

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com



File Photo: Students at a government-run primary shelterless school in Balochistan's Killa Abdullah district: Photo Asmat Khan

## PTA clarifies VPNs not being blocked in the country

**NEWS DESK:** The Pakistan Telecom authority (PTA) on Tuesday dispelled rumours and clarified that virtual private networks (VPNs) in the country were not being blocked. VPNs are widely used around the world to access content that may be inaccessible or blocked for internet users in their home country. They are also used by users to maintain privacy. The use of VPNs by local internet users witnessed a significant increase in 2024. Most people have been using them to access X, formerly Twitter, which has been blocked in the country since February 19. A report by Top10VPN, an independent VPN review website, stated that the demand for proxy networks increased by 131 per cent on Feb 19, two days after X was blocked. Quishing media reports about PTA planning to block VPNs in the country, the authority issued a statement clarifying there was no truth to such rumours. However, it encourages users to register their internet protocol (IP) addresses for using VPNs. "Recent news circulating in media about PTA to block VPNs, it is clarified that VPNs are not being blocked in Pakistan," the telecommunications regulator said in a statement. "However, PTA is encouraging all IT companies, software houses, freelancers and banks, etc, to register their IPs for using VPNs so that in case of any disruption, the internet services to these entities are not affected."

## Blast Rocks Kharan, One Person Injured from Our Correspondent:

**KHARAN:** At least one person was injured in a blast in the red zone area of Kharan bazar on Monday evening. Police sources said one person identified as Abdul Majeed was injured in the blast. The injured was rushed to the district headquarters hospital Kharan for medical treatment. Police and personnel of other law enforcement agencies reached the spot of the blast and started an investigation into the attack. Security was tightened in and around Kharan in the aftermath of the blast that rocked the city.



## Balochistan's Education Crisis – A Testament to Worst Governance

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## CM Bugti Takes Notice Of School Closure in Pishin, Orders Immediate Action

Asmat Hanafi:

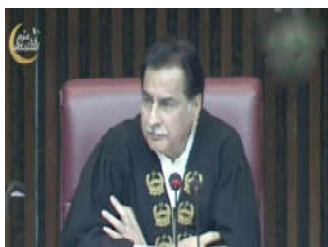
**PISHIN:** Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has taken notice of the closure of government schools in Pishin, where the district ranks highest in terms of non-functional schools. In a directive issued on Monday, CM Bugti ordered the reopening of all closed schools by December 14 this year. In a bid to address the shortage of teachers, the Chief Minister emphasized the urgent recruitment of staff on a contract basis. "We will ensure that the lack of teachers is no longer a reason for the disruption in

children's education," said Bugti, underscoring his commitment to addressing long-standing educational issues in the district. Pishin, a district grappling with educational challenges, has consistently topped the list of areas with the highest number of non-operational schools. The Chief Minister vowed to prioritize the development of the town, aiming to transform Pishin into a model for the province. Speaking with local elders, Bugti stated, "Public problems can only be solved through good

governance. We will improve service delivery by activating government departments across Balochistan." He added that the appointment of an experienced and capable Deputy Commissioner in Pishin would further help streamline administrative efforts and bring effective governance to the district. The Chief Minister's resolve to improve service delivery and enhance governance comes at a crucial time, as the province faces widespread challenges in education, health, and infrastructure.

## Speaker Sadiq summons IG, SSP over PTI leaders' arrests; Barrister Gohar released

**NEWS DESK:** National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday summoned Islamabad's Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and the senior superintendent of police (SSP) for arresting PTI leaders within the jurisdiction of the parliament. At least 12 PTI MNAs were arrested in addition to another party leader since last night as law enforcement agencies whisked away key leaders from various parts of Islamabad, including the Parliament House.



According to a parliamentary rule, police have to inform the National Assembly speaker before arresting any MNA, but the law enforcers did not seek permission from the custodian of the house before arresting the MNAs. Consequently, the speaker summoned IGP Rizvi and the senior superintendent of police (SSP). Earlier today, in a fiery speech on the floor of the lower house, PTI's Ali Muhammad Khan, who appeared emotionally charged, lambasted the arrests of his fellow party leaders. Addressing the speaker, Khan said, "You colleagues Sahibzada [Hamid Raza], Shaqat [Awan], Amir Dogar, Sheekh Waqar [Akram] and Maulana Naseem were seeking shelter in this parliament last night [when they were arrested]. Maulana Naseem was picked up from a mosque. The speaker, in response, said that he had requested the videos from all the exit points of the parliament so that we can assign responsibility accordingly." "If whatever my colleagues are saying happened in

the parliament then we have to take action against that," the speaker said, adding that he would not sit quietly. He added that — if he had to — he would file the first information report (FIR) against the arrests himself. "We have to take it up seriously and this is not going to be something we'd take lightly," he reaffirmed. "We think that [the arrests] were an attack on parliament," he said while speaking to reporters in Islamabad following his release. "We believe that, God willing, the NA speaker will go to the depth of the matter." Calling September 9 "a black day for Pakistan" due to the arrests, he said that the country will not forget this. "PTI will not forget this," he said. "This time, CCTV footage will be disclosed and this time, the common person will not be punished." He added that PTI was targeted by the government but for the sake of the country, people, and democ-

racy, "our leaders forgave that." "Our election result was changed but we didn't go for a rally, we didn't resort to a boycott," Gohar said. "We stayed in parliament so we could play our role and we did so." The PTI chairman went on to say that if the "largest political party" was not given space, then non-political elements would get stronger. "Extremist and separatist movements will get stronger," Gohar added. PTI chairman questioned whether it was a crime to prolong a rally beyond its allotted time. "I only want to question that if the programme was supposed to end at 7pm, is this a programme for a wedding that you shut off the lights?" he said. "Under which constitution of the world does it say that if you finish a programme at 8:30pm instead of 7pm, you would have FIRs registered against you [...] your MNAs will be picked up," Gohar said.

## Re-Elections Ordered in Kalat Constituency Where Zia Langove Was De-seated

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

**QUETTA:** The Election Commission of Pakistan has set September 23, 2024, as the date for re-elections at seven polling stations in Kalat's PB-36 constituency. This decision follows the Election Tribunal's ruling, which de-seated Balochistan's Home Minister, Mir Ziaullah Langove, after his victory was challenged by Sardar Zada Saeed Langove of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F).

Ziaullah Langove, a member of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), had won the initial election, but the tribunal ruled in favor of Saeed Langove, who alleged irregularities. The upcoming re-elections will determine the final outcome in this contested constituency. Both candidates are preparing for a heated rematch, with the eyes of the political community closely watching the developments in Kalat.



File Photo of Balochistan Home Minister Ziaullah Langove

## Allies congregate to mull 'constitutional package'

**ISLAMABAD:** The ruling partners joined heads at the Presidency and the Prime Minister's Office on Monday to deliberate on an important piece of proposed legislation aiming to set the Chief Justice of Pakistan's (CJP) term to a fixed three-year period as well as to counter the "threat" posed by the opposition. One meeting summoned by President Asif Ali Zardari was held at the President's House whereas Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a meeting at the PM's Office to take into confidence the allies as well as a former partner, JUI-F, to ensure a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament for a constitutional amendment.

The desired legislation for the three-year tenure of the CJP needs 224 votes in the National Assembly for its passage and the ruling coalition is short of 12 votes. If the JUI-F led by Maulana Fazlur Rehman agrees to support this proposed law, the government will still need four to five more votes in the National Assembly. However, it will have the two-thirds majority in the Senate with the JUI-F support. Amid this numbers game, the PTI has alleged that some of its members are being pressured to vote for the upcoming bill.

A source in the National Assembly Secretariat told Dawn that the bill seeking the constitutional amendment would be tabled in the National Assembly within this week and will aim to increase the tenure of the top judge. Another important bill seeking an increase in the number of judges of the Supreme Court from 17 to 21 had already been presented in the Senate last week by Senator Abdul Qadir, an independent from Balochistan. The bill has been sent to the relevant committee of the upper house of parliament for review and discussion. In the Senate, 64 votes are required to obtain a two-thirds ma-

majority for a constitutional amendment, whereas the ruling coalition has 55 members in the Senate — PML-N 19, PPP 24, Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) 4, MQM 3, and 5 independents. Interestingly, the huddles in the Presidency and the PMO took place simultaneously at a time when the capital police and local administration of Islamabad arrested several top PTI leaders in a late-night crackdown. In both meetings, parliamentarians of the ruling alliance were asked to ensure their presence in the NA and the Senate in the coming days for the important legislation. A source said President Zardari had also invited the JUI-F to the meeting but no one from the party participated. President Zardari underscored the need to strengthen parliamentary democracy and promote political stability to put the country on the path of development, said a statement from the presidency. The leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q), and Istedhkan-i-Pakistan Party (IPP) attended the meeting. At the PM Office, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif asked lawmakers to ensure their presence in the two houses of parliament for the upcoming legislation. Besides legislators of the ruling PML-N, the meeting was also attended by the leaders of the PPP, MQM, and other allied parties. According to the top judge, PM Shehbaz highlighted the slowdown in inflation to 9.6 per cent in August, citing it as a testament to the government's effective economic measures. "The economic experts are forecasting further decline in the inflation rate during the current month which is good news for the nation," he said, adding that in 2018, "we also left the government with a single-digit inflation rate" **NEWS DESK.**



Strategy discussed to muster two-thirds majority for constitutional amendment; Fazl "skips" meeting despite president's invite.

## Two-Day Workshop on Child Protection Held in Dalbandin

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## Afghan Refugee Children Strive for Education in Balochistan

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## Pak-US ties based on shared values, common ideals: Envoy

WASHINGTON (INP) — Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has stated that Pakistan and the United States share long-standing relationship built on shared values, mutual respect and common ideals.

He stated this while addressing an investiture ceremony in Washington D.C to award Congressman Alexander N. Green with the Sitara-i-Khidmat for his outstanding contribution in strengthening Pakistan-US relations and

his role in combating Islamophobia. Speaking on this occasion, the Ambassador said that the two nations, for more than seven decades, have collaborated on multiple fronts, promoting peace.

Advancing economic development, and addressing global challenges.

Recalling the visit of Congressman Al Green to Pakistan during devastating floods of 2022, the Ambassador observed that Representative Al Green not only travelled to Pakistan to express his

solidarity with the people of Pakistan at a most difficult time but he also returned to the US Congress to passionately advocate for timely assistance.

Besides highlighting and appreciating humanitarian causes, Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh also lauded Congressman Green's invaluable contributions towards combating terrorism in the region and his support for significant legislative initiatives like the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2009.

On his part, Congressman Al Green expressed his gratitude to the government and the people of Pakistan for the honor.

While referring to decades long mutual cooperation between the two nations, Congressman Al Green expressed desire to continue to build people to people relationships.

Recalling his fond memories of Pakistani society, Congressman Al Green said that we must not allow any wedge to come between the people of Pakistan and USA.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq presiding over a meeting of Treasury & Opposition members in National Assembly at Parliament House.

## Germany implements extended border checks to combat irregular migration

BERLIN (INP) — Germany moved to tighten border controls and curb irregular migrant inflows after several suspected Islamist attacks sparked public

anger and piled pressure on the government. Temporary controls would be extended to Germany's land borders with all nine of its EU neighbours, the interior ministry said in a statement.

These would limit migration and "protect against the acute dangers posed by Islamist terrorism and serious crime". Interior Minister Nancy Faeser told a press conference.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government has faced rising pressure to curb irregular migrant numbers and crack down on extremists after several suspected Islamist attacks.

Late last month, three people were killed in a knife rampage in the

western city of Solingen, in which the Syrian suspect had been slated for deportation but evaded law enforcement.

The attack, claimed by the Islamic State group, came just a week before key regional elections in eastern Germany and inflamed the debate on immigration in the country.

The far-right, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany scored historic successes in the votes in two formerly communist states, a little over a year before national elections.

The extended border controls, which will come into force on September 16 for an initial six months, were notified to the European Commission on Monday, the ministry said. Germany already has temporary controls along its border with Austria, which were implemented in 2015 to counter a large influx of migrants and have stayed in place since.

The government was now "doing everything to better protect the people in our coun-

try", Faeser said Monday, adding that it would expand its options for turning back migrants at the border.

Since controls were introduced along large parts of Germany's eastern border in October last year, around 30,000 people had been released entry, Faeser said.

The newly introduced measures would reduce the number of people sent back to the country they were entering from, Faeser said.

Austria's Interior Minister Gerhard Karner however told the German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on Monday his country "will not accept people who are rejected from Germany".

Domestically, Scholz's government — a coalition between the Social Democrats, the Greens and the liberal FDP — has faced strong criticism from opposition parties calling for more action on migration.

## IAF officer charged with rape of female officer in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK)

SRINAGAR (INP) — Police in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have registered a case against an Indian Air Force officer, Wing Commander PK

Schrawat, following a complaint of rape, mental harassment and stalking by a female Flying Officer, posted at Air Force Station in Srinagar. The FIR, lodged at the Police Station Bugdam under Section 376(2) of the Indian Penal Code, pertains to aggravated rape committed by persons in posi-

tions of authority. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on December 31, 2023, during a New Year's party at the Officers' Mess.

The female officer, whose name has been withheld, said the Wing Commander Schrawat sexually assaulted and stalked her. She alleged that he forced her into his room under the pretext of collecting a gift and assaulted her despite her repeated pleas to stop and attempts to resist.

The complainant reported a series of trou-

bling events following the assault, including significant impact on her mental health. The Police Station Bugdam has assigned an Inspector-rank officer to oversee the investigation of the sensitive case. The case of Wing Commander PK Schrawat is a disturbing reminder that sexual harassment and assault continue to plague the Indian armed forces. Unfortunately, such incidents are on the rise, with numerous cases of sexual misconduct, harassment, and assault reported in recent years.



ISLAMABAD: The anti-terrorism court of Islamabad sent eight people including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Advocate Shoaib Shaheen to jail on judicial remand after the verdict in the case of attack on the police.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dr. A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, led by the Chairperson of the Trust, Dr. Dina Khan, called on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aawan-e-Sadr.

## Two-Day Workshop on Child Protection Held in Dalbandin

Riaz Baloch:

DALBANDIN: A two-day workshop on child protection, organized by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), took place at the Circuit House, drawing participation from women, Levies personnel, police, teachers, and lawyers. Abdul Rahim Kasi, Child Protection Manager for Balochistan, emphasized the urgent need to safeguard children from labor and abuse. District Focal Person Qudus Sanjani and other officials highlighted the

risks children face in garages, hotels and homes, where they are often subjected to physical, mental, and sexual abuse. The workshop un-



discussed the importance of raising awareness of report abuses to parents, teachers, or author-

ties without fear. Participants discussed various issues through presentations and charts, focusing on improving societal understanding and offering solutions

to protect vulnerable children. The workshop called for a collective effort to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in the region.

## The government in Indian state imposes curfew after ethnic clashes

NEW DELHI (INP) — The government in Indian strife-torn state of Manipur imposed a curfew on Tuesday after violent rallies staged to condemn the latest round of killings in ethnic clashes.

Manipur has been rocked by periodic clashes for more than a year between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community, dividing the state into ethnic enclaves. At least 11 people were killed last week as hostilities be-

tween the two communities erupted again after months of relative calm. The curfew was imposed in the state capital Imphal and the surrounding valley after student-led protests on Monday sparked clashes with police.

Students "provoked" security officials protecting the state governor's residence in Imphal "by pelting stones and throwing plastic bottles", police said in a statement on Monday.

Protesters in an-

other valley district snatched arms from police and fired at them, the statement said. "A police personnel was hit on the left thigh by a live round and other police personnel was hit in the face by an unknown projectile," it said.

A local government notice announced a "total curfew," with immediate effect until further orders.

Protesters were demanding action against insurgents accused of using "improvised" projectile weap-

ons and drone attacks last week, in what police called a "significant escalation" of violence in Manipur.

Long-standing tensions between the Meitei and Kuki communities revolve around competition for land and public jobs.

Rights activists have accused local leaders of exacerbating ethnic divisions for political gain.

Manipur is ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.



ANKARA: Ambassador Dr. Younis Junaid addressing the audience on Defence and Martyrs Day reception held in Ankara. Turkish Minister of Trade Prof Dr Omer Bolat and commander Turkish General Staff (TGS) General Metin Gurak and others also present.

## France beat Belgium with Kolo Muani and Dembele goals

LYON (INP) — Randal Kolo Muani and Ousmane Dembele scored the goals as France bounced back from a disappointing home loss to Italy at the weekend by

beating Belgium 2-0 in the UEFA Nations League on Monday. It was not a full-strength French team that took to the field for the game in Lyon, with captain Kylian Mbappe dropping out as one of eight changes made by coach Didier Deschamps.

France led 3-1 to Italy in Paris on Friday despite taking the lead inside 13 seconds, while Belgium

came into this match fresh from beating Israel by the same scoreline.

The outcome was a source of some relief for Deschamps after his side performed poorly against Italy.

"Obviously, I am really happy with our reaction, and what we were able to do against a very good Belgium side who posed us problems in the first 20 minutes, maybe because we were a bit restless given the context," said the coach.

Belgian goalkeeper Koen Castels, whose name was teased by some parts of the crowd when the teams were announced. "But our performance on Friday

was not the worst and I am not going to say everything is now wonderful, that everything has been fixed."

This game was a repeat of the Euro 2024 last-16 tie which France won 1-0 in Dusseldorf thanks to a late own goal during what was nevertheless a poor campaign.

Les Bleus went ahead here just before the half-hour mark. Kolo Muani applying the finish after Dembele's mis-hit shot was pushed out by Belgian goalkeeper Koen Castels.

A Belgian side captained by Kevin De Bruyne could not find an equaliser and

France scored again on 57 minutes thanks to a fine individual effort by Dembele.

The Paris Saint-Germain winger skipped inside from the right wing before blasting a shot into the net on his left foot.

Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and Michael Olise were among the players who came off the bench for France in the second half, as they saw out a victory which will boost confidence after the defeat by Italy. The Italians are on top of Group A2 with six points out of six after beating Israel 2-1 on Monday.

## Supreme Court (SC) rejects review plea in Monal restaurant case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday upheld the decision of Monal restaurant's closure by rejecting a set of petitions seeking to revisit the June 11, 2024 order in which the top court declared all leases and allotments inside the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, a three-judge bench comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan had taken up a set of petitions moved by the Monal Group of Companies, the Capital View Point Restaurant (La Montana), Sunshine Heights (Pvt) Ltd, and Brng retired Faik Naz Bangash of the defence

ministry. The decision reserved on September 6 was pronounced by the Supreme Court today. The apex court upheld its decision of closure of Monal restaurant, Sunshine Heights and La Montana restaurant.

The Supreme Court through its March 21 judgement had ordered the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to file a list of leases in the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

Later, the Supreme Court office issued notices to the petitioners on April 22, 2024, and then passed an order on June 11, in which the court declared all such allotments contrary to the provisions of the Islamabad Wildlife (Protection, Preserva-

tion, Conservation and Management) Ordinance 1979.

On August 15, Supreme Court (SC) issued a contempt of court notice to Malik Luqman Ali Afzal, the owner of the Monal Restaurant, located at Margalla Hills.

Hearing a case related to commercial activities at Margalla Hills National Park, CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked, that the owner of restaurant assured the court about the closure of the hotel, but now he is doing 'propaganda' against justice on TV.

Why he did not appear before court today, the CJP asked. Ali Afzal should give jobs to the staff of restaurant to his other eateries, the top judge remarked.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with Chairman Board of Directors K-Electric.

## By 2030, up to 50% cars in Pakistan will have some form of electrification: Report

ISLAMABAD (INP): "By 2030, up to 50% of all cars sold in Pakistan will have some form of electrification in line with global targets," said a spokesman for BYD Pakistan, a joint venture between Chinese EV magnate BYD and Pakistani auto group Mega Motors. Just last month, BYD announced its entry into the Pakistani market, with BYD Pakistan launching three models for sale as well as plans to open an assembly plant in the country in early 2026, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Kamran Kamal, CEO of HUBCO, the parent company of Mega Motors, stressed in an interview, "I think the overall uptake of NEVs will be as high as 50% by then."

Yet, Muhammad Akbar Polani, automotive industry analyst at ArifHabib Limited, emphasized that a 30% penetration rate of NEVs in this country by 2030 is achievable, but achieving a 50% target may be more challenging due to infrastructure barriers. In response, the Pakistani government plans to take incentives to meet the challenge. As the Pakistani government is considering providing affordable electricity for electric vehicle charging stations, the country's Ministry of Power has begun drafting standards for electric vehicle charging stations.

A report titled Low Carbon Development in Pakistan: Opportunities and Challenges for Chi-

nese Private Sector lately released by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) showed that it will cost about USD 57 billion to achieve the overall decarbonization of Pakistan's transportation industry, of which USD 29-30 billion will be needed for the electrification of transportation vehicles, and USD 2-3 billion for the construction of supporting infrastructure.

According to the report, the expanding Electric Vehicle (EV) market in Pakistan offers promising opportunities for Chinese investors, particularly in alignment with CPEC's focus on business-to-business engagements.

Additionally, the short-term uptake of EVs in Pakistan presents opportunities for local manufacturing, particularly in the electric two- and three-wheeler segments, and for establishing charging infrastructure.

The global electric vehicle (EV) market is experiencing exponential growth with projections indicating an increase from 11.3 million in 2020 to 51.7 million by 2025, and a staggering 14.3 million by 2030 (International Energy Agency 2024). Similarly, Pakistan shows immense potential for EV adoption, supported by initiatives such as the National Electric Vehicle Policy 2019 (EV Policy) and the Auto Industry Development and Export Policy 2021-2026 (AIDEP). Under the AIDEP, manufacturers are offered a comprehensive array of fiscal incen-

tives aimed at supporting the EV manufacturing sector.

These incentives include customs duty reductions on EV-specific parts, fixed sales tax rates for locally manufactured two- and three-wheelers, and waivers of sales tax at the import stage for electric two- and three-wheelers.

Additionally, import tariffs for electric buses, trucks, and prime movers are set at a mere one per cent. Such incentives are not only attractive for manufacturers but also for consumers, especially considering that import duties on non-electric vehicles in Pakistan can soar up to 300 per cent for luxury vehicles.

Apart from charging piles, another important equipment, batteries, has also become a key area for Chinese companies to target this South Asian market.

Not long ago, Hexing Electrical Group, a prominent Chinese business conglomerate, has announced its plans to establish a manufacturing facility in Pakistan's renewable energy sector. The plant will focus on producing inverters and batteries, marking a significant milestone as the first of its kind in the country.

Minister for Privatization Abdul Azeem Khan warmly welcomed the investment plan. Transferring new energy industries from China to Pakistan, he added, would be a significant step towards enhancing related industrial growth, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

## Ambush on parliament exposed "fake" PML-N govt: Barrister Dr Saif

PESHAWAR (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has condemned the government's actions following an ambush on parliament, calling it a betrayal of democracy and accusing the current administration of fascist tactics.

Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Dr Saif, expressed the party's resolve to resist what he termed the "fascism of the fake government," which he claims only serves to strengthen the resolve of PTI leaders and support-

ers. Saif criticized the government's crackdown, stating that last night marked the "funeral of democracy," with lawlessness prevailing throughout the halls of Islamabad.

He alleged that an ambush on the Parliament was grounded last night and that honourable members were forcibly arrested while the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ayaz Sadiq, passively observed.

The advisor of the CM compared the situation to the worst

instances of dictatorship, condemning the disrespect shown to lawyers and parliamentarians.

"The success of a meeting is a sign of ill-feeling," Saif remarked, indicating the government's actions were not only undemocratic but also fuelled by malice.

Saif affirmed PTI's commitment to continue its struggle, declaring that the fight would persist until the release of Imran Khan, the party's founder and former Prime Minister.



ISLAMABAD: President Awami National Party (ANP) Senator Aimal Wali Khan called on Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.



ISLAMABAD: Members of National Assembly Muhammad Siddiqui Khan Baloch and Abdul Rahman Khan Kanju call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Gilani challenges NAB jurisdiction in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has challenged the jurisdiction of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Accountability Court in the Toshakhana reference case against him, President Asif Ali Zardari, and former Premier Nawaz Sharif.

The hearing took place in Accountability Court No 3 under Judge Abid Sajjad on Tuesday.

Gilani's lawyer argued that following the restoration of certain amendments, the Accountability Court and NAB no longer have the authority to hear this case.

In response to the challenge, Judge Abid Sajjad issued a notice to NAB, asking it to clarify whether the Toshakhana case falls under its jurisdiction. The court has adjourned the hearing until September 26, pending NAB's response.

The reference filed by Gilani of providing illegal benefits to Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif by allowing them to retain vehicles gifted by various foreign states and dignitaries.

The reference alleges that Gilani, through dishonest and illegal means, relaxed the procedures for submitting and disposing of these gifts in the Toshakhana, enabling the retention of the vehicles against a nominal payment of 15% of their total value.

Further, the reference states that Asif Ali Zardari made payments for the vehicles through the Omni Group's chief executive and his son, with no plausible justification provided for these transactions.

NAB's investigation established that these payments were linked to illegitimate laundered proceeds benefiting the

accused.

The reference also claims that Gilani, in collusion with Zardari and Nawaz, illegally altered the rules governing the acceptance and disposal of gifts, which specifically prohibit the purchase of vehicles by recipients. This misuse of authority allegedly caused a wrongful loss to the national exchequer.

According to NAB, during his presidency, Asif Ali Zardari accepted vehicles as gifts from the United Arab Emirates in 2005 and from Libya in 2008, but failed to report or deposit these vehicles in the Toshakhana, prioritising personal gain.

Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif, who did not hold public office in 2008, is accused of illegally acquiring benefits in connivance with Gilani by circumventing the established procedures for accepting and disposing of gifts.

## Renowned dining destination 'Monal' closes permanently today amid court ruling

ISLAMABAD (INP): Monal Restaurant, a renowned dining destination nestled at the foothills of the Margalla Hills, has officially closed its doors today Wednesday following the Apex Court order. The closure marks the end of an era for both locals and tourists who frequented the establishment for its panoramic views of Islamabad's night lights.

The dispute over Monal Restaurant's ownership and operational rights began several years ago, involving the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and a military organization. Earlier, the Supreme Court gave three months' time to the management of Monal

Restaurant. After this time, the owner of Monal Restaurant gave the date of September 11 to the Supreme Court. Today is September 11 and Monal restaurant will be closed.

Initially, the CDA received rental income from the restaurant. However, a claim from the military organization later shifted the rent to them. This conflict escalated and ultimately reached the Supreme Court, which issued a final decision mandating the restaurant's closure.

Despite being one of the most expensive yet popular dining spots in Islamabad, Monal Restaurant drew significant crowds, necessitating ad-

vanced bookings for a table. Its allure was not just in its cuisine but in the breathtaking nighttime vistas of the federal capital, which attracted both locals and foreign visitors.

In recent weeks, social media buzzed with calls for the restaurant to remain open, reflecting its cherished status among patrons. However, the Supreme Court's decision, upheld as final, has brought the restaurant's storied chapter to a close. The closure of Monal Restaurant signifies a significant change in the landscape of Islamabad's dining and entertainment scene, leaving many to reflect on the loss of a beloved venue.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PM Steering Committee & Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization & Board of Investment Abdul Azeem Khan presided meeting on Gens Stones.

## Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police 13 outlaws arrested, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 13 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs, and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

An ICT police public relations officer said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IG) police Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions, the Secretariat police team arrested three accused namely Fida Hussain, Azhar Abbasi and Khalid Mehmood and re-

covered one 30 bore pistol and 1545 gram heroin from their possession, he said.

Likewise, the Industrial Area police team arrested two accused namely Amir and Nasir Abbas and recovered one 30 bore pistol and one iron pipe from their possession, he added.

He said the Koral police team arrested an accused namely Abrar Ansar and recovered one rifle with ammunition from his possession.

Moreover, the Shahzad Town police team arrested an accused namely Ishtiaq Ahmed and recovered murder tool knife from his possession, he added.

He said the Bani Gala police team arrested two accused

namely Zahid Gul and Ahmed Gul and recovered one 30 bore pistol and 667 gram hashish from his possession.

Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway, he said.

He said during the crackdown against proclaimed offenders and absconders, the Islamabad Police teams arrested four absconders and targeted offenders from various areas of the city.

DIG Islamabad directed the police officers to further intensify the crackdown against the criminal elements. "Safety and security of the citizens is our foremost priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard".