

# QUETTA VOICE

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Tuesday October 31,2023

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## Joint Check Posts Established To Prevent Smuggling in Balochistan: CM

Staff Reporter:



QUETTA: The geopolitical significance of Balochistan is an undeniable reality, emphasized Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in his address to participants of the National Security Workshop.

Underlining the caretaker government's commitment to the province's development, he outlined key priorities in areas crucial to the province's prosperity.

### Development and Security Priorities:

"The caretaker government is steadfastly focused on enhancing the region's development, with a special emphasis on improving law and order, education, healthcare, and infrastructure," stated Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

### Combatting Trafficking:

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki highlighted the activation of an anti-trafficking wing to combat smuggling in Balochistan.

Joint check posts have been established throughout the province to address this critical issue.

### Economic Impact:

The Chief Minister highlighted the positive economic impact of these operations: "As a result of our ongoing operations, the prices of essential food items have significantly reduced, providing much-needed relief to our residents."

### Assistance for Migrants:

Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki informed the audience about the establishment of special assistance centers in the Pak-Afghan border areas, aimed at supporting the voluntary return of foreign migrants.

### Support for Returnees:

He affirmed the government's commitment to providing comprehensive support to voluntary returnees: "We stand ready to assist those returning to their home country," he said.

### Evacuating Illegal Immigrants:

Chief Minister Domki also announced that after the scheduled date, the government would initiate the process to evacuate illegal immigrants, addressing a pressing concern in the region.

## Emotional Journey: Afghan Families Sell Belongings, Express Gratitude to Pakistan

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: With only one day left before the Pakistani government's repatriation deadline, Abdullah Pirzada expressed his gratitude to Pakistan.



line for foreign refugees, a significant number of Afghan refugees are returning to Afghanistan, departing from Quetta through Chaman, including Quetta. Many of these refugees were born in Pakistan and have established deep connections with their communities, business friends, and acquaintances.

They have made the difficult decision to sell their assets and belongings at reduced prices after the Pakistani government announced the one-month evacuation period.

### "Really, Broken, I Am", Abdullah Pirzada Says

Abdullah Pirzada, one of the returning refugees, shared his struggles as he prepared to leave.

He stated, "My problems intensified when the government declared the need to repatriate foreign refugees within a month. Today,

We auctioned all our possessions, from Karachi to Quetta, at the UNHCR center for Afghan refugees in Balich. After registering their properties, they are heading to Afghanistan. Along the way,

### "We Cannot Forget the Hospitality of Pakistan", Syed Muhammad

As the Pakistani government's repatriation deadline approaches, Syed Muhammad, another Afghan migrant in the UNHCR camp, revealed the hardships they are facing. He shared,

"We have sold our personal homes and businesses at a significant loss over the past month to avoid imprisonment and arrest."

Syed Muhammad's personal connection with Pakistan dates back to his childhood, as he arrived in the country at the age of 5. Now, at 50 years old, he is returning to Afghanistan after 45 years of residing in Pakistan.

As he heads to Kunduz province, he faces the challenges of finding a new place to call home and adjusting to the colder climate. The deadline for all illegal immigrants is scheduled to expire on November 1st.

## SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 22pc ahead of IMF review

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has decided to maintain the status quo and keep the key policy rate unchanged at 22 per cent, according to a press release issued on Monday.

The decision to keep the interest rate unchanged — at par with several analysts' expectations — by the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) came after government data showed September consumer inflation hit another high of 31.4 per cent.

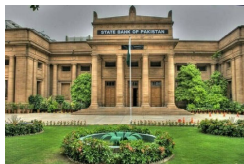
The decision came ahead of a visit by a delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Thursday that will review progress on targets set in a \$3 billion programme approved in July this year to bail out the struggling economy.

The statement issued after the MPC meeting said that the committee noted that headline inflation rose in September 2023 as expected.

"However, it is projected to decline in October and then maintain a downward trajectory, especially in the second half of the fiscal year," it said.

"While the recent volatility in global oil prices as well as the increase in gas tariffs from November 2023 pose some risks to the FY24 outlook for inflation and the current account, the committee also noted some offsetting factors. These include the targeted fiscal consolidation in Q1; improvement in market availability of key commodities; and the alignment of interbank and open market exchange rates," it said.

The committee also noted some "key developments" since its September meeting. These included initial estimates for Kharif crops being encourage-



ing, adding that it would have "positive effects" on other key sectors.

