afghan, meanwhile, said that as chief justice of Balochistan, he had heard appeals against military court verdicts and that decisions were not issued on blank papers merely declaring an accused guilty or innocent.

He added that when cases were challenged in high courts, the General Headquarters provided complete judicial records, including evidence and procedural details.

FIA DG, K-P IG removed over administrative failures

INP

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has removed Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General Ahmed Ishaque Jehangir and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat, citing administrative failures, officials confirmed on Monday.

Jehangir has been reassigned as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Establishment Division, Express News reported.

His removal comes amid growing concerns over human trafficking, with sources linking the decision to the FIA's slow response to migrant boat tragedies.

Pakistan has witnessed multiple deadly migrant incidents in recent months, including the capsizing of a boat off the Moroccan coast earlier this month, which killed at least 50 people, most of them Pakistanis.

The FIA has faced criticism over its handling of such cases, with reports suggesting the prime minister approved Jehangir's dismissal due to the slow pace of investigations.

Meanwhile, the government has also removed KP police chief Akhtar Hayat, appointing Zulfiqar Hameed in his place.

Sarfraz Bugti extends felicitation to China on Chinese New Year

APP

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the leadership and people of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the Chinese New Year. He emphasized that the friendship between Pakistan and China is a strong historical bond that continues to grow stronger with time. Pakistani cuisine recipes

In his message of felicitation on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that China's remarkable progress and prosperity serve as an example for the entire world. Pakistan is ready to learn from China's experiences and advance on the path of development. He highlighted that CPEC will prove to be a significant milestone in Balochistan's progress, ushering in a new era of economic activities and development in the province.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed optimism that Pakistan-China relations will further strengthen in the new Chinese year and that both countries will enhance cooperation in all sectors. He extended his best wishes for prosperity, progress, and success to the people of China, expressing hope that the new year would bring peace and happiness for both Chinese and Pakistani citizens.

The Chief Minister reiterated that Pakistan stands alongside China in its journey of progress, and both nations will work together to ensure economic stability and development in the region. He further said that Balochistan offers immense opportunities for Chinese investment and collaboration, and the provincial government is committed to expanding this partnership.

He said that the joy of the Chinese New Year was not only a moment of celebration for the people of China but also a source of happiness and hope for the people of Pakistan. The Balochistan government will continue to play its role in strengthening friendly ties between the two nations through all possible cooperation, he concluded.

Robinson term CAYA Summit 2025 a step in regional collaboration

INP

ISLAMABAD: Head of Delegation Commonwealth Secretariat Layne Robinson on Wednesday praised Pakistan's role in the Commonwealth's youth initiatives, calling the CAYA Youth Summit 2025 a significant step in regional collaboration.

Talking to APP, he said Pakistan is not only hosting the Commonwealth Asia Regional Secretariat but also bringing together ministers to advance youth mentorship.

Discussing Pakistan's National Youth Council (NYC), he highlighted its role in engaging young people from across the country. He commended Pakistan for this initiative, noting that many countries still do not have a National Youth Council of any form and young people remain outside of the policy making.

'Uraan Pakistan' initiative ensures inclusive progress: Ahsan

APP

LONDON: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has reaffirmed Pakistan's deep-rooted economic and cultural ties with the United Kingdom.

During a meeting with British Parliamentarians at Portcullis House, Westminster, today (Wednesday), he stressed Pakistan's focus on enhancing trade and economic cooperation with the key partners to achieve shared prosperity.

He also acknowledged the significant contributions of British Pakistanis in fortifying the bond between the two nations and encouraged deeper engagement in Pakistan's development efforts.

Highlighting key economic indicators under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he shared inflation has been reduced from thirty-eight percent to four

percent and Pakistan's stock market has witnessed unprecedented growth. Additionally, he said exports and remittances have both increased by thirty percent, while IT exports have surged by thirty-four percent.

He briefed the Parliamentarians on URAAN PAKISTAN, a national development initiative aimed at the holistic upliftment of 240 million Pakistanis.

The Minister emphasized that the initiative has been designed to foster economic and social progress.

He said the URAAN PAKISTAN initiative strikes a balance between economic growth and social development, ensuring that Pakistan's progress is inclusive and sustainable. Reiterating Pakistan's commitment to strengthening global partnerships, he underscored the importance of strategic ties with the United Kingdom, United States, China, Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union.

US weapons left behind in Afghanistan; an issue of profound concern: FO Spokesperson

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday reiterated that the presence of US advance weapons in Afghanistan, left behind in the aftermath of the withdrawal of its troops in August 2021, had been an issue of profound concern for the safety and security of Pakistan and its citizens. Pakistani cuisine recipes

Responding to media queries regarding the US decision to take back advance weapons left behind in Afghanistan, the spokesperson in a press statement said "These weapons have been used by terrorist organizations, including the TTP, to carry out terrorist attacks in Pakistan. We have been repeatedly calling upon the de facto authorities in Kabul to take all necessary measures to ensure that these weapons do not fall into the wrong hands."

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Non-Resident envoys of various countries present credentials to President

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Non-Resident envoys of Angola, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Uruguay and Malta presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad today.

The President received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Angola, Julio Belarmino Gomes Maiato; the Ambassador-designate of Jamaica, Arthur Williams; the Ambassador-designate of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Roland Reiland; the Ambassador-designate of Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Beraldo

Roque Nicola Flaniguen, and the High Commissioner-designate of Republic of Malta, Raymond Bondin.

Welcoming the envoys, Asif Ali Zardari congratulated them on their appointments and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistan in the areas of trade, economy, investment, culture, and people-to-people contacts.

Earlier, the envoys were accorded a guard of honor by a contingent of the Pakistan Armed Forces upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Gilani calls for cementing Pak-Ireland parliamentary ties

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, who is on official visit to Ireland, has held meeting with the newly elected Speaker of the Irish Parliament Ms. Verona Murphy.

Speaking on the occasion, he expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality and emphasized the importance of strengthening parliamentary ties between Pakistan and Ireland.

The Chairman also emphasized that Ireland's business delegations must visit and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.

He highlighted Pakistan's investor-friendly climate and the Special Investment Facilitation Council, a one-window operation designed to streamline and facili-

tate foreign investment across key sectors.

Both sides explored avenues for collaboration, including technical exchanges, workshops, and virtual forums on budgetary and fiscal policies.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani invited an Irish parliamentary delegation to visit Pakistan, reaffirming commitment to continued engagement and democratic reforms.

Earlier, Pakistan Ireland Business Council hosted a luncheon in honour of the Pakistani Parliamentary Delegation in Dublin.

The event was attended by prominent figures, including Neale Richmond, the Foreign Minister of Ireland, and Aisha Farooqi, the Pakistani Ambassador to Ireland.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel in a meeting with Former Provincial Secretary Shehbaz Khan Mandokhel.

Govt uninterested in talks: claims Barrister Gohar

Gohar stated that PTI had formally requested judicial commission to address concerns, but government failed to respond

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Barrister Gohar Khan has accused the government of deliberately avoiding negotiations and ignoring the party's demand for a judicial commission.

Speaking to the media outside Rawalpindi Kacheri on Wednesday, Gohar said PTI had formally requested a judicial commission to address key concerns, but the government failed to respond. "They did not want talks to take place or lead to a resolution," he claimed.

He further alleged that the authorities deliberately delayed engagement, stating, "We presented our demands, but the government took no serious steps. If they were sincere, they would have provided a timely response."

According to him, officials had promised an answer by 28 January in a committee room meeting, but PTI was not informed of any decision in advance.

Gohar emphasised that his party initiated the dialogue process despite facing intense political pressure. "Our leader, Imran Khan, remains our chairman today and will continue to be in the future," he asserted.

He also clarified that PTI's only point of contact had been

the Army Chief and denied meeting anyone else in negotiations.

Commenting on legal matters, Gohar mentioned that their case was presented before Acting Judge Zeba Chaudhry, who scheduled the next hearing.

"We hope a permanent judge will be appointed soon so the process can move forward," he said, adding that senior PTI leader Latif Khosa had drafted a strong legal case.

He reiterated that prominent figures would not influence the judicial process, saying, "No one is above the law. The court will decide based on legal merit."

Gohar was addressing reporters after appearing in court with PTI lawyers regarding a private complaint related to the party's 26 November protest. The case remains under judicial review.

Govt keeps door ajar as PTI ends talks

The government on Tuesday kept the door for dialogue with the opposition ajar despite the announcement from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday that the talks process had ended, as its negotiating team did not show up at the Parliament House for a fourth round.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, who played a crucial role in bringing representatives of the Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led ruling coalition and the opposition PTI at the negotiations table, had invited both sides for the fourth round of talks on Tuesday.

However, the PTI boycotted the meeting. Later, the government side announced that its negotiation committee would wait until January 31 and if the PTI reversed its decision of ending the talks, the process could resume.

Earlier, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, while speaking outside the Adiala Jail after a meeting with the party founder,

Imran Khan, announced that negotiations with the government had ended, adding that his party joined the negotiations with open heart, but those could not move forward.

The negotiation between the government and the opposition started on December 23, 2024, with a view to amicably finding a solution to the political and economic issues facing the country, as well as settling the long-standing thorny issues between the two sides.

However, the process hit a snag just after three sittings. The PTI had presented its charter of demands to the government in the third round, which, demanded among other things, the formation of separate judicial commissions on May 9 2023 and November 26, 2024 incidents.

Country on path of development due to positive policy of PM: Naem

APP

Quetta: Central senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan, Chaudhry Naem Karim on Wednesday said that the country has embarked on the path of development due to positive policy of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. In his statement issued here, he said that foreign investment is coming to Pakistan and all economic indicators are positive, the stock market has set new records. He said that the Udan Pakistan program would play a key role in the country's development saying that the government's efforts to control inflation are ongoing, the effects of which have started reaching the common man. Chaudhry Naem Karim said that the aim of the PML-N's politics is to serve the people regardless of their color, race, and creed and the PML-N believed in democratic principles. He said that the party's most effective parliamentary role is a manifestation of serving the country and the nation. The leaders have raised their voices in every era for the integrity and stability of the country, the survival of democra-

cy, the supremacy of the constitution, and the protection of the rights of the people, he said. He said that the PML-N's reconciliation politics is actually for the stability of democracy but some political forces are taking undue advantage of the PML-N's reconciliation politics who would not succeed in their nefarious objectives. He said that the PML-N should continue its struggle for the consolidation of democracy in the country under the leadership of its leader Mian Nawaz Sharif, the PML-N is struggling to make the integrated agenda of Pakistan's construction, development and public prosperity a success.

Under the wise leadership of its leader Nawaz Sharif, the vision of public prosperity is being implemented and all the attention of the party leadership is focused on including the country in the ranks of developed countries, he said. Chaudhry said that some elements could not see the country's economy growing, they are trying to strengthen their political agenda by making Pakistan suffer from economic distress, but none of their conspiracies would be allowed to succeed.



Strengthening Pakistan-UK Ties: Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal engages with British Parliamentarians at Portcullis House, Westminster, London.

