

# QUETTA VOICE

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Violent clash between students and security guards at BUITEMS: Photo grabbed from a video on social media

## Opposition, govt trade barbs in Senate but agree dialogue is way forward

**ISLAMABAD:** The opposition and the treasury benches in the Senate on Wednesday accused each other of stealing their mandate in 2024 and 2018 general elections, though they agreed that dialogue is the only way forward.

Initiating discussion on PTI's protest in Islamabad, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Syed Shibli Faraz alleged that bullets had been fired directly on the peaceful protesters, claiming the lives of at least 13 protesters and leaving many others injured.

"Whereabouts of over 200 PTI activists are unknown. We do not know if they are alive or dead," he remarked. He also said over 5,000 PTI workers were behind bars.



He regretted that some key ministers claimed there were no fatalities in the operation.

"We want supremacy of the law and the constitution. We want a robust democracy in the country. Democracy comes from democratic attitudes," he stressed while demanding a judicial commission comprising three senior most judges of the apex court probe into May 9 and Nov 26 episodes. "We want the future generations to know what happened," he remarked.

He regretted PTI's "desire to advance the political process" is branded as an attempt to create anarchy.

Rejecting the allegations that the PTI protesters were violent, he threw a challenge on the government to bring forth CCTV footage as evidence.

Deploing the reaction of other political parties to the Nov 26 saga, Senator Shibli Faraz warned it could happen to them, too. He said 1.2m people had left the country, emphasising the need to ponder over mass exodus.

He alleged that PTI's mandate had been stolen in 2024 general elections. He also regretted that the "illegitimate government" was framing laws, which were in no way democratic, and also introducing controversial amendments to the constitution.

Towards the end of his speech, he said his party "believes in dialogue".

## Tense Situation at BUITEMS as Students and Security Clash

**Syed Ali Shah:**

**QUETTA:** A tense situation erupted at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) on Thursday after a clash between students and security personnel. The incident resulted in injuries, including to Security Officer Hamdullah, and disrupted academic activities, spreading panic among students.

Videos circulating on social media captured the chaos, showing students and security personnel clashing in the university premises, smashing glass windows, and damaging property. Heavy police deployment followed the incident, with authorities tightening security across the campus.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Hafeez expressed serious concern over the incident. Speaking to Daily Quetta Voice via telephone, he said, "I am going to inquire

about the health condition of our security guard." Dr. Hafeez assured that the incident would be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators would be brought to justice.

In response, the BUIITEMS Staff Association strongly condemned the lathi charge on teachers and the overall handling of the situation. According to the association, the Assistant Commissioner entered the training hall and claimed responsibility for ordering the lathi charge.

The association termed this a "shameful act" and called for accountability. The association also criticized the removal of Security Officer Hamdullah, who they allege repeatedly faced challenges while standing up to students in such situations. They questioned the wisdom of creating personal enmities by putting lives at risk

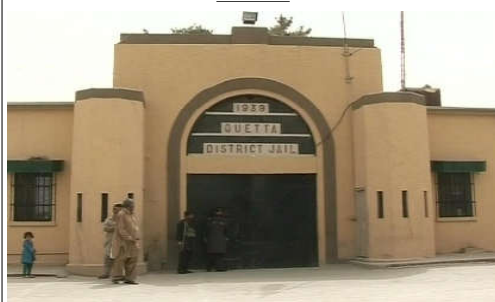
and called for better conflict management.

A delegation from the association met Pro Vice Chancellor Mir Vice Kas to discuss the incident, during which the Registrar reportedly stated that the police acted without permission from the institution. The association has demanded a transparent investigation into the matter, medical expenses for the injured security officer, and a formal letter to the Chief Secretary calling for departmental action against the Assistant Commissioner. As a mark of protest, university staff announced plans to wear black armbands and observe "Karyom Black" tomorrow.

The incident has disrupted the academic environment at BUIITEMS, leaving many questioning the measures in place to prevent such clashes in the future.

## Scabies Outbreak Hits Over 200 Inmates in Quetta Jail

**Manan Mandokhai:**



**QUETTA:** An outbreak of skin diseases, including scabies, has affected over 200 inmates in the District Jail Quetta, sources within the Balochistan government confirmed on Wednesday. The outbreak is reportedly linked to overcrowding, poor hygiene, and inadequate food quality inside the prison.

While the exact cause has not yet been identified, these factors are believed to have contributed

significantly to the spread of infections.

According to sources, some of the severely affected prisoners have been referred to Bolan Medical Complex and Civil Hospital Quetta for treatment. Despite repeated attempts, no official statement was received from the prison department. However, a senior officer, speaking anonymously, dismissed the reports as exaggerated.

Contrary to this, officials from the health department confirmed the outbreak and emphasized the urgent need for better living conditions and medical care for the inmates.