It further said that the current account deficit narrowed considerably in August and September, which helped to "stabilise the SBP's foreign exchange reserves position amidst tepid external financing in these two months".

At the same time, fiscal consolidation also remained on track, with both fiscal and primary balances improving during the first quarter of FY24. In addition, the committee said that while "core inflation remains sticky, inflation expectations of both consumers and businesses improved in the latest pulse surveys." "However, global oil prices remain quite volatile and the conflict in the Middle East makes its outlook even more uncertain," the committee said. "In the light of these developments, the MPC emphasised on continuing with the tight monetary policy stance. NEWS DESK

## Successful Negotiations Postpone Protest In Dukki Coal Area

Hussain Zarkoon:

disruptions in the Meraj Coal Mining Area.

During this period, coal loading had come to a complete halt, affecting the supply of coal across the entire country.

In the agreed terms, the parties committed to taking steps to ensure the security of the Meraj area for the next three days.



This would enable the resumption of mining and loading operations. However, it was emphasized that if the demands put forth during the negotiations were not promptly implemented, the protest would resume on the third day.

## Highway Blocked in Protest Over Mother and Son Killings in Wadh

From Our Correspondent:

KHUZDAR: Protesters blocked the Mianhar highway in Wadh against the killing of a mother and son on Monday afternoon.

The family members took to the streets, blocking the Meander highway to protest the heinous killings of a mother and son in Wadh City.

The victims were brutally attacked by unknown armed men who had broken into their home. Local administration appears to be still clueless about the brutal killings. However, the administration launched an investigation into the incident.

### Grieving Family Members Demand Justice

The grieving family's message was loud and clear: the highway would remain blocked until the perpetrators behind this heart-wrenching crime are brought to justice.

The horrifying incident unfolded in Mianhar, a neighborhood in Wadh City, where Noorulhah Lahi's residence became a scene of tragedy.

The local authorities swiftly registered the case and initiated an investigation into the matter.

### Long Queues Of Vehicles

As this case continues to unravel, the family's



passionate demand for justice echoes along the blocked highway, creating a powerful call for action in Balochistan.

Long queues of vehicles were witnessed on both sides of the road.

Passengers were forced to wait for hours along with women and children because of the blockade of the highway.

The motive behind the tragic incident could not be ascertained immediately.

## Quetta Police Officer Convicted to 10 Years RI in 2021 Sexual Assault Case

Syed Kaleem Shah:

QUETTA: The Session Judge Sariab Division, Mr. Jan Muhammad Gohar, has delivered a significant verdict in the case of Muhammad Nabi, a former police officer. Nabi has been sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and fined a substantial sum of Rs. 1 lakh. In case of failure to pay the fine, further imprisonment awaits the accused, Judge Jan Muhammad Gohar announced.

### Police Officer Attempts to Sexually Assault A Young Girl

In a shocking incident that occurred in 2021, the accused, Muhammad Nabi, who was a police officer at the time, made an attempt to sexually assault a young girl identified as "G".

The incident took place within the jurisdiction of Abdul Khaliq Shaheed. Subsequently, a case was registered against him and the Challan was submitted in the court. In a recent development, it was revealed that the court's judgment in the case was delivered yesterday.

Judge Jan Muhammad Gohar pronounced a verdict that ensures justice is served.

Muhammad Nabi has been sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment with hard labor. Additionally, he has been ordered to pay a fine of one lakh



rupees.

### Justice Prevails

The judgment is clear in its stance, emphasizing that in the event of non-payment of the fine, the accused will be subjected to an additional six months of imprisonment.

This verdict represents a significant milestone in the pursuit of justice for the victim and serves as a strong message against any form of sexual assault. The ruling sends a powerful signal that such heinous acts will not go unpunished, even if the perpetrator holds a position of authority.

QUEL'ALTRA

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Health Card Initiative: A Lifesaving Revolution

Editorial:

The Balochistan government is on the verge of launching a highly anticipated health card system aimed at addressing the healthcare needs of the region's population.

An Inclusive Program

The eligibility criteria are quite inclusive, as anyone possessing a national identity card with a Balochistan province address can easily take advantage of this service.

This groundbreaking healthcare initiative was originally conceived during the tenure of the former Balochistan chief minister, Jagan Kamal Khan, who led the coalition government.

Over 2 Million Families To Benefit

The potential impact is substantial, as over 2 million families in Balochistan stand to benefit from this healthcare initiative, with each family being allocated Rs. 1 million for medical expenses.

The government has also taken a significant step by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a private insurance company to ensure the successful implementation of this project, which aims to address the longstanding health issues faced by the people of Balochistan.

Govt Hospitals Paint A Bleak Picture

In Balochistan, government-run hospitals have long struggled to provide adequate health facilities and access to healthcare professionals. As a result, many of the affluent and middle-class residents opt for treatment in private hospitals in Quetta or the more expensive hospitals in Karachi, primarily due to the dire conditions in government healthcare facilities.

Governments in Balochistan have consistently claimed that health and education are top priorities, yet translating these claims into meaningful action on the ground has often proven challenging.

With issues like inflation, unemployment, and alarmingly low social indicators exacerbating the problems faced by the people of Balochistan, the implementation of this initiative could potentially offer a ray of hope if carried out transparently and effectively.

Elusive peace

By Aiaz Ahmad Chaudhry:

A POPULAR view by academics and politicians alike is that Hamas's recent actions on Oct 7 not only instigated Israel to exact the biggest ever death toll of Palestinians, even more than the Intifadas, but also undermined the peace process.

For seven decades, Israel has used brutal force to suppress the Palestinians' right to self-determination, guaranteed by UN Resolution No 181 of 1947, which had decided to partition Palestine into two states.

one Arab, the other Jewish. On Oct 7, 1947, when the General Assembly of the newly formed United Nations was discussing the draft resolution, Pakistan's representative, Sir Zafarullah Khan, built a strong case for the right of Palestinians to form an independent modern state on the lands on which they had lived for millennia.

A malignant settlement
LAST week, on these pages, Khurram Husain published an insightful and timely piece on Nawaz Sharif's return and its implications for the management of Pakistan's economy.

home for the Jewish people' in Palestine and asserted that "... nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine...." This commitment was never honoured.

To date, the Palestinians, like the Kashmiris, have been fighting for the right to live on their own lands with honours and dignity.

In recent history, the land has remained under the suzerainty of, among others, the Romans, Arabs, the Ottomans, and then the British.

prevailing settlement. In fact, as Pakistan's case shows, destabilising conflict between different groups (civil vs military, rural vs urban, ethnic divisions) can be a recurring feature of a settlement. What is also clear is that Pakistan's particular political settlement configuration is not producing sustained results.

By Samiullah:

In recent years, the Israel-Palestine conflict has witnessed numerous escalations, resulting in the tragic loss of countless lives and extensive damage to infrastructure.

The Impact of the Attack:

The repercussions of the attack on a hospital in Gaza were catastrophic, impacting civilians, including children, the wounded, and the elderly.

The Inhuman Act: Targeting Hospitals:

War, even when waged between states with longstanding conflicts, is subject to rules and conventions. The fundamental principle of international humanitarian law is to protect civilians, including the wounded, children, and the elderly.

By Malecha Lodhi:

THE one thing demonstrated by Nawaz Sharif's return from and his challenge by Imran Khan's PTI, Sharif's self-exile is that political leaders can never be written off in Pakistan's roller-coaster politics.

Ever though the party led the PDM coalition that assumed power after Khan's ouster, his brother Shehbaz Sharif neither had the popular appeal nor political skill to effectively lead and reinvigorate the party.

After four years abroad, he is now back to participate in the election, expected in January 2024, and make a bid for prime ministership for the fourth time.

Sharif's long career in politics has seen many highs and lows. He was never able to complete any of his terms as prime minister as he was ousted either by the military or the president (when that office had the constitutional power to do so).

International Responsibility:

The United Nations and powerful nations should step up and play a pivotal role in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The concept that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" has been a longstanding principle in international relations.

Thucydides' Insights: Rules of War and Peace:

The ancient Greek

historian Thucydides, in his timeless work "History of the Peloponnesian War," underscored the importance of rules in times of war and peace.

He argued that upholding these rules is not a sign of weakness but an essential element of the international order. The attack on a hospital in Gaza stands as a blatant violation of these principles and underscores the necessity of enforcing them.

To Sum Up:

The illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza serves as a stark reminder of the tragic consequences that ensue here to the rules of war and peace.

Thucydides' insights into the rules of war and peace are not just historical lessons but a call to action for the international community to ensure the principles of war and peace are upheld.

Nawaz Sharif's comeback

His party survived its leader's many trials and troubles, but when challenged by Imran Khan's PTI, Sharif's self-exile is that political leaders can never be written off in Pakistan's roller-coaster politics.

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and peace are upheld. As Thucydides noted, these principles are not a sign of weakness but the cornerstone of a just and humane world order.

About the Author:

The author, Mr. Samiullah, holds an M.Sc. in International Relations from Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad and is also a law graduate.

He currently serves as the Public Relations Officer for the Ministry of Information and Public Relations in Balochistan. His unique perspective on international relations and conflict resolution adds depth and authority to this article.

ening seriously limits any government's ability to ease people's economic plight in the near term.

How the economy is managed is the single most important issue that deeply polarises and fragments the polity.

Khan's populism, PTI's continuing popularity and its anti-establishment politics have transformed the political landscape. So has its mobilisation of the youth, who will be a key factor in elections, especially as young people now constitute 47pc of the electorate.

These convictions mean he cannot contest elections and is disqualified from holding public office. Appeals filed by his legal counsel in the Islamabad High Court to set aside these convictions are expected to be heard in coming weeks.

The disqualification issue may involve a somewhat longer legal process that ultimately involves the Supreme Court overruling the inferior decision that disqualified Sharif for life. If that happens, the law passed by parliament reducing the disqualification period to five years will kick in and Sharif will be eligible for public office.

Persisting theories

By Huma Yusuf:

HOW many conspiracy theories have you heard? There's the entrapment theory, the Sharif family schism theory, the coalition-to-Zardari theory, the coalition government theory, the election delay theory.

Pakistan is no stranger to conspiracy theories. They have been a constant feature of public discourse. The more the political instability, the greater the proliferation. That fact that we are accustomed to these should not, however, distract from the fact that they offer warnings about the state of our democracy and civil society.

Convention of rule of law by state institutions, and the preponderance of military supports create more space for conspiracy theories.

Precedent beyond the political arena also gives them a fillip: an obvious example was the revelation that US intelligence had located Osama bin Laden in Pakistan under the guise of a vaccination program. This set the years of clerics theorising that vaccines were foreign plots to sterilise Muslims.

It also does not help that these theories often mirror the fears of our beleaguered politicians. When they are thwarted in furthering their own agendas, they wholly credible, elevate the validity of such theories. The frequent use of back channels for political negotiations, the cir-

spiratorial rhetoric to exert some influence over national narratives, and the censorious attitude that offers the best example.

Members of the public who peddle conspiracy theories also benefit in our politically distorted context, perversely, they give the intelligentsia a sense of empowerment. If you are at the mercy of the system, but in your own country, you are able to exert authority and build legitimacy by explaining the vagaries of that system, you have found a voice — in that moment you are empowered. And so it is that conspiracy theories are perpetuated, as we have seen lately. Most Pakistani political stakeholders and their own agendas, they wholly credible, elevate the validity of such theories. The frequent use of back channels for political negotiations, the cir-

## Success of IMF review holds key importance for economy: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said that the IMF review should be given top priority as it holds key importance for the country's economy. Speaking to business community on Monday, he was of the view that the exchange rate unpredictability at this critical juncture was troubling, because of which the importers and exporters were also worried while the profiteers were getting an opportunity. Mian Zahid Hussain called for immediate action against the elements

involved in smuggling of the US dollars so that playing with the value of USD should be stopped. The current government has met the expectations of the IMF, so there was a strong hope of getting seven hundred and ten million dollars from the IMF in December, he added. The business leader said that the IMF tranche would be subject to some strict conditions, which will be a burden for the people already facing inflation and other problems. He further stated that the tax and non-tax revenue targets have been achieved. FBR was given a target of collecting Rs 1.98 trillion in the first quarter of the new financial year, against which it has collected a tax of Rs 2.04 trillion, while the volume of withheld refunds has also been reduced from Rs 247 billion to Rs 198.5 billion. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the fiscal deficit for July to September stood at 0.9 percent, down 0.1 percent from last year, while the primary surplus stood at Rs 417 billion, higher than IMF demand. The reasons for the primary surplus include the surplus of two provinces and the sharp increase in the petroleum levy. Apart from this, various types of subsidies and development expenses have also been reduced, which has improved the financial condition of the government. He observed that due to the unprecedented increase in the price of electricity,

the circular debt has also remained within the limits demanded by the IMF and has also started to decrease. Moreover, salaries have not increased compared to inflation; therefore, the financial affairs of the government are improving, but inflation is also expected to increase. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the army has played a major role in improving the economic situation by discouraging smuggling, hoarding, and speculation and improving the situation wherever possible. The situation will improve if the crackdown on all types of illegal businesses is continued and no concessions are made to those who destroy the country's economy.



