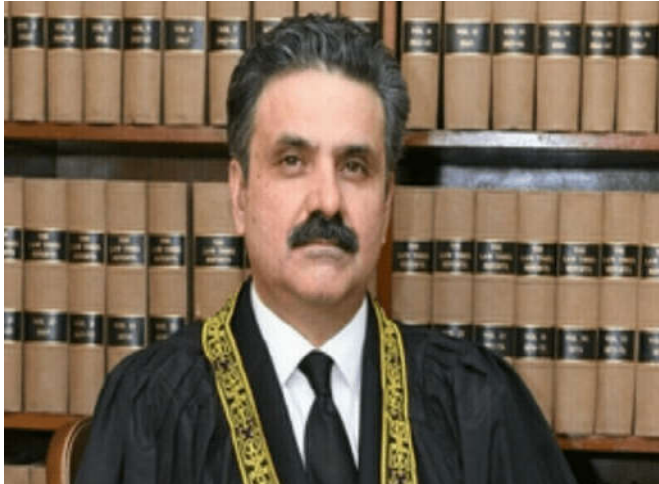


QUETTA VOICE

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A file photo of Justice Yahya Afridi, who was nominated by a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC) last night

NA speaker orders probe into alleged presence of spies

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday ordered an inquiry into the allegations levelled by Opposition Leader Omar Ayub Khan about the presence of the "personnel of the intelligence agencies in the uniform of assembly's security officials" inside the house during the proceedings related to the 26th Constitutional Amendment bill aimed at bringing drastic changes to the judicial system.

"The honourable speaker has already passed instructions for the inquiry," announced Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah when Mr Khan raised the matter for a second time after Maghrib break on the private members' day.

Speaking on a point of order in the presence of Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, the opposition leader earlier alleged the intelligence agencies personnel were present inside the assembly hall as well as in the precincts of the Parliament House and that they escorted the "abducted" PTI members to ensure their vote in support of the constitutional amendments.

He asked the speaker to inquire the matter through CCTV camera footage, claiming that these officials had come to parliament in double-cabin vehicles which were seen entering Gate No 5.

Mr Khan also presented some photos with his signature as evidence when the speaker interrupted him to assert "it is not possible". Amid slogans of "shame, shame", he showed a picture of a uniformed security official, stating that his identity should be verified.

"I never say anything unfounded," he said, demanding that the matter be investigated through an independent committee that should also include the sergeant-at-arms.

"Check with your sergeant-at-arms or assign someone else and check the CCTV cameras," said Mr Khan, alleging that the personnel were also present in the house during the Saturday's sitting. He said the PTI dissidents had been made to sit on the treasury benches at a place from where they were not visible to the press gallery.

Intrusion of intelligence agencies and other agencies will further derail and weaken this house and democracy," Mr Khan said, adding that wrong traditions of "securing votes on gunpoint" were being set. The opposition leader claimed that a number of treasury members had been given the task to bring the PTI dissidents to the house.

Justice Yahya Afridi to take oath as CJP on Oct 26 after president approves appointment

NEWS DESK: Justice Yahya Afridi, who was nominated by a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC) last night, is set to take oath as the next chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) on Saturday. CJP Qazi Fazal Isa is set to retire as the top judge on October 25.

Following the passage of the 26th Amendment, the top judge was to now be "appointed on the recommendation of the Special Parliamentary Committee from amongst the three most senior" SC judges.

Previously, the president used to appoint the "most senior judge of the Supreme Court" as the CJP, according to which senior puisne judge Mansoor Ali Shah was earlier set to assume the position. Justice Afridi is the third judge on the SC seniority list (excluding the incumbent CJP), with Justice Mubashir Awan being the second most senior judge among those considered by the SPC.

President Asif Ali Zardari appointed Justice Afridi as the CJP under clause 3 of Article 175A read with Articles 177 and 179 of the Constitution, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice today. It stated that the president was pleased to appoint Justice Afridi

as the next chief justice "for a term of three years with effect from" October 26. However, a provision in clause (3) of Article 175A details scenarios in case the judge nominated by the SPC "declines" to assume the role.

As per the amendment, in case the first nominee declines, one judge from the remaining two shall be nominated. If they too decline, the job may be offered to the third judge. And in case all three refuse, the next in the seniority line after the top three can also be brought into contention.

Born on Jan 23, 1965, Justice Afridi is set to become the 30th CJP. He took oath as the youngest chief justice of the Peshawar High Court in December 2016, and then was elevated to the Supreme Court in June 2018. The Sindh Bar Council (SBC) welcomed the nomination, terming it a "major advantage for the judiciary and the nation as a whole". A statement issued by SBC Acting Secretary Rustam Bhutto noted that Justice Afridi had "remarkable wisdom but most importantly, he is a man of character".

He possessed the "strength of understanding the law in such a

way that achieves fairness and justice making him an ideal individual for this critical role", the SBC added.

It expressed the hope for a "positive change in Pakistan's judicial context that Justice Afridi would bring".

The Sindh High Court Bar Association also "warmly welcomed" the nomination, calling Justice Afridi an "ideal candidate for this critical role".

It highlighted that the SC judge was "not only an exemplary human being but also a distinguished jurist, renowned for his unmatched vision and legal acumen". The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) also welcomed the incoming chief justice's appointment, describing him as having a "non-controversial, non-political and neutral personality".