Political Science Dept at UoT holds its 4th board of studies meeting

APP

Quetta: The Department of Political Science at the University of Turbat (UoT) held the 4th Meeting of its Departmental Board of Studies to expand advanced studies in Political Science at UoT on Wednesday.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Changiz Ahmed, Chairman of the Department of Political Science at UoT. Professor Dr. Mohammad Ali, Chairman of the Department of Political Science at the University of Karachi, and Dr. Asghar Dashti, Chairman Department of

International Relations at Federal Urdu University joined the meeting as subject experts via video link. Other participants included Dr. Mohammad Salim, Assistant Professor at the Political Science Department, UoT, Dr. Riaz Ahmed, Director, Quality Enhancement Cell, UoT, Mr. Shah Hussain, Lecturer Political Science Department, UoT, and Ms. Sidra Ghafoor, Lecturer at the Government Girls Degree College Turbat. The members thoroughly discussed the curriculum for the MPhil program in Political Science providing insightful recommendations for a comprehensive and

result-oriented scheme of advanced studies in Political Science. Addressing the participants of the meeting, Chairman Changiz Ahmed said that under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Gul Hassan, the University of Turbat is rapidly progressing.

At the end of the meeting, Chairman Mr. Changiz Ahmed extended his gratitude to members and acknowledged the services of Dr. Mohammad Ali and Dr. Asghar Dashti in promoting higher education in the region in general and at the University of Turbat in particular.

Kundi initiates symposium on heart disease prevention, safety measures at KP Governor House

INP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, has initiated a symposium on heart disease prevention and safety measures at the Governor House and stressed that raising awareness about adopting a healthy lifestyle was a pressing need in today's society. The event was attended by prominent personalities, including Dr. Miqdad Ali Khan, Head of the Cardiology Department at Rahman Medical Institute (RMI), Dr. Chiragh Hussain, Associate Professor at Hayat Medical Complex, heart disease specialists, doctors and medical students, among others.

In his opening address as the chief guest, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi welcomed health experts to the Governor House, emphasizing the importance of tackling this highly sensitive and prevalent health issue.

He urged both private and public institutions to organize similar programs to address health concerns. "To build a healthier society, everyone must contribute their part. We must ensure that the public has access to the best healthcare services," he said. He further said that cardiovascular diseases have become a silent epidemic not just in Pakistan.

BISP, NAVTTC, and WHH join hands to enhance skill training and employment for deserving individuals

APP

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step toward economic empowerment, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), and Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH) have agreed to collaborate on skill training, international certifications, and employment opportunities for deserving individuals.

During a meeting at BISP Headquarters, Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson NAVTTC Ms.

Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, and WHH Country Director Ms. Aisha Jamshed discussed ways to uplift economically disadvantaged communities under the Benazir Hunarmand Program.

The agreement includes the identification and inclusion of semi-skilled BISP beneficiaries across 14 districts, focusing on sectors such as home care, nursing, and hospitality, which are in high demand internationally. By leveraging BISP's extensive database, the program aims to provide targeted training, ensuring that beneficiaries receive the necessary

skills and certifications for better employment prospects.

Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted BISP's commitment to empowering low-income families, emphasizing the importance of utilizing all available resources to maximize their skill development. Ms. Gulmina Bilal reaffirmed NAVTTC's support in offering internationally recognized certifications, while WHH pledged its assistance in training the poorest semi-skilled individuals based on their interests.

As a next step, BISP, NAVTTC, and WHH will conduct further assessments to identify deserving individuals and formulate a comprehensive action plan for their skill development and employment opportunities.

This collaboration marks a crucial move toward sustainable economic growth, ensuring that deserving individuals gain access to meaningful employment and financial stability.

Punjab CM decides to establish PSPA to tackle illegal housing societies

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has decided to establish the Punjab Special Planning Authority (PSPA) to tackle illegal housing societies.

The chief minister chaired a meeting where it was also agreed that Special Planning Committees would also be established at the district level. The relevant Deputy Commissioner will head these committees, with representatives from service-providing organizations like

WAPDA, Sui Gas, WASA, and others.

Moreover, zoning for commercial, residential, and agricultural lands will be carried out. The committees will handle district land use planning and zoning, while these will be reviewed every four years.

Additionally, a violation tracking mechanism will be implemented to prevent the illegal use of land, the meeting was briefed.

The participants were told that the Digital District Wall will help identify land misuse, and it will also pace up the process of applications.



Abdul Rasheed Reporter is casting his vote during the Annual 2025 election of Balochistan Union of Journalists which was held on Wednesday at Quetta Press Club.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Building District Hub invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and bid Security 2% for each work

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF PRINCIPAL OFFIC, SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GGHS WASHI BALOCHI AT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO. 12085) PSDP NO. 6043, Z2024.2588. TSE-242501633883	15,931,826
2	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & PRINCIPAL OFFICE GGHS RIND GOTH AT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO.06271) PSDP NO. 6043, Z2024.2588. TSE-242501634643	8,861,589
3	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GGHS PATTAN COLONY AT DISTRICT HUB (BEMIS NO.17749) PSDP NO.6043 Z2024.2588 TSE-242501634673	12736694
4	CONSTRUCTION OF PRINCIPAL OFFIC, SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GGHS HASHIM LASI NAKA KHARAH AT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO. 12271) PSDP NO. 6043 Z2024.2588. TSE-242501634913	15965929
5	CONSTRUCTION OF PRINCIPAL OFFIC, SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GGHS BALOCH BAGHAT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO.09339) PSDP NO. 6043 Z2024.2588. TSE-242501634943	15,965,929
6	CONSTRUCTION OF PRINCIPAL OFFIC, SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GBMS LAKROHAIL AT DISTRICT HUB (BEMIS NO.06356) PSDP NO. 6043 Z2024.2588 TSE-242501634983	15,965,929
7	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & PRINCIPAL OFFICE GBHSS JAM COLONY AT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO. 06273) PSDP NO. 6043 Z2024.2588 TSE-242501635383	8,946,796
8	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GBHS NAKA KHARAARHAT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO. 06293 Z2024.2588 TSE-242501636783	12,859,162
9	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GBHS LIEDACOLONY AT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO. 11110) PSDP NO. 6043 Z2024.2588 TSE-242501636813	12736694
10	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GBHS IBRAHIM GAJAAT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO.6218) PSDP NO. 6043, Z2024.2588. TSE-242501636863	12736694
11	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GBHS HAJI MURAD GOTHAT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO. 06291) PSDP NO. 6043 Z2024.2588 TSE-242501636993	12736694
12	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GBHS HAJI CHATTARIND AT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO. 06241) PSDP NO. 6043 Z2024.2588 TSE-242501637033	12736694
13	CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB & ADDITIONAL C/ROOMS GBHS BUIDA CAMPAT DISTRICT HUB. (BEMIS NO.06299) PSDP NO. 6043 Z2024.2588 TSE-242501637093	12736694

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 11,152,278 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 14 February, 2025 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 14 February, 2025 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM. Address: Behand Allied Bank Main RCD Road Tehsil Hub District Hub Phone no: 0336002774. Email: aneelqumber@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BUILDING CW PP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT HUB

PRQ No.3085/29-1-2025



MANCHESTER: Manchester City players in action during a training session at Etihad Campus.

CL first phase set for frantic finale after UEFA reforms hit mark

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: The Champions League reform drew criticism because it added to an already packed calendar, yet the new league phase of this season's expanded competition is all set for a frantic conclusion on Wednesday as 18 matches are played simultaneously across Europe and the likes of Manchester City and Paris St Germain battle to avoid an early exit.

After seven rounds, only two teams — Liverpool and Barcelona, on a maximum 21 points and 18, respectively — have secured direct access to the last 16 while 25 of the 36 teams are still awaiting their fate, including powerhouses Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and City, the latter being in the elimination zone ahead of their home game against Club Brugge.

The idea that the new format was giving an easy pass to the knockout phase to the big sides has been brushed aside with Juve-nus and PSG beyond the top 16.

The first eight teams qualify directly for the last 16 with the eight remaining spots being decided in playoffs to add some more drama.

Arsenal, Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid, AC Milan, Atalanta and Bayer Leverkusen occupy the other six spots for now, but so much could change on the final night.

After all, VfB Stuttgart in 24th position are only three points behind Leverkusen in eighth, with 15 sides in between them.

Arsenal and Inter, on 16 points, need only draw away to Girona and at home to Monaco respectively in order to secure their last-16 spots.

Atletico and Milan also look strong on 15 points. Atletico finish at already-eliminated RB Salzburg, and Milan go to Dinamo Zagreb, who are 26th and must win to stay in contention. Atalanta in seventh place, on 14

points, have a tough assignment at Barca.

With so little between teams in terms of points, so much could down boil down to goal difference, setting up a potentially chaotic final night.

It is the kind of scenario UEFA wanted from the refreshed format, where it has been hard to predict how many points are needed for a top-24 place.

Back in August, simulations by UEFA stats geeks suggested eight points would be enough to enter the playoffs round.

Now it looks like the 25th-place team will go out with 10 or even 11 points. It could be PSG or City, who are currently 25th.

"What a beautiful format, it's a real treat," Canal Plus pundit and former Tottenham Hotspur great David Ginola said after PSG beat City 4-2 last week, setting the stage for a nail-biting finish for both sides.

The draw, with teams also facing sides from their own pot, meant that some top clubs played each other as early as the initial phase, as Liverpool manager Arne Slot noted. "If I look at Paris St Germain, every week I think they have the hardest team to face, so they are quite low on the table, which is not their quality, but they are low," Slot said.

The previous format, with four teams in each group and the top two advancing into the knockout phase, was a quasi-guarantee for the privileged and featured numerous dead rubbers on the final day.

It will not be the case this year, with only Sturm Graz v RB Leipzig and Young Boys v Red Star Belgrade the only encounters with nothing at stake. Big names like Borussia Dortmund, Bayern and Juventus are all still hoping to clamour into the top eight, but are already guaranteed to at least be in February's play-off round.

Australia's Steve Smith joins greats with 10,000 Test runs

SPORTS DESK

Australia's Steve Smith on Wednesday joined a select group of batsmen to reach 10,000 career Test runs during the first morning of the opening Test against Sri Lanka. Smith started the match on 9,999 runs and on his first ball pushed for a single off Prabhath Jayasuriya in Galle to be the 15th Test batsman and fourth Australian to the milestone.

The stand-in skipper raised his bat to acknowledge the applause from the crowd.

The 35-year-old joined fellow Australians Ricky Ponting, Allan Border and Steve Waugh in a list led by India's Sachin Tendulkar, who made 15,921 runs in his red-ball career.

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar was the first to cross 10,000 runs in Test cricket when he achieved the feat against Pakistan in 1987 at Ahmedabad.

Smith is leading Australia in the two-match series after regular captain Pat Cummins opted out due to the birth of his second child.

He has an impressive average of more than 55 across 114 prior Tests, including 34 centuries since his 2010 debut.

Smith started as a leg-spinner who batted at number eight but soon rose to become the number one Test batter and captain of Australia.

Smith is recognised as a modern-day great and part of a famous quartet of new-era batsmen including India's Virat Kohli, Kane Williamson of New Zealand and England's Joe Root.

"We'll come back and continue to fight tomorrow morning. The energy is very good in the dressing room. We are all positive. There's still three days and a lot of overs to play."

The hosts resumed on 311-6 after a dominant opening day and plundered another 163 runs, with the composed Smith slamming 13 fours and three sixes.

Smith padded up again on 68, with Cummins alongside him on eight. They took 15 off One Deep over before Smith hooked Jasprit Bumrah for six to rub salt in the wounds, with India's body language showing their frustration.

Smith reached his 34th Test century with a boundary off Nitish Kumar Reddy, which came on the back of a return to form in the last Test in Brisbane where he made 101.



