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Two-day Pakistan Literary Festival concludes: State wants reconciliation and talks with those displeased with Government: CM Bugti

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that the State of Pakistan wants to hold dialogue and reconciliation with those who are displeased with the government.

"I am ready to embrace the youth and would do his best to resolve their issues." But talks would not be held with those who want to dismantle the country or involved in the insurgency.

He mentioned that the State of Pakistan has also engaged in the reconciliation with the people in past, and still it wants to engage the people, but with whom talks be done?

He regretfully pointed out that the organized conspiracy had been hatched

against the State of Pakistan in the past. The first insurgent of Balochistan was given shelter in Afghanistan. The real facts should be made public about the history.

The Chief Minister was addressing the closing ceremony of two-day Pakistan Literary Festival concluded at the Balochistan Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS) here on Thursday.

The provincial high ups and other celebrities from art, literature, media and other segments of the society from all over the country including Balochistan participated in the ceremony.

The Chief Minister maintained that we have certain plans for our youth

to work on and implement in future. He said that we have plan to send our talented youth to abroad for doing Ph.Ds and other higher education so that they are able to shoulder their future responsibilities after coming back to their country and province.

He said that we would also be sending our youth to abroad after learning their different skills.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that we destroyed our education system at our own by killing the teachers and professors, and so the government in the province, no one came from Punjab or other areas to destroy the system.

Now we have to mend our way and correct the affairs at our own, adding Chief Minister stressed.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing participants of concluding ceremony of Pakistan Literary Festival at BUIEMS



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the meeting of the Cabinet of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Youth Facilitation Centers to be made functional: CM directs to formulate Balochistan Youth Policy as per needs of youth

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to formulate Balochistan Youth Policy 2024 in accordance with the needs of youth of the province.

He directed to the concerned quarters to present the draft of Youth Policy based on comprehensive recommendations within 10 days.

He said that the Balochistan Youth Policy would reflect the effective representative of youth of the province.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting on the Balochistan Youth Policy 2024 here on Thursday.

The Member National Assembly, Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Youth Affairs, Javaid Anwar Shahwani, Chairperson of Balochistan

Commission on Status of Women, Ms. Fauzia Shaheen and other concerned were present.

The meeting was briefed about the Balochistan Youth Policy 2024 by the Youth Affairs Department.

The meeting decided to make Youth Facilitation Centers functional in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that guidance of youth in right direction is very necessary.

He stressed the need to keep in mind the gender equality in the Youth Policy of the province.

He also stressed that the provision of opportunities should be made part of Youth Policy for utilizing capabilities of the youngsters.

In this regard, consultation of all stakeholders should be ensured in the Youth Policy, adding the Chief Minister directed further.

Registrar IHC No constitutional restriction on holding dual citizenship for becoming judge

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (Online): Registrar of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given reply to the letter from Faisal Vawda stating that there is no restriction on holding dual citizenship or residency in other country in the constitution for becoming judge.

No information about dual citizenship is sought from a lawyer on the occasion of becoming judge of high court.

Holding dual nationality or residence in other country does not disqualify any one from becoming judge as per constitution.

Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Iraq: Asif

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (Online): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Iraq and wishes to expand cooperation in all fields of mutual interests especially defence.

He expressed these views while talking to Iraqi Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lafta, who called on him in Islamabad Thursday.

The Defence Minister said both Pakistan and Iraq should work closely to share their experiences and build capacities of their Armed Forces.

PTI founder appears before SC via video link in NAB amendments case

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder on Thursday appeared before the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan larger bench to present his arguments in the National Accountability (NAB) Ordinance 1999 amendment case.

A five-member SC bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, is hearing the case. Arrangements to ensure the PTI founder's appearance before the Supreme Court bench via video link were finalised in light of the apex court's order.

The case is not being live-streamed but images of the PTI founder go viral on social media. At the outset of the hearing, Advocate Khwaja Haris came to the rostrum.

Well without learning modern skills Our youth can't benefit from modern science & technology : Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the importance of skills is equally increasing along with education in the ever changing world.

Our youth can't benefit from the modern science and technology well without learning modern skills. The Governor said that unemployment can be brought down by making the technical and vocational institutions functional at the provincial level.

The Governor was speaking to different delegations and personalities who called on him here at the Governor's House on Thursday.

Those who met were included former Vice Chancellors of different universities Brigadier (Retd) Agha Ahmed Gul, Engineer Ahmed Farooq Bazi, former Provincial Ministers Sultan Tareen and Mir Umar Jamali, former Members of provincial assembly, Akhtar Hussain Langove and Ahmed Nawaz Baloch, Abdul Mateen Akhuzada, Mir Imran Jatak and Naseeb Kakar Advocate.

The Governor said that the Programme of Prime Minister about imparting skills to the new generation is excellent.



QUETTA: Deputy Chairman Senate Saydal Khan Nasser meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Qaiser chairs meeting to boost economic activity in Gwadar area

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh presided over a meeting aimed at boosting economic activities in Gwadar Port area, emphasizing the government's commitment to accelerate growth and regional development in Balochistan region on Thursday.

Federal Secretary Maritime Affairs, representatives from ministry of finance, industries & production, fisheries department, ministry of commerce attended the meeting, a news release said issued here.

The federal minister stressed the strategic importance of Gwadar Port as a key player of Pakistan's economic prosperity and emphasized the need for concerted efforts to enhance import operation and business activity.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to this cause, citing directives from the prime minister to take decisive measures to enhance import of government goods through Gwadar Port.

Furthermore, the federal minister emphasized the significance of previous decisions made by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and the directives of the prime minister in 2008 and 2022, respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh chairs a meeting regarding the enhancement of Import at Gwadar Port.

Pakistan will continue extending support to Kashmiris So-called legislation, court decisions cant' absolve India of its int'l obligations on Kashmir: PM

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that no so-called legislation or court verdicts could absolve India of its obligations on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, under international laws.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Hurriyat leaders of Jammu and Kashmir during his daylong visit here, said that Pakistan categorically rejected the Indian unilateral and illegal actions in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) regarding the revocation of its special status.

He said Kashmir was an internationally recognised dispute that remained on the UN Security Council's agenda for the last seven decades and awaited settlement as per the UNSC's resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The Hurriyat leaders appreciated the prime minister's role in handling the recent situation in the AJK and also thanked Pakistan for its steadfast stance in condemning Indian unilateral actions and solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz assured the delegation that Pakistan would continue extending its moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people and cited the recently held OIC summit in Gambia where Pakistan effectively raised the Kashmir issue.

He assured that the Foreign Ministry as well as Pakistan's diplomatic missions would play their role to highlight the Kashmir cause at international forums more effectively. He also urged the Pakistani media to create global awareness of Indian atrocities in the IIOJK.

KP Governor Kundi calls on President

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday called on President Asif Ali Zardari here.

The president congratulated the governor on assuming the office, according to a President House press release.

Faisal Karim Kundi thanked the president for reposing trust in him and appointing him as the governor.

President Zardari instructed Governor Kundi to work for the betterment of the people and expressed good wishes for him.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Development, prosperity of Balochistan's people Govt top priority: Syedaal Khan

Independent Report
QUETTA (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar Thursday said the development and prosperity of the people of Balochistan is the key priority of the government.

He said that senators from Balochistan are given the opportunity to represent the people of the province in the upper house.

He expressed these views in a meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti to discuss the overall political and economic situation of the province, development projects. They expressed pledge to work together for the development of the province and the welfare of its people.

Syedaal Khan said that the Upper House is determined to resolve the problems faced by the provinces and provide opportunities for development and prosperity to its citizens. He said the development and prosperity of Balochistan will ensure the economic stability of the country.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

Jatak assures to take steps for making over 180 employees of Market Committee permanent

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has assured that steps would be taken for making over 180 contract employees of the Market Committee permanent immediately.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture was speaking to the media persons and office bearers of All Balochistan Fruit and Vegetable Commission Agent Association after briefing in the office of Market Committee Hazar Ganji on Thursday. The Director Economics and Marketing Syed Abdul Sattar briefed the Minister Agriculture about the Market Committee. Also present on the occasion were Rafi Gul Baraich, Mumtaz Shah, Jeeyand and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Madad Jatak said that the provincial government of Peoples Party is taking steps for resolving issues of the people on priority basis.

Session on higher education in Literary Festival: Brain drain emerging major issue as experts, scholars, doctors & teachers are leaving country: Rahila Durrani

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Education, Miss Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani has regretfully pointed out that the brain drain is emerging a major issue in the country including Balochistan as many of our experts, scholars, doctors and teachers are leaving the country or want to leave.

She said that there's a gap in our system that there is a brain drain of our

people from the country. This gap has to be filled in order to put an end to the trend of brain drain.

The Minister Education said that our education system needs a lot of improvement. We need to improve the standard of our teachers and enhance their capacities. We would also be needing a big team for bringing improvement in education sector.

