

QUETTA VOICE

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Protesters carrying placards inscribed with slogans demanding free trade with Iran: Photo Muhammad Ismail

Five Labourers Killed in Panjgur Attack on Paroum Dam Site

From Our Correspondent:

PANJGUR: In a tragic incident, five labourers were shot dead, and two others injured by unknown assailants on Tuesday while working on the Paroum dam project in Balochistan's Panjgur district.

Shahid Rind, spokesperson for the Balochistan government, confirmed that the attackers opened fire on the workers, causing immediate fatalities.

The injured workers and deceased were transported to the nearest hospital. Police have arrived on the scene, and an investigation is now underway.

CM Bugti Condemns The Attack

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti strongly condemned the attack and directed the police to arrest the culprits. In a statement, Mr. Bugti stated that the terrorists behind this attack would not be spared.

The attackers reportedly fled the area following the assault, and authorities are working to identify those responsible.

This incident has raised serious concerns regarding the safety of labourers in Balochistan, highlighting the ongoing security challenges in development areas.

Rauf Atta Elected Supreme Court Bar President Amid Vote-Rigging Allegations

From Our Correspondent:

LAHORE: Rauf Atta Advocate emerged victorious in the Supreme Court Bar Association elections held on Tuesday, representing the Asma Jehangir Panel. Competing against him, Munir Ahmed Khan Kakar, who ran under the Hamid Khan-backed Professional Panel, raised allegations of vote rigging during the counting process in Lahore.



The Election Commission, however, dismissed these claims, confirming Rauf Atta's win as legitimate. The election has drawn significant attention due to the contested result and accusations, marking a tense moment in bar association politics. Rauf Atta's victory signifies continued influence for the Asma Jehangir Panel within the legal community.

Balochistan Border Protest Renews Call for Free Trade Amid Poverty

Syed Ali Shah Analysis:

QUETTA: In a powerful show of solidarity, a large number of people from Balochistan's impoverished border districts gathered outside the Balochistan Assembly on Monday, calling on the government to open trade routes with Iran and Afghanistan.

Facing persistent economic hardships, protesters emphasized that unrestricted trade is essential for their survival, with many families relying solely on border commerce for income. Provincial ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Zahoor Buledi, and Saleem Khan Khoso also attended, pledging to champion the cause within government corridors.

Minister Umrani expressed his commitment, saying, "We will advocate tirelessly for the trade rights of our people," while Buledi assured that the issue would be prioritized in upcoming assembly sessions. Balochistan's border regions have long endured the highest rates of poverty, unemployment, and hunger in Pakistan, a situation exacerbated by limited economic

options and restrictive trade policies. Allowing free border trade with Iran and Afghanistan, protesters argued, is not merely a solution but a lifeline, and they urged the government to address these deep-rooted economic issues.

With Balochistan ranking highest in poverty across the nation, ignoring the demands of these border residents risks further entrenching these historical challenges. Protesters called for decisive government action, stressing that without open trade, their struggles will only deepen. For Balochistan, they argued, it is time to move beyond restrictive policies and enable sustainable economic growth for its most vulnerable communities.

2 policemen guarding polio team shot dead in KP's Orakzai

NEWS DESK: Two policemen guarding a polio vaccination team were shot dead by militants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Orakzai district on Tuesday, following which two attackers were also killed, police said. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where polio remains endemic, and vaccination teams are frequently targeted by militants waging a campaign against security forces. On Monday, Pakistan launched a week-long vaccination campaign with the aim of immunising more than 45 million children under the age of five.



Malik Sikandar, a senior police officer in Orakzai, told AFP: "Two militants attacked policemen guarding a polio vaccination team." Referring to the police response, his statement said: "The police officers fought bravely and sent three terrorists to hell." He reiterated the government's resolve to continue efforts for a complete eradication of polio from the country. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement: "The terrorists' attack on the polio team is an attack on the safe future of Pakistan." Polio teams targeted Pakistan has seen a surge in polio cases this year, recording 41 so far in 2024 compared with six in 2023. Polio vaccination teams, made up of health workers and police guards, have often come under

attack in the restive and mountainous regions bordering Afghanistan. Last month, dozens of policemen, who accompany medical teams during door-to-door campaigns, went on strike in the Bannu district after a string of militant attacks targeting them. Prior to the strike, a police officer and a polio worker had been shot dead in Bajaur district's Salazarai tehsil when unknown assailants attacked a polio vaccination team. Scores of polio vaccination workers and their escorts have been killed over the years. Since 2012, 126 persons have been killed and 201 injured in attacks targeting healthcare workers and officials of the polio programme, according to a Dawn report published last month.

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Meets COAS to Strengthen Defense Cooperation

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, met General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Tuesday, the military's media wing said.

The meeting addressed the regional security environment and matters of mutual interest, including the enhancement of bilateral defense and security cooperation, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) stated. COAS reiterated Pakistan's commitment to strengthening traditional defense ties with Russia, while both sides affirmed their dedication to bolstering collaboration in various security and defense domains. Colonel General Fomin commended the Pakistan Army's achievements in combating terrorism and highlighted the importance of a unified, cooperative approach among the global community to counter extremism.



Another Coal Miner Dies in Dukki Landslide Amid Growing Safety Concerns

Hussain Zarkoon:

DUKKI: Balochistan — A coal miner lost his life in a landslide accident in Dukki district on Tuesday.

This back-to-back tragedy highlights the ongoing hazards facing coal miners in Balochistan, where poor safety conditions continue to put lives at risk. The province's coal mining industry has repeatedly been called out for inadequate safety measures, and these incidents underscore the urgent need for improved protections for workers to prevent further loss of life.

Just a day after a similar incident claimed the life of another miner in Hamai district. The victim, identified as Momin Khan, was working deep inside the Dukki coal mine when the landslide struck, trapping him under the debris, according to news sources. Rescue teams responded swiftly, but Khan was already deceased by the time they reached him.



BNP Expels Senators Qasim Ronjho, Naseema Ehsan Shah for Policy Defiance

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move, the Balochistan National Party (BNP) has expelled Senators Qasim Ronjho and Naseema Ehsan Shah for defying party policies. Central Acting President Sajid Tareen Advocate announced the decision during a press conference at Islamabad Press Club on Tuesday, with Central Information Secretary Agha Hasan Baloch and CEC member Haji Hashim Notzai also present.

Tareen condemned their actions as a betrayal of both the BNP's ideological roots, tracing back to the legacy of Rahshun Sardar Attaulah Khan Mengal, and the trust of the Baloch people. "The party will file a reference with the Election Commission, as both senators prioritized personal interests over the BNP's principles," Tareen stated, stressing that from today, the two senators are no longer affiliated with BNP. He called on the Supreme Court to take notice of the incident, asserting that BNP and Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal remain resolute in their commitment to the people of Balochistan.

According to Tareen, the expulsion followed consultations with BNP leader Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal and other senior leaders. The senators were accused of voting in favor of a recent constitutional bill, aligning with the federal government against BNP's stance. Tareen condemned their actions as a betrayal of both the BNP's ideological roots, tracing back to the legacy of Rahshun Sardar Attaulah Khan Mengal, and the



Balochistan's Education Crisis – A Testament to Worst Governance

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Gwadar's New Airport: A Gateway to Regional Prosperity

Editorial:

The New Gwadar International Airport, nearing completion under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is poised to transform Gwadar into a regional and international trade hub. This strategic development promises to unlock unprecedented opportunities for economic growth, connectivity, and development.

One of the most significant aspects of the project is the airport's secure, uninterrupted power supply. Connected to three separate transmission lines through a 12 MW contract with Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), the airport is fully equipped to ensure smooth operations. Additionally, a 12 billion-rupee complex is being constructed to house essential facilities such as the Airport Security Force, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) staff accommodations, a community school, and a mosque.

The extension of the East Bay Expressway, connecting Gwadar Port to the new airport, will further streamline the transport of goods and passengers. The 10.5-kilometer road will enhance Gwadar's integration into regional and global trade networks, positioning the city as a vital player in international commerce.

The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) recently confirmed the successful testing of the airport, including a test flight of an AirKing B700. With staff receiving specialized training, the airport is preparing to manage operations independently, ensuring world-class standards in design, performance, and safety.

Under the Open Skies policy, the New Gwadar International Airport will be operated through a joint venture between Pakistan and China. This partnership further solidifies Gwadar's significance in the global trade landscape, as it opens its doors to international airlines, starting with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

Khalid Kakar, the airport's manager, highlighted that the new facility will revolutionize air travel in the region. While the old airport could only handle small aircraft, the new one will accommodate large domestic and international flights, making Gwadar more accessible for both citizens and investors.

More than just an infrastructure project, the New Gwadar International Airport is a key driver of Gwadar's economic future. By enhancing connectivity and boosting commercial activities, this modern facility is set to position Gwadar as a central player in global trade, ushering in a new era of prosperity for the region.

Why are we failing to eradicate polio?

By Dr Rana Jawad Asghar:

On the International Day for Polio, Pakistan got an unfortunate distinction. We identified another polio case, totaling 40 so far this year. Despite the successive governments declaring polio as a high-priority and a national emergency, we are completely failing in polio eradication, even though we were close a few times. Not only do we have 40 positive cases of polio, but we have more than seventy districts infested with the lethal virus. Each positive case of polio means 50 to 200 cases in the community who are infected and may be spreading the disease, but since they themselves may have mild or no symptoms, they escaped the polio surveillance system.

According to a news report, Pakistan spends more on polio eradication than the whole immunisation programme, which covers nine different diseases. Even though most of the funding for polio comes from international donors or through external loans, it is still a whopping Rs52 billion. Just the World Bank spent close to \$300 million in Pakistan from 2003-2017 on polio.

In 2022, the Gates Foundation pledged \$1.2 billion to support polio eradication. With all this attention and resources, we should have moved to one to moving to one trajectory, but that is not happening. So, who is responsible? Pakistan or international donors?

It's not new or unique that international donors always blame host governments when things go wrong. The same is the case today now, as international donors are blaming the Pakistani government for this colossal failure. Pakistani officials are privately blaming donor agencies as being deeply involved in not only strategic development but also in implementation and monitoring with opaque financial information. I agree completely that the government has a fair share of this failure, but it's not alone. The International Monitoring Board (IMB), which oversees polio eradication efforts around the world, in its 2019 report identified key reasons for failure in polio eradication. And one was the failure of the top brass to listen to their field force. With rigidity and some sort of hardness, the polio programme follows the guidelines and strategies developed overseas, which have limited input from the ground. When ground feedback is not taken into attention, the field workforce just follows the orders, even knowing it does not make sense.

The outcome: we miss nearly 4 million children. The bigger problem is that even with successive immunisation drives, the same children are missing again and again. To avoid this situation we need to have updated area maps and extensive planning before every drive. Vaccine hesitancy or refusal is blamed but the scale of this problem may be overly exaggerated. Enough of problems. What is the way out? The Government of Pakistan needs to nationalise the polio programme. This means the government should start paying for the polio programme directly. It should hire the best public health professionals from Pakistan to run its polio programme. The polio eradication strategy needs to be developed from the ground with a bottom-up approach. International health agencies and donor organisations should be partners in this effort, but Pakistan needs to take meaningful leadership of the programme.

International donors need to be reached out to renegotiate their resource allocations. The polio programme should not stay as a vertical programme but be a part of a strengthened routine immunisation programme. Once it becomes part of routine immunisation, there will be less hostility, as the focus would be on the overall health of a child and not on a single disease.

There is a need for transparency in how resources are allocated and spent in the programme by all partners. People responsible for the polio eradication programme at the global level want to keep the programme vertical as they fear that it will lose its focus and may lengthen the journey towards eradication.

Traditionally, Muhammad Wahid, 15, and Abdul Wahid, 13*, are two Afghan refugees working part-time in a packaging shop while being educated at a madrasa in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan. Both brothers have a strong desire to pursue higher education in the country where they were born.

According to the latest data from the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE), there are currently 26.2 million out-of-school children (OOSC) in Pakistan, with 13 million of them in Balochistan. The province has the highest percentage of OOSC in the country. At the same time, approximately one million children are enrolled in madrasas across Balochistan, both registered and unregistered. The PIE report states that there are 3,004 registered madrasas in the province with 0.3 million students enrolled. However, the Directorate of Religious Education has only 506 registered madrasas on record. Neither government departments nor organizations have exact data on the total number of madrasas or students.

During the BRICS summit, President Putin argued, "At present, the world is going through changes unseen in a hundred years." The international situation is intertwined with chaos but I firmly believe that the friendship between China and Russia will continue for generations, and great countries responsibility to their people will not change. "Calling President Xi his 'dear friend,' Putin asserted that the 'partnership with China is a force for stability in the world. We intend to further enhance coordination on all multilateral platforms in order to ensure global security and a just world order."

BRICS and SCO summits were used as an opportunity by Russia and China to deepen their partnership and reiterate their commitment to provide an alternate global leadership. How far the global summits were used as a viable bloc and how the beginning from the days of our struggle against Apartheid. The two countries which bore the brunt of Western sanctions are Iran and Russia and both are SCO members. The SCO summit in

Balochistan's Education Crisis – A Testament to Worst Governance

Syed Ali Shah:

Balochistan is facing an educational emergency of unprecedented proportions, as the latest report from the Education Department reveals the alarming closure of 542 more schools across the province. With 3,694 schools now inactive as of September 2, 2024, this situation reflects the utter failure of the provincial government to safeguard the future of its youth. Pishin district alone accounts for 254 school closures, while Dera Bugti, though better off, still grapples with 13 inactive institutions. This crisis has escalated to a point where the government cannot claim ignorance of the growing educational disaster. For years, Balochistan's education sector has been in decline, suffering from chronic underfunding, corruption, and mismanagement. But instead of addressing these long-standing issues, the government

A Legacy of Neglect
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Empty Promises and No Accountability
This is not the first time the provincial government has made promises to improve education in Balochistan, but the results speak for themselves. Time and again, we have heard commitments to reform the system, but the reality is that schools are closing at an alarming rate, and no substantial efforts have been made to rectify the situation. What has become of the funds allocated to education? Where are the resources for hiring the 16,000 teachers needed to reopen these schools? There is no transparency, and no one seems to be held accountable for this worsening crisis.

Afghan Refugee Children Strive for Education in Balochistan

Bismillah Jan:

Muhammad Wahid, 15, and Abdul Wahid, 13*, are two Afghan refugees working part-time in a packaging shop while being educated at a madrasa in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan. Both brothers have a strong desire to pursue higher education in the country where they were born.

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formation Technology (DIT) course for over a year. The Balochistan Education Sector Plan 2013-17 emphasized that religious education could coexist with formal education and urged the government to engage with madrasas willing to collaborate. "We are providing free education to about 15,000 school dropouts, refugees, and children from poor families," says Naqeeb Khilji, Provincial Coordinator of BESP. "ALP centers have been set up in 20 districts of Balochistan to address the gap of OOSC."

According to the UNHCR, there are 2.25 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan, excluding the unregistered, with 23 percent of them residing in Balochistan. Thousands of refugee children rely on madrasa education, as it provides free religious schooling, food, and shelter.

Over the last four decades, around 56,000 refugee children have benefited from UNHCR's free education programs in Pakistan, with nearly 80 percent of the approximately 500,000 school-aged refugee children lack access to primary education. A 2016 UNHCR report indi-

cated that 25 percent of refugee children attend public schools in Pakistan, 21 percent go to private schools, while 53 percent receive education in Afghan special schools and madrasas. Refugees continue to face difficulties accessing formal education in Pakistan. Challenges include documentation requirements, such as birth certificates or B-Forms, which many refugees do not possess. Muhammad Idrees, an Afghan refugee living in Pishin, Balochistan, expressed his frustration by providing fully funded undergraduate scholarships to refugees holding Proof of Registration (POR) cards. Over 1,700 refugees have benefited from this tertiary-level education program. "UNHCR representatives avoid giving on-the-record responses about refugee education issues," he said. "The issue of limited seats and documentation is indeed a genuine concern that needs to be resolved."

He added that UNHCR representatives avoid giving on-the-record responses about refugee education issues, highlighting the difficulties refugees face regarding documentation requirements when seeking admission to educational institutions in Afghanistan. However, thousands of scholarships and seats available in public-sector universities is limited. The DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative), run by UNHCR, helps address this issue by providing fully funded undergraduate scholarships to refugees holding Proof of Registration (POR) cards. Over 1,700 refugees have benefited from this tertiary-level education program. "UNHCR representatives avoid giving on-the-record responses about refugee education issues," he said. "The issue of limited seats and documentation is indeed a genuine concern that needs to be resolved."

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Pakistan China write new chapter in agricultural industry development: Ambassador Hashmi

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan, China are writing a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China.

"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.

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 engage, fostering deeper understanding and collaboration."

advancements, the outcomes of Sino-Pakistani agricultural cooperation, and a range of agricultural products and handicrafts, all aimed at promoting trade collaboration between the two nations.

The Yangling Demonstration Zone serves as a base for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in agriculture and has established strong cooperative ties with several Pakistani institutions. 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 Zone.

sent insights into the country's investment environment and agricultural incentives.

Representatives from companies including GGI Industrial Company, Ujka Group, Sichuan Pujin Holding Group Co., Ltd., Shaanxi Zhaojin Xianheng Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd., and Yangling Zhenghefeng Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd. shared their proposals.

"At the SCO Agricultural Exhibition in Yangling, Sichuan Lilong is showcasing its successful cooperation in the BRI and CPEC agricultural projects."

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



SWAT Engineer Amir Muqam Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON inaugurating feeders at Khawazkela Grid Station.

'I'm not a Nazi,' Trump insists as Harris blasts ugly rhetoric

WASHINGTON (INP): Donald Trump told supporters he is "not a Nazi," usually in the final week of a bitter White House race to refute accusations of authoritarianism, including from a former top aide who branded him a fascist.

As he and rival Kamala Harris, the current vice president, entered the final stretch of one of the closest US elections in modern times, each candidate and their teams have ramped up the political rhetoric, inflaming an already tense campaign.

Democrat Harris, who has accused Trump of stoking divisions, crisscrossed Michigan on Monday while the Republican visited Georgia, another of the decisive swing states, where he said critics are accusing him of being a modern "Hitler."

"The newest line from Kamala and her campaign is that everyone who isn't voting for her is a Nazi," Trump told a boisterous rally in Atlanta.

On Monday, a fire reportedly consumed hundreds of early ballots cast in a supposedly secure drop-off box in a northwestern Washington state. Another ballot box was damaged hours earlier in Portland, Oregon, where police said in a statement that an "intentional act" of arson sought to "impact the election process."

Trump has faced renewed outrage after one of the warm-up speakers at his Sunday rally in New York called US territory Puerto Rico "a floating island of garbage."

Harris, aiming to become the country's first female president, slammed "that nonsense last night at Madison Square Garden" as she spoke to reporters before boarding Air Force Two on Monday.

"He is focused and actually fixated on his grievances, on himself, and on dividing our country. And it is not in any way something that will strengthen the American people, the American worker."

Later in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at a rally with her running mate Tim Walz and a crowd of around 20,000, she described how "so much is on the line" on November 5. "Donald Trump is even more unstable and more unbridled, and now he wants unchecked power."

His campaign said the Puerto Rico comment did "not reflect the views of President Trump." Residents of the island cannot vote in presidential elections, but those within the United States proper — which includes about 450,000 Puerto Ricans in crucial battleground Pennsylvania — can.

Germany's biggest trade union calls for strike over pay

BERLIN (INP): Germany's biggest trade union, IG Metall, announced Monday it was calling on some 3.9 million metalworkers to briefly walk out to back its demand for a seven-percent pay rise. The warning strike will begin at midnight on Tuesday, the powerful trade union said in a statement and is expected to last several hours. IG Metall says it is trying to soften

the blow of inflation for workers in the key electrical and metalworking sectors of Europe's biggest economy. "The employers' salary offer is insufficient," said Knut Giesler, head of IG Metall's negotiating team in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, adding that "the first pay rise should come before July 2025," the date suggested by employers in stalled talks on a new

collective bargaining agreement. Bosses in the metalworking sector had offered a rise of 3.6 percent over 27 months, with a first rise of 1.7 percent coming in July 2025. They said that low orders and production levels meant that higher salaries were not possible. Demonstrations were expected to accompany the strikes at Volkswagen's factory in the northwestern city of

Osnaabrueck, which is covered by a collective pay agreement for the metalwork sector. On Monday VW staff representatives told workers that the ailing car giant was planning to close at least three factories in Germany and cut tens of thousands of jobs. Giesler said that the warning strikes were aimed at putting "pressure" on employers and getting a "quick result."



QUETTA: PPI Provincial president Dawood Shah Kakar addressing a press conference.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja Witnessing MoU signing among Jaz, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and National Information Technology Board (NTB).

New Service Center launched to enhance China-Pakistan cooperation in agriculture

BEIJING (INP): The Overseas Luban Workshop Agricultural Machinery Service Center, Pakistan was inaugurated at the International Conference Center in Changsha, Hunan.

It aims at enhancing agricultural capabilities in Pakistan and fostering greater cooperation between China and Pakistan in agricultural machinery. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

The unveiling ceremony marked a collaboration between the China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association (CAMDA), Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College, Tianjin Taida Import and Export Co., Ltd., Tianjin Agricultural Mechanization Technology Testing Service Center, and Wugu Media.

On the occasion, according to CEN, Anif Shah, Honorary Consultant of the Pakistan Luban Workshop and Executive Board Member of the Punjab Agricultural Research Board, hailed Luban Workshop's success in training over a thousand skilled agricultural machinery operators and maintenance technicians in Punjab, Pakistan.

The project facilitated the sharing of Chinese technologies and equipment that accelerate agricultural mechanization, curricula through accolades from education experts, students, engineers, and users in the agricultural machinery sector," he highlighted.

Pietersen questions Gary Kirsten's resignation as Pakistan head coach

LONDON, Oct 29 (INP): Former England batter Kevin Pietersen expressed his concerns regarding the premature resignation of Gary Kirsten as white-ball head coach of Pakistan.

Kirsten was appointed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in April 2024 for a two-year period. However, he has stepped down from the role after a meagre six months.

The South African took charge during Pakistan's four-match T20I series against England in the lead-up to the ICC T20 World Cup 2024.

During his tenure as the white-ball head coach, Pakistan lost the series against England and were knocked out of the T20 World Cup from the group stage.

The sources revealed that Kirsten's resignation came in the wake of his disagreements with the cricket board over central contracts and white-ball squads for

درخواستیں منظور ہیں

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Table with 2 columns: Name, Rank. Lists names and ranks of various officials.

شاہد سکنڈر خان زہری میمبرین کھیل سہولت زہری

Table with 2 columns: Name, Rank. Lists names and ranks of officials related to sports facilities.

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SZABMU MDCAT 2024 to be Re-conducted on December 1st: IHC

Syed Muhammad Yaseen:

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has ordered Re-conduct for SZABMU mdcat 2024. In a significant development for medical aspirants in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered a re-conduct of the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2024.

The re-examination is scheduled to take place on December 1, 2024. Importantly, no additional fees will be charged, and existing registrations will remain valid. The syllabus and exam pattern will also remain unchanged.

This decision comes after widespread protests and legal



challenges regarding alleged irregularities in the initial MDCAT 2024.

The IHC's order offers a second chance to students who believe they were unfairly affected

by the previous exam. While an official notification is yet to be released, students are advised to stay updated through official channels and reliable news sources.

Dr. Malik Baloch Elected as National Party President

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Dr. Malik Baloch, a veteran politician and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, has been elected as the President of the National Party (NP). The decision was announced on Monday, marking a return to leadership for Dr. Malik within the party he helped shape.

Dr. Malik brings years of experience to his role as NP President.

Known for his dedication to the province and his stance on social and economic issues, he has been an influential figure in Balochistan's political landscape.

His previous tenure as Chief Minister was noted for efforts toward greater provincial autonomy, development, and addressing local grievances.

Party members have expressed confidence that Dr. Malik's leadership will further



strengthen NP's position, particularly in advocating for Balochistan's rights at both provincial and national levels.

Dr. Malik reiterated his com-

mitment to the National Party's mission of representing Balochistan's diverse communities and championing issues critical to the province's progress.

Pakistan offers over 4,000 scholarships to Afghan students

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Government of Pakistan is offering scholarships to over 4,000 Afghan students across various fields, including medicine, engineering, agriculture, management and computer science, aiming to build capacity among Afghan youth through quality education.

Speaking at the 47th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), hosted by Pakistan here Tuesday, Member of the National Assembly Sher Ali Arbab said that at least one-third of the scholarships would be reserved for female students.

During a session titled "Situation in Afghanistan: Navigating Justice, Human Rights, and International Accountability," he said that these scholarships aimed to enhance professional connections between

educational institutions in both countries.

Support human resource development for Afghanistan's reconstruction and promote greater cultural and social integration between the two nations.

He highlighted Pakistan's liberal visa policy for Afghan nationals, which allows Afghan citizens to open bank accounts in Pakistan and obtain driving licenses, further facilitating integration and mutual benefits.

He said that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan aligns with Pakistan's interests, providing Pakistan access to Afghan and Central Asian markets.

Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees, Claudia Cruz Santos of Portugal, praised the

hospitality of the Pakistani people for extending their support to participants.

Zohar Nawrozi and Fawzia Koofi, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan and exiled representatives of the Internal Security Commission, expressed their disappointment over restrictions barring Afghan girls from attending schools.

Christine Chung, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, voiced concerns over human rights violations in Afghanistan.

Dr. Evelina U Ochah, Senior Program Lawyer at the International Bar Association, lamented the mistreatment and denial of basic rights for Afghan women, calling it a tragic infringement on human dignity and equality.

WAPDA Chairman visits under-construction 1530 MW-Tarbela 5th Extension, reviews progress

TARBELA (INP): WAPDA Chairman Eng. Lt Gen(R) Sajjad Ghani Tuesday visited under-construction 1530 MW-Tarbela 5th Extension and reviewed the progress on the project.

The Chairman had a detailed visit of the key sites, which include the Raised Intake, the Tunnel and the Power house, and witnessed construction work going on there.

During the on-site briefing, the Project Director and the Construction Manager briefed the Chairman about the milestone achieved on these sites.

Temporary station work in the tunnel is complete paving the way for commencement of construction on the connecting tun-

nel. Installation of equipment such as draft tubes of all three units - Unit No. 18, 19 and 20 - is in progress at the Power house Site.

While, the Contractor is all set to resume construction work on the Raised Intake structure once the water in the reservoir recedes to the required level. Following the site visit, the Chairman presided over a meeting at the project office attended by the GM Tarbela Dam, PD TS, the Consultants and the Contractors.

Overall progress on the project was discussed during the meeting. It was briefed that construction is continuing on all 6 work fronts simultaneously.

The project is likely to be completed in 2025-26. Thorough

deliberations were also made on the work plan for meeting the timelines.

The Chairman was of the view that concerted efforts are needed on part of the Consultants and the Contractor to complete the project as per the schedule. Deployment of additional resources is also inevitable for the purpose, he said. Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project is a component of green, clean and least-cost energy generation plan of WAPDA.

World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank are providing financial assistance for the project to the tune of US\$ 390 million and US\$ 300 million respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador H.E. Wada called on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, H.E. Ms. Valentina Matvienko, calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif leaves for KSA on official visit

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left for a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the 8th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative, starting in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Countries from across the world, including Pakistan, will participate in the three-day Conference.

The theme of the conference is "Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow." The Future Investment Initiative serves as an important platform for countries to showcase their economic strength, draw foreign invest-

ments, and engage in dialogue to shape a sustainable future.

During the meetings, the two sides will discuss enhancing bilateral relations especially in the fields of trade, energy, minerals, agriculture and defence between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Privatization Minister Abdul Aleem Khan, Petroleum Minister Dr. Musadik Malik, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar are accompanying the Prime Minister.

National University of Modern Languages (NUML) celebrates 101st anniversary of Turkish Republic Day

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Turkish Language Department at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on Tuesday hosted an event to celebrate the 101st Anniversary of Turkish Republic Day, honouring Turkey's rich history and its enduring friendship with Pakistan.

The ceremony was graced by Dr. Mehmet Toyran, Education Counselor at the Turkish Embassy, as the esteemed guest of honor.

Heads of Departments and faculty members from across the university also attended, contributing to the lively and enthusiastic atmosphere of the event.

In his address, Dr. Mehmet Toyran highlighted Turkey's proud history and the visionary leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who led the

country's freedom struggle and established the independent Turkish Republic.

Dr. Mehmet spoke passionately about the unique, lasting friendship between Turkey and Pakistan, rooted in shared values, heritage, and culture. He expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal for Turkey's independence, adding that both nations would continue to support each other across all spheres.

The head of the Turkish Language Department, Nur Yasemin Rahjoo, and the Head of the Department of Azerbaijan also shared their reflections on the significance of the Turkish Republic Day and the strong ties between the two brotherly countries. They

emphasized the celebration as a powerful reminder of the deep-rooted friendship and mutual respect between Pakistan and Turkey.

The highlight of the event was the heartfelt performances by students from the Turkish Department, who showcased their talents through poetry recitations and a theatrical presentation honoring the sacrifices made for Turkey's victory. Their moving performances captivated the audience, earning enthusiastic applause.

The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony symbolizing the unity and shared spirit between the people of Pakistan and Turkey.

The celebration was an unforgettable tribute to the enduring relationship between these two brotherly nations.



RAWALPINDI: Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin, in a meeting of 5th Pak-Russian Joint Military Consultative Committee (JMCC) at Ministry of Defence.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Red notice for Moonis Elahi sent to Interpol

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has sent a red notice request to Interpol to secure the arrest of Moonis Elahi from abroad in a money laundering case.

Special Central Court Lahore Judge Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh heard the money laundering case against Moonis Elahi, Ch Pervaiz Elahi, Zara Elahi and the other nine accused.

FIA informed the court about the red notice submission to Interpol.

The court issued written orders summoning Pervaiz Elahi to appear on November 5 in the case, warning of seri-

ous consequences in case of non-compliance.

Additionally, non-bailable arrest warrants were issued for Moonis Elahi's co-accused, Sagheer Abbas while the court granted Zara Elahi's request for permanent exemption from appearance and issued written orders from the last hearing.

In Tuesday's proceedings, FIA requested an extension in the confiscation period of assets belonging to Moonis Elahi and nine other proclaimed offenders.

The court directed FIA to submit a detailed report on the matter and summoned the FIA Assistant Director in person at the next hearing.

FIA has already filed a challan (formal charge sheet) against former Punjab Assembly speaker Pervaiz Elahi, his son Moonis Elahi, and other accused in this money laundering case.

On January 30, 2024, FIA sent a letter to Interpol seeking red warrants against Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Moonis Elahi, who is accused of money laundering and corruption.

Previously, the court had issued a perpetual arrest warrant against Moonis Elahi after declaring him a proclaimed offender due to his repeated failure to respond to notices from the court and FIA.