



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reads a pledge to serve the country with the youth of the nation during his visit to Mazar-e-Quaid.

Businessmen want PM to reconcile with PTI founder, improve ties with India

KARACHI (INP): Business magnate Arif Habib has urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to extend a gesture of reconciliation to his incarcerated political opponent, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and improve relations with neighbouring countries, especially India.

Habib's counsel came during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address to the business community at a ceremony on Wednesday, where the premier expressed confidence that Pakistan's exports would double over the next five years with the support of the business community.

"Having engaged with the Pakistan Peoples Party and other parties, I urge you to engage two more times: once with our neighbours, including India, and once with the inmates of Adiala Jail," Habib advised the premier during the Q&A session.

The businessman commended PM Shehbaz for elevating the stock market to record levels and securing a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during his previous tenure as prime minister.

In his address, PM Shehbaz Sharif reiterated his confidence in Pakistan's export potential, stressing that collaboration with the business community would be pivotal in achieving this goal.

He outlined plans for a comprehensive policy framework, developed in consultation with business leaders, to boost exports and alleviate foreign exchange reserve challenges.

Acknowledging the business community as the backbone of the economy, the prime minister invited collaboration in addressing economic hurdles and fostering development and prosperity.

He emphasised the importance of collective effort and innovative solutions to overcome challenges and revitalise Pakistan's economy.

PM Shehbaz underscored the government's commitment to revolutionise various sectors, including agriculture, mining, information technology and industry, with a focus on reducing unemployment, poverty and inflation.

Gillani calls for further promoting parliamentary relations b/w Pakistan, US

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Wednesday appreciated the US government for its collaboration across various sectors and emphasized the need to enhance trade links for mutual benefit.

During the meeting with US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, the chairman Senate stressed the need for increased co-operation to boost trade volume.

Both sides engaged in detailed deliberations on various aspects of the enduring friendship between Pakistan and the United States, said a news release.

Ambassador Blome extended heartfelt congratulations to Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on being elected as Chairman Senate and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure.

Expressing Pakistan's commitment to nurturing its long-standing friendly ties with the US, the Chairman Senate emphasized the importance of further promoting parliamentary relations between the two nations.

He underscored the pivotal role that parliamentary contacts can play in enhancing public and legislative engagement.

Recognizing the significant economic partnership between the two countries, Chairman Senate Gillani highlighted the US as Pakistan's largest trading partner.

Ambassador Blome commended the new economic team of Pakistan and expressed optimism regarding the ongoing discussions between Pakistan and the IMF.

He praised the efforts of the Pakistan economic team and emphasized the potential for further economic cooperation between Pakistan and the US.

Acknowledging the positive economic indicators of Pakistan, the ambassador noted the downward trend in inflation and high dollar reserves, stating that the IMF's positive feedback would encourage investors.

He also highlighted the flourishing gaming industry in Pakistan and called for enhanced cooperation in the digital sector.

Both discussed the importance of parliamentary contacts.



Quetta: Provincial Minister Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Khan Domki, MPAs Mir Barkat Ali Rind, Mir Asghar Ali Rind, Nawabzada Naimatullah Zehri and Naveed Kalmati meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Quetta: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed about progress on development projects in provincial Assembly



Quetta: Provincial Minister Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Khan Domki, MPAs Mir Barkat Ali Rind, Mir Asghar Ali Rind, Nawabzada Naimatullah Zehri and Naveed Kalmati meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Mir Sarfraz Bugti for taking steps to establish good governance in province

Quetta (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday said that provincial government would take practical measures to address public issues and establish good governance in consultation with all stakeholders.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), High Court Bar (HCB) and Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) led by Muneer Ahmed Kakar Advocate called on him here.

The matters relating to the problems of Bar Councils came under discussion during the meeting.

The Chief Minister said that provincial government would review the proposals presented within the available resources to solve the genuine issues being faced by the lawyers' community and assured to take measures for the welfare of the lawyers fraternity.

He said that Bar Councils and lawyers would be consulted on legislation related to public interest in the Balochistan Assembly.

Pakistan wants cordial ties with neighbours: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said Pakistan is willing to enjoy cordial relationship with the neighbouring countries including India.

Talking to media on Wednesday, the defence minister said Taliban defeated the colonial powers with modern equipment which was a fact praiseworthy.

"Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan are not ideal this time and we need to work on improving ties with them," he said.

Govt. making all-out efforts to enhance energy mix to provide affordable power to consumers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar Wednesday informed the National Assembly that the government was making all-out efforts to enhance the energy mix to provide affordable electricity to the consumers.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding the production of electricity from expensive sources instead of cheap sources, he said that the government is actively engaged in various projects aimed at providing affordable electricity to the masses. He said that the Prime Minister has established a special committee to promote the generation of electricity through solar power.

The minister said a plant with the help of China will be set up in Pakistan to manufacture solar panels in the country to reduce costs.

Nazeer Tarar informed about the government's ongoing efforts to combat power theft and address defaulters.

The minister urged lawmakers to educate the people in their respective constituencies about the criminal nature of electricity theft.

He emphasized the importance of collective efforts in curbing this illegal activity.

Irrigation Dept. to be put on modern lines: Minister for Irrigation stresses on constructing new dams in all districts of Balochistan

Independent Report

Quetta: The Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani has underlined the need to build new dams in all districts of the province for stopping wastage of water and increasing water reservoirs.

The Minister said that the government would remain determined to put the irrigation department on modern lines as per the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

He said that the public issues would be resolved on priority basis.

The Provincial Minister for Irrigation stated so while speaking on the occasion of his visit to the office of administrative secretary of the department on Wednesday.

The Secretary Irrigation briefed the Minister about the overall performance of the department.

The Minister said that Irrigation department is very important for the public service.

He mentioned that the issue of irrigation has been resolved to great extent because of the recent rains in the province.



Quetta: Journalists of Islamabad Shahana Tabassum and Shafaqat Hussain meeting with Provincial Advisor Women Development Department Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

Secretary directs to take action against absentee medical staff at RHC Kan Mahtarzai

Independent Report

Quetta: The Secretary Health Department, Abdullah Khan has directed to take departmental action against the Incharge Lady Medical Officer and other medical staff found absent from their duties at the RHC Kan Mahtarzai in Killa Saifullah district on Wednesday.

The Secretary issued directives for taking action against the absentee medical staff during his surprise visit to the RHC Kan Mahtarzai.

During his visit, the Secretary Health found the Incharge Lady Medical Officer and other staff absent from their duties.

He expressed dismay over the absence of Incharge and other medical staff at the RHC.

However, he found the basic healthcare, EPI, MCH and Nutrition Programme fully functional at the RHC.

He on the occasion directed to District Health Officer to make labour room operational at the RHC and appoint local LHVs there.

He also stressed the need to improve the services of vaccination further.

Two coalmine workers suffocated to death in Harnai coalmine

Independent Report

Quetta: Two coalmine workers died of poisonous gas suffocation in a coalmine located in Shahrag area of Harnai on Wednesday.

According to the Chief Mines Inspector, two mine workers were working in a coalmine located in the PMDC coalmine area of Shahrag when they were trapped there and died of suffocation of poisonous gas.

Later, their bodies were taken out from the affected coalmine by the local coalmine workers on self-help basis.

Announces job & Rs. 2mln for karate player: Shahzaib Rind brightens name of Pakistan at international level, maintains Chief Minister

Sarfraz Bugti announces provincial government to bear expenses of traveling & professional training of Shahzaib for abroad; says talented players to be fully patronised

Independent Report

Quetta: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that international karate combat player Shahzaib Rind has brightened the name of Pakistan at international level.

He said that Shahzaib is pride of Balochistan and Pakistan and he has proved that there is talent of world level in Balochistan.

The Chief Minister was speaking to Shahzaib Rind who called on him here on Wednesday.

He congratulated Shahzaib Rind on winning the crucial fight against Indian player.

He announced the government job and cash reward of Rs. 2 million for Shahzaib Rind.

He also announced to bear the expenses of traveling and professional training of Shahzaib Rind to be done abroad and also directed the Secretary Sports in this regard.

He said that the provincial government acknowledges the talent and capabilities of talented youth and would fully patronise them.

Shahzaib Rind on the occasion thanked the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on encouraging him.

He asked youth of the country including Balochistan to work hard.

NAB takes notice of illegal appointments made in NA secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online): NAB has taken notice of illegal appointments made in National Assembly (NA) Secretariat. Sources said the letter written by NAB has been received in NA secretariat. Through this letter details about the appointments made from 2018 to March 2024 in NA secretariat have been sought. Reply has been sought about the procedure under which the appointments were made.

WASA employees lodge protest against non-payment of salaries

Independent Report

Quetta: The employees of Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) lodged protest against non-payment of their salaries in the metropolis on Wednesday.

The protest rally was taken out from WASA office which terminated at the Edhi Chowk after passing through Double Road and Zarghoun road.

The protesters staged sit-in at the Edhi Chowk and protested against non-payment of their salaries of two months. The employees said that they are deprived of the salaries for last two months. They criticized the provincial government in this regard. They demanded of the government to resolve the issue, otherwise they would intensify their protest further.

Meanwhile, traffic jam was occurred due to protest of WASA employees at main intersection of the city.

PM visits Mazar-e-Quaid, pays homage to father of nation

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday visited the mausoleum of Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, where he paid his respects and offered Fateha.

This is the first visit of Shehbaz Sharif to the Mazar-e-Quaid after he took the oath for the second term as the prime minister on March 4, 2024.

The prime minister laid a wreath at the mausoleum and also penned his comments in the visitors' book. In his remarks, the prime minister said he was there to pay tribute to the great Quaid for his great struggle to create a separate homeland and show his respects to him.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Federal Minister for Professional Training and Education Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui were present on the occasion.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with youth paid rich tributes to the founding fathers of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister took an oath from the youth who performed prominently at Mazar-e-Quaid to serve Pakistan and play their role in the development of the country.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived on a day long visit to Karachi and was received by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at Karachi Airport.



Quetta: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed about progress on development projects in provincial Assembly

SC sends appeals regarding 'army courts' to committee for formation of larger bench

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday referred 'the set of intra court appeals (ICAs) against the termination of civilians' trials in army courts in line of May 9 riots' to the Practice and Procedure Committee for formation of a larger bench to hear the matter.

A six-member bench of the top court headed by Justice Amin ud Din Khan and comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan heard the petitions filed by the Federal Government, and the ministries of Law & Justice and Defence against the apex courts' ruling of October 23, in which it had annulled the civilians trials in army courts.

During the course of proceedings, the Attorney General for Pakistan informed the court that 20 people had been released before Eid after they completed sentences.

Justice Hilali remarked that the decisions of the military courts should be brought on the record.

The court said that it would view that what procedure had been adopted for the trials and if the accused were given the opportunity to hire lawyers of their choice.

Justice Amin ud Din Khan said that the court had conditioned the decisions of army courts with the final judgment of the top court but still it could summon the decisions.

The counsel for Justice (ret'd) Jawad S. Khawaja prayed the bench to form a larger bench in the light of the notes of Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

Member CMIT inspects development projects

Independent Report

Quetta: The Member Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) Umeed Ali Khokhar visited Usta Muhammad and Jaffarabad districts on Wednesday.

During the course of visit, Chief Minister inspected different completed and under completion projects in the districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Member CMIT directed to the concerned officials to mobilize all available resources for completion of the projects in larger public interests. He said that heavy responsibility rests with the engineers to discharge their duties with dedication. He warned that no negligence and carelessness would be tolerated in this regard. He also directed to the Executive Engineers to work on the projects on priority basis removing flaws in them.



Quetta: Director General (DG) Health Balochistan, Dr. Farooq Hoth along with others addressing during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Harassment of women serious & culpable offence, says Rubaba

Independent Report

Quetta: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has annulled that harassment of women is serious and culpable offence and there is zero tolerance policy of the government on it.

She asserted that case would be registered under Anti-Harassment Act if any female was harassed.

She said that it is our basic responsibility to provide harassment free and conducive environment to the women at workplace.

She said that comprehensive steps would be taken for providing opportunities to the women to move forward in all sectors.

She said that the remarkable performance of the provincial government would be felt under leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Dr. Rubaba Buledi was speaking to the Secretary Women Development Department, Sardar Khan Bugti and other officers after assuming the responsibilities of department here on Wednesday.

The Advisor for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba said that the women of Balochistan are talented, however, there's a need to take comprehensive steps for providing ample opportunities to women so that they may progress at national and provincial level. She said that women of province are facing extraordinary hardships. Under the given circumstances, steps would be taken enabling women to defend their rights effectively, she added.