

QUETTA VOICE

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Motorcyclists ride past a billboard featuring images of China's Premier Li Qiang (C), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari at a closed Red Zone near the venue of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Islamabad

Bugti Tribesmen Protest in Quetta: Claim Kacha Dacoits Controlling Police Transfers and Postings in Sindh

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: On Sunday, Bugti tribesmen staged a protest outside the Quetta Press Club, accusing Kacha dacoits of influencing high-level transfers and postings within the Sindh police. The protesters claimed that the dacoits were exerting undue control over police decisions, a matter that has caused concern within their community. The protesters, led by Mir Ali Hyder Bugti, Deen Muhammad Bugti voiced their grievances and demanded action from the Sindh government. Mir Ali Hyder Bugti stated, "We cannot allow criminals to dictate law enforcement in Sindh. The Kacha dacoits have not only abducted two of our fellow tribesmen but are also meddling in police affairs." Deen Muhammad Bugti echoed these sentiments, calling on the authorities to act swiftly. "The silence from the Sindh government and police is unacceptable. We demand the immediate release of our tribesmen and an investigation into these unlawful police postings," he said. There was no immediate response from the Sindh government or police regarding the allegations. The Bugti tribesmen have vowed to continue their protest until their demands are addressed.



Man Killed in Fish Market Shooting in Turbat

From Our Correspondent:

TURBAT: A tragic shooting occurred today at the Fish Market in Turbat, claiming the life of Yaqoob, son of Muhammad Khan, a resident of Quetta.

According to initial reports, Yaqoob was fatally shot, and his body has been shifted to District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) Turbat for further procedures.



Police have arrived at the scene and launched an investigation into the incident.

Details surrounding the motive and identity of the assailant are still unclear, and authorities are working to gather more information.

Local residents expressed shock over the violent act, and authorities are urging anyone with information to come forward.

Two Injured in Landmine Explosion in Sibi, Balochistan

Nashad Baloch:

SIBI: Two individuals were seriously injured in a landmine explosion in Mal Gora village, located in the Sibi district of Balochistan.

The victims were rushed to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment, where their condition remains critical.

The explosion prompted a swift response from local levies forces, who immediately cordoned off the area.

Investigators have begun probing the incident to determine the source of the landmine and prevent further threats to the community.

Landmine incidents in Balochistan remain a critical concern, with local authorities working to ensure the safety of residents in affected regions.



Is climate change responsible for irregular weather patterns

Continued to page 2

The effect of pollution on the nutritional status of infants

Continued to page 2

Kohlu Deputy Commissioner Dismisses 9 Officials for Absenteeism

Yousaf Marri:

KOHLU: In a decisive move to enforce discipline, Deputy Commissioner Aqeel Baloch has dismissed nine government officials, including a Levies Dafdar, for extended absenteeism. The district administration issued a formal notification regarding the dismissals. According to Deputy Commissioner Baloch, these officials had been absent from duty for an extended period.

ployees. Notices have also been issued, demanding explanations for their continued absence. "Where necessary, dismissals will follow if employees fail to provide valid reasons," he added. The district administration of Kohlu is committed to addressing public concerns efficiently and ensuring that government departments function smoothly. "Our priority is to solve the



"We are taking strict actions against employees neglecting their duties across all departments of the district," Aqeel Baloch stated. This development highlights Kohlu's ongoing efforts to improve governance and accountability across the district.

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Second Cohort of Balochistan Graduates Selected for Reko Diq Development Program

News Desk:

KARACHI: Eighteen young women, showcasing Barrick's commitment to gender diversity in the mining sector. Participants hold degrees in fields such as Electrical Engineering, Mining Engineering, and Environmental Sciences. The program, launched in 2023, provides hands-on, two-year training at world-class mining sites in Argentina and Zambia. Barrick CEO Mark Bristow welcomed the cohort during a ceremony in Karachi, urging participants to embrace this opportunity. Selected through a competitive process from over 3,000 applicants, the group includes four

Muhammad Buledi condemned attempts to stoke tensions between Punjab and Balochistan, pledging the National Party's role in countering such conspiracies. Newly elected President Ayub Malik stressed the party's goal of establishing a relationship between the people and the state based on the Constitution and civilian supremacy.

