

Quetta
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DAILY MIRROR

mirrorqta@gmail.com

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

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SC judge questions army officers' expertise in awarding death sentences

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Justice Jamal Mandokhail on Friday questioned whether army officers have sufficient experience and expertise to award death sentences to an accused.

His remarks came during the hearing of an intra-court appeal against civilian trials in military courts, conducted by a seven-member Supreme Court constitutional bench under the supervision of Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan.

The top court, in its unanimous verdict by a five-member bench, on October 23 last year, declared civilians' trials in military courts null and void and ordered that 103 suspects be tried in civilian courts.

However, on December 13, 2023, a six-member bench of the apex court — with Justice Musarrat Hilali differing with the majority — suspended its October 23 order on petitions challenging the earlier verdict, which was then challenged.

But after a hiatus, the constitutional bench

in December last year had conditionally allowed military courts to pronounce reserved verdicts of 85 civilians who were still in custody for their alleged involvement in the May 9, 2023, riots.

The May 9 riots refer to the violent protests triggered by the arrest of the PTI founder in a corruption case, during which state installations, including the General Headquarters, were also attacked.

As a result, the military court handed down punishments to all 85 accused in the same month, but a few days earlier, 19 convicts were pardoned after they appealed for mercy. During the hearing, Justice Mandokhail remarked that the Army Act was applicable to the military only and the court must ensure that fundamental rights and justice are upheld for all. Justice Musarrat Hilali sought clarification on who drafts judgments in military courts, noting that, as per her understanding, cases are heard by one person, while decisions on punishments are made by commanding officers who did not hear the case.



Secretary General Muslim World League Sheikh Dr. Mohammed bin AbdulKarim Al-Issa calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

PM lauds Muslim World League for promoting Islam's true image

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has commended the Muslim World League for promoting the true image of Islam globally.

He was talking to Secretary General Muslim World League Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa in Islamabad today [Friday].

The Prime Minister acknowledged efforts of the organization for advocating the common objectives of the Muslim world as well as fostering mutual respect and understanding among different religions, beliefs, and civilizations.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the objectives and goals of the Muslim World League. He thanked the Secretary-General for the decision to establish a Seerat Museum in Pakistan and expressed hope that this important project for the Muslim world would be completed soon. He further said Pakistan will continue to work towards the timely completion of joint projects, especially the establishment of the Seerat Museum.

Commenting on the upcoming International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities, Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the support of the League in co-hosting the Conference.

The Prime Minister also mentioned Pakistan's long-standing fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia and expressed good wishes for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Muhammad bin Salman Al Saud.

In his remarks, the Secretary General thanked the Government of Pakistan for extending cooperation with the Muslim World League in making excellent arrangements for the Conference.

He further appreciated Pakistan's commitment and efforts to advance the goals of the Muslim world at the global level while further strengthening the brotherly relations between Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah.

He said that eminent scholars and academicians from different schools of thought are participating in the conference from across the globe.

Besides, the two leaders discussed the situation in the Middle East and condemned the Israeli atrocities against innocent Palestinians.

They urged the international community to play its due role in improving the situation.

Pakistan Army killed five terrorists in DI Khan Op: ISPR

APP

RAWALPINDI: During the conduct of the operation, Pakistan Army troops effectively engaged Khwarij's location, and resultantly five khwarij including Kharji ring leader Shafiqullah Shafi killed.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed khwarij, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as target killing of innocent civilians.

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Khosa condemns attack on house of Finance Minister Shoab in Kharan

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Minister for Communication and Works (C&Ws) and Parliamentary Leader of Muslim League (N) Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa strongly condemned the cracker attack on the house of Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoab Noshirwani in Kharan.

In his condemnation statement issued here on Friday the Minister said that this attack is completely against the province and Baloch traditions, it has never happened in our Baloch traditions to attack anyone's house.

He said that this heinous act is tantamount to an attack on peace, humanity and social values.

Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa said that the purpose of such incidents is to destabilize our province and traditions, but terrorists would never succeed in their ambitions.

"The Government of Balochistan is committed to rooting out terrorism and providing justice", he said adding that the people and government would unite to face these challenges and continue the process of building a peaceful and prosperous Balochistan.

3 civilians injured in IED blast targeting FC truck in Balochistan's Chaman: police

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: Three civilians were injured in a blast from an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting a truck carrying Frontier Corps (FC) personnel on Friday in Balochistan's Chaman city, according to the police.

A statement from Rabia Tariq, public relations officer for the Balochistan inspector general of police's office, said that a blast from a motorcycle planted with an IED targeted an FC truck carrying personnel from an army fort to an FC fort.

It added that all FC personnel remained unharmed while three civilians were injured in the incident, with two sustaining minor injuries and provided treatment on the spot while the third was moved to a hospital.

A statement from Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind condemned

the blast as a "cowardly act", adding that the government was committed to protecting the people and would thwart the plans of all elements against peace.

Rind said the culprits would be brought to justice and all resources were being used to maintain law and order. He urged the public to inform the administration about suspicious activities.

The incident comes a few days after an attacker rammed an explosive-laden car into a bus transporting FC personnel from Karachi to

Turbat in Behan area near its destination on Saturday. The banned Baloch Liberation Army said its Majeed Brigade had carried out the blast.

The attack left six people dead and over 50 people injured, including Senior Superintendent of Police Zohaib Mohsin and six members of his family.

Balancing population essential for Balochistan's progress: Kakar

APP

Quetta: Director General (DG) of Population Welfare Azeem Kakar on Friday said that creating a balance between population and resources is important for putting Balochistan on the path of development.

He said that rapid increase in population is having negative effects on women's health saying that Balochistan would be developed by creating a balance between population and resources.

He expressed these views while addressing at a ceremony organized by the Population Welfare Office regarding balanced family, family planning and reproductive health.

