

Guru Nanak's life teaches world to live with peace & prosperity. Khalil George

KARTARPUR (Online): There is an urgent need to follow the teachings of Guru Nanak Devji. Guru Nanak's life teaches us how to live with peace and prosperity. These views were expressed by the Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George during his visit to Kartarpur on the occasion of Guru Nanak Devji's death anniversary.

The Federal Minister visited the shrine of Guru Nanak Devji, Guru Nanak Ji, the founder of Sikhism, always taught peace and harmony to the world. In today's violent society, there is an urgent need to create relationships of mutual respect and love among all communities. Which he always taught in his teachings. We all have to work for peace in our personal and public life.

The Caretaker Federal Minister further said that today's leaders who are involved in petty power politics and self-interest need to pay attention to the message of peace. We need leaders who can be role models for our youth.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George commended the Kot Lakhpat jail administration during his visit to jail on Friday.



FAISALABAD: Religious Scholar Allah Wasaya addressing during the 16th Khatme Nabuwat conference along the Satyana road in city.

PPP for specific date for general elections in country

DI KHAN (INP): Central Information Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Faisal Karim Kundi has underlined the need for the Election Commission to announce a cut-off date for general elections to put a permanent end to the uncertainty surrounding the electoral process in the country.

He expressed these views while talking to the media at Kundi Model Farm here Friday.

He said that the formal announcement of election schedule and its date was a part of the constitutional procedure, but the ECP had neither given any schedule for the election nor announced its date. Merely announcing the month of January for the election is not enough, he added.

Faisal Karim Kundi said that the People's Party had always adopted a principled position that elections should be held in accordance with the Constitution and this crucial requirement should be fulfilled by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

He said that the party had also expressed its willingness about the election to be held in 60 days and while respecting the wishes and consultation of the coalition parties, we agreed to hold the election within 90 days.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori presiding over a meeting of Ulema at Governor House.

AJK PM for quality cell phone service, improved network coverage in remote areas

MIRPUR (INP): Vice President Telenor Pakistan, Raza Zulfiqar Naqvi was called on by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq at Jammu and Kashmir House here Friday and discussed the issues of mutual interest with special reference to the cellular phone services operated by the Telenor company in the State.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that Telenor should improve its service quality to the satisfaction of its customers in AJK.

He said that the company should take immediate measures to improve the network coverage in remote areas.

He said that the world had now become a global village and cellular companies had played an important role in this regard.

The PM said that the Easy Paisa facility offered by Telenor was also very important for the benefit of the people. He also stressed the need for providing the Easy Paisa facility to get the Zakat money delivered to the people of Azad Kashmir.

The PM said that the cellular companies, which have been earning huge revenue from Azad Kashmir, should also spend money on CSR projects for the citizens of Azad Kashmir.

Raza Zulfiqar Naqvi gave a detailed briefing to the prime minister regarding the service-quality of Telenor network in Azad Kashmir and the provision of facilities offered to the customers by the company.

He said that Telenor, being one of the largest mobile networks, has been providing quality service to its customers living in remote areas. He said that Telenor has installed 450 towers in Azad Kashmir to provide quality services to customers.

CM visits Ningxia Medical University

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Ningxia Medical University in Yangchuan capital of Ningxia province of China where he was briefed about the education and research facilities by the vice chancellor at senior faculty members.

During the visit, the CM visited different sections including research and development facilities and held meetings with faculty members as well as the Pakistani students enrolled in the university, said a handout issued here on Friday.

The CM appreciated the innovative approach with regard to medical education, saying that innovation is need of the hour.

A wonderful work was being done with regard to medical research and the Punjab government would also raise the standard of medical education in the province in partnership with Ningxia Medical University, he added.

Visiting China is not a routine visit but the bilateral cooperation would be exploited to better serve the people, he said.

Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Pakistan embassy officials and senior officials of the Ningxia government were also present.



LAHORE: Pakistan Messiah Millat Party Chairman Aslam Pervez Sabotra addressing press conference along with others at press club in Provincial Capital.

Crackdown against counterfeit drugs leads to significant seizures

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The Director General of Drugs and Pharmacy Services, Dr. Abbas, has announced a significant crackdown on counterfeit and fraudulent medicines in the province. This operation has led to substantial seizures and actions taken against those responsible.

Dr. Abbas disclosed that, based on confidential information, the Drug Control Peshawar successfully intercepted a large quantity of counterfeit drugs being transported via Daewoo Cargo. These illegal medications were enroute from Karachi to Peshawar through Daewoo cargo services. The seized contraband includes a staggering 37,000 counterfeit tablets and medicines, supposedly procured by the Sindh government. Investigations are underway to trace the origin of these fake drugs within Peshawar. In the Namak Mandi area, numerous drug supplier stores underwent rigorous inspections. During these checks, samples of suspected fraudulent drugs were collected and sent to the drug lab for thorough analysis.

I do not feel good due to Jail food, Parvez Elahi

LAHORE (Online): Former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhary Parvez Elahi said that Jail food is being given which is not good for health. Earlier there was a doctor's facility but now they have created problems in it too.

While talking informally to journalists in Anti-terrorism Court (ATC), former Chief Minister said that Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif are both brothers who are responsible for high cost of electricity. Today, middle class has also affected due to inflation. The system has stopped due to not holding general elections.

Minister vows action on human rights issues

Independent Report PESHAWAR: A meeting was convened at the office of Mr. Syed Arshad Husain Shah, the caretaker minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Human Rights in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the state of human rights in the province and the necessary measures needed to enhance and fortify the human rights framework within the region. Present at the meeting were representatives from the Directorate General of Law and Human Rights.

During the meeting, the Minister was given a detailed presentation on the current human rights situation in the province and the difficulties faced by the Directorate General in carrying out its human rights-related responsibilities. The team emphasized the urgent need to establish regional divisions within the Directorate General to ensure the protection of fundamental rights at the local level. The Minister assured that this matter would be promptly addressed with the relevant authorities. Furthermore, the Minister stated his intention to convene a meeting with the Police and Revenue departments as soon as possible to enhance coordination between departments when investigating human rights violations.

Railways to shut down Shalimar Express

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Railways has decided to shut down Shalimar Express once again due to financial crunch.

According to media reports, the railway's administration was facing a loss of about Rs2 million daily. The Shalimar Express plies between Lahore to Karachi.

In May 2023, the Pakistan Railways had revived the high-speed Shalimar Express passenger train after eight months. To enhance the facilities for the high-speed train, its 19 coaches had been reconditioned at Mughalpura Workshop.

International News

Leaders of Syria and China announce strategic partnership as part of Asian Games diplomacy

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China and Syria announced the formation of a strategic partnership on Friday as Chinese leader Xi Jinping kicked off a series of diplomatic meetings ahead of the upcoming Asian Games. Xi met Syrian President Bashar Assad in the southern Chinese city of Hangzhou, which is hosting the 15-day sports competition.

"In the face of the unstable and uncertain international situation, China is willing to work with Syria to firmly support each other ... and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice," Xi said in a video clip posted online by state broadcaster CCTV.

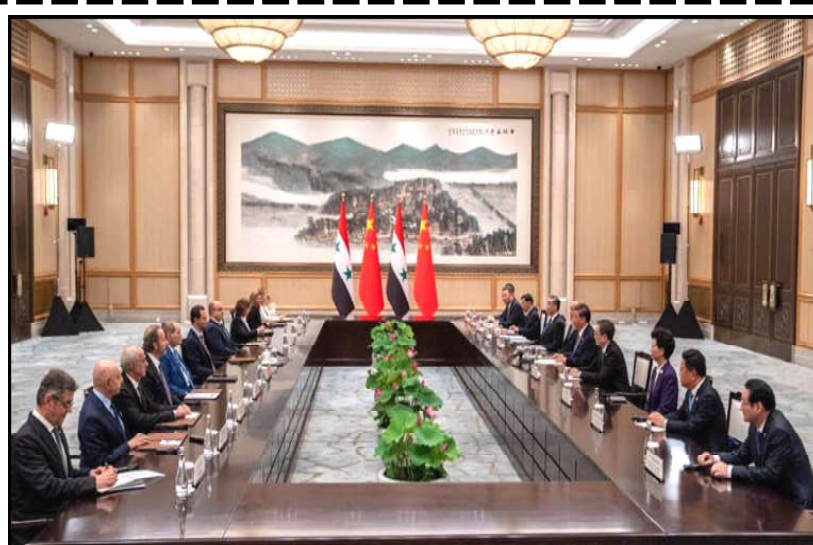
Assad's visit parallels in some ways that of Russian President Vladimir Putin last year for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics. Both leaders are virtual pariahs in the West but welcomed by China as it tries to expand its global influence and promote an alternative to the U.S.-led international order.

The Syrian leader will attend the Asian Games opening ceremony on Saturday night along with the king of Cambodia, the crown prince of Kuwait and the prime ministers of Nepal, East Timor and South Korea, China's Foreign Ministry has said.

Xi also met Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah on Friday and said he would work with him to take bilateral relations to a new level, CCTV reported.

Both meetings took place at a state guest house at West Lake, a scenic tourist destination in Hangzhou that has inspired Chinese painters for centuries.

Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni arrived Friday at the airport in Hangzhou. CCTV video posted online showed him walking down the stairs from his plane to the tarmac for a red carpet welcome that included the Asian Games mascots.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and other officials in eastern Hangzhou city, China.

Zelenskyy asks Congress for more Ukraine aid. Vance says he didn't attend 'farce' meeting

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday made his second visit to Capitol Hill in another pitch to U.S. lawmakers to continue supporting his embattled nation's war effort against Russia's invasion.

But on the surface, his appearance looks to have done little to change the hearts and minds of lawmakers skeptical of providing additional assistance to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy's stop in Washington, which included a bipartisan meeting with a group of House lawmakers and an all-senators meeting, noticeably lacked the fanfare he saw when he addressed a joint meeting of Congress last December.

President Joe Biden in August requested lawmakers to approve another \$24 billion in additional aid related to Ukraine.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., who has expressed reluctance to include Ukraine aid in a spending package to fund the government, declined to commit to putting Biden's ask on the House floor on Thursday.

"I think a lot of this doubt lies on President Biden.

He hasn't made the case to the American public, what is victory? What does it take to be able to win?" McCarthy said. "But I believe when we're looking at where we're going right now, Zelenskyy has answered a lot of questions for me."

Ahead of Zelenskyy's visit, a coalition of 28 GOP lawmakers from the Senate and House signed a letter opposing Biden's request, arguing the White House has not done enough to persuade Congress on the war's progress.

Saudi ties with Israel will betray Palestinians, fears Raisi

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has accused regional rival Saudi Arabia of betraying the Palestinians by seeking to normalise relations with Israel.

"We believe that a relationship between regional countries and the Zionist regime would be a stab in the back of the Palestinian people and of the resistance of the Palestinians," he said.

"The initiation of a relationship between the Zionist regime and any country in the region, if it is with the aim to bring security for the Zionist regime, will certainly not do so," Raisi told a news conference on Wednesday as he attended the UN General Assembly. Saudi Arabia and Israel have bonded in part over shared hostility to Iran's clerical state, although Riyadh has moved to ease tensions with Tehran through talks brokered by China. US President Joe Biden is hoping to transform the Middle East — and score an election-year diplomatic victory — by securing recognition of the Jewish state by Saudi Arabia. On Wednesday, Biden met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.



Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan Abdelrahman Al-Burhan, President of the Transitional Sovereign Council of Sudan, addresses the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

North Korea's Kim sets forth steps to boost Russia ties as US & Seoul warn about weapons deals

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered unspecified steps to further develop relations with Russia after his recent visit to the country as his foreign rivals warn that any cooperation on military weapons would be dangerous and bring consequences.

Experts speculated North Korea and Russia likely discussed banned arms transfer deals and other cooperation measures during Kim's six-day trip last week.

They say the two countries are serious about sharply boosting their ties while they are engaged in separate confrontations with the West.

During a Politburo meeting on Wednesday, Kim arranged for work to be done on further developing bilateral ties at "a new high level at the practical stage" to consolidate "the success" of his Russia trip, the official Korean Central News Agency said Friday.

Kim underscored the need to expand bilateral cooperation in every field, making a substantial contribution to the promotion of the well-being of the people of the two countries, KCNA said.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his wife Olena Zelenska, left, meet with Governor General Mary Simon and her husband Whit Fraser in Ottawa.

Sudan's military leader warns the war in his country could spread beyond its borders

Monitoring Desk ABUJA: The war in Sudan could spread beyond the northeast African country's borders if it is not stopped, Sudan's army chief told the United Nations General Assembly, while urging world leaders to designate the rival paramilitary force as a terrorist group.

"The nature of this war is now a threat to regional and international peace and security. ... This is like the spark of war, a war that will spill over to other countries in the region," Sudan army chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan told world leaders late Thursday. Sudan plunged into conflict in April when long-simmering tensions escalated between the military, led by Burhan, and the rival Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. They had joined forces in 2021 to seize power in a coup that cast aside Sudan's pro-democracy movement.

The conflict has killed at least 5,000 people and wounded 12,000 others, according to Volker Perthes, the U.N. envoy in the country.

US pledges new aid for Haiti

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The United States on Friday unveiled \$65 million more in help for Haiti's police and urged the U.N. Security Council to formally back the deployment of a multinational security mission to help the Caribbean country battle crippling gang violence.

Speaking at a meeting in New York to address the security situation in Haiti, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the mission, led by Kenya, could deploy "within months." "We really have no time to lose," Blinken said.

Haiti last year asked for help to combat violent gangs that have largely overrun the capital Port-au-Prince. The council could vote as soon as next week, diplomats said, on a U.S.-drafted resolution supporting a multinational police deployment.

While not providing any troops, Blinken said the Biden administration will work with the U.S. Congress to provide \$100 million to back the multinational mission with logistical and financial assistance. This could include intelligence support, airlift, communications and medical support, he said.

Russia says Ukraine missile hits Black Sea navy HQ

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: At least one Ukrainian missile struck the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea navy in the Crimean port of Sevastopol on Friday, and a major cyberattack interrupted internet services on the peninsula, Russian-installed officials said. Russia's defence ministry said one serviceman was missing after the attack, revising its earlier statement that the serviceman had been killed. Air defences had downed a total of five missiles, the ministry said.

More than 50 arrested in latest Italy raid

Monitoring Desk MILAN: Over 50 people have been arrested in a new police raid against the 'Ndrangheta mafia in Italy. Carabinieri police said in a statement on Friday.

Deploying more than 400 personnel, the operation, named 'Karpanthos', was led by Prosecutor Nicola Gratteri, one of Italy's best-known anti-Mafia investigators.

Police said 38 people have been jailed, six put under house arrest and eight given orders not to leave their hometowns.