PTI sets condition to withdraw from protest on Oct 15

Continued to page 4

Chinese premier Li due in Islamabad on Monday for 4-day visit

NEWS DESK: Chinese Premier Li Qiang is scheduled to undertake a four-day bilateral visit to Islamabad from October 14 to 17 to meet Pakistan's civil and military leadership, as well as attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reports.

His visit comes just days after the Oct 6 suicide attack near Karachi's Jinnah International Airport which killed two Chinese nationals and injured 11 others, including another Chinese citizen. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured the Chinese of personally overseeing the investigation into the attack. "After identifying those responsible for the incident as soon as possible, they will be brought to justice. Protection of life and property of our Chinese brothers in Pakistan is our first priority. Three days after the attack, police registered a first information report (FIR) against leaders of the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and others. The separatist group had claimed responsibility for the attack, which also damaged 15 vehicles. The police believe the BLA, allegedly with the assistance of a hostile foreign intelligence agency, aimed to sabotage Pakistan-China relations by targeting Chinese nationals, among other objectives. China said on Thursday it would work with Pakistan to protect the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects and institutions in Pakistan. According to APP, Premier Li will be accompanied by ministers and senior officials including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation Agency, according to a curtain raiser issued by the Foreign Office on Sunday. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart will lead their respective delegations to comprehensively discuss all aspects of Pakistan-China relations, including economic and trade ties and cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The two sides will also discuss regional and global developments. The Chinese premier will call on President Asif Ali Zardari and hold meetings with parliamentary leaders and senior military leadership of Pakistan. He will also attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the SCO, being held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16. Premier Li's visit to Islamabad is an expression of the importance attached by Pakistan and China to their "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership," APP reported. It will be an occasion for the two sides to reaffirm mutual support on issues of core interest, advance the high-quality development of CPEC, and reinforce regular exchanges on important regional and global developments, the report added.

National Party Punjab Elects New Leadership at Islamabad Convention

From Our Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: The National Party Punjab Wajidat convention was held on October 13, 2024, at the party's G14 office in Islamabad, chaired by National Party Central Secretary General, Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi. Delegates from 22 districts of Punjab attended the event.

During the session, condolences were expressed for the recent passing of senior National Party Punjab leader, Afzal Mehmood, whose contributions to the party were honored. At the start, National Party Punjab President Ayub Malik dissolved the Provincial Cabinet and Working Committee and announced the formation of a new Election Commission. Members actively participated in the elections, with Ayub Malik re-elected as president and Talib Hussain chosen as secretary general.

Several leaders, including newly elected cabinet members and district presidents, addressed the convention. Talib Hussain emphasized the need for strong



ger organization in Punjab, while senior leader Nasir Zaidi discussed Pakistan's 77-year political decline and its consequences. Former MPA Yasmin Lahri reaffirmed the party's commitment to oppressed nations and classes, while MNA Phuleen Baloch congratulated the new leadership. In his remarks, Senator Jan

QUEEN

Editor: Asim Khan

Public-Private Partnerships: A Solution to Balochistan's Education Crisis

Editorial:

The recent dismissal of 114 absentee teachers in Balochistan marks a pivotal moment in the province's long-odious effort to address the crisis in its education sector. With an inquiry underway against an additional 2,000 teachers, the Balochistan government is sending a clear message: education is no longer to be taken lightly. Chronic absenteeism has plagued the region's schools for years, compromising the quality of education for countless children. The actions taken by the provincial government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Rabeela Hameed Khan Durran, reflect a commendable commitment to accountability, transparency, and educational reform.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti deserves appreciation for upholding the banner of merit in teachers recruitment and directing the education department to make sure out of school children are in schools.