The situation has raised concerns about the management of prison facilities in Quetta, with calls for immediate action to prevent further deterioration of health among the incarcerated population.

## SHO Chaman Dies Due to Gas Leakage in His Room

**Sardar Muhammad Khondai:**

**CHAMAN:** Station House Officer (SHO) Chaman, Asadullah Khosti, tragically passed away on Thursday after a gas leakage in his room.

The incident occurred in Chaman, where SHO Khosti was found unconscious due to the buildup of gas in his room.

He was being rushed to Quetta for urgent medical treatment but, unfortunately, succumbed to the effects of the gas exposure on the way to the

hospital. This heartbreaking incident highlights the dangers of gas leaks, especially during winter when heaters and gas appliances are in frequent use.

Authorities have urged citizens to ensure proper ventilation and check for potential leaks to avoid similar tragedies.

Condolences have poured in from law enforcement officials and local leaders, mourning the untimely loss of a dedicated officer.



## Supreme Court Reinstates Adil Baza as MNA, Overturns ECP Disqualification

**Dawood Ahmed:**

**ISLAMABAD:** The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday annulled the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to disqualify Adil Baza, a Member of the National Assembly (MNA) from NA-262 Quetta-I. A bench led by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah reinstated Baza, marking a significant victory for the politician, who was initially elected as an independent candidate and later joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). The apex court found the ECP's reasoning for Baza's disqualification unsatisfactory. In a brief order, the court reversed the ECP's decision, restoring Baza's position as a member of the National Assembly.

**SC Raises Questions on ECP's Authority**

During the hearing, the bench scrutinized the ECP's handling of affidavits, raising doubts about the transparency of its verification process. Justice Ayesha Malik questioned the election body's authority, asking, "Is the ECP above all courts in the country?" She criticized the commission for seemingly disregarding institutional and legal protocols.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah

also expressed reservations about the ECP acting as a trial court.

"Does the ECP have the right to conduct trials? They do not respect courts, magistrates, or even conduct proper inquiries themselves," he re-



**Ruling A Setback For ECP**

Justice Ayesha Malik further scrutinized the ECP's handling of affidavits, raising doubts about the transparency of its verification process. She suggested the commission might be selectively accepting or rejecting affidavits without consistent standards. This ruling is seen as a setback for the ECP and a crucial win for Adil Baza, solidifying his position in the National Assembly.

## Maulana Fazlur Rehman claims madrassa bill approved despite President Zardari's objections

**NEWS DESK:** Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has claimed that the Madrassa Registration Bill has been legally approved, despite objections raised by President Asif Ali Zardari after a delay of over a month.

Speaking at a press conference in Dera Ismail Khan on Thursday, Rehman criticised the presidential objections, arguing that the bill would have automatically become law if not opposed within 10 days. He said that the bill had already gone through all the necessary stages with the participation of state institutions, including drafting by the Ministry of Law and agreements made in meetings with PPP leaders President Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto.

He questioned the basis of objections raised by the president at this stage, especially since the process involved significant input from all parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the PPP. "The draft was prepared by the government before the elections,

and we accepted it despite our reservations. Why are you distancing yourselves now?" he said. "Why did you create new organisations for religious seminaries? Were state institutions involved in dividing these organisations?" he asserted.

The JUI chief further stated that while the government had created the draft for the bill, certain groups had deliberately created a divide among seminaries. He stressed that there was no issue between his party and religious scholars, nor was there any dispute with religious seminaries themselves.

"The people who incited and encouraged you to protest are responsible for this situation," he said. He also criticised the lack of implementation of provisions made in the agreement with the government, particularly the failure to open bank accounts for seminaries or grant visas for foreign students. "The government has violated the terms of the agreement," he added.

**Balochistan in the Eye of Climate Change Storm: Calls for Resilient Climate Policies Surface**

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**School Meal Program in Balochistan – A Step Towards Better Education and Nutrition**

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**PM calls for boosting global momentum on Universal Health Coverage**

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QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

School Meal Program in Balochistan - A Step Towards Better Education and Nutrition

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Balochistan Education Department and the World Food Programme (WFP) marks a significant step towards addressing critical issues of malnutrition and low school enrolment in Balochistan.

Under this two-year initiative, 20,000 students in 65 schools will benefit from 5 million nutritious meals, aiming to combat nutritional deficiencies, improve attendance, and enhance learning outcomes.

Balochistan, despite being resource-rich, faces severe developmental challenges. Malnutrition, stunting, and anemia, particularly among women and children, are widespread. Hidden hunger—a condition where essential nutrients are lacking—contributes to high child mortality rates. Poverty and unemployment exacerbate these issues, leaving millions of children vulnerable.

Education Minister Rabeela Hameed Khan Durani emphasized the transformative potential of this program in boosting enrolment and improving student health.