Senior District Population Welfare

Officer Muhammad Ayub Kakar, Mufti Agha Muhammad Muhammadi, Maulvi Saifullah,

Maulvi Muhammad Shoaib, Mufti Noor Muhammad, Maulvi Nisar Ahmed, Hafiz Hayatullah, Accountant Population Abdul Latif and others were also present on this occasion.

DG Population Welfare highlighted the negative impact of rapid growth on women's health due to increasing population. He also urged stockholders, scholars and civil society to play their role to create awareness among people to ensure balance population in the area.

He said that the role of eminent scholars is very crucial in achieving goal of balance population.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-Fazl) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Balochistan govt condemns bomb blast at Chaman Railway Station L Rind

APP

Quetta: Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind on Friday strongly condemned the bomb blast near the railway station in Chaman and termed it a cowardly act of anti-peace elements.

He said that such incidents are a failed attempt to destabilize the peace of Balochistan, but the government and security forces are determined to thwart terrorist activities to maintain durable peace in the province.

He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and assured that the responsible elements would be brought to justice.

He said that the government is utilizing all resources to ensure the safety of the people. Shahid Rind has appealed to the people to immediately report any suspicious activity to the relevant authorities and play their role in establishing law and order situation.

The Balochistan government is taking vigorous steps to make the province a cradle of peace with the cooperation of the people, he said.

Mohsin Naqvi briefs Maulana Fazl on peace efforts in Kurram

INP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a detailed meeting with Amir of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in Islamabad on Friday morning and discusses a string of issues with him.

During the meeting, both the leaders discussed matters of mutual interest. Interior Minister also inquired about health and well-being of Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Mohsin Naqvi extended his sincere wishes for the health of Maulana Fazlur Rehman and discussed current law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with him.

Both the leaders expressed their satisfaction over arrival of relief goods for residents of Parachinar area. Mohsin Naqvi said that all the stakeholders were on board for establishing rule of law in the Kurram district.

The interior minister said that some nefarious elements were trying to hide the ground realities to promote their evil designs. He also appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders for successful implementation of the recently held jirga's decisions. Interior Minister lauded the positive role of Maulana Fazlur Rehman for stability and peace in the country.

Senate Committee discusses civil Servants amendment bill, 2024

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, chaired by Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan, convened on Friday to discuss "The Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2024".

Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan, bill's mover, stated that the civil servants take an oath of faithfulness and loyalty to the State of Pakistan, and therefore it is impossible for any individual/civil servant to be loyal to two countries.

Senator Saadia Abbasi argued that in Countries like UK and USA, the citizens can possess dual nationality. Surprisingly, in the USA, except for the office of President, a dual National can hold any Public Office, she added.

She stated that the Government of Pakistan should devise a policy concerning dual nationality, streamlining the bars and requisites for the dual nationality. Senator Saadia Abbasi and other members maintained that the bar of dual nationality should apply to all civil servants and there shouldn't be any exceptions, and if any, it should be for everyone.

Secretary Cabinet Division, Kamran Ali Afzal, informed that the matter was discussed in "Secretaries Committee" and there are no aversions on the dual nationality. He argued that it is intuitively difficult for any individual to be loyal to two countries.

The Committee decided to discuss the Secretaries Committee report in the next meeting for the resolution of the matter.

'Imran Khan is a criminal, not a political prisoner, and will not be released': Ahsan Iqbal

Planning minister criticises PTI for pushing the country to brink of economic collapse during its four years in power

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan is not a political prisoner but a criminal, making it clear that the government would not release him. He made these remarks on the issue of gifts received by the former prime minister, accusing Khan of selling them at a low price for personal gain. He also criticised the leadership of the PTI, accusing it of driving the country to the brink of economic collapse during its four years in power.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, he expressed concern over the damaging consequences of PTI's governance, stating that the party's actions had plunged the country into a severe economic crisis.

He stated, "The incompetence of the PTI leadership over the past four years has pushed the nation to the edge of disaster. Today, the PTI is engaged in actions that even the extrem-

ist elements like RAW never dared to carry out in the past." Iqbal further criticised PTI for allegedly conspiring against the military and associating with foreign elements hostile to Pakistan, accusing the party of attempting to tarnish Pakistan's international standing, particularly in the West.

Addressing the current economic situation, the minister assured that the federal government is taking strong measures to stabilise the economy.

He pointed out that under the current government, Pakistan's economic outlook has improved, with reports highlighting a 30% increase in remittances this year. "After our government took over, the global perception of Pakistan's economy has changed for the better," he said.

The minister also mentioned the launch of the federal government's 'Uraan' programme, which he described as a pivotal initiative to boost the country's economic growth. He stressed that economic stability requires a peaceful environment, stating that no investors would come to a country

plagued by unrest and chaos on its streets.

Iqbal continued his criticism of PTI, pointing out that the ruling party's leadership had continuously sought to discredit Pakistan's legal institutions, unlike the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which had chosen to fight its legal battles within the country's courts.

"We never sought to malign our country's reputation. It is the PTI that has caused harm to Pakistan's image," he stated. The minister further alleged that PTI's leadership misused public funds, accusing former prime minister Imran Khan of funneling approximately Rs50 billion into a friend's account, calling it a clear case of corruption. "If this is not theft, what is?" he questioned.

In conclusion, he reiterated that the federal government was focused on restoring the country's economic health, enhancing infrastructure, and maintaining law and order to attract investment and ensure the stability of Pakistan's future.

CM Maryam says govt will take benefit from education system of Turkiye

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said that provincial government will take benefit from the education system of Turkiye, adding that government was take all out steps for the betterment of students.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was speaking after the inauguration of Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools & Colleges in Multan on Friday.

The Chief Minister lauded Maarif Foundation's efforts for promotion of education and cultural exchange between Pakistan and Turkiye.

CM Maryam Nawaz said Maarif Foundation has played a valuable role in promoting education in the region. On the occasion Maryam Nawaz also thanked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his love for Pakistan. She remembered the unwavering support of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for further strengthening of relations between the two nations. Maryam Nawaz said Turkiye always stood side by side with Pakistan especially in promoting development and improvement

in Punjab and the country.