QUETTA: Central leader of BNP, Ghulam Nabi Murri, and other members of Central Association of Traders Balochistan All Parties speak during a protest against customs, police, and government anti-trade activities across the region.

## Hamas says 'heavy fighting' in Gaza as Israel steps up ground war

GAZA (INP): Hamas said it was engaged in 'heavy fighting' in Gaza as Israeli troops inside northern Gaza, as besieged residents were again warned to flee southward.

After weeks of ferocious airstrikes, Israel has declared a new "stage" in a war that its Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned would be "long and difficult".

Late Sunday Israel's military released footage that purported to show a significant number of tanks, infantry and artillery operating in Palestinian territory.

The military claimed to have struck more than "450 targets, including operational command centres, observation posts, and anti-tank missile launch posts".

Hamas said its Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades were already "engaged in heavy fighting... with the invading occupation forces".

With a fierce door-to-door urban war expected, Israeli army spokesman Daniel Hagari told Palestinian civilians to go south "to a safer area".

It is now 23 days since Hamas gunmen launched a wave of cross-border raids inside

Israel. An estimated 1,400 people and 239 people were taken hostage, according to the latest Israeli tallies. Israel has vowed to free the hostages, track down those responsible and "eradicate" Hamas, that has governed Gaza since 2007.

But there is deep and growing international concern about the toll of Israel's campaign on Gaza's two-plus million residents.

The territory is under siege, with people unable to leave and only a limited amount of humanitarian aid allowed in.

Meanwhile, Israel has carried out one of the most intense bombing campaigns in recent memory.

The health ministry in Gaza says more than 8,000 people, mainly civilians and half of them children have already been killed.

The United Nations reported that "thousands of people" had ransacked several of its warehouses looking for tinned food, flour, oil and hygiene supplies.

Only a trickle of aid has been allowed to cross the border from Egypt.

The UN said 33 trucks carrying water,

the "burden" lies with Israel.

International Criminal Court lead prosecutor Karim Khan told Israel on Sunday that preventing access to humanitarian aid could be a "crime".

Impeding relief supplies as provided by the Geneva conventions may constitute a crime within the court jurisdiction," Khan told reporters in Cairo.

He said he wanted "to underline clearly to Israel that there must be discernible efforts without further delay to make sure civilians" in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory "receive basic food, medicines".

In a phone call with Netanyahu on Sunday, US President Joe Biden also underscored the need to "immediately and significantly" increase the flow of aid.

And while the White House has welcomed the gradual return of cell phone and internet services that had been cut for days, it had a sharp warning for Israel's leaders.

"The burden" lies with Israel.



QUETTA: Mulana Fazal-ur-Rehman addressing the large numbers of people gathering at Ayoub Stadium.

## Pakistan, US enjoying long-lasting educational ties: Masood

WASHINGTON (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has stated that Pakistan and the United States have long-standing educational ties and have been making efforts to strengthen their partnership in critical areas.

Interacting with a group of 15 mid-career Pakistani professionals in Washington, from public and private sector, who are currently visiting the United States under Hubert

Humphrey Fellowship Program and pursuing their studies in various disciplines in leading US universities.

He said it is a great opportunity for Pakistani students and professionals to visit the United States and benefit from globally recognized seats of learning and hone their skills for better service delivery.

On Pak-US relations, the Ambassador said that the two countries have reallocated their relations after post-

withdrawal period and have been making efforts to strengthen their partnership in critical areas.

The Ambassador urged the public sector professionals to keenly observe study and learn best practices, being followed by the US public sector institutions for improved service delivery.

The Program brings mid-career professionals from developing countries, including Pakistan, to the United States for

a year of study and professional experiences. It is part of the Fulbright exchange and fellows are selected based on their potential for national leadership and commitment to public service.

This year 17 Pakistani professionals have been selected for the program. He said students are ambassadors of Pakistan and they have to project true image of the country and play role to develop new linkages between professionals of the two countries.

## ANF seizes 450kg drugs in nine operations across the country

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 450 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that ANF foiled a bid to smuggle drugs and arrested drug peddler, a resident of Peshawar, near Islamabad Motorway by recovering from him over 4.8 kg hashish concealed in secret cavities of a car. In the second operation, 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted at

Chongli number 26, Rawalpindi. A resident of Nowshera was arrested during the operation.