However, with over 3 million out-of-school children and 1 million enrolled in schools across the province, this initiative must be expanded. Global organizations like the WFP should extend their support beyond the initial 20,000 students to reach marginalized neighborhoods and backward districts.

Providing free meals to all school-going children could significantly improve enrolment, retention, and overall well-being. This program not only addresses nutrition but also promotes education as a tool for empowerment in Balochistan. Scaling up such initiatives is essential to secure a healthier, more educated future for the province's children.

Fake news: undermining governance, sowing discord

In today's interconnected world, proliferation of misinformation poses a significant threat to effective governance, democratic processes and societal harmony. From Pakistan to the United Kingdom, the spread of fabricated narratives reveals systemic vulnerabilities and challenges resilience of institutions. Addressing this issue is essential to safeguarding public trust and ensuring stable governance.

The recent turmoil linked to the PTIs protests of November 24-26 highlights the destructive impact of disinformation. False reports about arrests and fatalities and fabricated statements rapidly circulated, further eroding public confidence in state institutions. For example, a fabricated claim misattributing a provocative remark to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stirred public outrage, while fictitious reports claiming the resignation of 600 military academy cadets undermined trust in national defence structures.

Such instances underscore how fake news weakens governance by sowing distrust between citizens and authorities. Beyond tarnishing the government's reputation, disinformation deepens political divisions, complicating efforts to manage crises effectively. Misinformation is not confined to Pakistan; it has severe repercussions worldwide. The recent anti-immigrant riots in the United Kingdom illustrate the dangers of unchecked fake news. Baseless claims about the identity of a suspect in a child-stabbing incident sparked violent attacks on mosques, arson and confrontations with law enforcement. Amplified through social media,

Heinous crime of human trafficking

How safe a place is Pakistan to live? The 2024 US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report rekindled a dire situation in Pakistan regarding human trafficking. In 2023 alone, out of over 18,000 cases of human trafficking investigated, only 10 convictions were secured. Alarmingly, for the first consecutive year, no substantial actions were taken against government officials implicated in a trafficking-related offence. This demonstrates a broader systemic failure to address human trafficking effectively within

Balochistan in the Eye of Climate Change Storm: Calls for Resilient Climate Policies Surface

Chandni Kakar:

In the global battle against climate change, Balochistan, Pakistan, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for climate resilience. The province is experiencing increasingly severe weather events, a consequence of human-induced climate change. However, many residents mistake these extreme weather occurrences for regular fluctuations, hindering recognition of the escalating climate crisis.

Balochistan becoming unbearably hot

Balochistan is becoming unbearably hot, with rising temperatures transforming heatwaves into a year-round threat. These heatwaves pose severe health risks, including heat stress, dehydration, and even fatalities. In 2017, Turbat recorded a scorching 53.5°C (128.3°F), setting a record for Pakistan. Unfortunately, forecasts suggest that temperatures will continue to rise.

CC affects economy

Climate change also decimated the region's economy through the loss of livestock. Between 2010 and 2022, over 1.5 million livestock were lost, costing over \$1 billion and displacing over 100,000 people, particularly in districts like Quetta, Pishin, Turbat, Pajpore, and Khuzdar.

The 2022 flood in Balochistan underscores the looming climate change threat

The 2022 flood underscored the looming threat of climate change through the loss of livestock. Between 2010 and 2022, over 1.5 million livestock were lost, costing over \$1 billion and displacing over 100,000 people, particularly in districts like Quetta, Pishin, Turbat, Pajpore, and Khuzdar.

Army troops be only employed as 'leaved' neutral interlocutors.

Second, population relocation. This is not a State exodus per se. Parachinar Sunnis were completely evicted by the Shia community against senior advice. Had the relocation been under state patronage with compensation paid as per tribal and administrative norms, the entire sentiment of the evicted Sunnis - now holding the rod from Sadda to Alizai - would have been different.

Two options - effective and powerful 'intervention' between the warring tribes and 'population relocation' - were suggested.

Firstly, the State intervention between the tribes. Up to 2007, peace in larger Kurram was enforced by the collective will of LEAs and political administration with tribal elders in support, after the tribes

had exhausted their military and economic capital in the initial flare-up, as fighting costs in lives and affects local economy. Jirga-mediated truces are just face-saving solutions, at best. However, with increased intensity in violence and the introduction of TTP and Zainabiyoon militancy, the area geography and demography ask for enforced peace as an existential imperative.

Political and public figures also have a duty to avoid misleading rhetoric. Statements made during the PTI protests deepened divisions, clarifying how irresponsible leadership levels is essential to mitigate the polarising effects of fake news.