Australia's captain Steve Smith celebrates after scoring his ten thousandth run during the first day of the first Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and Australia at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle.

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PTI no-show

THEY waited for nothing. The PTI, making good on its threat to boycott the fourth round of negotiations between the opposition and the ruling parties, remained a no-show at the Tuesday session.

The government committee waited for about 45 minutes before the meeting was finally called off. It is hoped that this does not prove to be the end of the line for the process. National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, whose office has been hosting the negotiations, graciously left a door open for the PTI, expressing hope that it would realise that talks were still the only way forward.

However, the spokesperson for the government in the committee, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, had earlier taken a harder line over the weekend, warning that the dialogue would be called off if the PTI's representatives did not show up for the meeting. Similarly, the PTI had shown rigidity in making the fulfilment of its demands a precondition for its attendance.

It is a shame that what had initially seemed to be a genuine attempt to solve problems with talks fizzled out thus. Both sides certainly lived up to their worst expectations of each other: the PTI exhibited fickleness by withdrawing suddenly and prematurely from the process, while the government demonstrated ill intent by first dragging its feet and then allowing a raid on the opposition committee spokesperson's house.

Indeed, the outcome was always what had seemed to be the most likely one, even if it was not hoped for. It can only be prayed that both sides realise their errors and make amends to salvage the process. If they think bravado can hide the fact that they are individually weakened and need a breakthrough, they are mistaken. The two sides can continue to play their political cat-and-mouse games, but they will likely come full circle.

It had earlier been noted that the negotiations would have trouble continuing as long as the bigwigs from each party were not directly involved.

Second- or third-tier leaders alone cannot take talks forward. They need a constant line of communication with their party's leaders to discuss possibilities and get approvals.

In this case, the PTI's negotiating team should have been allowed free access to Imran Khan, which it was not. It is strange that the government remained reluctant to facilitate their meetings and still expected a positive outcome from the talks.

There is no shaking off the growing impression that an entire country is being held hostage by the egos of a few powerful individuals. Bad laws continue to be enacted to prolong the status quo, and bad decisions keep delaying the possibility of a turnaround. This will have deeply negative effects on the health of the country for years to come.

By Mahir Ali

Genocidal intent

A MARGINALLY deeper sense of history might have dissuaded Donald Trump from proposing the 'cleaning out' of Gaza's Palestinian population as his preferred plan for the devastated enclave. He's right, it does resemble a demolition site — courtesy of a genocidal Israeli military campaign that would not have been possible without American military and diplomatic support.

He might even be aware that the now dominant Zionist far right has long dreamed of expelling Palestine's indigenous inhabitants as the ideal means of realising its dream of an exclusively Jewish Eretz Israel. He probably doesn't know, though, that the deportation of German Jews was initially the Nazis' preferred option. The plan began to change after the 1938 Evian conference in France, where representatives from Western nations including the US and UK expressed sympathy for the Jews but balked at the idea of accepting refugees.

The outcome reinforced Nazi hostility against the Jews, while Hitler and his henchmen mocked their foreign critics for refusing to back up their words with action. Their new goals were spelt out at the Wannsee conference in early 1942, where the Nazi hierarchy unanimously acclaimed Hitler's vision of a 'final solution' whereby 11 million European Jews were effectively sentenced to death.

The horrendous eventual death toll of 6m cast a permanent shadow across Europe, and raised questions about the capacity of human beings for empathy. Jews weren't the Nazis' only targets, mind you.

First they came for the communists, then for the social democrats and trade unionists. They also sought to elimi-

nate the Roma people, homosexuals, and the intellectually impaired. At Auschwitz-Birkenau, where an estimated 1m Jews were butchered, the mass murder mechanism of gas chambers was initially tested on Soviet prisoners of war.

'Never again' remains an aspiration 80 years after Auschwitz.

There's an element of irony in the fact that Auschwitz was formally liberated by the Red Army 80 years ago on Monday. Most of the inmates had been evaporated by then, and many of the remainder had been sent on a death march. About 7,000 of the frail and sick remained. Among the survivors was the Italian scientist Primo Levi, who published some of the first insider accounts about the death camps. "They did not greet us, nor did they smile," he writes of the Soviet soldiers who chanced upon the camp on their way to Berlin, "they seemed oppressed not only by compassion but by ... the feeling of guilt that such a crime could exist."

Confronted with what could be described as living corpses, alongside thousands of bodies that no one could be bothered to bury, this was a humane reaction. Red Army field hospitals in the complex managed to save some lives, but many of the long-suffering patients succumbed to dysentery, diphtheria, scarlet fever or other diseases. Levi's memoir of his 10 months in the death camp,

If This is a Man, was initially ignored, but recognised as a unique testament when republished a decade later. In an afterword for a subsequent edition published 40 years ago, he answers frequently asked questions, including one about the average German reaction to what their government was perpetrating.

"[M]ost Germans didn't know because

they didn't want to know," he writes. "Because, indeed, they wanted not to know."

Couldn't much the same be claimed about Israeli citizens today? Numerous reports point out that mainstream Israeli media tends to ignore the genocide. It may be so, but it's hardly conceivable that one of the most tech-savvy populations in the world turns a blind eye to global media. Not unless it consciously wishes to ignore the parallels, im--perfect as they may be, between the Israeli and Nazi genocides.

The lessons from the Holocaust re--cited at the Ausch-witz site in Poland on Monday are all very well. Fascism has lately been resurfacing across Europe and has lately raised its hand in the US. The risk of anti-semitism keeps growing. But it can only be combated with the clear recognition that visceral opposition to Zionism and the Netanyahu government's fascist predilections is decidedly not antisemitic, and challenges precisely the kind of attitudes that Jews faced in 1930s Europe.

