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Naqvi lauds NA speaker's role in govt-PTI negotiations

Mohsin Naqvi lauds Speaker Ayaz Sadiq's efforts to engage both opposition and government parties

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Speaker of the National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq and discussed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s stance in negotiations despite the government's positive progress.

During the meeting, both leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, political affairs, and the overall situation of the country.

According to reports, discussions were held regarding the government's positive approach in negotiations and PTI's response to it.

Mohsin Naqvi appreciated Speaker Ayaz Sadiq's efforts in bringing together both

opposition and government parties.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that Ayaz Sadiq has played a commendable role in uniting government and opposition parties.

Both leaders also expressed satisfaction over the improving economic situation of the country and discussed government initiatives taken to address public issues.

Earlier, Mohsin Naqvi warned the PTI of strict action if it goes ahead with its planned February 8 protest which coincides with the Champions Trophy match scheduled in Lahore.

The PTI had decided to observe black day on Feb 8 to protest against its 'stolen mandate' in last year's general elections and announced a plan to hold public gatherings in Minar-e-Pakistan ground.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif launching the first anti-polio campaign for the year.

PM launches first anti-polio drive for 2025; vows to eradicate disease from country

Says drive will target millions of children to save their future and health; hopes dedicated teams will work "day and night" to eradicate disease

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday launched the year's first nationwide anti-polio campaign, running from February 3 to 9, by administering polio drops to children under five and vowing to eradicate the disease from the country.

Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Despite global efforts to eradicate the virus, challenges such as security issues, vaccine hesitancy, and misinformation have slowed progress.

Last year, the country reported more than 70 polio cases, with the virus detected in around 90 districts. This year, the first case was reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the anti-polio drive today, the prime minister reaf-

firmed his determination to eliminate the disease from Pakistan.

According to The Associated Press of Pakistan, he said, "The national polio vaccination drive would target millions of children to save their future and health."

The premier hoped that the dedicated teams would work "day and night to eradicate the disease, and would reach the far-flung areas and villages," adding these teams would successfully meet the huge responsibility by "utilising their complete energies".

The prime minister said that unfortunately, during the last year,

a total of 77 polio cases were reported in the country which emerged as a huge challenge, besides posing a setback.

On the first case for the year reported last month, the premier expressed resolve to eradicate polio at all costs; with dedicated teamwork and support from the international partners.

Anti-smuggling crackdown to yield positive results soon: Naqvi

APP

LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has lauded the Anti-Narcotics Force for its exemplary performance in combating smuggling activities across the country.

He said this while talking to newsmen along with the official of ANF in Lahore today [Sunday].

He said that the ANF has initiated a nationwide crackdown against smuggling, with positive outcomes anticipated in the near future.

He emphasized the ongoing operations targeting drug traffickers, particularly those operating within educational institutions to safeguard the youth from the menace of narcotics.

Mohsin Naqvi expressed gratitude to the Saudi government for facilitating the repatriation of a Pakistani family that had been victimized by a fraudulent scheme.

He cautioned citizens to remain vigilant against individuals offering free Umrah packages, as such offers may be deceitful.

IHC gets three new judges, gazette notification issued

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Gazette notification for the transfer of three judges to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has been issued following approval from President Asif Ali Zardari, on Sunday.

According to the Gazette notification issued by the Establishment Division, Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar has been transferred from the Lahore High Court (LHC) to the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Sindh High Court's (SHC) Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro has also been transferred to the Islamabad High Court.

Islamabad lawyers condemn judicial transfers, announce nationwide strike

INP

ISLAMABAD: Legal organizations in Islamabad have strongly opposed the recent transfers of judges, deeming them an attempt to divide the judiciary and an act of bad faith. In response, lawyers have announced a complete strike and will hold a nationwide convention at 11 AM tomorrow at the District Court G-11.

The announcement was made during a joint press conference by officials of the Islamabad Bar Council, Islamabad High Court Bar Association, and District Bar Association on Sunday.

Addressing the media, Islamabad Bar Council Chairman Advocate Aleem Abbasi stated that all representatives of the district and high court bar associa-

Furthermore, Justice Muhammad Asif has been transferred from the Balochistan High Court to the Islamabad High Court.

Earlier, the Judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had written a letter to President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi, outlining their concerns regarding the appointment of the chief justice (CJ) of the court.

The IHC judges have requested that the chief justice of the Islamabad High Court should be appointed from among the three senior judges of the court itself, rather than bringing in a judge from another high court.

tions were present in the emergency meeting.

He condemned the recent transfers of three judges to Islamabad by the Ministry of Law, declaring that the lawyers community unanimously rejects these appointments.

"These transfers are aimed at creating division within the judiciary and are driven by malintent. Lawyers will strongly oppose this move," Abbasi emphasised.

He further announced a complete strike by lawyers in Islamabad, stating that no lawyer would appear in any court tomorrow. He appealed to lawyers across Pakistan, as well as provincial bar councils, to join the protest in solidarity.

"This issue affects the entire legal community in Pakistan.

FC Soldier Khan Waiz Laid to Rest With Military Honors in Abbottabad

APP

ABBOTTABAD: The funeral prayer of Frontier Constabulary (FC) soldier Khan Waiz, son of Shamreez Sunday was offered with full military honors in Abbottabad.

Khan Waiz, a young soldier from the village of Kasaki in Abbottabad, was martyred in a terrorist attack on an FC convoy in Quetta.

Displaying exceptional bravery, he fought alongside his fellow soldiers before making the ultimate sacrifice.

His funeral was held in his ancestral village, Kaski Khurd, where he was laid to rest with military honors.

Thousands of mourners, including local dignitaries and people from all walks of life, attended the ceremony to pay their last respects.

The atmosphere was filled with grief as tearful eyes bid farewell to the fallen hero.