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Tree plantations could mitigate sweltering temperatures

In a province where tree planting could mitigate sweltering temperatures and climate change impacts, government initiatives should engage younger generations in green initiatives. Achieving a resilient future necessitates a collaborative effort involving government, local communities, civil society, and the commercial sector.

Balochistan's path towards resilience begins with a symphony of collective action. By addressing these critical issues, Balochistan can better adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring a more secure and sustainable future for its residents.

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Kurram - co-existence and cooption

Parachinar-Kohat has to be kept open through strong mobile presence; reserve forces be maintained to react effectively and quickly; some aviation assets be relocated to Kohat and artillery deployment at Sadda, Alizai, Bagan and Hangu be planned for as the range permit to cover conflict has morphed into a proxy conflict where, besides Turis and Bangash, these two adjacent elements are also stakeholders.

This enhances the complexity of conflict and CRM. Therefore, the Government has two sub-options: a) to let the tribes fight it out till they reach their maximum point and voluntarily agree to ceasefire and a 'temporary' peace, until the next inevitable flare-up; or b) sit in between with lethal force to enforce a ceasefire and restore peace. The first option may have the risk of increased loss of human life and damage to property, besides enhancing political, social and psychological costs. The State cannot be just a bystander in modern times. Hence the natural course of action is to intervene forcefully to enforce peace, whatever it takes. The innate Pashtun sociology supersedes the warring tribes and 'population relocation' - were suggested.

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had exhausted their military and economic capital in the initial flare-up, as fighting costs in lives and affects local economy. Jirga-mediated truces are just face-saving solutions, at best. However, with increased intensity in violence and the introduction of TTP and Zainabiyoon militancy, the area geography and demography ask for enforced peace as an existential imperative.

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## Islamabad High Court (IHC) disposes of plea seeking Bushra's bail cancellation

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday disposed of the petition filed by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), seeking cancellation of the bail granted to Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana-II reference, the wife of former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan.

During the hearing, judge Mingsul Hassan Aurangzeb

told Barrister Salman Safdar, counsel for Bushra, that if his client would not appear in the trial court, the latter could cancel her bail.

"Safdar sab, you should take cases like these seriously," the judge remarked. Barrister Safdar informed the judge that there had been 15 hearings of the case since October 23. "It appears that the court is in a rush."

The judge asked

him about the occasions on which Bushra was granted exemption from appearance in the court.

The lawyer replied that the first time his client was granted an exemption was on November 5. "She appeared at the next hearing on November 8. There was no hearing on November 12. And on November 14, she was granted another exemption." He went on to say that there were

three hearings of the cases involving Bushra.

Justice Aurangzeb ordered Barrister Safdar to provide to the IHC the trial court's order sheet so that it could know on which dates the former first lady was granted an exemption.

The judge also ordered him to inform about the number of hearings at which the former PM's wife did not appear in court after she was granted bail.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin, called on the Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications, Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

## Mitchell Marsh 'ready to bowl as much' as Australia need him to in Brisbane

BRISBANE (INP): Mitchell Marsh has insisted there is no limit to the number of overs he can send down against India, having put his trust in the coaching and medical staff amid a cautious build-up to the series and then careful management ahead of the Adelaide Test.

Marsh has been nursing periodic back stiffness since the white-ball tour of the UK in September, where he bowled just once in the ODI at Lord's - which was the first time he'd had ball in hand since suffering a hamstring injury in the IPL in April.

There had been plans for him to bowl in the Sheffield Shield early in the season but those were put on ice by the ongoing back issues. He took two wickets on the opening day of the Perth Test, sending down 17 overs in total for the match, after which he pulled up sore,

which led to doubts over his place for the series, but his medical staff, Ronnie and Patty were really clear. I trusted that.

Such was the speed with which Australia bowled out India twice in Adelaide, needing just 80 overs, that even Nathan Lyon was only required to send down a single over as Mitchell Starc, Cummins and Scott Boland went to work.

"When I got to the change rooms they asked if I hit it and I said 'yeah, I smashed it.' And then the replay came up and the head went into the hands and about one minute later everyone else was laughing at me."

"I didn't bowl as much as I would have liked to in the lead-up to

the series, but our medical staff, Ronnie and Patty were really clear. I trusted that. Such was the speed with which Australia bowled out India twice in Adelaide, needing just 80 overs, that even Nathan Lyon was only required to send down a single over as Mitchell Starc, Cummins and Scott Boland went to work.

"When I got to the change rooms they asked if I hit it and I said 'yeah, I smashed it.' And then the replay came up and the head went into the hands and about one minute later everyone else was laughing at me."

"I had an interrupted lead-in but I am really well placed," Marsh said. "For me it is about being able to contribute. Whether that is five overs or bowling the occasional good ball and getting a wicket or just bowling overs to give our boys a chop out. Right now, if [the back] is feeling as good as it has felt."