CM Maryam welcomed all Trukish guests on the inauguration of Turk Maarif International School. She said the presence of the Minister of Education of Turkiye is a sign of deep and lasting friendship between the two nations. She said Pakistan will take benefit from Turkish education system.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Dr. Yusuf Tekin, Minister of National Education of Turkiye; Irfan Neziroglu, Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan and Prof. Dr. Birol Akgun, President of the Turkish Maarif Foundation. The project, implemented by the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMF) aimed at fostering long-lasting educational ties between Turkiye and Pakistan. With an investment of \$6 million the campus is designed to meet modern academic standards and cater to the evolving needs of 21st-century learners. The initiative highlights TMF's dedication to empowering youth through quality education, fostering critical thinking, and preparing responsible global citizens equipped to excel in an increasingly competitive world.



Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif along with Yusuf Tekin, Turkish Education Minister and others cutting inaugural ribbon during the inauguration of Pak-Turk Maarif International School and College, in Multan.

PML-N divided into two factions, both after PTI's jugular: Muhammad Zubair

INP

MULTAN: Former Sindh governor and senior politician Muhammad Zubair claims that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is split into two factions, both aiming for the political demise of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Speaking to a private TV channel he viewed "there are individuals like Irfan Siddiqui who believe that the PTI should be accepted as a political reality. However, the current political bitterness is immense, and lessons from the past should be heeded." Zubair suggested that a negotiated return of Imran Khan could be beneficial for the country. "Suppressing Imran Khan and his party will not resolve the crisis. When Nawaz Sharif returned in 2022, it was the result of a deal, and the no-confidence motion was part of that agreement."

"Political dynamics shifted dramatically during that period with parties like BAP and MQM changing their stance," he said.

He further speculated that a similar political turnaround could happen today if BAP and MQM receive the signals. Adding to the discussion, Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar commented on the fluctuating nature of political popularity, stating,

Ayaz commends security forces for killing terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday lauded the security forces for eliminating five khwarij terrorists during an operation in Dera Ismail Khan.

Commending their efforts, he said, "The actions of our security forces to crush the sinister ambitions of Khwarij terrorists are highly commendable."

He said that such terrorists would never succeed in achieving their malicious objectives and acknowledged the unwavering resolve and dedication of the security forces in combating terrorism.



Tribal Leader, Ahmed Khan Achakzai visiting the Free Medical Camp organized by Kaka Shaheed Foundation, in Quetta

Two die, three injured in series of Karachi road accidents

INP

KARACHI: At least persons lost their lives and three were injured in a series of devastating road accidents in Karachi within a short span.

In a traffic accident occurred on Shaheed-Millat Road two motorcyclists died when they were hit by a fast-moving car. According to traffic police, the speeding car struck the motorcyclists, causing them to lose control and fall onto the road.

A tanker truck, which was following the car, failed to stop in time and ran over the fallen motorcyclists.

The tanker dragged the motorcycle and its occupants for a distance before coming to a halt, killing two persons.

Another man also sustained injuries in the incident is transported to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. The police have taken the tanker driver into custody.

Delegation led by BMGF Dr. Rehan calls on Health Secretary

APP

Quetta: A delegation led by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Senior Program Officer, Dr. Rehan Hafeez met with Balochistan Health Secretary, Mujeeb Ur Rahman Panizai on Friday.

The meeting discussed polio and immunization issues. Deputy Provincial Coordinator for the Expanded Program on Immunization, Dr. Zafar Iqbal

Khosti, Dr. Zarif, Dr. Waheed Lashari, and Dr. Najeeb Marwat also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on polio eradication and immunization campaigns against infectious diseases. Secretary

Health Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panizai expressed that the Balochistan government is adopting an effective strategy to eradicate polio, yielding significant results soon. Eliminating infectious diseases like polio can save

children from lifelong disabilities, he said and added that the Expanded Program for Immunization plays a crucial role in preventing various diseases.

Panizai stated that the provincial government, under the Chief Minister and Minister of Health's leadership is committed to combating infectious diseases and is preparing a roadmap for primary health care and immunization, which would be closely reviewed for positive results.

Continuous efforts, unwavering determination core principles of PN Dockyard: Vice Admiral Ovais

ONLINE

KARACHI: Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami on Friday emphasized that continuous efforts, unwavering determination, and a strong commitment to innovation are the core principles of PN Dockyard.

Addressing at Pakistan Navy COMLOG Command Annual Efficiency Award Ceremony 2024 here, he congratulated the award winners and advised to continue the good work with same zeal and zest, said a press release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy).

In his address, Commander Logistics, Rear Admiral M. Sohail Arshad highlighted operational achievements of COMLOG Command during the year 2024.

He apprised that COMLOG Command successfully carried out its mandated role despite the challenges. He further highlighted that professional excellence has been and will continue to remain hallmark of COMLOG Command.

The ceremony is organized annually to recognize the efforts of employees and units for their pivotal role in achieving Command's objectives.



Rescue operation is underway after an explosion caused by methane gas, at Sanjdi coal field near Quetta on Friday, January 10, 2025. At least 12 coal miners were trapped inside a mine after an explosion caused by methane gas in the Sanjdi coal field area, around 40 kilometres southeast of Quetta.



South Africa sports minister joins calls for Afghanistan cricket boycott

SPORTS DESK

CAPE TOWN: South Africa Sports Minister Gayton McKenzie said he supported calls for a boycott of Afghanistan in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan, adding his voice to those of British politicians who have called on England not to play them next month.

England and South Africa share the same group with Afghanistan in the One-day International competition and are under pressure to boycott the fixtures in response to the Taliban governments crackdown on women's rights since returning to power in August 2021.

South Africa are scheduled to open their Champions Trophy schedule against Afghanistan in Karachi on Feb 21 but McKenzie urged his country's cricket governing body not to honour the fixture.