This bold move is not an isolated effort but part of a broader strategy that includes reopening 400 previously non-functional schools, enhancing educational infrastructure, and establishing Management Committees (SMCs) to engage local communities in governance. These initiatives are critical in a province where vast rural areas and underdeveloped regions have long suffered from a lack of access to quality education. Reopening these schools, particularly in remote educational opportunities and bringing long-term benefits to underserved communities.

However, while these steps are vital, Balochistan faces deep-seated structural challenges that will require more comprehensive solutions. The province's shortage of educational facilities, coupled with the continued lack of qualified and committed teachers, underscores the need for further innovation.

In this context, an approach recently introduced by the Punjab government could offer a promising model. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced plans to hand over thousands of government-run schools to public-private partnerships (PPPs) to improve the quality of education. This initiative seeks to leverage the expertise and resources of the private sector to address inefficiencies within the public system. Balochistan, with its unique challenges, could benefit greatly from such a strategy.

The PPP model could provide much-needed support in teacher training, curriculum development, and school management. By incorporating private sector efficiency with public accountability, it could address the chronic problems of absenteeism and underdevelopment. It also allows for innovative educational approaches, as well as better oversight through community involvement, echoing the role SMCs are already playing in Balochistan.

While the province's government has made significant strides in improving the educational landscape, adopting and adapting the PPP model could be a game changer. A partnership between public and private entities has the potential to create a sustainable system, offering both modern educational resources and stringent oversight to ensure that students receive the education they deserve.

Rabeela Hameed Khan Durran's vision of a robust, effective education system is laudable, and the ongoing reforms are a step in the right direction. But if Balochistan is to truly turn the page on its troubled education sector, it must embrace innovative solutions like public-private partnerships to bring about the transformative changes that its children so desperately need. Only by doing so can the province ensure a brighter, more promising future for the next generation.

Stressed hospitality

By F.S. Aijazuddin:

IN Pakistan we plan with finesse, and then execute in distress.

Some still recall the obstacles placed by the then chief minister Punjab in the way of the Lahore LifeFest in earlier years. Annoyed at the criticisms of his Orange Line (a permanent unsightly scar across the face of once beautiful Lahore), he withdrew permission at the penultimate minute for the LifeFest to be held at the Lahore Arts Council.

Hurriedly, the LifeFest had to relocate to a local hotel. To the chagrin of the audience, attractions like the Indian film star Shar-mila Tagore could be barely heard over the noise of generators in makeshift auditoria.

This year, the opening of the Lahore Biennale 2024, which by its definition takes more than a year to plan, fell victim to politics. What should have been a momentous, joyous event for our country was crippled by a drama by a disgruntled party.

Everyone with an opinion has a right to express their views. We might, however, learn a lesson from the Japanese. A visitor there once noticed a trio of Japanese factory workers standing outside the gate.

They held placards listing their demands. When asked, they explained that they were on strike on behalf of all their colleagues. There was no need for the rest of the workers to strike. They would continue working so that production would not be interrupted.

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Laiba Fatima:

Editorial:

Climate change is actually increasing in greenhouse gas emissions which brought significant changes in Earth's weather patterns. It is characterized by changes in weather over a longer period of species merely abnormal variations to the climate and its effect on different parts of the earth the many causes contribute to climate change such as industrial processes that release greenhouse gases such as Methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide, deforestation, and species struggle to

adapt to a changing environment. With the increase in earth's temperature since 1986, the winter season temperature of contiguous 48 states have increased by nearly 3°F, while spring temperatures have increased by about 2°F and same is the case with summer and fall temperature which record an increase of about 1.5°F. The pattern of extreme weather conditions has become more common over the past decades in the United States such as irregular heavy rain recorded on hot summer days (high) and the same is true with

summer nights (high) at even faster rate. A

Due to an abrupt change in weather patterns has caused the southwest to experience less precipitation than normal. However, the activities of a tropical storm in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean has surpassed during the past 20 years. The southern United States is very sensitive to alter weather conditions specially to temperatures and drought small changes in the availability of water specially in this arid region will cost them suppress their natural systems. Bangladesh has

been fighting the effects of climate change for decades. Due to rising sea levels coastal communities and island nations are at higher risk associated with climate crisis. Bangladesh is at number 7 on