Away from the bowling discussion, Marsh was involved in one of the more curious incidents during the Adelaide Test when he walked for an edge behind against R Ashwin and the head went into the hands and about one minute later everyone else was laughing at me."

## Those responsible for torture in Syria to be punished: Golani

DAMASCUS (INP): The ethnic lines destroyed the country. Syria ran one of the most oppressive police states in the Middle East during five decades of Assad family rule. Golani, whose former Al Qaeda affiliate Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is now the country's most powerful force, must balance demands for justice from victims with the need to prevent violent reprisals and secure international aid, Mohammed al-Bashir, the man installed by Golani's fighters to lead an interim administration, said he aimed to bring back millions of refugees, create unity and provide basic services. But rebuilding would be daunting with little funding on hand.

"We will pursue them in Syria, and we ask them to hand over what we fled so we can achieve justice," Abu Mohammed al-Golani said in a statement published on the Syrian state TV's Telegram channel.

The world is carefully watching to see if Syria's new rulers can stabilise the country and avoid unleashing violent revenge, after a 15-year civil war fought

along sectarian and ethnic lines destroyed the country.

Rebuilding Syria is a colossal task following a civil war that killed hundreds of thousands of people, reduced cities to ruins, depopulated the countryside and left the economy gutted by international sanctions. Millions of refugees still live in camps after one of the biggest displacements of modern times.

"In the coffers there

are only Syrian pounds worth little or nothing. One US dollar buys 35,000 of our coins," Bashar told Italian newspaper Il Corriere della Sera. "We have no foreign currency and as for loans and bonds we are still collecting data. So yes, financially we are very bad," said Bashar, who previously ran a small rebel-led administration in a pocket of northwestern Syria.

Foreign officials are warily engaging with the former rebels, although HTS remains designated a terrorist organisation by Washington, the United Nations, EU and others. The new government must "uphold commitments to fully respect the rights of minorities, facilitate the flow of humanitarian assistance to all in need, prevent Syria from being used as a base for terrorism or posing a threat to its neighbours," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said: "It's our duty to do everything to support different Syrian leaders in order to make sure that they come together, they are able to guarantee a smooth transition."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Education & Professional and Training Science & Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui cutting ribbon during Pakistan Education Endowment Fund hosted the Scholarship Celebration ceremony at NELB-17.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari in group photo with Chinese business delegation who called on him.

## President Zardari for greater Chinese investment in Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for greater Chinese investment in diverse sectors of Pakistan's economy to boost economic and commercial cooperation between the two big, friendly countries. He also emphasized the need for enhanced interaction between the people of the two countries, especially between the investors and businesses.

The President expressed these views while talking to a Chinese business delegation, led by the Chinese

Consul General in Karachi, Yang Yundong, at Bilawal House, Karachi. Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Minister for Transport and Information, Sharjeel Inham Memon, Minister for Energy, Planning, and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Investment and Public Private Partnerships, Syed Qasim N Qamar, also attended the meeting.

The delegation expressed interest in investing \$1 billion to establish a medical city in Pakistan to advance the country's healthcare sector. The delegation also

expressed interest in investing in diverse sectors of Pakistan's economy, especially agriculture, livestock, energy, transport, and manufacturing. Welcoming the delegation, the President said that Pakistan and China shared commonalities of interest and views on important issues, besides enjoying deep-rooted and historic brotherly ties.

"We have been close friends for decades, and it was my vision to develop Gwadar Port into a regional trade and economic hub that would not only improve re-

gional connectivity but would also boost regional trade and economic cooperation," he stated. The President said Pakistan would welcome Chinese investors and preferred doing business with China.

He stated that Pakistan was committed to facilitating and supporting Chinese investors in every possible way. The President highlighted that Chinese language courses had been introduced in Sindh, which would be an important step towards strengthening people-to-people and cultural linkages between Pakistan and China.

## World must take notice of continual massive HR violations in IIOJK: Speakers

MIRPUR (AJK) (INP): The speakers at a seminar hosted in Mirpur to mark World Human Rights Day, said the world must take immediate notice of the continual massive human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) where humans are being denied their due rights by the Indian forces, particularly their birthright to self-determination.

Institute of Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies hosted the seminar in collaboration with the Mirpur University of Science and Technology, staging a "think-provide" seminar titled "IIOJK & Humans

Without Rights," followed by a rally at central Shaheed Chowk.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Tahseen Ghous, Dean of FSS, emphasized the importance of a practical approach to the Kashmir cause and encouraged the youth to step up and push for justice, which had often been overlooked.

Speaking on this occasion, the in-charge of the IR Department, highlighted the need for academia to engage more deeply with the Kashmir issue, emphasizing the connection between human rights violations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. Raseel Ahmad, CEO Mirpur, discussed the revocation of Ar-

ticle 370 and its profound legal consequences for the people of IIOJK.

Dr. Waleed Rasool, Convener of HEC Research and Academics, shared a crucial perspective on the role of a stable and powerful Pakistan in securing human rights for the people of IIOJK.

He pointed out that human rights could only be safeguarded in IIOJK if Pakistan was stable, sustainable, and strong.

Dr. Rasool continued that status was the unit of analysis globally. "For Pakistan to play an influential role in global discourse, internal full lines must be addressed to en-

sure unity," he urged. Referring to international law supporting power, he suggested that a strong state could leverage international law to protect its interests, whereas weaker states often find their laws manipulated or ignored.

He said that since unity always stands as a strength, collective effort and unity within Pakistan were imperative to give Kashmiris a fighting chance for justice.

Referring to current critical thinking and global perspectives, he urged as saying "we must develop the habit of looking at issues through a broader, world-view lens, considering the bigger picture."



HAGUE: Hearing on States' Responsibilities Regarding Climate Change at the International Court of Justice. Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan represented Pakistan.

## Israeli air strikes kill 38 Palestinians in Gaza

CAIRO (INP): Israeli air attacks across the Gaza Strip killed at least 38 Palestinians on Wednesday, most of them in a strike on a house in Beit Lahya on the northern edge of the enclave, medics said.

The Beit Lahya strike killed at least 22 people, including women and children, health officials said. Relatives listed the names of the dead on social media.

More than 30 people were living in the multi-story building before it was struck, and several family members remained missing as rescue operations continued through the morning, the Palestinian WFA news agency said.

The Israeli military told Reuters it had carried out a strike targeting Hamas fighters near the Kamal Adwan Hospital, which is located between Beit Lahya and Jabalia, and struck on two houses and a crowd in Gaza City, in-

cluding journalist Eman Al-Shanti, her husband, and three of their children.

It said it was continuing to examine the incident but described the number of fatalities reported by Palestinian medics and media as "inaccurate" and at odds with the army's information.

In nearby Beit Hanoun, also part of the area under siege, medics said an Israeli air strike killed and wounded several people, without giving an exact toll. Rescue workers said several people were trapped under rubble.

Earlier on Wednesday, at least seven Palestinians were killed and several others wounded in an Israeli air strike on a house in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, medics told Reuters.

The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service and medics said nine other people were killed in three separate Israeli air strikes on two houses and a crowd in Gaza City, in-

cluding journalist Eman Al-Shanti, her husband, and three of their children.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Israeli military said two rockets had been fired from the central Gaza Strip into Israel but fell in open areas and caused no injuries.

The rocket salvo demonstrated the ability of Gaza fighters to continue to stage rocket attacks despite 14 months of devastating Israeli aerial and ground offensives.

Citing rocket launches from the area, the Israeli military ordered residents in the Al-Maghazi camp in central Gaza to evacuate. It urged them to head towards a humanitarian-designated zone near the Mediterranean coast.

Palestinian and United Nations officials said there are no safe areas in the widely devastated territory. Fighting has focused on the densely urbanised north, where Israeli armoured forces have been operating in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahya and Jabalia since Oct 5.

### 'Human rights for all: Amplify Kashmir's voice to world'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Friends of Kashmir International organized a webinar titled "Human Rights for All: Amplify Kashmir's Voice to the World" in connection with International Human Rights Day.

The session was moderated by the Vice Chairman of Friends of Kashmir International, Abdul Hameed Lone.

The keynote address was delivered by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, who emphasized the significance of 2025 when Pakistan will attain observer membership in the United Nations Security Council. He urged Pakistan to utilize this opportunity to highlight the Kashmir issue and garner international support.

Chairpersons of Peace and Culture Organization, Misal

Hussain Malik, shed light on the ongoing human rights violations in Kashmir.

She appealed for global cooperation to raise awareness about her husband Yasin Malik's plight, who remains in Indian custody, allegedly facing severe mistreatment.

Research Officer Tayyiba Khurshid from the Centre for International Strategic Studies (AJK) focused on the impact of India's draconian laws in Kashmir and the broader region, where minorities face systemic discrimination. She proposed youth activism and a cohesive strategy to effectively address the Kashmir issue.

Abdul Hameed Lone, Vice Chairman of Friends of Kashmir International, highlighted the United Nations' adoption of

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, a comprehensive human rights charter.

He criticized India's failure to uphold the declaration in Kashmir, noting that life under occupation is marked by repression and fear. He called for a unified voice against state-sponsored terrorism in the region.

Senior anchorperson Yasir Rehman explored the multi-dimensional aspects of the Kashmir conflict at local, national, regional, and international levels. He discussed India's propaganda efforts to polarize communities in AJK and stressed the need for economic opportunities to address grievances among AJK's youth.



ISLAMABAD: Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi offering fatiha for the departed soul of sister of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

### PM calls for boosting global momentum on Universal Health Coverage

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the advancement of the global momentum towards Universal Health Coverage.

He expressed this commitment, in his message on the Universal Health Coverage Day.

The Prime Minister said this year's theme, "Health: It's on the government," underscores the pivotal role of governments in ensuring that no one has to choose between essential healthcare and basic necessities such as food, shelter, or education.

He said as a government, we recognize our duty as a

moral imperative to make healthcare accessible to all citizens, regardless of socioeconomic status.

He added that any compromise on health is a compromise on the security, prosperity, and development of our nation—an area where no risks can be taken.

Shehbaz Sharif said in pursuit of this goal, the government has introduced transformative initiatives, such as the Sehat Sahulat Program.

This program, which has garnered international recognition from esteemed organizations like the WHO, provides free health coverage to millions of families, prioritizing the most

vulnerable segments of society.

Additionally, we have made significant investments in healthcare infrastructure and ensured access to essential, life-saving medications, especially in rural and underserved areas.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving the health related targets outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

He said we will continue to collaborate with the United Nations and other global leaders to develop and strengthen frameworks that prioritize health as a fundamental human right.

### Treasury, opposition members assail ministers' absence from NA proceedings

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ministers of the ruling coalition party PML-N again faced criticism on Thursday from its ally PPP as well as the opposition PTI for their absence from the National Assembly proceedings.

Yesterday's session of the Lower House of the parliament also saw both treasury and opposition members protesting the absence of ministers during the question hour.

They had expressed their dissatisfaction over several replies given by parliamentary secretaries on behalf of the ministers. Besides the opposition members, the most vocal and strong protest was lodged by the PPP members who termed it "an insult to the parliament".

Shortly after the session began at 11am, PPP's Syed Naveed Qamar recalled that his party raised the issue of ministers' absence yesterday.

"The cabinet is collectively responsible to the National Assembly. It is the ministers' constitutional duty to be present in the House," Qamar said.

"There cannot be any other obligation more important than the responsibility to National Assembly and yet they abdicate that responsibility day after day in defiance. How do they expect anybody — the opposition or anybody else — to respect parliament

when its major beneficiaries decide not to respect parliament?" he asked adding: "This is ridiculous. We keep on raising this issue and yet they keep on abstaining themselves."

The PPP lawmaker then urged NA Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah to issue a "strict ruling" on the issue that the House should not proceed until the ministers were present.

Responding to Qamar, the deputy speaker recalled that he had issued a ruling yesterday that they would write a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to ask him to ensure the presence of ministers for parliamentary business.

He highlighted that earlier today, the NA proceedings were paused for 15 minutes to wait for ministers and parliamentary secretaries to arrive. "The government is non-serious and if the government wants the House to continue in this manner, it will not happen," Speaking next, Opposition Leader in the NA Omar Ayub Khan also criticised the absence of ministers during the question hour.

"Look at the situation right now. It is 11:49am. We even took a break (but) no minister is present. I have the questions here. Why do we come here?" Ayub said.

"No minister or minister of state is here; just 'one or two par-

liamentary secretaries," he said, adding: "Is this a government or what? They have a non-serious attitude." The opposition leader highlighted, "We have one forum for accountability of the government; it is this question hour. If they do not take this seriously, then what governance and what accountability?"

"This is a humiliation of the House," he said, requesting the deputy speaker and Speaker Ayaz Sadiq to ensure the presence of ministers.

Subsequently, deputy speaker Shah ruled: "If the ministers do not come [to the NA] next week, then we will not continue the House [proceedings]. This is what they want? This is what we will do [..] This is a disgrace to the House."

Shazia Marri, another PPP lawmaker, also raised the same issue. She termed a minister's assurance given yesterday on the matter "very weak."

"Instead of coming to the issue, they were detailing their performance," she said, quipping: "What has happened after yesterday is that that one minister is also absent now."

Marri contended that parliamentary secretaries did not have a constitutional role but rather federal and state ministers. "This cannot be a replacement of the federal cabinet."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, presided over the 11th Board Meeting of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

### SC overturns ECP decision to disqualify MNA Adil Bazai

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Thursday overturned the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to disqualify Adil Bazai, a Member of the National Assembly (MNA) from NA-262 Quetta-I.

The SC bench headed by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah reinstated Adil Bazai as a member of the National Assembly, marking a major victory for the politician who was elected as an independent candidate and later joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

The apex court was not satisfied with the ECP's reasoning for disqualifying Adil Bazai, leading to the overturning of the decision. In its short order, the

SC overturned the ECP decision and reinstated Adil Bazai as MNA.

In their remarks, the judges raised questions about the ECP's authority, asking if it is above all courts in the country.

"Is the ECP above all courts in the country?" Justice Ayesha Malik asked, adding it seemed that it the election watchdog disregarded all institutions and laws.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah also expressed concern, asking if the ECP has the right to conduct trials. He questioned the source of the ECP's power, stating that it seemed to have taken on the role of a trial court.

"Does the ECP have the right to conduct trials? They (ECP) do not respect courts, magistrates, and do not even conduct inquiries themselves," Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah remarked.

Justice Ayesha Malik also questioned the ECP's decision-making process, asking how it had verified the authenticity of affidavits submitted to it. She expressed concern that the Election Commission may be selectively accepting or rejecting affidavits.

"You had two affidavits, one from the winner saying it's mine, and the other saying it's not mine. Under what authority did you accept one affidavit as true without conducting an inquiry?" Justice Ayesha Malik asked the ECP.

Justice Aqeel Abbasi remarked: "Can the ECP just disqualify someone on basis of a letter from Baray Sahib."

It may be noted here that the

ECP, on a reference filed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif, disqualified the MNA over "floor crossing".

Adil Bazai, according to the ECP, had initially submitted an affidavit joining the PML-N, only to switch allegiance to the Sunni Ittehad Council a few days later.

During the hearing, the MNA's lawyer claimed that his PML-N membership affidavit was fake. Nawaz Sharif's lawyer argued that Bazai's actions violated the constitution, particularly in the finance bill and constitutional amendment voting.

Contesting as an independent candidate Bazai was declared winner from NA-262 (Quetta) and later displayed on the National Assembly's website as joining the PML-N.

Adil Bazai repeatedly denied about joining the PML-N on social media accounts.

The PML-N reference read that the party's lawmaker, the MNA, has become dissident. Nawaz Sharif in his reference asked the electoral body to de-

seat Bazai from his seat.

### PK Govt launches four youth skill development, employment programs

PESHAWAR (INP): In a significant step to empower the province's youth, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has launched four major programs aimed at providing modern technical training and employment opportunities.

According to a statement issued here by the Chief Minister Secretariat, the initiatives were inaugurated during a ceremony held under the management of KP Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA). The CM Ali Amin Khan Gandapur attended the event as the chief guest.

During the program it was informed that Rs 04 billion Ehsaas Hunar Program would be implemented through Akhuwat Microfinance, adding that Rs 02 billion has been allocated for the current fiscal year.

Under the program skilled youth would be provided interest-free loans of up to Rs 500,000 to start their businesses. Over 35,000 skilled individuals were expected to benefit from this initiative.

Similarly, under the another Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETP), has been launched, funded by IFAD and the European Union, with an estimated cost of Rs 11.4 billion.

The project would offer free technical and vocational training to 60,000 men and women from rural areas.

Additionally, 42,000 skilled individuals would receive an average of \$300 in financial assistance for self-employment. The program also included internships and job placement support for 25,000 graduates. The third program of the government was

Upgradation of Technical Institutes. It was told and added that with financial support from GIZ and the European Union, key technical colleges like the Government College of Technology in Nowshera and Abbottabad would be upgraded into Centers of Excellence.

Twenty-two technical institutes across various districts would be transformed into model institutions, while nine others would be elevated to DAE Level-5. The fourth initiative of the government was On-Job Training Program costing Rs 177 million. It aimed to place over 3,000 youth in industries through phased training.

In the first phase, 168 trainees would receive a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000 for three months with a budget of PKR 7.56 million for this phase.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing virtually the inaugural session of the Second International Islamic Capital Markets Conference & Expo that opened in Karachi on Thursday.

### SC Constitutional Bench dismisses pleas against practice procedure ordinance

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan's Constitutional Bench on Thursday dismissed a set of petitions challenging the SC Practice Procedure Ordinance, ruling that it has already lapsed after enactment of the law.

The Constitutional Bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan ruled that the Parliament has enacted laws regarding practice procedures and the ordinance stood lapsed.

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail remarked that the ordinance would automatically lapse with the enactment of the

law. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar noted that Parliament has enacted laws regarding practice procedures after the ordinance.

The petitions were filed by Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Barrister Gohar, Afrasiab Khattak, Ihtisham Haq, and Akmal Bari, among others.

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar added that the committee formed under the ordinance has ceased to exist but its decisions are protected.

Regarding the President of Pakistan's authority to issue ordinances, Justice

Mandokhail pointed out that the Constitution grants the President this power.

Earlier, the PTI chairman challenged the presidential Ordinance, seeking to declare it unconstitutional.

The petition sought to restrain the formation of a new Practice and Procedure Committee until the petition is heard and requested that the old committee be allowed to function during the hearing of the petition. Additionally, the federal government, law ministry, and secretary to the president were

made respondents in the petition.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Pervez Khattak, founder of the PTI Parliamentarians.