DPM/FM Dar chairs inter-provincial preparatory meeting for Pak-Qatar BPC

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday chaired an Inter-Ministerial meeting to review the preparation for the second round of Pak-Qatar Bilateral Political Consultations scheduled to be held in Doha.

The DPM/FM was briefed about Pak-Qatar bilateral relations and the status of various initiatives in various fields, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

He underscored that preparations should be made for substantive, productive and result-oriented discussions in Doha.

Trump launches trade war with tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump ordered sweeping tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada and China, demanding they stanch the flow of fentanyl – and illegal immigrants in the case of Canada and Mexico – into the United States, kicking off a trade war that could dent global growth and reignite inflation.

Mexico and Canada, the top two US trading partners, immediately vowed retaliatory tariffs, while China said it would challenge Trump's move at the World Trade Organization and take other "countermeasures."

In three executive orders, Trump imposed 25% tariffs on Mexican and most Canadian imports and 10% on goods from China, starting on Tuesday.

He vowed to keep the duties in place until what he described as a national emergency over fentanyl, a deadly opioid, and illegal immigration to the US ends. The White House provided no other parameters for determining what might satisfy Donald Trump's demands.

Responding to concerns raised by oil refiners and Midwestern states, Trump imposed only a 10% duty on energy products from Canada, with Mexican energy imports facing the full 25% tariff.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada would respond with 25% tariffs against \$155 billion of US goods, including beer, wine, lumber and appliances, beginning with \$30 billion taking effect Tuesday and \$125 billion 21 days later.

Trudeau warned US citizens that Trump's tariffs would raise their grocery and gasoline costs, potentially shutting down auto assembly plants and limiting supplies of goods such as nickel, potash, uranium, steel and aluminum. He urged his own citizens to forego travel to the US and to boycott US products.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, in a post on X, said she was instructing her economy minister to implement retaliatory tariffs but gave no details. Canada and Mexico said they were working together to face Trump's tariffs. China's Commerce Ministry did not specify its planned countermeasures. Its statement left open the door for talks between Washington and Beijing.

'World will witness unwavering support of Pakistani masses for Imran'

'Public mandate insulted on Feb 8,' Asad Qaiser'

NEWS DESK

SWABI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser claimed on Sunday that the world would witness the unwavering support of the Pakistani people for PTI founder Imran Khan.

Addressing a public gathering in Swabi, the former National Assembly session asserted that the people's mandate had been stolen in the recent elections.

He stated, "The public voted for PTI's founder, but Shehbaz Sharif was seated in power." He alleged that the people's choice had been disregarded.

Qaiser said, "Shehbaz Sharif held only 17 seats, yet he was made prime minister, which was an injustice to the nation."

He vowed that the PTI would reclaim the mandate that had been taken from them. "We will take back what was stolen from us," he affirmed.

The PTI leader criticised the judicial amendments, stating, "The 26th constitutional amendment practically dismantled the judicial system."

Qaiser pledged to fight for an independent judiciary. He stated, "We will fight for a free judiciary and liberate these courts from the grip of tyrants."

Govt developing strategy to engage overseas Pakistanis in national development: Ahsan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal held a meeting with the Pakistani Kashmiri diaspora in the United Kingdom, and explained the government's development agenda, 'Uraan Pakistan'. He said the 'Uraan Pakistan' initiative is now adopting a long-term and sustainable strategy to ensure progress.

Citing China's example, he stressed that 40 years of stable policies have propelled it to economic success, and Pakistan must similarly safeguard its development plans from political disruptions.

Under 'Uraan Pakistan,' the government is actively working on a strategy to increase

exports to 100 billion dollars by 2029 while prioritizing the promotion of advanced technology to combat climate change.

He urged overseas Pakistanis to pursue higher education and acquire cutting-edge expertise, as their achievements play a crucial role in the country's stability and growth. Ahsan Iqbal said the government is developing a comprehensive strategy to engage overseas Pakistanis in national development through digital platforms.

He said increasing exports is not just about strengthening the economy but also about creating employment opportunities for youth, empowering women economically, and enhancing the country's resilience to climate challenges.



QUETTA: Journalists hold a protesting against controversial amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016, which they say threatens freedom of the press.

Pakistan has always Progressed in PML-N Govt: Atta Tarar

PECA Aims to Curb Fake News, Protect Digital Media: Attaullah

APP

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said that Pakistan's economy is improving, emerging from the risk of default, and moving towards development.

Addressing workers in his constituency, he said Pinky Gogi and the Captain looted Pakistan and fabricated false narratives when held accountable. He assured that promises made during the 22-day campaign would be fulfilled, highlighting improvements in the country's economic situation, declining inflation, and the Prime Minister's efforts to drive development. Positive economic news continues to emerge, he added.

Tarar said that Pinky Gogi and the Captain harmed Pakistan and resorted to religious narratives when the Al-Qadir case verdict was announced. However, he said, with their influence gone, the country is back on the path to progress.

He criticized the former prime minister for selling watches, contrasting it with the current leadership's introduction of SOPs for Toshakhana. According to him, Pakistan has historically progressed under the PML-N, while opponents focused

on amassing wealth rather than solving national issues.

He pledged to make Township an exemplary area and emphasized that under Uraan Pakistan, further development is expected this year. The stock exchange is reaching historic highs, and he urged workers to challenge those spreading misinformation. He also criticized opponents for neglecting national development and showing indifference to the sacrifices of young soldiers defending Pakistan.

He concluded by reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening the economy with public cooperation.

Therefore, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has reiterated that the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) is aimed at eliminating fake news and addressing the damages caused through social media.

Speaking as the chief guest at the oath-taking ceremony of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Union on Sunday, he emphasized that social media cannot be left unchecked under the guise of journalism. He warned that fake propaganda, false news, harassment, child abuse content, threats to national security, economic uncertainty, and personal defamation are being spread online, creating unrest in society.

