

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Gwadar

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Bizenjo asks FG to take result oriented measures for resolving financial issues of Balochistan

Says federal govt is not serious in fulfilling its commitments, then Balochistan would not be participating in the NEC meeting

Independent Report
QUETTA: The central President of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has demanded of the federal government to take result-oriented measures and give due constitutional right to the province for resolving its financial and development issues.

In a policy statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister expressed concern over what he termed the "cold attitude" of the federal government in implementation of the promises made with us in the past. It is extremely inappropriate to continue

ously ignore any federating unit and pushing it to the wall in this manner, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo remarked adding that this attitude of the federation would not be tolerated at all. The Chief Minister said that if the federal government is not serious in fulfilling its commitments, then Balochistan would not be participating in the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting.

He said that attitude of the federal government proved that that this meeting of NEC would prove to be meaningless for us. It would be useless to sit in the meeting in which decision making and implemen-

Recalling Mr. Bizenjo noted with concern that the proposed schemes of the provincial government were not made part of the federal PSDP last year event. He regretfully pointed out that the funds have not been released for the development projects included in the CPEC despite issuance of the tenders.

He also said that not a single rupee was given to the province out of 10 billion rupees announced by the Prime Minister for rehabilitation of the flood affectedes. Thus they (flood affectedes) are living miserable life and we are not able to do something for them.

CPEC to pave way for peace & prosperity in Pakistan, whole region: Zia Langau

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langau has stated that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would not only pave the way for development and prosperity in Pakistan but also in the whole region.

He said that the importance of CPEC has been increased manifold due to peace and reconstruction in the region. The Provincial Minister was speaking to the Chinese Consul General based in Karachi on Sunday.

Mir Ziaullah Langau discussed with the Chinese diplomat about the matters related to the China-Pakistan friendship and CPEC besides other matters of mutual interests.

He said that the increasing cooperation between China and Pakistan

reflects the strong relations between the two countries.

He mentioned that several projects have been completed under the CPEC while others are in the pipeline.

He said that these projects would be increased further in view of the future requirements. Referring the development of energy, road, rail infrastructure, industrial zones, technology and tourism sectors under the CPEC, the Provincial Minister said that the business activities would be boosted with completion of the projects in the country.

He also said that we would benefit from the Chinese experiences for development in different sectors.

Meanwhile, the Minister also thanked the Chinese government for donating 9,000 food packages for the flood affected people of Balochistan.



ANKARA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs from Ankara after completing his two day official visit of Turkiye.

Pak-Turkiye bilateral trade volume target of \$5bn very much achievable: PM

PM meets world leaders in Turkiye, discuss bilateral ties, cooperation; concludes his 2-day official visit to Turkiye, leaves for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the target of increasing bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Turkiye to \$5 billion annually over the next three years was very much achievable.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister referred to his recent visit to Turkiye where he attended the inauguration of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who had been re-elected for the third term in office.

The prime minister said that in his meetings with heads of leading Turk-

ish business groups yesterday, he highlighted the need for investment and trade in the fields of agriculture, energy, information technology and construction.

Exciting opportunities had emerged for collaboration especially after the historic Trade-in-Goods Agreement between Pakistan & Turkiye became operational on May 31 this year, he added.

"Was glad to find the discernible interest of the Turkish business community in building on the existing partnerships & establishing new ventures," the prime minister further noted in his tweet.

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during his recent visit to Turkiye also met with different world leaders and discussed the bilateral ties and cooperation between Pakistan and their respective countries.

The prime minister had travelled to Turkiye to join the world leaders in the inauguration ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The prime minister met former deputy prime minister of Turkiye and Chairman MHP Devlet Bahceli and conveyed his felicitations over success in the elections, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Local Government Sardar Saleh Muhammad Bhtani presides over the meeting participated by Mir Asadullah Baloch, Naeem Bazai, Malik Sikandar Advocate, Malik Naseer Shahwani, Qadir Nail, Ahmed Nawaz Baloch, Nasarullah Zeray and Muhammad Khan Lehri.

Roosevelt Hotel given to NY local govt for 3yrs for \$220m: Kh Saad

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Sunday that a contract had been signed with the New York City government to operate the renowned Roosevelt Hotel of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) situated in New York (USA) for three years.

In a press conference held at Allama Iqbal International Airport here, he said that a revenue of US\$220 million would come to the country as a result of the agreement. Giving details of the agreement, he said that 1025 rooms of the hotel would be handed over to the City government for three years and the initial earnings from the hotel had started pouring in.

He said that under the agreement, one-year business was guaranteed; how-

ever, he expressed his hope that the hotel business would continue for all three years. He said that there were several issues involved in the Roosevelt case, like the hotel was at risk of being declared a landmark after which the building would be unable to be altered. However, now the danger had subsided for at least three years, he added.

The minister said that earlier the hotel had been closed since the COVID-19 period, and an amount of \$25 million were being spent on the closed building and \$20 million were pending as the liability.

He said that 479 employees were working in the hotel, which was a big number and it was difficult for the hotel to terminate them from jobs due to the US labour laws.

Appointment case Pervaiz sent on judicial remand

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President and former chief minister Pervaiz Elahi has been sent on 14-day judicial remand to jail in illegal appointment case.

As per details, the court rejected the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) appeal for physical remand and sent the PTI president Pervaiz Elahi on judicial remand.

Furthermore, secretary Punjab assembly Rai Murtaz Hussain Babar has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

Travel restrictions US State Dept rejects PTI's propaganda

WASHINGTON (INP): Another propaganda of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to defame Pakistan at the international level to prove it a dangerous country has failed miserably.

The activists of the political party were once again caught spreading false information to Pakistanis living abroad and American citizens living in Pakistan.

Religious scholar Mufti Ihsan shot dead in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (INP): Renowned religious scholar Mufti Ihsanul Haq was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Peshawar on Sunday. The firing incident took place in Budhbir area of the provincial capital where the attackers targeted the cleric.

The police have rushed to the site and cordoned off the area, saying the killers of the scholar were being tracked down.

Gwadar HDT leader pledges to continue democratic struggle for rights of people

Problems increased after PDM Govt

Independent Report
QUETTA: The central leader of Gwadar Haq Do Tehreek and provincial General Secretary, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Balochistan, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman has stated the problems of people of Gwadar have been increased further after the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) came into power.

Even the illegal trawling for fishing has been increased further after the PDM's rule what to say about anything else, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman alleged while addressing a news conference at the Quetta Press Club on Sunday.

The Gwadar Haq Do Tehreek leader arrived in the

press club to meet the press and share his heart out with media persons at the presser after he was released by the Gwadar police on the apex court orders in a murder case back in his hometown, Gwadar.

Maulana Hidayatur Rehman said that Haq Do Tehreek is a peaceful and democratic movement. He said that we waged democratic struggle for securing rights and for the purpose, also staged dhama, he added. He said that all their demands were under the country's constitution. Recalling the Tehreek's negotiations with the government over its protest, he mentioned that CM Bizenjo had arrived in Gwadar and promised to fulfill all the demands.



QUETTA: Haq Do Tehreek (HDT) Leader, Maulana Hidayatur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta Press Club.

NAB summons record of 22 politicians in £190m scandal probe

LAHORE (INP): In a major development, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has demanded record of 22 political leaders in illegal transfer of NCA's £190m scandal.

The NAB in a letter to excise secretaries demanded record of automobiles, properties and accounts of 22 politicians including former federal ministers and cabinet members.

The anti-graft watchdog has summoned record of the properties of Sheikh Rashid, Pervaiz Khattak, Umar Ayub, Hamad Azhar, Murad Saeed, Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Azam Swati, Ali Zaidi, Ali Ameen Gandapur, Shafiqat Mehmood, Chaudhry Gulam Sarwar, Shireen Mazari, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farrogh Naseem, Khuro Bakhtyar, Ijaz Shah and others.

The PTI chief registered Trust for Al-Qadir University Project on Dec 26, 2019.

mandated record of the vehicles in the names of 22 federal ministers and cabinet members, including details of how many cars they purchased and sold since year 2018. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has launched an investigation against PTI chief, Bushra Bibi and others for the alleged gain of hundreds of canals of land in the name of Al Qadir University Trust, which reportedly caused a loss of 190 million pounds to the national exchequer. As per the charges, the former prime minister and other accused allegedly adjusted Rs50 billion — 190 million pounds.

at the time — sent by the Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) to the government.

The PTI chief registered Trust for Al-Qadir University Project on Dec 26, 2019.

The NAB has also de-

Budget 2023-24: NEC to meet on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government summoned meeting of National Economic Council on Tuesday (Tomorrow) to approve economic targets and development projects of upcoming budget.

According to source finance ministry will get approval of upcoming fiscal year development plan and economic targets in NEC meeting which is summoned on June 06.

Prime minister will chair NEC meeting. Source told that federal ministers and chief ministers of four provinces will attend the meeting.

Federal government and provincial governments' development plans will be reviewed in this meeting.

2659 billion budget is proposed for new fiscal year.

There are chances of 1100 billion to be allocated for development projects.

PTI defectors announce Democrats group

LAHORE (INP): Like-minded members who left Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have announced to form a new group called "Democrats" instead of joining any other party.

A meeting of like-minded members who parted ways with PTI was held under the chairmanship of Dr Murad Raas and Hashim Dogar, who were part of the cabinet in the Punjab government of Tehreek-e-Insaf, in which the name of the group was finalised.

It was decided in the meeting that the like-minded members will not make any contact or join Jahangir Khan Tareen group for now. The members will keep their separate identity as Democrats.

The identity of the members joining the group will not be revealed. The group will not be registered in Election Commission of Pakistan either.

Dr Murad Raas, an important member of the Democrats group, said that they would make their identity as a separate group.

Workers being illegally detained in abysmal living conditions: Imran Khan

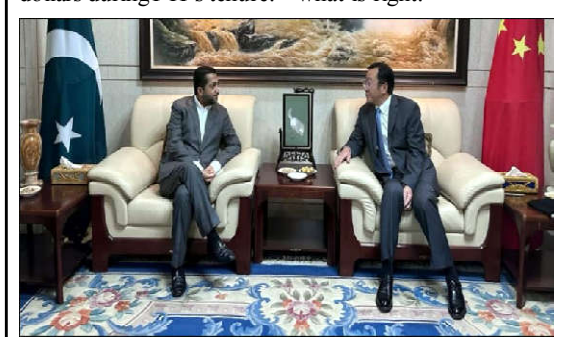
LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that his party workers are being illegally detained in jails, while alleging that they are being kept in abysmal living conditions. He made these remarks while addressing PTI supporters virtually.

Furthermore, he once again questioned what the future of the country would be like if he were to be put in jail and crackdown on PTI is completed.

He noted that the country was progressing economically with inflow of dollars during PTI's tenure.

The PTI chairman once again reiterated that the judiciary has been intimidated and claimed that judges are being blackmailed with audio and video tapes.

He also criticised the media for not speaking up for its freedom, similar to how it used to do during PTI's tenure. Imran Khan said that his party has been barred from carrying out political activities. The ex-PM expressed his concern that Pakistan is regressing into what he described as the 'dark ages', where the principles of rule of law are overshadowed by the notion that might determines what is right.



KARACHI: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau meeting with Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong.

Another milestone achieved by CAA: Direct pre-Hajj flight operation started for Medina from Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The pre-Hajj flight operation has been started direct from Quetta International Airport to Medina when the first flight carrying 145 intending pilgrims left for the holy land the other day.

With start of the direct Hajj flights to Medina, another milestone was achieved thanks to the upgradation of the main runway at the Quetta Airport done by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

According to the spokesman of CAA Balochistan, the journey has been made easier for the intending pilgrims from Quetta to the holy land.

He informed that the PK-747 did first night land-

ing at the new run way of the Quetta Airport the other day night. Later, the same flight took off for Medina from Quetta carrying 145 intending pilgrims.

Earlier, PK-6133 and 6137 flights left for Medina carrying some 300 intending pilgrims, he mentioned adding that it was a very pleasant experience to land at the new runway of the Airport at night.

It was made possible because of the 12,000 feet long run way which was up-graded by CAA recently, the spokesman of CAA mentioned.

He said that the modern airfield lighting system CAT-II ensures operations at the new run way in all weather conditions.



ZHOB: Advisor to CM for Information Mitha Khan Kakar, Mufti Abdullah Jan Kakar and others addressing the party joining ceremony.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Advancing Balochistan's Development Through PPP

In a recent meeting led by Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili, the Executive Committee of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Authority made significant strides in bolstering Balochistan's development. The approval of a new project in line with the PPP mode signals a proactive approach towards addressing crucial areas of growth and progress. One of the key approved projects focuses on the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, with a specific emphasis on establishing a state-of-the-art Center of Excellence Hub in Hub, Balochistan. This initiative, operated by the esteemed private institution ZABTEC, aims to offer training in over 18 different trades to approximately 2,700 students over the next three years. By bridging the skills gap and equipping individuals with relevant expertise, this endeavor will contribute to empowering the local workforce and enhancing employability prospects.

Furthermore, the meeting directed the Lasbella Industrial and Economic Development Authority (LIEDA) to expedite efforts in launching HUB SEZ Phase-II. The PPP Authority has received proposals to promote various industries within this phase, underscoring the government's commitment to fostering economic growth and development. Additionally, the progress made on SEZ Phase-I under the federal and provincial Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) was acknowledged, reflecting the dedication to executing comprehensive plans for industrial expansion. Education emerged as a paramount concern during the meeting, with a briefing from the Taaleem Foundation on the work plan and progress of the Kharan Technical Training Center. The government's assurance in removing obstacles hindering the foundation's activities highlights their commitment to creating an enabling environment for quality education. It was heartening to learn that full-scale academic activities at the center will commence from August, signaling the government's emphasis on providing educational opportunities that equip the youth with the skills needed to excel in their chosen fields.

The gathering also addressed the decision to entrust the operation of the Green Bus Service in Quetta to a private company, underscoring the government's focus on modern transportation facilities for the city's residents. The Chief Secretary's directive to expedite the implementation of this project highlights the administration's dedication to providing convenient and efficient public transportation services. The Secretary of Transport's comprehensive work plan, to be presented in the upcoming two weeks, further demonstrates their commitment to swift and effective execution.

It is crucial to recognize the significance of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable development. The successful implementation of these projects will not only create job opportunities but also strengthen the economy and improve the overall quality of life for the people of Balochistan. It is imperative for the government and relevant stakeholders to continue their collaborative efforts and ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of these initiatives. By harnessing the potential of public-private partnerships, Balochistan can chart a path towards progress, prosperity, and inclusive growth. The commitment demonstrated during this meeting sets a positive precedent for future endeavors. It is through such concerted efforts that we can build a thriving Balochistan, where opportunities abound, and the aspirations of its people are realized.

Perils of punditry



Abbas Nasir

If the government decides to call for elections just a few days shy of the current parliament's term-end, the caretaker administration will have 90 days in which to complete the process, and if the term is completed, then in 60 days. This would translate into elections in the first half of either October or November.

My own bet would be November as that would give more time to the government coalition parties and their backers to get a tighter grasp on the process. Two important offices will change hands in September. The president's term ends on Sept 9 and the chief justice of Pakistan's seven days later, on the 16th.

Despite President Arif Alvi's quick assent earlier this week to legislation passed by parliament to expand the scope of reviews in the Supreme Court verdicts in suo motu cases, the government and its powerful allies would not have forgotten his foot-dragging on other pieces of legislation passed by parliament on multiple occasions.

While after the elections the new parliament will elect a new president, for now the powers that be may be far more comfortable with their own long-term protégé, the Senate chairman, who seems also to have been adopted by the PML-N-led coalition government.

The other change will be in the office of the chief justice of Pakistan as Justice Qazi Faez Isa takes over from the soon-to-retire incumbent chief justice. Government figures have been critical of

the latter as they perceive a softer approach on his part towards the PTI.

This criticism appears to partially stem from the Supreme Court judgement in the floor-crossing case in the election of Hamza Shehbaz as Punjab chief minister where even eminent lawyers said the Constitution was being rewritten rather than interpreted.

The court ruled that the legislators voting against the party whip would not only lose their assembly membership, as the Constitution mandated, but also that their vote would not count. Ergo, Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi was reinstated as the provincial chief executive.

Many political commentators attribute the current crisis in the country to that judgement. Government ministers were outraged, claiming bias. This perception might have been reinforced by the forming of benches, as the Supreme Court rules empower the CJP to do, following seemingly inexplicable criteria that excluded some of the most senior and respected judges from hearing cases of political significance.

It is now clear that every impediment, legal or otherwise, will be placed in the path of the PTI and its leader going forward. The party and its leader, perhaps under the false impression of substantial support in key institutions, may have grossly overplayed their hand on May 9. Who knows what they'd been led to believe by utterly over-the-top YouTubers, over-egging the pudding for more followers, views and the consequent monetary windfall. Or had insiders misread the mood within and sold an utterly fictional scenario? Whatever the case, a strategy devised on a false premise failed and the payback has been se-

vere.

It is assumed that any legal bar on the party, or more significantly, on its leader will end up in the superior judiciary and, therefore, it would be better when, in the view of the government and its backers, the formation of more neutral and balanced benches is likely.

However, those placing too much hope in the set-up beyond mid-September would do well to remember that all of the judges excluded from hearing cases in recent months, including the senior puisne judge, are fiercely independent and strong-minded. So, the cases before them would have to be watertight to get a favourable verdict.

All of the above factors must be among the variables going into the matrix as decision-makers prepare their plans for the next elections and, equally important, 'the before and after' scenarios. The PTI seems to be collapsing like a house of cards.

Its supporters argue with justification that their fanatical support base across the country can't be ignored or disenfranchised. But they should also consider that it is equally true that a party network and organisational structure is what delivers that support to the polling stations and translates into votes.

Candidates play an important role as well. A popular party may poll a certain percentage of votes in every constituency but every party looks for strong candidates who bring their own vote banks with them, particularly in rural and/or semi-urban constituencies. As we speak, the PTI is looking a bit vulnerable in this area. Let's see what sort of a line-up they are able to muster for the elections. -- Courtesy Dawn

Another court



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

Are constitutional courts an idea whose time has come in Pakistan? The proposal to constitute one was seriously presented in the Charter of Democracy signed by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in 2006 after the Supreme Court legitimised the 1999 military coup. The PPP, which came to power in 2008, did not make a serious effort to implement this particular aspect of the CoD. Even when almost a third of the Constitution was modified through the 18th Amendment in 2010 on the PPP's initiative, the idea of a constitutional court could not be accommodated in the package of amendments.

The PPP tried to raise the question of a constitutional court in the Senate in 2015 during the PML-N's rule, but the matter didn't seem to get very far. Recently, the prime minister's special assistant on legal reforms and accountability, while criticising the Supreme Court's performance, once again mooted the idea of a constitutional court. The main reasons for establishing a parallel constitutional court — according to him, and as quoted in the media — are that there is 'a division' among the Supreme Court judges, and the process of forming benches is reportedly 'biased', leading to 'political engineering'.

The SAPM, therefore, thought that the solution for the 'division' and 'biased judgements' would be the establishment of a constitutional court. He also gave some features of the proposed

court. For example, he mentioned that the constitutional court would comprise former and 'non-controversial' chief justices, judges of the superior courts and parliamentarians who are knowledgeable about legal matters.

The idea of a constitutional court is not a novel one, and quick research shows that over 60 countries have dedicated constitutional courts functioning side by side with the apex courts which deal with regular criminal and civil cases. It makes sense especially in a country like Pakistan where the Supreme Court, like other courts in the country, is beset with a heavy pendency of cases. In fact, there is an increasing tendency to take urgent political-constitutional matters to the courts, which end up — in due time — in the Supreme Court, or the apex court opts to take suo motu notice of a matter which it considers to be of public interest. In both cases, the increasing workload of such urgent cases relegates regular criminal and civil cases to lower priority — much to the anguish and pain of the litigants. A dedicated constitutional court may help check the tendency of 'urgent' cases interfering with the sequence and pace of regular criminal and civil cases in the Supreme Court.

The idea of a constitutional court is, therefore, a worthwhile one but needs to be seriously debated not only in parliament but also in various other forums such as bar associations, civil society organisations, and the media before a decision is taken in principle. Details such as the composition, qualifications and procedure for appointing and removal of judges, etc, will also need careful consideration. Since a constitutional amendment will almost certainly be re-

quired to establish a constitutional court in the country and the current National Assembly doesn't have the required numbers to take a decision on a constitutional amendment, the matter will have to wait until the new National Assembly is elected five to six months from now. It is, therefore, difficult to understand the objective of mooted the proposal at this time when several other urgent matters require the attention of both the government and opposition for resolution.

Although there is no harm in initiating a debate on the subject in society, in the context of the present unenviable state of relations between the government and parliament on one hand and the Supreme Court on the other, the proposal may be considered a political ploy to exert pressure on the apex court, which may further vitiate the environment. Our long experience with the legislation and institutions in Pakistan indicates that unless there is a strong will and a proper mechanism for effective and faithful implementation of the law, mere legislation and the creation of new institutions will not serve any purpose. Instead, they end up further complicating the processes and burdening the public exchequer.

If the government is not satisfied with the performance of the judges who have gone through a rigorous process to rise through the ranks, have decades of experience to their credit, and whose elevation, at least in recent times, was made possible with the consent of government representatives in the judicial commission, how can they be sure that a new institution will not invite similar complaints from them? -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan a priority market for business: Naveed Qamar tells British companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Naveed Qamar has urged the UK business community in Manchester to prioritize Pakistan as a market for business expansion.

He was addressing the Manchester based business community during his official visit to the UK to attend the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' meeting, said a press release issued here by the Commerce Ministry on Sunday.

The minister highlighted the favorable business environment and

abundant opportunities available in Pakistan during his speech at the event, which was attended by the business community, UK Parliamentarians, Mayors, Councillors and media representatives.

The minister acknowledged the 1.6 million-strong Pakistani diaspora in the UK as the cornerstone of the strong UK-Pakistan relationship. The UK has become Pakistan's third-largest export partner, second-largest investment partner and third-largest source of remittances, Naveed Qamar

said. He said despite pandemic restrictions, Pakistan's exports to the UK grew by 33 percent, surpassing the US\$2 billion milestone. Exports are expected to maintain momentum, with a 10 percent growth rate in the current financial year, said the Minister. Minister Qamar thanked the UK Government for its development assistance to Pakistan. Commending the UK government, Qamar highlighted the announcement of a £1.5 billion facility to support bilateral investment and export.

SM Tanveer says: Punjab govt committed to promoting industrial sector thru proactive policies

LAHORE (Online): Provincial Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Energy SM Tanveer has emphasized the seamless continuation of industrial production activities by addressing industry-related issues as a top priority.

The government is extending full cooperation to industrialists and traders, recognizing the collective responsibility of every individual in uplifting the

country from its challenging economic circumstances.

During his address at the Karachi New MJF Lions Club event and separate meetings with delegations from the All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters, Importers & Merchants Association (PFVA) and Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan, Provincial Minister SM Tanveer expressed these views.

Agro Deptt. seals factory on manufacturing fake pesticides

BUREWALA (APP): The agricultural department's team on Sunday raided a factory, situated at Vehari-Burewala road, which involved in manufacturing fake pesticides, fertilizer and also managed to arrest two accused. The team also directed to seal the factory on the spot. In line with special directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Syed Asif Hussain Shah, a special team of the agriculture department conducted a raid at Pengold factory and checked the quality of pesticides.



JEHLAM: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy, Bilal Azhar Kayani meeting with people during an open katchery (court).

Energy transition partnerships key to phaseout coal, mobilise finances for renewable energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts on Sunday termed just energy transition partnerships key to phaseout coal and mobilise investments towards renewable energy (RE) in Pakistan.

It was the crux of a symposium on "Just energy transition in Pakistan" organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Network for Clean Energy Transition in Pakistan: Research and Advocacy here, a news release said.

Joint Executive Director, SDPI, Dr. Vaqar Ahmed highlighted that the current challenges slugging rapid off-take of renewable energy in Pakistan arise from inadequacy of infrastructure and grid stability. He stressed innovative decentralized energy models, micro-grids, encouraging the development of local RE industry and building storage capacity to address these challenges.

Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Michael Waldron emphasized the need to increase energy sector investments by 3-4 folds to meet SDGs.

He highlighted that "Just Energy Transition Partnerships" (JETP) can play key role by providing low-cost finance to Renewable Energy (RE), promoting investments in domestic policies to phase out fossil fuels, and supporting just transition for affected workers.

Fiscal budget 2023-24 needed to provide relief to masses: Murtaza

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Sunday said that the federal government would provide sizable relief to the masses in the upcoming fiscal budget 2023-24.

He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering at Nawanshahr Abbottabad.

The minister further said, "We do not accept any agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that are against

the interests of the people, and we will strive to control inflation and provide relief to the masses, fiscal budget 2023-24 would be people-friendly." While criticizing PTI he said that they had ruined the country. "In the last seventy-three years, the actions of the PTI leaders of Hazara are the real enemy of the region as the establishment of the Hazara Electric Supply Company (HESCO) faced the most."

China's transport investment up 13.4 pct in first 4 months

BEIJING (APP): China's fixed-asset investment in the transport sector reported robust growth from January to April, official data shows.

The total investment in transport came in at 1 trillion yuan (about 140.8 billion U.S. dollars) during the period, rising 13.4 percent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Transport. Specifically, investment in waterway development surged 29.8 percent year on year to 56 billion yuan.

A joint delegation of PSX, MFA calls on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint delegation of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) and Mutual Funds Association (MFA) of Pakistan called on the Federal Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The PSX was represented by its MD/CEO Farrukh Hussain and Chief Financial Officer Ahmed Ali whereas Mir Adil and Arif Qadri represented Mutual Funds, said a press release issued here Sunday.

The Finance Minister was accompanied by Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Minister of State for Finance, Tariq Bajwa, Special Assistant to the

Prime Minister on Finance, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Revenue, Ashfaq Tola Chairman Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission (RRMC), Asim Ahmad Chairman Federal Board of Revenue and other senior officers from the Finance Ministry and Revenue Division. Governor State Bank Jameel Ahmad also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, representatives of MFA highlighted the growth of Sharia compliant mutual funds and proposed that short term Sharia compliant sukuk should be launched.



RAWALPINDI: A man is busy in selecting and purchasing gemstone and rings from roadside vendor in the city.

Kashif for taking painful decisions to counter extreme temperatures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said that painful decisions must be made as extreme heat threat grows and underdeveloped countries and poor nations would be even more vulnerable as they had lack of resources to mitigate against extreme temperatures.

He said the past eight years were collectively the hottest on record and Southeast Asia is currently setting heat records.

Scientists have reported that drought in the Horn of Africa has been made 100 times more likely by climate change. Extreme heat caused by climate change threatens the way of life of millions of people, he expressed.

He said that 419 million people in 57 countries were vulnerable to 1.5 C of global warming over the next few years.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Energy SM Tanveer address at the Karachi New MJF Lions Club ceremony.

Mohsin Naqvi says: Those occupying property, or assets of overseas Pakistanis will be dealt with iron hand

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has issued directions to the Inspector General of Police to promptly redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi has directed that the Inspector General of Police should personally monitor complaint redressal system of overseas Pakistanis.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi further directed that all Commissioners, RPOs,

Deputy Commissioners and DPOs should leave no stone unturned to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis in their relevant cities. Mohsin Naqvi directed the administrative and police officers to personally redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis and they should submit a report to the CM Office every month.

Mohsin Naqvi directed that relevant overseas Pakistanis should be kept posted regularly on the progress being made with regard to redressal of every complaint adding

that a time frame should be chalked out to resolve the problems of overseas Pakistanis residing abroad.

Mohsin Naqvi asserted that every complaint should be disposed off in a minimum span of time adding that a slow paced traditional action on a complaint being sent by a portal, telephone or by mail will not be tolerated.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that concerned officers will monitor steps being taken to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis in the CM Office as well.

Foreign Experts declare PM's successful visit to Turkiya as new heights of bilateral relations

PESHAWAR (INP): International relations and political experts here Sunday termed the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the brotherly country Turkiya was highly successful that would lead bilateral relations including trade between the two brotherly countries to a new height.

They said the Prime Minister's visit to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the Turkish President was the right decision that would further cement

trade, economic and bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations.

Former Ambassador, Manzoorul Haq said that the presence of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during the oath-taking ceremony of Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his historic welcome, passed a strong message before the world that both countries have immense respect and warmth for each other besides highly valued its deep-rooted relations.



LAHORE: Members of Pakistan Nazriyati Party are holding protest demonstration against detention of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui by US authorities, at Lahore press club.

Three youths killed in various incidents

ATTOCK (APP): As many as three youths were killed in different incidents in various parts of Attock district on Sunday, police and hospital sources said.

In the first incident, a rickshaw driver was shot killed by assassinations in broad daylight on Rawalpindi road in the limits of Fatehjang Police Station.

Police sources said that Nasir Khan, a native of Hangu district of KP was shifted in the town due to some old enmity and driving a rickshaw to earn.

On Sunday, when he was coming on his rickshaw on Rawalpindi road, three masked men riding a motorcycle intercepted him and showered bullets over him, as a result, he died on the spot.

The assassins managed to escape from the scene successfully. In the second incident, a 17 years old man died while catching fish through a generator in the river Indus near Jalalia in the limits of Hazro Police station.

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FAISALABAD: U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer along with U.S. Consul General Lahore William K. Makaneole visits the Center for Advanced Studies at University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Apex Committee meeting CM KP to accelerate implementation of decisions

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday took notice of the delay in the implementation of the decisions of the Provincial APEX Committee Meeting held on May 24.

Now, it was decided to prepare a rapid response contingency plan to prevent untoward incidents as per the decisions made in the Apex Committee Meeting, under the Chairmanship of the Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan.

He while addressing

the meeting, said that the Rapid Response Contingency Plan could not be prepared till now which has no proper justification for delaying of the said plan.

Work on preparation of the contingency plan is going on, it will be ready soon, CCPO Syed Ashfaq Anwar informed the Chief Minister during the meeting.

CCPO said that work on the contingency plan under the leadership of the Home Department would be completed very soon. A

decision was also taken in the meeting of the APEX Committee to allocate a Police Force equipped with modern equipment for the security of red zones.

The concept paper for the preparation of the Police Force will be prepared and sent to the authorities soon and the red zone will be determined in Islamabad style, CCPO said. It was also decided to identify the important government buildings and facilities located outside the red zones.

Process of 8,500 new promotions in police starts

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Sunday said that in continuation of record promotions, 8,500 new promotions have been started in Punjab police from today.

In his message, he said that 2009 batch Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) were being cleared for promotions while promotions of 2010 batch ASIs was being commenced.

The IGP said that in a few weeks, thousands of

officers and personnel would be given promotions as per rules and regulations on all the remaining seats from constable to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) rank.

New recruitment was being started to make young people full of new blood and enthusiasm a part of the police force, he added.

The advertisement for the above recruitments would come in next few days, so young candidates should start preparing for the exam, he informed.

CM seeks report over finding dead bodies of two brothers

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday expressed his deep sense of sorrow over finding dead bodies of two young brothers from a house at Millat Park.

Mohsin Naqvi sought a report about the sorrowful incident from CCPO Lahore and directed to probe the sorrowful incident from every aspect and facts should be brought to light.

Joint efforts needed to restore credibility of justice system: Bilal

JHELUM (INP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Sunday said that Pakistan was grappling with a "grave crisis of justice provision" and the legal fraternity should work together with the political leadership to ensure the delivery of justice to the people and restore the credibility, dignity and efficiency of the justice system.

He was talking to a delegation of Jhelum Bar Association led by its President Sheikh Ikram Advocate here.

Kayani said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made difficult but right decisions which proved to be in favour of the people with the passage of time. He acknowledged the pivotal role of the 1100 billion federal development programme in driving Pakistan's economic recovery and expressed the confidence that by tackling the economic crisis alongside political unrest and corruption, the country would be able to overcome these challenges successfully.



LAHORE: SAPM Rana Mubashir Iqbal listening problems of people in Khuli Kachehri at his Dera situated in Khayaban-i-Amcen.

Ombudsman Punjab provides over 17.2m in financial relief to plaintiffs

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has swiftly responded to public relief requests, effectively resolving the issues faced by 60 individuals across various districts. These proactive efforts have resulted in a cumulative financial relief worth Rs. 1,72,38,187 being extended to those in need.

According to a statement issued by a spokesman on Sunday, the University of Mianwali, on the direction of the provincial ombudsman, has disbursed Rs. 92,82,843 to 52 students, including plaintiff Muhammad

Hanzala Zubair, as outstanding amounts of their need-based scholarships. Additionally, the District Education Authority Chakwal has granted 2.2 million rupees as financial aid to complainant Haji Mehr Muhammad. In another case, the district administration Lodhran has provided employment dues worth Rs. 1.9 million to Ayesha Mai, the widow of deceased Patwari Ghulam Murtaza, the spokesman added. In a separate instance, the administration of Ghazi University in Dera Ghazi Khan has refunded a security deposit amounting to Rs. 17,70,824 to complainant Abdul Wahid.

International News

Biden signs debt ceiling bill into law, averting default

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed into law a debt ceiling bill passed by Congress after weeks of wrangling, moving to avert a catastrophic, self-induced default in the world's biggest economy.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 authorises the government to extend the so-called debt ceiling to renew borrowing, keeping the bills paid.

The Treasury had warned that if the debt ceiling was blocked beyond Monday, the country would default on its \$31 trillion debt.

A default would have likely triggered market

panic, huge job losses and a recession, with global implications.

In a statement on Saturday, the White House thanked the Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress "for their partnership." In a rare Oval Office address, Biden said that the debt ceiling bill saved the country from "economic collapse".

Speaking from behind the historic Resolute Desk on live primetime television, Biden said the deal resolving the standoff between Democrats and Republicans was a compromise where "no one got everything they wanted." However, "we averted an economic crisis," he said.

Oval Office addresses have always been reserved by presidents for moments of unique national danger or importance.

Biden used the occasion to project a reassuring, calm tone. Sprinkling his speech with chuckles and smiles, he praised his opponents for negotiating in good faith and promised Americans that he had never felt more optimistic.

Biden said that Congress has now preserved "the full faith and credit of the United States." But even with the House and Senate putting aside differences to finally rush through the agreement over the last week, the US economy's reputation took a hit.

US, Saudi Arabia urge Sudan's warring parties to agree to a new cease-fire, fighting continues

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Saudi Arabia and the United States urged Sudan's warring parties Sunday to agree to and "effectively implement" a new cease-fire as fighting showed no signs of abating in the northeastern African nation. Sudan descended into chaos after fighting broke out in mid-April between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan

Dagalo. For weeks, Saudi Arabia and the United States have been mediating between the warring parties. On May 21, both countries successfully brokered a temporary cease-fire agreement to help with the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid to the war-torn country. Their efforts, however, were dealt a blow when the military announced on Wednesday it would no longer participate in the cease-fire talks.



Police detain a person in downtown on the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Beijing's Tiananmen Square crackdown, near where the candlelight vigil is usually held, in Hong Kong, China.

Russian governor offers to meet group holding soldiers captive

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The governor of Russia's Belgorod region said on Sunday that he was willing to meet a pro-Ukraine group of Russian partisans holding two Russian soldiers captive, as he reported a renewed flare-up of fighting near the border. The Freedom of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps have claimed responsibility for a spate of cross-border attacks inside Russian territory, including last week when Moscow said two civilians were killed during fighting.

In a video on the Freedom of Russia's Telegram channel, a man identifying himself as the commander of the Russian Volunteer Corps said he would hand over two soldiers they were holding captive in exchange for a meeting with the governor.



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a ceremony commemorating the death anniversary of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini at his mausoleum just outside Tehran, Iran.

China seeks dialogue, says clash with US would be 'unbearable disaster'

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu told Asia's top security summit on Sunday that conflict with the United States would be an "unbearable disaster" but that his country sought dialogue over confrontation.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Li said the world was big enough for China and the US to grow together — remarks made days after he refused to meet his US counterpart for direct talks.

"China and the US have different systems and are different in many other

ways," he said in a speech that marked his first significant international address since he was named China's Minister of National Defence in March.

"However, this should not keep the two sides from seeking common ground and common interests to grow bilateral ties and deepen cooperation," he said.

"It is undeniable that a severe conflict or confrontation between China and the US will be an unbearable disaster for the world."

Wearing the general's uniform of the People's Liberation Army, Li made his

address on the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Ties between Washington and Beijing are badly strained over a range of issues, including democratically governed Taiwan, territorial disputes in the South China Sea and President Joe Biden's restrictions on semiconductor chip exports. As delegates at the summit debated the risks of accidents and miscalculations amid those tensions, the US Navy said a Chinese destroyer made "unsafe" manoeuvres near a US warship in the Taiwan Straits on Saturday, highlighting the dangers.

Landslide in China's Sichuan province kills 14, leaves 5 missing: state media

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: A landslide in China's southwestern Sichuan province has killed 14 people and left five missing, Chinese state media outlet CCTV reported on Sunday.

The landslide occurred at around 6am on Sunday morning in a mountainous area near the Leshan city in the south of the province.

More than 180 rescue workers have been dispatched to the site,

with search and rescue operations still ongoing, CCTV said.

The Leshan city was hit by heavy rain over the two days before the incident, weather tracking data indicated.

Earlier this year, at least four people were killed in a collapse at a coal mine in northern China, while the progress in the search for dozens who were missing was hampered by a massive landslide.

Chinese warship passed in 'unsafe manner' near US destroyer in Taiwan Strait

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A Chinese warship passed in an "unsafe manner," U.S. military officials said, as China blamed the United States for "deliberately provoking risk" in the region. U.S. and Canadian navies were conducting a joint exercise in the strait, which separates the island of Taiwan and China when the Chinese ship cut in front of the U.S. guided-missile

Iran's top leader defends hard-line approach toward West

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader on Sunday defended his tough approach to the West, saying compromise would only invite further hostility from Iran's enemies and blaming recent anti-government protests on "thugs and villains."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks come amid an intensifying standoff with Western countries over Iran's nuclear program, which has made major advances in the five years since then-President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from an international ac-

cord that restricted it. Trump restored crippling sanctions on Iran that have contributed to a severe economic crisis without forcing any concessions from its leaders. Iran has also lent support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, supplying armed drones that have wreaked havoc on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. "Some people are mistaken to think if we back down from our stances in certain cases that will cause the enmity of the U.S., the global arrogance, or Israel toward us to diminish," said Khamenei, who has the final say on all major Iranian policies. "This is a mistake."



Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu speaks at the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

Indian authorities seek cause of deadly train crash in Odisha

Monitoring Desk
BALASORE: Desperate relatives searched Sunday for loved ones missing after India's worst train disaster in decades, and the death toll was expected to climb above 288 as authorities searched for clues to the cause.

Debris was piled high at the site of Friday night's crash near Balasore, in the eastern state of Odisha, with compartments smashed and the blood-stained wreckage of some carriages flung far from the tracks. "I saw bloodied scenes, mangled bodies and one man with a severed arm being desperately helped by his injured son," researcher Anubhav Das, 27, told AFP after surviving the crash.

There was confusion about the exact sequence of events, but reports cited railway officials as saying that a signalling error had sent the Coromandal Express running south from Kolkata to Chennai onto a side track.

It slammed into a freight train and the wreckage derailed an express running north from India's tech hub Bengaluru to Kolkata that was also passing the site. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the crash site and injured passengers being treated in hospital and said "no one responsible" would be spared. "I pray that we get out of this sad moment as soon as possible," he told state broadcaster Doordarshan.



LAHORE: Pakistan People Party co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali along with Caretaker Provincial Ministers during meeting.

Promote inter-religious harmony, Masood Khan urges faith leaders

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, urged faith and community leaders to work together to promote inter-religious harmony when he met them at his residence on Saturday.

The faith leaders comprised Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs. "The strong bonds of humanity bind us all together. While we maintain our religious beliefs and identities, we have to work collectively, as one community, for the larger national interests and projecting the true image of Pakistan," the ambassador told them, according to a press release issued by the Pakistani embassy.

"Pakistan is committed to protecting the rights of minorities and providing them with an enabling environment to contribute towards socio-economic development and nation-building process."



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Masood Khan addressing faith and community leaders at Pakistan House.

DG Levies visits LTC Khuzdar; reviews ongoing projects

QUETTA: The Director General Balochistan Levies Force, Naseebullah Kakar visited the Levies Training Center (LTC) Khuzdar on Sunday.

During the visit, he inspected the ongoing development projects in LTC. He also reviewed the pending schemes at the center.

The DG Levies was briefed in detail about the development projects. He expressed his dismay over the impending development schemes there.

He directed the concerned quarters to take steps for early completion of the development works



KHUZDAR: DG Levies Force Naseebullah Kakar being briefed about development schemes during his visit to Levies Training Centre.

Vows to feature in next World Championship: International karate combat fighter Shahzaib reaches Quetta; warmly welcomed by many at Airport

CM spokesman Babar Yousafzai & others receive professional karatekaz; pledges wholehearted support and facilities on behalf of provincial govt

QUETTA: The international professional karate combat fighter, Shahzaib Rind reached hometown on Sunday morning after winning two international league fights in United States of America (USA).

Shahzaib Rind was accorded warm welcome upon his arrival at the Quetta International Airport from Karachi.

The spokesman of Chief Minister Balochistan, Babar Khan Yousafzai along with the officials of different sports and his relatives were present to receive the international karate kaz.

Terming visits of American faith leaders to Pakistan as a means of promoting people-centric diplomacy, Masood Khan invited leaders of all faiths to explore the country and to build bridges among communities.

Many of the faith leaders who were at the Ambassador's reception had visited Pakistan and shared their pleasant experiences.

Masood Khan appreciated the services of faith and community leaders, including Ilyas Masih and Raj Rathore, who he said have been making efforts not only to unite communities but also towards bringing the US and Pakistan together through people-to-people contacts and exchanges.

Ilyas Masih, President All Neighbors International, thanked the Ambassador and the Embassy of Pakistan for providing a platform to all faiths.

World Environment Day Global and National Action to beat plastic pollution: PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has taken several steps to take Pakistan on a path to sustainable use of resources, and has emphasized the urgent need to combat plastic pollution under the global theme "Beating Plastic Pollution."

The Prime Minister emphasized Pakistan's unwavering commitment to combat plastic pollution and embark on a journey of plastics reduction.

As one of the top 10 countries in the world for plastic pollution, with an

estimated 70 percent of plastic waste being improperly disposed of, Pakistan recognizes the urgent need for action. The government has prioritized the adoption of environment friendly alternatives and is actively working on the Plastics Prohibition Regulation 2023 for ICT.

This regulation will establish a comprehensive framework and timeline for phasing out single-use plastics, while also leading by example on a plan to reduce and then ban the use of single use plastics by the entire federal government.

In a demonstration of the federal government's commitment to reduce plastic waste in Pakistan, the Prime Minister has directed PM House to stop using single-use plastics, which like the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, will lead the way in phasing out and restricting the use of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles in Federal Ministries, Divisions across the board.

By doing so, the government aims to establish a sustainable and responsible approach to plastic usage and waste management, ensuring the protection of the environment and the well-being of future generations.

He, in a talk with APP, highlighted the efforts made by the ministry to reduce costs associated with the Hajj pilgrimage.

He disclosed that this year's expenses for the Hajj had been lowered to \$3,900 from \$5,000, presenting a substantial decrease in comparison to the previous year. However, despite this decrease, he acknowledged that the current Hajj remained the most expensive in history due to the depreciation of the Pakistani rupee and the increase in the value of the US dollar, he added.

Addressing concerns about accommodation for pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, Senator Talha emphasized

Talha returns Rs 4.5 bln to pilgrims, implements cost-cutting measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Sunday said the ministry, taking significant measures to ease the financial burden on pilgrims, had returned an impressive sum of Rs 4.5 billion, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring the well-being of those embarking on the holy journey.

He revealed that the ministry had rented buildings between SR1,800 and SR2,300, compared to the higher rental fee of SR2,600 in 2019. Despite the significant difference in inflation rates between 2023 and 2019, the ministry managed to secure accommodations at lower prices, he maintained.

Furthermore, the minister emphasized the importance of efficient management of medicines for the pilgrims stating that more than fifty per cent of the required medicines could be obtained through donations, while the remaining medications could be purchased from pharmaceutical companies at their actual cost of production.

By effectively managing these resources, the ministry could have saved a substantial amount of money allocated for the pilgrims' medications, he observed.

Regarding the pilgrims' food, Senator Talha informed that the contract was already awarded but it

could be further improved with a good menu at discounted rates providing a satisfactory dining experience for the pilgrims, while also optimizing the allocated budget.

He said in order to streamline the immigration process for the pilgrims, the Saudi government had introduced the "Road to Makkah" project at the Islamabad International Airport.

He expressed his enthusiasm for this state-of-the-art programme, which was set to benefit more than 26,000 pilgrims by allowing them to complete their immigration procedures in Islamabad, reducing waiting times in the host country.

He further confirmed that the Saudi government had plans to extend this pilgrim-friendly service to other airports, including Lahore and Karachi, in the upcoming year.

Senator Talha also highlighted the ministry's focus on training of Moavineen-e-Hujjaj, who were responsible for assisting the pilgrims throughout their spiritual journey.

Zardari announces big public rally in Lahore

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan People Party (PPP) co-chairman and former president has announced big public political gathering in Lahore.

According to source PPP have intentions to arrange huge political public gathering in the centre of Punjab politics city Lahore.

Party district president Aslam Gul is visiting various parts of city. PPP leader said political rally date will be announced soon. On the other side former President Asif Zardari's active politics is continue in Lahore and new leaders are joining party.

Speaker NA says: Incidents of May 9 weakened, disgraced country in world

GHAZI (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly and former Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on Sunday said that we all should come together for the greater interest of the country, we have responsibilities if we have a country, prosperity and freedom thrive on peace, and peace can bring improvement to the economy.

He expressed these views while talking to the media at the residence of Peer Hamid in Tarbela Ghazi, senior journalist Mehtab Khan was also present on this occasion.

The speaker said that

elections should be held in October, the events of May 9 had weakened and disgraced the country in the world, the incidents should never have happened and the people of Pakistan had suffered a lot.

Raja Pervez Ashraf said that the military is our saviour who fights against terrorists and protects our borders, they are either warriors or martyrs and it is enmity with the country to stir up emotions, spread false information and conspire against our forces.

He said that this is a need of the time to promote harmony and brotherhood.



MUSA KHAIL: Chairman CMIT Abdul Rehman Buzdar being briefed by Project Director about Kingri to Musa Khail road.

SC practices & procedure act hearing to hold on June 8

ISLAMABAD (Online): 'Supreme Court practices and procedure act' case will be heard on June 08.

Eight members larger bench with Chief Justice of Pakistan Umer Ata Bandial on chair will hear the case. Justice Ejaz ul Ahsen, Justice Muneeb Akhter, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar are the part of this bench. Court issued notices to Attorney General, Pakistan Supreme Bar Association and others.

May-9 culprits deserve no concession: Qureshi

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Productions and Industries Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi said on Sunday that the elements involved in burning of the government properties and defence installations on May 9 deserve no concession, and strict legal action would be taken against them.

100% raise demanded in salaries of govt. employees

QUETTA: The Secretary General All Pakistan Labour Federation (APLF), Abdul Sattar has demanded of the federal government to make 100 percent raise in the salaries of all government employees in the upcoming budget.

While speaking to the media persons here on Sunday, the APLF leader also demanded 50 percent raise in pension of the retired employees.

Moreover, he demanded that the minimum wage of the labourers should be fixed as Rs.

Talking to APP here, he said May 9 would always be remembered as a black day in the history of Pakistan. On that fateful day, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and activists set fire to Pakistan Army installations, corps commander's house in Lahore and the government properties under a preplanned programme.

The prominent trade union leader regretfully pointed out that the EOBI beneficiaries are drawing Rs. 8,500 per month, which is insufficient for making their both ends meet.

Therefore, sufficient raise should be made in the EOBI pension enabling the beneficiaries to make their both ends meet, which is otherwise not possible in the existing wages, he maintained.

Environment Day being observed today

QUETTA: The World Environment Day is being observed today (Monday) in Quetta as elsewhere in the country and world.

Marking the World Environment Day, a seminar has been arranged by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Balochistan in collaboration with Pak-US Alumni Network Quetta - Balochistan chapter at the EPA office.

The theme of the seminar is: climate change, invest in our planet and challenges, in which the Parliamentary Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, Ms. Mah Jabeen Shiran would be the chief guest.

Meteorology predicts Eid on 29 June

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted Eid-ul-Azha on June 29 and moon sighting for the month of Zilhaj on 19 June.

According to climate data processing center moon will born on 18 June at 9:37pm.

In Pakistan, chances of 1st Zilhaj are on 19 June. AIG approves provision of new vehicles to Rwp division

RAWALPINDI (Online): Additional Inspector General of Police (AIGP) gave approval of provision of new vehicles to Rawalpindi division.

NAB submits reply to PAC in Bank of Khyber case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has submitted its reply to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the case related to illegal appointments in the Bank of Khyber.

In its reply, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) stated that a probe was launched into the alleged illegal appointments with the permission of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The anti-graft watchdog stated that 41 witnesses were made part of the investigation. Call-up notices were issued to 22 accused and testimonies of 16 suspects were recorded, it added. It said that the NAB received personal and assets records of mostly accused.

PTI's narrative about women harassment is a big conspiracy: Samina

QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri has termed the accusations of harassment of arrested women involved in the events of May 9 against Imran Khan and his followers as lies. She said in her newspaper statement that PTI leadership could fall so much for the sake of power, it was not expected. Using women to save your politics is a very bad move.

She completely rejected the accusations leveled against the police and prison authorities regarding the humiliation of women and violation of human rights through social media and said that all these accusations are baseless and contrary to facts.

She further said in her statement that our society cannot afford such things as the PTI members are doing. The arrested women of PTI have also denied the harassment by the police or jail

authorities, after which the reality of this new accusation and narrative leveled by PTI on higher institutions has come in front of the nation.

She further said that the sanctity of women is a part of our society, even if they are criminals, their respect and sanctity is considered mandatory for all and it is also followed.

These kinds of negative and baseless accusations by PTI were a conspiracy to defame Pakistan worldwide in terms of human rights, which failed miserably due to the positive and strong national attitude of the Pakistani nation.

Mir Asadullah says: Balochistan produces surplus wheat for providing wheat seeds to farmers

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan has produced surplus wheat crops for providing wheat seeds for the cultivation of field to around 100,000 farmers across the province.

"The Balochistan government has provided 400,000 sacks of wheat seeds of worth Rs 2.20 billion to the farmers of the province to achieve its cultivation target," Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch said.

He said the initiative was taken to eliminate the wheat shortage after the recent floods.

The record wheat production was possible by the grace of Allah Almighty, quality seeds, uninterrupted supply of fertilizer, and timely decisions of the government, he said.

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These kinds of negative and baseless accusations by PTI were a conspiracy to defame Pakistan worldwide in terms of human rights, which failed miserably due to the positive and strong national attitude of the Pakistani nation.

She said that the people of PTI are getting hated because politics is a form of reverence but the kind of politics that PTI is doing seems to be more of a systematic conspiracy to spread disorder and chaos in the country than politics.



QUETTA: Eminent Leader Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani addressing the participants of seminar.