

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

dquettavoice@gmail.com



File photo of Lt General (R) Faiz Hameed

Imran Khan calls for release of CCTV footage to investigate May 9, Nov 26 events

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has called for a judicial inquiry into the events of May 9 and November 26, urging the Supreme Court to release CCTV footage of both incidents to facilitate proper investigations, his sister Aleema Khan quoted him as saying after meeting him on Tuesday.

Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, Aleema emphasized that her brother had demanded that the Supreme Court take action on both incidents. She stated, "The founder of PTI has made it clear that without the CCTV footage, investigations into these tragic events cannot be carried out."



Regarding the May 9 incident, she pointed out that Imran Khan was unaware of the full extent of the violence.

"He is unaware of how many people were martyred or injured at D-Chowk. He also does not know how many people are still missing. Over 200 PTI workers are unaccounted for, and there are concerns they may also have been martyred," she said.

Aleema added that the PTI leadership remains deeply concerned about the missing workers. "The founder of PTI is particularly worried about those who have gone missing," she explained.

In her statement, she also confirmed that PTI would observe December 15 as Young-e-Shuhada (Martyrs' Day). "On this day, PTI workers from around the world, including Peshawar, will gather for prayers to honour those who sacrificed their lives," she said.

Moreover, Aleema relayed a message from her brother about his political stance. "Imran Khan has always said that while a system of disbelief can continue, a system of oppression cannot. We will not accept this current system."

She noted that the demands for a judicial commission to probe both the May 9 and November 26 incidents have now been incorporated into PTI's broader political agenda.

Aleema quoted Imran as saying that he demanded a commission, consisting of three senior judges of the Supreme Court, should be formed to conduct the investigations, which cannot proceed without the CCTV footage.

Ex-ISI Chief Faiz Hameed Charged for Involvement in Political Activities

Dawood Ahmed:

A field general court martial (FGCM) has been initiated against Lt Gen Faiz Hamid (Retd) under the provisions of the Pakistan Army Act, the military's media wing said on Tuesday. He has been formally arraigned on charges of engaging in political activities, violating the Official Secrets Act, misuse of authority, misuse of government resources, and causing wrongful loss to individuals, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. Additionally, his involvement in events leading to agitation and unrest, including the May 9, 2023, incident, is being separately investigated. These incidents are allegedly linked to actions taken at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests to fo-

ment instability. Lt Gen Faiz Hamid (Retd) is being provided with all legal rights as per the law. Former intelligence chief retired Lt Gen Faiz Hameed has been formally indicted on "charges of engaging in political activities", the military's media affairs wing said on Tuesday. The development comes almost four months after the army announced the arrest of and Field General Court Martial (FGCM) proceedings against Gen Hameed, the previous head of the premier Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, on allegations of violating the Army Act. According to a source, Gen Hameed was taken into custody from Rawalpindi when he was summoned for a meeting by a senior military official.

The move, prompted by allegations of misconduct levelled by the owner of a private housing society, shattered the longstanding perception that spy chiefs were untouchable in the country where generals have long wielded unparalleled influence. The ISPR did not initially disclose the identities of the three officers who were taken into custody. However, media reports claimed they were identified as retired Brig Ghaflar, a former deputy director general for projects at ISI; retired Brig Naesim Fakhar, a former officer commanding; and retired Col Asim. Brigadiers Ghaflar and Fakhar were also implicated in the SC petition filed by the owner of Top City Housing Society.

Tribal Jirga in Quetta Urges Parents to Vaccinate Amid Polio Surge

Hafizullah Sherani:

QUETTA: A tribal jirga, organized by the district administration, the Polio Eradication Program, and COMNET, called on parents to vaccinate their children against polio, addressing growing vaccine refusals in the region.

Held in the Saryab area of Quetta, the jirga brought together local leaders, residents, and officials to highlight the critical importance of vaccination. The event followed reports of three new polio cases in Saryab this year, underscoring the urgency of combating the disease in Balochistan, where 26 of Pakistan's 59 polio cases in 2024 have been recorded.

Heartbreaking Personal Story

Jalil Ahmad, a resident of Eastern Bypass in Quetta, shared his regret over not vaccinating his fifth child, now paralyzed by polio. "This child was born beautiful, but a fever turned into paralysis. I deeply regret avoiding vaccination teams," he said, urging others not to repeat his mistake.

Challenges in Polio Eradication

Assistant Commissioner Saryab, Mana Shamsoon, emphasized that vaccine refusals, rooted in misunderstandings, remain a major hurdle. "Unvaccinated children risk spreading the virus to others. We're collaborating with community leaders to address this



issue," she said. Haji Mir Lal Muhammad of the Pakistan People's Party acknowledged the risks faced by polio teams.

"Attacks and misinformation have hindered efforts. This jirga is a step toward raising awareness and protecting our children's future."

Despite challenges, authorities reported a significant reduction in vaccine refusals in Quetta, dropping from 30,000 to 5,500 after October's campaign.

Call for Action

Maulvi Ubaidullah Haqqani, a respected cleric, urged parents to embrace vaccination. "Polio drops don't harm—they save

lives," he affirmed. With Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterating Pakistan's commitment to a polio-free future, initiatives like this jirga are vital for eradicating the virus. Parents are urged to vaccinate children under five during every campaign to ensure a healthier future.

Polio Statistics in Pakistan (2024)

- Balochistan: 26 cases
 - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 16 cases
 - Sindh: 15 cases
 - Punjab: 1 case
 - Islamabad: 1 case
- Authorities aim to turn the tide with continued community efforts and international support.

100% Merit in Teaching Posts: Balochistan CM Orders FIRs Against Fake Degree Holders

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has ordered strict adherence to 100% merit for contract-based teaching posts in the education department. Speaking with Deputy Commissioner Dera Bugti, Zohaib-ul-Haq, on Tuesday, the CM directed that appointments be ensured only for candidates meeting merit criteria, with no room for favoritism or compromise.