German watch's Climate Risk Index (CRI) for cumulative risk between 2000 and 2019, same is the case with Philippines. In short I can say that Man is the only contributor of climate change and irregular weather patterns. Day by day trees have been cut down for construction purposes. Our life is totally dependent on trees as tree is a natu-

ral sunk of CO₂ (carcinogenic gas) if trees have been cut down in the same manner who will absorb CO₂ and in the end will accumulate in air rising the temperature and evaporation. Climate change is a serious concern which is costing our lives we need to stop this. We have to create awareness among people about climate change by arranging seminars on this issue, by cutting out tree we have to plant 10 more trees in place of this only this we can save our planet from this devastating process which is costing our ecosystem and biodiversity.

Efforts must be made to reduce pollution globally this will be crucial not only for current generations but also for future generations.

Trees must be planted as it clean the air. While playing children should be restricted to their home. Seminars should be organized for public awareness against this evil.

Industrial waste should be disposed off at a safer side which should not pollute air quality and also water. Small steps should be taken to abolish pollution, only this we can save our planet from premature death.

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Trees must be planted as it clean the air. While playing children should be restricted to their home. Seminars should be organized for public awareness against this evil.

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South African former finance minister Tito Mboweni dies at 65

JOHANNESBURG (INP): South Africa's former finance and labour minister and first Black central bank governor Tito Mboweni has died aged 65 following a brief illness, the presidency said.

Mboweni was an anti-apartheid activist as a student who later became democratic South Africa's first labour minister from 1994 to 1999 under former President

Nelson Mandela. He then served as governor of the South African Reserve Bank for a decade from 1999, and later as finance minister from 2018 to 2021 under President Cyril Ramaphosa.

His role in shaping our democratic future particularly during the dying days of apartheid, cannot be overstated," said his party, the African National

Congress, describing him as a trusted voice in the economic debates that framed the transition to democracy.

Mboweni helped establish the post-apartheid labour legislation that lay the foundation for collective bargaining and labour courts to uphold worker rights,

the ANC said. As central bank governor he oversaw the introduction of inflation tar-

getting to help the bank achieve price stability.

He was a close ally of Ramaphosa and served on the ANC's National Executive Committee, which handles party decisions.

"Given his sense of vitality and energetic and affable engagement with fellow South Africans, Dr Mboweni's passing at 65 comes as a shock," said Ramaphosa in a statement.



QUETTA: Chairperson Quetta Foundation Rozana Khilji addressing a press conference.

Israeli strikes kill 29 people in Gaza, thousands trapped

GAZA (INP): Israeli military forces continued to pound Jabalia, in the north of the enclave, the largest of its historic refugee camps, from the air and ground.

Nineteen people were killed in Gaza overnight, and 10 more died on Saturday evening after Israel struck two houses in Jabalia and the Nasserat camp in central Gaza. The death toll could rise as many of the wounded are in critical condition, medical aid said.

The Israeli military published new evacuation orders on Saturday to two neighbourhoods on the northern edge of Gaza City, which also lies in the north of the enclave, saying the area was a "dangerous combat zone".

In a statement, Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry urged residents not to relocate within northern areas of

the enclave and also to avoid heading south "where the occupation is conducting continued bombing and killing every day in the areas it claims to be safe".

The Israeli military said it had been operating against Hamas fighters who had been using civilian buildings and said clear evacuation instructions had been issued over recent days to areas including the Kamal Adwan Hospital.

It said an evacuation convoy to take patients from the hospital to Gaza City had arrived on Saturday with a supply of fuel for the facility.

In recent days, the military had said that forces operating in Jabalia and nearby areas killed dozens of militants, located weapons and dismantled military infrastructure. On Saturday, it said more than 20 fighters had been killed by tank fire, close range gunfire and airstrikes as forces continued operations throughout the Gaza Strip.

The operation in this area began a week ago and the military said then it aimed to fight against militants waging attacks and to prevent

Hamas from regrouping. Hamas denies that its fighters deliberately use civilian areas as bases.