"Cricket South Africa, the federations of other countries and the ICC (International Cricket Council) will have to think carefully about the message the sport of cricket wishes to send the world, and especially the women in sports," he said in a statement on Thursday.

"It is not for me as the Sports Minister to make the final decision on whether South Africa should honour cricketing fixtures against Afghanistan. If it was my decision, then it certainly would not happen."

"As a man who comes from a race that was not allowed equal access to sporting opportunities during Apartheid, it would be hypocritical and immoral to look the other way today when the same is being done towards women anywhere in the world," he added.

More than 160 British politicians have signed a cross-party letter to the England and Wales Cricket Board, calling for a boycott of England's fixture against Afghanistan in Lahore on Feb 26.

ECB chief executive Richard Gould responded by calling for a uniform approach from all member nations towards Afghanistan's participation in international cricket.



KARACHI: PTV batter Mohammad Taha plays a shot during the President's Trophy match against SNGPL at the HPC Oval.

Half-century for Fawad as SBP gain lead in President's Trophy

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Test batter Fawad Alam struck an unbeaten 82 for State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) as they gained lead over Oil and Gas Development Comp-any Limited (OGDCL) in their President's Trophy match at the SBP Sports Complex here.

SBP were bundled out for 172 in 54.1 overs after they continued from their overnight score of 78-5. Fawad hit five fours in his 142-ball 82 not out after walking in to bat at 34-2. For OGDCL, Mush-taq Ah-m-ed picked up three wickets.

In turn, OGDCL had collected 202 runs for the loss of four wickets, with the help of half-centuries from Abbas Ali and Hasan Raza as stumps were drawn. At the NBP Sports Com-p-lex, KRL were bowled out for 151 after they began the day with three for no loss in two overs against Wapda. With a 117-run first innings lead, Wapda finished the day with 114-3 in 30 overs.

Higher Education Com-m-ission (HEC) conceded a 117-run first innings deficit against Eshaal Asso-ciates, as they were dismissed for 224 in 60.2 overs.

In turn, Eshaal Ass-ociates had racked up 120 runs for the loss of two wickets in 30.3 overs stret-e-hing the lead to 237, with Azan Awais unbeaten on the crease for 80-ball 53. SNGPL posted 406 all out in 98.1 overs against Pakistan Television (PTV), after resuming from their overnight score of 367-5. Amad Butt returned figures of 4-85 in 31.1 overs.

In reply, PTV's Mohammad Taha (86 not out off 173), Mohammad Shahzad (70 off 96) and Yasir Khan (59 off 80) struck half-centuries to take their team to 260-4 in 65 overs at the close of play on day two.

Scores in brief:

Bergvall gives Spurs League Cup semi-final lead over Liverpool

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Lucas Bergvall scored his first goal for Tottenham Hotspur to give his side a surprise 1-0 victory over holders Liverpool in the first leg of their League Cup semi-final.

The 18-year-old Swede rifled a superb finish past Liverpool keeper Alisson in the 86th minute to reward the injury-hit hosts who shortly before had seen a Dominic Solanke goal ruled out.

Liverpool, who beat Chelsea to win the competition for a record 10th time last season, were nowhere near their best as their 24-match unbeaten run in all competitions came to an end.

They did have a legitimate cause for complaint though as Bergvall, who had already been booked, was fortunate to escape a second yellow card for a foul on Kostas Tsimikas moments before he netted the winning goal.

But fuming Slot said: "The decision made had a lot of impact on the result tonight."

"The fourth official told me why he thought it wasn't a second yellow and he heard that probably from the referee."

"What we can say about it is that he said he didn't stop the counter-attack, every manager would say they prefer the second yellow than a free-kick."

"Spurs weren't happy with a few decisions that happened (against Newcastle) on Sunday. Maybe today a decision went in favour of them, which is of course very unlucky for us."

Inevitably, Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou saw the incident differently.

Asked if Bergvall was lucky to avoid a red card, Postecoglou said: "Great question, no he wasn't."

"It's happened to us consistently, you look at our games, and we've asked the officials and they've said if you play advantage, as long as it's not a cynical tackle, then yellow card doesn't get shown. Now to me, that was pretty clear."

While Slot's side suffered only their second loss of the season they will still feel confident of turning around the tie in the second leg at Anfield next month.

Tottenham suffered a setback when midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur was taken off on a stretcher after a worrying fall early on, the omens looked poor for the hosts who gave a debut to new keeper Antonin Kinsky.



TOTTENHAM Hotspur's Lucas Bergvall (R) scores against Liverpool during their League Cup semi-final first leg at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

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The court's power

THE rumbling within the Supreme Court grows louder. In an order pertaining to held-up pension payments by the National Bank of Pakistan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has underlined that implementing the apex court's verdicts is not 'optional'. "To disregard or delay the implementation of [the Supreme Court's] verdicts is to challenge the very framework of our legal system," he has remarked in the order, noting that when the apex court issues a verdict, it does so as the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. He has warned that non-compliance sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to executive overreach.

Justice Shah's observations, also reflected in his remarks a day later at a conference, have stirred speculation over how proceedings in the reserved seats case may unfold. It may be recalled that the government recently enacted legislation designed to frustrate the Supreme Court's order in the case, while its representatives and allies have taken turns to attack both the judgement and the eight judges behind it.

"The power to hold individuals or entities in contempt for failing to comply with a court order is fundamental to the judiciary's ability to function effectively," Justice Shah observes in his order. "Without this power, the judiciary would be rendered toothless, unable to enforce its decisions, thereby jeopardising the administration of justice."

If the sword of contempt is unsheathed, the ECP could be its first casualty. Having acted on multiple occasions as if it is under no compulsion to obey the laws or court orders, the ECP has, in this instance too, refused to respect the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of the Constitution. It should have allotted whatever reserved seats accrued to the PTI by now in line with court directives, but has chosen, instead, to play tag-team with the government in subverting the verdict.

Still, it must be acknowledged that part of the blame falls on the court itself. Due to certain past actions and decisions, the apex court earned the distrust of the political class, lending itself to controversy. Such actions include the endorsement of military takeovers, and its role in dislodging at least two prime ministers. It must be noted, however, that even in these cases, its verdicts were implemented.

Secondly, the court must also acknowledge that the absence of the detailed verdict in the reserved seats case continues to foster controversy. While it should take adequate measures to enforce its writ and uphold the constitutional order, it must also realise that it needs to announce the detailed verdict soon for the objections against it to be addressed with finality.

The reserved seats case has turned into a charged political issue. Wisdom and restraint are needed in abundance to see the matter through.

By Maleeha Lodhi

Raising the stakes

ISRAEL'S criminal actions have again pushed the Middle East to the edge of the precipice, unleashing fears of a wider conflict. Ten months of Israel's brutal war on Gaza have already claimed 40,000 Palestinian lives, displaced two million people, and brought untold suffering to Gazans.

Its assassination in quick succession of top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran, and senior Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur in Lebanon, further raised the stakes in a dangerous escalation of regional tensions. The audacious targeted killing of Haniyeh, a former prime minister of Palestine, who was in Tehran to attend the inauguration of the newly elected Iranian president sent shockwaves throughout the Middle East. This came a day after an Israeli strike assassinated Shukur in Beirut.

Just a week earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu undertook a high-profile trip to Washington, where he received enthusiastic bipartisan support. He met President Joe Biden, former president Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris, all of whom reiterated their unflinching commitment to Israel's security. He received rapturous applause during his address to the joint session of Congress.

This emboldened Netanyahu to up his deadly game and order the two assassinations on his return, even if they were planned before. He also took advantage of a lame-duck Biden administration, which urged a ceasefire but did little to pressure Israel. Instead, the deployment of additional US warships and fighter aircraft to the Middle East on the heels of the killings indicated the 'cover' Washington sought to provide Israel and 'legitimise' rather than censure Israel's brazen violations of international law. Ostensibly aimed at mitigating the risk of a broader conflict, it only exacerbated tensions in the Middle East.

These developments have driven the region to the brink of a wider conflagration, with Iran under mounting pressure to retaliate for Haniyeh's assassination and violation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Its leaders have vowed to avenge the killing, with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warning of a

harsh, punishing response. Iran's newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian has made it clear that Tehran does not wish to broaden the war and contribute to a bigger crisis, but Israel "will definitely receive a response for its crimes and insolence". Meanwhile, Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah, declared that its conflict with Israel had entered a new phase and warned of a major retaliation in response to the assassination.

Tehran, however, is faced with a dilemma as it mulls an appropriate response to Israel. It knows further escalation and a widening of the war is exactly what Netanyahu wants, having tried — unsuccessfully — for years to goad Washington into joining Israel in an attack on Iran. It also has to consider that any significant military reprisal would rule out the possibility of détente with the West that Pezeshkian had pledged to pursue to secure sanctions relief.

But it cannot let Tel Aviv's criminal action go unanswered and has to do more than just save face to re-establish deterrence. Its carefully calculated, limited military response to Israel's bombing of the Iranian consulate in Damascus in April did not deter the Israelis from carrying out the Hamas leader's assassination on Iranian soil.

For now, Iran's focus is on diplomatic efforts to build a consensus at the regional and global level against Israel's aggressive actions. Attempts by some Arab countries at Washington's behest to dissuade Tehran to hold off a military response have not gone anywhere. Concerned about an "imminent" Iranian attack on Israel, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington was urging all parties to refrain from escalation and "take steps to ease tensions". Although the US called for a ceasefire, the Biden administration had nothing to say about the fact that the Israelis killed the man who was negotiating with them for a ceasefire and hostage and detainees release deal.

This dealt a heavy blow to the talks brokered by the US, Qatar and Egypt. It again exposed Netanyahu's lack of interest in a peace deal and intent to prolong the war. Washington's own actions and failure to rein in Netanyahu contributed to the

increasingly explosive situation. The head of US Central Command, Gen Michael Kurilla, arrived in Israel in the wake of the assassinations to discuss "joint preparations in the region, as part of the response to threats in the Middle East" — a reference to 'threats' from Iran and its regional allies dubbed as the 'axis of resistance'. Israel's escalation has pushed the Middle East to the brink of a wider war.

In fact, the US has continued to back and arm the Israeli government throughout the 10 months of its genocidal war that has wreaked so much death and destruction in Gaza. As the war enters the eleventh month, the situation across the Strip has become even more dire and desperate. Relentless Israeli air strikes continue to target schools, refugee camps and residential buildings, laying waste to much of Gaza. There is no safe shelter for displaced Palestinians. A humanitarian disaster continues to unfold. In the West Bank, casualties are rising as violent Israeli crackdowns intensify. Israel has also stepped up air strikes across southern Lebanon and assassinated a Hamas official in Sidon.

Jordan's foreign minister has warned that "Israel is pushing the entire region into the abyss of a regional war by continuing its aggression on Gaza, violating international law and attacking the sovereignty of states". But the question is, what is the international community, especially Arab states, doing to stop this?

An extraordinary OIC ministerial meeting last week issued a statement holding "Israel, the illegal occupying power, fully responsible for this heinous attack" (on Haniyeh), which it described as "a serious infringement" of Iran's sovereignty. But that was it. In fact, the conduct of Arab states has been more than disappointing, to put it mildly, and has hardly matched the expectation of Muslims across the world.

Nevertheless, if Israel believes military aggression and its assassination strategy will weaken the Palestinian armed resistance and annihilate Hamas, it is utterly mistaken. History has shown time and again that no amount of violent repression and brutal force can diminish an occupied people's will to resist.