The Chief Minister emphasized, "There should be 100% merit, not 99%. FIRs must be registered against candidates submitting fake degrees. No preferences will be allowed—merit will prevail, even

if it benefits opponents." Deputy Commissioner Zohaib-ul-Haq assured that the recruitment process would be transparent. District Education Officers have been tasked with verifying degrees thoroughly, with immediate action against any candidate found guilty of forgery. As part of its education reform, the Balochistan government plans to reopen 3,000 schools across the province, hiring thousands of teachers on a contract basis. This initiative aims to enhance educational opportunities and improve enrollment rates, reflecting the government's commitment to merit and transparency.



File Photo: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti chairing a meeting of the provincial cabinet. Photo grabbed from a video provided by DGP.

BUMHS Hosts HEC-Sponsored Training to Enhance University Management Skills

Health Desk:

QUETTA: A one-week professional development training program for university management officers began at Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS), Quetta. Sponsored by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the training is scheduled from December 10 to 14, 2024, and focuses on improving managerial, financial, and leadership skills. Renowned academic experts are conducting sessions on strategic planning, financial management, human resource management, quality assurance, and leadership development. The program aims to equip participants with advanced tools to manage their institutions effectively. The inaugural ceremony was led by Prof. Shahid Ahmad Zehri, Vice Chancellor of BUMHS, who

served as the Chief Guest. MD Dr. Noor Anna Malik and Deputy Director Ms. Sadia Bukhari were also in attendance. In his opening remarks, Prof. Zehri highlighted the importance of continuous professional development for university administrators and thanked HEC for sponsoring the program. Dr. Noor Anna Malik emphasized the critical role of effective leadership in higher education institutions and urged participants to make the most of the training sessions. Around 30 participants from BUMHS and other medical and nursing colleges are taking part in the program. The university hopes the training will empower attendees to lead their institutions more effectively and contribute significantly to the development of higher education in Pakistan.



1 soldier martyred, 15 terrorists killed in operation in Balochistan's Zhub district: ISPR

NEWS DESK: One soldier was martyred while 15 terrorists were killed during an operation in Balochistan's Zhub district, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

According to a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the district's Sambaza area and engaged the terrorists at their location, eliminating 15. "However, during [an] intense exchange of fire, Sepoy Arifur Rehman (age 32 years; resident of Manshra district), hav-

ing fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom," the statement said.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, the statement said, adding that a sanitisation operation was being conducted to neutralise any other terrorists present in the area. "Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it added.

Quetta's Air Quality: A Beacon of Hope in Pakistan's Pollution Crisis

Continued to page 2

The grave reality of violence against women in Pakistan

Continued to page 2

Cabinet approves settlement agreements with eight IPPs

Continued to page 4

BE A VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Quetta's Air Quality: A Beacon of Hope in Pakistan's Pollution Crisis

Editorial:

QUETTA: Quetta has earned recognition as the city with the best air quality in Pakistan, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 31, marking it as "good" and healthy, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Amid worsening air pollution and dense smog in urban centers like Lahore and Karachi, Quetta's clean air serves as a shining example of environmental resilience.

While Quetta's clear skies owe much to its geographical location, lower population density, and fewer industrial emissions, sustaining this air quality presents a significant challenge. Environmentalists emphasize that the focus must shift from temporary measures to sustainable strategies to preserve Quetta's atmosphere and mitigate the impacts of global warming.

Green Initiatives Must Be Long-Term. The Forest Department and local NGOs have launched tree plantation drives to beautify Quetta and improve its air quality. However, most of the saplings planted along roads have dried up within weeks due to inadequate care. This highlights the need for a sustainable approach where plants are nurtured consistently, rather than short-lived initiatives centered around photo sessions.

To truly maintain Quetta's air quality, authorities must prioritize sustainable afforestation. Ensure saplings are planted in suitable areas and looked after until maturity.

Community involvement: Engage citizens in green initiatives to create awareness and responsibility.

A Call to Action Quetta's achievement is a reminder that clean air is possible, even in challenging conditions. However, it requires a committed and focused approach. Policymakers, environmentalists, and citizens must work together to implement effective green initiatives that go beyond temporary fixes. As Pakistan battles the adverse effects of climate change, Quetta's example underscores the importance of sustainable practices to ensure a healthier future for all.

The more things change.

By Arifa Noor:

HERE is a new alliance man in town. It is Faisal Wadwa, the senator without a party. Owned by no one politically, but taken seriously by everyone, he is a man on a mission. He is on every talk show — on a panel and individually — and heard intently by those sitting opposite him. In the recent past, he has been quite the commentator on all developments political, and also the voice of doom and gloom. But that was just a phase, as was his earlier one as part of the PTI when he was on the front line, whether it was the scene of a terrorist attack in Karachi or the site of an Indian plane downed by Pakistani jets.

But while he continues to share information about the doom and gloom, it is now spread more evenly. There are fears for Imran Khan's life as well as the fate of the Fair Deal, as well as blunt analyses about the PML-N's expired brand. But lest we think that there is no light at the end of the proverbial Pakistani political tunnel, there is a new message, and a new mission about peace, love and bringing everyone together. It's a future with Hum Saath. Saath is a message for the inviolable parties (though the fate of N remains a little unclear). So much so that the man who once predicted the PTI would be left with no candidates in a general

election is now worried about returning the party's mandate to them. It truly is a topsy-turvy world. Do we truly have a reincarnation of Nawabzada Nasrullah among us? The absence of the grand old man of politics has been felt acutely in past years, when the parties now in power were struggling to form and sustain an alliance.

Do we truly have a reincarnation of Nawabzada Nasrullah among us? This was true when the PTI was in power and is true now, when the PML-N is at the helm. Back during the PTI times, the PDM alliance (before it found itself in the past years) was a crisis, to the point where the PPP parted information about the doom and gloom, it is now spread more evenly. There are fears for Imran Khan's life as well as the fate of the Fair Deal, as well as blunt analyses about the PML-N's expired brand. But lest we think that there is no light at the end of the proverbial Pakistani political tunnel, there is a new message, and a new mission about peace, love and bringing everyone together. It's a future with Hum Saath. Saath is a message for the inviolable parties (though the fate of N remains a little unclear). So much so that the man who once predicted the PTI would be left with no candidates in a general

election is now worried about returning the party's mandate to them. It truly is a topsy-turvy world. Do we truly have a reincarnation of Nawabzada Nasrullah among us? The absence of the grand old man of politics has been felt acutely in past years, when the parties now in power were struggling to form and sustain an alliance.

Do we truly have a reincarnation of Nawabzada Nasrullah among us? This was true when the PTI was in power and is true now, when the PML-N is at the helm. Back during the PTI times, the PDM alliance (before it found itself in the past years) was a crisis, to the point where the PPP parted information about the doom and gloom, it is now spread more evenly. There are fears for Imran Khan's life as well as the fate of the Fair Deal, as well as blunt analyses about the PML-N's expired brand. But lest we think that there is no light at the end of the proverbial Pakistani political tunnel, there is a new message, and a new mission about peace, love and bringing everyone together. It's a future with Hum Saath. Saath is a message for the inviolable parties (though the fate of N remains a little unclear). So much so that the man who once predicted the PTI would be left with no candidates in a general

The grave reality of violence against women in Pakistan

By Mehak Anwar:

Every year, the world marks 16 Days of Activism against violence towards women, but one stark question persists: Are we genuinely advancing toward a world free of gender-based abuse, or are we merely celebrating progress that remains largely elusive? As the world has recently observed the 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a troubling question remains: can we truly end the centuries-old atrocities that women have faced, or are these observances simply empty rituals, signaling little more than symbolic acknowledgment? The answer, regrettably, is no. The reality of violence against women is as far from a utopia where women are revered like royalty. Instead, it is a world where gender-based violence continues to dominate the lives of millions of women. Although we are witnessing greater independence and achievements among women, these strides forward do not erase the grim truth: violence against women is deeply entrenched across the globe, with Pakistan being one of the worst. She has already sacrificed everything to build a life with him. The man she once trusted ended her life, leaving her child motherless.

A similar tragedy recently unfolded in S a d a b d neighbourhood of Karachi, where Afshan Jamali, an educated and accomplished secondary school teacher, was murdered by her husband. Despite her education and professional achievements, Afshan found herself trapped in a cycle of abuse. Her father revealed that the core reason behind this atrocity was the demand for dowry, even though she had already sacrificed everything to build a life with him. The man she once trusted ended her life, leaving her child motherless. If a well-educated, empowered woman like Afshan, who was fully

aware of her rights, can fall victim to such violence, what hope is there for those who lack resources or support? The suffering of women like Afshan is shockingly still practised. According to the Aurat Foundation's 'Annual Statistics 2020' report, over 11,000 cases of violence against women were documented in 2020. The most prevalent forms of violence included domestic abuse, with 4,775 reported cases, followed by acid and gang rape, which accounted for 2,297 cases, and murders, totaling 1,033 incidents. The numbers are staggering, but they are only the tip of the iceberg. The silence surrounding unreported cases adds to the enormity of the crisis.

Religion in Pakistan is often misused to justify these inequities. Many men selectively manipulate religious doctrines to entrench their power and control. Women, often rooted in pre-Islamic cultural practices, perpetuate the violence they endure. This cycle of impunity only strengthens the grip of abuse, leaving women vulnerable and unable to seek justice.

However, the time for action is long overdue. The systemic gender inequality in Pakistan demands an immediate and comprehensive response. The legal system must be overhauled to ensure robust protection for women. Laws exist, but they must be enforced with greater commitment. Law enforcement agencies need specialised training to handle gender-based violence cases with sensitivity, and the judicial system must act swiftly and decisively. Equally important is the need for cultural transformation. Patriarchal norms that justify violence must be dismantled, and widespread public education on gender equality and women's rights must be prioritised. Similarly, media outlets should play a key role in amplifying the voices of women, showcasing successful legal cases, and challenging harmful stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination.

Straws in the Syrian whirlwind

By Jawed Naqvi:

THE pendulum of zealotry almost always ushers in intellectual subterfuge in war. The lightning, if not spontaneous, takeover of Damascus by mediaeval militias is being hailed as a necessary defeatist? To answer the question posed by the Western media, a detailed description of the assault on Syria as liberating, not least since one of the (erstwhile) throat-slitting zealots in the raiding group CNN that "social diversification" and "newly minted virtue, one needs to step back in time to link the brazen poecry with its origins.

And we should start not with the 1953 coup against the royal government in Iran. The US has since acknowledged toppling a democratically elected Mosaddegh government, not so M16, the author of the coup.

In 1936 was in-structive differently, when Reza Shah issued a decree known as kashf-ihjab, which lifted the veils, including hijab and chador. We are told the order was "swiftly and fondly" implemented. The ban was lifted in 1941, but it had done the damage. The veil would become a significant assistance to the Shah even though women were free to dress as they wished until the Iranian Revolution of 1979. It was sobering to see the CNN woman interviewer become a member of the newly minted virtue, one needs to step back in time to link the brazen poecry with its origins.

Enforcement of hijab has been the stick to beat the Iranians with since the Spring 2022 election. The presence of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Kazan summit in Russia did the boot for Iran and Russia, their boats still remain tethered to the Syrian jetty.

workforce. In 2022, just 22% of women participated in the labour force, one of the lowest rates globally, compared to 84.79% of men. This financial vulnerability leaves many women trapped in abusive relationships, unable to break free due to a lack of resources. The widespread economic disempowerment of women in Pakistan acts as a powerful tool of control, reinforcing their subjugation and limiting their ability to escape cycles of violence.

Despite the existence of laws protecting women rights, their enforcement is notoriously poor, and legal loopholes are often exploited by perpetrators to evade justice.

The fear of retribution, societal stigma and distrust in the justice system keep many women from reporting their abuse. Additionally, a prevailing culture of victim-blaming within both the legal system and society at large prevents many survivors from seeking justice, fearing that they will be held accountable for the violence they endured.

This cycle of impunity only strengthens the grip of abuse, leaving women vulnerable and unable to seek justice.

So, what's afoot in Syria? Three things come to mind. First, the march on Damascus targets China and Russia, to hobble their aid to the Iranian presence of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Kazan summit in Russia did the boot for Iran and Russia, their boats still remain tethered to the Syrian jetty.

So, what's afoot in Syria? Three things come to mind. First, the march on Damascus targets China and Russia, to hobble their aid to the Iranian presence of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Kazan summit in Russia did the boot for Iran and Russia, their boats still remain tethered to the Syrian jetty.

Sino-Russian partnership: depth and fault lines

By Dr Moonis Ahmar:

From an antagonistic relationship for more than three decades, Moscow and Beijing embarked on mending fences following the historic visit of the then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to China in May 1989. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 further transformed relations between the two erstwhile neighbours to an extent that they have now entered a strategic partnership, responding to a common threat perception emanating from the US-led Western world order.

Will the Sino-Russian partnership continue in the decades to come or will rupture like in the past? Does this partnership have a future once Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping are out of power? Will the leadership after Putin and Xi be committed to sustain this partnership? These are the questions raised by those skeptical about the

future of the Sino-Russian partnership. One needs to examine Putin's meaningful statements on the Sino-Russian partnership during the BRICS summit held in Kazan, Russia on October 22-23. Putin said: "At present, the world is going through changes unseen in the Soviet Union and was dependent on Moscow for military and economic assistance."

Now, 60 years down the road, it seems Russia is far behind China in economic, technological and infrastructure building. If Russia — grappling with the issues emanating from the demise of the USSR — had to use hard power in Ukraine and elsewhere, China focused on soft power and development which enabled it to become the world's second largest economy, unlike Russia which got itself involved in the Ukraine war and its ambitions to regain influence in the former Soviet republics. China concentrated on augmenting its

economy and using soft power like cultural diplomacy, trade, aid and investments.

The last war which China fought was against Vietnam in January 1979. Since then Beijing has been following a strict policy of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of its neighbourhood and elsewhere. Consequently, China which was impoverished and backward in the 1950s now excels in modernisation, exports, GDP, foreign exchange reserves and infrastructure growth rate. Yet, the Chinese leadership has drawn four red lines which, if crossed by the US or any other power, will cause massive retaliation. These red lines are Taiwan, North Xinjiang and Hong Kong. Besides, China wants that it will also react vehemently if so-called pro-democracy elements are instigated against the one-party rule in China and the Communist Party.

One can gauge difference between Chinese and Russian strategy to deal with internal dissent. If China follows an economic approach to tame dissent, Russia under Putin tries to suppress political opposition by using stick, unlike China which pursues a policy of both stick and carrot.

The depth and fault lines in the Sino-Russian partnership can be analysed from three angles.

First, the possibility of sustaining their friendship, cooperation and alliance with the international community and Xi are out of power. There is no guarantee that in the post-Putin and Xi era, the Sino-Russian partnership would remain in place. At a time when Russia is suffering from severe Western sanctions and President Putin is declared as a war criminal by the International Criminal Court, it is not possible for China, like North Korea, to overtly support the Russian war with Ukraine. Yet, Xi's support the role of China and Russia in transform-

ing the world order to a multipolar world. An alternate world order — between BRICS and SCO — can save them from sanctions and strategic containment policy led by the US in the form of an enlarged NATO.

Second, China and Russia are core members of SCO and their strategic partnership can play a pivotal role in maintaining stability in Eurasian Belt and Road region. Central, South and West Asia. As long as China and Russia share a common threat perception of the US-led containment policy in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, one can expect the depth and sustenance of the Sino-Russian partnership to continue. Additionally, for various middle powers like Iran, South Africa and Brazil, it is in their interest to support the role of China and Russia in transform-

ing the world order to a multipolar world. An alternate world order — between BRICS and SCO — can save them from sanctions and strategic containment policy led by the US in the form of an enlarged NATO.

Finally, if the depth in Sino-Russian relations is also true. The first fault line is frozen territorial disputes between China and Russia which was also a major cause of their border war in 1969. Following fragmentation in the Sino-Russian ties after the collapse of the USSR, the two countries decided to freeze their territorial disputes and focus on promoting strategic partnership. Historically, China has claims over the land along its border areas with Russia as it blames that the Zarist Empire had occupied huge Chinese territories during its expansion in Siberia. If the Putin, Xi leadership is shared and those succeeding the

two towering personalities are not that committed to keep the momentum in their ties going, one can expect the resurgence of territorial disputes. Furthermore, the Russian concern over Chinese influence in Central Asia and in former Soviet Republics can also cause friction and polarisation in the Sino-Russian ties.

China may not either side with Russia in its growing armed conflict with Ukraine because it would contradict with Beijing's policy of disengagement with wars and focusing on economy, trade and other pillars of soft power.

Coming few years will determine whether the status quo in the Sino-Russian partnership will persist or there will be fragility in the bilateral ties. Both powers are also mindful of not giving space to the US-led Western world in exploiting any potential sign of discord between them.

Lebanese released from Assad jail after 33 years given hero's welcome

BEIRUT (INP): In the northern Lebanon town of Chekka, Suhail Hamawi received a heartfelt welcome as he returned home after languishing for 33 years in a deposed Syrian president Bashar al-Assad's jails.

A day earlier, as Assad fled the country, Islamists-led rebels captured the Syrian capital and released thousands of prisoners from his notorious jail system.

"Today I feel like I can breathe again. The best thing in this world is freedom," Hamawi, 61, told, visibly tearing up from joy.

Hamawi's release gave renewed hope to hundreds of families in Lebanon who have demanded to know of the fate of thousands of prisoners believed to have disappeared at the hands of Syrian troops who entered Lebanon shortly after the outbreak in the 1975-1990 civil war.

Hamawi said he was moved from one prison to another, spending time in the notorious Saydnaya facility where he wrote poetry, before ending up in a jail in the coastal Latakia region.

His love for his wife Josephine Homsi and for his children during his time in prison.

"I was far away but she was my source of strength, she was my son," he said.

Homsi was over-

joyed to be reunited with her husband.

"Thirty-three years ago, they came to this house, knocked on our door one evening and told my husband, 'we need to talk to you. He disappeared for 11 years,'" Homsi said.

After she managed to track him down, she spent more than a decade visiting him in Syrian prisons, she said, hoping they would one day be reunited.

Rights groups say thousands of men, women and children disappeared at the hands of Hafez al-Assad, Bashar's late father, during Lebanon's civil war.

Hamawi's twin Nicolas told seeing his long lost brother had given him a new sense of purpose.

"Today, we've been reborn," he said, adding the pair now felt "truly like twins" again.

"My brother is more than a hero. He endured life in prison, and today he has returned to live in freedom like he has been longing for 33 years," he said.

For three decades, Syria was a dominant military and political force in Lebanon, before withdrawing its troops in 2005 under international pressure after the assassination of Lebanese ex-prime minister Rafik Hariri.

"I waited a lot, I suffered a lot, but I achieved freedom," Hamawi said.



QUETTA: Chairman Industry Association Sayed Saleh Agha addressing a press conference.

New Delhi sends envoy to Dhaka to defuse tension

DHAKA (INP): India's top career diplomat was in Bangladesh on Monday to defuse tensions between the two neighbours arising from the August overflow of automatic ex-premier Sheikh Hasina in a student-led revolution.

Hasina's iron-fisted rule was strongly backed by India and the 77-year-old remains in New Delhi where she took refuge after her ouster, despite Bangladesh announcing it would seek her extradition.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, leader of an interim government tasked with implementing democratic reforms, has condemned acts of "Indian aggression" that he alleged were intended to destabilise his administration.

Vikram Misri, the secretary of India's foreign ministry, arrived in Dhaka on Monday for the first in-person meeting between top officials of both countries.

Misri said he discussed "some regrettable incidents of attacks on cultural, religious, and diplomatic properties," adding that India expected a constructive approach on these issues from Bangladesh. He also met his Bangladeshi counterpart, Mohammad Jashim Uddin.

Bangladesh has denied reports of attacks, asked India to stop sheltering Hasina and demanded her extradition. India, for its part, has accused Muslim League party leaders of deliberately targeting minorities. Her supporters at the event insisted that Hasina remained the lawful head of Bangladesh despite the popular uprising that forced her to flee to India.

that in many cases they were motivated by politics rather than religion.

Yunus has accused India of exaggerating the scale of the violence and running a "propaganda campaign" against his government. Adding to potential tensions between the two neighbours is Hasina's decision to re-emerge from her exile in New Delhi to address supporters abroad by video link.

On Sunday she spoke to several hundred members of her Awami League party based in London, accusing India of deliberately targeting minorities. Her supporters at the event insisted that Hasina remained the lawful head of Bangladesh despite the popular uprising that forced her to flee to India.

Govt takes notice of targeted campaign against journalists: Attaulah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar has stated that government has taken notice of the targeted campaign on social media aimed at inciting attacks on journalists.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said the online harassment of journalists is being incentivized.

The Information Minister expressed regret that details about journalists' children and their addresses are being shared online, emphasizing that this is completely unacceptable. He said data of all such accounts is being collected, and assured that strict action will be taken with the cooperation of Interior Ministry.

He expressed the resolve that individuals behind this online campaign will not be spared, but exposed.

Attaulah Tarar said nobody will be allowed to stoke anarchy in the country. He added that digital terrorism will also be brought to end. The Information Minister appreciated those members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, who termed the civil disobedience led by the PTI founder as inappropriate and decided not to implement it.

Regarding the PTIs campaign of boycotting certain home-made products, the Information Minister said they are taking forward the foreign agenda.

He said strong militancy is inevitable for a strong Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed his condolences over the death of a prominent leader of the Awami League party, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who passed away in Dhaka on Monday.

Zardari said he has a long and warm relationship with the late leader and his family. He expressed his deep respect for Mujibur Rahman's role in the independence of Bangladesh and his commitment to democracy and human rights.

The President also mentioned that he has been in contact with the family and will continue to support them during their period of mourning.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori offering fatcha for the departed soul of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

President Xi meets Leaders of major International Economic Organizations

BEIJING (INP): President Xi Jinping had a collective meeting with the leaders of major international economic organizations here at the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday.

President Xi posed for a group photo with the participating leaders at the beginning of the meeting, and thanked the leaders for their long-time support for China's modernization.

President Xi pointed out that with the acceleration of unprecedented global transformation, the world has entered a new period of turbulence and change, and once again come to a critical juncture.

Humanity is a closely intertwined community with a shared future.

Countries are not riding separately in some 190 small boats, but are rather all in a great ship on which their shared destiny hinges.

As such, they should see each other's development as opportunities rather than challenges, and treat each other as partners rather than rivals. Global solidarity, cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win should become the defining theme of the times.

China is ready to work with the major international economic organizations to practice multilateralism, promote international cooperation, and support the development of Global South countries, so as to advance an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation.

President of the New Development Bank Dilma Rousseff, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, President of the World Bank Group Ajay Banga, and Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala gave remarks on behalf of the participating international economic organizations.

They applauded China's achievements in economic development, expressed optimism about China's development prospect, and thanked China for its

long-standing support as a major country, and for the work of international economic organizations to get on board the fast train of China's development in pursuit of their own development.

The world economy is facing many difficulties and challenges, and unilateralism and protectionism are clearly on the rise. Countries across the world are looking to China, with the hope and confidence that China will continue to function as the most important engine of global growth.

The major international economic organizations are ready to work closely with China to uphold multilateralism, promote free trade and economic globalization, and make greater contributions to the common development and prosperity of the world, so as to create a brighter shared future for humanity.

President Xi listened attentively to the remarks of participating leaders, and responded on subjects of their interest, the world economy, the Chinese economy, and global economic governance.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the three global initiatives put forth by President Xi Jinping speak volumes about China's sense of responsibility as a major country, and for the work of international economic organizations to get on board the fast train of China's development in pursuit of their own development.

The world economy is facing many difficulties and challenges, and unilateralism and protectionism are clearly on the rise. Countries across the world are looking to China, with the hope and confidence that China will continue to function as the most important engine of global growth.

The major international economic organizations are ready to work closely with China to uphold multilateralism, promote free trade and economic globalization, and make greater contributions to the common development and prosperity of the world, so as to create a brighter shared future for humanity.

President Xi listened attentively to the remarks of participating leaders, and responded on subjects of their interest, the world economy, the Chinese economy, and global economic governance.

Over 150 cases against PTI propagandists registered, 23 arrested

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Tuesday continued a nationwide operation against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) social media activists accused of spreading false propaganda about state institutions and the armed forces.

Acting on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directives, the FIA has registered 153 cases and arrested 23 PTI propagandists so far.

In Lahore and other districts of Punjab, 69 FIRs were registered, while Islamabad recorded 52 cases.

Karachi saw 16 FIRs, Sukkur 4, Hyderabad 5, and Quetta 7. Yesterday, the arrested content creator Shaheeb Qaimkhan, a PTI Youth Wing president and UC chairman from Hyderabad, allegedly disseminating fake propaganda against state institutions. The FIA accused Qaimkhan of frequently spreading false narratives online.

Previously, on December 6, the FIA Cyber Crime Wing registered cases against seven individuals from Karachi, accusing them of spreading anti-state content through WhatsApp groups and X accounts.

The accused include Muhammad Sohail, Muhammad Junaid, Sheikh Muhammad Ihsan, Tariq Jamil, Syed Rizwan, Muhammad Ahmed, and Babar Azeem.

On December 2, the federal government formed a 10-member joint task force, led by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) chairman, to identify those involved in anti-state activities online. Members of the ISM, IB, FIA, and IT Ministry are part of this force.

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS
DIVISIONAL OFFICE QUETTA

SEALED BID AUCTION OF PARKINGS, SHOPS, AGRICULTURAL, MODEL BAZAR AND NURSERY OVER QUETTA DIVISION.

1. Pakistan Railways intends to hold sealed bid auction of subject sites over Quetta Division.

The detail of sealed bid auction is as under:

S. No.	Date of auction	Description	Location	Period	Participation fee (non-refundable)	Bid Security money (refundable)	Use of auction
1	24.12.2024	09 Nos Shops (Different Sites)	Near Railway Station Humal	5-15 Years	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 50000/-	Station Master Office Humal
2	24.12.2024	06 Nos Shops (173-175)	Dawn Road, Sibi	5-15 Years	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 70000/-	46/07/08/10 Sibi
3	26.12.2024	24 Nos Shops (113-120)	In front of Customs office Station road, Quetta	5-15 Years	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 150000/-	DS Office Quetta
4	26.12.2024	05 Nos Floor Stalls	Station road, Quetta	01 Years	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 50000/-	DS Office Quetta
5	26.12.2024	02 Nos Shops (113-120)	Station road, Quetta	5-15 Years	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 150000/-	DS Office Quetta
6	28.12.2024	17 Nos shops (113-120)	Station road, Quetta	5-15 Years	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 150000/-	DS Office Quetta
7	31.12.2024	10 Nos Shops (Different Sites)	At Jamb road, Quetta	5-15 Years	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 70000/-	DS Office Quetta
8	31.12.2024	01 Nos Parking (6000 Sq)	In front of New City Link air port Station, Quetta	01 Years	-	Rs. 1000000/-	DS Office Quetta
9	02-01-2025	Agricultural	Near Railway Station Gulistan & Wadi Khan	05 Years	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 50000/-	DS Office Quetta
10	02-01-2025	Winery	Near Railway Station Chairman	03-03 Years	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 100000/-	DS Office Quetta
11	04-01-2025	34 Nos Shops (113-120)	Near Railway Station Main	5-15 Years	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 70000/-	ARM Office Quetta
12	05-01-2025	Model Bazar	Near Railway Station Main	01 Years	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 300000/-	ARM Office Quetta

2. Bid security money in shape of Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) from Scheduled Bank in the name of Divisional Accounts Officer, Pakistan Railways, Quetta OR hard cash will be deposited in the bidder/participation fee each shop/ Parking at the time of auction. The bid security money will be returned/ refunded to a successful bidder and will be adjusted in payable of successful bidder.

3. First 50% Bid money in shape of Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) from Scheduled Bank in the name of Divisional Accounts Officer, Pakistan Railways, Quetta OR hard cash will be deposited by successful bidder for each shop parking nursery, agriculture. Rest will be the spot.

4. Terms can be obtained in Day & Night at the DS Office, Quetta.

5. The Railway Authority reserves the right to accept or reject bids without assigning any reasons.

6. Other terms & conditions will be mentioned in auction forms.

7. The sealed bid will be opened at 11.00 hours on bids will be opened in presence of bidders.

(Mehrab Ahmad)
DEN-1
For Divisional Superintendent,
Pakistan Railways, Quetta.

CORRIGENDUM

IT is submitted to inform all the contractors that the scheme namely "REPAIR OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER RESIDENCE" was published on daily newspaper on 05-12-2024 vide PRO No. 225506-19-2024 and on SIPRA website against the TSE 342158041 and corresponding date was 23rd December 2024. It is therefore requested that the said scheme Estimated cost may be read as \$ 8.00 Million instead of 50.00 Million. The Deadline of Last Bid Submission Time / Date and other terms and conditions will be remained same.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Buildings),
CW/PPM Department
Quetta

PRO No.227709-13-2024

BEFORE THE JUDGE BENKING COURT QUETTA OFFICE AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBOL QUETTA

SUIT NO.42/2024

House Building Finance Company Limited,
Branch Office, Quetta, PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

1. Nisar Ahmed Sto Nazir Ahmed,
CNIC: 54400-2047226-9,
R/o H.No: 5-12/478 Muhallah Juma Khan Colony,
Jan Muhammad Road Quetta
C/o Shop #3, Pir-Abdul Khair Road, Quetta. DEFENDANT

2. Mst. Tasneem Akhtar W/o Nisar Ahmed,
CNIC: 38201-1174809-2,
R/O H.No: 5-12/478 Muhallah Juma Khan Colony,
Jan Muhammad Road Quetta. (GUARANTOR)

SUIT FOR RECOVERY RS: 65,81,685.36/- US\$9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE NO. XLVI OF 2001.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to -
The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for **RS: 65,81,685.36/-** balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or, i.e. if it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing 15-2-2025.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 09th day of December 2024.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

Muqam urges on International Community to take action against India about violation of human rights in IIOJK

PESHAWAR (INP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam urged on the international community to take action against India about the human rights violations in IIOJK.

The minister said in his message on the eve of International Human Rights Day, he said that Today, the whole world is celebrating International Human Rights Day and this day reminded the world to uphold the protection of human rights.

On International Human Rights Day, we should not for-

get our brothers and sisters in the illegally occupied Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The serious human rights violations in the illegal Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir also require urgent attention from the international community, including the United Nations.

The desecration of women in occupied Kashmir is a daily practice for the Indian army and humanity has been humiliated in the occupied valley for the past several years. India continuously committing atrocities in occupied Kashmir and the Indian army has so far

murdered millions of Kashmiris. Thousands of women have become widows, thousands of Kashmiri children have become orphans.

The world must understand that there is no peace in the world without a solution to the Kashmir issue.

India is changing the population ratio in occupied Kashmir-Pakistan also pledges to continue its moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiris to achieve their legitimate right to self-determination. The Government of Pakistan will continue to work for justice, equality, dignity and human rights for all.



MULJANI, Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, distributing shields and certificates among the participants of the "International Conference on Role of Artificial Intelligence in access to justice in Pakistan" organized by University Gillani Law College at Bahauddin Zakariya University.

Govt sends fresh draft of Madrassah Registration Bill to Maulana Fazl

ISLAMABAD (INP): As differences persist between the government and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman over the registration of religious seminaries, the former has once again swung into action to win the support of the JUI-F chief for the madrassah registration bill as it has sent its fresh draft to him. New draft contained some changes to the bill.

They disclosed that the party, in its reply, had told the government that it would discuss features of the draft with ulama at the Wifaqul Madaris meeting to be held on December 17.

JUI-F lawyer Kamran Murtaza would brief the meeting on it, sources said, adding it would be after consultations with religious scholars that the party would give its reply to the government besides chalking

out a strategy for the future.

On Monday, Maulana Fazl had said that the party wanted the registration of religious seminaries in the country, but the government was making the matter controversial.

Addressing a press conference, Fazl said that the JUI-F did not want confrontation with the government, but only registration of the seminaries.

He said that the JUI-F was fighting for the madrassahs. "And this war the party has waged is not for its own benefit," he clarified.

He lamented that today the government by convening a meeting of a group of Ulama tried to create divisions between two groups of religious scholars.

"The government is trying to lead the nation astray by pitting two groups of religious

scholars against each other," he alleged.

Earlier, a conference of ulama, mashaikh and government ministers regarding reforms in madaris was held in Islamabad in which participants stressed that the issue of registration of seminaries should not be politicized.

The important meeting on madrassah registration and reforms took place in Islamabad on Monday.

bringing together prominent scholars and religious leaders from all schools of thought across Pakistan.

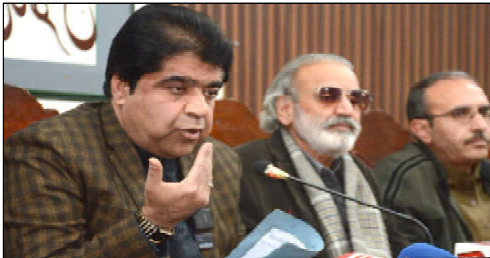
Emphasizing that religious seminaries play an important role in the propagation of Islam, Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Fahir Mehmood Ashrafi said on Monday that the registration of these seminaries should be foolproof.

Govt didn't interfere in seminaries after setting new system of registration in year 2019: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Hafiz Fahir Ashrafi has said that the government didn't interfere in seminaries after setting a new system of registration in year 2019.

Chief of Pakistan Ulema Council, Tahir Ashrafi said that the government neither intervene, nor it would be allowed. "We are custodians of Madaris (seminaries) and don't want any row", he said. He said 10 boards have been agreed over registration with the education ministry. He said 18,600 seminaries have already been registered with the Ministry of Education. "If Fazl ur Rehman wants to be registered with the ministry of industries, it is between him and the government," Hafiz Ashrafi said. A row over the Madrassah Registration Bill has sparked between the JUI and the government after the President deferred signing the legislation into a law.

JUI-F chief Fazlur-Rehman yesterday warned the government against politicizing the seminaries registration bill.



QUETTA: Al Balochistan Petroleum Dealer Association President Sayed Qayyum ud Din addressing a press conference.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting.

Cabinet approves settlement agreements with eight IPPs

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal cabinet in its meeting, with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the chair, on Tuesday approved settlement agreements with eight independent power plants (IPPs) running on bagasse.

The meeting granted its approval on the recommendation of the Ministry of Energy and the Power Division.

These power plants included DW Unit I, Unit II, RYK Mills, Chiniot Power, Hamza Sugar, Al-Moez Industries, Thal Industries and Chinar Industries.

After the approval of these agreements, the Central Power Purchasing Agency would contact NEPRA regarding a reduction in the power tariffs produced by these power plants.

As a result of these agreements, electricity prices for the

general public would decrease and the national exchequer would benefit by Rs238 billion rupees, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister said the government was taking all possible steps to reduce electricity prices for the common man.

He emphasized that the national interests should always be prioritized in every decision and action and also mentioned that the promotion of the private sector and industries in the country was a key priority for the government.

The federal cabinet was also briefed on the latest situation in Syria and the evacuation of Pakistanis from there.

The cabinet was informed that out of 250 Pakistani pilgrims in Syria, 79 had reached Beirut, from where they would

be brought back to Pakistan. Additionally, out of 20 teachers and students in Syria, seven teachers had also reached Beirut.

The meeting was further informed that the officials of the Pakistani embassies in Syria and Lebanon were taking all possible measures to ensure the safe return of Pakistanis from Syria.

The federal cabinet approved the appointment of Brigadier Asim Bashir Warrach as Member of Production Control on the Board of Heavy Industries Taxia, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence Production.

The federal cabinet also sanctioned the establishment of National Commission for the Status of Women Fund, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Human Rights.

HRC organizes fourth International Human Rights Awards Show

ISLAMABAD (INP): The fourth International Human Rights Awards Show, organized by the Human Rights Council of Pakistan, was held in Islamabad to mark International Human Rights Day.

The event included a photo exhibition highlighting atrocities in Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir, a session on climate change with experts discussing its threats, and an awards ceremony honoring 30 individuals for their contributions to human rights.

The conference, chaired by Jamshed Hussain, emphasized the importance of human rights protection and condemned injustices and violations across the country.

The event kicked off with a photo exhibition during the opening ceremony.

Ms. Mushaal Hussein

Mullik, the chief guest of the exhibition, focused on the photographs depicting the atrocities in Palestine and Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The second session of the conference focused on Climate Change, hosted by Roshan Deen Diamari, Chief Spokesperson of the Pakistan Human Rights Council. The panel featured Dr. Asif Khan, Dr. Malik Dr. Atif Wazir, and Ms. Hasina.

Experts delved into the impacts of climate change on glaciers, rising temperatures, and their potential threats.

The session's chief guest, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, highlighted the dangers of climate change and called for a unified strategy to address the issue.

The third session of the conference included an award

ceremony, where prominent figures from across the country were recognized for their exceptional contributions to human rights.

These individuals have devoted their lives to safeguarding human rights.

In closing, Jamshed Hussain, Chairman of the Pakistan Human Rights Council emphasized that everyone must contribute to ending injustices and brutality in the country, and that human rights organizations play a crucial role in ensuring the enforcement of basic human rights.

Effective measures are essential to prevent violations of the rule of law and human rights in Pakistan. The conference strongly condemned the bloodshed and injustices nationwide, rejecting any justification for human rights violations.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker.

IHC to hear plea against X ban in Pakistan on Feb 6

ISLAMABAD (INP): The petition challenging the ban on the social media app X will be heard on April 17, 2024, has faced several delays. Initially scheduled for hearings on May 2 and June 11, 2024, the case could not proceed on those dates.

A miscellaneous application for an early hearing was accepted by the court on November 22, 2024. Following this, Chief Justice Aamir Farooq directed that the case be scheduled after the winter vacations, when the Registrar Office confirming the hearing

date for February 6, 2025.

Earlier, the Senate's Standing Committee on IT and Telecom, chaired by Senator Palwasha Khan, convened on December 5 to discuss key issues concerning the industry.

During the meeting, Pasha Chairman Sajjad Mustafa Syed expressed strong reservations about the government's VPN policy, highlighting the adverse impact on the IT sector.

"An hour of internet downtime results in a loss of \$910,000 for the IT industry," he stated, stressing the critical nature of reliable internet access for the sector's growth.

Senator Palwasha Khan raised concerns over the actions of the Ministry of IT, criti-

cizing the tendency to shift responsibility to the Ministry of Interior. "I don't understand why we even have a Ministry of IT if this is how things are managed," she remarked.

Secretary of IT, while addressing the committee, assured that efforts are underway to balance national security concerns with minimal disruption to the IT industry.

"We are striving to meet national security requirements while ensuring the least impact on the IT sector," he added.

The discussion highlighted the need for a more strategic approach to policy-making, ensuring both national security and the thriving growth of Pakistan's IT industry.