In the third operation, an attempt to smuggle a large amount of hashish from Quetta to Karachi was foiled and ANF recovered 306 kg hashish from a truck loaded with pomegranates and arrested drug peddler, a resident of Peshawar, near Islamabad Motorway by recovering from him over 4.8 kg hashish concealed in secret cavities of a car. In the second operation, 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted at

Super Highway Karachi. The accused, resident of Karachi, was arrested on the spot. In another operation, 57 kg hashish concealed in a truck was recovered on RCD highway Karachi. A resident of Hub was arrested during the operation.

In sixth operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 12 kg opium and 60 kg hashish were recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle on G.T. Road Nowshera. Three accused residents of Nowshera, Mianwali and Chiniot were arrested during the operation.

In seventh operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 100 grams intoxicated tablets were recovered from the trolley bag of an accused, resident of Muzaffargarh, nabbed at Multan Airport.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process.

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In seventh operation, over 2.4 kg ice was recovered from a passenger's trolley bag, netted at Allama Iqbal International Airport.

The accused, resident of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was leaving for Doha by flight number PK-279.

During a raid on a house in Dhaha Phase-3 Lahore, over 1 kg heroin was recovered.

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QUETTA: An Afghan refugee girl in Quetta before leaving for Afghanistan. Photo Daily Quetta Voice

## England coach Mott blasts World Cup dressing room unrest claims

NEW DELHI (INP): England coach Matthew Mott said the team remains an "incredibly tight-knit unit" despite a 100-run thrashing by India which condemned the defending champions to a fifth defeat at the World Cup. Mott's claims came after World Cup captain Eoin Morgan insisted that there were spilt in the camp which were causing the champions to under-perform.

"I've never come across a sports team that's underperformed like this, given the level of expectation," 2019 World Cup winning skipper Morgan told Sky Sports.

"There's something within the team that's definitely unsettled. I think there's something else going

on — there has to be." Mott was quick to refute the claims. "I don't think that at all. I think anyone that's inside our tent at the moment would say that despite our results, we're an incredibly tight-knit unit," he said.

"I can only say from my opinion the group's been incredibly strong in that part. If you see our training sessions, they're full of fun. People are putting their arm around each other, trying to help them." Pressed on the topic and Mott said, "Eoin's entitled to his opinion. He's obviously been away for a couple of weeks with the birth of his child. He hasn't been in and around the rooms, but I'll certainly take that up with him and have a chat to him."

Jos Buttler's England suffered a fifth

loss in six games at the tournament to all but slip out of the semi-final race. The bowlers kept India down to 229-9, but the batting once again collapsed to 129 all out against an Indian attack led by Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah.

England's batting folded for 156 in their previous loss to Sri Lanka, but Mott said the team will not throw in the towel in their next three matches. "I think it's tough. I'm sick of coming up and speaking to you guys about the same thing, but that's what professional sport is," he said.

"And we've got to keep pushing hard here. We've got a fair bit to play for to the back end of this tournament." "The first half of this tournament so far we did our job the second half was one would

rather forget and we've got to find a way. There's some world-class players in there that unfortunately aren't scoring the runs that they're used to scoring." England languish bottom of the 10-team table with a chance of missing out on the 2025 Champions Trophy, where the top seven teams from this World Cup and hosts Pakistan are expected to compete. However Mott said they got to know about the qualification scenario only "about an hour and a half ago".

"Well, the ICC (International Cricket Council) do change the rules quite a bit with qualification and to be honest I don't think it would affect in any way the way we've played in this tournament so it's not a big deal," said Mott.



Peshawar: A roadside vendor is selling traditional chicken soup (Yakhni) at Qissa Khwani Bazaar.

### PTI chairman moves court for weekly telephonic conversation with sons

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a recent development, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman filed a petition in the official secret act court requesting to allow weekly telephonic conversation with his sons.

On behalf of the PTI chairman, the petition was filed by the advocate Shiraz Ahmed Ranjha before the official secret act court, requesting to allow the former prime minister to talk with his sons weekly on the telephone.

In the petition, the advocate requested the court to let the PTI chairman talk with his sons Salman and Qasim every weekend as it is a basic right of the PTI chairman. Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain sought a reply from the superintendent of Adiala Jail, and adjourned the hearing till November 08.

It is pertinent to mention here that after the October 21 court order, the Adiala Jail administration facilitated the PTI

Chairman with a telephonic conversation with his sons on WhatsApp. Last week, a special court established to hear cases under the Official Secrets Act granted permission to former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan presently held at Attock Jail to have a telephonic conversation with his sons.

Former premier Imran Khan, who is in judicial custody in cipher case, has been incarcerated in Attock prison since his arrest on August 05. In a plea filed before Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain today, the former premier sought permission to have a talk with his sons on the phone. The court accepted the former prime minister's plea and instructed the prison administration to facilitate the telephonic conversation between the applicant and his sons in accordance with the law. The first information report (FIR) was registered on

August 15 under the Official Secrets Act. It was registered on the complaint of Home Secretary.

Former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were nominated in the report, while names of former principal secretary Azam Khan and former planning minister Asad Umar were also mentioned. According to the report, action also will be taken against Azam Khan and Asad Umar after the authorities reached the conclusion that they were also involved in misusing the classified documents.

The FIR stated that the former prime minister and foreign minister distorted the facts of the diplomatic cipher. "A conspiracy was launched to misuse the contents of the cipher to fulfill nefarious purposes", it added. It further stated that former premier and top diplomat endangered the state interests.



TURKEY: President Tayyab Erdogan is at ataturk mausoleum.

### BISP Mobile Registration Centers to be operational by November

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers to facilitate the registration process for the intending beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), belonging to the remote areas of the country, are likely to be operational by the month of November.

The Mobile Registration Centers will enable the deserving women residing in the far-flung areas to access the registration facilities through mobile vehicles, the state news agency reported.

According to the Secre-

tary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmad, the process of induction of Mobile Vans, which started in August, has entered into its last stages.

A total of 25 Mobile Vans is being included to serve as Mobile Registration Centers of the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) which will facilitate those who were unable to access the registration facility. He informed that as many as 19 Mobile Registration Centers are being established in the remote areas of Balochistan, five in Sindh and

one in Islamabad in this phase. "The Mobile Registration service is likely to be operational by November to facilitate the registration process of the beneficiaries residing in the far-off areas of the country", the Secretary BISP said. It is pertinent to mention here that the BISP identifies the deserving beneficiaries through NSER and enrol them in the programme while it is for the first time in the country's history that people with special abilities and Transgender have been included in the programme and can register.



QUETTA: Employees of Newly Regularized Employees Join Action Committee BDA's is still sitting on the 57th day of the protest camp.

### Govt granted one month to submit reply in audio leaks case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court on Monday granted one month to the federal government to submit its reply in audio leaks case. Justice Babar Sattar was hearing a petition of former BJP's son Najam us Saqib pertaining to audio leaks. Earlier, Attorney General Mansoor Usman in his arguments said that in his view a parliamentary committee won't have initiated proceedings against Najam us Saqib. "An audio tape of a private person was not related to the National Assembly," top state lawyer said. "A parliamentary body could not notice in the manner," AG further said.

He asked the court to dismiss the petition as court petitions have become infructuous after dissolution of the assembly.

"If the electronic surveillance is allowed? Who could do it," Justice Babar Sattar questioned. "PTA says it didn't allow anyone," the bench observed.

The question is, how electronic surveillance is being done and who is doing it," Justice Sattar asked. "If somebody has been allowed it, then who allowed to whom," the bench posed question. "This is not on record that a government agency has recorded it," AG replied. "If it was on record then the question arises of who has allowed it," he added. "Are you saying some foreign agency has made the recording," Justice Babar Sattar asked. "Audios of Prime Minister House, prime minister, his family and the family of a chief justice have been

leaked." "I don't say it did by a foreign agency," AG said. "This act without taking the state into confidence is a very dangerous decision," court remarked. "Who is competent authority with regard to audio tape recording," the bench asked. "If the Attorney General is taking position that it was not the government and recorded without government authority," bench further questioned.

"Benazir Bhutto case is our history, when it was happened. How could it happen, what is check and balance, if the data is not being misused," court asked. The government constituted judicial commission but the question, who leaks these audios, was not included in its terms of reference, Justice Babar Sattar remarked.

### Pakistan, US enjoying long-lasting educational ties: Masood

WASHINGTON (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has stated that Pakistan and United States have long-standing educational ties and have been making efforts to strengthen their partnership in critical areas. Interacting with a group of 15 mid-career Pakistani professionals in Washington, from public and private sector, who are currently visiting the United States under Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program and pursuing their studies in various disciplines in leading US universities. He said it is a great opportunity for Pakistani students and

professionals to visit the United States and benefit from globally recognized seats of learning and hone their skills for better service delivery. On Pak-US relations, the Ambassador said that the two countries have recalibrated their relations after post-withdrawal period and have been making efforts to strengthen their partnership in critical areas.