A more recent memoir reflects on the experiences of Noam Chayut, an enthusiastic Holocaust expert who diligently underwent the brainwashing that taught him he was a Zionist first, secondly an Israeli, and lastly a Jew. As a representative of 'the most moral army in the world', he encountered a Palestinian girl in a West Bank village who hesitated while her playmates ran away.

She did not return his smile. "As soon as I realised the fact that in her eyes I myself was absolute evil, the absolute evil that had governed me until then began to disintegrate," he confessed. His book, first published a dozen years ago, is titled *The Girl Who Stole My Holocaust*.

By Sara Malkani

Gandhi's lessons

S EVENTY-seven years ago on Jan 30, 1948, a right-wing militant assassinated M.K. Gandhi in retaliation for his solidarity with Muslim victims of post-partition riots. A few days earlier, Gandhi broke his last fast after obtaining commitments from religious community leaders that India's Muslims would be protected and those forced to leave their homes allowed to return.

He paid for his commitment to religious co-existence in independent India with his life. One would think that his support for Muslims would give him a high stature in Pakistan, but this is not the case. During riots in 1950, his statue opposite the Sindh High Court in Karachi was pulled down. Gandhi's role as leader of Congress and his opposition to partition have meant that his teachings have no place in our history books.

This is a pity because there is much we can learn from the unique South Asian leader.

Many aspects of his outlook were problematic, and some of his great contemporaries such as the Dalit leader B.R.

Ambedkar and progressive writer Rabindranath Tagore disagreed with many of his views. But Gandhi's insights into the effects of Western imperialism, the role of spiritual morality in public life and the dark sides of modernity continue to have relevance,

not only for South Asians, but for a world that is becoming increasingly difficult to theorise using well-worn paradigms of social analysis in the left or the right.

We can learn from the unique South Asian leader.

I discuss three of these insights: first, Gandhi's approach to accommodating radical diversities within society,

second his rejection of Western models of economic growth, and finally his commitment to non-violent political resistance.

How should the many layers of religious and cultural diversities in India be accommodated? This was a major challenge to pre-1947 Indian politics and it remains an existential one in South Asia today. Gandhi believed that radical diversities could coexist in independent India as they had for millennia prior to European colonisation. In *Hind Swaraj*, he writes that the essence of India's national identity and the basis for its continuity is its "faculty for assimilation". For Gandhi, removal of religion from public life was neither possible nor desirable given the deeply religious ethos of India's people. He believed in drawing from the spiritual ethics of all religions to shape a shared political morality.

Second, Gandhi believed Western models of economic growth could not be sustained by the planet. He understood that rapid large-scale industrialisation in the Global South would intensify inequalities and deplete natural resources. He advocated for localised growth driven by self-sustaining villages organised on a cooperative basis, and led campaigns boycotting Western industrial goods. Gandhi's rejection of the West had its critics.

Tagore wrote that such rejection amounted to parochialism and called for a "true meeting of the East and the West".

After independence, India did not adopt Gandhi's economic vision and moved towards industrialisation and centralisation. Even though Gandhi's prescriptions may seem quaint, in this era of climate catastrophe it is striking to see how contemporary calls for environmentally sustainable

economies and a return to smaller-scale, localised production echo his proposals.

Finally, his commitment to non-violent resistance inspired activists everywhere. He advocated non-violence for its own sake, as a principle consistent with respect for life, while demonstrating that non-violence is also an effective tactical tool. European imperialism justifies itself as a 'civilising' mission. Discrediting this fa--cade was crucial to end its dominance. The Dandi March led by Gandhi in 1930 to retrieve salt from the seashore in defiance of the salt tax became a world-famous example of non-violent re--sistance through di--rect action.

Sharp criticism of Gandhian non-violence comes from Arundhati Roy who notes that the performative power of non-violent resistance is unavailable to marginalised people without an audience. While we should consider perspectives from different struggles, it is clear that Gandhi's message of non-violence inspired movements as diverse as Bacha Khan's Khudai Khidmatgars and the 1960s civil rights movement in the US. Martin Luther King Jr said that Gandhi's non-violent resistance was the "only morally and practically sound method open to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom".

Gandhi predicted perhaps better than any other major 20th-century leader the climate crisis, the destructive capacities of powerful states with large armies, and the anti-democratic tendencies in economic and political systems geared to satisfy material greed.

We in Pakistan should critically engage with his thoughts to develop the intellectual and ethical resources we need to build a national identity that still eludes us.

DAILY MIRROR

Senate committee discusses issues of overseas prisoners, repatriation, and welfare of migrant workers

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, chaired by Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, met today at the Old PIP Hall, Parliament Lodges.

The Committee discussed issues related to consular services provided to Pakistanis imprisoned in various countries, particularly in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Oman, with a specific focus on policies and joint initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Community Welfare Attachés.

The Committee was briefed by the Director General of MoFA on the finalization of agreements with 11 countries—the UAE, Turkey, Azerbaijan, China, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Iran, and South Korea—and was informed that the transfer of active prisoners is currently underway.

Emphasizing the need for adequate legal representation and impartial translators for detainees, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada directed the Community Welfare Attachés to ensure these provisions. He further instructed the concerned authorities to expedite negotiations and finalize prisoner transfer agreements to facilitate the repatriation of Pakistani nationals, allowing them to serve their sentences in their home country.

Additionally, the Committee asked for a detailed report on individuals incarcerated in foreign countries due to unpaid fines.

Regarding prisoners in Saudi Arabia, the Committee was informed that 900 individuals had been interviewed, and the national status of 400 had been verified through the Ministry of Interior for transfer. Furthermore, Senator Faisal Vawda pledged to assist orphans, widows, and elderly prisoners, proposing to advocate for pardons where applicable. Chairman Zeeshan Khanzada endorsed this initiative and extended his full support. The Committee was also apprised that approximately 5,000 Pakistanis are currently detained across the West Bank, with the majority convicted of drug-related offenses.