The KPBC said the judge would "exert all his abilities to work towards the supremacy of the parliament, upholding the law, enforcing the Constitution, delivering affordable and prompt justice, and enhancing the judiciary's dignity".

It vowed that the "zealous lawyers of KP [...] would stand side by side with the judiciary" to play their role in democracy's survival and the rule of law.

Man Killed, Another Kidnapped in Kalat; Protest Blocks Quetta-Karachi Highway

Abdullah Lehri:

KALAT: Armed men opened fire and killed a man in the Chapar area of Kalat district, Balochistan, while also kidnapping another individual, local sources reported.

The incident triggered a protest by local tribesmen, who blocked the Quetta-Karachi highway for three hours, demanding the arrest of the attackers.

The protest caused significant disruption, with long queues of vehicles forming along the highway, leaving passengers stranded. Witnesses said the protesters chanted slogans, urging

the authorities to take swift action against the perpetrators. The security in the area was tightened as a result of the incident. The blockade was eventually lifted after assurances from local officials, but the protesters warned of further demonstrations if the accused are not arrested soon. The incident has heightened tensions in the region, with calls for stronger measures to ensure public safety in Kalat. Authorities have yet to confirm any arrests in connection with the attack and kidnapping.



Balochistan Approves First Digital Media Policy and RTI Appointments in Cabinet Meeting

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a significant move, the Balochistan cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, approved the province's first-ever Digital Media Policy and finalized the appointment of members for the Right to Information (RTI) Commission.

Spokesman Balochistan Government, Shahid Rind addressed a detailed press conference after the cabinet meeting. These initiatives aim to modernize media regulations and enhance public access to information in Balochistan.

Alongside these developments, the cabinet also approved the Balochistan Integrated Water Policy, focusing on sustainable water management, and the Balochistan Organic Agriculture Policy, aimed at promoting organic farming in the region. CM Bugti directed for the immediate implementation of these poli-

cies, urging public awareness campaigns. Additionally, the cabinet sanctioned funds for the eradication of hepatitis and approved the Balochistan Alternative Dispute Resolution Bill, designed to resolve conflicts outside the court system.



Chief Minister Bugti emphasized the importance of these decisions in addressing provincial challenges and driving Balochistan towards better governance and sustainability.

PPP Lawmaker Ubaidullah Gorgej Denotified as Re-Elections Loom in PB-44 Quetta

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a fresh political setback for the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in Balochistan, Ubaidullah Gorgej, the lawmaker from PB-44 Quetta, has been denotified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The Election Tribunal of the Balochistan High Court nullified results from 16 polling stations in the PB-44 constituency following a challenge by National Party candidate Atta Muhammad Bangulzai.

Bangulzai contested Gorgej's election, leading to the tribunal's decision to order re-polling. The tribunal also directed the ECP to appoint a Returning Officer (RO) and District Returning Officer (DRO) to oversee the upcoming election.

Nadar Chahghari, counsel for Bangulzai, hailed the tribunal's ruling, stating, "This decision upholds the integrity of the election process and



ensures fair representation."

This development adds to the PPP's mounting challenges, as the party navigates political uncertainty in the province. With the denotification of Ubaidullah Gorgej, the PPP faces renewed pressure ahead of the re-polling, which could significantly impact its influence in Balochistan.

The re-election in PB-44 is expected to be a crucial test for the party's strength in the region.

We can't water down this looming challenge

Continued on page 2

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

Continued on page 2

Gwadar Municipal Committee formulates smart environment sanitation system

Continued on page 4

We can't water down this looming challenge

BY Neil Hawkins:

I recently spent time talking to farmers in rural Punjab. One theme dominated every conversation. Climate change is already having a serious impact on their livelihoods.

A major challenge is excessive heat and water scarcity and quality. The numbers are scary. By 2047, Pakistan will likely have twice the population and half the water it now has. Think about it. If my maths is correct, that means 75 per cent less water for each Pakistani.

Every year, the water table in many parts of Punjab is sinking by about one metre. Unless digging tube wells are regulated, this fall will continue and may speed up. In Peshawar, the water table has fallen 30 feet in six years according to media report.

The quality of water available is also worsening. As the water table falls, soils are be-

coming saltier, making it difficult for farmers to grow crops. And as the population rises, wastewater and raw sewage end up in rivers due to a lack of treatment plants. Farmers downstream then use this water to irrigate their crops.

Pakistan is not alone in facing this challenge. In Australia we understand well the problems of drought and water scarcity. This year we celebrate 40 years of cooperation in agriculture and water management.

Through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australia has stood shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan. This involves providing expertise, training researchers and developing tools and knowledge to help farmers adapt and manage.

Climate change is already stressing Pakistan's agricultural

hybrid seeds, plants and fruit trees that can survive the rising heat and saline soil.

Managing existing water sources is also critical. Australia has provided technology to allocate water between provinces. As you can imagine, this is a sensitive matter in both our countries. With about three quarters of Pakistan's renewable water originating from outside its borders, Pakistan must use its existing water wisely and sparingly.

Supporting women is essential. Women make up two-thirds of the agricultural workforce in Pakistan and are often the first to bear the brunt of climate change. By investing in women, Pakistan can build more resilient farming communities, improve food security, and better prepare for the impacts of climate change.

ACIAR has been proud to work with our

Pakistani colleagues these forty years – from improving the value chain for mangoes and citrus, helping Pakistani farmers grow salt-resistant crops, to developing hybrid wheat seeds to withstand extreme weather conditions. We are also learning together new ways to manage floods and droughts.

More recently, Australia is playing a vital role in transforming Pakistan's dairy sector – Australian breeds of cows can withstand heat and still produce great tasting milk.

We have much to celebrate over the past forty years of agricultural and water cooperation. And we will continue our work. However, the threat to livelihoods due to the challenges of water scarcity and water quality are looming. Farmers can already feel it.

Action is needed at all levels to prevent this challenge from turning into a crisis.

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

Editor: Asim Khan

Editorial:

The recent dismissal of 114 absentee teachers in Balochistan marks a pivotal moment in the province's long-overdue effort to address the crisis in its education sector. With an inquiry served 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 Education Minister Rabeela Hameed Khan Durrani, reflect a commendable commitment to accountability, transparency, and educational reform.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti deserves appreciation for upholding the banner of merit in teachers recruitment and for 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 School 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 areas, will create educational opportunities and bring 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 underfunding. 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 education 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 Durrani'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.

Aspiring dreamers

BY Mahir Ali:

AMONG the various things that lately have not gone Imran Khan's way was his predictable elimination from the list of candidates for the post of Oxford University chancellor.

The absurdity of applying for the position would only be compounded if he or one of his advisers were to pursue legal proceedings querying the rejection.

The exclusion criteria state that a nominee "cannot be a serving member of, or a declared candidate for election to, an elected legislature".

The obvious implication is that Imran would have been obliged to abandon all his domestic political ambitions to qualify as a candidate.

Writing in Middle East Eye last month, the former British journalist Peter Osborne declared that the PTI "embodies the exact values of freedom and justice Khan learned as a student of politics and economics at Oxford's Caius College 50 years ago".

Oxford's shortcomings notwithstanding, equating its values to those of the PTI constitutes a grievous affront to the university — and echoes the sloganeering of the Times of Israel blogger Aynur Bashirova, who claims that "Khan has previously shown a willingness to challenge the status quo, particularly whether its alumni and staff were 'ready to drag Oxford out of a millennium of darkness and make it an inclusive institution by voting for a candidate who lauded the resurrection of the Taliban as a 'blessing...?'". He goes on to spell out Imran's other inadequacies — lately enhanced by his acolytes in the Pakistani-American Public Affairs Committee endorsing a proto-fascist Taliban in a rather more consequential election.

Segments of the Western left incessantly continue to consider Imran a martyr in the anti-imperialist cause rather than a player in a sordid political game.

denounced Imran's candidacy as an insult to "Oxford's female students, past and present" and as a potential gift to "the Taliban and its oligarchs", and more recently by Kapil Komreddi. Who qualifies as Oxford chancellor?

In a column for the Daily Telegraph last week, he wondered whether its alumni and staff were "ready to drag Oxford out of a millennium of darkness and make it an inclusive institution by voting for a candidate who lauded the resurrection of the Taliban as a 'blessing...?'". He goes on to spell out Imran's other inadequacies — lately enhanced by his acolytes in the Pakistani-American Public Affairs Committee endorsing a proto-fascist Taliban in a rather more consequential election.

Segments of the Western left incessantly continue to consider Imran a martyr in the anti-imperialist cause rather than a player in a sordid political game.

BY Tatol Masat:

The questions that are often posed by many in Pakistan are: what are the major policy changes that the government and institutions should introduce in order to place the country on the right course? What corrective measures will contribute to improving political conduct that promotes stability and greater cooperation among state institutions? What actions are necessary to improve the working environment that facilitates greater efficiency?

The answers to these questions are simple but well known, it is in the implementation of which the governments are generally failing.

First and foremost, the political parties should abide by democratic norms. Generally, this is not the case and in the most glaring example of this is the election of party leaders.

Although in all probability, these very leaders would have got elected by strictly adhering to the dictates of the constitution, "..."? He goes on to spell out Imran's other inadequacies — lately enhanced by his acolytes in the Pakistani-American Public Affairs Committee endorsing a proto-fascist Taliban in a rather more consequential election.

Segments of the Western left incessantly continue to consider Imran a martyr in the anti-imperialist cause rather than a player in a sordid political game.

ing politics as their career. The Kennedys in the US, Trudeau in Canada and Nehrus in India. Similar to the Bhuttos and Sharif families in Pakistan.

It is apparent that the doubts and misgivings about these aspects prior, during and after elections in Pakistan have a basis and need to be addressed. This necessitates a greater appreciation of the importance of pursuing the democratic norms faithfully. If these are followed correctly it adds immensely to the strength and reputation of the country.

The economies of those countries where democracies or socialist systems have matured are generally strong and standing high among the world.

This may sound obvious, but are our leaders pursuing politics keeping these aspects in mind? Are they conscious of what a dependent economy implies? And if so, are the corrective measures being taken and are effective? Moreover, it is critical for a nation to throw up leadership that is forthright and pragmatic. Above all it should be honest for it is a functional requirement.

A combination of these qualities is needed for national leaders to guide the institutions and keep a check over them.

The responsibility also lies on the people to elect aspirants to parliament who possess the right values. During pe-

riods of crisis, such as we experienced during the 1965 and 1971 wars, or even in periods of severe economic slump, crisis management becomes a huge challenge. Maintaining the status quo is not feasible and new avenues have to be found. And all these scenarios that the nation has faced reinforce the need for strengthening the democratic order. The National Assembly and Senate have a major role in promoting and strengthening democracy.

The role of women is very important for a country to progress. At the individual level women in Pakistan have held high positions and had illustrious profiles. Benazir Bhutto had such success in not only being the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan but of a Muslim country, a prominent figure of her time.

Pakistan has had a successful female foreign minister in Hina Rabhani Khair, and a Human Rights activist Asma Jahangir. There are several women serving as ambassadors, judges, lawyers, human rights activists, professors, artists, authors — and in politics.

Over twenty per cent of Pakistani parliamentarians are women, mostly serving in seats reserved for them. The safety of women in politics and in public life needs to be improved.

The assassination of Hina Rabhani Khair and PTI laureate Malala

most Pakistanis and their deeper personal and political aspirations depend on good measure on how the parties conduct business with each other and what contribution they can make towards improving the quality of their lives. We hope and expect our leaders are conscious of this great responsibility. There are similar expectations from other state institutions — bureaucracy, judiciary and military. It is the priority that our leaders accord and the emphasis they lay on political behaviour that conform to the dictates of law and the demands of moral behaviour that will influence their present and future conduct.

And it goes without saying that it will largely set the tone and direction in which the country would be heading.

At the same time, we need to be firmly focused on our security challenges. The TTP and other militant outfits seem to have reemerged and are posing a threat that needs to be neutralised.

Improving the economic conditions of the people of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan should be a high priority, failing to do so will multiply.

The recent happenings in the country and the challenging regional scenario herald the leaders an opening to chart a new future and serve the people with the required zeal and efficiency.

Working towards a better future

BY Aisha Khan:

AS we approach the 29th Conference of Parties to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, the most important discussions will pivot around enhancing the Nationally Determined Contributions and the New Collective Quantified Goal. Both will require high-level political commitment and adequate financial cash flows and investments in policy and action to keep the average rate and planet safe. COP29, labelled as the COP of action and ambition, will be judged by how it uses the COP presidency to align enhanced NDCs with the vision of the Global Stocktake (GST) at COP28.

The business-as-usual approach is not likely to achieve desired outcomes. The GST on energy at COP28 made clear the need for transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable

energy transition targets and strategies, underpinned by robust implementation and investment frameworks. Taking into account that 90 per cent of global emissions are derived from fossil fuels, the task will not be easy. It will be necessary to pair renewable and efficiency scale-up with fossil fuel phase-out, as despite an exponential rise in renewable energy, the use of fossil fuels has not declined to safe levels.

According to the COP29, governments are planning on producing around 110pc more fossil fuels in 2030 than fossil fuels in 2015, with limiting warming to 2°C.

The Global Stocktake on energy at COP28 made clear the need for transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The magnitude of the production gap is

also projected to grow over time: by 2050 planned fossil fuel production will be 350pc and 150pc above the levels consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C to 2°C respectively.

This poses a big responsibility on the COP Troika to lead by example on transparency, high integrity and double counting as per Article 4.13 of the Paris Agreement will be the benchmark for evaluating the real success of COP29. The best way to demonstrate integrity for the COP Troika countries would be to show how national planning, governance and regulatory frameworks are being developed to implement their NDCs.

As we continue to break records accelerating our clash with nature, the political paradox at play is becoming both dangerous and risible. High level of

Declaration) and alignment with the SDGs and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework goals integrated into NDC and tracked for implementation.

The comprehensive, accuracy, consistency and comparability in completing the checklist while avoiding double counting as per Article 4.13 of the Paris Agreement will be the benchmark for evaluating the real success of COP29. The best way to demonstrate integrity for the COP Troika countries would be to show how national planning, governance and regulatory frameworks are being developed to implement their NDCs.

As we continue to break records accelerating our clash with nature, the political paradox at play is becoming both dangerous and risible. High level of

hunger is projected to continue for another 136 years in many developing countries.

In Pakistan, food insecurity is projected to rise from 40pc to 60pc by 2050 with a 40pc stunting and 17.7pc rate of wasting.

Across the world, the demand for water is exceeding availability. Global water demand is projected to increase by 20-25pc by 2050 while the number of watersheds with predictable water supply will decrease by 19pc. Pakistan's per capita water availability has gone down from 5000m³ to 906m³ with groundwater reserves near depletion.

The rapid decline in mass balance of cryosphere will accelerate sea level rise jeopardising the lives and livelihoods of millions. As part of the Himalayas and the Hindu Kush mountain

range, Pakistan relies heavily on snow and glacial melt with a 1,050-kilometre long coastal and 150pc up gradient to both hydrometeorological disasters and acute water scarcity.

Gender disparity at the global level continues to deprive women of equal opportunity and access to resources. This year, Pakistan ranked 145 out of 146 countries in the Gender Parity Index, making the human capital disparity disturbingly stark.

The uptick in leading to supply chains leading to high inflation and mounting geopolitical tensions are adding to the brewing crisis, with no respite in sight.

In the backdrop of belt tightening and supply chains leading to high inflation and mounting geopolitical tensions are adding to the brewing crisis, with no respite in sight.

for the Future at the Summit of the Future outlined 56 actions to turbocharge the SDGs and speed up progress on peace, security, global governance, climate change, digital cooperation and sustainable development.

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Mohsin Naqvi's Turkiye visit to strengthen bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Turkiye's Minister of Defense, Yasar Guler, during his visit to Istanbul on Wednesday. The meeting, which took place amid the backdrop of the International Expo, underscored the commitment of both nations to strengthen their cooperative relationship across various sectors. During the meeting, Minister Guler expressed gratitude to Minister Naqvi for participating in the International Expo, highlighting the importance of such events in fostering international partnerships. In turn, Minister Naqvi extended a formal invitation to Minister Guler to attend the Ideas Expo in Pakistan, which aims to showcase innovation and development in the region. The discussions focused on a range of topics of mutual interest, with both ministers emphasizing the critical need to enhance trade and cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye. They acknowledged the positive momentum of bilateral relations and expressed a shared commitment to explore further avenues for collaboration, particularly in sectors that benefit both countries. A key topic of discussion was the potential for increasing meat exports from Pakistan to Turkiye. Naqvi also took the opportunity to commend the Turkish government for its exemplary organization of the International Expo, which serves as a platform for countries to showcase their achievements and innovations. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Turkish government and Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkiye, Dr. Yusuf Jind, further emphasizing the high-level nature of this diplomatic dialogue. As both nations continue to seek ways to enhance their ties, the interior minister's visit to Turkiye marks a crucial step toward fostering stronger economic and strategic partnerships in the future.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has urged the international community to help in securing the right of self-determination for the Kashmiri people through an UN-sponsored plebiscite, as proposed by the UN Security Council resolutions, and to end human rights violations in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, spoke of the dire situation occupied Palestine where he said the people remain deprived of their basic human rights, including the right to self-determination. The expansion of illegal settlements, the use of excessive force by the Israeli occupation forces, and the blockade of Gaza are serious violations that demand immediate attention from the international community. The Pakistan envoy told the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters. "The crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people in the ongoing escalation must end," he said in a debate on "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights". In Occupied Kashmir, Ambassador Jadoon said the use of excessive force, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and restrictions on freedom of expression have been documented in the reports of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and of over two dozen special mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. These violations, he said, intensified since India's unilateral and illegal measures of 5 August 2019 designed to impose its ominous final solution on Jammu and Kashmir. Noting that the international community often emphasizes political and political rights, Pakistani envoy said economic, social, and cultural rights remain under-prioritized. "This imbalance is not only unjust but also perpetuates inequality," he said, adding that the right to education, health, decent work, and an adequate standard of living are just as fundamental. Root causes of human rights violations must be addressed, such as poverty, hunger, and inequality. "The current unequal focus on civil and political rights exacerbates the challenges faced by developing countries in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving meaningful progress on human rights." Pakistan, he said, fully supports the vision of the "Pact of the Future", which the world leaders adopted last month, to renew multilateralism and reaffirm collective commitment to human rights, sustainable development, and global justice.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Transport Abdul Majeed Badini and People's Party Leader Mir Changaz Khan Jamali are meeting Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

Pakistan urges world to help secure right to self-determination for Kashmiris

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan has urged the international community to help in securing the right of self-determination for the Kashmiri people through an UN-sponsored plebiscite, as proposed by the UN Security Council resolutions, and to end human rights violations in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, spoke of the dire situation occupied Palestine where he said the people remain deprived of their basic human rights, including the right to self-determination. The expansion of illegal settlements, the use of excessive force by the Israeli occupation forces, and the blockade of Gaza are serious violations that demand immediate attention from the international community. The Pakistan envoy told the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters. "The crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people in the ongoing escalation must end," he said in a debate on "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights". In Occupied Kashmir, Ambassador Jadoon said the use of excessive force, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and restrictions on freedom of expression have been documented in the reports of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and of over two dozen special mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. These violations, he said, intensified since India's unilateral and illegal measures of 5 August 2019 designed to impose its ominous final solution on Jammu and Kashmir. Noting that the international community often emphasizes political and political rights, Pakistani envoy said economic, social, and cultural rights remain under-prioritized. "This imbalance is not only unjust but also perpetuates inequality," he said, adding that the right to education, health, decent work, and an adequate standard of living are just as fundamental. Root causes of human rights violations must be addressed, such as poverty, hunger, and inequality. "The current unequal focus on civil and political rights exacerbates the challenges faced by developing countries in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving meaningful progress on human rights." Pakistan, he said, fully supports the vision of the "Pact of the Future", which the world leaders adopted last month, to renew multilateralism and reaffirm collective commitment to human rights, sustainable development, and global justice.



ISLAMABAD: The 2nd IBCC Annual Conference, under the theme "Building a Brighter Future: The Role of Technology in Assessment," was attended by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui as the Chief Guest.

Authorities in IIOJK systematically using enforced disappearances as a tool to stifle Kashmiris' voice'

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding citizens' rights, Pakistan has told a UN panel that authorities in Indian Occupied Kashmir were systematically using enforced disappearances as "a tool of oppression" to stifle the voice of Kashmiri people. "While Pakistan remains vigilant in addressing cases of enforced disappearances domestically, we cannot overlook the alarming situation in conflict zones, especially in areas under foreign occupation," Pakistani delegate Sarifaz Gohar said during an interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances held in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues. "For decades," he said, "the Kashmiri people have endured an environment of fear and violence, where enforced disappearances have become a hallmark of the occupying forces' repression. Gohar, a first secretary to the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said enforced disappearances were not isolated incidents, but often led to further abuses, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and mass graves. Over 8,000 individuals have disappeared without a trace, he said, citing reputed human rights organizations. Since 5 August 2019 when India annexed Kashmir, an additional 15,000 young men have been subjected to enforced disappearances, exacerbating the climate of fear. "The existence of thousands of unmarked graves, which remain uninvestigated by the occupation authorities, highlight the prevailing culture of impunity," the Pakistani delegate added. He called for an international oversight — as recommended by the UN's rights office — to ensure justice for the families of the disappeared, including the thousands of "half-widows" who continue to suffer without knowledge of their loved ones' fate. On its part, Gohar said Pakistan is firmly committed to safeguarding the rights of its citizens and ensuring that no individual is subjected to arbitrary detention or enforced disappearance. The right to personal liberty, which is guaranteed under the country's Constitution, is a cornerstone of Pakistan's legal framework, and "we continue to take tangible steps to prevent and address any cases of enforced disappearances that may surface, or even fabricated claims."

Pakistan, he said, has established a National Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, which works closely with victims' families, providing them with assistance, free legal support, and ensuring access to justice. "Since its inception in 2011, the Commission has resolved more than 70% of the cases through its diligent efforts," the Pakistani delegate said, adding that the judiciary has been passing judgments in this regard. Pakistan values its cooperation with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and its engagement with the international community, and it has led to a high rate of response to the cases referred to the government, he said, pointing out that many of these cases involve voluntary disappearances, instances of preventive detention under the law, or even fabricated claims.

Pakistan records 164pc increase in Chinese FDI in Q1 FY 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (INP): In the first quarter of fiscal year 2024-25, Pakistan attracted \$404 million in foreign direct investment (FDI) from China, with a notable contribution of \$224.8 million in September alone. According to the latest statistics from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the country received a total of \$903.5 million in FDI from various countries between July and September 2024, with China leading the pack, accounting for 44.8% of the total. Additionally, Hong Kong contributed \$101.7 million to Pakistan's FDI during this period. Other significant investments came from the United Kingdom, which invested \$79.8 million; Switzerland, with \$32.9 million; Sweden, contributing \$30 million; and the United Arab Emirates, which added \$25.5 million. The remainder of the FDI came from various other countries.

Sector-wise, the power sector attracted the highest investment, totaling \$416.3 million, of which hydel power garnered \$334.4 million, coal received \$55.9 million, and thermal power attracted \$25.9 million. This robust inflow of FDI is a positive indicator for Pakistan's economic landscape, highlighting the country's growing appeal to international investors and the facilities it offers to the investors.

RG Kar Protest: Hunger-strike Withdrawn but Agitation to Continue, says WBJDF

KOLKATA (INP): West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WBJDF), spearheading the movement against the rape and murder of a fellow junior doctor of R.G Kar Medical College & Hospital on Monday night announced to withdraw the hunger strike. The WBJDF had started the hunger strike on October 5 evening. However, the WBJDF representatives made it clear that despite withdrawing from the hunger strike they will not be withdrawing from the path of agitation on this issue. "We have withdrawn the hunger strike following the request of the victim's parents and demonstration from acclaimed personalities from the civil society. We have also decided to withdraw from our scheduled programme of a total strike from Tuesday. But we are not withdrawing from the path of agitation. On October 26, we will be organising a mass convention at R.G Kar," Halder said. However, Halder expressed displeasure over the "body language" of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during the meeting of the representatives of the protesting junior doctors. "The body language of the Chief Minister is not positive. We were not even allowed to enter the meeting sporting our 'We want justice' badge. The principal of different medical colleges and hospitals there were not allowed to speak at the meeting," Halder said. Parichay Panda, one of the junior doctors participating in the hunger strike, said that the withdrawal of the hunger strike does not mean that they are compromising their demands. "Our voices for demand for justice will be stronger in the coming days. So the administration should be careful," Panda said.

WBJDF said that the decision to withdraw the hunger strike was taken following the request of the parents of the victim who arrived at the hunger-strike dais at Esplanade in central Kolkata on Monday evening. Debashish Halder, one of the leading faces of the junior doctors' association told media persons that despite withdrawing hunger strike they will not be withdrawing from the path of agitation on this issue. "We have withdrawn the hunger strike following the request of the victim's parents and demonstration from acclaimed personalities from the civil society. We have also decided to withdraw from our scheduled programme of a total strike from Tuesday. But we are not withdrawing from the path of agitation. On October 26, we will be organising a mass convention at R.G Kar," Halder said. However, Halder expressed displeasure over the "body language" of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during the meeting of the representatives of the protesting junior doctors. "The body language of the Chief Minister is not positive. We were not even allowed to enter the meeting sporting our 'We want justice' badge. The principal of different medical colleges and hospitals there were not allowed to speak at the meeting," Halder said. Parichay Panda, one of the junior doctors participating in the hunger strike, said that the withdrawal of the hunger strike does not mean that they are compromising their demands. "Our voices for demand for justice will be stronger in the coming days. So the administration should be careful," Panda said.

Plan to ensure seamless traffic flow during Pakistan-England Test cricket match

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Rawalpindi City Traffic Police (CTP) has devised a comprehensive plan to ensure seamless traffic flow during the Pakistan-England Test cricket match, scheduled to begin at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Chief Traffic Officer Beenhish Fatima outlined the strategy, which includes deploying 370 traffic police personnel, including eight DSPs, 40 inspectors, and 318 wardens. Major Road Closure: The road will be closed from Faizabad to Double Road during team arrivals and departures. Alternate Routes: Traffic will be diverted from Faizabad to Expressway and Saidpur Road. Stadium Road Closure: The road will remain closed from 9th Avenue Chowk to Double Road Turn during the match. Parking and Shuttle Service: Five designated parking areas will be available, with shuttle services to the stadium.

Table with 5 columns: Road Name, Direction, Start Time, End Time, Remarks. Lists various roads and traffic management details for the match.

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QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani is having a meeting with Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

SC presently requires lesser disputed chief justice: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said that they have brought the Chief Justice, which was necessary for the Supreme Court.

"The apex court was presently required a lesser disputed chief justice," PML-N leader observed.

A special parliamentary committee on Tuesday nominated Justice Yahya Afridi as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) after the Parliament passed the 26th Constitutional Amendment that altered mechanism of the appointment of the CJP.

Incumbent CJP Qazi Faez Isa is set to retire on October 25, 2024, and will be replaced by Justice Yahya Afridi, who is third in the seniority list. He said Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the senior-most judge in the top court after outgoing Chief Justice, has his judgments and the practice of the Supreme Court.

Ahsan Iqbal said, when a high court's chief justice being appointed from a panel of three judges, then what is wrong in implementing the same principle in appointment of the Supreme Court's chief justice.

"In appointment of chief justice of a high court, seniority-cum-fitness seen as fundamental, what is wrong in similar basis for the chief justice of the supreme court," he questioned.

He said there can be polarization in the politics because of the multi-party political system. "There should not be polarization in judiciary, because it is the institution of justice," Iqbal said.

He pointed out that the US Congress has also authority for approval of the appointments of judges.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal, inaugurates the First International Conference on 3D Printing and Vacuum Technology at National Center for Physics, Quaid-i-Azam University.

Pakistan's textiles, leather industries to emerge stronger, resilient: Commerce Minister

KARACHI (INP): Federal Minister for Commerce on Wednesday said that we are confident that Pakistan's textiles and leather industries will emerge stronger, resilient, and more competitive, through co-ordinated efforts between the public and private sectors.

He expressed these views while addressing as chief guest in the inaugural ceremony of the fifth edition of International Textiles and Leather Flagship Exhibition (TEXPO) of Pakistan being held from October 23 to 25 at the Expo Center Karachi.

On the occasion, the Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan along with Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Kareem Kundi, and Chairman Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Zubair Motiwala performed the digital inauguration of the Texpo 2024.

Jam Kamal Khan said this exhibition is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the existing relationships and forge new partnerships, ensuring mutual

growth and success for all stakeholders.

He said that we are working closely with the private sector to promote value addition and product diversification, particularly in non-cotton apparel, performance/active wear, technical textiles, sports and high fashion shoes, leather accessories, while promoting the concepts of circular economy and use of smart and sustainable materials.

He said that we are also focusing on enhancing our design capabilities (replacing the physical samples to 3D prototypes) and creating high-end products that command premium quality in international markets.

The Federal Commerce Minister said that Ministry of Commerce, through its Export Development Fund (EDF), is also financially supporting businesses in terms of trade promotion, marketing, image building, infrastructure development, skill development and improving ESG compliances.

He said that in this transformative journey, the Government of Pakistan stands as a

firm partner to the industry.

"We are focused on creating a conducive business environment that foster investment in new technologies and infrastructure, encourage product diversification, support sustainable manufacturing, and ensure that our exporters have support needed to access new markets and enhance economy of scales, he added.

He said that we are also scaling up the efforts in skills development, ensuring that our workforce is equipped with the expertise necessary to handle emerging technologies and future needs.

He expressed confidence that the future of Pakistan's textiles and leather sectors is bright.

Sustainability, innovation, and digitization are at the heart of this future, he said.

He said that with the adoption of eco-friendly technologies, embracing circular economy principles, and driving investments in latest technologies, Pakistan is positioning itself for sustainable and value-added textiles and leather production.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage will be marked on Oct 27

ISLAMABAD (INP): World Day for Audiovisual Heritage will be marked on October 27 across the globe including Pakistan to highlight the importance of preserving the moving images and sound recordings that have captured humanity's most significant moments.

Different cultural and archives departments will arrange programmes and events to highlight this year's theme, "Your Window to the World" which emphasizes how audiovisual materials like films, radio broadcasts and television have shaped cultural understanding and recorded history in ways no other medium can.

Since much of the history is documented in the world

through digital means, the event serves as a reminder of the fragile nature of audiovisual materials, which are prone to deterioration if not properly preserved.

From rare footage of global events to the voices of leaders, activists, and ordinary people, these archives form a bridge to the past, offering invaluable insights into the social, political, and cultural transformations of our time.

This year, cultural institutions, filmmakers, historians, and archivists from around the globe are set to hold special screenings, panel discussions, and workshops aimed at raising awareness about the importance of safeguarding these records. The main events will

take place at major heritage institutions, including the British Film Institute, UNESCO, and national archives, where experts will showcase newly restored works and discuss innovative techniques for audiovisual preservation.

The day will also see numerous public campaigns encouraging support for preservation efforts, reminding us that what we save today will continue to be a vital resource for generations to come.

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) is a commemoration of the adoption, in 1980 by the 21st General Conference, of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan along with Governor KPR Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah visiting the stalls of 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition Texpo 2024 at Expo Center Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony held in honour of Students on Palestine who recently arrived in Pakistan to complete their Medical Education.

Gwadar Municipal Committee formulates smart environment sanitation system

ISLAMABAD (INP): Under CPEC framework, Gwadar Smart Environment Sanitation System and Landfill Project costing \$14 million has been formulated in collaboration with Gwadar Municipal Committee (GMC).

Gwadar Smart Environment Sanitation System and Landfill Project will help lift, recycle and dump all kind of residential and commercial waste through state of art SOPs and modern machineries.

GMC official told Gwadar Pro that solely Gwadar city generates more than 20 tons of waste per day in 2024 compared to 5 tons per day in 2010 in the backdrop of steady uptick in commercial activities and increasing numbers of housing units.

"Currently, the majority of solid waste is dumped in the open and unsecured landfills or open grounds in Gwadar.

Although most of the components of solid waste are inert and useful for reuse and recycling, others may prove highly hazardous and are sold to the general public," he added.

The project aims to establish a smart sanitation and solid waste

management system to ensure sustainable development in Gwadar City.

The project includes mechanical cleaning and manual cleaning for which sprinkle trucks and sweeper trucks would be utilized.

The project also includes a container collection system, manual collection system, and transportation system. Sealed garbage containers would be placed in public and residential areas.

Door-to-door collection of solid waste management collection personnel would be arranged," he explained.

A major component of solid waste is the biodegradable waste that does not carry any price tag and is the worst of all sorts of waste as it decomposes soon after being dumped.

Insects and pests harbour organic waste, causing a foul smell due to aerobic decomposition. It also emits greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere and is fatal to the general public," he added.

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KP govt will soon advertise for recruitment of 17000 teachers

PESHAWAR (INP): Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Khan Tarakai has said that the provincial government would soon publish an advertisement for recruitment of 17000 teachers.

He was presiding over a teachers' recruitment policy review meeting here on Wednesday. Besides, Special Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Department Qaiser Alam, Director IT Salahuddin, Additional Director Dr Iqbal and other senior authorities of the department also attended the meeting.

The provincial minister said that due to the promotions and retirement, a large number of vacancies have been rendered vacant and now a recruitment

process for 17000 teachers would begin to fill those posts on emergency basis.

He said, the provision of teachers to schools is top priority and it would be provided to both boys and girls' schools. He said that keeping in view the shortage of teachers, the authorities of the department have been directed to furnish the details of all those teachers who either on long leave or had taken extra-ordinary leave for going abroad or on deputation in other departments and cancel their leaves and deputation with immediate effect. The provincial minister ruled out any compromise on education, saying the duty of the teachers is teaching to the boys and girls in any circumstances and they are not al-

lowed to do any other work.

Faisal Khan Tarakai further directed the authorities to take steps for all those teachers who are posted on the management cadre posts at secretariat, directorate levels or in any district offices to bring them back on their actual posts and furnishing of a report in this regard within a period of one week.

Regarding financial implications of the new recruitment, he said that all these 17000 teachers would be recruited on the already existing posts. So, it will not put any additional burden on the provincial kitty. However, he said that a no objection certificate (NOC) in this regard will be obtained from Finance Department with immediate effect.



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Turkiye Minister of National Defence Yasar GULER in Istanbul.

Govt taking all measures to facilitate Overseas Pakistan to invest for country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) was taking various measures to provide all possible facilities to Overseas Pakistan across the globe to invest for the prosperity and development of the country.

According to an official source, the government was committed to facilitate all business community of Pakistanis those are living abroad to invest in the homeland to boost the national economy.

The Government of Pakistan attaches high priority to the overseas Pakistanis and is keen to promote, nurture and sustain a mutually beneficial and symbiotic rela-

tionship between Pakistan and Overseas Pakistanis.

Overseas Pakistanis can contribute much more than making foreign exchange remittances. Their role in image building, transfer of technology, and investment growth is important and with sustained efforts Overseas Pakistanis can produce tangible results.

Today, in Pakistan, there are substantial investment opportunities with an active privatization initiative, large infrastructure-related investment projects (especially under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), growth in local consumption and a largely untapped export potential.

With a massive diaspora of highly qualified Pakistani executives and a large reserve of domestic talent, capital investing in Pakistan is entering a sustained and rewarding phase.

The growth and return potential in Pakistan has yet to be unlocked by domestic and international investors.

To facilitate Overseas Pakistanis for investment in Pakistan, an 'Investment & Facilitation Centre for Overseas Pakistanis' has been established at OPF, Head Office, Islamabad.

The IFC is mandated to respond to queries on all investment related opportunities, regulatory framework and incentives offered in Pakistan.