By Shaukat Ahmed

Vanity, insanity

IN a country where opportunities are scarce and the dreams of many crushed by adversity and obstacles, Arshad Nadeem's Olympic triumph reverberates with a message far more profound than the accolade itself.

It is a clarion call to the nation, urging it to dream beyond limitations and believe in the possibility of greatness, no matter how distant it may seem. Nadeem's triumph offers a rare moment of collective national pride, validating the aspirations of an entire country through the extraordinary achievement of one man.

Yet, in the wake of such a monumental victory, a curious and somewhat disheartening spectacle unfolded on social media. A day after Nadeem's gold medal win, a widely circulated video captured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif watching the event on television. In the video, a member of his political party could be heard repeatedly attributing Nadeem's success to the PM's vision — a statement as perplexing as it was disingenuous.

Here was a man, Arshad Nadeem, who had clawed his way to the top through sheer talent and hard work, achieving the seemingly impossible against all odds and entirely on his own. And yet, in the corridors of power, there was an attempt to co-opt his victory, to somehow claim it as a product of strategic vision and foresight. It was a moment that laid bare the vanity and self-importance that so often taint the higher echelons of power and which perfectly encapsulated the disconnect between Pakistan's political leadership and the realities of its people.

This disconnect is not merely an isolated incident; it is a pervasive issue that runs deep within the fabric of Pakistan's political landscape. While there can be no doubt that the PM, like all Pakistanis, was genuinely elated by Nadeem's victory, the fact that his subordinates felt the need to make it about his vision speaks volumes about the state of leadership in the country. The role of a political leader should be that of a custodian of the people's trust, working tirelessly to create conditions for their success.

Instead, what we often witness is a grotesque inversion of this ideal, where leaders, surrounded by sycophants, begin to see themselves as monarchs. Their egos, inflated by the constant praise of those who seek to curry favour, appear to be almost addicted to the flattery that blinds them to the true needs of the people they are meant to serve.

You start to wonder — was there a recent constitutional amendment that turned politicians into royalty?

If you've ever had the opportunity of visiting a Pakistani political leader, especially one in power, you might be forgiven for thinking you've accidentally stumbled into a royal court rather than the office of a public representative. The experience is nothing short of a modern-day re-enactment of a Mughal durbar. As you enter the room, you're greeted by a sea of obsequious followers, all vying for the leader's attention, each more eager than the last to prove their devotion and loyalty. The leader sits at the centre of it all, basking in the glow of adoration, every bit the king without a crown. And should you find yourself identified by the leader as someone of importance, a torrent of sycophancy cascades upon you as well.

In this world, proximity to power transforms even the most indifferent observer into an object of reverence. You start to wonder — was there a recent constitutional amendment that turned politicians into royalty? The scene is so absurd that it's almost comical — until you remember that these are the people running the country.

This vanity on display is not just an amusing quirk; it's a symptom of a much deeper problem. When a leader begins to believe in their own infallibility, bolstered by a chorus of adulators, they lose sight of their true purpose: to serve the public.

Contrast this with leadership in the world's most influential countries. While politicians in Pakistan wield significant power within their own context, it pales in comparison with the global impact and authority of officeholders in these developed nations. Yet, in these countries, there is no pomp, no retinue of yes-people fawning

over every word. Instead, leadership is recognised as a responsibility, rooted in accountability to those who have entrusted their hopes and dreams to them. The trappings of authority are often set aside in favour of humility and accessibility, with a conscious effort to demystify the office and remind the public that these leaders are merely their servants.

The self-adulation and pretentiousness that often characterise Pakistan's political class are not just confined to the corridors of power; they have, regrettably, evolved into a national mindset. Across all fields — whether in politics, business, media, or any domain wielding significance or power — there seems to be a constant need for reaffirmation through public displays of importance. This culture of vanity pervades society, creating a vicious cycle where the appearance of success is valued more than the substance of achievement.

Arshad Nadeem's Olympic victory serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through determination and hard work. As a nation, there is much to be learned from his example. Greatness is not about the adulation of others; it is about perseverance, humility, and an unwavering commitment to one's goals.

The world does not need to be told to recognise greatness — it instinctively knows when it has witnessed something extraordinary. In the purity of true achievement, there is no need for orchestrated praise.

It stands tall, unassisted and unadorned, for all the world to see.

Nadeem's remarkable achievement is a lesson in the power of authentic greatness to inspire, uplift, and unite.

Perhaps, in celebrating this moment of triumph, we can begin to move away from the culture of pretentiousness that has long held us back and embrace a future where leadership is defined not by vanity, but by service — where the focus shifts from superficial exhibitionism to genuine service. It is in the quiet strength of sincere purpose, rather than in the clamour of self-promotion, that leaders find their greatest impact.

DAILY MIRROR

Converting agricultural tube wells to solar energy vital for development of Balochistan: Bazai

APP

Quetta: Secretary Energy Muhammad Dawood Bazai on Friday said that for the development of the agricultural sector, it is necessary to convert the province's agricultural tube wells to solar energy.

He said that this would provide significant savings to the government in the energy sector and relief to farmers, uplifting of the agricultural sector is one of the government's top priorities. He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting of the Energy Department, Government of Balochistan and the Zameendar Action Committee to make the process of electricity connections of agricultural consumers more effective by QESCO in Pishin and Quetta districts after the Balochistan government's decision to convert agricultural tube wells to solar energy.

The Secretary said that redressing the concerns and complaints of landowners is the top priority adding that the provincial government would continue to take steps within its constitutional framework to protect the rights of farmers.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Energy Department Dost

Muhammad Jafar, Syed Abdul Qahar Agha, Chairman Zamindar Action Committee Balochistan Malik Naseer Shahwani, Focal Person Solar Panel System of QESCO and Superintending Engineer Shajahan Gharshin, Secretary General Haji Abdul Rehman Bazai and Member of Central Executive Council Syed Siddiqullah Agha.

The meeting was informed that on the special instructions of the Chief Secretary Balochistan, the process of removing transformers from the tube wells of 2510 agricultural consumers of Pishin district and 189 agricultural consumers of Quetta district should be completed within a week by January 17 of this month. In the first phase, the Balochistan government has provided a huge amount of Rs 5398 million for solarization, while after transferring money to agricultural consumers, their transformers, HT poles and other electrical equipment are being removed so that agricultural connections could not be directly connected to the QESCO network, said in the meeting.

The meeting was told that the work of transformers of agricultural consumers had started from December 20, 2024, the work of disconnecting the connections of 2699 agricultural consumers would be completed on January

17, 2024. The meeting said that the process of disconnecting the connections of agricultural tube wells converted to solar panel systems would receive full cooperation and support from the officials of the Zamindar Action Committee because the problems of the farmers and their long-standing demand have been resolved.

The Secretary Energy said that due to the special interest and efforts of the Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the Balochistan government, in collaboration with the federal government, has completed the first phase of the process of solarizing legal and registered agricultural tube wells.

In this regard, the officials of the Energy Department, QESCO, representatives of the relevant Zamindar associations and law enforcement agencies would be ensured to implement it immediately.

In this regard, as per the strict instructions of the Chief Secretary Balochistan, complete it within the period fixed by the government as soon as possible within one week and the tube wells converted to solar energy will be immediately disconnected from QESCO connections and no excuse or negligence to be tolerated in this regard, he said.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal addressing a press conference at residence of meeting with Muzaffar Ali Shujra.

PIA resumes its flight operation to Europe

APP

ISLAMABAD: PIA resumed its flight operation to Europe today (Friday) with its first flight taking off from Islamabad International Airport to Paris.

This comes after the European Union lifted a four-year ban on the airline.

Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif termed the resumption of flights to Europe as a historic moment, saying that gradually the national flag carrier will operate across all of Europe.

He expressed the commitment to restore the past prestige of PIA, emphasizing the national flag carrier is our pride and identity.

The Defence Minister mentioned that PIA flights to the UK and the US will also commence.

Khawaja Asif said PIA will be privatized and its fleet will be expanded. He said PIA will recapture its market.

Gas explosion traps 12 miners in Quetta coal mine

INP

QUETTA: A gas explosion in a coal mine in Sanjdi, Spin Karez area of Quetta, caused the mine to collapse, trapping 12 miners inside.

According to chief mines inspector, the explosion occurred late last night due to gas accumulation in the mine.

The collapse made rescue operations

challenging, particularly in the dark conditions. Efforts are underway to rescue the trapped miners, with rescue teams working to create a pathway to reach them.

Authorities have reported that significant progress has been made in clearing the way, and the operation is ongoing.

RDMC partners with IHHN to launch public health awareness in Chagai

APP

Quetta: The Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN), with the support of Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), has launched a comprehensive public health campaign in Humai village, the community closest to the Reko Diq project site.

According to press release issued here, this collaborative initiative aims to raise awareness among people and offer free screenings for Tuberculosis (TB) and Hepatitis B and C, aligning with RDMC's commitment to enhancing healthcare access for local communities as part of its sustainable development approach.

The campaign's primary focus is on educating the community about the risks, symptoms and preventive measures associated with these diseases.

IHHN teams, alongside community health workers, have been conducting interactive sessions on essential medical practices, the importance of Hepatitis B vaccination, and the dangers of unsterilized medical equipment and unsafe blood transfusions, said in press release.

It further said that in addition to these educational efforts, the campaign has also

focused on promoting respiratory hygiene, proper ventilation and adherence to TB treatment regimens to reduce transmission.

A female participant shared her thoughts on the campaign, stating, "We never thought Hepatitis or TB were serious issues.

Today, we understand how to protect ourselves and our families." The program will soon expand to Nokkundi Tehsil and other remote areas of Chagai, ensuring that underserved communities gain better access to healthcare.

As part of this initiative, IHHN's Community Engagement and Education (CEC) team also conducted a health session at a resource-limited school in Killi Mengal Abad, reaching over 200 students.

The session addressed key topics on disease prevention and personal hygiene, including proper handwashing techniques. Through engaging activities, students were encouraged to share their new knowledge with their families. Any identified cases during the screenings will be referred to nearby hospitals for treatment, ensuring those in need receive timely medical care.

Imran Khan decides PTI will take its case to international organizations: Aleema Khan

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Aleema Khan has said that PTI founder Imran Khan has decided that PTI will take its case to international organizations as government was denying basic rights to the former Prime Minister.

Talking to journalists outside Adiala Jail, Aleema Khan alleged that the PTI founder was being denied the right to communicate with his children. Imran Khan is not allowed to meet his doctor.

Aleema claimed Imran Khan said that PTI moved to Islamabad High Court and Supreme Court of Pakistan but no one listened to them. She said Imran was of the view that PTI has no other option except to take its case to international level.

Aleema said Imran Kha was of the view that Pakistan was signatory of UN charter therefore PTI will take its case to international organizations. She claimed that "no court is willing to hear their peti-

tions." "The PTI founder has said we have no other option left now," she revealed.

She mentioned that PTI founder plans to take his case to international human rights organizations. Aleema Khanum also shared that the PTI founder laughed heartily at Rana Sanaullah's press conference. "Our family is receiving threats and warnings," she disclosed, adding, "We have taken on a responsibility as a family." Aleema said today, she was denied entry in Adiala Jail, earlier entire family was allowed to meet Imran Khan but now they have limited the access.

She said if personal doctors is not allowed to meet Imran Khan it is a no less than a torture, Aleema said Imran Khan demands various items but jail administration does not allow them.

Aleema said Imran Khan said two months back a message was given to him that, "we will bring the AI generated video above you".

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's 'Awam Pakistan Party' registered by ECP

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has officially registered former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's new political party, 'Awam Pakistan Party'.

The registration announcement was accompanied by a notification confirming Abbasi as the convener and Miftah Ismail as the General Secretary of the party.