While acknowledging the efforts of Community Welfare Attachés, the Committee recommended that the Secretary of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (M/o OP&HRD) take up the issue of procuring biometric machines for CWAs stationed at various missions.

These machines would facilitate detainees in renewing their passports and CNICs, enabling them to file appeals where applicable.

In response to a query from Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, the Committee was informed about the clemency process, noting that in Oman, pardons for long-serving prisoners are granted only on national holidays. The Committee further requested a detailed report on the funds allocated and utilized over the past two years for the payment of fines on behalf of detained Pakistanis across various missions. The meeting concluded with a discussion on the confiscation of passports upon arrival of Pakistani Zaireen traveling to Iraq, which has caused significant difficulties and humiliation at the hands of Iraqi immigration authorities. The Secretary of M/o OP&HRD briefed the Committee on the steps taken thus far to address the matter. At this juncture, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada stated that he would approach the Chairman of the Senate to nominate Senator Raja Nasir Abbas as the focal person for this issue.

The meeting was attended by Senators Shahadat Awan, Gurdeep Singh, M. Faisal Vawda, Raja Nasir Abbas, as well as senior officials from the Overseas Pakistanis & HRD and Community Welfare Attachés.



IRELAND: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani shaking hand with newly elected Speaker of IRISH Parliament TD Verona Murphy in Ireland.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah calls for adopting arbitration instead of moving courts

INP

KARACHI: Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, the senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court, urged the litigants to adopt the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) system instead of moving courts frequently.

Addressing a seminar in IBA Karachi on Wednesday, he said that 86pc cases are pending in the district courts in Pakistan.

"As many as 2.4 million cases are pending in the lower courts. We should try to resolve the matter through arbitration instead of moving the courts frequently," said the top jurist.

He said that the litigants should adopt the alternate ways to resolve their issues.

"We are working with the shortage of judges. The issues would not be resolved by only issuing the stay orders," said Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

He said that there is a need to change our mindset and adopt the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) system. "There are 90 judges for 0.1 million people in other countries but we are far behind here," Justice Shah said.

Govt working to improve agricultural productivity:

Tanveer

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain has said the government is working with international partners to improve agricultural productivity, ensure food security and support farmers with innovative solutions.

Talking to a delegation of BGI Group in Islamabad, he expressed the resolve to introduce modern technologies in the agriculture.

The Minister highlighted the potential for collaboration between Pakistan and BGI in key areas, particularly in training programs for Pakistani researchers, establishing joint laboratory ventures and initiating pilot projects for real-world application of genomic research.

To facilitate technology transfer and encourage adoption at the grassroots level, it was decided to launch demonstration projects, allowing farmers and researchers to witness.

Govt promoting environment-friendly electricity generation: Awais Leghari

INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Energy Awais Leghari has said that the government is promoting environment friendly electricity generation from alternative sources instead of expensive imported oil.

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, the federal minister said that before today, power generation plants were being set up under different policies, but now we have introduced a new system in which power plants will be set up through a competitive process.

He said that so far, the Ministry of Energy had closed five factories running on expensive imported furnace oil.

These factories used to generate 2,500 megawatts of electricity, he said, adding that these factories were not only polluting the environment but were also putting a heavy burden on the national exchequer.

Awais Leghari said that the closing of these factories saved billions of rupees for the national treasury. He said that converting electric tube-wells to solar energy in Balochistan can save 80 to 100 billion rupees annually.

He said that our farmers should water their crops through drip irrigation, which can save more than 80 percent of water.

He further said, I myself water my lands through drip irrigation and I am saving 82.2 percent of the water. We will have to save groundwater, otherwise it will go down very low after some time.

The federal minister said that to promote electric vehicles and motorcycles in the country, the price of electricity at charging stations has been reduced from Rs. 71 per unit to Rs. 39.70. He said that if banks and international institutions are ready to provide loans, it will yield positive results.

US investors keen to invest billions in Pakistan: says delegation head

Gentry Beach, leader of US billionaire investor delegation, aims for billions in investments in Pakistan

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Gentry Beach, the head of a delegation of US billionaire investors, has expressed his interest in investing billions of dollars in Pakistan.

During a meeting with prominent journalists in Islamabad, Beach shared his enthusiasm about visiting Pakistan and praised the intelligence and hard work of the Pakistani people, emphasising the historical ties between the US and Pakistan.

Beach highlighted the ongoing global shift towards a new era of peace and development and pointed out that efforts had been made in the US to create misconceptions about Pakistan.

He noted that in the past, the American public had not been shown the true image of Pakistan, especially in light of the way the US withdrew from Afghanistan under the Biden administration.

The head of the investor delegation also mentioned that former US President

Donald Trump believed in economic diplomacy.

Beach revealed that the American investors' delegation had come to Pakistan to explore investment opportunities in various sectors, including artificial intelligence, real estate, and minerals. He added that the US was keen to invest billions of dollars in Pakistan.

Beach acknowledged that Pakistan's current leadership was fully aligned with the new US administration, and he had met some of the world's finest people during his visit to Pakistan.

He also recalled that Richard Grenell had personally informed him that he was misled by the promotion of fake videos online about the founder of PTI, using artificial intelligence.

He further emphasised that Richard Grenell fully supports Pakistan's justice system and praised President Trump for being a hardworking and remarkable leader.

President Zardari Felicitates President Xi on Lunar New Year

INP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has conveyed his heartfelt felicitations to the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, on the auspicious occasion of the Chinese Spring Festival and the advent of the Year of the Snake.

In his letter to President Xi Jinping, the President reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the "ironclad friendship" between Pakistan and China, saying that he was looking forward to meeting President Xi Jinping in Beijing to exchange views on further strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing the bonds of friendship.

In the letter, the President highlighted the resilience and solidarity demonstrated by the two nations as All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners, adding that the tireless efforts of successive leaderships had nurtured and strengthened this unique and exemplary bond of interstate relations. "Pakistan would continue to remain firmly committed to the 'One China' policy, which is the cornerstone of our foreign policy," he added.

The President also expressed his profound gratitude to President Xi for his unwavering support in furthering Pakistan-China relations, particularly his visionary leadership in advancing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Govt misinterpreted negotiations as PTI's weakness: Zartaj Gul

INP

ISLAMABAD: Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Zartaj Gul has claimed that the government perceived PTI's willingness to negotiate as a sign of weakness.

In a statement, Zartaj Gul stated that an attack on Sahibzada Hamid Raza's residence was an attack on PTI's negotiation committee.

She stated that February 8 is approaching once again, emphasising that on that day, the entire nation rejected the May 9 narrative. She also announced that PTI would observe February 8 as a "Black Day" in accordance to alleged rigging in February 8, 2024 General Elections.

She further asserted that PTI possessed public support and vowed to continue the struggle alongside PTI founder Imran Khan.

Sukkur-Karachi motorway M-6 top priority: Minister

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: In a high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority (NHA) under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan, an inquiry committee was formed on the issue of protective fences around Motorways which will submit report within 10 days.

The minister told that the construction of Sukkur to Hyderabad Motorway M-6 was a top priority which would be built up to Karachi. He added that the Rs. 50 billion increase in the revenue of the NHA in a period of 6 months would be a deposit account and this money would be utilized on the projects from which more revenue could be generated, said a press release issued here Wednesday.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said that taking the revenue from Rs. 60 to 110 billion was a commendable achievement and he intended to raise the revenue of NHA by Rs. 400 billion in the next 5 years and if the target of revenue was attained by June this year, then all NHA employees would get an additional bonus equal to one's salary.

While reviewing the projects of the NHA, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan expressed that it has been decided to

make the Sialkot-Kharan and Rawalpindi Motorway 6 lanes instead of 4 for which work will be started, soon. He directed the Federal Secretary for Communications to complete the repair work on the Motorways in February and to inspect them on the spot. On the instructions of the Federal Minister for Communications it was decided to form a Committee for the commercial use of vacant lands owned by the National Highway Authority, in the light of whose recommendations this property will be used to increase revenue, as well. The minister made it clear that there will be no likes or dislikes, the National Highway Authority should ensure that every work is done on merit and by implementing a uniform policy for all this organization should generate its funds in all circumstances.

During the meeting, the Federal Secretary for Communications and Chairman NHA informed the meeting that several projects were under completion to develop Pakistan's national road network on modern lines on which the pace of work was being further accelerated. In the meeting, it was decided to have these projects inaugurated by Prime Minister on their completion. Furthermore, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan will also inspect these sites to check the base and stander of the work.



The Ambassador-designate of Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Mr. Beraldo Roque Nicola Flanigen, presenting his diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, Islamabad.

Ayaz urges opposition to play constructive role in addressing national challenges

APP

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, met with members of the National Assembly on Wednesday in a cordial setting at the Parliament Cafeteria.

During the informal interaction, Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Junaid Akbar, Nafisa Shah, Atif Khan, and several other lawmakers engaged in discussions with the Speaker on various parliamentary and political matters.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the impor-

tance of dialogue and cooperation in improving the political environment, urging opposition members to play a constructive role in addressing national challenges. "Dialogue is the key to resolving all issues, and collective efforts are essential for strengthening democracy," he said.

The attending lawmakers appreciated the Speaker's role in conducting parliamentary proceedings efficiently and ensuring a smooth legislative process.

They reaffirmed their commitment to fostering a more inclusive and productive parliamentary environment.

In the past, the self interested elements have deprived the rights of hub: Hassan Zehri

APP

QUETTA: Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari, and Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Co-operative Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has said that today is a very important milestone for Gadani.

He was addressing the inauguration ceremony of Gadani Main RCD highway from the Ship Breaking Yard to 18 km road construction at Gadani. Earlier, when Mir Ali Hassan Zehri arrived in Gadani, the workers of PPP and the people welcomed him. On the occasion, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri laid the foundation stone of the event and said that at a cost of Rs. 94 crore, the construction of 18 km road from Gadani Main RCD Road to Ship Breaking Yard will be completed soon.

He said that the PPP is at the forefront of the service of the people and Balochistan is steadily on the path of development and prosperity. President Asif Ali Zardari is taking special interest in the development of Balochistan. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri further said that the construction work of the first phase of the project has begun.

The road will be constructed at a cost of Rs 94 crore and the project includes a bridge. With the completion of the project, Gadani will further enhance global

support and a new era of prosperity of the people here will begin.

The provincial minister said that I have come here to work and the task of bringing prosperity has been started. He said that, in the past, some of the self-interested and public enemy elements deprived the people of the Hub of their basic rights and we have been on hundreds of billions of projects to make the hub as the ideal district of Pakistan. Work has begun.

Most of these projects have reached its final completion and work on the rest of the projects is underway and constantly changing the hub with efforts day and night.

While addressing the ceremony, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that President Asif Ali Zardari told me that one of my Homes is Nawabshah, the other is the HUB and Zardari's house is also being constructed in Hub and soon he will come here regularly. Provincial Minister said that we will build factories including iron factory in the hub which will provide more people across the district here for employment opportunities. He said more that the construction of 2 km road in Barkat Goth has been completed.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the manifesto of the PPP is the service of the people and its implementation is underway and it is a fact that Pakistan will develop if Balochistan progresses.



QUETTA: Journalist casing vote during BUJ election at Quetta Press Club.