

# QUETTA VOICE

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BNP Awami Chief Asad Baloch addressing a protest demonstration outside the Balochistan Assembly: Photo Muhammad Ismail

## Coal Miner Killed in Landslide at Harnai Mine

Hanif Tareen:

**Harnai:** A tragic landslide claimed the life of a coal miner in Balochistan's Harnai district on Monday.

The victim, identified as 38-year-old Azizullah from Swat, was working deep inside the mine when rocks collapsed onto him.

Rescue teams managed to retrieve his body, which was later transferred to a nearby hospital.



Local authorities are investigating the incident and have reminded mine operators of the importance of safety measures to prevent similar accidents.

Harnai's coal mines, often prone to hazardous conditions, have seen recurrent incidents, raising safety concerns for the miners working in these high-risk environments.

## PTI decides to become part of Judicial Commission of Pakistan

**NEWS DESK:** The PTI has announced officially joining the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), it emerged on Monday, following a special meeting of the party's political committee last night.

The JCP is responsible for nominating judges for constitutional benches in the Supreme Court and high courts, as per the new Article 191A recently introduced in the 26th Constitutional Amendment. Clause 1 reads:

"There shall be constitutional benches of the Supreme Court, comprising such judges of the Supreme Court and for such term, as may be nominated and determined by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, from time to time, provided that the constitutional benches may comprise an equal number of judges from each province."

The party decided to nominate two members from both houses of parliament for the JCP and write a letter to National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, according to a statement by PTI made public early on Monday morning.

The statement noted that responsibilities of the 13-member commission have increased.

## Balochistan Border Residents Demand Free Trade with Iran, Afghanistan

Syed Ali Shah:

**QUETTA:** Residents from Balochistan's border districts held a major protest outside the Balochistan Assembly on Monday, urging the government to allow unrestricted trade with neighboring Iran and Afghanistan. Demonstrators highlighted the economic hardships caused by trade restrictions, chanting slogans in support of open border commerce.

Political leaders, including Balochistan National Party (BNP) Awami Chief Asad Baloch, Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam's (JUI) Zabih Reki, and Jamaat-e-Islami's

(JI) Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, joined the protest, expressing their support. Asad Baloch emphasized, "Free trade is crucial for the livelihoods of thousands in border regions, and we stand firmly with the people in this demand."

JUI's Zabih Reki added, "Border trade directly impacts families' incomes, and we'll continue backing the people's call for accessible trade routes."

Provincial ministers Mir Sadiq Umran, Mir Zakhoo Buledi, and Saleem Khan Khoso also joined the demonstration, offering as-

urances of support. Minister Umran stated, "We will champion this issue within the government, ensuring trade rights for our people." Buledi added, "We will make this a priority in upcoming sessions," while Saleem Khan Khoso pledged, "We stand united with our people for their rightful demands." The protest underscored the urgency felt by border residents and leaders alike, calling for immediate government action to open trade routes with Iran and Afghanistan.

## Inspiring Career Counseling Event Empowers Hazara Community Youth in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah:



**QUETTA:** The Hazara Students Federation (HSF) hosted an impactful career counseling event in Quetta's Hazara Town, attracting hundreds of eager young men and women aspiring to shape their futures.

With over 70 experts from diverse fields, the event marked a unique moment for the Shia Hazara community, long resilient in the face of challenges.

Qadir Nail, a former lawmaker from the Hazara Democratic Party (HDP), emphasized the importance of hope and resilience in his opening remarks: "Our youth must see beyond the struggles. Events like these show that their dreams

are within reach." His words set an inspiring tone for the gathering as students filled stalls representing fields from law to politics and medicine to engineering.

Organizers Dawood Hazara of the HDP and Manzoor Hussain Hazara underscored the value of career guidance in creating new opportunities. "This event is a stepping stone," Dawood stated. "We want to ensure that our community's youth know they have resources and mentors to guide them." For Kaneez Fatima, an expert in public health who engaged with numerous attendees, the importance of self-belief was paramount.

"Success is possible when you believe in your capacity to achieve it. The path may be hard, but with determination, you can transform any challenge into a stepping stone."

Nosheen Zaidi, an education expert, echoed this sentiment, urging young women to seize every opportunity: "Girls, you are the architects of your futures. Pursue your passions with courage and conviction." Stalls brimmed with activity as students inquired about career paths in their chosen fields. The event concluded on a hopeful note, promising more initiatives to uplift the Hazara community's youth.

## Fresh Congo Virus Case Reported in Quetta, Emergency Declared at Hospital

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

**QUETTA:** A new case of the Congo virus has been confirmed at the Fatima Jinnah Chest and TB Hospital in Quetta, adding to the ongoing health crisis in the region. The patient, a 25-year-old from Balochistan, tested positive for the virus and was immediately shifted to the hospital's isolation ward, according to hospital sources. This latest case brings the total number of Congo virus patients admitted to the hospital to 41, with the majority originating from Quetta. Tragically, nine of these patients have succumbed to the virus, heightening concerns

among health officials and prompting an emergency declaration at the facility to manage the influx of cases. The hospital staff has ramped up safety protocols and urged the public to take precautionary measures, especially in high-risk areas.

Health experts emphasize the need for immediate medical attention if symptoms arise, as the Congo virus remains highly contagious and often fatal. Local authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, striving to contain the virus's spread and safeguard public health.



## 'No action on reserved seats until Election Commission acts:' Ayaz Sadiq

**ISLAMABAD:** National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has stated that no action regarding reserved seats can be taken until the Election Commission issues a formal notification. Ayaz Sadiq stated that he will not comply with the Supreme Court's order regarding the reserved seats case. Speaking to a private TV channel, Sadiq expressed concerns about members who have recently joined the Sunni Ittehad Council, questioning how they can retroactively affiliate with another party.

He further highlighted that changes have been made to election laws, prompting him to ask whether the Parliament does not possess the same authority as the Supreme Court to amend the

so floor crossing was allowed," Sadiq noted.

He remarked that had the PTI candidates not joined the SIC, the outcome would have been entirely different. "Instead, the court gave them 15 days, rewriting the Constitution," he stated. Sadiq added that since the Constitution has been amended, the Supreme Court has diminished authority to make rulings on such matters. "If the court said that we cannot take a decision because it's backdated, we can respond that their decision was also backdated," he claimed.

When asked if he favors the ECP over the apex court, Sadiq affirmed that he prefers waiting for the ECP's directives on parliamentary issues, despite being informed of court decisions.



constitution. The issue arises amid ongoing discussions about party loyalty and the implications of recent shifts among members within the National Assembly.

"It is the Election Commission's job to notify members," he said. "If we start listening to courts, there are many decisions... We won't do it on the court's order; we will wait for the ECP to notify it," he added.

Sadiq clarified that he would acknowledge court orders but would not act on them without an ECP notification. In July, the Supreme Court declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) ineligible to receive reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in national and provincial assemblies, which bolstered the party's position in the legislature.

"The court told them (the PTI) that they could affiliate with a party after 15 days, so the PTI members went ahead and joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC)...

"Once we receive a notification from the ECP, we apply our minds and take a decision."

Sadiq expressed that the Supreme Court cannot challenge the recently passed 26th constitutional amendment, stating that doing so would contravene the Constitution.

Earlier in the week, a request was made to the Supreme Court to strike down the 26th Amendment, with petitioners seeking an inquiry by a judicial commission to determine if the two-thirds majority was achieved voluntarily or through unlawful inducement.

Sadiq condemned this move, reiterating that while the court interprets the Constitution, it cannot rewrite it.

"It is baked into the rules," he stated. "The court cannot challenge constitutional amendments, as that would violate the Constitution.

However, the calls to challenge the amendment are growing quieter." **NEWS DESK:**

## The Persistent Polio Challenge in Balochistan

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## Zahid Gul: The Visionary Behind Pakistan's Squash Revival

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## Sino-Pak agricultural cooperation attracts visitors at Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair

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THE PERSISTENT POLIO CHALLENGE

Editor: Asim Khan

The Persistent Polio Challenge in Balochistan

The recent report of the 15th polio case in Balochistan, involving a 30-month-old child from Pishin, is a stark reminder of the ongoing battle against this crippling virus. With the total number of polio cases in Pakistan reaching 22 this year, it is evident that our efforts are falling short.

Ayesha Raza Farooq, the Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication, rightly expressed deep concern over the rising number of cases. Her statement, "Each case is a heartbreaking reminder that we are failing our children," resonates with the harsh reality. Despite the simplicity of the solution—timely and repeated vaccination—the targets seem to be achieved only in media reports, not on the ground.

The traditional methods being applied are clearly insufficient. Vaccine hesitancy, population mobility, and insecurity are significant challenges that require innovative, out-of-the-box solutions. The Chief of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Balochistan, Inam ul Haq is undoubtedly a committed officer, but the sheer number of stakeholders involved often leads to fragmented efforts and diluted accountability.

It is time for a paradigm shift. We need to move beyond conventional strategies and adopt a more holistic approach. This includes leveraging technology for better tracking and engaging community leaders to build trust, and ensuring that vaccination campaigns are not just periodic events but a continuous, integrated effort.

The situation in Balochistan is dire, and it demands coordinated action from all sectors of society. The dream of a polio-free Pakistan can only be realized through collective responsibility and unwavering commitment. We owe it to our children to ensure that no more lives are marred by this preventable disease.

Back in the news

By Huma Yusuf:

YOU can check out any time you like, but you can never leave." These famous lyrics are going to haunt American officials after next month's US presidential elections as Washington again considers its Afghanistan problem. How it will broach this problem is unsurprisingly of interest to Pakistan's establishment. But rather than endure a case of déjà vu, could our leaders pitch a new approach?

Just under 24 million Afghans require humanitarian assistance, 48 per cent of them live below the poverty line, and Afghan women's rights are so decimated that women are now prohibited from even speaking in public. Over the past three years, these factors have not been sufficient to draw global attention to Afghanistan. The world remains focused on the conflict in the Middle East, Russia's posturing, and US-China rivalry. And yet, Afghanistan is creeping back into America's line of sight, and the recent arrest of an Afghan national in Oklahoma for allegedly planning Election Day attacks in the name of IS will put the issue into centre stage. The man was apprehended while trying to stockpile weapons after crawling through online IS propaganda. His detention is a reminder that the US is not secure against terrorism while militant safe havens persist. Even earlier, Afghanistan was back in US headlines, because it has become a useful

punching bag in the context of domestic politics. America's chaotic departure from Afghanistan—based on a deal with the Afghan Taliban officials brokered by the Trump administration, followed by an exit plan executed by the Biden administration—has featured repeatedly on the campaign trail, with Republicans and Democrats blaming each other for all that went wrong. Afghanistan is creeping back into America's line of sight. The Republican Party timed its publication last month of a report that sharply criticises the Biden administration for failing to plan for the return to power of the Taliban, and taking steps to safely evacuate Americans and their Afghan allies before the Taliban to defend the Republicans' record following last year's After Action Review, an internal US government probe into both sides' failings during the withdrawal, particularly the failure to anticipate and plan for worst-case scenarios. Having stirred the Afghan pot with domestic political points, the next US government will have to contend with what it has brewed.

Reprisitation of Afghanistan will also be driven by the fact that Russia is seeking to emerge as a regional leader on the topic. The Moscow Format meetings involving regional governments earlier this month focused on Afghanistan, and stressed how regional security hinges on the Taliban's ability to clamp down on militant groups operating from its soil. This is not a conversation Washington can easily ignore. In this context, Pakistan is preparing for a throwback to the days when Washington worried about global terrorism threats emanating from Afghanistan, and sought to tackle them by securing endorsement from the UN Security Council. Increased CT cooperation was the focus of bilateral meetings between the US and Pakistan in May, and the government's decision to reinvestigate its national CT strategy in June appeared strategically timed. No doubt, Pakistan faces a grave and material security threat from groups such as the TTP that carry out cross-border attacks from Afghanistan. The rapid rise in militant attacks is alarming August's death toll of 254 people killed in militant attacks—the highest over the past six years—was an unambiguous warning sign. Pakistan should absolutely do whatever it takes to eliminate this security threat, including cooperating with regional governments similarly affected, as well as global players with their own vested interests such as the US.

But what the state should not do is cynically use CT considerations as a blunt instrument against public dissent. Nor should it assume that rekindled US interest in regional security offers it carte blanche to clamp down in the name of national security.

Zahid Gul: The Visionary Behind Pakistan's Squash Revival

Sports Desk:

In Pakistan, Zahid Gul is a name synonymous with squash excellence. With an impressive career spanning from a junior champion to one of the nation's most influential coaches, Zahid has carved out a lasting legacy. Born on November 10, 1990, Zahid's journey began with an exceptional junior career and has since evolved into a transformative coaching role that continues to shape Pakistan's squash landscape.

**Pioneering Pakistan's Modern Coaching Legacy**  
Over the past decade, Zahid has become a cornerstone in Pakistan's squash landscape. Through his technical expertise and unwavering commitment to developing young talent, he has emerged as a mentor and coach. His holistic approach to coaching, which emphasizes technical skills alongside mental and physical development, has been widely praised. His tailored training programs are meticulously crafted, and many players credit him for their resilience and sustained growth in competition. Farhan Zaman, in particular, rose through the ranks due to Zahid's innovative training regimen.

**International Recognition**  
Zahid's expertise has not gone unnoticed internationally. His coaching career has taken him to India, the UK, and Sri Lanka, where he coached the national team for the 2016 Asian Championship. Farhan Zaman, who was ranked number 1 in Pakistan and

among the top 50 globally, Zahid's holistic approach to coaching, which emphasizes technical skills alongside mental and physical development, has been widely praised. His tailored training programs are meticulously crafted, and many players credit him for their resilience and sustained growth in competition. Farhan Zaman, in particular, rose through the ranks due to Zahid's innovative training regimen.

**A Historic Victory for Pakistan**  
In 2023, Zahid coached Muhammad Hamza Khan to victory in the World Junior Squash Championship, marking Pakistan's first title win in 37 years. Hamza's win over Egypt's Mohamed Zakaria in Melbourne re-established Pakistan's prominence in squash, a sport the nation once dominated. Zahid's influence was crucial in preparing Hamza for victory, bringing Pakistan back into the global spotlight.

**Shaping the Next Generation**  
Zahid's commitment to squash extends beyond the court. Since 2008, he has been involved in training programs at Quetta Club, Army Staff College, and the Pakistan Air Force

Squash Academy, where he has mentored numerous promising players. His leadership in organizing national and regional training camps aims to nurture future squash champions, building an ecosystem of excellence to ensure that Pakistan remains competitive on the global stage.

**A Lasting Legacy**  
Zahid Gul's career is a testament to his dedication to squash. From player to coach, his impact is undeniable. With a relentless pursuit of excellence and an eye for talent, Zahid has revived Pakistan's storied squash legacy, ensuring the country's presence in international squash for years to come. His story is one of passion, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to the sport.

Kashmir's no to BJP

By Malecha Lodhi:

THE resounding message from occupied Kashmir's recent legislative elections is rejection of an instrument of India's August 2019 action that robbed the state of even the nominal autonomy it previously had.

The verdict handed a decisive victory to the National Conference (NC) and was a setback for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aim of securing endorsement for his post-2019 policy.

On Aug 5, 2019, his government had abrogated Article 370 of the Indian constitution which gave the state special status. The state's bifurcation and absorption into the Indian union was in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and denounced across the occupied territory. This opened another bleak chapter in the disputed state's tortured history, which involved intensified repression, incarceration of Kashmiri leaders, grave violation of human rights and crackdown on the media.

Many in the Indian media read the outcome of the J&K election as a blow to the BJP and repudiation of its post-2019 actions. Harish Khare wrote in The Wire, "This is a strategic setback, whichever way

the Modi apologists may want to slice it." Another writer called it "an electoral and moral defeat" for the BJP government after August 2019, including gerrymandering, aimed at manipulating BJP ascendancy was foiled."

NC leader Farooq Abdullah said, "The results were a 'verdict' against Modi's government. They proved the steps taken on Aug 5 are not acceptable to the people. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) declared: "By the vote people have rejected the unilateral changes imposed in August 2019, which led to their systematic disenfranchisement."

Temporary residents were also given voting rights. These measures were roundly denounced in J&K in assembly compositions, then that the issues of statehood, abrogation of Article 370 and New Delhi's other measures that disenfranchised Kashmiris dominated the election campaign. The final blow came weeks before the next election when the BJP government substantially increased the

powers of the lieutenant-governor, nominated by New Delhi, to sharply limit the autonomy to reverse the post-2019 changes.

The much speculated 'wave' in favour of independent candidates — a record number contested the election — failed to materialise with only two seats won by them in the Kashmir Valley. The People's Democratic Party was decimated, winning only three seats with voters punishing it for its opportunistic alliance with the BJP in the past. The BJP failed to win a single seat after the 19 it contested in the Valley but secured 29. All from Jammu's Hindu-majority districts. This underlined a more pronounced Hindu-Muslim divide in the region.

The National Conference was able to tap into popular anger with New Delhi by its unambiguous stand on the hood and autonomy. In its election manifesto the party pledged to fight for the restoration of Article 370, repeal all post-2019 laws that eroded Kashmir's autonomy and work for India-Pakistan dialogue. Omar Abdullah, who will be the next chief minister, said after the election that his first order of business would be to drop the cabinet to adopt a resolution calling for restoration of statehood.

By Umair Javed:

In the national security perspective on Pakistan, the country is besieged by hostile forces seeking to undermine the security apparatus and/or alter its geographic integrity altogether.

On this list, the identity of external hostile forces remains largely unchanged since 1947, though the Americans tend to drop in and out depending on regional considerations.

The list of internal collaborators/ fifth columnists sees a bit more churn. At various times, it has featured communists, socialists, mainstream political parties questioning military rule, mainstream political parties demanding federalism, and of course, ethnonationalists striving for political and cultural autonomy.

While most others go in and out depending

on political circumstances, and the communists/ socialists remain a figment of the distant past, ethnonationalists occupy a great deal of head space in the national security policymakers and thinkers (the latter term used here very broadly).

A common narrative from their perspective is that ethnonationalist movements—principally the Pakhtun nationalists in KP and the Baloch nationalists in Balochistan (Bengalis in the past, and occasionally, Sindhis and Mohajirs in the present)—are present in any social and political movement, and the actions of the state, instead, one side was committed to rejecting the state from the outset. Hard-liners did not necessarily have the upper hand in movements from day one. Like most ideas that may be an occasional figment of truth in it. Hard-liners and maximalists are formed a central part of the party leadership.

But where the Nationalists let us know provincial functions. The government of the Muslim League at the hands of the Front coalition in the 1954 election was, in fact, a symptom of malignant territorialism and essentially a reflection of

repressed secessionism. Instead of accommodation through the democratic process, the security state doubled down on centralisation through the One Unit scheme, inequitable distribution of resources, and continued repression of provincial politics.

The final straw was a denial of the Awami League's popular mandate after the 1970 election.

In its current iteration, the Baloch insurgency appears to unfold broadly along the same pattern. Its origins lie in the heavy-handedness of a military regime against a popular politician, leading to the latter's killing. Barring occasional elections, elected central governments to forge a representative arrangement, the province's governance is outsourced to the security establishment.

regional dynamics created by the imperial excursion in Afghanistan, and the absence of any transparency or accountability of security policies helped provide conditions for ethnic mobilisation through the denial of an electoral mandate, harassment and coercion, and pitting provinces against provinces will likely achieve.

Adopting a national security perspective makes it clear to see the world in terms of threats and conspiracies. But there is a reason why most successful states, ie, those with stable, productive relations with their citizens, only draw on this perspective as one among several.

Most will prioritise development, enhancement of human capacity, and cultural fullness as valuable goals as well. Not the Pakistani state, though. Blinkers on it stumbles into one conflict with its own population after the other. And thus, wondering so many act hostile to it.

Restless natives

## Pakistan's agricultural enterprises held Special Promotion Conference in Yangling

BEIJING (INP): A promotional and matchmaking conference for Pakistan's agricultural enterprises took place in the Yangling Demonstration Zone.

The event served as a pilot for the 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Key officials from both Pakistan and the Yangling Agriculture Demonstration Zone, along with representatives from various enterprises, gathered to discuss development and explore collaborative opportunities.

"China and Pakistan have a long-standing partnership in the agricultural sector. The recent promotional event provided a robust platform for enterprises from both sides to en-

gage, fostering deeper understanding and collaboration.

"We hope both parties seize the opportunity to further expand cooperation in agriculture, food, and related fields, and work together to write a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China.

Pakistan sent a high-profile government delegation to the Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair, which included the establishment of a national pavilion showcasing the country's agricultural achievements.

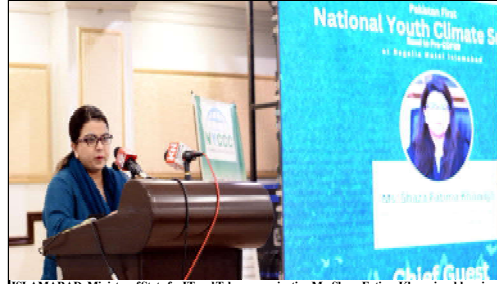
The pavilion featured 11 participating companies, highlighting Pakistan's agricultural products and services. During the event, officials from the Pakistani government presented insights into the

country's investment environment and agricultural incentives.

Representatives from companies including GIGI Industrial Company, Ubka Group, Sichuan Pujin Holding Group Co., Ltd., Shaanxi Zhaojin Xianheng Agriculture and Technology Co., Ltd., and Yangling Zhenghengfeng Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd. shared their proposals.

Collaborations with institutions such as Quaid-i-Azam University and Faisalabad Agricultural University have led to the creation of the Sino-Pakistan Bio-Health Agricultural Overseas Technology Demonstration Park. This effort sets a strong example for Chinese agricultural companies looking to expand internationally," remarked Du Jun, Deputy General Manager of Sichuan Pujin Holding Group Co., Ltd.

This effort sets a strong example for Chinese agricultural companies looking to expand internationally," remarked Du Jun, Deputy General Manager of Sichuan Pujin Holding Group Co., Ltd.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing 'First National Youth Climate Summit'.

## Netanyahu says strikes on Iran 'hit hard' as war on Gaza, Lebanon rages

JERUSALEM (INP): Israel's air strikes "hit hard" Iran's defenses and missile production, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, but Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the damage from Saturday's attack should not be exaggerated.

"With warfare raging in Gaza and Lebanon, direct confrontation between Israel and Iran risks spiraling into a regional conflagration. But a day after the air strikes, there was no sign they would spark another round of escalation.

However, heavy fighting in Lebanon between Israeli forces and Iran-backed Hezbollah, which sharply intensified over recent weeks, continued on Sunday with an Israeli airstrike killing eight people in a

residential block in Sidon, Lebanon.

"The air force attacked throughout Iran. We hit hard Iran's defence capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that are aimed at us," Netanyahu said in a speech, calling the attack "precise and powerful" and saying it met all its objectives.

The Islamic Republic has not signalled how it will respond to Saturday's long-anticipated strikes, which involved scores of fighter jets bombing targets near the capital Tehran and in the western provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan.

The heavily armed arch-enemies have engaged in a cycle of retaliatory moves against each other for months, with Saturday's strike coming after an Iranian missile barrage on Oct 1,

much of which Israel said was done by its air defenses.

Khamenei said Israel's calculations "should be disrupted". The attack on Iran, which killed four soldiers and caused some damage, "should neither be downplayed nor exaggerated," he said.

The Iranian parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said Iran was entitled to self-defence and its response "will be definite, in compliance with the requirements".

US President Joe Biden called for a halt to escalation that has raised fears of a wider Middle East war arising from the year-old Israeli-Hamas conflict in Gaza and Israel's thrust into south Lebanon to stop Hezbollah rocketing remains intact and that retains significant missile capabilities.

## Jl vows to challenge constitutional amendment, stand against rising electricity bills

LAHORE (INP): Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman, announced plans to challenge the 26th constitutional amendment in the country apex court, highlighting what he described as an attempt by the current rulers to undermine the judiciary and make justice less accessible for the common man.

Responding to the questions of media persons, he emphasized that the government is exerting pressure on the judiciary, which he claims threatens the integrity of the constitution and public institutions.

Rehman expressed strong opposition to rising electricity bills, declaring that a referendum would be conducted to support a boycott of these charges.

He stated, "If Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are not reined in, the nation will not pay the bills."

He hailed the recent success of Jamaat-e-Islami's "Haq Du" movement, which led to the cancellation of five IPP agreements and promised further action to dismantle corrupt contracts linked to prominent political families.

The Jamaat-e-Islami leader voiced concerns over the decline in education quality, criticizing the government's decision to hand over schools to NGOs.

He pledged that his party would resist these actions and work to expose what he described

as a corrupt ruling elite that has exploited national resources without paying taxes.

Rehman called for public unity against the current administration, warning that complacency would allow the rulers to continue their oppressive policies unchecked.

He concluded by asserting that the next phase of the "Haq Du" movement would mobilize citizens to reclaim their rights and hold their rulers accountable.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Ms. Valentina Matvienko at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Avazbek Atakhanov, presented his diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aitwan-e-Sadr.

## PCB names new white-ball coach after Gary Kirsten resigns

LAHORE (INP): After Gary Kirsten's resignation as Pakistan's white-ball head coach, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Monday appointed Jason Gillespie as the interim coach for the white-ball format during the upcoming tour of Australia.

The decision comes hours after the resignation of Gary Kirsten, which was accepted by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The PCB made the announcement of interim coach through a post on their official X account, previously known as Twitter.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board on Monday announced Jason Gillespie will coach the Pakistan men's cricket team on next month's white-ball tour of Australia after Gary Kirsten submitted his resignation, which was accepted," the cricket board posted Gillespie, who is serving as the head

coach of Pakistan's red-ball team, will now also oversee the white-ball squad as they prepare for the challenging series against Australia.

Sources prior to the matter disclosed that a rift has developed between Pakistan's newly-appointed coaches, Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie, and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The tension stems from the board's decision to strip the coaching duo of selection powers. The PCB announced the central contracts for the 2024-25 international season, along with the squads for the tours to Australia and Zimbabwe.

As many as 25 players have been added to the central contract list by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) while

Read More: PCB appoints Gary Kirsten, Gillespie as coaches for white, red-ball cricket

The coaching duo was appointed to revitalize Pakistan's cricket team, but the PCB's decision has limited their roles, say source.

It should be noted here that after Pakistan lost the first test against England, a new selection panel – a third in three months – was announced. Azeem, Azeem Dar, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq and Hassan Cheema were on it, while the coaches and captain were taken off.

An official statement from the PCB regarding Gary Kirsten's resignation is anticipated soon.

Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Haseeb, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saïm Ayub, Salman Ali Agha (vc) and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

T201 squad: Mohammad Rizwan (c/wk), Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Omar Bin Yousof, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha (vc), Shaheen Shaï Afridi, Sufyan Makhfi, Usman Khan.

## Key players rested as Australia unveil squad for Pakistan T20is

PERTH (INP): Cricket Australia (CA) has decided to rest key players for the upcoming T20I series against Pakistan as they unveiled a 13-member squad on Monday.

The chairman of selectors George Bailey has shared that the captain of the squad will be announced in due course.

"I think there's a number of players with the ability to captain and some that have had some captaincy experience as well," Bailey said.

"We'll work through

Mitchell Starc will miss the T20I series against Pakistan as they prepare for the first match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India in Perth.

The chairman of selectors George Bailey has shared that the captain of the squad will be announced in due course.

"I think there's a number of players with the ability to captain and some that have had some captaincy experience as well," Bailey said.

"We'll work through

that." "This group of players have all represented Australia in T20I cricket, so we look forward to them continuing to enhance their international experience throughout this series.

"We are excited by the mix of experience combined with those closer to the start of their international journeys.

"It is particularly encouraging to have Xavier, Spencer and Nathan back in the na-

tional setup. It's another opportunity for them to continue to show their ability on the international stage, as they have done in the past."

Australia squad for T20I series against Pakistan: S e a n Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Wade, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.



ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi presides over Full Court meeting at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

## Abdul Aleem Khan holds meeting with Saudi officials on investment agenda

LAHORE (INP): Federal Minister for Investment, Privatization, and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan engaged in a comprehensive discussion on ongoing and future Pak-Saudi investment collaborations.

The follow-up meeting included a detailed conversation with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Investments.

Both sides discussed the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and areas of mutual interest, agreeing to finalize actionable steps for investment initiatives.

Saudi authorities extended an invitation to Minister Abdul Aleem Khan to attend the Saudi Arabia Expo on November 25-26.

Saudi Arabia's commitment to strengthening economic ties with Pakistan, providing insights and furthering the commitment to drive investment returns between the two nations.

The federal ministers pledged all possible support to facilitate Saudi investments in Pakistan, emphasizing

ing that the investment agenda would be pursued with measurable outcomes.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Farooq, and senior officials including the Federal Secretary for Commerce and Secretary Privatization Commission, also participated in the virtual meeting, providing insights and furthering the commitment to drive investment returns between the two nations.

The federal ministers pledged all possible support to facilitate Saudi investments in Pakistan, emphasizing

## Gwadar North Free Zone set to construct donkey slaughterhouse

ISLAMABAD (INP): A top-notch modern slaughterhouse for donkey meat and hide was inaugurated in Gwadar North Free Zone by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh during unveiling of the Agriculture Industrial Park in Gwadar Free Zone.

The construction of the slaughterhouse, with a cost of \$50 million, followed an agreement signed between Pakistan and China on quarantine conditions for the export of donkey meat to China.

As per the agreement, Pakistan will export to China

216,000 donkeys' hides and meat annually, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

In July, during a briefing to the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, the Secretary of Commerce noted that there is no ban on exporting donkeys, and Pakistan has already initiated donkey farming.

The Ministry for Maritime Affairs official told Gwadar Pro that donkeys being reared at many farm houses in various parts of Punjab will be slaughtered at the Gwadar North Free Zone slaughter-

house. "Their meat and skin will be further processed keeping in view international standards and later be exported to China," he added.

As per the fresh data, the population of donkeys in Pakistan has jumped to 5.9 million during the fiscal year 2023-24.

The latest figures showed that the donkey population has been increasing steadily during the past few years as there were 5.5 million of them in 2019-2020, 5.6 million in 2020-21, 5.7 million in 2021-22, and 5.8 million in 2022-23.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Defence Minister, Russian Federation, Gen General Aleksandr V. Fomin, called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif at Ministry of Defence.

## Sino-Pak agricultural cooperation attracts visitors at Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair

ISLAMABAD (INP): Visitors at Pakistani Pavilion at Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair were highly impressed by the achievements of Sino-Pakistani agricultural cooperation.

On the occasion, this agricultural high-tech fair also hosted prospective B2B seminars and matchmaking sessions for scholars and businessmen, providing an excellent opportunity for our company to network and gather information. "China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

Nuran Niyazaliev, Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, in an interview noted, "The agricultural demonstration base established in Yangling is a Chinese initiative aimed at hosting annual international exchange activities that significantly strengthen friendships and cooperation among member states.

This year's fair provides a platform for promoting multilateral cooperation, training, and exchanges, enabling participants to learn from China's successful experiences."

As this year's guest country, Pakistan's pavilion has captivated countless consumers and visitors at the 31st China Yangling Agricultural Hi-tech Fair.

In the sales area, Aqi Muhammad enthusiastically markets his products in fluent Chinese.

"Red bracelets look especially good on Chinese people; they really enhance your skin tone.

"Let me help you try one on. No pressure to buy, just ask your husband how it looks," he offers to a customer.

"After just four hours since opening, I've already made many sales. Customers are currently in a waiting phase, but I expect a surge in orders over the final two days.

Last year, I also participated in the Agri-Fair, and Yangling was the best for selling bracelets," Aqi Muhammad

a businessman from Lahore, shared.

His products are manufactured entirely in Pakistan and shipped to China; he has been traveling between the two countries for over a decade.

Meanwhile, Hussain Syed Anif from Karachi also manages some simple Chinese phrases.

Although not particularly talkative, his copper handcrafts draw in curious customers. "Chinese buyers appreciate Pakistani crafts as a sign of good taste, and business is booming," he notes.

Like Aqi, his items are handcrafted in Pakistan, benefiting from the ease of export created by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and free trade agreements.

Aside from the products, the displays of agricultural achievements from both China and Pakistan have garnered significant attention, attracting officials from around the world eager to learn more about collaborative efforts.

Yao Hongjun, Director of the Shaanxi Provincial Foreign Affairs Office, and Khalil Hashm, the Pakistani Ambassador to China, paused at the Sichuan Puji Holdings Co., Ltd. (hereafter referred to as Puji Holdings) Agricultural's booth to learn more about project progress. Puji Holdings has launched a demonstration project for chili cultivation in Pakistan, recognized as one of the inaugural agricultural initiatives under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

"We have a 30,000-acre cultivation area in Pakistan, where we grow chilis using seeds and technology sourced from China, after harvesting the chili, we will process them minimally for sale back to China... Pakistan has great potential for agricultural development, with land prices and labor costs much lower than in China," explained Duan Hongjun, Deputy General Manager of Puji Holdings.

"We currently employ 120

Pakistani staff, over 80% of whom hold postgraduate degrees in agriculture-related fields." In addition to training local agricultural technicians, his company plans to introduce Chinese machinery this year to enhance efficiency and precision in harvesting and sorting.

To mitigate quality degradation during storage and transport, the team aims to establish a production chain in Pakistan next year for cleaning, drying, and grinding the peppers, fostering professional development in the country's chili industry.

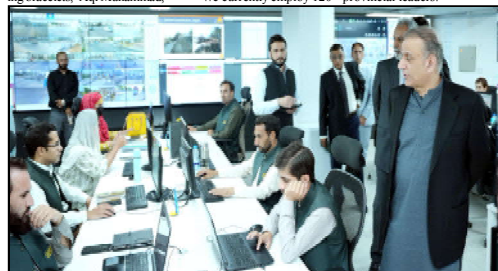
On the other side of the pavilion, another standout in China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation, Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Agricultural Development Co., Ltd., was explaining its project objectives and achievements to visitors.

For nearly two decades, the company has promoted hybrid rice in Pakistan, registering eight rice varieties and one canola variety.

"Since 2009, we have consistently invested in canola breeding research in Pakistan, collaborating with local agricultural firms to conduct trials and selection. After a decade of work, we developed a new generation of high-quality hybrid canola, HC-021C, which boasts an oil content of over 38%, a 10% improvement over local conventional varieties.

This variety not only produces superior oil but also yields canola meal rich in high-quality protein, making it suitable for animal feed and organic fertilizer.

Registered by the Pakistan Agricultural Commission and supported by Punjab's government subsidies, it has been promoted on over 400,000 ha by 2023. According to Chinese customs data, this variety is the 'single champion' in canola seed exports to Pakistan," said Chen Yaodong, supervisor of the company, as he presented to ambassadors and Chinese provincial leaders.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan inspected National Traffic Operation Centre at NHA Headquarters.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Polio Eradication.

## Fawad Chaudhry, urges Bushra Bibi, Aleema Khan to enter politics to save PTI

LAHORE (INP): Former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry urged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and his sister Aleema Khan to step into politics to 'save the party.'

He expressed this while talking to the media after appearing before the Anti-Terrorism Court in Lahore on Monday morning.

He expressed concern over the lack of strategy for the release of PTI's founding chairman, Imran Khan, who has been in jail for 450 days. Meanwhile, the PTI office bearers are busy sending notices to the party leaders.

"Our leader is the founder of PTI, and he is unaware of

what's happening outside," he said, questioning if tough times are over. He added, "Pakistan's jails are full of PTI members, but has any leader gone to visit Omar Cheema, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Mehmood Rashid, or Ijaz Chaudhry?"

Fawad criticised party leaders for not stepping out of KP House and questioned the absence of leadership amid difficult times. He specifically mentioned PTI's new General Secretary Salman Akram Raja's anti-worker approach. He claimed that "Salman Raja tweets that if the workers are not satisfied, it does not matter, but the leaders should not be arrested."

He revealed that he has faced 49 cases, with only one

acquittal so far, leaving 48 cases still ongoing. "Our daily routine now involves attending court hearings," he lamented. "Are we terrorists, and do Pakistanis vote for terrorists?" he asked.

The former minister accused the ruling party, Nawaz League, and the People's Party of suppressing the judiciary [through the 26th Amendment]. He said the ruling parties are making mistakes as if they strangle the judiciary, would not there be resistance in the future? he questioned.

Former Minister Fawad Chaudhry strongly condemned the seriously high inflation in the country and noted the back-breaking impact on salaried and working classes. He said the country does not run on lies.

## Imaan Mazari and husband arrested for assaulting traffic cop

ISLAMABAD (INP): Human rights activist Imaan Mazari, along with her husband Hadi Ali Chattha, has been arrested on charges of interfering with official duties and assaulting traffic wardens in Islamabad on Monday.

It reported in media that couple was detained by Islamabad's Aabpara Police after a confrontation at Zero Point three days back on October 25, where a police checkpoint had been set up for the England cricket team's security route.

A video surfaced showing Imaan Mazari's husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, allegedly assaulting a traffic police officer at the checkpoint and removing obstacles on the road.

Reports suggest that the incident began when Imaan Mazari attempted to remove police barricades, leading to an argument and intervention by

her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha then allegedly resorted to physically attacking the police officer.

As per the details of the incident, a heated altercation broke out between Imaan Mazari and the Islamabad Traffic Police due to road blockages in the city on Friday morning.

The incident occurred at Zero Point on Islamabad Express Highway, where Imaan Mazari and her accompanying lawyer removed barriers while the police continued to replace them.

As per the channel report, the confrontation escalated when the lawyer accompanying Imaan Mazari allegedly heated a traffic officer after she was arrested.

Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir is a well-known human rights lawyer in Pakistan and the daughter of Shireen Mazari, a former federal min-

ister backed by PTI.

She is of Baloch ethnicity and is recognised for her legal work related to the abductions and racial profiling of Baloch students in Islamabad.

Imaan graduated from the University of Edinburgh, where she began her legal journey while pursuing her studies. In December 2023, she married Abdul Hadi, a fellow human rights lawyer. She faced arrest on August 20, 2023, after a rally organised by the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) in Islamabad. Videos from the rally showed her criticising the military for alleged abductions.

While she was released on bail on August 28, she was re-arrested immediately outside Adiala Jail in a new case involving terrorism charges. However, on September 2, an Islamabad anti-terrorism court granted her post-arrest bail in that case.



ANKARA: Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Dr. Yousuf Raza Gillani speaking at an event commemorating Kashmir Black Day in Ankara.

## Moscow desires to enhance Pak-Russia bilateral ties: Valentina

ISLAMABAD (INP): Russia has stated it will enhance bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in diverse fields including trade, investment and diplomacy.

This was stated by visiting Speaker of the Federation Council of Russian Federal Assembly Valentina Matvienko during her meeting with Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani in Islamabad today.

The meeting discussed in detail, the issues related to promotion of diplomatic, economic, commercial and parliamentary relations between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion,

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said Valentina Matvienko's visit to Pakistan will give a new boost to ties between the two countries and will promote regional peace, development and prosperity.

He appreciated Russia's support to Pakistan for improvements in infrastructural development and oil and gas sectors of Pakistan.

The Chairman Senate said promotion of parliamentary relations is need of the hour and a Pak-Russia friendship group has already been formed in the Senate of Pakistan.

He underscored the need to find new opportunities to

promote investment in various sectors, including further increasing the current trade volume between the two countries.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said Pakistan is committed to promote communications for regional peace.

On the occasion, the Speaker of the Federation Council of Russian Federal Assembly said Russia highly values its relations with Pakistan.

She said promotion of parliamentary relations will not only augment trade and investment between the two countries, but also help bring the two peoples closer.