The Commission has also approved the intra-party elections of Awam Pakistan, which were held earlier this year. Awam Pakistan submitted the details of these elections to the Election Commission on June 26, 2024.

With the registration of Awam Pakistan Party, the total number of registered political parties in Pakistan now stands at 168.

Earlier, several political figures have joined the Awam Pakistan party in Rawalpindi.

Pakistan invites Hajj applications for 5000 vacant seats

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has invited applications for five thousand vacant seats for Hajj 2025, starting from Friday.

According to spokesperson for Ministry of Religious Affairs, applications will be received on a first-come, first-served basis.

All designated banks will daily upload the received applications onto the Hajj portal. The Spokesperson said new applicants will deposit six hundred thousand rupees as the first two installments.

However, the sacrifice or separate room will incur additional costs. He said receipt of Hajj 2025 applications will be stopped immediately once the remaining vacant seats are filled.

Meanwhile, an important meeting regarding private Hajj arrangements, chaired by Federal Minister for Religious Affairs

Chaudhry Salik Hussain, was held with key officials including Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, Secretary of Religious Affairs, and Chairman HOAP Nasir Khan in attendance.

According to reports, the meeting discussed matters related to private Hajj operations in detail and finalised agreements with mutual consensus.

It was decided that private pilgrims group bookings will commence from January 10 (today). Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi emphasized the importance of adhering to the laws of both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Trump spared jail at hush money sentencing, days before inauguration

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: US President-elect Donald Trump will not go to jail or pay a fine over his criminal conviction stemming from hush money paid to a porn star, a judge ruled on Friday, but the sentencing will place a judgment of guilt on his record.

Justice Juan Merchan's sentencing of Trump, 78, to unconditional discharge closes a case that had loomed over his bid to retake the White House just days before his Jan. 20 inauguration.

By granting an unconditional discharge, Merchan would place a judgment of guilt on Trump's permanent record - without any other legal penalty such as custody, a fine or probation.

Trump pleaded not guilty and has vowed to appeal the guilty verdict. He appeared with his lawyer on TV screens beamed to the courtroom with two American flags in the background.

"It's been a political witch hunt," Trump said before sentencing, wearing a red tie with white stripes. "It was done to damage my reputation so I would lose the election and obviously that didn't work."

"I'm totally innocent, I did nothing wrong," said Trump, who did not testify during the six-week trial last year.

Now that he has been sentenced, he is free to pursue the appeal, a process which could take years and play out



while he is serving a four-year term as president.

Trump fought tooth and nail to avoid the spectacle of being compelled to appear before a state-level judge so close to when he is due to be sworn into office. The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a last-minute bid by Trump to halt it. The six-week trial last year played out against the extraordinary backdrop of Trump's successful campaign to retake the White House. The sentencing marks the culmination of the first-ever criminal case brought against a U.S. president, past or present.

Trump will be the first president to take office with a criminal conviction.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a Democrat, charged Trump, a Republican, in March 2023 with 34 counts of falsifying business records to cover up his former lawyer Michael Cohen's \$130,000 payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels for her silence before the 2016 election about a sexual encounter she said she had with Trump, who denied it.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador Designate to France Mumtaz Zahra Baloch called on Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarter.

NA body urges transparency in MDCAT

INP

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulation, and Coordination emphasized the need for transparency, fairness, and equity in the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT).

The meeting of the NA body was held with Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani in the chair.

During the meeting a single, nationwide curriculum was proposed to address regional disparities in education and ensure a level playing field for all students. Final decisions on this and other reforms will follow further legal reviews and stakeholder consultations.

Concerns about out-of-syllabus questions in recent exams were discussed,

with the committee recommending greater accuracy in question papers to avoid post-exam corrections. A revised answer key had previously addressed students' grievances about deleted questions. Introducing juvenile cards for biometric verification was proposed, similar to practices in A-level and O-level exams, to curb impersonation during the registration process. Flaws in the current PMDC software were highlighted in the meeting, which had caused errors during registration. The committee stressed the need for robust systems to ensure a seamless process.

The meeting reinforced the committee's commitment to enhancing Pakistan's healthcare sector by ensuring that reforms in educational standards and professional regulation are implemented effectively.

Secretary General OIC emphasizes collaboration in science and technology to overcome key challenges

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Husein Ibrahim Taha Friday emphasized the importance of collaboration among OIC member states in the critical fields of science and technology to overcome the key challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah.

He was speaking during his visit to the Secretariat of the OIC's Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COM-STECH).

Secretary General OIC emphasizes collaboration in science and technology to overcome key challenges

The high-profile event was attended by Assistant Secretaries Generals of the OIC, Ambassadors of OIC member states, diplomats, vice-chancellors, government officials, scientists, and researchers from various OIC countries.

It marked the announcement of transformative initiatives aimed at advancing science and technology across the OIC region. Alongside the Federal Minister for Science and Technology and the Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Taha launched the COMSTECH Expert Service for Technological Cooperation.

This strategic initiative is designed to enhance technological self-reliance, foster sustainable development, and mitigate brain drain within OIC member states.

The program aims to mobilize expertise from across the Muslim world to address pressing challenges in healthcare, agriculture, energy, and education, embodying the spirit of collaboration and mutual progress among OIC countries. The Secretary General OIC also commended the COMSTECH Fellowships and Scholarships Program for Palestinian nationals, praising its profound impact on empowering Palestinian youth through education and skill development.

This initiative reflects the OIC's commitment to uplifting disadvantaged communities. Taha further highlighted the upcoming 16th COMSTECH General Assembly, scheduled to be held in Islamabad during 2025, as a vital platform for discussing the future of science and technology in the OIC region.

He also underscored the importance of the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform, scheduled for this year, and the Emergency Conference on Education in Palestine, as critical efforts to foster scientific and educational progress.



QUETTA: EX Senator Haji Lashkari Raisani talking to media during visits Quetta Press Club.