To regulate digital platforms, Tarar announced the establishment of a Digital Media Protection Authority, which will include members from the private sector, press clubs, and journalist organizations. Journalists and IT professionals will also be part of its tribunal. The authority will ensure swift decision-making, with tribunals required to pass orders within 24 hours, and appeals can be made to the High Court and Supreme Court. The minister assured that all stakeholders will be consulted before finalizing the framework.

"This is a crucial step in addressing the threats posed by social media," said Tarar, adding that the law will help curb misinformation and malicious content. He urged journalistic organizations to support the legislation, which incorporates global best practices.

The minister also addressed the damaging effects of corruption, stating that it has caused irreparable harm to institutions. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to reforming institutions under the Ministry of Information, making them profitable and efficient.

He praised APP Managing Director Asim Khichi for exposing corruption within the organization and vowed to bring such cases to their logical conclusion.

President of PPP Azad Kashmir Yasin, Ex Advisor for Information Durrani departed for US to attend breakfast on invitation of President Trump

By Khawaja Farooq



MUZAFFARABAD: President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, and former Advisor for Information, Murtaza Durrani, have departed for the United States to attend a breakfast invitation by U.S. President Donald Trump. Every year on February 5th, the U.S. President hosts a breakfast event in Washington, D.C., inviting prominent figures from around the world. From Pakistan, Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, participates in this event annually. Before him, his mother, the late Benazir Bhutto, was a key figure at this gathering every year. This unique international event brings together members of the U.S. Congress and Senate, governors from various U.S. states, and global personalities. The U.S.

President, along with the First Lady, participates in the breakfast and delivers a concluding presidential address after the meal. Before departing for the U.S., President of PPP Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Yasin, expressed his gratitude, stating that it is a great honor for him to attend the National Prayer Breakfast, an event that the late Benazir Bhutto used to attend regularly. After her martyrdom, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has continued her legacy. Chaudhry Yasin also emphasized that on February 5, Kashmir Solidarity Day, this event in the U.S. capital presents an important opportunity to discuss the Kashmir issue with international figures and expose the atrocities committed by Indian forces against innocent Kashmiris. He urged the United States, global peace-promoting nations, and international human rights organizations to take notice of the Indian occupation forces' brutalities in occupied Kashmir and to play their role in resolving the Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions.



SHEIKHUPURA: Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Industries and Production, holds a media talk.

PTI to march towards Islamabad with full preparation this time: Junaid Akbar

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) KP president Junaid Akbar Khan said that they would march towards Islamabad with full preparation this time. Talking to media on Sunday, the newly-appointed provincial president said that he would try to fulfil his responsibilities given by the party founder Imran Khan. "We were not expecting live bullets on us last time. We'll come with complete preparation this time," Junaid Akbar said.

According to MNA Junaid Akbar, he doesn't want any confrontation with the government and institutions. He added that PTI would hold a historical power show in Swabi on Feb 8. PTI's KP president was of the view that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will focus on the governance in the province while he would handle the party affairs. "I am not in the race of getting any ministry. The changes in the government is the mandate of chief minister and I have nothing to do with it," he said.

Meanwhile, PTI's preparations for Swabi rally are in full swing. According to party sources, all leaders have been instructed to mobilise workers, with each Khyber Pakhtunkhwa MNA tasked to bring at least 500 supporters. To ease financial strain on leaders, workers have been asked to arrange their own transport. Additionally, every national and provincial assembly member has been given specific tasks to ensure the event's success. PTI workers from Punjab will also be invited to participate.

Sindh Cabinet to approve Agriculture Income Tax today

INP

KARACHI: The Sindh Cabinet session has been summoned tomorrow (Monday) for approval of the agriculture income tax, on Sunday. The provincial cabinet session has been summoned at 9:00 in the morning on Monday after legislation of agriculture tax by the federal government. The parliamentary members have been informed about approval of the bill for enforcement of the agriculture income tax, sources said. Sources said that the parliamentary minister has been directed by the government for passage of the agriculture income tax bill from the assembly's current session under which the tax will be enforced on farm incomes. Agricultural income tax in Sindh could be enforced from 15 to 45 percent per annum, sources said.

PPP equally responsible for PECA amendments: Barrister Saif

INP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Adviser on Information, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, stated that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is equally responsible for the amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA). In his statement, Barrister Saif said the PPP voted in favour of the PECA, which officially became law after being signed by President Asif Zardari. He criticised the PPP for opposing the act in the media, calling it hypocrisy. "The PML-N and the PPP are two sides of the same coin, equally accountable for enforcing oppressive laws in the country," Saif added. The PTI leader stated that both parties have contributed to promoting lawlessness in the country and will have to account for their illicit wealth.

PTI to resist in political way, keep contacting parties: Faisal Ch

INP

JHELUM: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has called off negotiations with the government not with political parties, said PTI lawyer Faisal Chaudhry while appearing on a private TV Channel. Talks with political parties continue. PTI will not do solo flight. It will resist in a political way. Talks with establishment keep taking place in one way or the other, the PTI leader said. We have ended dialogue with the gov-

ernment. Political stability ensures economic prosperity. I don't have knowledge about contacts with the establishment, but the PTI is in contact with political parties, said PTI leader Faisal Chaudhry. He said PTI founder Imran Khan did not link talks with his release from jail, adding cases against the PTI chief were bogus. Maulana Fazlur Rehman and other political leaders are agreed with the PTI that there should be rule of law and supremacy of the Constitution in the country, he added.

