

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com



Participants of the breast cancer awareness walk holding banners in SENAR hospital Quetta.

Mir Humayoun Marri Passes Away

Yousaf Marri:
QUETTA: In a tragic development, former Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Humayoun Khan Marri, has passed away in Quetta, according to family sources. Marri, a prominent political figure, also held the esteemed post of Deputy Chairman Senate during his career, contributing significantly to the province's political landscape.



Mir Humayoun Marri, who was twice elected as a Member of the Provincial Assembly from Kohlu, played a key role in the political and legislative processes of Balochistan. His leadership as Caretaker Chief Minister was marked by his efforts to maintain political stability during transitional phases.

Marri's death marks the end of an era, with political circles mourning the loss of a seasoned leader known for his dedication to the province. Further details regarding his passing and funeral arrangements are awaited.

K-P govt approves universal life insurance among seven key projects

NEWS DESK: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) government has approved seven major flagship projects, including life insurance for the entire population of the province. A meeting chaired by Chief Minister K-P Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur, attended by Finance Advisor Muzammil Aslam and administrative secretaries of relevant departments, gave the nod to the projects.

The flagship projects include life insurance coverage for the entire provincial population, the establishment of the provincial government's own Islamic Takaful insurance company, the launch of a solarisation program, and a home-stay tourism scheme.

Other approved projects include the construction of the Peshawar-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway, a 120-kilometre-long transmission line, the establishment of a trade corridor hub, and the creation of a debt management fund.

8,000 Breast Cancer Cases In Balochistan, Awareness Campaign Launched

Syed Ali Shah:
QUETTA: With 8,000 new breast cancer cases reported in Balochistan this year, Atomic Energy Cancer Society (Senar) has initiated an awareness campaign to combat this rising threat. The campaign, spearheaded by Director Dr. Khunaseeb Ahmed and oncologist Dr. Feroze Khan Achakzai, emphasizes early detection as a crucial step in saving lives. The month-long awareness activities include free breast cancer screenings at Senar Hospital from October 1 to October 31, aiming to provide life-saving services to the community. A walk was also organized to kick off the campaign, symbolizing unity in the fight against breast cancer.

Throughout October, the hospital will hold awareness seminars at universities and colleges across Quetta, as well as awareness drives on TV, radio, and social media.

Government to table constitutional amendment in Senate tomorrow

NEWS DESK: The ruling coalition has decided to present the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the Senate tomorrow, as confirmed by Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the parliamentary leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Thursday. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hosted a luncheon in honour of the government's senators, where the upcoming amendment was discussed. Speaking to the media after the luncheon, Senator Siddiqui stated, "The constitutional amendment will be brought to the Senate tomorrow."

He also mentioned that the prime minister briefed the senators on conversations held with leadership from other parties regarding the amendment.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar provided an in-depth briefing on the draft of the proposed constitutional amendment. In addition, a meeting of the federal cabinet has been called tomorrow, during which the 26th Amendment is expected to be approved.

Following cabinet approval, the amendment will be presented in both the Senate and the National Assembly. Notably, PML-N and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have withdrawn their support for the establishment of federal constitutional court. According to sources, a special parliamentary committee meeting chaired by Khurshid Shah discussed the draft of the 26th Amendment. It has been agreed among coalition parties and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) to drop the proposal for constitutional courts and instead focus on forming constitutional benches. Meanwhile, the draft for 26th Constitutional Amendment is entering its final stage, with several key proposals coming to light, according to sources. The draft suggests the establishment of a 5 or 9-member constitutional bench in the Supreme Court, while provincial benches would not be formed. The judicial commission would be responsible for forming the constitutional bench and appointing its head, with the Chief Justice of Pakistan no longer having the authority to make changes to the bench. One significant proposal includes setting a term limit for the constitutional bench. Additionally, the draft seeks to curtail the Supreme Court's suo motu powers. Another major recommendation proposes that the Chief Justice



PM Shehbaz meets President Zardari to discuss constitutional amendments

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has met with President Asif Ali Zardari at the President house to discuss proposed constitutional amendments and the prevailing political situation.

The meeting on Thursday comes as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) step back from their earlier proposal to establish constitutional courts, Express News reported.

Moreover, during a special parliamentary committee meeting, chaired by Khurshid Shah, discussions were held on the 26th constitutional amendment draft.

According to sources, the governing coalition parties and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) have agreed to drop the proposed 26th constitutional amendment, which called for the creation of constitutional courts.