Palestinian health officials put the number of people killed in Jabalia over the past week at around 150.

Palestinian and United Nations officials say there are no safe areas in Gaza. They have also voiced concerns over severe shortages of food, fuel, and medical supplies in northern Gaza, and said there is a risk of famine there.

Israel's military campaign in Gaza, aimed at eliminating the militant group Hamas, has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians since it began a year ago, according to Gaza's health ministry, and has had waste to the enclave.

The war began after a Hamas-led assault on Oct. 7, 2023, on southern Israeli communities in which 1,200 people were killed and about 250 were taken hostage, according to Israeli tallies.

In a statement on Saturday, Hamas said Israel's "massacre against the civilians" aimed to punish the residents of Jabalia for refusing to leave their

homes. It also said it was a sign of Israel's military failure to defeat the group.

The armed wings of Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and smaller other factions said their fighters attacked Israeli forces in Jabalia and nearby areas with anti-tank rockets, and mortar fire.

United Nations officials said on Friday an Israeli offensive and evacuation orders in northern Gaza might affect the second phase of its polio vaccination campaign set to start next week.

The territory's health ministry announced on Saturday that the campaign would begin on Monday in central Gaza Strip areas and would last three days before moving to other territories.

Aid groups carried out an initial round of vaccinations last month after a baby was partially paralysed by the type 2 poliovirus in August, the first such case in the territory in 25 years.

As in the first phase, humanitarian pauses in the fighting in Gaza are planned, in order to reach hundreds of thousands of children.

kept his cool to break back in the fourth, then claimed the tenth game to clinch the set.

In the second set neither was able to break serve until the 12th game, when the Italian hit a winner to book his place in Sunday's final.

"It was very tough... he is playing with so much confidence and he can hit a ball really hard, and is serving very well," said Sinner.

adding that for now he was "focused on tomorrow". Sinner's meeting with Machac got off to an electric start when the Czech broke in the first game of their semi-final.

The 33rd-ranked Machac was looking to repeat his giant-slaying of Thursday, when he knocked out world number two Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets.

But two-time Grand Slam champion Sinner



PESHAWAR: Chairman Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan Abdullah Gull addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club (PPC).



QUETTA: Pashunkhwa Milli Awami Party leader & Ex Provincial Minister Nawab Ayaz Khan Jozangi addressing a press conference.

SL, WI look to make good on their T20I promise

COLOMBO (INP): West Indies and Sri Lanka have long had an affinity of sorts for each other - particularly the latter during its cricketing infancy.

When the mighty West Indian juggernaut was for most fans their second team.

It also helped that they were fellow island nations - or in the case of the West Indies, a nation of islands. And in the lead up to West Indies' first white-ball tour of Sri Lanka since 2020, these parallels have only grown stronger.

They both also enter this series on the back of some promising white-ball results. West Indies have clean swept both South Africa and India at home in T20Is in 2024, while Sri Lanka have

a home ODI series win against Australia as well as white-ball series wins against Zimbabwe and Afghanistan.

But what makes this upcoming tour so enticing is that, these are two sides which are pretty evenly matched. The last time West Indies toured Sri Lanka for a white-ball series, they swept the T20Is and were swept in the ODIs, and in 15 T20Is between the two, West Indies have won seven and Sri Lanka eight.

Here we look at some of the key talking points surrounding the upcoming series.

Sticking to theme of parallels, there's no better point to begin with than Daren Sammy and Sanath Jayasuriya. Jayasuriya's had a fairly impressive start to his career as head coach, but if ever there were

questions over how his man-management-centric approach to coaching could translate over a longer period, perhaps Sammy holds the answers.

While Sammy's franchise coaching background brought with it more experience when taking over the reins as West Indies head coach in March 2023, the similarities in his approach to Jayasuriya's is hard to miss.

Sammy has spoken about honesty and clarity being key pillars in his coaching style; for Jayasuriya, it's instilling confidence and gaining the trust of the players. These could be seen as two sides of the same motivational coin, as both rely on solid foundations of rapport with players and administrators alike.

And a quick look at West Indies T20I record since Sammy took over speaks volumes towards his impact - six combined bilateral series against South Africa, India, England and Australia has yielded five series wins. The only blips were a 2-1 series defeat in Australia and an unsuccessful World Cup campaign, which still saw them come out with five wins and two defeats.

This run of results has seen the West Indies surge up the ICC T20I rankings, up from seventh to third. With Sri Lanka languishing currently in eighth place in those same rankings, Jayasuriya will no doubt be eyeing similar upward momentum.

Hezbollah foils Israeli troop infiltration attempts in Lebanon

RAMIA (INP): Lebanon's Hezbollah freedom fighters group said it clashed twice with Israeli troops who attempted to infiltrate near a Lebanese border

village on Sunday and claimed several other attacks overnight.

Hezbollah fighters detonated explosive devices at Israeli soldiers and "clashed with them as they attempted to infiltrate" twice near the Lebanese village of

Ramia, the group said, reporting fighting that lasted about an hour.

The group also claimed attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon and on the Israeli side of the border.

Lebanese state media says Israeli strike "completely" destroys mosque in the centre of the village of Kar Tibnit, completely destroying it," the National News Agency reported. Israel says intercepts about five projectiles from Lebanon.

The Israeli military said it intercepted about five projectiles fired from Lebanon on Sunday shortly after air raid sirens blared in several northern areas of the country.

Sirens also sounded in and around the northern city of Haifa, a day after the army said the camp had fired around 320 projectiles from Lebanon into Israel during Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day which ended at nightfall Saturday.



QUETTA: MPA Prince Agha Umer Ahmedzai speaks during a reconciliation ceremony between Samani, Shihwan and Lezhir tribal at Kalat House.

Ronaldo scores in Portugal's Nations League win as Spain sink Denmark

PARIS (INP): Cristiano Ronaldo scored as Portugal beat Poland 3-1 for their third straight Nations League win, while European champions Spain put an end to Denmark's perfect start in the competition.

Bernardo Silva volleyed Portugal ahead in the 26th minute in Warsaw as Bruno Fernandes cleverly nodded a cross from Ruben Neves back towards the Manchester City midfielder.

Ronaldo then found himself in the right place at the right time to turn in the rebound for Portugal's second after Rafael Leao's shot came back off the post following a

brilliant surging run by the AC Milan winger.

The 39-year-old Ronaldo has now struck in all three games of this Nations League campaign for Portugal, taking his record men's international goals tally to 133.

Piotr Zielinski cut the deficit for Poland but Jan Bednarek's own goal sealed Sunday's victory for Portugal, the lone remaining team in League A with a 100 per cent record, and they could secure a place in the quarter-finals next week.

"We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch. I am really satisfied because we controlled this game," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez.

"We played great as a team."

Portugal have a maximum nine points in Group A1, three ahead of Croatia who beat Scotland 2-1 to condemn their opponents to a third successive defeat in the section.

Portugal have a maximum nine points in Group A1, three ahead of Croatia who beat Scotland 2-1 to condemn their opponents to a third successive defeat in the section.

Ryan Christie's first half-goal gave Scotland a shock lead in Zagreb, but Igor Matanovic equalised before the interval and Andrej Kramaric bagged the winner midway through the second half.

Che Adams thought he had salvaged a stoppage-time equaliser but VAR disallowed his effort for offside, with Scotland winless in nine competitive outings - the longest run in their history.

Spain needed a 79th-minute effort from Martin Zubimendi to slung off Denmark 1-0 in Murcia as captain Alvaro Morata showed off the European Championship trophy to fans before kick-off.

Spain needed a 79th-minute effort from Martin Zubimendi to slung off Denmark 1-0 in Murcia as captain Alvaro Morata showed off the European Championship trophy to fans before kick-off.

The hosts were without Rodri and Dani Carvajal, both sidelined by long-term injuries, with first-choice goalkeeper Unai Simon still recovering from wrist surgery.

Nico Williams, Dani Olmo and Robin Le Normand had also been ruled out.

CM Sarfraz Bugti Calls for Apex Committee Meeting Amid Surge in Terrorism

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Following a brutal attack on coal miners, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti condemned the incident, stating, "Terrorists have once again targeted innocent workers."

"Bugti made this remark while addressing the media after visiting the injured victims at Quetta's Civil Hospital, where they are currently receiving treatment."

Expressing deep concern over the rising wave of terrorism in Balochistan, Bugti emphasized that ensuring the security of civilians remains the government's utmost priority.

"These escalating attacks are alarming, and we are committed to tackling terrorism head-on with the full support of our security forces," Bugti declared.

The Chief Minister noted that over 30,000 workers are employed in Balochistan's coal mines, making them vulnerable to frequent attacks. He also announced the immediate convening of an Apex Committee meeting to address the increasing terrorist activities and formulate



ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and a delegation of MQM called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Gandapur's absence demoralized PTI workers: Atif Khan

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Atif Khan said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Aftab Khan Khattak's absence demoralized party workers during their protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk.

In an exclusive interview with a private TV Channel, he said that there was no clear message from the party leadership regarding the protest strategy on October 4.

"The leadership should have clarified its further course of action after the workers reached D-Chowk. The workers should have been communicated clearly to hold just a protest or stage a sit-in," Atif Khan added.

He said that after all that, the PTI workers are disappointed. Expressing concerns over the party's current trajectory, Atif Khan said that currently they are lacking clear direction and decision-making.

To a question, he said the PTI cannot be eliminated by the forces who want to do so.

"Eventually, stakeholders will have to negotiate and find a way forward with the PTI."

When asked about potential deals, Atif Khan responded, "Deals are made for personal gain, while the right path is for the country's benefit." Regarding the



ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and a delegation of MQM called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

National Assembly Panel Urges PMDC to Re-conduct MDCAT Amid Allegations of Irregularities

Syed Muhammad Yaseen:



ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's health panel has called for a re-conduct of the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) following allegations of irregularities in both the Sindh and Islamabad exams.

The Sindh MDCAT, conducted by Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), faced accusations of paper leaks on social media. Meanwhile, students and parents from Islamabad criticized Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) for including out-of-syllabus questions in its MDCAT.

In response to these allegations, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has halted SZABMU from releasing its merit list and appointed a committee to investigate claims of 30 incorrect questions. Similarly, a high-level committee is already investigating the alleged paper leaks in the Sindh MDCAT.

Affected medical aspirants are hopeful for justice from both the Sindh and Islamabad High Courts. However, the Intelligence Bureau's initial report on the DUHS MDCAT has not found any evidence of paper leaks.

If the investigation committee determines irregularities in either the DUHS or SZABMU MDCATs, affected students may be compensated according to the law. Both courts will continue to hear these cases in upcoming sessions.

PTI sets condition to withdraw from protest on Oct 15

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced that it will hold 'massive' protests on October 15 at Islamabad's D-Chowk, if the party is not allowed to meet party founder Imran Khan.

While speaking to a private TV Channel, PTI Central Secretary Information Sheikh Waqas Akram set a condition for the government to withdraw from the announced protest.

"Allow party founder Imran Khan's meeting with his family and lawyers or face massive protests on October 15," Sheikh Waqas Akram said.

He said that the government has banned meetings with Imran Khan for the last five or six weeks, adding that even lawyers and family members are not allowed to meet him.

"We have no contact with our leader (Imran Khan) and reports of mistreatment in jail are concerning. Our protest is not against the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, but for access to Imran Khan's," Sheikh Waqas Akram added. He claimed that the government is "harassing" the families of PTI MNAs to get support for the constitutional amendments.

Earlier, Minister for Information Atta Tarar said that nobody would be allowed to disrupt the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Islamabad, hinting at strict action against the PTI planned protests.

"Those who have a mindset to conspire against the country should better stay at home as no miscreant will be allowed to disrupt the SCO Summit in Islamabad," Atta Tarar said while talking to the media.

The minister said that Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure to welcome foreign delegations including 12 heads of the nations for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Conference, scheduled for October 15-16.

"The announcements (for protests) do not make any difference as Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure," he said while referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf which has announced to hold protest in coming days.

SCO summit 2024: Traffic plan announced for Twin cities

ISLAMABAD (INP): Twin cities authorities have issued a comprehensive traffic plan for Rawalpindi and Islamabad for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference effecting from October 14 to 16.

The plan includes several road closures and diversions to ensure smooth traffic flow during the high-profile event.

From October 14 to 16, all types of heavy traffic will be prohibited within the city. Over 1,100 traffic officers will be deployed to manage and facilitate traffic during this period. Notably, the Expressway from Zero Point to Coral Chowk will be closed to traffic, prompting several alternative routes to be designated for motorists.

Passengers traveling from Margalla Road towards Rawalpindi are advised to use Ninth Avenue. Traffic from Faisal Avenue to Zero Point will also be redirected to Ninth Avenue. For those coming from Bhara Kahu to Rawalpindi, the recommended route includes Covering Road, Banigala, and Labhar Road.

Additionally, passengers traveling from Rawalpindi to Islamabad are encouraged to utilize Ninth Avenue. Vehicles from IIP Road heading to Faizabad should take Stadium Road from the Ninth Avenue Signal. Heavy traffic traveling from Peshawar to Lahore is advised to use the Motorway from Taxila.

To accommodate the traffic plan, the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Metro Bus Service will be completely suspended from October 14 to October 17. The metro service will not operate between Sadar Station and Pak Secretariat during this time.

Motorists coming from Peshawar via GT Road should also divert to the Motorway, with the option to exit at Chakri Interchange. This traffic management plan aims to minimize congestion and ensure the safety and security of all attendees at the SCO conference.

Section 144 imposed in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi administration has imposed section 144 of criminal procedure across the city for four days.

Commissioner Karachi imposed Section 144 on the recommendation of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon citing potential threats to peace.

A notification has also been issued, reading that the ban is imposed on gatherings of five or more people, processions, and public meetings. To maintain law and order and ensure public safety, the ban will be in effect from October 13 to October 17.

It may be noted here that in his letter, the IGP Sindh requested imposition of Section 144 citing potential threats to peace. The provincial police chief said that the protests and rallies may disrupt peace and cause inconvenience to citizens. Earlier, the Punjab Home Ministry imposed section 144 in five districts of Punjab for three days. As per details, the notification stated that there will be a blanket ban on all kinds of political gatherings, sit-ins and rallies in Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur and Kot Addu districts during the period. Moreover, the ban has been imposed with immediate effect and will last till October 15.



FAISALABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, visited the BISP Dynamic Registry Center and Payment Camp Site in Faisalabad.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Naqvi with selection committee, mentors review team performance

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi presided over a crucial two-hour joint meeting with the selection committee and team mentors to assess the current state of the national cricket team.

The meeting, which followed a separate session with the mentors, aimed to evaluate recent performances and fitness levels ahead of upcoming matches.

During the meeting, the selection committee provided Naqvi with insights regarding potential changes to the team lineup.

It was agreed that the process of evaluating new players would be completed by the end of the current series.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of completing the fitness assessments for players within the same timeframe.

Chairman Naqvi instructed the selection committee and mentors to focus on improving the quality of pitches used for domestic matches. Various suggestions were put forth during the discussions, reflecting the collaborative effort to elevate Pakistan cricket.

Notable attendees included selection committee members Aqib Javed, Azhar Ali, Aleem Dar, Hassan Cheema, advisor Bilal Afzal, Director Domestic Abdullah Khurram Niazi, and Director High Performance Nadeem Khan. Mentors Shoab Malik, Misbah-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis, and Saqlain Mushtaq were present, while mentor Sarfraz Ahmed and selection committee member Asad Fiaz participated via video link.



DUSHANBE: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan interacting with the Pakistani diaspora at Dushanbe Tajikistan.