

QUETTA VOICE

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File photo of Bushra Bibi she has reached Peshawar where she will stay for some time.

Pakistan's tally reaches 40 on eve of Polio Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported yet another polio case, with the nation's tally surging to 40 this year, even as World Polio Day is observed today around the globe.

According to the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad, a case of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has been confirmed in a 30-month-old male child from tehsil Durra Adam Khel in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat district.

"This is the second polio case from Kohat district and the 40th case from Pakistan at large this year. So far, 20 cases have been reported from Balochistan, 12 from Sindh, six from KP and one each from Punjab and Islamabad. Genetic sequencing of the samples collected from the child is underway," a lab official said.

The official said that four environmental samples from Kohat had tested positive for WPV1 this year, while the first case from the area was reported in September, indicating that the virus is circulating in the district.

The surge in cases this year comes as a major blow to Pakistan's polio eradication efforts. In 2019, the country had reported 147 cases, which dropped to 85 in 2020 and just one in 2021.

However, the graph started to rise again with 3 cases being reported in 2022, six in 2023 and 40 so far in 2024.

The Pakistan Polio Programme is set to launch another nationwide vaccination campaign from October 28, which aims to vaccinate more than 45 million children under the age of five.

"It is critical for parents to open their doors to vaccinators during this drive and ensure that all children in their care receive two drops of the crucial oral polio vaccine to keep them protected," the official said.

According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), World Polio Day provides a chance to public and civil society partners for raising awareness and resources for the global effort to eradicate polio.

"An outbreak of variant poliovirus type 2 in Gaza has drawn the world's attention to the reality that as long as polio exists anywhere, all countries will remain at risk. But the outbreak in Gaza has also shown something else: the incredible global commitment to achieving a polio-free world."

Imran's wife Bushra Bibi freed after nearly 9 months following bail in new Toshakhana case

NEWS DESK: Bushra Bibi, the wife of incarcerated ex-premier Imran Khan, was released from Adiala Jail on Thursday a day after being granted bail in a recent Toshakhana case, ending nearly nine months of her detention.

The former first lady was taken into custody on January 31 after an Islamabad accountability court sentenced her and Imran to 14 years in jail in the Toshakhana reference. The conviction was the second in a series of three back-to-back ones against Imran, just days before the February 8 general elections.

Bushra had been kept at Adiala Jail, where the PTI founder also remains incarcerated since his arrest on August 5 last year in a separate Toshakhana case.

Imran and Bushra were apprehended in the case on July 13, following their acquittal in the Iddat case the same day. The next day, the already-imprisoned politician was "arrested" in connection with a dozen May 9 cases. The PTI had the release of its founder's wife - "Welcome back Bushra Bibi!"

ing an expensive Bvlgari jewellery set gifted by a foreign leader — including a necklace, earrings, bracelets, and rings — at a low price, saying it caused significant loss to the exchequer. A day ago, the IHC had approved Bushra's bail in the same case, following which a special court issued her release orders today. Earlier today, Special Judge (central) Shahrukh Arjumand issued Bushra's release orders, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, after her counsels Malik Tariq Mehmood Noon and Sohail Satti submitted surety bonds worth Rs1 million.

"The bail of the accused in the above-mentioned case has been approved by the high court," the release order said, adding that "if the accused is not wanted in any other case, then they should be released on confirmation". A statement from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government spokesperson Barrister Sarfaraz in the day said she safely reached Peshawar where she would stay for some time.

The PTI had the release of its founder's wife - "Welcome back Bushra Bibi!"

"You have faced extremely difficult times, disgusting campaign and character assassination attempts against your during your illegal time in jail. The Pakistan nation salutes your bravery!" the party said on X.

Speaking outside Adiala Jail, PTI Chairman Gohar Khan highlighted that the former first lady had "endured jail for nine months in extreme conditions with a lot of courage". He said that despite all the hardships, Bushra had stood by Imran's vision, adding that he was hopeful of Imran's release soon.

On rumours of a deal being settled between Imran and the powers that be, Gohar said that it was possible to get Bushra out of jail via a deal, she would not have stayed imprisoned until now.

"Khan sahab would not have been in jail for 16 months [either]," Gohar said. Responding to a question about how Bushra was finally released today instead of being re-arrested, as in previous cases, Gohar replied: "In what else case could they have arrested her in."

High-value target among 9 terrorists killed in Bajaur IBO: ISPR

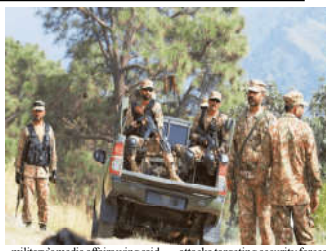
NEWS DESK: A high-value target was among nine militants killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday.

"On the night of Oct 23/24, the security forces conducted an IBO on the reported presence of khawarij where (own) troops effectively engaged the khawarij location," the ISPR said in a statement.

"After [an] intense fire exchange, nine khawarij including two suicide bombers and a high-value target kharij ring leader Said Muhammad alias Qureshi Ustad were sent to hell," it added.

This photo combo, released on Oct 24, 2024, shows weapons, ammunition and explosives recovered during an IBO in Bajaur, KP — via author.

The statement further said a "large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was recovered from killed khawarij who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as innocent civilians". A sanitisation operation was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists in the area, the



military's media affairs wing said. It added: "[T]he security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country."

In July, the government, through an official notification, designated the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as Fitratal Khawarij, while mandating all institutions to use the term kharij (outcast) when referring to the perpetrators of terrorist attacks on Pakistan. The country has lately witnessed a sharp uptick in the number of

attacks targeting security forces, and security checkpoints, particularly in Balochistan and KP. Attacks escalated after the TTP broke a fragile ceasefire agreement with the government in 2022 and vowed to target security forces. Earlier this month, two terrorists were killed during an IBO in KP's North Waziristan district. In a separate incident, six soldiers were martyred and 12 terrorists were killed during two encounters in North and South Waziristan.

Key Tribal Elder Nawabzada Mehboob Jogezeai Injured in Killa Saifullah Blast

Nafi Kakar:

KILLA SAIFULLAH: In a targeted attack, the vehicle of Nawabzada Mehboob Jogezeai, a prominent tribal elder, was hit by a motorcycle-borne explosive in the Killa Saifullah district of Balochistan.

The explosion resulted in injuries to Jogezeai, along with four others who were also traveling in the vehicle. Local authorities have launched an investigation into the incident, focusing on the

possible motives behind the attack. Security in the region has been tightened as law enforcement agencies search for those responsible. The condition of the injured is being monitored closely by medical personnel.

This attack has sent shockwaves through the local community, raising concerns about escalating violence in the region. Further updates are awaited as the situation develops.



Case Registered Against BNP Chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal and Others in Islamabad for Alleged Manhandling

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: A case has been registered against Balochistan National Party (BNP) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Akhtar Hussain Langove, Ahmed Nawaz, and other party members for allegedly manhandling staff members. The incident reportedly took place in Islamabad, according to police sources.

The case was filed by Senate officer Jameel Ahmed, who accused the BNP leaders of

misconduct with staff. The First Information Report (FIR) was lodged at the Thana Secretariat police station, based on the claims made by Ahmed.

The details of the incident are still emerging, with police conducting further investigations to gather evidence regarding the allegations. This development has sparked a debate within political circles, with many closely monitoring how the case unfolds.



Bilawal credits CJP Isa for passage of 26th amendment

NEWS DESK: Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari stated that the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment was only possible due to Chief Justice Qazi Faez

Isa, and it would not have been achievable under any other chief justice. In an interview with the BBC, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment was a significant accomplishment, one that could not have been possible in the presence of any other chief justice.

He added that only one person in Pakistan's history was willing to submit to the authority of Parliament and the Constitution, even at the cost of his own power. He was someone who could withstand the pressure from fellow judges who might have tried to provoke him, arguing that it was not his issue but rather a matter of judicial power.

He further said that the 26th Constitutional Amendment had been politicised, and there was an attempt to make the whole process controversial. A certain lobby had connected the military courts with the metaphor of a "black snake."

Bilawal claimed that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) wanted to amend Article 8 of the Constitution to allow military courts to try those who target military installations and ordinary citizens.

He mentioned that due to a Supreme Court decision, there were obstacles in trying the individuals involved in the May 9 incidents in military courts. Their proposal was to change the wording from "members of the armed forces" to just "armed forces." The government wanted this change to have retrospective effect, including military installations and posts under the jurisdiction of military courts. However, both Bilawal and Maulana Fazlur Rahman objected to including military posts. This single word was turned into a "black snake," around which an attempt was made to politicise the entire process. He also said that if the country is to move away from the path of political revenge, the first step must be taken by Imran Khan. Bilawal Bhutto further commented that the decision regarding Article 63-A had political motives behind it.

Polio Crisis in Balochistan: A Failure of Campaigns, Vaccine Refusals, and Poor Management

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Working towards a better future

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Bushra Bibi released on bail after 265 days in jail on bail Thursday

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OPINION VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Polio Crisis in Balochistan: A Failure of Campaigns, Vaccine Refusals, and Poor Management

Editorial:

The alarming surge in polio cases in Balochistan continues to expose the failures of the ongoing eradication campaigns. With three new cases, the provincial total has now reached 20, and the national tally stands at 37, underscoring the dire need for urgent action.

Despite millions poured into vaccination efforts, the virus remains a persistent threat, especially in remote and underserved areas. The failure to contain the virus highlights a deep-rooted issue: chronic vaccine refusals and ineffective management of the polio campaigns.

For years, health officials and organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have launched numerous drives, but their impact remains minimal.

One major hurdle is the lack of access to high-risk areas, where families refuse the vaccine due to misinformation, mistrust, or cultural resistance. Beyond logistical challenges, the absence of political and social ownership further weakens the campaign.

Without the backing of influential leaders, community buy-in is minimal, leaving the burden on health workers who often face resistance. The failure of local authorities to engage and mobilize communities is a critical factor contributing to the rising cases.

To truly overcome this crisis, a shift toward indigenous solutions is essential. The authorities must trust and empower local staff members who understand the cultural and social dynamics of their communities. Policies imposed from Islamabad often fail to address the specific challenges faced in Balochistan.

Instead, local leaders—political, religious, and social—should be brought on board to help reshape the strategy, build trust, and engage communities in the fight against polio.

By embracing an approach rooted in local ownership and tailored to the province's needs, Balochistan can make meaningful progress in eradicating the virus.

Without swift action, Balochistan's battle against polio will continue to stall, putting more young lives at risk. The virus is not just a health issue but a reflection of systemic failures that need to be addressed to protect future generations.

We are all the United Nations

By Mohamed Yahya

Nearly eight decades after its creation, the United Nations (UN) remains the only global forum where the entire world is represented to find common solutions for common goals. We will be celebrating United Nations Day at PNCA this Saturday, marking the 79th Anniversary of the creation of the UN.

"We the Peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," starts the Preamble of the UN Charter, explaining how nations resolved to combine their efforts in support of human rights, equality, and social progress.

While today the UN Charter is more relevant and needed than ever, the global multilateral system needs to reflect the realities of current times. Just last month, the UN Secretary-General organised the Summit of the Future driven by the notion that 21st century challenges require 21st century solutions.

The summit adopted the Pact for the Future, which signifies our collective recommitment to the SDGs and seeks to redefine our efforts in the amazing blue planet, putting Pakistan at the forefront of tackling the digital, economic, youth and future generations, and transfor-

ing global governance. The Summit of the Future showed that with a spirit of dialogue and compromise, we can join forces to steer our world to a more sustainable path.

We are all too aware that we stand and fall not by adopting agreements, but by our actions and their impact on the lives of the people we serve, leaving no one behind. And this is why the 24 UN Entities in Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with the Government and the people of Pakistan to accelerate our collaboration in areas such as food systems, energy transition, digital transformation, climate change and the environment – safety, peace, education and health sectors. As I travelled through beautiful Pakistan, from the mountains of Northern areas to the vast plains in the South, I witnessed first-hand how communities face increasingly complex challenges. They are confronted with immense dilemmas brought about by the high cost-of-living and by the diverse manifestations of climate change. The latter has unleashed stifling heatwaves, glacial melt and devastating flooding putting Pakistan at the forefront of tackling the impacts of climate change.

But my travels have not been about despair, they have been about hope. I have been inspired by the women and men who work every day to improve their living conditions. These everyday heroes immunise small children against deadly diseases such as polio in the remotest corners of the country. They help enrol more girls and boys in schools. They help improve labourers' working conditions, push for decent work and livelihoods, promote gender equality and opportunities for women. They help rebuild villages in areas affected by floods. They are on mitigating the effects of climate change. All of us, no matter where we live and who we are, share the same aspirations – safety, peace, and prosperity, on a healthy planet. This is why we must redouble our efforts to make sure every Pakistani is given the opportunity to realise their full potential.

Today is also the day to celebrate the many Pakistanis who have been instrumental in contributing to the norms and values of the UN – from Begum Shaista Ikramullah and Ahmad Shah Bakhshi, UN delegates who supported the drafting of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the creation of the UN agency for children, UNICEF, to Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq who created the Human Development Index.

By Talat Masood:

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 and well known; it is the implementation that is demanding in which the governments are generally failing.

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

Although in all probability, these very leaders would have been elected by strictly adhering to the dictates of the constitution. There is nothing against family members being in major positions in the party hierarchy or government, provided they have been genuinely elected through elections and not merely placed or given preference over others. In mature democracies like the UK, the US, Canada and India, there are sev-

eral examples of families pursuing politics as their career.

The Kennedys in the US, Trudeau in Canada and Nehrus in India. Similar to the Bhutto and Sharif families in Pakistan.

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

The economies of the leading democracies or socialist systems have matured and are generally strong and stable, with high among nations.

This may sound obvious, but are our leaders pursuing the path of keeping these aspects in mind? Are they conscious of what a dependent economy implies? And Iqbal, the corrective measures being taken and are effective?

Moreover, it is critical for a nation to throw up leadership that is farsighted and pragmatic. Above all, it should be honest for it is a functional requirement. A combination of these qualities is needed for national development to guide the institutions and keep a check over them. The responsibility lies on the electorates to elect aspirants to parliament who possess the

right values. During periods 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 methodologies and 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 the larger interest of not only being the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan but of a Muslim woman as a prominent figure of her time. Pakistan has had a successful female foreign minister in Hina Rabbani Khatun and a Human Rights activist Asma Jahangir.

There are several women serving as ambassadors, judges, lawyers, human rights activists, professors, artists, and in other fields. Over twenty per cent of Pakistani parliamentarians are women, mostly serving in seats reserved for them.

The safety of women in politics and public life needs to be improved. The assassination attempt on Nobel

Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai has made her leave the country. Whereas there are a limited number of women in urban areas that speak freely and pursue professional and public careers but it is not the same for the vast majority in the countryside. All these factors necessitate that efforts to achieve gender equality need to be prioritised.

The government did manage to get the controversial bill on regulating the powers of the judiciary passed in both houses of the parliament. PTI, the largest party in the parliament, abstained, but a significant number of its parliamentarians voted as independents. There is a need to reflect whether such tactics serve the larger interest of the country. The type of arm-twisting and pressure that was brought on opposition parliamentarians and senators who were inclined to vote against the resolution is not only a matter of concern. Perhaps what is not being realised is that these types of policies by the government seriously stain the image of the country and the reputation of the party in power and the institutions that are supportive of it. Even more damaging is the impact that this has on the people.

The challenge remains to find solutions to the barriers between the political parties. The daily life of most Pakistani

and their deeper personal and political aspirations depend on good measures on how the parties conduct 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 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 TOP 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 Paktunkhwa and Balochistan should be a high priority, failing which the problems will multiply.

The recent happenings in the country and the challenges ahead scenario have given the leaders an opening to chart a new future and show the people the required zeal and efficiency.

Inconsistencies and disconnects

By Nadeem ul Haque | Shahid Kardar:

There are contradictions in the policies being pushed by the IMF in its latest programme.

While it plays a crucial role in liberalising the economies of the communist world, it now appears to support heavy-handed regulation and price controls for a developing country like Pakistan. Such inconsistencies raise questions about the adaptability and relevance of IMF programmes in different contexts. In our case, the domestic market continues to influence the pace, pattern and level of growth. Policies aimed at protecting an industrial structure that produces low productivity low value-added goods hinder the growth of one industry that is flourishing with varying degrees of inefficiencies. The result is that all such markets have grown together.

The IMF is a formal private sector whose habits and investments have not changed over time. Exporting a similar range of goods (with modest upturn in high-tech added goods) depends on subsidies and concessions. We believe Pakistan needs a comprehensive policy overhaul, moving away from excessive regulation and a tax-first approach towards a strategy that promotes market development, innovation, and export-led growth.

For this transformation to take place, greater engagement with local research and institutions is necessary. The findings of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) suggest that Pakistan's economy is being held back by structural factors, not simply low tax revenues or energy pricing issues. Decentralising market structure, reforming tax policy, and removing barriers to trade and investment are key to a vibrant, competitive economy. International partners, including the IMF, must

recognise these local realities and align their strategies accordingly.

The IMF's recommendations, when aligned with abstract economic models. Energy losses have increased significantly in line with the IMF's own proposal to increase prices to cover the cost of production. Not once has the IMF accepted that the need of the hour, as shown by local research, is to activate the market system, which has been on the anvil for almost 20 years.

The energy sector remains highly centralised; it is a one-buyer one-seller (government) model, with an outdated uniform pricing system that relies on cross-subsidies and protected markets. As a result, the IMF is not settling this issue of price controls in a meaningful way.

Perhaps the most central issue is the export and political loyalty power within the government and bureaucracy. A few civil servants wield disproportionate influence, undermining the growth of key sectors

like education, energy, and infrastructure. Energy losses can only be eliminated if the system is configured as independent units operating in a market. The IMF, however, has set up incongruous goals such as privatising huge energy monopolies without an adequate regulatory framework and capability and allowing market forces to operate.

In 2024, the government is still trying to control prices through the bureaucracy. The IMF is silent on this key issue. With the fall of the Soviet bloc, we thought this issue had been dealt with and that the world had learnt price controls don't work. Should the IMF not settle this issue of price controls in a meaningful way? As an earlier, the governance system itself incentivises rent-seeking and political loyalty over merit and efficiency. Public resources are misallocated, and government officials benefit from a system that rewards perks like

subsidised housing and overseas assignments instead of transparent cash salaries. PIDE suggests that IMF-style reforms — monetising these perks into one transparent salary structure — could potentially cost billions of dollars in investment by freeing up valuable real estate currently occupied by government officials. In Islamabad alone, this reform could attract an estimated \$50m in investment, with similar potential in other major cities.

The IMF and international partners have insisted on energy price hikes for over two decades, largely ignoring the fact that the problem is more about underlying issues of poor governance. As a result, Pakistan's management has not undertaken pricing. Despite repeated calls for reforms that would level the playing field and take the centralised bureaucracy out of the power sector, no significant change in management practices were implemented.

By Khuram Husain:

Maybe this is a good time to recall the Reko Diq judgment delivered by one of the most excellent and hailed chief justices of the Supreme Court. Or should we recall the Dam Fund incident, along with threats to charge with treason those who dared to criticise the effort?

Remember that fiasco, run by a chief justice who probably distinguished the lime light more than any of his predecessors? Or maybe an article detailing a blow-by-blow account of how yet another chief justice became obsessed with tearing down a residential building on Sharea Faisal in Karachi, leaving the families who lived in it homeless and fighting to this day for compensation? How many remember how the same CJ who promised us that he would build a mega dam with funds donated by

the public also became obsessed with shutting down the Punjab Kidney Liver Institute? How many of us know what it takes to bring in mega investments in a large project or erect a large hospital providing specialised care for free, or how intricate the financing actually works, or the process of compensating displaced affectees of government decisions is actually structured?

How many of us realise how long this list of failures and silliness of the post-lawyers' movement judges actually gets? I have lawyer friends who shrug this history off as if it is all par for the course, or nothing but a series of isolated moments during which some judges temporarily showed bad judgment. But I have a different reading. These are moments when the truth about the so-called 'independent judiciary' that emerged following the lawyers' movement was revealed. And what we saw was a judicial leadership more interested in interfering in executive decisions, second-guessing policy-making, disqualifying prime ministers on minute technicalities, arbitrarily setting the price of sugar and demanding that subsidies for natural gas be increased, running campaigns in favour of major dams even when there were strong apprehensions in at least two provinces about the negative effects of these structures, and so on in an endless train of ignorant decisions whose negative effects are still with us even if those who made these decisions have gone into comfortable retirement.

Consider the fallout from the Reko Diq judgment.

We got an independent judiciary after the lawyers' movement. But what exactly did the judges do with this expanded power?

Of course, we all remember the protracted arbitration that cost Pakistan tens of millions of dollars, the subsequent award of \$6 billion, the scramble to negotiate with Barrick Gold and re-enter into an investment and there, only this time the deal would be placed beyond the reach of the Supreme Court altogether.

The fallout of that judgment on Pakistan's investment environment was massive, but its impact was strongly felt only by those directly concerned with foreign investment and therefore passed below the radar of the conversation in the country, which has always been heavily skewed towards debating the minutiae of the

law, the gossip of the judges and breathless live coverage of court proceedings.

The economy was already hamstringed by earlier court decisions. Pakistan's own lawyers' movement. One was the Steel Mills judgment, which halted the privatisation process. Second was the court's scrapping a long-term LNG deal on allegations of corruption levelled at a newspaper. The latter decision left Pakistan's energy sector gasping for fuel as vital stocks of indigenous natural gas had begun to decline precipitously in those years.

Those with a memory will recall the gas shortages from 2010 to 2015. Now understand this. In all these cases, the court alleged corruption. In none of these cases was the court actually able to find any evidence of corruption. All the cases had a long-

term fallout whose costs could easily be tallied in trillions of rupees. Yet there was no learning curve. As late as 2019,

the court was still interfering in the new LNG deal that the country managed to get after the fiasco in which the first one ended.

Pakistan got an independent judiciary after the lawyers' movement. But what exactly did the judges do with this expanded power they now possessed? Did the common citizen's experience of the judiciary improve as a result? Did backlogs clogging the courts come down? Did the time it takes to decide a case reduce? Did the number of cases that go into appeal come down? Is there any indicator which shows that the core business of the judiciary — the dispensation of justice as per the law — actually improved with the

arrival of the independent judiciary?

Sadly, the answer is no. The independent judiciary of the post-lawyers' movement days probably did more to hamstring Pakistan's response to critical challenges, like arranging alternatives to dwindling stocks of indigenous natural gas or reforming or privatising state-owned enterprises, than any other force in the same time. All the time they mounted no significant effort to reform their own affairs to improve the experience of justice-seekers.

Today, many are expressing sorrow at the fact that the independence of this judiciary has been curbed. But in what way? They expect would happen, after a decade and a half of rulings driven less by the law and more by spite, ignorance and ego?

Nominated CJP Justice Yahya Afridi outlines policy for categorizing cases challenging laws

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court has referred a case regarding the right of pre-emption (Haq-e-Shufa'a) to a constitutional bench. A three-member bench, headed by the forthcoming Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP)-designate Yahya Afridi, heard the case on Thursday. Lawyer Salman Aslam Butt appeared on behalf of his client and presented argu-

ments regarding the right of pre-emption. During the hearing, Justice Shahid Waheed emphasized that the interpretation of constitutional provisions would be necessary for this case, so it should be transferred to the constitutional bench of the SC. In response, Chief Justice-designate Justice Yahya Afridi endorsed the colleague judge's opinion and stated that the appropriate bench as needed. It is noteworthy regarding constitutional benches. CJP-designate Justice Yahya Afridi also directed the Registrar's Office that cases involving challenges to laws should be categorised separately. Justice Yahya Afridi further added that cases requiring constitutional interpretation would be trans-



PESHAWAR: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti addressing the participants of the inauguration ceremony of transition of agricultural tube wells to solar energy



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairing a meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee for Planning and Execution of Foreign-Funded Development Projects.

Flights suspended in India, over a million flee as Cyclone Dana approaches

NEW DELHI (INP): At least 1.1 million people on India's eastern coast are fleeing to storm shelters inland, hours before a powerful cyclone is expected to hammer the low-lying region, ministers said on Thursday. Cyclone Dana is likely to hit the coasts of West Bengal and Odisha states — home to around 150m people — as a "severe cyclonic storm" late on Thursday, India's weather bureau said. It predicts winds will be gusting up to 120 kilometres per hour. Major airports will shut overnight, including key travel hub Kolkata, where heavy rain was already lashing the sprawling megacity. The eye of the storm is predicted to make landfall early on Friday, near the coal-exporting port of Dhanra, about 230km southwest of the megacity Kolkata. It is also expected to impact neighbouring low-lying Bangladesh, where the leader of the interim government Muhammad Yunus said that "extensive preparations" are being made. Crashing waves are expected to inundate swathes of coastal areas, with water predicted to surge up to two metres (6.5 feet) above usual tide levels. Odisha state health minister Mukesh Mahaling told AFP that "nearly a million people from the coastal areas are being evacuated to cyclone centres". In neighbouring West Bengal state, government minister Bankim Chandra Hazra said: "More than 100,000 people have so far been shifted to safer places". Businesses in Puri, a popular beach resort, have been ordered to

close, and tourists told to leave. "All efforts are being made to face the cyclone and save lives," said Puri district magistrate Siddharth Swain. Kolkata airport director Pravat Ranjan Beuria said flights will be suspended overnight Thursday due to "predicted heavy winds and heavy to very heavy rainfall". The airport in the city of Bhubaneswar will do the same, while scores of trains have been cancelled and ferries from Kolkata ordered to stay in port. Bangladesh disaster minister Faris Azam told AFP that authorities were on "high alert" but evacuation orders had not been issued as it was predicted the worst of the storm would hit India. "We are closely monitoring the cyclone's progress," he said. Cyclones — the equivalent of hurricanes in the North Atlantic or typhoons in the northwestern Pacific — are a regular and deadly menace in the northern Indian Ocean. Scientists have warned that storms are becoming more powerful as the world heats up due to climate change driven by burning fossil fuels. Warmer ocean surfaces release more water vapour, which provides additional energy for storms, strengthening winds. A warming atmosphere also allows them to hold more water, boosting heavy rainfall. However, better forecasting and more effective evacuation planning have dramatically reduced death tolls. In May, Cyclone Remal killed at least 48 people in India, and at least 17 people in Bangladesh, according to government figures.

Israel strikes Damascus, military site near Homs, Syrian defence says

BEIRUT (INP): Israel launched strikes on the Syrian capital Damascus and a military site near the western city of Homs on Thursday, the Syrian defence ministry said, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken toured the region pushing for a halt to fighting. The Israeli strikes targeted the central Damascus neighbourhood of Kafir Sousa and a military site, killing one soldier and injuring seven other people, the ministry said in a statement. The ministry said the strikes caused "material damage", but did not elaborate. Earlier in the day, Syrian state media said explosions were heard in Damascus after Israel struck a residential building in Kafir Sousa. Israel typically does not comment on specific reports of strikes in Syria. Lebanon's health ministry said one person was killed and five others, including a child, were wounded. The Israeli military named on Wednesday six Palestinian Al Jazeera reporters in Gaza who it said were also members of Hamas or Islamic Jihad militant groups, an allegation the Qatari network rejected as an attempt to silence journalists. The Committee to Protect Journalists' Middle East programme said on X that the allegations amounted to smearing Palestinian journalists "with unsubstantiated 'terrorist' labels". Hezbollah said in a statement late on Wednesday that it had escalated its attacks on Israel, using "precision missiles" for the first time and launched new types of drones on Israeli targets, without offering further details. The Israeli military

said four projectiles were identified as having been fired from Lebanon, two were intercepted and two fell to the ground. Three Lebanese soldiers were killed, including an officer, in an Israeli strike during the evacuation of wounded people on the outskirts of the village of Yater in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese army said in a statement on Thursday. The intensifying exchanges of fire come as Washington makes a final major push for peace between Israel and Iran-backed groups Hezbollah and Hamas before the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential election that could alter U.S. policy. Blinken, who has travelled to the Middle East regularly during the war, is making his first trip since Israel killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, its most wanted enemy, whose death Washington hopes can provide an impetus for peace.

Scientists solve mystery of Antarctica's 'bleeding waterfalls'

PARIS (INP): geologist Thomas Griffith Taylor in 1911. But what's behind the shocking red colour? sent thick columns of flames shooting up into the night sky after the "other" shortly after an Israeli military spokesman issued evacuation warnings for the nearby city of pro- trant broadcaster Al-Mayadeen, the station said. It said the office had been empty since the conflict began. Antarctica's Blood Falls is one of the strangest natural phenomena you're likely to see, and the mystery behind it has fascinated members of the scientific community for decades. For the uninitiated, Blood Falls is a bizarre geographical feature in the McMurdo Dry Valleys region of the continent. As the name suggests, a flow of water the colour of blood that can be seen seeping out from a glacier into the ocean. It's a striking feature against the white landscape, and it's been intriguing observers since its discovery by

into history 1.5 million years ago. Back then, the salt water was contained in a lake. A glacier then moved over the lake and contained it there for thousands of years, before it spurted from underneath the ice at Blood Falls. Pettit said: "While it counterintuitively releases heat as it freezes, and that heat warms the surrounding colder ice. "This source of heat within Taylor Glacier combines with the lower freezing temperature of salty water (brine) to make brine movement in the extremely cold ice possible. "Taylor Glacier is now the coldest known glacier to have persistently flowing water."

China, Pakistan sign MoU to leverage space technology for sustainable goals

BEIJING (INP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS), China and Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) to collaborate on utilizing space and big data technologies. It aims at promoting natural resource management and the assessment of regional sustainable development goals (SDGs). China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. It is learned that the collaboration is set to advance China-Pakistan joint research initiatives and leverage data from the Sustainable Development Science Satellite 1 (SDGSAT-1), which supports the attainment of the SDGs and fosters a data-driven approach to sustainable development. According to sources, this partnership aims to enhance SDG research, collect, exchange, and joint research efforts. Professor Guo

BEFORE THE JUDGE BENKING COURT QUETTA OFFICE AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBOL QUETTA SUIT NO.30/2024 PLAINTIFF Askari Bank Limited M.A Jinnah Road Branch Quetta. VERSUS Said Muhammad Vs Khair Muhammad, Designation: Store Lance Naik. Parent Unit: C.M.H. Quetta Cantt, Pakistan Army. P.A.No. 7379414. 1. House No. 51/3 Kiran Lane Sarwar Road Quetta Cantt. 2. Sultan koat Mehna Samand Khan Sharqi P.O.Box Rakni, Tehsil and District Barkhan. Cell:0317-1545950, 0336-1727828, 0336-0074182. DEFENDANT CNIC: 56101-8382679-7. SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF RS: 314,660,97/- ALONG WITH COST OF FUNDS 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE, 2001. NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908 Notice to: - The above noted defendant. WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 314,660,97/- balance of principal & interest/mark up rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you. In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 25-11-2024. GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 22nd day of October, 2024. (SAIFULLAH KHAN) Registrar Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BENKING COURT QUETTA OFFICE AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBOL QUETTA SUIT NO.29/2024 PLAINTIFF Askari Bank Limited M.A Jinnah Road Branch Quetta. VERSUS Shakeel Ahmad Vs Abdul Kareem Sheikh, 1. House No. 334, Near Muslim Public High School, Mehmodabad Lassi Road, Hub District Lasbela, Balochistan. 2. Office-Address, Adalat Road, Near Jam Mir Gulam Qadir road, Near Civil Hospital Hub Lasbela. Cell: 0336-8921874/0342-2656575. DEFENDANT CNIC: 51503-3982116-3. SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF RS: 330,512,40/- ALONG WITH COST OF FUNDS 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE, 2001. NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908 Notice to: - The above noted defendant. WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 330,512,40/- balance of principal & interest/mark up rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you. In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 25-11-2024. GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 22nd day of October, 2024. (SAIFULLAH KHAN) Registrar Banking Court Quetta

Justice Mansoor writes another letter to outgoing CJP Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, a senior member of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, has penned another letter while addressing outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Justice Mansoor emphasized upon self-accountability. "People are watching our actions, and history never forgives," said Justice Mansoor.

In his letter, he referenced Sir Thomas More, a renowned British lawyer, philosopher, author, and judge, to underline his message.

This communication was related to the tax case bench established by the Practice and Procedure Committee.

Justice Mansoor expressed his concerns regarding his participation on the special bench, reiterating his stance that "people are

watching our actions, and history never forgives."

He noted that he had previously declared he would refrain from joining special benches until a full court reviewed the amendment ordinance.

The most recent hearing of the tax review case occurred on October 4, with a three-member bench led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. An order had been issued

to include Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan in the proceedings. Justice Mansoor had previously omitted a dissenting opinion in the central tax case, which led to the decision to include him in the current review case.

Besides it, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah raised concerns about the amendment ordinance, having

criticized the Practice and Procedure Committee meeting without participating.

In his letter to the judges' committee, he criticized the rushed introduction of the ordinance, noting it was notified within hours of its enactment.

He also pointed out that the committee was restructured without clear justification, and the removal of the second senior-most judge, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, from the committee went unexplained.

It may be mentioned here that Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa is retiring on Oct 25 (tomorrow). Justice Yahya Afridi has been nominated as the next chief justice. Justice Mansoor who is the most senior judge after Qazi Faez Isa is in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Naeem Tarar held a meeting with Lawyers From Various Bar Associations.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan mull ways to cement bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister and Head of Anti-Narcotics Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with Azerbaijan's Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Ismat Rashid Aliyev in Türkiye on Thursday.

The high-level meeting took place during the Istanbul International Expo, where the two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the long-standing fraternal ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

During the meeting, both ministers engaged in comprehensive discussions on multifaceted bilateral relations, with a focus on matters of mutual interest.

The dialogue covered a wide range of topics, including security, economic collaboration, and cultural exchanges.

The leaders highlighted the deep-rooted historical and cultural connections that bind Pakistan and Azerbaijan, emphasizing the need to build upon the existing partnership.

One of the key points of discussion was the Pakistan Navy's recent successful operation in the Northern Arabian Sea, which resulted in the seizure of over 2,400 kilograms of narcotics worth an estimated \$145 million. Minister Aliyev praised the Pakistan Navy's swift action and commended the effective leadership of Minister Naqvi in guiding the nation's anti-narcotics efforts. He acknowledged Pakistan's critical role in combating drug trafficking in the region and highlighted how such operations are crucial for regional stability.

In response, Minister Naqvi expressed his gratitude for Azerbaijan's support and reiterating Pakistan's commitment to enhancing its anti-narcotics efforts. He emphasized the importance of joint collaboration in tackling cross-border crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism. "We salute the dedication of our security forces, and together with Azerbaijan, we can further solidify our resolve to eliminate these threats," Naqvi said.

The Azerbaijani Minister of State also took the opportunity to visit the Pakistani pavilion at the Istanbul International Expo, where he expressed a keen interest in the products and technologies on display.

He was particularly impressed by the advanced machinery and modern equipment showcased by Pakistan Ordinance Factories.

Aliyev lauded Pakistan's technological advancements and manufacturing capabilities, noting that such innovations present ample opportunities for future collaboration between the two countries, particularly in defense and industrial sectors.

Both ministers agreed that there is significant potential for enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including border management, human trafficking prevention, and security coordination. They also highlighted the need for continuous efforts to further strengthen their countries' ties and explored ways to enhance trade, defense, and cultural ex-

changes. To further solidify the relationship between the two nations, Minister Naqvi extended an official invitation to Minister Aliyev for a visit to Pakistan. In turn, Minister Aliyev invited Naqvi to visit Baku, expressing a desire for continued collaboration on multiple fronts.

"Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy excellent fraternal relations based on mutual respect and shared values," Naqvi remarked during the meeting. He added, "There is a need to work towards further improving bilateral relations in all spheres, especially in areas like security, economy, and culture."

Minister Naqvi emphasized that Pakistan and Azerbaijan are brotherly Islamic nations connected by centuries-old historical ties and cultural similarities. He reiterated Pakistan's readiness to continue working closely with Azerbaijan to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, Dr. Yousaf Junaid, was also present during the meeting and underscored the importance of maintaining strong diplomatic ties with Azerbaijan. He expressed optimism about the potential for deeper cooperation between the two nations in the coming years.

The meeting concluded with both ministers reaffirming their commitment to enhancing Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations on a sustainable and long-term basis, with future meetings and exchanges expected to solidify these objectives further.

Checkpoints set up in Abbottabad to enhance safety of public transport

ABBOTTABAD (INP): The Traffic Police of Abbottabad Wednesday established checkpoints at various locations within the Mandia area to enhance safety of public transport. This initiative aims to monitor vehicles operating from Abbottabad to Mansehra, Balakot and surrounding areas. The inspection process includes a thorough physical check of vehicles, with particular attention given to CNG cylinders, pressure horns, fire extinguishers

and other safety equipment.

Under the direction of SSP Traffic Tarar Mahmood Khan, DSP Mandian Mahtab Nazir, along with Senior Motor Vehicle Examiner Anwar Khan and the traffic staff, have implemented these checkpoints in Mandia, Kala Pul, and other key areas.

During the operation, officials conducted comprehensive checks on public transport and local loading vehicles, ensuring compliance with safety regula-

tions. This initiative underscores the Traffic Police's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of commuters in the region.

This initiative aims to monitor vehicles operating from Abbottabad to Mansehra, Balakot and surrounding areas.

The inspection process includes a thorough physical check of vehicles, with particular attention given to CNG cylinders, pressure horns, fire extinguishers and other safety equipment.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khanjani Alam signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with private sector members to mitigate nitric acid mitigation pact for enhanced national climate action on at the MoU Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on reforms of Federal Board of Revenue.

Application filed to constitute a full court for hearing against 26th constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD (INP): A request was filed in the Supreme Court (SC) to constitute a full court for the hearing against the 26th constitutional amendment.

According to the details, senior politician Afarsiah Khattak has filed a petition in the Supreme Court on the issue of approval of the 26th constitutional amendment and pressure on parliamentarians, in which he requested to constitute a full court to hear the petition against the 26th constitutional amendment.

In the petition against the constitutional amendment, all political parties including the PML-N, People's Party were also made party.

The petitioner has adopted the position that whether the members of the assembly cast their votes voluntarily or under pressure, the Supreme Court should conduct an inquiry into the matter itself or the judicial commission should conduct an inquiry into the matter of pressure on the members.

As the 26th constitutional amendment has not been duly passed, the election disputes of the members of the assembly should be struck down as against the tribunal.

The petition said that the 26th Constitutional Amendment should be struck down as against the independence of the judiciary, the independence of the judiciary is the basic structure of the constitution, annual performance review of judges, changes in the procedure of appointment of the Chief Justice and constitution benches.

Constitution Benches cannot hear petitions against the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Meanwhile, the 26th constitutional amendment was also challenged in the Supreme Court Lahore Registry, the federal government was made a party in the petition, the petition was filed on behalf of Advocate Muhammad Shahid, the petitioner cited Sections 18, 17, 18, 14 of the Amendment Act 2024, 13, 10, 9, 8, 7 and

22 have been requested to be declared unconstitutional, the petition has taken the position that preventing the hearing is an obstacle before the Election Tribunal, the restriction of the decision is an obstacle to the independence of the court, Chief Election.

The extension of the commissioner until the new commissioner is appointed is undemocratic and against the constitution.

Earlier, the 26th constitutional amendment was challenged in the Supreme Court, in which it was requested to declare the constitutional amendment null and void.

And the Supreme Court was requested to declare the constitutional amendment null and void, is against the division of the procedure of appointing the Chief Justice was changed through the amendment, the constitutional amendment should be annulled as it is against the fundamental rights, the independence of the judiciary.

US lawmakers urge President Biden to pressure Pakistan into releasing Imran Khan

NEWS DESK: Around 60 Democratic lawmakers from the US House of Representatives have written to President Joe Biden urging him to pressure Pakistan into releasing Imran Khan, the jailed founding chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

"We write today to urge you to use the United States' substantial leverage with Pakistan's government to secure the release of political prisoners including former Prime Minister Khan and curtail widespread human rights abuses," the lawmakers wrote in a letter on Wednesday.

US Representative Greg Casar, who led the letter, said it marked the first such collective call from multiple members of the US Congress for the release of Khan, who otherwise has had tenuous relations with Washington as a long-standing critic of US foreign policy.

Imran has been in jail since August 2023 and has faced dozens of cases after he was removed from the prime minister's position in April 2022 through a parliament-

ary vote of no confidence. His party has said that the more than 700 cases are politically motivated.

He has been acquitted or granted bail in most of the cases filed against him. The pending cases against him mostly pertain to the May 9 violence. Khan has denied responsibility and has been acquitted or granted bail in many of those cases.

He also faced the 190 million pound AI Qadir varsity land corruption case. The case alleges that Imran and Bushra obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals for legalising Rs50 billion — at that time £190 million — that was identified and returned to the country by the UK during the PTI government in 2019.

Imran says cases against him, which disqualified him from contesting the February 2024 elections, are politically motivated. A UN human rights working group has also called for an independent international law. After being ousted Imran blamed the Pa-

kistani military for his removal, accusing it of taking direction from the US.

He singled out top US diplomat Donald Lu, for involvement in Washington's alleged engineering of his ouster from power through a vote of no-confidence.

The US and Pakistani military both had denied any involvement in Imran Khan's ouster calling his removal a democratic process. The political turmoil surrounding Imran escalated following his arrest on May 9, 2023, on corruption charges, which sparked widespread violent protests from his supporters and party leaders, including an assault on the army headquarters in Rawalpindi and the burning of a US corps commander's residence in Lahore.

Following the unrest, Imran, in a posted audio conversation that surfaced on social media, was said reaching out to US Congresswoman Maxine Waters Warren, imploring her to advocate against the reported human rights abuses in Pakistan.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with a team of FitchRatings.

APHC-AJK delegation meets MQM leaders, visits Palestine Foundation in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC-AJK) Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter met with key leaders of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) at Pakistan House in Karachi.

Led by APHC-AJK Convenor Ghulam Muhammad Saif, the delegation engaged in detailed discussions about the current situation in Kashmir with MQM leaders Anis Qaimkhani, Shamshad Siddiqui, Shabir Qaimkhani, Irshad Zafar and Adil Askari. The Hurriyat delegation included General Secretary Advocate Pervez Ahmed, Syed Ejaz Ahmed, Sheikh Abdul Majid and Abdul Hamid Lone.

The MQM leaders reaffirmed their full support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determina-

tion, assuring the Hurriyat delegation that they stand alongside Kashmiris in their just struggle for freedom.

Anis Qaimkhani emphasized that the Kashmir issue is not only a concern for Kashmiris but for all Pakistanis, stating that Pakistan will not rest until Kashmiris are granted internationally recognized self-determination. The MQM leadership also confirmed their participation in the Black Day rally on October 27.

In a separate engagement, Ghulam Muhammad Saif's delegation visited the office of the Palestine Foundation Pakistan in Karachi, where they were warmly received by the Foundation's President, Dr. Saiber Abu Marzian.

The meeting included notable figures from various sectors, such as former National Assembly member Muhammad Hussain Mehnati, Allama Muhammad Sadiq Jafari, and representatives from the Karachi Arts Council and other civil society groups.

During this meeting, speakers discussed the parallels between the struggles of Kashmir and Palestine, highlighting how both are oppressed under similar tyrannical strategies by Hindu and Zionist forces. They asserted that the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people will not be in vain and called upon the international community to fulfill its pledges to the Kashmiri people. The Palestine Foundation and religious leaders also pledged their active participation in the Black Day rally on October 27, which will take place at the Karachi Arts Council.