The Ambassador urged the public sector professional to keenly observe study and learn best practices, being followed by the US public sector institutions for improved service delivery. The Program brings mid-

career professionals from developing countries, including Pakistan, to the United States for a year of study and professional experiences. It is part of the Fulbright exchange and fellows are selected based on their potential for national leadership and commitment to public service.

This year 17 Pakistani professionals have been selected for the program. He said students are ambassadors of Pakistan and they have to project true image of the country and play role to develop new linkages between professionals of the two countries.



Jamshoro: Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ikram Din Ujan LUMHS distributing laptops among the students during a ceremony organized by the Department of Information Technology on behalf of the Prime Minister Youth Laptop Scheme at Latif Hall of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, Jamshoro.

### Pakistan witnesses 6.71pc growth of tractor assembling in 2 months

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan witnessed a growth of 6.71 percent of tractor assembling during first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to correspondent period of last fiscal year.

According to details, during the period under review, the local assembling of jeeps and cars decreased by 53.91 percent as about 14,328 jeeps and cars assembled as against the assembling of 31,085 jeeps and cars. Meanwhile, against the corresponding period of last year, domestic jeeps and cars

assembling reduced by 39.01 percent in August 2023 as compared to the same month of last year. During the period from July to August 2023, about 6,217 tractors were locally assembled as against the assembling of 5,826 tractors of the same period of last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

As per monthly basis, tractor assembling in the country grew by 13.18 per cent during the month of July 2023 as 3,597 tractors were locally assembled against the manufac-

turing of 3,178 tractors in the same month of last year.

It was worth mentioning here that the output of the Large Scale Manufacturing Industry (LSMI) increased by 2.52 percent for August 2023 and 8.44 percent when compared with July 2023.

The QIM estimated for July-August, 2023-24 is 112.44, whereas overall LSMI has shown a growth of 0.50 percent during July-August 2023-24 when compared with the same period of last year.



QUETTA: A roadside vendor arranging and displaying used Blazers for selling purposes at Mizan Chowk.

### GPA begins water supplying project to Gwadar Free Zone North

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) has set into motion water supplying project to Gwadar Free Zone North spreading over the area of around 2221 acres. Completion timeframe is scheduled in January 2024. One source will be from 1.2MGD seawater desalination plant recently completed on June 30 at Gwadar Port area.

Second source will be from old Airport water supply line network with storage capacity of 5.6 million MGD.

The network is connected with Shadi Kor Dam and Sawar Dam. Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) already completed 158km pipeline from the Shadi Kor and Swad dams.

With the completion of water distribution project, two industries including Agriyon and Hangeng will receive 400 cubic meters water per day. Other beneficiaries will be upcoming industries in Gwadar Free Zone North. Apart from East Sea Group, Acez Mark, Essatex industries, Idrees

Steel, Bluemoon industries and Bari Textile have already submitted their investment plan.

GPA official told Gwadar Pro that as per plan designed by Engineering Department, two local firms have commenced laying down water distribution networks from the two above mentioned sources.

He said 1.2 MGD seawater desalination water plant has been done and dusted with a grant of Rs 2 billion from China in collaboration with Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), National Engineering Services Pakistan and China Harbor Engineering Company (CHCEC).

Along with completion of Civil, mechanical and electrical work, Central room of 1.2 MGD desalination water plant is now up and running, he informed.

Almost 90 percent manpower and human resource, he said, is hired from local market of Gwadar and Balochistan.

Initially 0.5 MGD Water Desalination Plant project was inked with the conduct of feasibility and surveying by government of Pakistan and China.

### Clearing bank to promote awareness about utilizing RMB in Pak, China trade

ISLAMABAD (INP): RMB clearing bank is to promote awareness and understanding within Pakistan's banking and business sectors about crucial factors involved in utilizing RMB in bilateral trade, Gwadar Pro reported.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Karachi Branch has hosted a "RMB Clearing Bank Grand Opening Ceremony", marking a significant milestone in China-Pakistan financial collaboration.

The prime objective of the RMB clearing bank is to promote awareness and understanding within Pakistan's banking and business sectors about crucial factors involved in utilizing RMB in bilateral trade, enhance capital circulation quality, and foster seamless technology and talent exchange.

The ceremony attended by distinguished guests, showcased ICBC Pakistan's pivotal role as the first RMB clearing bank in South Asia, strengthening the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan.