

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim khan

Tuesday, April, 02,2024

dquettavoice@gmail.com

Historic Moment in Balochistan Assembly: Unanimous Resolution Passed to Declare April 4 as Public Holiday

Manan Mandokhail, Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a significant move, the Balochistan Assembly, in a rare display of unity, passed a unanimous resolution on Monday demanding the provincial government to declare April 4 as a public holiday. The resolution holds special significance as it commemorates the martyrdom of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) founder, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a towering figure in the nation's history.

Mir Zahoor Buledi, a prominent PPP member, underscored the importance of honoring the legacy of Z.A Bhutto while advocating for the feasibility of the resolution. "April 4 marks a solemn day in our history, as it symbolizes the sacrifice of a leader who championed democracy and constitutionalism," Buledi remarked passionately during the assembly session.

The sentiment resonated across the aisles, with members from both the opposition and the treasury benches paying rich tributes to the late PPP leader. Mir Sadiq Urmani, a seasoned party leader, condemned Bhutto's murder as "a judicial and political murder" and emphasized his unwavering commitment to democratic principles.

The call for commemorating April 4 as a public holiday found unanimous support among lawmakers, reflecting the deep reverence for Bhutto's contributions to the nation's political landscape. Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola put the resolution to vote, which was



promptly endorsed by the entire house. Bakht Kakar, another PPP lawmaker, echoed the sentiments of his colleagues, urging the government to recognize Bhutto's sacrifices by declaring April 4 as a day of remembrance. "We owe it to Bhutto's legacy to honor his memory," Kakar asserted passionately.

Amidst the fervor of honoring Bhutto's legacy, Meena Majeed, a PPP lawmaker, also paid

tribute to the security forces engaged in combating terrorism in Gwadar and Turbat areas of Balochistan. "While we commemorate Bhutto's sacrifice, let's not forget the brave soldiers defending our land and people," Majeed emphasized, acknowledging the sacrifices made by the security personnel.

The bipartisan consensus achieved in the assembly underscored the significance of Bhutto's enduring legacy and the

unity of purpose among Balochistan's representatives. With the adoption of the resolution, April 4 is poised to become a day of reflection and remembrance, honoring a statesman who dedicated his life to the cause of democracy and the rule of law.

In a symbolic conclusion to the session, the chair adjourned the proceedings indefinitely, marking a historic moment of unity and reverence in the Balochistan Assembly.

PPP Lawmaker Displays Disregard for Female University Teachers, Prompting Accusations of Misconduct

News Desk:



QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) lawmaker, Ali Madad Jattak, finds himself embroiled in controversy as accusations emerge of his disrespectful behavior towards female teachers at the University of Balochistan.

The protesters, voicing their grievances outside the Balochistan Assembly on Monday, sought resolution to the salary delays.

In response, the assembly speaker dispatched Ali Madad Jattak and other officials for negotiations. However, tensions es-

calated when Jattak reportedly adopted an aggressive demeanor and resorted to using abusive language towards the protesting teachers.

The distressing incident triggered an outcry on social media platforms, prompting Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bagti to intervene. In an effort to ameliorate the situation, Bagti extended apologies on behalf of Jattak and sought forgiveness from the aggrieved female teachers.

The accusations against Jattak have reignited discussions surrounding the treatment of educators and the pressing issue of salary delays, emphasizing the need for swift and decisive action to address the concerns of university staff across the province.

IHC judges' letter: Jillani recuses himself from inquiry commission as SC takes suo motu notice

ISLAMABAD: Former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Fiazuddin Hussain Jillani on Monday recused himself from heading a one-man inquiry commission to probe allegations of interference by intelligence agencies in judicial affairs as the Supreme Court took suo motu notice of the matter.

Last week, it emerged that six Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges — out of a total strength of eight — wrote a startling letter to the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) members, requesting attempts to pressure judges through the abduction and torture of their relatives as well as secret surveillance inside their homes.

The letter was signed by judges Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Tarek Mehmood Jahangiri, Babar Sattar, Sardar Ejaz Ishtiaq Khan, Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Saman Rafiq Tahir.

A day later, calls emerged from various quarters for a probe into the investigation, amid which CJP Qazi Faez Isa summoned a full court meeting of the SC judges.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met CJP Isa, and the two decided to form a commission to investigate the con-



cerns of interference in judicial affairs following the cabinet's approval.

On Saturday, the federal cabinet approved the constitution of an inquiry commission headed by ex-CJP Jillani to probe the allegations and decide whether these are true or otherwise. Under the

Terms of Reference (ToR), the inquiry commission would fully probe the allegations levelled by the IHC judges and decide whether these are true or otherwise. It would also investigate whether any personnel of intelligence agencies were directly re-

sponsible for interfering in judicial matters.

On Sunday, lawyers and civil society members — in a joint letter — had urged the top court to take "cognisance of the matter in its jurisdiction under Article 184(3) of the Constitution as this issue eminently relates to public interest and to the enforcement of fundamental rights." They had called on the top court to initiate suo motu proceedings as it rejected the "powerless" one-man commission appointed by the federal cabinet to probe the claims. The letter said the apex court should

form a bench of all available judges to hear the matter and proceedings should be telecast live for public consumption. It also urged the court to look into the allegations levelled by retired justice Shaikat Siddiqui, besides the recent claims of meddling in judicial affairs. In a letter addressed to PM Shehbaz today, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, Jillani thanked the premier and the federal cabinet for reposing confidence in him to head the commission. He also expressed gratitude to CJP Isa and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah for expressing confidence in him. Jillani said that he had gone through the letter by the IHC judges, the ToRs approved by the federal cabinet and Article 209. Article 209 of the Constitution empowers the SJC to carry out inquiries into the capacity and conduct of Supreme Court and high court judges. "Since the letter is addressed to the members of SJC and its chairman the chief justice of Pakistan, it would be violative of judicial propriety for me to inquire into a matter which may fall within the jurisdiction of a constitutional body. NEWS DESK.

PCB chief meets cricket team in Kakul amid reported furore over remarks by Shaheen

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Monday met the national cricket team — which is currently participating in a fitness camp in Kakul — amid a controversy over comments attributed to Shaheen Shah Afridi in an official statement. An eventful week after the PCB had "reorganised" the national selection committee culminated a day ago with the return of Babar Azam as the side's white-ball skipper, replacing Shaheen. As per a PCB statement issued on the matter, Shaheen said he looked forward to playing under Babar again. "It was an absolute honour to captain Pakistan's national cricket team," he was quoted as saying in the PCB statement. "As a team player, it is my duty to back our captain, Babar Azam. I have played under his captaincy and have nothing but respect for him," he had said. However, a source close to Shaheen denied he had signed off on the statement that implied a harmonious transfer of the top job. The source added Afridi resented being replaced af-



ter being in charge for just one Twenty20 series. "This is not Shaheen's statement and he has contacted PCB to clarify this," the source told AFP. "Shaheen will meet PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Monday to clarify this," the source had said. Meanwhile, ESPN cricinfo reported that Shaheen was "furious" with the statement attributed to him and was "on the brink of making a statement to this effect, but the PCB has held emergency talks with him." The report added that Shaheen "is understood to have contributed nothing to the [PCB] statement at all." Amid the uncertain situation, PCB chief Naqvi visited the national team at Kakul to inspect their training and expressed his gratitude to the Pakistan Army.

KP Assembly speaker files review petition against PHC verdict ordering oath-taking of reserved seat MPAs

KHAYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: Khayber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati on Monday filed a review petition against the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order which directed him to administer oaths to opposition MPAs elected to reserved seats.

The opposition and provincial government are at odds over the assembly session for the oath-taking of MPAs elected on reserved seats for women and minorities.

Last month, a controversy had emerged as KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali had announced the assembly session for March 22, but the provincial government declared the move against the rules as well as the Constitution, and refused to implement it.

The opposition members later demonstrated against the government, accusing it of trying to block the right of women and non-Muslim MPAs to participate in the Senate polls slated for next month.

On March 25, more than a dozen candidates of the province's opposition, who were notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on reserved seats, urged the PHC to ensure they are administered the oaths before the Senate elections scheduled for April 2 (Tuesday). Among



the petitioners were six women MPAs-elect of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and eight returned candidates of the PML-N and PPP.

On March 27, the PHC had ordered Swati to administer the oaths to the MPAs elected on reserved seats for women and non-Muslims, and facilitate them to cast votes in the Senate elections.

A PHC division bench consisting of Justice Syed Mohammad Attique Shah and Justice Shakeel Ahmad accepted three almost identical petitions filed by around 20 opposition MPAs elected on reserved seats, and directed the speaker to include the matter as agenda item No. 1 of the first business day of the session requisitioned for the upcoming Senate elections.

The next day, the ECP had

hinted at postponing Senate elections if the KP assembly speaker kept on delaying the oath-taking. On Saturday, the assembly secretary said it had not received any government orders to call a sitting of the house for the swearing-in of the lawmakers.

It said that soon after receiving the court's orders, the speaker asked the secretariat about the April 2 session but was informed

that the government had yet not issued any directions to call that sitting. The secretariat quoted Swati as directing its legal adviser to immediately update the PHC about the matter.

The PPP has said the opposition parties in KP would spring a "surprise" in the upcoming Senate elections.

Today, Swati filed a review petition, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, against the PHC's March 27 verdict, which ordered him to swear in the elected lawmakers.

Filed through Advocate Ali Azim Afridi, the plea named the ECP, the KP government, the Senate and eight MPAs-elect as respondents in the case. It requested the PHC that its decision be reviewed and to give "order(s) dismissing the petition" of the opposition lawmakers.

In his review plea, Swati argued that the high court order did not "take hold of the factual position insofar session requisitioned." It stated that the "office of the speaker holds no information, as to summoning of or session requisitioned for upcoming Senate elections by the government, let alone inclusion of matter in question as Agenda Item No. 1 of the first business day."

"It is [a] cardinal principle of law and justice that what cannot

be done directly cannot be done indirectly," the petition contended.

Meanwhile, Swati reiterated that a session of the KP Assembly had not been summoned.

Speaking to reporters outside the PHC, Swati said that when he received the court order, he consulted his legal team and decided to "present the facts before the judiciary."

"No session had been summoned from our side, which is why we cannot implement this order. This order could have been implemented when a session [of the assembly] had been summoned. If someone wants to say anything for point-scoring, they may do so," he added.

"We, the followers of Imran Khan, believe in the rule of law. [...] We highly respect the judiciary and the judges," Swati said. "If we, who are trying for this rule of law, will violate it, then how can we expect the rule of law to be established in this country?" the speaker asked.

Asked whether the Senate polls from the province would be held tomorrow or not, Swati replied that the ECP could provide an answer to that. He said that according to the legal team, the KP governor did not have the authority to summon a session. NEWS DESK.

No Immediate relief to masses as country news financial collapse: Khawaja Asif

SIALKOT (INP): In a candid revelation, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif acknowledged that Pakistan stands on the brink of financial collapse, resembling a default scenario.

citizens, particularly in key sectors such as retail and wholesale, evade their tax obligations, exacerbating the nation's economic woes. Shockingly, only a fraction of the population, amounting to a mere few hundred thousand individuals, diligently fulfill their tax duties.

However, Asif expressed cautious optimism for a turnaround within the next 18 to 24 months, citing the government's strategic policies as the beacon of hope. He assured that the fruition of these measures would gradually alleviate the financial strain on the populace.

In a bid to alleviate the tax burden and encourage compliance, the government unveiled the Tajir Dost Scheme, commencing its registration today. Targeting traders and shopkeepers across major cities, including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Quetta, and Islamabad, the scheme aims to foster a business-friendly environment while bolstering tax revenues.



ISLAMABAD: HE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Saleem Al Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

HRW declares Bahai persecution in Iran a crime against humanity

NEW YORK (INP): The Human Rights Watch declared on Monday that the persecution of the Bahai minority in Iran since the Islamic revolution of 1979 is a crime against humanity on the basis of national, religious, or ethnic grounds.

According to HRW, although the severity of the community's violations "has varied over time," the persecution of Bahais has not changed and has "impacted virtually every aspect of Bahai's private and public lives."

put an end to this crime against humanity." The fact that a reputable international organization has now declared Iran's treatment of the Bahais to be a crime against humanity is reportedly a first.

and legal authorities have been known to raid the homes of Bahais, seize their possessions, and either arrest or summon them for questioning. Mahvash Sabet, a 71-year-old poet, and Fariba Kamalabadi, 61, are prominent members of the community who were both arrested in July 2022 and are currently serving 10-year jail sentences.

Punjab CM's 'Suthra Punjab' campaign concludes one month with 'failure'

LAHORE (INP): On the orders of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, the cleanliness campaign titled 'Suthra Punjab' kicked off when she assumed power as chief executive in the province and now it has been concluded but no avail, the situation on the ground did not change at all contrary to authorities and civil bu-

reaucracy tall claims. It is learned that the bureaucracy wanted to present an all is well' picture report before the newly elected Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

LWMC also failed to make zero waste in Punjab Chief Minister's constituency PP-159. The sanitation situation in the areas of Lahore could not improve. There is no sanitation at all in Yohanabad, Kumaham, Nishat Colony, Isa Nagar, Atari Throba, Pak Town, Shama Colony, and Shadab Colony. Garbage has not been removed from Lahore Main Al Mamtar Road, and Bastami Road. Nishat Colony presents a picture of poor sanitation.

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari holds a meeting with PTIC.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Atadjan Movlomanov, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Awan-e-Sadr.

LHC dismisses plea against printing Nawaz Sharif's picture on Kisan Card

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court on Monday dismissed a plea against the printing of former PM Nawaz Sharif's picture on a Kisan Card in Punjab.

As per details, Lahore High Court's (LHC) Justice Shahid Karim dismissed a petition filed by a citizen Mashkoor Hussain in his pleated that CM Maryam Nawaz has okayed to emboss the picture of Nawaz Sharif on a Kisan Card but the public funds cannot be used for personal publicity.

Last week, the decision to emboss former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's picture on Kisan Card in Punjab was challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC).

Using the national treasury for personal publicity is a violation of the Supreme Court's verdict, the plea stated and urged the court to stay the decision until a decision on the plea.

Policeman among two killed for resisting robbery in Jacobabad

J A C O B A B A D (INP): In a tragic incident, a noteworth returning home after attending an Iftar party at his maternal uncle's house in Surjani town. Thirty-two-year-old Zohaib, son of Irfan, was killed by motorbike-borne robbers near Sector 4D in the Abdullah Morr area and then from the spot. Javed said when Zohaib tried to overpower robbers, they fired shots at him, with a bullet piercing through his mobile phone kept in the

Earlier, a young man was shot dead by robbers while he was returning home after attending an Iftar party at his maternal uncle's house in Surjani town. Thirty-two-year-old Zohaib, son of Irfan, was killed by motorbike-borne robbers near Sector 4D in the Abdullah Morr area and then from the spot. Javed said when Zohaib tried to overpower robbers, they fired shots at him, with a bullet piercing through his mobile phone kept in the

Robbers were seen in the area, and the police were alerted. The incident occurred in the jurisdiction of Bahu Khosi Police Station, where dacoits attempted to snatch motorcycle and other valuables from the deceased.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, convened a high-level meeting with the city's top police officers. During the meeting, IGP Memon strategically allocated the responsibility of handling the most critical cases to a team of 67 officers from Karachi's police force with a total of 60 officers will be deployed from various districts, along with seven elite members from the SIU.

PSG edge past Marseille to take step closer to Ligue 1 title

PARIS (INP): Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) overcame a controversial first-half sending-off to win 2-0 away to bitter rivals Marseille in Ligue 1, with Portuguese duo Vitinha and Goncalo Ramos scoring their goals.

The breakaway, with the visitors clearing a corner before Achraf Hakimi found Marco Asensio and he picked out Ramos, who finished coolly for his 10th goal of the season.

Bastien came across to check the VAR monitor and, following the review, surprisingly chose to show Beraldo a straight red card, judging him to have been the last defender.

"I don't usually judge refereeing decisions, especially when there is VAR," said Luis Enrique. "The action happened right in front of me, and I didn't think there was a foul."

TENDER NOTICE
TSE-232403387891 The Project Director/Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of following items. Only electronic bid will be submitted, no physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory for All Bidders to Get Registered at Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs-1000/- and Bid Security 2%.

KP Assembly speaker files review petition against PHC verdict ordering oath-taking of reserved seat MPs

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati on Monday filed a review petition against the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order wherein it directed him to administer oaths to opposition MPs elected to reserved seats. The opposition and provincial government are at odds over the assembly session for the oath-taking of MPs elected on reserved seats for women and minorities.

Last month, a controversy had emerged as KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali had summoned the assembly session for March 22, but the provincial government declared the move against the rules

as well as the Constitution, and refused to implement it.

The opposition members later demonstrated against the government, accusing it of trying to block the right of women and non-Muslim MPs to participate in the Senate polls slated for next month.

On March 25, more than a dozen candidates of the province's opposition, who were notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on reserved seats, urged the PHC to ensure they are administered the oaths before the Senate elections scheduled for April 2 (Tuesday). Among the petitioners were six women MPs-elect of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and eight returned candidates

of the PML-N and PPP.

On March 27, the PHC had ordered Swati to administer the oaths to the MPs elected on reserved seats for women and non-Muslims, and facilitate them to cast votes in the Senate elections. A PHC division bench consisting of Justice Syed Mohammad Attique Shah and Justice Shakeel Ahmad accepted three almost identical petitions filed by around 20 opposition MPs elected on reserved seats.

and directed the speaker to include the matter as agenda item No. 1 of the first business day of the session requisitioned for the upcoming Senate elections.

The next day



WUHAN: To express solidarity with the government and people of China, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development arrived in Wuhan, China, today on the special flight that carried the mortal remains of five Chinese personnel, who died in a terrorist attack on 26 March, 2024. The Federal Minister was received by high ranking government officials and Pakistan Embassy representative at Wuhan airport, China.

Preparations complete for Senate elections tomorrow (Tuesday); ECP issues list of contenders

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finalized the arrangements for the upcoming Senate elections, scheduled to take place tomorrow (Tuesday). According to the commission, voting will be conducted in both the National and provincial assemblies from 9 am to 4 pm.

In preparation for the elections, a motion to utilize the National Assembly hall for the Senate election will be presented and approved during today's Lower House session.

Ballot papers have been printed in four different colours for the Senate elections to represent various categories of seats. White papers will be used for general seats, green for technocrat seats, pink for women seats, and yellow for minority seats.

The delivery of election materials, including ballot papers, to the returning officer has been completed, ensuring the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

In some assemblies, candidates have been elected unopposed. All 11 candidates from the Balochistan Assembly have been elected unopposed, along with candidates on seven general seats from the Punjab Assembly.

However, in other regions, contests are underway. In Islamabad, two candidates each are competing for general and technocrat seats.

In Punjab, there are four candidates for women's seats, and three each for technocrat and ulema seats. Moreover, two candidates are contesting the minority seat in the province.

On the other hand, there are 11 candidates for general seats and three for women's seats from Sindh. There are four candidates for technocrat seats and two for minority seats. From Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there are 16 candidates running for general seats and four candidates for women's seats. Moreover, there is a contest among six candidates on ulema and technocrat seats.

The election commission had declared that the Senate poll in KP Assembly will be postponed if the members on reserved seats are not sworn in.

The candidates vying for a spot in the Senate from Balochistan in the upcoming elections to the Upper House of parliament were elected unopposed on all the seats on March 29.

The election commission announced that the candidates from Balochistan were elected unopposed on all seats of the Senate. The seats up for grabs from Balochistan were seven general seats, two women's seats, and two technocrat seats.

Also, 20 of the 33 candidates of the Senate had withdrawn their nomination papers, while two contenders stepped down in favour of their opposing candidates, the ECP confirmed.

Moreover, the returning officer concerned has issued notifications confirming the unopposed victories of certain candidates on general seats for the upcoming Senate elections in Punjab. Returning Officer Jjaz Anwar Chauhan issued notifications for seven newly selected senators on general seats, where Ahmad Khalid Cheema, Pervaitz Rasheed, Mohsin Naqvi, Tahir Chaudhry, and Nasir Mehmood have emerged victorious through PML-N's support. Hamid Khan and Raja Nasir Abbas from the Sunni Itehad Council have also been declared winners without facing any opposition.

The election commission also unveiled the final list of candidates vying for the Senate seats in Punjab. In the race for the two technocrat seats, Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, PML-N's Dr Musadik Malik, and PTIs Dr Yasmin Rashid will go head-to-head.

Similarly, four candidates will compete for the two seats reserved for women, including Anusha Rehman, Bushra Anjum Butt, Faiza Malik, and Sanam Javed. Khalid Tahir Sandhu and Sunni Itehad Council's Asif Ashiq are set to contest for the minority seat.

Afghanistan confirms detention 2 Americans for 'violating law'

KABUL (INP): Afghanistan's government has arrested two United States nationals over violations of law in the country, spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on Monday.

Mujahid did not reveal the identities of the detained individuals and said that other foreigners have also been arrested.

"I think there are two Americans, and the reasons for their arrest are not clear yet, but whatever the reasons, anyone coming to Afghanistan is obliged to observe the laws of Afghanistan."

Anyone who gets an Afghan visa means they agree to follow our laws," he was quoted by TOLO News as saying.

American officials have already said that two of their nationals are in Afghan custody. They had even identified one of the men as Ryan Corbett.

The US officials had also claimed that the Americans were being detained "without reason".

International relations analyst Rashid Qutubzada said that it was possible that the Taliban might ask for the release of someone they want in exchange for the two detained Americans.

The State Department had said in a February briefing that America was continuously pressuring Afghanistan over the release of its citizens. "U.S. officials have consistently and consistently pressed - including in meetings with Taliban representatives - for the immediate and unconditional release of Americans detained in Afghanistan, noting that these tensions are a significant obstacle to positive engagement," Matthew Miller had said.



DAASU: (Upper Indus Kohistan) : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the Chinese Engineers and government officials at Kass camp of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC).

Jillani gets release of commission as SC takes suo-moto notice of IHC judges' letter

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Tassaduq Hussain Jillani has got release of heading the inquiry commission constituted to probe allegations of interference by intelligence agencies in judicial affairs as the Supreme Court on Monday took suo-moto notice of the matter.

A week earlier, six out of the eight judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in a letter addressed to the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) members, regarding attempts to pressure judges through the abduction and torture of their relatives as well as secret surveillance inside their homes.

The IHC judges who wrote the letter included Mohsin Akhtar Kharal, Mehmoob Jhanghri, Babar Sattar, Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Saman Rafiq Imtiaz.

Following the allegation, demand emerged from various quarters for a probe into the investigation, amid which CJP Qazi Faez Isa summoned a full court meeting of the SC judges.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met CJP Isa, and the two decided to form a commission to investigate the concerns of interference in judicial affairs following the cabinet's approval.

On Saturday, the federal cabinet approved the constitution of an inquiry commission headed by ex-CJP Jillani to probe the allegations and decide whether these are true or otherwise. Under the Terms of Reference (ToR) the inquiry commission would fully probe the allegations levelled by the IHC judges and decide whether these are true or otherwise. It would also investigate whether any personnel of intelligence agencies were directly responsible for interfering in judicial matters.

On Sunday, lawyers and civil society members - in a joint letter - had urged the top court to take "cognisance of the matter in its jurisdiction under Article 184(3) of the Constitution as this issue eminently relates to public interest and to the enforcement of fundamental rights".

They had called on the top court to initiate suo-moto proceedings as it rejected the "powerless" one-man commission appointed by the federal cabinet to probe the claims. The letter said the apex court should form a bench of all available judges to hear the matter and proceedings should be telecast live for public consumption. It also urged the court to look into the allegations levelled by retired justice Shaukat Siddiqui, besides the recent claims of meddling in judicial affairs.

In a letter addressed to PM Shehbaz today, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, Jillani thanked the premier and the federal cabinet for reposing confidence in him to head the commission. He also expressed gratitude to CJP Isa and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah for expressing confidence in him.

Jillani said that he had gone through the letter by the IHC judges, the ToRs approved by the federal cabinet and Article 209. Article 209 of the Constitution empowers the SJC to carry out inquiries into the capacity and conduct of Supreme Court and high court judges.

"Since the letter is addressed to the members of SJC and its chairman the chief justice of Pakistan, it would be violative of judicial propriety for me to inquire into a matter which may fall within the jurisdiction of a constitutional body which is the SJC or the Supreme Court of Pakistan itself," he said. He further said that the ToRs for the inquiry were "strictly not germane to the subject matter of the letter", noting that the IHC judges had asked the SJC for guidance. "Towards the end is the request made in the letter is for an 'institutional consultation' in terms of the mechanism suggested in the said letter."

PVF loses Brazilian coach services for volleyball team

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) will lose the services of Brazilian Coach Issanayee Ramires Ferraz, as he signed the agreement with Korea after getting an attractive offer to train the Korean national volleyball team.

The Pakistan Volleyball Federation is currently paying him around \$4,000 per month but Korea not only promised to double the monthly amount, but it also offered him a full package that included boarding and lodging for his entire family and education for his children in the best available institutions.

Under the coaching of Issanayee Ramires, Pakistan who

beat one of the world's best volleyball team Korea in straight sets at Asian Games last year, Pakistan defeated powerful Korea. Green shirts romped over India with most case in the high-profile event.

Korea has offered Issanayee one of the most lucrative packages which was difficult to turn down.

The Brazilian coach, who has trained the Pakistan team for almost a year now, has finally decided to part ways, grabbing the tough corner but now we are working on best available options for the new coach as april will be last month of Brazilian coach of training and coaching with the Pakistan team.

Charm of the Pakistan Volleyball Federation is also upset on losing the services of such a brilliant coach, said that no doubt the Brazilian coach is one of the best around and he has proved that by helping Pakistan beat some of the best outfits in Asia, adding that he helped Pakistan reach as high as No 5 in Asia in less than a year.

PVF has very limited resources and as such cannot offer him the package that Korea has doled out for him" said PVF Chairman, adding that Issanayee Ramires is departure has left us in a tough corner but now we are working on best available options for the new coach as april will be last month of Brazilian coach of training and coaching with the Pakistan team.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and Ambassador WADA Mitsuhiro holding a meeting to discuss ways to strengthen trade relations and mutual trust between Japan and Pakistan.

Jam Kamal, Envoy reiterate to boost Pak-Japan trade relations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiro have reiterated to strengthen trade relations and mutual trust between Japan and Pakistan.

The Japanese Ambassador congratulated Jam Kamal Khan on his recent portfolio, expressing a commitment to enhancing bilateral ties.

Notably, the ambassador extended an invitation to Pakistani businessmen to participate in World Expo 2025 which was scheduled to be held in Osaka Japan in 2025 to promote economic cooperation.

Despite the optimism, challenges faced by the Japanese business community in imports were brought to light by Ambassador WADA Mitsuhiro.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan responded by assuring government support to facilitate ease of doing business for local and international entrepreneurs.

Emphasizing sustainable economic development, Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted key sectors such as automobile, steel, machinery, textiles, minerals, and IT HR for potential collaboration with

Japan. Moreover, Minister Jam Kamal Khan disclosed the Ministry of Commerce's comprehensive five-year plan aimed at streamlining business processes and attracting both local and foreign investors.

Both dignitaries reaffirmed their commitment to fostering a balanced trade environment and strengthening the longstanding bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan.

They also agreed to work towards enhancing the trade volume, which stood at \$1.26 billion USD in 2022-23, according to sources from FBR and TDAS.



Islamabad: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meeting, chaired by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, convened on Monday and approved one development project alongside a concept clearance proposal.