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Karachi

DAILY MIRROR

mirrorqta@gmail.com

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

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Balochistan CM criticizes Mines Dept.
Inspection teams for poor performance

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has expressed concern over the series of fatal accidents in coal mines.

Presiding over a meeting in Quetta on Tuesday, the Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the inspection teams of the Mines Department.

Expressing his anger, the Chief Minister said it is not justified that inspectors cannot go to the mines citing law and order situation.

If the employees who have been recruited for the work for which they are not able to do their job then they should resign and sit at home, said a visibly angry Balochistan Chief Minister.

He directed the responsibility for the accidents must be clearly determined and the responsible must be punished.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said the second accident in the same company within a year seems to be a sign of irresponsibility.

sibility.

The Chief Minister ordered the immediate arrest of the accused named in the Sanjadi mine accident.

The Chief Minister further ordered to suspend the inspector in the Sanjadi mine accident and transfer the investigation to Chief Minister's Inspection Team (CMIT).

Chief Minister directed Mines and Minerals Department that safety measures should be taken for the modern mining module in the world.

He further directed that regular inspection of mines should be ensured at all costs.

Rescue and Training Wing should be equipped with all modern technology, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti directed.

Chief Minister ordered the Mines and Minerals

Department to prepare a comprehensive proposal and government will provide required resources.

Early payment of compensation to workers died in accidents should be ensured, Chief Minister ordered.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting.

PM calls for addressing challenges in education sector

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for proactive steps to address the challenges in the education sector.

Chairing the Federal Cabinet meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday, he asked the Minister for Education to closely coordinate with the provinces for promotion of education, emphasizing this will be a major national service.

The Prime Minister pointed out that 22.8 million children are out of schools in Pakistan, majority of them are girls. Referring to the International Conference on Girls' Education recently held in Islamabad, the Prime Minister noted that good discussions took place regarding the education of girls. He recalled that Pakistan also declared education emergency a few months back.

The Prime Minister described the resumption of PIA flights to Europe as a major achievement. He expressed the confidence that the flights to Britain will also resume, saying this

will facilitate Pakistani travellers.

Shehbaz Sharif said a new crossing point has been opened on Pak-Iran border in Panjgur, saying this will promote legal trade and help check smuggling. He thanked Iranian cooperation for the opening of the new crossing point. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the normalization of situation in Kurram. He said food items and medicines are being supplied to the area. He expressed the confidence that all the stakeholders will make collective efforts to keep peace intact. The Prime Minister said that the security forces are continuing their operations against Fitna al Khwarij. He said an intelligence based operation in Balochistan resulted in the killing of twenty seven terrorists. Paying tributes to the sacrifices of security personnel, he said these sacrifices will be remembered. He expressed the commitment to complete elimination of Fitna al Khwarij, emphasizing that peace will be restored in the country as was done in 2018 under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

Eight khwarij killed in two KP IBOs: ISPR

INP

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed eight khwarij in two intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Tuesday.

The military's media wing said that the IBOs were held in Tank and Khyber districts of the province.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in Tank District on reported presence of khwarij," the ISPR said. It added that during the conduct of operation, security forces effectively engaged khwarij location and resultantly six of them were killed.

In another encounter that took place in general area Tirah valley, Khyber District, security forces successfully neutralized two

khwarij.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined

to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR added.

Earlier on January 12, the ISPR said that the security forces killed nine khwarij terrorists in two separate engagements in North Waziristan districts.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in general area Dosalli, on reported presence of Khwarij."

During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the Khwarij location and resultantly, six Khwarij were killed, while two Khwarij were apprehended," the ISPR added

Madrasas safeguard Pakistan's ideological foundations: Fazl

NEWS DESK

VEHARI: Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), Maulana Fazlur Rehman, asserted that if it weren't for madrasas, the ideological foundation of Pakistan would have been buried.

Speaking to the media in Vehari, Fazlur Rehman remarked, "We wear turbans not to bow our heads but to hold them high." He criticised what he called baseless propaganda against religious scholars, emphasizing that such campaigns undermine their role in society.

He further stated that religious leadership has always promoted harmony and unity in the country. "If madrasas didn't exist, the

ideology of Pakistan would have been abandoned. We were targeted, but no action was taken against those spreading prejudice and division," he added.

Commenting on the role of Sharia courts, Fazlur Rehman lamented their lack of recognition. "Decisions of Sharia courts are given no importance. Even a judge of the Sharia court cannot ascend to the position of Chief Justice. However, we succeeded in introducing a constitutional amendment to eliminate usury. The 26th Amendment has empowered Sharia courts in this regard," he explained.

The JUI-F chief also criticised the National Action Plan, claiming it targets religious institutions.

Siddiqui refutes claims of government negotiation committee's automatic dissolution

INP

ISLAMABAD: A leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and spokesperson for the government negotiation committee with PTI, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has clarified on Tuesday that the committee will not be automatically dissolved on January 31.

He emphasized that achieving meaningful results is more important than adhering to a specific deadline.

In interviews with various media outlets, Senator Siddiqui stressed that addressing PTI's demands requires time and consultation with all political parties' leadership. He highlighted that a positive outcome is the priority, not simply meeting a deadline.

Acknowledging that PTI's demands are significant, Siddiqui noted that the government must carefully review each one, consult legal experts, and engage with relevant stakeholders before providing a response.

He further clarified that the government has not made any demands to PTI, and the current stage of negotiations will be assessed collectively.

Govt offered no deal to PTI: Khawaja Asif

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Defence minister Khawaja Asif has said if PTI wants some thing to come out of talks then it should stop its side shows.

He said this while talking to media men in parliament house here Tuesday. What was done in National Assembly a day before it is question mark on their attachment and intent with regard to talks. Whenever talks are held, the parties stop aggression.

It is evident from what lan-

guage they have used that talks are only smoke screen.

He held government has extended no offer to PTI for deal. We cannot strike any deal with them. The decisions have to be made by the courts.

PTI leaders have talked in this way on different occasion which prove they want deal. No back door talks are being held with PTI.

He indicated Chief minister KP has some contacts in his official capacity but they are presented in exaggeration.

PM lauds efforts to boost IT exports to \$25 billion by 2030

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed satisfaction on the measures taken to enhance the IT exports to 25 billion dollars in the next five years.

Chairing a review meeting on matters pertaining to the IT sector in Islamabad today, he instructed to simplify the existing right-of-way regulations to promote broadband services through fiber optics in the country.

Shehbaz Sharif further directed to provide IT training to the youth as per demand of the global market to increase employment opportunities abroad. He instructed to facilitate visa acquisition for businesspersons interested in coming to Pakistan in the IT sector. Besides, he gave directions to issue visas within 24 hours to businesspersons hiring Pakistani companies in the IT

sector on the recommendations of the Pakistan Software Export Board. The Prime Minister also directed to evolve a strategy for the marketing of Pakistan's IT sector. He said IT infrastructure should be further improved to enhance country's exports. The meeting was given detailed briefing about the measures taken for enhancing IT exports to 25 billion dollars. It was told that work is continuing at a fast pace on providing public's access to smart phones, expanding broadband services to more areas, increasing internet speed, and achieving other targets. It was said that the number of freelancers in the country will be increased from the existing 1.4 million to two million in the next two years. Over 300,000 individuals will be trained through the DigiSkills program by June this year and this number will be taken to 900,000 in the next two years.



Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti chaired a meeting regarding mines and minerals and owners of mines at Chief Minister Secretariat in Quetta

Foreign agenda fuelling false narrative of rift between public, army: COAS

COAS urges Pakistan's disagreements with Afghanistan stem solely from cross-border terrorism, which must be addressed

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir emphasised the unique bond between the people and the military, rejecting foreign-driven narratives attempting to create divisions, military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Speaking in Peshawar during a discussion with political leaders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, General Asim Munir said, "There is a special relationship between the people and the army. False narratives of a rift are fundamentally driven by specific agendas from abroad."

The Army Chief reaffirmed Pakistan's policy priorities, stating, "Our policy is solely focused on Pakistan." Addressing ties with Afghanistan, he said, "Afghanistan is our brotherly neighbouring Islamic country, and Pakistan has always sought better relations with it."

However, he stressed that Pakistan's disagreements with Afghanistan stem solely from "the presence of miscreants in Afghanistan and cross-border terrorism, which must be addressed."

General Munir clarified there are no plans for large-scale military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding, "No area in Pakistan is under the control of these miscreants.

Intelligence-based targeted operations are conducted as needed."

He urged unity against terrorism, stating, "The state must take precedence over politics. If the state is compromised, nothing else will remain. We must stand together, free from bias, to confront terrorism."

The Army Chief also highlighted the importance of learning from past mistakes. "Humans are fallible, but failing to acknowledge mistakes and learn from them is a greater error," he said. On the National Action Plan, he commended the consensus among political parties but urged expedited efforts to implement its provisions effectively.

"Is spreading chaos not a sin in the eyes of Allah?," the army chief remarked.

The army chief highlighted the importance of the state saying: "If there is state, there is politics. God Forbid, if there is no state, there is nothing at all."

COAS Munir called for standing against terrorism without discrimination and prejudice.

"The situation will improve if we move together," he said, adding that humans are prone to committing mistakes but not learning from the blunders is even a bigger fault.

Gen Munir also reiterated that the people and the military enjoy a special relationship.

He added that fake narrative of widening gulf between army and the nation is being spread through a specific agenda from abroad.

The army chief said also hailed the consensus of all political parties on the National Action Plan (NAP), urging the need for implementing it on priority basis.

Gen Munir's statement came a day after he met political leaders and was also briefed on security situation during his visit to Peshawar, the military's media wing said on Monday.

KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and other senior military officers were among the attendees of the briefing.

The COAS had warned that any attempt to disturb the peace of the nation will be met with decisive and overwhelming force, as according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) a day earlier.

"The enemy may try to sow discord and fear, but we will not relent. Hostile elements will be dealt with an iron hand. They will continue to suffer heavy losses, and their capacity to inflict harm will be decimated," the COAS added.

He praised the unwavering resolve and unmatched sacrifices of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, who have been instrumental in dismantling terrorist networks and thwarting their nefarious agenda.

'Lost faith in justice system after what happened to Imran and me': Bushra Bibi

INP

ISLAMABAD: After the approval of her interim bail application, a noteworthy exchange took place between Bushra Bibi, the wife of PTI's founder, and Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Tahir Abbas Supra.

Bushra Bibi voiced her concerns, stating, "After what happened to the founder of PTI and us, the trust in the law has been lost. The trust in the courts has been lost."

Responding to her remarks, Judge Tahir Abbas Supra reassured, "No, it is not like that. Trust has not been lost from everywhere. The justice system is working as it is. If it ends, then the society will end."

The judge further emphasized the importance of fulfilling legal procedures and acknowledged Bushra Bibi's regular court appearances, saying, "You have also been appearing before me in court."

Bushra Bibi, however, remained critical of the judiciary's functioning, sharing her observations during the trial: "I have seen judges getting sick, trembling. A judge's blood pressure went to 200, but he had to sentence us, and he did. There is law in the country, but no justice."

She expressed dismay over the state of governance, pointing out, "The founder of PTI is in jail, and the constitution is being violated. There is imprisonment for upholding supremacy."

In conclusion, the judge instructed Bushra Bibi to remain actively involved in the legal cases against her. Following the proceedings, Bushra Bibi departed for Adiala Central Jail.

Pakistan Reports New Polio Case

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) has confirmed the detection of new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case in the country.

The lab confirmed one polio case from a male child from Jacobabad. The onset of this case was on December 27, 2024.

Jacobabad has now reported five polio cases in 2024.

Pakistan has been responding to an intense resurgence of WPV1 with 71 cases reported in 2024. Of these, 27 are from Balochistan, 21 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 21 from Sindh, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad.

Polio is a paralyzing disease that has no cure. Multiple doses of the oral polio vaccine and completion of the routine vaccination schedule for all children under the age of five is essential to provide children high immunity against this terrible disease.

The Pakistan Polio Program conducts multiple mass vaccination drives in a year, bringing the vaccine to children at their doorsteps, while the Expanded Program on Immunization provides vaccinations against 12 childhood diseases free of charge at health facilities.

Pakistan, Hong Kong emphasize strengthening economic, diplomatic relations

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), John K C Lee on Tuesday emphasized the importance of strengthening economic and diplomatic relations between two countries.

According to press release issued by finance ministry here, Aurangzeb during a call on meeting with Lee highlighted the potential for increased cooperation in various sectors, including finance, technology, and tourism.

He underlined the shared values and interests that bind the two regions and expressed Pakistan's commitment to deepening these ties further.

Minister Aurangzeb and Chief Executive Lee engaged in constructive dialogue on a range of topics, including economic collaboration, trade relations, investment opportunities, and cultural exchanges between the two regions.

The discussion aimed to foster closer ties and explore avenues for mutual growth and prosperity, the statement added.

On the occasion, K C Lee welcomed Aurangzeb's visit and echoed the sentiment of enhancing collaboration between Pakistan and Hong Kong.

Senate committee deliberates on constitutional amendments for creation of South Punjab

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice, chaired by Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, convened today to discuss the proposed amendments to Articles 1, 51, 59, 106, 154, 175A, 198, and 218 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Senator Aon Abbas, the mover of the Bill, proposed these amendments for the creation of a new province, 'South Punjab'.

He argued that 40% of the population of Punjab resides in South Punjab. Unfortunately, the people of South Punjab lack basic facilities like health and education. Of the total 50,112 primary, middle, high schools, and higher schools in Punjab, only 13,446 schools are located in South Punjab. Of the total 2,461 basic health units in Punjab, 754 are located in the three divisions of South Punjab.

Unfortunately, the people of South Punjab have to travel to Lahore, which is 850 km away from Rahim Yar Khan, for their basic needs. He demanded that the new province, 'South Punjab,' be created on an administrative basis.

The members expressed different opin-

ions on the proposed amendments, while Senator Kamran Murtaza stated that the creation of a new province will weaken the position of other provinces especially Balochistan in the Upper House of Parliament, which gives equal representation. However, Senator Hamid Khan opined that a public debate should be held on the issue, as it primarily concerns the people.

The Committee also ratified nomination of Senator Hamid Khan as member Board of Governors of the Legal and Justice Aid Authority.

The Committee referred the matter to the Ministry of Law and Justice to submit a comprehensive report on the bill, keeping in view the constitutional, financial, historical, and parity aspects of the Bill.

Furthermore, the Committee approved the report of the Sub-Committee, which was constituted to deliberate on "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Amendment of Article 106)." The Bill, introduced by Senator Manzoor Ahmad and Senator Danesh Kumar, proposed an increase in the general seats of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly from 51 to 65 due to the vast area of the province.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a meeting with Parliament Secretary Population Welfare Department Hadia Nawaz.

Record number of complaints received during 2024: Ejaz

INP

ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has stated that a record number of complaints were received and redressed by his office during the past year.

Talking to media persons in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said two lac twenty-six thousand three hundred seventy-one (226,371) complaints were received during the past year. Out of which, two lac twenty-three thousand one hundred seventy-one (223,171) were addressed, indicating an increase of 17% and 16% in the receipt and disposal of these complaints.

The Wafaqi Mohtasib said the outreach of his office is continuously being increased and the new regional offices have been established at

Muzaffarabad in Azad Kashmir and Gilgit which brings the total number to twenty-four.

Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi said his institution is planning to establish more regional offices in remote areas during this year.

Wafaqi Mohtasib informed the media persons that 92.9% decisions made by his organization have been implemented during the past year, expressing the resolve to achieve hundred percent implementation rate.

He said nearly 2.3 million households have benefited from the services offered by the Wafaqi Mohtasib's Office since its establishment in 1983.

The Wafaqi Mohtasib said during 2024, our investigation officers held 126 Khuli Katcheries (Open Courts)

across the country.

He said the Heads of Federal Government agencies and departments have been instructed to ensure implementation of the decisions made by his office within the shortest possible time.

Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi said the office of Wafaqi Mohtasib is the poor man's court established with a view to serving the marginalized and down trodden segments of the society.

Touching on the Mohtasib's international role, Wafaqi Mohtasib said being President of the Asian Ombudsman Association, he presided over the 25th meeting of its Board of Directors in Istanbul in June last year besides addressing the International Ombuds Summit in Hong Kong as the key note speaker.

Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali is an Inspiration for Young Agricultural Scientists and Researchers : Faisal Kundi

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad: A formal ceremony recognizing the distinguished contributions of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), was held at the Governor House Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, extended his congratulations to Dr. Ali for his recent accolades, which include the prestigious Sitara-e-Imtiaz and the Korean Presidential Award. Governor emphasized that Dr. Ali serves as a source of inspiration for emerging agricultural scientists and researchers. Highlighting the critical importance of agriculture as a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, the Governor presented the recognition certificate to Dr. Ali and commended his significant contributions to advancing this vital sector. Governor KPK reiterated that innovation in science and technology can only be achieved through investments on research and development. He also highlighted the agricultural potential of the province and ensured enhanced collaboration with PARC and other agricultural departments to promote high value crops like fruits and vegetables, dry fruits etc. In his address, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali affirmed PARC unwavering commitment to transforming the agricultural landscape through the integration of modern technologies and innovative practices. He asserted that research serves as a fundamental pillar for agricultural innovation, stating that without robust research initiatives, it would be impossible to address the increasing demands of a growing population. Dr. Ali expressed his gratitude to the Governor for acknowledging the importance of science and technology in agriculture and underscored Pakistan's rich natural resources and potential to significantly enhance its national economy.



Young Doctors Seeks Resolution of Problems Faced

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Young Doctors Association, Dr. Atif Majced on Tuesday sought the resolution of problems faced by young doctors in Balochistan province.

He expressed these views in the National Press Club along with other members of the association including Dr. Fiaz, Dr. Umar Sultan, Dr. Rizwan Kundi, Dr. Waris Ali Jakhani and others, the press release said.

"Young doctors are facing problems in Balochistan province," the president said, adding that for the welfare of the people, doctors have been demanding more hospitals and more seats for young doctors.

He further said that the demand of doctors should not be misinterpreted and those doctors who have been arrested should be released and all cases should be withdrawn.

Sindh Assembly forms committee to investigate Karachi Inter-Board exams issue

INP

KARACHI: Sindh Assembly has formed a parliamentary committee to investigate the matter of inter-board examinations, with Sindh Education Minister Sardar Shah at the helm.

The move is to ensure that the children's future is not endangered, considering the appointment of competent chairmen of education boards soon, which was assured by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ziaul-Hassan Lanjar before the House.

The latest drop in the results of the first-year intermediate exams in Karachi has

raised significant concerns about the quality and functionality of the city's entire college education system.

The sharp decline in pass rates has also highlighted serious issues with the performance of the Karachi Intermediate Board's inspection department, which is responsible for overseeing affiliated public and private colleges in the city.

Earlier, Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba demanded a complete waiver of the scrutiny fee for first year results of Karachi Intermediate Board. The IJT in its statement expressed disappointment over the 33% pass ratio in the Karachi .



Medical Students Association Leaders, Irfan Lehri, Ghufuran Manokhel, Areeba Mushaq and others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club



Lahore Qalandars get Mitchell for PSL 10; Williamson, Warner picked by Karachi Kings

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: All six franchises of the HBL Pakistan Super League completed their respective squads for the 10th edition during the players' draft ceremony held here at the historical Hazuri Bagh, Lahore Fort.

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell became the first pick of the coming season when two-time winners Lahore Qalandars picked him to strengthen their batting order. Mitchell will make his PSL debut this year.

New Zealand's batting maestro Kane Williamson was one of the prominent signings by Karachi Kings in the supplementary round one.

Former Australian opener David Warner was picked by Kings as they made use of the second pick in the first Platinum round. Warner, with 12,727 T20 runs in 392 T20 matches under his belt, will also be among the PSL debutants.



BARCELONA players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Spanish Super Cup final against Real Madrid at the King Abdullah Sports City.

Barcelona thrash Real to clinch Spanish Super Cup

SPORTS DESK

JEDDAH: Barcelona came from an early goal down to beat Real Madrid 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final on Sunday, scoring four goals in a dominant first half and surviving having their goalkeeper sent off to clinch a record-extending 15th trophy.

Lamine Yamal, Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Alejandro Balde were all on target before halftime, after French forward Kylian Mbappe put Real in front in the fifth minute. Raphinha grabbed another in the second half while Rodrigo scored for Real.

Barcelona put in a clinical display to lift their first trophy in more than a year, having no silverware to show for last season. "A goal for big clubs is always to win titles, that's why we work hard. But now we have to show it in the next games," Hansi Flick told a press conference after winning his first trophy as Barca coach.

"Real made many mistakes, and we knew how to take advantage of them to control the match."

Barca prevented Real from winning their third title of the campaign, after they won the European Super Cup against Atalanta and beat Mexico's Pachuca to the Intercontinental Cup last month. "In the first half we didn't play football, we hit long balls and that wasn't the idea," Real coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "I told the players that they can lose games, but not in the way we played in the first half."

We defended badly and that cost us the game — they found their goals quite easily. We're sad, like all our fans, it's disappointing and we don't have to hide that... we have to look forwards, there's nothing else we can do."

Mbappe earned an early advantage for the Spanish champions, finishing a solo run from around the halfway line with a shot inside the far post.

But what looked like a dream start quickly turned into a nightmare for Ancelotti's men when Yamal levelled for Barca in the 22nd minute. Striker Lewandowski gave them the lead 14 minutes later from a penalty awarded for Eduardo Camavinga's foul on Gavi.

Raphinha increased the advantage with a stunning header from a brilliant long cross by Jules Kounde in the 39th minute, and left back Balde added a fourth for Barca deep into stoppage time after nine minutes were added to the first half.

Yamal released Raphinha with a precise pass following Real's miserable corner kick, before the Brazil forward left the ball to Balde who scored with a simple finish.

Real started the second half with Rodrigo hitting the bar, sparking hopes of the hectic clash taking another turn.

But Raphinha quelled any sniff of a comeback when he made it 5-1 three minutes after the break, having slalomed past the Real defence.

Barca were left with 10 men when goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny was sent off for fouling Mbappe in the 56th minute and Rodrigo beat substitute keeper Inaki Pena from the resulting free kick. But Real, who hold a five-point advantage over Barca in La Liga after 19 games, had no shots on goal after the penalty until Mbappe's effort was denied by Pena in stoppage time.

"He was the best (Madrid player)," said Ancelotti, noting an improvement after Mbappe's hit-and-miss start to life at the club following his switch from Paris St-Germain.

South Africa's Lategan wins Dakar stage eight to consolidate lead

SPORTS DESK

RIYADH: Toyota's Henk Lategan of South Africa consolidated his lead atop the driver standings of the Dakar Rally by winning the eighth stage on Monday. The 30-year-old, in his fourth Dakar outing, covered the 487km special between Al-Duwadimi and Riyadh in 4hr 51min 54sec.

Lategan, who also won the Jan 3 prologue, extended his lead over home hope Yazeed al-Rajhi to 5min 41sec in the general classification.

Despite a two-minute penalty for speeding on the stage, Lategan finished the day's driving 1min 47sec ahead of compatriot Guy Botterill, also in a Toyota.

"There was one canyon where everybody was getting lost," said Lategan. "And we were a little bit nervous going into there because you see cars coming from the front and cars coming from all angles out the mountains."

"At the end, we went all the way out the canyon and then finally found our way. So we hopped from, let's say, seventh or so on the road all the way to first. And then we were opening for quite a while."

"And then we made one or two small navigation errors. We had a puncture earlier on. So, not a bad day. We're happy to have found that one waypoint, but not the perfect day."

France's Mathieu Serradori [Century] prevented an all-South African podium by finishing third, five seconds ahead of Brian Baragwanath.

Qatar's five-time champion Nasser al-Attiyah completed the stage 12min 17sec off Lategan's pace and now sits fourth in the standings, at 34min 14sec.

Sweden's Mattias Ekstrom is third.

"It was a very tough day," said Attiyah, who has seen fancied rivals Carlos Sainz and Sebastian Loeb withdraw from the gruelling race. "Sometimes when we were opening it was very difficult. "Yazeed had a good line and when he passed we just followed him, until the dunes when we passed him, but it was really difficult. I am happy to finish this day. We still have four days left and we'll see. The navigation was very hard. Sometimes we were lucky, other times not, but we made it here."

Argentinian Luciano Benavides (KTM) won the bike category's stage, 2min 08sec ahead of French rider Adrien Van Beveren.



SOUTH AFRICAN driver Henk Lategan and compatriot co-driver Breet Cummings compete during the eighth stage of the Dakar Rally, between Al Duwadimi and Riyadh.

TENDER NOTICE

The Directorate General of Social Welfare & Special Education Balochistan invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242501626821 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. Tender Fee Not required

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Medical Equipment and Accessories (Total Item(s) Count: 15)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 4,000,000 In Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 4,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan the bidder must have functional corporate office in Quetta bidder must provide sample of all items before the committee Quality certificate for the public sector of supplied items Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of 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 Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 29 January, 2025 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 29 January, 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: Directorate General of Social Welfare & Special Education Brewery Road, Quetta Phone no: 0819213170 Email: dg.swdbn@gmail.com

Directorate General of Social Welfare & Special Education Balochistan

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Left behind

FOR a country that produced the world's youngest Nobel laureate for championing girls' education, Pakistan's statistics make for tragic reading.

Some 22.8m children are out of school — roughly equal to the entire population of Sri Lanka — and the female literacy rate languishes at 49pc. Last week's International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities in Islamabad laid bare these truths, though solutions remained elusive. The gathering had a notable absentee. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan, where girls are banned from secondary education, declined to attend. This was not surprising: its interpretation of religion appears mediaeval; even Muslim societies of yore valued learning more highly than today's Taliban do.

Pakistan's own educational woes, while not so extreme, are scarcely less worrying. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's declaration of an "education emergency" joins a long list of similar pronouncements that have produced more hot air than actual learning. We spend a paltry 2.5pc of GDP on education, well below the Unesco-recommended 4pc. In contrast, Malaysia and Turkey, fellow Muslim-majority nations, boast female literacy rates of above 90pc. Bangladesh has surged ahead with over 70pc of its women able to read and write. The economics of ignorance are stark.

In an era where AI and quantum computing dominate conversations about the future, Pakistan's tech sector remains stunted thanks to its educational shortcomings. The World Economic Forum ranks the country near the bottom in educational attainment and economic participation — a double whammy that threatens to leave us behind in the global knowledge economy.

Some bright spots exist. The Danish schools initiative in Punjab, which provides quality education in underdeveloped rural areas, shows what targeted intervention can achieve. The newly established Pakistan Education Endowment Fund aims to support children from low-income families in higher education. But such initiatives are few. The conference concluded with the signing of the Islamabad Declaration, a 17-point document that recognises girls' education as both a "religious obligation" and a social necessity. The declaration will be presented to the UN Security Council, though cynics might wonder whether it will join the growing pile of well-intentioned but ineffective international commitments.

Malala Yousafzai, who attended the conference, put it bluntly: 12.5m Pakistani girls remain out of school. Ms Yousafzai, who survived a TTP assassination attempt in 2012 for advocating girls' education, is a powerful symbol of both Pakistan's educational challenges and its potential. But symbols alone cannot teach children to read. The path forward is clear: substantially increase education spending, dismantle cultural barriers to girls' education, and transform declarations into concrete action. Until then, Pakistan risks condemning another generation to ignorance — and itself to economic irrelevance in an increasingly knowledge-based world.

By Barrister Usman Ali, Ph.D.

Bacha Khan and Wali Khan: Custodians of Nonviolence and Champions of Rights

The month of January holds unique importance in South Asia, marking the anniversaries of two extraordinary leaders, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Khan Abdul Wali Khan. It is a time to honor their unmatched sacrifices and unwavering commitment to principles.

Both leaders devoted their lives to advocating for the rights of the Pashtun people, the philosophy of nonviolence, and the cause of social justice. Their legacy continues to inspire future generations. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, famously known as "Bacha Khan" or the "Frontier Gandhi," epitomized selfless service and steadfast principles.

Born in 1890 in the village of Utmanzai near Peshawar, he grew up witnessing the oppression and underdevelopment of the Pashtun people under British rule.

These experiences drove him to dedicate his life to their empowerment. In 1929, he founded the Khudai Khidmatgar movement, whose members were recognized by their red shirts. The movement aimed to achieve not only political freedom but also social, economic, and educational self-sufficiency for the Pashtun people. Bacha Khan, also called the "Pride of the Afghans," was a visionary leader and reformer who championed the transformative power of education. He believed ignorance and extremism could only be defeated through knowledge and awareness. To this end, he established several educational institutions in Pashtun regions, with the "Azad Schools" being the most notable. These schools went beyond conventional education, fostering social consciousness, tolerance, and a culture of peace among young people. For Bacha Khan, the struggle against oppression and injustice could not be fought with violence or vengeance but through intellect, awareness, and nonviolence.

He embodied this philosophy by collaborating with Mahatma Gandhi in the nonviolent resistance against British colonialism. His movement, therefore, was

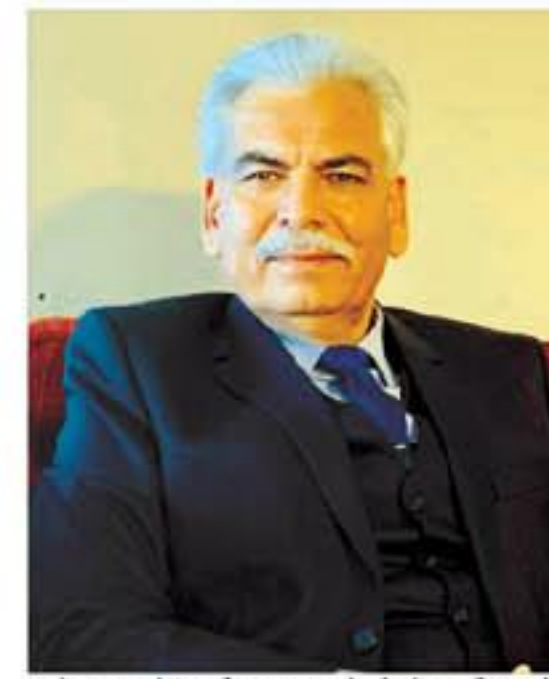
not only political but also a call for social reform, ethnic harmony, and equality. Bacha Khan's journey was one of immense personal sacrifice. He spent nearly 30 years in prison, enduring severe physical and mental suffering. Despite these hardships, he never compromised on his principles or his belief in nonviolence.

His life stands as a testament to the power of unwavering dedication to peace, education, and social justice.

During the partition of India, Bacha Khan opposed the creation of Pakistan, fearing that it would deepen divisions and perpetuate deprivation among the people of the subcontinent.

However, once Pakistan came into existence, he accepted reality and famously said, "Now that Pakistan has been created, do not destroy it but work to make it progress." Bacha Khan remained steadfast in his lifelong struggle for peace, equality, and the rights of the Pashtun people. He passed away on January 20, 1988, and, as per his wishes, was buried in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

He believed that the unity of the Pashtuns transcended geographical boundaries. Today, his resting place stands as a powerful symbol of peace, tolerance, and unity, inspiring people worldwide to fight oppression with nonviolence and uphold humanity's highest values. Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Bacha Khan's son, carried forward his father's vision, spearheading the political struggle for Pashtun rights. Born on January 17, 1917, in Utmanzai, Wali Khan began his political journey with the Khudai Khidmatgar movement. Like his father, he was a staunch advocate of nonviolence and stood by him during the resistance against British rule. After the creation of Pakistan, however, Wali Khan shifted his focus to addressing the rights of the Pashtun people and championing democracy and social justice. Wali Khan founded the Awami National Party (ANP), which emerged as a dynamic platform advocating for Pashtun rights. The party's vision extended beyond Pashtun concerns,



advocating for equal rights for all ethnicities, federalism, and constitutional supremacy. Wali Khan firmly believed that Pakistan's stability and progress depended on justice for all communities, equitable distribution of resources, and mutual recognition.

Throughout his career, Wali Khan remained a staunch defender of democratic principles.

He was a vocal critic of unconstitutional actions that infringed on public rights or disrupted democratic processes. His efforts aimed to create a system where no community or group felt excluded or marginalized. Wali Khan consistently advocated for comprehensive development plans that prioritized education, economic empowerment, and political awareness among the Pashtun people. His politics revolved around achieving progress through democracy, nonviolence, and adherence to the rule of law.

He believed that sustainable development could only be achieved through respect for democratic values and the active participation of the people. His vision continues to serve as a guiding light for equality, unity, and constitutional integrity in Pakistan. Like his father, Wali Khan faced significant challenges during his political journey.

He was imprisoned multiple times due to his uncompromising stance, and his party, the ANP, endured harsh restrictions and political pressure during various regimes. Yet, Wali Khan stood firm, refusing to compromise on his principles. Under his leadership, the Pashtun people not only

amplified their voices for their rights but also played a constructive role in Pakistan's national politics. Wali Khan worked tirelessly to empower the Pashtuns politically, ensure their inclusion in democratic processes, and advocate for equal rights for all communities. His commitment to democracy and constitutional supremacy remains a cornerstone of his legacy. Wali Khan passed away on January 26, 2006, but his life and struggle continue to inspire. His principles and vision are not only central to the ANP but resonate with anyone who believes in justice, equality, and democracy. He remains a timeless symbol of the fight for peace and human rights. As we commemorate the anniversaries of Bacha Khan and Wali Khan, it is imperative to reflect on their enduring message. Their lives were a testament to the power of principles, equality, and nonviolence. They showed that true leadership lies not in the pursuit of power but in service, humility, and steadfastness. Their sacrifices remind us that achieving social justice and peace requires persistent effort and unwavering dedication. The philosophy of Bacha Khan and Wali Khan continues to inspire generations, teaching that societal progress is rooted in education, awareness, and unity. They consistently emphasized that true development arises from peace and knowledge, not from violence, militancy, or exploitation. They believed strength comes from embracing enlightenment, not wielding weapons. If today's Pashtuns understood and embraced the message of these leaders, they would realize that true progress, self-reliance, and awareness lie not in superficial displays of bravery or militant sentiments but in adopting education, collective awareness, and democratic values. Education remains the most powerful tool for transforming lives and reshaping the destiny of nations. These lessons from their lives are more relevant than ever, as the world increasingly demands the principles of peace, equality, and justice.

By Jamil Ahmad

AI & environment

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is one of the most consequential technologies today. It is dramatically changing the world, altering business models and ushering in transformational development in education, healthcare, communication, and agriculture, to name a few. It has introduced efficiencies to our workplaces, improved industrial productivity, optimised resource use and reduced waste. AI's rapid rise is attributed to availability of data and a phenomenal growth in computational power.

AI has also furnished new tools to address environmental issues and climate change. From spotting smog in the sky and detecting deforestation on the land to minding microplastics in the ocean, AI's potential is tremendous. AI-based early warning systems predict cyclones, or rains and minimise the extent of damage. Forecasts about droughts and heatwaves provide timely information to vulnerable communities. AI-generated techniques in smart agriculture help farmers cope with water stress, prevent waste, optimise crop yield and ensure food security.

But AI can also harm our fragile planet. AI is power hungry. Data collection, storage and application require an elaborate system of energy-intensive data centres. A rise in AI deployment means a rise in the number of data centres with a commensurate demand for power. A recent International Energy Agency meeting noted that the "electricity demand for data centres and digital services would likely rise substantially in the next few years, despite continued improvements in the efficiency of hardware and software". To operate under controlled temperatures, data centres

need air-conditioning consuming more energy. The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) recent 'Issues Note' on AI points out that the number of data centres worldwide has grown from 500,000 in 2012 to over eight million, with energy consumption doubling every four years.

With the current global energy mix still dominated by dirty fuels, this trend can translate into a spike in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In the process, our planet will be the unintended victim. Until a just energy transition is expedited, AI's carbon footprint is set to increase.

A global dialogue on AI governance has been initiated.

AI's appetite for power is matched by its thirst for water. To cool the heat generated by energy-intensive servers, large quantities of water are needed. Global demand for water for AI is estimated to reach four to six billion cubic metres by 2027.

AI's potential negative impact on environment goes further. Critical minerals are an essential part of hardware for digital technologies. Found mostly in high-water-stress areas of developing countries, such mining, without efficient mitigation measures, puts more pressure on natural resources, damaging biodiversity, polluting air and spewing GHG. Waste and e-waste produced during the life cycle of digital technologies is another emerging problem.

Fortunately, these problems can be solved through a strategy that incorporates AI's pros and cons.

The Summit of the Future last September acknowledged AI's promise to accelerate progress across the SDGs and address its possible negative

impacts on the environment and other areas. But how can this promise be realised urgently? The missing link between AI's potential and a strategy to extract its full advantage is a regulatory regime.

International discourse on the issue has generally revolved around matters of privacy, and disinformation, etc, but environmental costs are now part of it. Governments and tech companies — leaders in deploying AI at scale — concede that environmental impacts will need to be included in any discussion and tackled urgently. An international governance system is needed for the gamut of subjects in the AI realm.

The first steps were taken in this direction at the UN last year. A global dialogue on AI governance has been initiated and an independent international scientific panel established to produce evidence-based impact, risk and opportunity assessments. To aid these efforts, UNEP's 'Issues Note', contains several commendations, including establishing standardised methods and metrics for measuring AI's environmental impact, and developing a mechanism for mandatory reporting and disclosure of AI's direct environmental impacts by tech companies, focusing on consumption of energy, water, mineral resources, carbon emissions and e-waste.

The environment became a victim of the consequential technology of the previous age — the Industrial Revolution, that is wreaking havoc to this day. If it becomes a victim of the runaway impacts of the consequential technology of this age, it can knock down the planet. For harnessing AI's full potential, it is imperative to assess and manage its associated risks and mould it into a shield for the planet.

DAILY MIRROR

Senate committee addresses key bills, public petitions, and security concerns

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Interior, presided over by Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman, convened today at the Parliament House to deliberate on critical issues.

The Committee discussed "The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2024," moved by Senator Fawzia Arshad, aimed at addressing the backlog of pending judicial cases. Senator Arshad emphasized that timely justice is a fundamental right.

Following concerns about provincial reluctance, especially from Balochistan and Sindh, the Committee decided to issue a reminder to the provinces and seek the Law Ministry's opinion.

On the "National Occupational Health and Safety Bill, 2023," Senator Rahman pointed out that the bill overlaps with labor laws and suggested amending existing laws rather than introducing new legislation. He recommended further consultations with the Ministry to refine the bill.

Senator Mohsin Aziz's "Price Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding (Amendment) Bill, 2024" was also discussed. Senator Aziz emphasized the severity of hoarding for profit and highlighted the need for provisions regarding the spoilage of goods.

He proposed that the value of commodities be based on market value and emphasized the importance of accurate information in controlling hoarding practices.

Senator Rahman recommended that ICT contribute to further work on the bill and suggested penalties for violations.

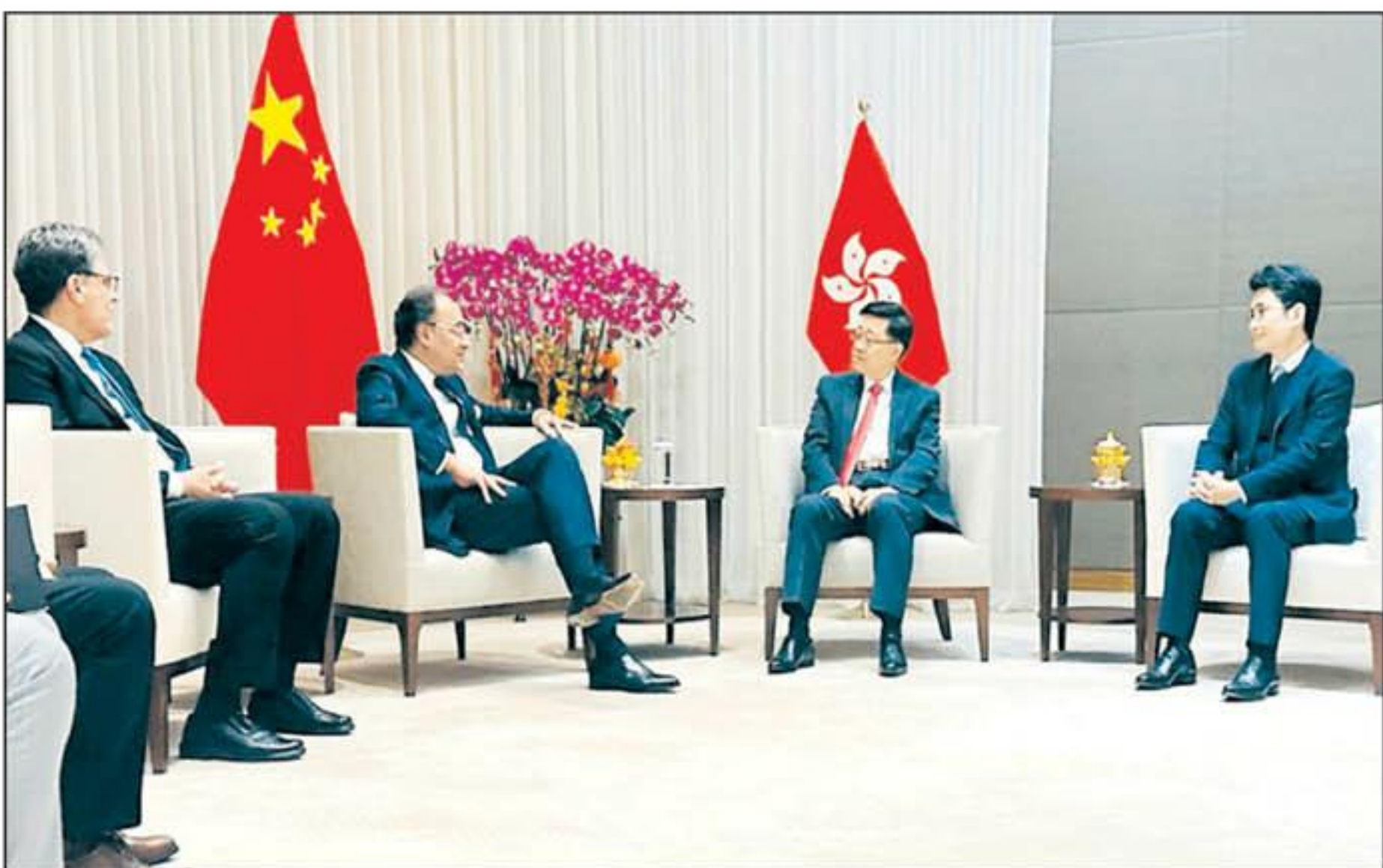
Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri's "Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill" regarding black magic, sorcery, and witchcraft was also reviewed. Senator Mumtaz raised concerns about the identification of madaris and their leaders, stressing that poverty and social distress often drive individuals to practices like sorcery. The Chairman of the Committee recommended consulting Islamic scholars and proposed the formation of a government committee to carefully address the issue.

The committee noted that the matters related to the missing child case and the proposed merger of the Levies force with the Balochistan Police could not be discussed due to the absence of provincial officials from Balochistan.

The committee also discussed public petitions related to issues in Plot No. 287, Sector I-12/2, Islamabad, and Sector E-11. The Federation of Employee Housing Scheme in E-11 filed a public petition highlighting unresolved issues, particularly the blocked access from Iran Avenue, which has hindered smooth connectivity to the area.

The road network in E-11 is described as convoluted, with multiple U-turns and zigzags, making navigation challenging for residents. The area has raised increasing concerns about safety and security, as it has become a hotspot for illegal activities.

Residents have called for better security measures and support from the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) authorities to address these growing concerns. The Committee called for continued investigation and support from relevant authorities.



HONG KONG: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), John K C Lee, Pakistan's Ambassador in Beijing, Khaleel Hashmi also present.

Musadik participates in meeting of mining ministers at Future Minerals Forum

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, participated in the 4th annual international meeting of mining ministers, held on Tuesday in Riyadh.

Representatives from 85 countries are participating in the international meeting, according to a news release received here.

He had diverse engagements with international mining leaders and industry experts. He also visited the Pakistan Pavilion and met with key stakeholders from the minerals sector.

The Future Minerals Forum (FMF) in Riyadh kicked off today, as global mining leaders, service providers, and operators from around the world began showcasing their innovations and forging new connections.

The Pakistan Pavilion, one of the key highlights, welcomed over 500 visitors on the first day alone, signalling a strong interest in Pakistan's mining sector.

The Pakistan Pavilion had already hosted approximately 350 visitors, including representatives from major global mining operators, industry service providers, potential investors, media personnel, and members of the diplomatic corps in Riyadh.

Delegates were seen engaging in productive discussions, setting the stage for fruitful partnerships over the next two days of the forum.

The Pavilion's design and exhibits garnered widespread acclaim, particularly the 'Mineral Map of Pakistan,' which creatively highlighted the country's rich mineral resources.

The Pavilion is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) of Pakistan and 12 prominent companies from Pakistan, ranging from operators and joint-venture equity stakeholders to essential service providers. The Pavilion was curated and organized by Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL). The Pakistan Pavilion is positioned as a focal point for potential investors and collaborators eager to explore the vast opportunities in Pakistan's burgeoning mining sector. The Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Gillani underscores Pakistan, China's deepening ties in diverse sectors

INP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a significant meeting with Wu Xiaogui, Vice President of Shandong Kerui Group, and Hatim Tabani, Executive Director of Tabani Group underscored the deepening ties between Pakistan and China in diverse sectors including energy sector.

The meeting underlined a transformative era in its energy sector, one driven by strategic partnerships with China. China's unwavering trust and commitment to Pakistan's development have always been an invaluable source of progress, particularly in the energy sector.

The collaboration with Shandong Kerui Group, alongside other Chinese investors, is integral to Pakistan's clean energy future, said Chairman Senate. He highlighted that the two countries share a vision of sustainable growth and environmental stewardship, with clean energy fostering collaboration that benefits both our nations.

The meeting highlighted the extraordi-

nary advancements made by Shandong Kerui Group in collaboration with Tabani Global in Pakistan's energy infrastructure which spans over the past 15 years.

Vice President, Wu briefed the Chairman about their presence internationally and locally where the group formed in 2001 and is now one of the global leader in equipment supplies and EPC contracting. Mr. Tabani also added that Pakistan's Energy Sector has collaborated and provided strategic advanced equipment to Oil & gas companies in Pakistan including OGDCL, PPL and others.

The Senate Chairman stressed that such initiatives aims at clean energy, focus on securing vital gas resources, addressing the country's growing gas deficiency, and tackling the substantial amount of gas that is currently wasted in outdated pipeline systems should be addressed.

This comprehensive approach to energy management is a crucial step toward ensuring long-term energy security for Pakistan.

PTI to submit written demands to govt on January 16: Barrister Gohar

PTI chairman emphasised that there is no deal happening

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar stated that the ongoing negotiations are the same as those happening with the government, and that on January 16, they will present two written demands to the government.

While speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, Barrister Gohar said that sometimes judges delay decisions as they need time to write them. "Yesterday, we were informed that a decision would be made," he added.

He further mentioned that Imran Khan had been told to arrive at 9 AM, and as soon as his lawyers arrive, he would present himself. "Since I have been in this jail, no trial has started before 11 AM," Barrister Gohar remarked.

Barrister Gohar emphasized that there is no deal happening. "If such a deal were happening, we wouldn't hide it from the public. The negotiations are the same as those with the government."

When asked about the recent meeting between Army Chief and Ali Amin Gandapur, Barrister Gohar explained that such meetings are ongoing, mainly about law and order situations, and maintaining working relations is essential.

Yesterday, Barrister Gohar on Monday dismissed speculation that the delay in the verdict for party founder Imran Khan was due to a deal.

Barrister Gohar clarified that the decision had been postponed by the judge at his discretion, not due to any negotiations or political agreement.

"We were waiting here today at Adiala, but the court staff informed us that the decision would now be announced on January 17," Barrister Gohar said.

He added that the attitude of the trial courts has

been inappropriate and that the cases against Imran Khan were fabricated to apply pressure on the PTI founder. Barrister Gohar further stated that any rumours of a deal were unfounded.

President, PM laud security forces for killing eight terrorists in KP operations

INP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid tribute to the security forces for eliminating eight Khawarij (terrorists) in two different operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Appreciating the forces for anti-terror operations in Tank and Tirah Valley, the president and prime minister reiterated the nation's resolve to root out terrorism from the country.

"The people of Pakistan stand in support of their security forces to eliminate terrorism and are fully resolved to root out this scourge," the president remarked. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the government and the security forces were pursuing the objective of eliminating terrorism in toto.

"The entire nation feels proud of its brave security forces. We will continue to thwart the nefarious designs of the terrorists," the prime minister added.

Role of C&W Dept is Essential in Development of Balochistan: Saleem

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Communications and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa on Tuesday said that the role of the Communications and Works (C&W) Department is the backbone in the development and prosperity of the province.

While talking to the officers of the C&W Department, the minister said that there is a need to further improve the performance of the Communications and Works Department.

He said that in this regard, all the technical issues of the department are being resolved on a priority basis so that the obstacles in the completion of development projects are removed.

He said that no kind of negligence would be tolerated in the standards of the ongoing development projects in the province.

In this regard, he will also monitor the development projects himself and all the officers have also ensured that the ongoing schemes are monitored, he said.

The minister said that the development and prosperity of the province, the improvement of infrastructure and the provision of modern facilities to the people of the province, whether in the roads sector or the building sector are the responsibility of the Communications and Works Department.

Cabinet committee approves uniform electricity tariff for SEZs

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Government has approved a new system for the provision of electricity and a uniform tariff for the Special Economic Zones and Industrial Estates to ensure industrial development in the country.

The approval was granted at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Energy, which met in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the chair.

The meeting further allowed single-point power supply to Industrial Estates and Special Industrial Zones and their management to provide self-connection, bill collection and other matters.

Under this system, the interference of officials of the power distribution companies in the special industrial zones and industrial estates has come to an end. In this regard, a specific operations and management mechanism is being evolved as the Power Division and NEPRA will start implementing this mechanism in next three months.

Under the system, the zone developers will not require any additional license to supply power to the industries in the zones.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said industrial development is vital for country's development. He directed to apply the new system to all

special economic zones.

The Prime Minister said provision of electricity to industries at a uniform tariff will supplement the pace of industrial development in the country, resulting in more employment opportunities and surge in exports.

Highlighting the benefits of improving the power transmission system, Shehbaz Sharif said industries will play their key role in the further development of country's economy.

According to the circular debt report from July to November last year, it is reported that a decrease was witnessed in the circular debt during the first five months of the current financial year, compared to the previous financial year.

The meeting was informed that there was an increase of 368 billion rupees in the circular debt from July to November 2023, whereas in the first five months of 2024, there was a decrease of 12 billion rupees. The meeting was apprised that there is a total improvement of 380 billion rupees in the circular debt in the ongoing fiscal year as compared to last year. It was told that with the increase of four percent, the receipts of power sector touched ninety six percent during the first five months of current financial year. Additionally, a decrease of fifty-three billion rupees was witnessed in the losses of electricity distribution companies after bringing improvement in them.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye Dr. Irfan Neziroglu call on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

Special counsel report finds Donald Trump engaged in 'criminal effort' to overturn 2020 US election

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: US Special Counsel Jack Smith concluded that Donald Trump engaged in an "unprecedented criminal effort" to hold on to power after losing the 2020 election, but was thwarted in bringing the case to trial by the president-elect's November election victory, according to a report published on Tuesday. The report details Smith's decision to bring a four-count indictment against Trump, accusing him of plotting to obstruct the collection and certification of votes following his 2020 defeat by Democratic President Joe Biden.

It concludes that the evidence would have been enough to convict Trump at trial, but his imminent return to the presidency, set for Jan 20, made that impos-

sible. Smith, who has faced relentless criticism from Trump, also defended his investigation and the prosecutors who worked on it. "The claim from Mr Trump that my decisions as a prosecutor were influenced or directed by the Biden administration or other political actors is, in a word, laughable," Smith wrote in a letter detailing his report.

After the release, Trump, in a post on his Truth Social site, called Smith a "lame-brain prosecutor who was unable to get his case tried before the election."

Trump's lawyers, in a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland made public by the Justice Department, called the report a "politically-motivated attack" and said releasing it ahead of Trump's return to the White House would harm the presidential transition.

People entering Lahore Corps Commander House was 'security breach': SC judge

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi said on Tuesday that people entering the Corps Commander House in Lahore on May 9, 2023, was indeed a "security breach".

"Did people reach the Corps Commander's house on May 9? People entering the Corps Commander's House is indeed a security breach," Justice Rizvi remarked during a hearing.

The judge's remarks came as the apex court's constitutional bench — headed by Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan — heard intra-court appeals against trying civilians in military courts.

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 it. The top court was then again moved against the December order.

But after a hiatus, the constitutional bench in December last year 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 last month, but a few days ago, 19 convicts were pardoned after they appealed for mercy.

The hearing During the hearing, Khawaja Haris, the counsel for the Ministry of Defence, said that the trial of civilians was not a sudden development, as the law has existed since 1967.

In the FB Ali case, those prosecuted were retired individuals, he said, adding that even during peacetime, civilians interfering in military affairs would face trial in military courts.

At this, Justice Azhar remarked that it should be noted the FB Ali case occurred during a period of civil martial law. He questioned whether there was a mastermind behind the conspiracy and who orchestrated it. To this, Haris responded that the trial of the mastermind or conspirators would also take place in the military courts.

The judge further inquired whether any military officer was tried for involvement in the events of May 9.



QUETTA: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri in speaks during dinner hosted reception ceremony organized by Council General.