FIA arrests 10 beggars from Karachi airport travelling to Saudi Arabia under guise of Umrah

INP

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration has arrested 10 individuals from Karachi airport, who were allegedly involved in begging in Saudi Arabia under the guise of Umrah. As per details, the arrested individuals, including Shah Nawaz, Afsar Ali, Mujtahid Hussain, Muhammad Adil, Rahib Ali, Zamir Hussain, Wasid, Sheraz Khan, Mubeen Ali Solangi, and Khuda Bukhsh, were deported from Saudi Arabia for their involvement in begging. According to FIA spokesperson, the arrested individuals hail from various cities in Pakistan, including Rajanpur, Kashmore, Naushahro Feroze, Lahore, Peshawar, Mohmand, and Larkana. Initial investigations revealed that the individuals had traveled to Saudi Arabia on Umrah visas. The FIA spokesperson further stated that the individuals were involved in begging in Saudi Arabia for several months prior to their deportation. The arrested individuals have been transferred to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle for further legal action.



ISLAMABAD: A motorcyclist ride past the banners on Constitution Avenue in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day observed in Pakistan on 5 February annually.



QUETTA: A vendor sorting the onions at roadside.



'Babar to play as opener in tri-nation series'

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Babar Azam will play as an opener in the upcoming tri-nation series involving South Africa and New Zealand along with the hosts, has learnt. One of Pakistan's opening slot was vacated when Saim Ayub fractured his ankle during the second Test against South Africa last month. According to a source close to the selectors, the team doctor had ruled out Saim for two to three months in during the tour only, confirming the left-hander would miss out on the ICC Champions Trophy and the preceding tri-nation series, a warm-up for the eight-team extravaganza. The source revealed that the Pakistan team management had shared with Babar the plan of making him the opener — a role he has thrived in the T20 format — for the one-day cricket as well. With Saim's opening partner Abdullah Shafique also dropped from Pakistan's squad for the tri-nation series and the Champions Trophy, two opening slots are vacant. While one will be taken by Fakhar Zaman, who returns to the national one-day roster for the first time since November 2023, Babar will partner the flamboyant south-paw. Currently, the selectors' decision is to test Babar as opener in the tri-nation series. Whether the right-hander would take the same role in the Champions Trophy is yet to be decided. Pakistan have also called back Test mainstay Saud Shafeek in the 50-over squad, adding to their top-order options. The national side will open their tri-nation series campaign against New Zealand at the Gaddafi Stadium on Feb 8. The Mohammad Rizwan-led side will take on South Africa at Karachi's National Bank Stadium four days later. The tournament's final is scheduled for Feb 14 in Karachi only. Pakistan's Champions Trophy will start in the metropolis also against New Zealand on Feb 19 before they travel to Dubai to take on India on Feb 23 before they fly to Rawalpindi for their final group fixture against Bangladesh on Feb 27. The Champions Trophy will see Pakistan host an International Cricket Council tournament for the first time since the 1996 World Cup.



NOTTINGHAM: Chris Wood (L) of Nottingham Forest scores against Brighton & Hove Albion during their Premier League match at The City Ground

Salah's controversial penalty fires Liverpool nine points clear

SPORTS DESK

BOURNEMOUTH: Mohamed Salah's controversial penalty put Liverpool on course for a 2-0 win at Bournemouth as the Premier League leaders moved nine points clear on Saturday. Meanwhile, fired-up Nottingham Forest thumped Brighton & Hove Albion 7-0 helped by a hat-trick from striker Chris Wood. Liverpool took the lead in the first half when Salah netted with a penalty awarded after Cody Gakpo appeared to trip over his own feet rather than go down from Lewis Cook's challenge. Bournemouth were left outraged after referee Darren England's on-field decision was upheld by VAR. Salah added insult to injury for Bournemouth when he struck again late in the second half to extend Liverpool's lead over second-placed Arsenal. The Egypt forward has 21 goals from 23 league games this season, reaching the 20-mark for the fifth time in his English top-flight career. Salah has 178 career Premier League goals, moving him one ahead of Frank Lampard into sixth place in the competition's all-time scoring chart. Liverpool are unbeaten in 19 league games, winning 17 of their 23 top-flight matches in a remarkable run since Arne Slot replaced Jurgen Klopp in the close-season. Pursuing an English record-equalling 20th title and their first in the competition since 2020, Liverpool can sit back and wait to see if old rivals Manchester City can do them a favour when they face Arsenal on Sunday. Bournemouth's 11-match unbeaten run in the league came to an end against a relentless Liverpool side that look destined to end the season with the Premier League crown in the Anfield trophy cabinet.

Liverpool were capable of carving through the Bournemouth defence at will, with Kopa Arrizabalaga keeping out Dominik Szoboszlai's effort. The Reds were too precise and electric in attack for Bournemouth to hold them at bay and the opener finally arrived in dubious fashion in the 30th minute. Rubbing salt into Bournemouth's wounds, David Brooks had an instant equaliser ruled out for offside by VAR. Liverpool had to ride their luck at times and Alisson denied Semenyo, alertly racing off his line to save at the Ghana winger's feet. Salah made Bournemouth pay for their profligacy in the 75th minute. Curtis Jones' pass sent Salah racing the area and he guided a fine finish past Kopa in typically predatory style. FOREST HIT SEVEN At the City Ground in Nottingham, Forest staged an in an emphatic bounce back from last week's humbling loss at Bournemouth. They move to 47 points after 24 games to consolidate third spot as they chase Champions League qualification, while Brighton are ninth on 34. Forest are now level with second-placed Arsenal. Nuno Espirito Santo's Forest side romped to their biggest margin of victory since a 7-0 rout of Chelsea in 1991. An own goal from Lewis Dunk in the 12th minute kicked off the scoring as Brighton's skipper lunged to clear Morgan Gibbs-White's low cross and poked the ball into the net. Gibbs-White doubled Forest's lead in the 25th minute with a glancing header from Anthony Elanga's corner.

India's Rohit, Kohli have 'massive role' in Champions Trophy: Gambhir

SPORTS DESK

India coach Gautam Gambhir said Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have much to offer the team despite their poor run of form in recent matches, stressing the veteran duo will play a key role in this month's Champions Trophy. Captain Rohit and batter Kohli were both part of the test team that suffered a 3-0 series sweep at home by New Zealand followed by a 3-1 hammering in Australia which ended their decade-long hold on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Following the defeat to Australia, both players returned to domestic cricket in a bid to rediscover their best form. "I think both Rohit and Virat, they add so much value to the dressing room. They add so much value to Indian cricket as well. They've got to play a massive role (in the Champions Trophy)," Gambhir told reporters on Saturday. "And I've said it before as well, those guys are so hungry, they want to play for the country. They have the passion to play for the country and deliver for the country." India are in Group A in the Champions Trophy and meet Bangladesh in Dubai on Feb 20, before taking on defending champions and rivals Pakistan and ending their group campaign against New Zealand. "The Champions Trophy is a completely different challenge as compared to the 50-over World Cup because literally every game is a make-or-break, so you can't stop anywhere in this tournament," Gambhir said. "So hopefully we're going to start off really well, because ultimately, if you want to go on and win the competition, you have to win five games..." "We don't go to the Champions Trophy thinking that Feb 23 (versus Pakistan) is the most important game for us. I think five games, all the games are important. The mission to go to Dubai is to win the Champions Trophy, not only win one particular game." India's Virat Kohli and captain Rohit Sharma celebrate with the trophy after winning the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 final cricket match between India and South Africa at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on June 29, 2024. — AFP File Photo



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Absent justice

THE judges of the Islamabad High Court had issued an SOS. It was swept aside with customary disdain. Though five judges of the court had, through a letter, expressed strong reservations about a plan to transplant judges in the IHC from other courts, President Asif Zardari did just that late Saturday. It remains to be seen whether one of the relocated judges will also end up as chief justice of the IHC, as had been feared. Given the government's bent, it would not be a surprise. It had long been anticipated that the IHC and its judges would be penalised at an opportune time for complaining to the former CJP against the establishment's meddling in court affairs.

If the senior-most judges are so helpless, what hope does the common citizen have? Who do ordinary Pakistanis turn to for justice, when it is becoming increasingly clear that even those supposed to uphold it do not have any for themselves?

The judges' fears, expressed in the letter, were never unfounded. The nation had witnessed a capable Supreme Court justice being denied a well-deserved promotion, apparently only because of their refusal to agree with the position taken by the ruling regime in a key case. Other developments — especially regarding the fixing of important cases and major appointments — further cemented perceptions that the judiciary was being consciously remoulded to guarantee the continuity of the status quo. The president's decision merely affirms the trend.

However, the ruling regime will not always be able to push everyone standing in its path against the wall. There will come a time when reactions will not be limited to mere letters and protestations.

The laws of nature suggest that all systems eventually revert to their mean position. And so, at some point, the architects of Pakistan's present-day policies will confront the consequences of their decisions. How those consequences play out will depend on what strength remains in the state's institutions.

Right now, all roads seem to lead to dystopia; to an oppressive future characterised by totalitarianism and general tyranny. This may seem like an overly gloomy prognosis to some. Realistically, however,

it is difficult to expect much from a system that is gradually becoming completely divorced from any objective measure of fairness.

There is a reason justice is such a cherished ideal in all stable societies: it allows their systems to correct course quickly and without incurring painful costs.

Pakistan needs its judiciary to be able to ensure justice for its citizens. Without public faith in its justice system, it runs the risk of accelerated social breakdown. A nation so young and so full of potential should not be bled of its hopes for a fairer future. The gradual slide towards anarchy must be reversed.

By Muna Khan

Built on divisions

IWANT you to watch a documentary that will infuriate, pierce your heart, make you weep and cause sleepless nights — as it did for me. Because it's not enough to imagine what Palestinians endure every day as we catch snippets of images on TV or social media feeds, desensitising us as constant exposure to violence can do.

We must watch *No Other Lands* to understand what it is like to live in fear of Israelis — soldiers and settlers — coming to evict you from your home. And then watch what happens when they tear your home down in front of your eyes, unaffected by your screams and pleas. And then you are forced to live in a cave, carrying on as normal as possible because the other choice is to leave.

No Other Land tells the story of Palestinian villagers resisting Israel's cruel efforts to forcibly evict them from their lands in Masafer Yatta. It is a joint production of Palestinian and Israeli filmmakers, filmed over five years, right up till the Hamas attack on Israel.

It focuses on Palestinian activist and filmmaker Basel Adra and Israeli journalist Yuval Abraham, who is against the occupation. Their bond is as central to the film as Israel's brutal actions against the residents resisting their assault.

You will not forget the father trying to calm his young daughters as they watch their home razed to the ground. Or as the mother shouts at the soldiers, begging them not to raze the toilet at least.

Moments later, Israeli soldiers open fire and a young man, Harun is shot. He is paralysed from the shoulders down. It is heartbreaking to watch his mother grieve

over his just-shot body. You will then see how Harun returns to live in a cave with his family, being shifted from hospital bed to a mattress on the floor by family members using a blanket as a 'stretcher' to move him. He cannot leave to get medical treatment. In one scene, his mother sits next to him, when they hear some sounds, perhaps footsteps, fearing another Israeli raid; he asks "who is coming?" She replies "nobody is coming."

What is it like to watch one's home being razed to the ground?

In 2019, around 2,500 Palestinians faced forced expulsion from Masafer Yatta, in the south of the West Bank in the occupied territories. Israel claims the villagers have built illegally on military training land. Palestinians deny this. It doesn't matter what they say; we watch as Israel comes to raze houses, schools, even a chicken coop.

"I don't think we can have security if Palestinians don't have freedom," Abraham tells Democracy Now. We also watch the hate Abraham receives from Israelis for advocating for Palestinians. After a painful demolition, a Palestinian man tells Abraham he may not be accepted here anymore.

In one touching scene between the two friends, late at night, Adra — who cannot leave the West Bank — tells Abraham — who can move freely — they should leave the place together.

Where will we go, asks Abraham. The Maldives replies Adra, as a donkey neighs in the background. Abraham replies "the donkey is laughing at your plan."

Adra gets his activism from his parents, and we see family home videos documenting the father's

resistance. They would rebuild after homes were destroyed. They built a school in secret, at night away from authorities' eyes. That school was also visited by former British prime minister Tony Blair in 2009. In archival footage from that visit, Blair passes Adra's home where his father stands. In a voice-over, Adra says Israel did not order any demolition of a school or house on the street Blair walked on. This is a powerful testament to ... well ... power.

One day the soldiers come to des-troy a chicken coop. Young children try to rescue a small pigeon buried under the rubble as someone yells "Basel ... come here, keep filming, they are here", and the camera rushes across to where the soldiers are climbing a mountain. "I'm filming you," Adra shouts. "You are just like criminals expelling us." A soldier warns against coming closer or he'll arrest him. On what grounds screams Adra as they grab him, a scuffle ensues before the camera falls to the ground and you hear his screams but he manages to escape. They return the next day to arrest his father. It is distressing to say the least.

It is a world, as Adra says, built on division.

Yellow licence plates for Israeli cars who can travel anywhere and green licence plates for Palestinian cars that can't leave the West Bank.

Israel controls both.

Every week a family must decide whether to endure these hardships or leave their

land, ie, lose their land. It is more challenging to stay on their lands yet many do so. It is an urgent film and I hope it receives the Oscar it is nominated for so it gets wider reach.

By Kamran Raja

Balochista Youth and revelations

The youth of Balochistan should not be a part of any kind of adventure, today youth have an opportunity to come back and join the national mainstream. Thanks to the government for giving us an opportunity to join the mainstream, these views were expressed by a young man belonging to a banned organization of Balochistan while holding a press conference at Quetta Press Club. On Friday, January 24, 2025, a former "commander" in a press conference along with ministers of government of Balochistan revealed the methods used by the group and similar organizations. Najeebullah, also known as Darwish, shared these details during a press

conference where he, along with another ex "commander," Abdul Rasheed, also referred to as Khuda-i-Dad or Kamash, officially announced their surrender.

They, along with their associates, declared their intention to transition into mainstream politics to pursue a peaceful struggle for their rights while adhering to Pakistan's Constitution.

The event was attended by prominent officials, including Senior Minister for Planning and Development Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Adviser to the Chief Minister on Sports and Youth Affairs Mina Majeed Baloch, and Quetta DIG and CTD Chief Aitezaz Ahmed Goraya. Najeebullah revealed that the group heavily relied on

"mental training" and ideological literature to influence recruits from different regions of Balochistan.

He stated that the organization conducted two types of training: physical and psychological. According to him, the recruits were exposed to teachings on "Marxist ideology" and inspired by global figures such as Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh and Bhagat Singh.

Najibullah's Press conference is a warning to his former colleagues to desist from destabilizing the state, instead of being part of a proxy war, lead a peaceful life and use their talents for positive and constructive activities.

This is the greatest service to the nation and the country.

DAILY MIRROR

Voiceless Gaza: Pakistani siblings amplify orphans' plea for help amid despair

APP

LAHORE: Though the 15-month-long genocidal attacks on Gaza have reached a temporary halt with the recent ceasefire agreement, the devastation left in their wake is unimaginable.

Over 2 million people, including pregnant women and innocent children, have borne the brunt of this violence. Among these children, a significant number have been left as amputees, forever changed by the horrors they endured.

While the ceasefire has brought a measure of relief to the people of Gaza, it cannot undo the irreversible damage done — particularly the thousands of limbs lost by Palestinian children during the prolonged attacks, which some have described as an act of infanticide.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Palestinian children have been killed, starved, and frozen to death in the Gaza Strip.

Tom Fletcher, the UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, stated, "Children have been killed, starved, and frozen to death. They have been maimed, orphaned, and separated from

their families." His words underscored the staggering impact on Gaza's youngest generation. In addition, UN statistics reveal that approximately 150,000 pregnant women and new mothers urgently need health services in Gaza.

In the wake of the ceasefire, two Pakistani siblings—10-year-old Ubaydah al-Fiddah Hafiah and her 12-year-old brother Ghulam Bishar Hafi—have once again raised their voices for the voiceless amputee children of Palestine. Through a press release issued by their father and inspiration, Prof. Dr. Aurangzeb Hafi, they have announced the continuation of their campaign, "Voice for the Voiceless," to advocate for the children left in the aftermath of the conflict.

In the release, the siblings expressed deep regret over the destruction of schools, maternity centres, kindergartens, and hospitals during the attacks. They described the deliberate targeting of these institutions as "infanticide," an act that reflects the brutal and calculated nature of the violence.

While the ceasefire brings hope, it also raises serious questions about the long-term consequences for Gaza's children. Hundreds of thousands have been orphaned, with many left entirely alone after losing their entire families.

Thousands of others now live with lifelong disabilities, their future uncertain. The release poignantly noted that many of these children are now left with "nothing more than surviving breaths."

The siblings stressed the urgent need for essential infantile care and protection for the disabled orphans in Gaza. UNICEF reports that thousands of children have been killed or injured over the past 15 months of conflict, but the true scale of their suffering goes beyond statistics. Each child represents not just a number but a life cut short, a childhood stolen, and an innocence destroyed in a war they never chose to fight.

The minor siblings appealed to the UNICEF's Executive Director Catherine and the UN's Chief Antonio Guterres, for emergency mobilisation to address the pressing concerns in this regard. They initiated second part of their online appeal for taking a stand for the left-alone innocents. [Post-Ceasefire Alert: Urge UNICEF's Catherine Russell to Save the Left-alone Gazan Babies. www.stopInfanticide.world]

Earlier these minor children came forward to extend virtually the United Nations exhibit, titled 'Gaza, Palestine – A Crisis of Humanity, A Cry for Justice' across the globe.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing an Inter-Ministerial meeting to review the preparation for the second round of Pak-Qatar Bilateral Political Consultation scheduled to be held in Doha at Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Four levies personnel martyred in Darband terrorists attack

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Four levies personnel and a civilian were martyred in a terrorists attack in Darband area of Manshehra District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday night.

According to Darband assistant commissioner, the security personnel along with a worker of a private company were heading to an area for the recovery of a stolen truck when terrorists opened indiscriminate firing on their vehicle.

As a result of the firing, five persons including four levies personnel died on the spot. The militants fled after the attack.

On information, rescuers and security personnel scrambled to the crime scene and started investigation after sending the dead bodies to Darband hospital.

Security was put on high alert after the incident. A search operation was launched for the arrest of the fleeing terrorists.

ANP believes in non-violent politics:

Aimal Wali

INP

CHARSADDA: Awami National Party (ANP) President Aimal Wali Khan said that ANP believes in the politics of non-violence.

Addressing a rally in Charsadda to mark the death anniversary of Bacha Khan and Wali Khan, he said that ANP was kept out of power for 12 years.

"More than 600 workers of ANP were martyred in 1948 at Babra. We are proud of our workers," he said.

He said that the MPAs and MNAs of PTI are not in contact with the people.

According to Aimal Wali Khan, the mandate of ANP was stolen three times from Charsadda.

"The PTI founder talks about probe in nine constituencies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. We want thorough probe of all the constituencies of KP," he added.

He added that if their mandate is stolen again in the next election, it will be impossible for Pakistan to move forward.

"I'll hold rally in Kurram at any cost," vowed ANP president.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to boost trade and investment ties

Both sides also discussed strengthening their strategic partnership, focusing on economic collaboration and trade

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have vowed to deepen bilateral ties by expanding cooperation in energy, investment, and tourism, officials said on Sunday. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Pakistan's Minister for Privatisation and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, and Azerbaijan's Prime Minister, Ali Asadov, in Baku. Khan highlighted Pakistan's investment potential, particularly in the privatisation of state-owned enterprises. He invited Azerbaijan to

invest in Pakistan's motorway infrastructure and other key sectors, assuring full facilitation for Azeri investors.

Both sides also discussed strengthening their strategic partnership, focusing on economic collaboration, trade, and mutual interests.

Welcoming the Pakistani delegation, Asadov reaffirmed the strong ties between the two nations.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan have maintained close diplomatic and economic relations, with both countries seeking to enhance cooperation across multiple sectors.

Govt considers converting circular debt into public debt to reduce power tariff

Circular debt restructuring will result in lowering tariff by Rs3.37 per unit

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The government has initiated efforts to convert circular debt (CD) in the power sector into public debt, a move expected to reduce electricity tariffs by Rs3.37 per unit, on Sunday.

Additionally, the government is prepared to restructure \$16.26 billion in debt acquired for various energy projects, including hydel, imported coal, Thar coal, wind, solar, transmission and nuclear, Wapda hydel and Neelum-Jhelum projects. Currently, the government allocates \$3 billion for debt servicing through end-consumer tariffs, which translates to Rs8.63 per unit in capacity charges with electricity tariffs.

The 9-page paper on reforms in the power sector points out the government is trying hard to re-profile the loans by increasing debt payment tenure to achieve relief of Rs5.1 per unit.

The paper says refinancing interest-bearing circular debt through sovereign debt, making it public debt, will reduce tariff in the range of Rs3.23 per kWh (for non-protected consumers), which increases to Rs3.78 per kWh after tax.

"Such a structure will effectively remove arbitrage that exists within sovereign risk and enable better pricing of sovereign payables. However, any such intervention may increase overall sovereign debt levels slightly," the paper said. The benefit of reduced prices would have a positive impact on overall electricity consumption and growth, it notes.

Total circular debt is Rs2.26 trillion (interest bearing: Rs1.74 trillion), which is split into Power Holding Limited (Rs683 billion), Payable by CPPA to Power Producers (Rs1,060 billion) and Payable (non-interest) by CPPA to Power Producers (Rs683 billion). PHL Debt is priced at 3-m KIBOR + 0.45%.

The paper says there exists a strong case to reduce the same spread, by moving to a fixed rate bond of a longer tenor and extracting interest savings. Refinancing the same in the current environment can also yield substantial interest savings, which can then be passed on to electricity consumers. Similarly, receivables payable by CPPA to IPPs accrue interest at 3-m KIBOR + 3%, which is a very high spread for payables (quasi-debt) guaranteed by the sovereign.

President lauds security forces for killing 23 terrorists in Kalat operation

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday paid tribute to security forces for eliminating 23 terrorists in various operations in Balochistan.

The president commended the bravery of security forces for successfully neutralizing 23 terrorists during operations in different areas of Balochistan, including Kalat and Harnai, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president said that the operations against terrorists would continue till their complete eradication, adding their resolve to eliminate terrorist elements and defend the country would remain firm.

He also expressed the commitment to completely eradicate the menace of terrorism.

Attaullah Tarar pledges to modernize institutions of MOIB

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar has expressed commitment for modernization of all institutions working under the Ministry of Information.

He was addressing the oath-taking ceremony of newly-elected officer bearers of APP Employees Union at PBC Broadcasting House in Lahore.

The Minister said Pakistan Television Corporation, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Associated Press of Pakistan are being digitized through use of the latest technology. He said a reforms process has been introduced in all these institutions. He said a Digital Department has been established recently, which has been incorporated with Artificial Intelligence.

Talking about the PECA law, he said purpose of this Act is to provide protection to journalists and eliminate incidents of harassment besides other crimes. He invited all stakeholders to sit and discuss the PECA law for its improvement. He said a Digital Media Protection Authority is being set up in which the journalists' community and private sector will also be represented.

The Information Minister appreciated the key role played by Radio Pakistan during wars and other situations for keeping the whole nation united. Later, the Information Minister visited various Studios of Radio Pakistan, along with Director General PBC, Saeed Ahmed Sheikh.

Romina Khurshid highlights wetlands' role in biodiversity, climate mitigation

APP

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has called for urgent action to safeguard the world's wetlands, emphasizing their significant role in environmental preservation, biodiversity, and combating impacts of climate change.

In her message on World Wetland Day being observed under the theme "protecting wetlands for our common future", Romina Khurshid highlighted the indispensable role wetlands play in ensuring environmental sustainability, supporting biodiversity, and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

She called for strengthened global and national efforts to safeguard these vital ecosystems.

The United Nations has designated February 2 as World Wetland Day to commemorate the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971.

As part of Pakistan's commitment to the Ramsar Convention, the country has designated 19 wetlands of international importance, including the famous Keenjhar Lake, Rann of Kutch, and the Haleji Lake, which support a wide variety of wildlife, especially for around 2 million migratory birds from countries in Central Asia, Siberia, and northern parts of Europe.

PM's aide stated that although the

country contributes only 1% to global greenhouse gas emissions, has been ranked as the 5th most climate-vulnerable nation. This stark disparity highlights the country's heightened risk to the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures, which pose significant threats to its population, economy, and place additional pressure on its wetland resources.

She stated that climate change has exacerbated the challenges faced by wetlands in Pakistan. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and increasing sea levels are causing wetlands to shrink disrupting the delicate balance of these ecosystems.

She emphasized that wetlands act as natural buffers against floods and function as carbon sinks, absorbing significant amounts of carbon dioxide which helps mitigating the effects of global warming.

Romina Khurshid Alam reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting these

vital ecosystems by strengthening environmental policies, promoting sustainable water management, and working closely with local communities to ensure that wetlands are preserved for future generations.

"Pakistan has shown resilience in the face of climate change, and our government is continuously taking steps to address environmental degradation.



QUETTA: MPA Farah Azeem Shah inaugurating the Emaan Pakistan Trust's Vocational Training Center at Arbab Town.

Khawaja Saad Rafique calls for amendments to PECA law

INP

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Khawaja Saad Rafique on Sunday emphasised the need for amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) law to ensure that citizens' rights are not compromised in the battle against fake news.

In a statement on social media, Saad Rafique urged that media representative organisations be consulted regarding the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA). He stressed the need for amendments to the law to safeguard fundamental rights.

He also called for granting high courts the authority to hear appeals against the

decisions of tribunals formed under PECA. "History shows that laws designed to control others often end up being used against their creators," he warned. Meanwhile, the journalists' organizations have announced marching towards Parliament House and stage sit-in in the next phase of protests.

In a statement, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Secretary General Arshad Ansari unveiled the plan for organising nationwide rallies and protests under the joint action committee. He also revealed that the media fraternity aimed to stage a long march to the Parliament House, sit-ins and "Jail Bharo Tehreek [court arrest movement] against the Peca tweaks".

Health Dept takes notice of fight between Dr Ghaus & Dr Zeeshan

Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: MS Dr Shoaib Aslam was made a scapegoat in the fight between the doctors of the Punjab Institute of Cardiology Cath Lab. According to details, a few days ago, the inside story of the fight between the senior registrar and the assistant professor in the Punjab Institute of Cardiology Cath Lab came to light. According to sources, the health department took notice of the fight between Dr Muhammad Ghaus and Dr Zeeshan and issued orders to replace both of them and report to the health department. The health department also formed a committee to investigate the incident and submit a report within the next 48 hours.

The committee includes Executive Director PIC Professor Bilal Mohiuddin, Special Monitoring Officer Ahmad Dogar, MS PIC Dr Shoaib Aslam. Action will be taken against those responsible in the light of the recommendations of the investigation committee. Health professionals and staff came to the fore on this incident and started a strike in the hospital. On this, the health department has appointed the Chief Executive of the Punjab Institute of Cardiology. A letter was issued to make lists of striking doctors, nurses and employees and submit them to the health department and strict

action should be taken against them. On the other hand, orders were issued to remove MSPI Dr. Shoaib Aslam, a member of the health department investigation committee, from his post and report to the health department immediately. In Lahore, the capital of the Punjab government, where the number of patients coming to the emergency department daily is around 3,200 and the number of patients coming to the outdoor department is around 4,000, the strike in the hospital did not end despite the passage of five days and the lives of patients suffering from fatal heart disease were at stake. Reliable sources said that conspiracies were being hatched in the hospital for a few months against the dismissed MS Dr. Shoaib Aslam to somehow replace him. The conspiracy group succeeded in its objectives.

On the one hand, the health department wants to improve hospitals across Punjab and on the other hand, it is creating chaos in hospitals by replacing honest regular MSs and appointing acting MSs. It should be noted that before this, regular MS Jinnah Dr. Yahya Sultan Then, a failed experiment was conducted by replacing MS Services Dr. Mudbar and MS Gangaram Hospital Dr. Moinuddin. Dr. Shoaib Aslam is considered one of the honest officers of the health department.



Lahore: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi along with DG ANF Major General Abdul Mueed meeting the innocent family who were detained in Saudi Arabia.