The special committee meeting concluded with the government and JUI-F deciding to con-

sult the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on a joint draft. JUI-F leader Maulana Fazur Rehman will share the finalised draft with PTI leadership, marking the nearing completion of the amendment process. However, Information Advisor for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Barrister Saif announced PTI will mount both legal and political resistance against the proposed constitutional amendment.

PTI lawmaker Barrister Saif labelled on Thursday that the current government is "illegitimate" and accused it of "attempting to secretly alter the constitution without public representation".

PTI's political committee has announced its decision to resist recent constitutional amendments and hold a nationwide protest this Friday, according to the Express-News.

The parliamentary committee will reconvene after Friday prayers to continue discussions on the draft. Earlier today, Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan's (MQM-P) amendments to 26th constitutional draft have been discarded.

PTI Balochistan President Dawood Shah Kakar Released from Quetta Jail

Staff Reporter:
QUETTA: Dawood Shah Kakar, the President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Balochistan, was released by a local court in Quetta. Kakar had been arrested under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) 3 by the district administration in Quetta a few days ago. Following his release from the District Jail Quetta, PTI leaders, including Noor Khan Khilji and other prominent figures, warmly welcomed the party president. A large number of PTI workers gathered outside the jail, chanting slogans in support of Kakar and the party. Kakar's arrest had stirred significant political tension in



BNP Leaders Condemn Pressure on Senators Over Constitutional Amendment

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) leaders, including Agha Hassan Baloch and Ahmed Nawaz, have strongly condemned alleged pressure on their senators to support a constitutional amendment. Speaking at a press conference at the Quetta Press Club, they criticized attempts to influence their party members.

Agha Hassan Baloch stated, "BNP has always stood for the protection of the constitution and democracy. Any pressure on our senators to compromise these values will not be tolerated." Ahmed Nawaz emphasized the party's firm stance, saying, "We have faced many challenges, but BNP will continue to uphold democratic principles. We will not bow to any external pressure."



APHC highlights plight of detained Hurriyat leaders and activists

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APHC highlights plight of detained Hurriyat leaders and activists
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Focusing on foreign and domestic policies

By Talat Masood:

Pakistan's turn to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit has brought leaders of China, Russia, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and several Central Asian States to Islamabad. Apart from the formal sessions and meetings, the Conference provides a valuable opportunity for delegates of these countries to exchange views on the sidelines and promote their country's bilateral and core interests. It could also be a forum to mend fences, reduce tension among member nations and explore avenues for further strengthening the relationship.

While looking at SCO, it is interesting to look at other major unions of nations. The European Union, is a supra-national political and economic union of 27 member states. The Union has a total area of 4,233,255 sq km and a population of over 450 million. Its GDP is estimated to be \$26.64 trillion (PPP), representing around one-sixth of the global economy. Germany has the biggest national GDP of all EU countries followed by France and Italy.

The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), founded in 2008, is an intergovernmental regional organisation. It includes 12 independent South American states—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay

and Venezuela. It has not been very successful due to differences between member states. In particular, political differences and rivalry between Brazil and Argentina has weakened the organisation.

Fear of domination by these two major powers has been another important reason for the other member states to be cautious.

When SAARC was conceived it had similar aims as that of European Union or the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). It was perhaps too ambitious a goal considering the adverse relationship between India and Pakistan and the lukewarm attitude of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina towards Pakistan. It was a serious barrier in normalising ties with Bangladesh. How and certainly the benefits that would have accrued through increased mutual trade, tourism and new reduction in defence expenditure have not been possible.

Pakistan's relations with India's hegemonic designs apart from strengthening its defence, political and security ties by getting closer to Beijing and strengthening ties with the Muslim world, and its influence and involvement with South Asian countries has increased over the years. However, the wise decision to serve as chief adviser of the interim government. Hopefully, with these major changes in the top

leadership of Bangladesh, relations with Pakistan that have remained frozen are expected to improve. Equally important would be to increase trade and commerce and ease tension between the two countries.

A normal stable relationship between Pakistan and India is critical for the two countries and the region. Unfortunately, the opposite has been the case for most of the time since the two countries achieved their independence in 1947. The relationship for the last few years has been practically frozen as it seems to be the deliberate policy of PM Modi to isolate and weaken Pakistan.

But hurting Pakistan and soiling its reputation also has adverse consequences for India and the region. India's image has suffered and certainly the benefits that would have accrued through increased mutual trade, tourism and new reduction in defence expenditure have not been possible.

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improve the relationship, notably the Shimla summit, the Agra summit and the Lahore summit, as well as various peace and co-operation initiatives. Despite those efforts, relations have remained rigid, following repeated acts of cross-border terrorism.

The United States, China, the European Union and other friendly nations should encourage Pakistan and India to engage in dialogue. It is not surprising that the US finds the inimical relationship between the two south Asian neighbours against its broader strategic interests. The US would like Pakistan and India to normalise their relations, thereby helping India to enhance its economic power and political influence to counter growing Chinese influence in the region and globally.

It would be wrong to assume that China is against Pakistan and its normalising relations. It does not serve its broader strategic and economic interests. For China, India is a major export destination and the India-China trade is growing at a rate of 9.6% annually. In 2022, China's exports to India were \$110 billion, with the main products being computers, integrated circuits and broadcast equipment, according to the data available. And India's exports to China the same year were \$15.38 billion, with refined petroleum and iron ore being the main

products. It is interesting to note that despite political differences and strategic rivalry, the China-America, China-India and China-Taiwan trade and commercial relations continue to grow, benefiting both nations. The strong economic and trade relations have contributed significantly to maintaining a stable world order.

There are lessons for Pakistan and India to draw from this. If they had remained engaged in trade and commercial activities, there would have been visits of businessmen and entrepreneurs seeking new opportunities. It would have contributed to easing tensions while also opening avenues for export-import, thereby giving a boost to their economies.

Personalised politics that has become the norm should be avoided and instead critical national issues should be seriously addressed in the national assembly and Senate. The security situation demands special attention. Let me be left to the army leadership only. Regional and global developments especially those in the Middle East have consequences and need to be closely monitored.

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Misplaced Priorities In Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: The ongoing hunger strike by professors and lecturers from the University of Balochistan and BUTEMs outside the Quetta Press Club is a sobering reflection of the government's misplaced priorities. These dedicated educators protest unpaid salaries and rampant corruption within their institutions, the Balochistan government has inexplicably allocated Rs. 5 billion for the construction of a new provincial assembly. This stark contrast raises fundamental questions about the government's commitment to education and the welfare of its citizens.

Education is the backbone of any society, and the deteriorating conditions in Balochistan's universities signal a growing crisis. Faculty members, led by esteemed professors such as Kalsoom Shah Barsech, Farooq Akhavan, and Hasrat Hussain Shah, are fighting not just for their livelihoods but for the future of education in the province. Months without salaries have left these educators struggling to support their families, while institutional corruption further cripples the academic environment. Yet, the government's response has been indifferent at best, neglecting the very people responsible for shaping the next generation of leaders.

Professor Barsech's poignant statement, "We have not received our salaries for months. How are we supposed to sustain our families and continue our work under such conditions?" echoes the frustrations of many across the province. Meanwhile, Professor Achakzai's allegations of corruption within the universities, where funds intended for academic development are being siphoned off, only add to the sense of injustice. These are not minor grievances; they are symptomatic of a failing system that urgently needs reform.

Yet, instead of addressing these pressing concerns, the government has chosen to funnel an astonishing Rs. 5 billion into constructing a new assembly building. While the need for infrastructure in governance is understandable, it pales in comparison to the immediate and critical needs of the education sector. What message does it send to the people of Balochistan when their educators must resort to hunger strikes to receive what is rightfully theirs, while vast sums are spent on a building that, in all likelihood, will benefit only a few?

Professor Hasrat's concerns about the impact on students should be a wake-up call for the authorities. The students of Balochistan are the ones who will ultimately pay the price of the government's neglect. With teachers protesting on the streets and administrative failures plaguing the universities, how can we expect students to receive a quality education? The long-term damage to Balochistan's higher education system will be profound if these issues are not addressed swiftly.

The government must rethink its priorities. Rather than pouring billions into grand construction projects, it should focus on resolving the immediate crises facing the education sector. This means paying the salaries owed to the professors and lecturers involved into the corruption allegations, and ensuring that funds meant for academic development are used for their intended purposes.

If the government continues down this path, it risks not only alienating the academic community but also undermining the future of the province itself. The education of Balochistan's youth should never be compromised for the sake of political monuments. It is time for the government to act decisively, meet the demands of the protesting faculty members, and invest in the future of education in Balochistan. Anything less is a betrayal of the province's students and educators.

Udemocratic peace

By Imran Jan:

Proponents of the democratic peace theory argue that democracies never or almost never go to war with one another. This theory has not been one without critique but recent developments in the world and a better awareness of conflicts around the world mainly due to the advent of social media have left a major dent in the idea that democratic states almost never go to war with each other.

One of the critiques of the theory also argues that war may not have been defined properly. Definitions of conflicts is another major problem. For instance, the Obama administration had indulged in a global assassination campaign using drone strikes, violating the sovereignty of nations around the world, compromising their communications infrastructure, making cyber-attacks against Iranian centrifuges, and so forth. If the powerful states always stuck to the definitions of conflicts that they themselves wrote then these acts and many others not mentioned here would

be called acts of war and acts of aggression.

Instead of going into the details of flaws in the idea of democratic peace and pointing out every single weak link in the chain, I would rather argue that there are far stronger cases of undemocratic peace rather than weak examples of democratic peace.

Many nations have accepted the superiority of certain nations and never go to war with each other.

The entire Arab world has accepted the superiority of Israel, for instance - not because of the Jewish-Christian ideals shared by both the nations. The Arab world has accepted the superiority of Israel, for instance - not because of the Jewish-Christian ideals shared by both the nations. The entire Arab world has accepted the superiority of Israel, for instance - not because of the Jewish-Christian ideals shared by both the nations. The entire Arab world has accepted the superiority of Israel, for instance - not because of the Jewish-Christian ideals shared by both the nations.

today and perhaps Israel wouldn't have existed. This fake peace, achieved not through organic means but by the subjugation of the citizenry, has been one of the most undemocratic realities of the world we live in.

Even if we look at the relationship between Israel and the US, it may seem to many as this aged-old special relationship achieved through the Judeo-Christian ideals shared by both the countries, it has rather been a relationship established pretty recently. In the 1967 war, Israel was mainly supported by France and England. It was not until the US became an Israeli ally. The US, being a democracy where free speech thrives, is also home to some of the most sophisticated propaganda on earth. Americans are bombarded with this anti-Semitic propaganda campaign that Israel is this victim state that needs to be protected by the US muscle. This narrative gets repeated endlessly and unquestioningly, instilling in the minds of the American citizens as this absolute truisms.

By Rabiya Javeri Aga:

LIKE any country in the world, Pakistan is host to multifaceted and complex human rights issues. The country's marginalised groups, women, minorities, and children frequently face systemic human rights violations, as enshrined under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), will human rights treaties, the UN Human Rights Committee. The committee will engage in a constructive dialogue with the government, at the end of which a list of recommendations will be issued. While Pakistan has ratified the core UN human rights treaties, its concern is violence against women. Despite constitutional and legal norms, 23 per cent of married women in Pakistan report physical abuse, while 26pc face emotional abuse. These alarming statistics point to systemic flaws in law enforcement and the judiciary, where patriarchal norms limit justice for victims. With only 18pc of reported rape cases reaching court, the path to justice is fraught with

obligations for the government to respect and fulfil key civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all those in its territory. On Oct 17, 2024, the Government of Pakistan's permanent rights treaties, the UN Human Rights Committee. The committee will engage in a constructive dialogue with the government, at the end of which a list of recommendations will be issued. While Pakistan has ratified the core UN human rights treaties, its concern is violence against women. Despite constitutional and legal norms, 23 per cent of married women in Pakistan report physical abuse, while 26pc face emotional abuse. These alarming statistics point to systemic flaws in law enforcement and the judiciary, where patriarchal norms limit justice for victims. With only 18pc of reported rape cases reaching court, the path to justice is fraught with

Through its research and advocacy, the NCHR has challenged discriminatory practices, secured the release of prisoners, and worked to maintain our operational independence despite various challenges. However, these efforts alone are not enough to reverse the systemic issues that hold back Pakistan's progress. Our report to the UN committee outlines Pakistan's legislative and administrative strides, but also highlights persistent challenges in enforcement. Pakistan's commitment to upholding human rights remains fragile. An area of grave concern is violence against women. Despite constitutional and legal norms, 23 per cent of married women in Pakistan report physical abuse, while 26pc face emotional abuse. These alarming statistics point to systemic flaws in law enforcement and the judiciary, where patriarchal norms limit justice for victims. With only 18pc of reported rape cases reaching court, the path to justice is fraught with

Rights review

challenges. The economic cost of this violence, estimated at \$189.7 million annually, is a further burden Pakistan can ill afford. Strengthening legal frameworks, providing better protection, and empowering women must become national priorities. Religious minorities in Pakistan also face escalating violence and discrimination. The misuse of blasphemy laws led to 705 people being jailed by mid-2024, and continues to cause concern, while forced conversions—especially of Hindu girls—underline the vulnerabilities of marginalised communities. While legislative measures exist, enforcement is weak, leaving minority groups exposed to socioeconomic and religious persecution. The NCHR has worked diligently to address these issues but recognises that more comprehensive reforms are urgently needed, particularly in tackling extremism and reforming religious education. Torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement

remains a troubling reality. Despite the passage of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act in 2022, implementation has been slow. Torture is not only a violation of human dignity, but a symptom of larger institutional flaws. Inhumane prison conditions, exacerbated by overcrowding and inadequate medical care, contribute to the suffering, with pre-trial detainees making up a significant portion of the prison population.

Pakistan's international human rights obligations are not just boxes to be ticked—they represent the rights and dignity of its people. As we approach the next ICCPR review, the NCHR will continue to advocate for reforms that bring us closer to fulfilling these commitments. The government must act decisively to improve conditions for women's rights, and the incarcerated, ensuring that no one in Pakistan is left behind. The future of human rights in Pakistan depends on meaningful action. It's time to turn rhetoric into reality.

By F.S. Aijazuddin:

SOMEONE in the IMF is not familiar with Dr Samuel Johnson's witty definition of a second marriage: "a triumph of hope over experience". The IMF and Pakistan have been in and out of wedlock not twice, but multiple times.

One would have imagined that an institution as experienced as the IMF would spot a habitual offender among a pack of its financial delinquents. Apparently not. No IMF Board member had Pakistan digested the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) of \$3 billion extended by the fund in 2023-24, than it applied for a new loan of \$7bn. Even addicts draw a breath before the next snort.

Recall our predicament in 2023, as we waited desperately for the release of the last \$1.1bn tranche of the SBA. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the IMF MD Mme Georgieva that, if re-elected, he stood "committed to turning over the economy with the help of IMF and development partners".

Apparently, Mme Georgieva reminded him that, although he had "built a very convincing case" for the IMF Board, he recalled "the past trust deficit" and reiterated its skepticism about the IMF Board's expectations. She then mollified her Board with the assurance that Pakistan would "deliver on its commitments ... as

she had personally met the prime minister and seen his seriousness to deliver".

The IMF programme repeats a familiar mantra of representation, our PM expressed his "profound gratitude" for her "support and assistance" and sent her some mangoes in appreciation of "her leadership and professionalism".

Apparently, mangoes did the trick. A year later, on Sept 25, 2024, the IMF approved a \$7-billion Stand-By Arrangement for SDR 5,320 million. (around \$7bn). It was an anniversary of sorts. This is the 25th time Pakistan has approached the IMF for a bailout. To obtain this \$7bn loan and its first tranche

Hope triumphant

of \$1.1bn, Pakistan assured the IMF that it will implement "radical changes which will test the public's patriotism and the sinews of our federation".

The new programme comes with several conditions, or "bitter pills", these include bringing undertaxed sectors into the large-scale, and closing retail, export and industrial sectors. The Government has agreed to reduce "non-transparent support for privileged sectors like real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, and energy, as well as, towards the mobilisation of Special Economic

Zones". The IMF demands the abolition of SEZs by 2025. CPEC, however, plans into 2030 the expansion of SEZs and Free Trade Zones, especially Gwadar Port.

The IMF programme repeats a familiar mantra — earn more, spend less, and minimise borrowing. The IMF recognises the inherent contradiction in Pakistan's political structure: "Political economy considerations and pressures from special interests could delay or weaken the reform momentum and put at risk still-fragile stability".

The Government has agreed to reduce "non-transparent support for privileged sectors like real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, and energy, as well as, towards the mobilisation of Special Economic

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and China.

The CPEC is the IMF's bugbear. The IMF sought transparent disclosure, Pakistan had begun to do so in 2022, the IMF capped that Pakistan owed more to China than the IMF. Pakistan owed China \$26.6bn, and the IMF about \$7bn.

The IMF's staff report supporting the \$7bn loan approval contains an odd justification: "Reputational risks would arise if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members in 2022, Pakistan owed China \$26.6bn, and the IMF about \$7bn. The IMF's staff report supporting the \$7bn loan approval contains an odd justification: "Reputational risks would arise if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members in 2022, Pakistan owed China \$26.6bn, and the IMF about \$7bn. The IMF's staff report supporting the \$7bn loan approval contains an odd justification: "Reputational risks would arise if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members in 2022, Pakistan owed China \$26.6bn, and the IMF about \$7bn. 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UN report says 1.1 billion people in acute poverty

UNITED NATIONS (UNP) - More than one billion people are living in acute poverty across the globe, a UN Development Program report said Thursday with children accounting for over half of those affected.

The paper published with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) highlighted that poverty rates were three times higher in countries at war, as 2023 saw the most conflicts around the world since the Second World War.

The UNDP and OPHI have published their multidimensional Poverty Index, annually since 2010, harvesting data from 112 countries with a combined population of 6.3 billion people. It uses indicators such as a lack of adequate housing, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, nutrition and school attendance.

"The 2024 MPI paints a sobering picture: 1.1 billion people endure multidimensional poverty, accounting for 27.9 percent of children worldwide, compared with 13.5 percent of adults. It also showed that 83.2 percent of the world's poorest people live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia."



RAWALPINDI: Police arrest students during for protest against the alleged rape in Lahore. More than 150 students have been arrested.

Over 150 arrested as violent protests against alleged Lahore rape spread to Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (INP) - At least 150 violent protesters were arrested in Rawalpindi as police used tear gas to disperse students demonstrating against the alleged rape of a Lahore student.

Last week, reports related to the alleged rape of the private college student went viral on social media, prompting the police to arrest a security guard at the college who was allegedly involved in the incident.

Enraged by the alleged incident, students mobilised on social media and staged protests outside different colleges in Lahore in the past few days. On Monday, at least 28 were injured due to clashes with the security guards of the college and police.

Punjab Chief Minister Marwan Nawaz has declared that the alleged rape was "fabricated news", blaming the PTI for spreading the "fake reports" on social media. Punjab Group of Colleges (PGC) Group Director Agha Habib and other officers have taken the incident "baseless".

India all out for record home Test loss of 46 against New Zealand

BENALURU (INP) - The whole Indian team was bowled out for record home low in a Test match against New Zealand in Bengaluru.

Earlier, New Zealand fast bowler William O'Rourke took three wickets, including that of Virat Kohli, as India collapsed to 34-6 at lunch on day two of the weather-hit first Test in Bengaluru on Thursday.

India won the toss and elected to bat in tricky overcast conditions after the first day was lost to rain and were soon in trouble. Rishabh Pant was not out for 15 when lunch was taken after Matt Henry induced Ravindra Jadeja to loop a catch to point to become the fourth Indian to be out without scoring. Tim Southee struck the first blow in the seventh over with the score on two, bowling India captain Rohit Sharma through the gate with a sharp inswinger after he had made just two. O'Rourke struck in his first over to get Kohli caught at leg gully without adding to the score, silencing the home crowd.

Sarfraz Khan came in at number four after replacing Shubman Gill, who had neck stiffness. But he only lasted three balls, Devon Conway taking a good one-handed catch at wide mid-off to leave India reeling at 10-3 inside 10 overs.



QUETTA: Provincial Parliamentary Secretary Information Technology Samad Khan listening problems of people.



Quetta: Parliamentary Secretary Barkat Ali Rind is meeting Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

Pakistani agrochemical, companies look to expand market share in China

S H A N G H A I (INP) - Pakistani agrochemical companies are looking forward to expand their market share in China.

"We are excited to be here once again, showcasing our agrochemicals and seeds to the thriving Chinese market," said Bilal Imtiaz, Director of Imports for V-GRO Group, Pakistan, as he stood amidst a display of the company's agrochemical products at the 2024 ACE exhibition in Shanghai, China.

TENDER NOTICE

Table with columns: S/N, NAME OF WORK, QUANTITY, UNIT, ESTIMATE, TENDERS. It lists various construction and engineering projects with their respective details and tender submission information.

China, recognized as one of the agricultural powerhouses globally, has been actively pursuing the modernization of its farming sector.

China's agrochemicals industry has been actively engaging in international cooperation, introducing advanced technologies and products from abroad.

Parliamentary body mulls over 26th constitutional amendment draft

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The bigwigs of PML-N, PPP, and JUI-F held a detailed discussion on the proposed 26th constitutional amendment.

"Today is the day of big and positive news," Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqi earlier said. "Hopefully all drafts will be merged into one," Siddiqi said.

"What you say, a consensus will develop today. If all three drafts being merged into one" a scribbled Khurshid Shah. "This session has been fixed today for this business. We will see when the draft comes to me," Shah replied. PML-N, PPP and JUI-F yesterday agreed on the proposed constitutional amendments pertaining to judicial reforms after hours-long meeting at the Jati

Punjab PAC Delegation Praises Balochistan's Digital Transformation

News Desk:

Quetta, Balochistan: In a move to enhance fiscal transparency, a delegation from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Punjab visited Balochistan's Provincial Assembly to observe the automation of its PAC operations.

Led by Mr. Ahmad Iqbal Ch, Chairman PAC-III Punjab, the group lauded Balochistan's use of the Management Information System (MIS), which has improved fiscal oversight and governance. Mr. Ali Haider Gillani, Chairman PAC-II Punjab, highlighted how Balochistan's resource-constrained province is pioneering in digitalizing PAC functions, offering valuable insights for Punjab.

The study visit, organized by Accountability Lab, also featured a



briefing on PACIS, a system developed by World Bank assistance. Chairman PAC Balochistan, Mr. Asghar Ali Tareen, assured Punjab of

continued collaboration, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in strengthening fiscal accountability across Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb was called on by the Ambassador of USA to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Donald Blome.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) okays increase in BISP stipend amount

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a major increase in the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) stipend amount.

According to IMF, the quarterly stipend for BISP recipients will increase by Rs. 3,000, raising the total quarterly stipend to Rs. 13,500 from January who currently receive Rs. 10,500.

The IMF is working to enhance the BISP and its administrative systems, in collaboration with the World Bank.

The BISP has a budget of Rs. 599 billion for the current financial year, accounting for 0.5% of Pakistan's GDP. This represents a 2.7% increase from the previous year.

The program will remain open for new enrollments for the next three years. Additionally, a new electronic payment model is being piloted, offering users more banking options

and transparency. This new model will be gradually rolled out to other cities starting from January. The development came after the International Monetary Fund unveiled new loan conditions for Pakistan.

The conditions were revealed by the International Monetary Fund in a detailed report of a new loan agreement with Pakistan.

The IMF in its report has urged the Pakistan government to work to stabilize the macroeconomic situation in line with the loan agreement.

Pakistan's government has been asked to ensure economic reforms and conducive conditions for the private sector to boost the economy.

The international lender has also urged Pakistan to increase its tax net and slash government spending and expedite reforms in the government-owned entities.

The report predicted Pakistan's GDP to remain between 4 to 4.5 pc during FY2024-25 to 2029-30, while the inflation is predicted to remain between 6.6 to 9 per cent.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board on September 25 approved Pakistan's 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement of about US\$7 billion.

The 37-month Extended Fund Facility arrangement aims to support Pakistan's economic stability and growth, with key policy goals including sustainable public finances, reduced inflation, and strengthened external buffers. On September 27, Pakistan received the first tranche of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Executive Board of a 37-month Extended Fund Facility amounting to US\$7 billion.

Pakistan, Mongolia agree to form Joint Ministerial Commission

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said he looks forward to working closely with his counterpart of Mongolia, Luvsannamrain Oyun-Erdene, in the days ahead to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

He expressed these views while talking to Prime Minister of Mongolia Luvsannamrain Oyun-Erdene on the margins of the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad on Thursday.

The Prime Minister warmly welcomed his counterpart of Mongolia and noted that his visit marked a new chapter in the history of bilateral relationship, defined by mutual respect,

goodwill and amity. Shehbaz Sharif also felicitated

him on his re-election as the

Prime Minister suggested that both Pakistan and Mongolia should explore new avenues of mutually advantageous cooperation with a particular focus on trade, investment,

people-to-people contacts and connections. He offered the Mongolian side to send civil servants to training institutions of Pakistan.

He also proposed to declare 2025 as the year of Pakistan Mongolia Friendship year for bolstering the brotherly ties among the two countries.

On the occasion, the Mongolian Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on successful conduct of the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting.

He also appreciated Pakistan's leadership role as the Chair of the SCO Council of Heads of Government.

The Mongolian Prime Minister reciprocated that Mongolia shares Pakistan's desire to build stronger and closer bilateral relations through joint efforts and collaboration.

Both the leaders agreed on forming a Joint Ministerial Commission to enhance cooperation in trade, tourism, agriculture and mining sectors.

Establishment of an inter-parliamentary union was also agreed in the meeting to expand the parliamentary relations between the two countries.

On the occasion, the Mongolian Prime Minister planted a sapling in the lawn of the Prime Minister's House.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Mr. Zhang Ming calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

APHC highlights plight of detained Hurriyat leaders and activists

SRINAGAR (INP): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating health of its illegally detained leaders and activists, calling for their immediate release.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesperson Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas issued a statement in Srinagar, highlighting that the Hurriyat leaders and activists have been imprisoned for years on false charges in Indian and IIOJK jails.

They are suffering from serious health issues and have been denied basic medical care. Their unlawful detention is being prolonged, as they are not being presented in court, he added.

Among the detainees mentioned are APHC Chairman Masrurat Alam Butt, Shabir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Asiya Andrabi, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Fahimda Sofi, Nahida Nasreen,

Ayaz Muhammad Akbar, Pir Saifulah, Miraj-ud-Din Kalwal, Shahidul Islam, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Syed Shahid Yousuf, Syed Shakeel Yousuf, Muzaffar

Ahmed Dar, Mushtaqul Islam, Dr. Hamid Fayaz, Amir Hamza, Maulvi Bashir Irfani, Bilal Siddiqi, Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, Advocate Nazir Ahmed Roonga,

Advocate Muhammad Ashraf Butt, Advocate Abdul Qayoom, Advocate Zahid Ali, Muhammad Yousuf Falahi, Muhammad Rafiq, Ganai, Hayat Ahmed Butt, Zafar Akbar Butt, Umar Adil Dar, Firdous Ahmed Shah, Saleem Naanaji, Fayyaz Hussain Jaffri, Muhammad Anad Para, Muhammad Yasin Butt, Zahoor Ahmed Butt, Adil Zargar, Dawood Zargar, Noor Muhammad Fayaz, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Faktoot, Ghulam Qadir Butt, Muhammad Shah Shariati, human rights activist Khurram Parvez, Insha Jan, and others held in various Indian prisons, including Tihar Jail in Delhi, Jodhpur Jail, Agra Jail, and

Ambala Jail.

The APHC asserted that the prolonged detention and harsh jail conditions have severely affected the physical and mental well-being of many detainees, which is a significant cause for concern. The spokesperson noted credible reports indicate that Insha Jan is critically ill and has become severely weakened due to the lack of adequate medical care.

The APHC spokesperson urged the international community and global human rights organizations to take notice of the plight of the Kashmiri detainees and to pressure India for their release.

He emphasized that India cannot intimidate the Kashmiri people through fear and repression, asserting that a resolution to the Kashmir dispute is crucial for sustainable peace and development in the region.

He warned that India cannot indefinitely delay addressing this core issue through stubbornness and unrealistic policies.

'Systematic demolitions of mosques, shrines in India aimed at marginalizing Muslims'

ISLAMABAD, Oct 17 (INP): The systematic demolitions of mosques, shrines, and dargahs in India under Narendra Modi's BJP are part of a Hinduva-driven campaign aimed at marginalizing Muslims and eroding their religious rights. A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said these demolitions reflect a deliberate attempt to erase Islamic history and presence in India, exposing a deep-rooted anti-Muslim agenda that has been institutionalized under the current government.

The BJP, it said, driven by radical Hindu ideology, seeks to assert Hindu supremacy while relegating Muslims and other minorities to second-class status, depriving them of the constitutional right to practice their faith freely.

The report said since 2014, when Modi came to power, there has been a sharp increase in violent incidents against Muslims, including lynching, attacks on

places of worship, and hate speeches. It said this rise in violence, documented by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, shows how radical Hindu groups, emboldened by the state, operate with impunity, fuelling the exclusion of Muslims from the Indian mainstream.

The report said these actions are a part of a broader strategy to marginalize Muslims and strip them of their identity, using religious sites as battlegrounds for this ideological war.

The targeting and destruction of Islamic religious structures represent a physical manifestation of the narrative that Muslims do not belong in Modi's vision of India, it added. It said these demolitions are clear violations of international human rights standards, including the right to freedom of religion as protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The report lamented

that India's claim to be a secular democracy was contradicted by the actions of the BJP government, which systematically reduced the space for Muslims to live and follow their religion.

It said Legislative moves like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) show how the state is formalizing the exclusion of Muslims.

Reports from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) have categorized India as a "Country of Particular Concern" due to its worsening treatment of Muslims, reinforcing the grim reality that religious freedom is under assault in Modi's India, it added. It deplored that the marginalization of Muslims and the destruction of their religious sites were part of a coordinated effort to erase Islamic identity in India.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Shahidullah Ahmed Khan, presiding over the first working group meeting of the Generation Unlimited Strategic Advisory Council.

Fawad Chaudhry heaps praise on Fazl for safeguarding constitution

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday singled out Jamaat-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for putting up 'actual fight' for protecting the constitution of Pakistan.

Speaking to media outside Islamabad's accountability court, former minister lauded Maulana's point of view regarding constitutional amendment which the latter shared with reporters after calling on Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz

Sharif alongside top political leadership of other parties including President Asif Ali Zardari for consultations on proposed constitutional package.

Chaudhry, who is a lawyer himself, claimed that Maulana's stance was closest to that of legal community as well as of people who believed in democracy.

Stressing the need for safeguarding the judiciary, he feared if lawyers and judges won't stand for the freedom of judiciary then country would go back to dictatorship, adding

that people were already treated unjustly in courts.

"The nation is looking at Maulana. It will be great if he could converge the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to his stance," he added.

He claimed that Maulana was leading the grand opposition alliance and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was acting upon his piece of advice. Earlier, the former minister had appeared before the court in connection with Jehlum Road Irregularity case, which the court adjourned till November 11.



SINGAPORE: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Ms. Rabia Shafiq in a meeting with Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) President Lennon Tan and Council members in Singapore.