

Independent

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Gwadar

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 320, Zeeqad 05, 1445 AH Tuesday May 14, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the matters related to Balochistan province.

Prime Minister reiterated Government's resolve to ensure development of Balochistan

Says Federal Govt would provide all possible assistance regarding the conversion of agricultural tube-wells to solar energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday reiterated his government's resolve to ensure development of Balochistan, saying that the welfare of the people of province was its top priority. He said the government was providing equal opportunities of education and employment to the youth of the province to play role in the development.

He was chairing a high level meeting to review the key issues of Balochistan province at the Prime Minister House. The meeting was attended by Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Planning Minister Zahoor Ahmed Bilidi and Finance Minister Shoab Noshirwani. Parliamentary Secretary Fisheries Haji Barkat Rand, Provincial As-

sembly Members Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Haji Muhammad Khan, Zmarak Khan Achakzai, and Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir. During the meeting, the prime minister emphasizing the importance of solarisation of agricultural tube-wells in Balochistan and said that the Federal Government would provide all possible assistance regarding the conversion of agricultural tube-wells to solar energy.

Bugti would play a vital role in resolving the province's issues and put it on the path to progress. The prime minister directed the speedy completion of the process of solarisation of agricultural tube-wells in Balochistan and said that the Federal Government would provide all possible assistance regarding the conversion of agricultural tube-wells to solar energy.

ECP suspends lawmakers elected on reserved seats denied to SIC

Membership of 77 women, non Muslim legislators of NA, provincial assemblies suspended

ISLAMABAD (INP): After the Supreme Court order on Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) petition regarding reserved seats, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Monday suspended 77 lawmakers elected on seats denied to the party.

The issue of reserved seats had been a point of contention between the SIC, which primarily comprises Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed independent candidates, and the ruling parties notably Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), and others.

Dozens of members of the PPP, PML-N, MQM-

P, JUI-F and others had taken oath on reserved seats in different assemblies across the country following the PHC's verdict.

The ruling PML-N is the biggest loser as 44 of its members have been suspended while 15 lawmakers from PPP, 13 from Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and one each from MQM-P, Istehkame-Pakistan Party, and Awami National Party, Pakistan Muslim League and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians. Following the top court's order, the ECP today withdrew the notification of 22 returned candidates who were allotted seats in the National Assembly. Out of the 22, 11 of them are female lawmakers given

seats in the NA from Punjab, 8 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 3 minority seats in the lower house.

On the other hand, in KP Assembly 21 lawmakers on reserved seats for women and 4 for minorities have been de-notified.

In the Punjab Assembly, 24 women lawmakers and 3 non-Muslim legislators have been de-notified. While in the Sindh Assembly, the commission de-notified 2 female MPs and a minority member.

All the lawmakers that have been de-notified belong to the PML-N, PPP, MQM-P, JUI-F, Awami National Party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians (PTI-P), PML-Q and IPP.

Khawaja demands imposition of Article 6 against violators of constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday called for imposing Article 6 on those who violated the Constitution and suggested that it should begin with Field Marshal Ayub Khan.

Speaking at the forum of National Assembly, he said, "I fully endorse the opposition leader's proposal to invoke Article 6, but it should be started from 1958 up to 2022, when the then Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri breached the constitution during the no-confidence process." The minister highlighted the Supreme Court's intervention at that time, which restored the National Assembly and overturned the unconstitutional order.

Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan has faced challenges from that period onwards, indicating that democracy has struggled to take root in the country. He asserted that leaders engaged in unlawful activities must face justice. The minister accused the opposition leader in the NA of consistently supporting dictatorship and unlawful actions, mentioning that his party had previously apologized for supporting General Zia-ul-Haq and now seeks the same from opposition members. He said that the respect of all individuals associated with building a stable and developed Pakistan is crucial, and those working against the country's interests will be held accountable by the law.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), addressing GHQ Investiture ceremony held at General Headquarters Rawalpindi.

PM resigns as PML-N President

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has tendered resignation from his position as Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President.

According to PML-N Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb here on Monday, PM Shehbaz Sharif said, "Time has come for Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to resume his rightful place as the President of PML-N and provide his invaluable leadership and vision to steer the party forward."

Shehbaz Sharif said, "I remain steadfast in my commitment to serve the party diligently and with unwavering loyalty under the leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif."

Shuhada and Ghazis are our national heroes: COAS

Army Chief confers military awards upon Army Officer's at GHQ Investiture ceremony

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Monday conferred military awards upon Army personnel for their acts of gallantry during operations and meritorious services rendered to the nation during an Investiture ceremony held here at General Headquarters.

A large number of senior Army officers and families of awardees attended the ceremony.

The officers & soldiers were awarded medals including Sitara-I-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-I-Basalat. Medals of Shuhada were received by their family members, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Paying tributes to Shuhada (martyrs) and Ghazis, the COAS said, "There is nothing more noble than laying one's life for defence of motherland and the sacrifices of our martyrs strengthen our resolve to fight with utmost dedication and spirit of sacrifice."

The Army Chief also lauded brave families of Shuhada for their high spirits and sacrifices rendered by them. The COAS said, "Shuhada and Ghazis are our national heroes and the nation owes its independence and security to the sacrifices of its valiant warriors. Our Shuhada are, indeed, the beacons of hope and resilience for the nation."

Pakistan, US reaffirm commitment to continue counter-terrorism coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the United States have reaffirmed their commitment to continue counter-terrorism, pledging to work together to address regional and global security challenges and promote stability in the region.

"The counter-terrorism dialogue underscores the cooperation between Pakistan and the United States in addressing the most pressing challenges to regional and global security, including Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and ISIS-Khorasan", a joint statement issued after the Pakistan-US counter-terrorism dialogue held in Washington D.C on May 10, said. Additional Foreign Secretary for the UN and OIC, Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, and US Department of State Coordinator for counter-terrorism,

Ambassador Elizabeth Richard, co-chaired the dialogue. Discussions centred on the counter-terrorism landscape in the region, with a focus on areas of mutual interest.

Pakistani and US senior officials emphasized the importance of expanded counter-terrorism collaboration and capacity building, including exchanges of technical expertise and best practices, investigative and prosecutorial assistance, provision of border security infrastructure and training, including the United States training of more than 300 police and frontline responders since the last Pakistan-US counter-terrorism dialogue in March 2023, and strengthening multilateral engagement such as in the UN and the Global counter-terrorism forum.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding the meeting to discuss matters related to present and upcoming Budget Session of National Assembly at Parliament House.

Khosa expresses resent on delaying work of Custom, Gahi Khan Flyover in Quetta

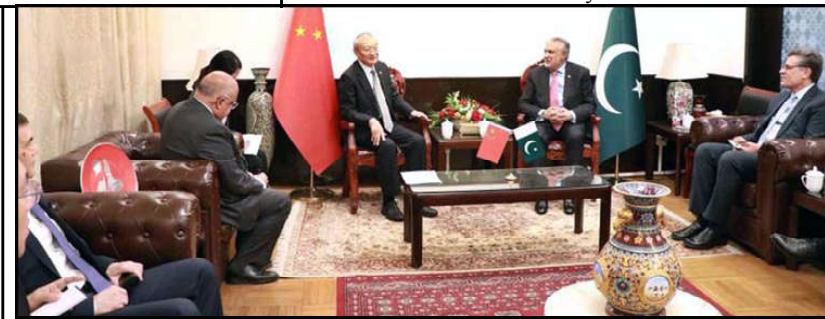
QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Communications and Work (C&W) Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa expressed his displeasures for delaying the speed of work ongoing Custom Sariab area and Gahi Khan Flyover projects during paying a surprise visiting of both projects.

The Minister issued orders for departmental action against the concerned authorities on the occasion.

He said that the traffic stoppage in the custom area and it has become a daily routine where the people have to go through severe torture saying that

therefore, the speed of construction work on the ongoing project should be accelerated. He said that the first priority of the provincial government was to provide modern facilities to the people of the province in every sphere of life and in this regard, negligence on the ongoing development projects in his department was not acceptable under any circumstances.

The Provincial Minister said that the people have chosen us with the hope that their basic problems would be solved and to provide facilities to them at their doorstep.



BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meets with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ambassador Zhang Ming.

We would have to make tough decisions to make universities on path of self-sufficiency: Sheikh

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel on Monday said we would have to make some tough decisions along with creating new sources of income in order to take the public sector universities on the path of self-sufficiency.

He expressed these views while talking to Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of Higher Education Commission at Governor's

House Quetta. Principal Secretary to Governor Balochistan Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Vice Chancellor of BUITEM University Dr. Khalid Hafeez and DG Higher Education Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai were also present in the meeting.

The Governor said that all higher education institutions in the province were common assets of all of us and to ensure the provision of quality edu-

cation in Balochistan public sector universities to solve all the financial problems faced immediately and to provide the poor students of remote areas with the jewel of higher education.

He said that the federal government would give us full attention to provide special packages to Balochistan which could be required for improvement of educational institutions.

Finance minister welcomes IMF team for completing SBA with success

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team and expressed gratitude for them for completing Standby Arrangement (SBA), with success. The minister for finance and revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb met with the delegation of IMF Mission led by IMF Mission Chief Nathan Porter, said a press release issued here.

Electricity, flour prices slashed in AJK after PM Shehbaz orders release of Rs23b

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday ordered an immediate release of Rs23 billion to resolve the issues confronting the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and to ease the protests.

Shehbaz Sharif decided to provide funds after thoroughly examining the situation in the territory, in a special meeting chaired by him on the subject in Islamabad, a PM

Office press release said. Different parts of the AJK witnessed protest demonstrations during the last couple of days with the people seeking reduced electricity bills and taxes as well as subsidized wheat flour. Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, AJK cabinet members and senior leadership attended the meeting besides the federal ministers and leaders of the coalition parties.



QUETTA: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel.

SC deems investigation into attacks on journalists 'unsatisfactory'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday expressed dissatisfaction over police investigation report regarding torture and harassment of journalists.

The court adjourned further hearing into the matter till the month of June and final date would be announced later.

The court expressed dissatisfaction over the investigation report on torture of journalists including Asad Tur and Absar Alam.

The report on abduction and torture of Matullah Jan was also declared unsatisfactory.

The court instructed the police to complete the investigation process regarding the attack incidents on three journalists within one month.

Relief on POL prices expected from May 16

ISLAMABAD (INP): "Big relief" in petrol and diesel prices is expected for consumers in Pakistan following a decrease in global oil prices. Sources said the government is expected to cut petrol price by Rs14 per litre and diesel by Rs10 on May 16 for the next fortnight revision. Last month, the government slashed the price of petrol and high-speed diesel for the next fortnight by Rs5.45 and 8.42, respectively. The current petrol price is Rs288.49 per litre and that of HSD is Rs281.96. Meanwhile, oil prices extended declines on Monday amid signs of weak fuel demand and as comments from U.S. Federal Reserve officials dampened hopes of interest rate cuts.

DPM Dar urges SCO states' collaboration to harness region's potential

BEIJING (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday met with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Ambassador Zhang Ming here wherein he emphasised an effective collaboration among SCO member states to harness the region's potential for sustained progress and prosperity.

The deputy prime minister is on a four-day visit to China to co-chair the

Fifth Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi which would cover the full spectrum of Pakistan-China relations.

Senator Ishaq Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the SCO Charter and the Organization's fundamental ideals as enunciated in the 'Shanghai Spirit.' He expressed Pakistan's strong commitment to advancing SCO's security and development cooperation agenda.

NAB closes probe into wheat scandal

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has decided to close its investigation into the wheat and flour scandal that occurred during the previous regime of the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N).

This decision came following the approval of the Executive Board of NAB to cease the ongoing investigation related to corruption in the procurement of wheat.

The investigation was sanctioned under the NAB amendment law, with NAB recommending the transfer of the case to the Anti-Corruption Punjab for further proceedings.

The officials of NAB were occupied in the investigation of corruption amounting to billions of rupees within the food department while, the case of thousands of sacks of wheat being stolen was also under case under investigation.