Miss Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani was speaking at the special session

on education arranged in the Pakistan Literature Festival here at the Balochistan Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS) on Thursday.

The eminent scholars, intellectuals and experts from different parts of the country including Pirzada Qasim, Ghazi Salahuddin, Sadiqa Salahuddin, Dr. Qaratul Ain Bakhtiar, Mazhar Abbas and others participated in the session.

Assembly passes budget as opposition withdraw cut motions

PESHAWAR (APP): The session of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly chaired by Speaker Babar Salim Swati here Thursday passed eleven months excessive budget of Rs 1456 billion for 2023-24 after approving all demands for grants.

The ministers tabled demands for grants of their respective departments while opposition withdrew their cut motions on the request of treasury benches. Afterwards, the budget was passed when Speaker approved all 66

demands for grants. At the outset of session, treasury member, Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, opposition members including Sobia Shahid of PML-N, Ejaz Muhammad and Rehana Ismail of JUI presented their cut motion when law minister tabled demands for grants of Rs 5.84166 billion that was being spent by caretaker setup. Sobia Shahid demanded action against culprits of May 9 vandalism and said that monuments of martyred were damaged and building

of Radio Pakistan was set ablaze on that day. She said that people might start protest again if perpetrators were not punished. Mushtaq Ghani also demanded judicial inquiry on May 9 incident to sift fiction from reality. He withdrew cut motion later when Speaker placated him and said that budget would be revised if cut motions were accepted. All the members withdrew cut motion after assurance of law minister to accept demands of opposition members.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting of Power Steering Committee at CM Secretariat.

Qasim takes important initiative to prevent Leishmania epidemic

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The Health Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Qasim Ali Shah has taken important initiative to prevent Leishmania epidemic wherein he handed over the first batch of injections for the treatment of Leishmania to the DHOs of Mohmand, and Khyber district. It is necessary to take timely measures to prevent the epidemic, Syed Qasim Ali Shah told media men during distribution of injections to prevent Leishmania in both Mohmand and Khyber Districts. Glucantime injections have been provided with the support of MSF, Syed Qasim Ali Shah said, adding, Glucantime injections have been sold through UNICEF for the treatment of Leishmania.

Deputy Speaker SA calls on Governor KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House here on Thursday. Bishop of Pakistan Humphrey Sarfaraz Peter was also present at the meeting. Deputy Speaker and Bishop Sarfaraz Peter congratulated Faisal Karim Kundi on assuming the post of Governor and presented him with a bouquet. The Governor thanked Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed and Bishop Sarfaraz Peter for coming to congratulate him. Ensuring cooperation and playing a role on a priority basis in solving the problems faced by the minorities in the province, the Governor assured them. Governor KP appreciated the role of the minority community in the development. The services of all the minorities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially the Christian community, in all sectors including the education sector, are commendable, Faisal Karim Kundi said.

Meeting discusses matters relating to provision of funds to KPHA

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Finance Advisor, Muzamil Aslam Thursday chaired a meeting to discuss provision of funds to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority (KPHA) for land purchase. The meeting discussed provision of funds to KPHA for continuation of ongoing projects and to purchase land for future projects. Participants concurred to invite suggestions from Accountant General Office about payments of outstanding dues. The advisor said that government is utilizing resources to complete public welfare projects and strategy was being prepared to pay the outstanding amount. He also directed participants to present their proposals and suggestions relating to matter in next meeting. Provincial Minister for Communication and Works, Shakil Ahmad, Secretary Works, Dr. Asad Ali, Secretary Law, Akhtar Saeed Managing Director KPHA, Asad Ali and concerned officials also attended the meeting.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister for Social Welfare, Special Education Mashal Yousafzai addressing during the closing ceremony of Child Protection Case Management Foundation Training for District Child Protection Units.

AG KP agrees to ensure withholding of sales tax on service

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Director General (DG) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRRA) held a meeting with the Accountant General (AG) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday to discuss issues relating to withholding of Sales Tax on Services from bills processed through the AG office. The Accountant General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Naseer Uddin Sarwar welcomed DG KPRRA Fouzia Iqbal at his office for the meeting. Advisor to KPRRA on Tax Enforcement Fazal Amin Shah and Assistant Collector (Withholding) Hizbullah Khan also accompanied the DG KPRRA. The DG KPRRA and her team presented the agenda for the meeting and briefed AG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and his team that the exemption to erstwhile Federal Administered Tribal Area (FATA) and Provincial Administered Tribal Area (PATA) has expired on October 31, 2023 and the sales tax on services is extended to the regions so AG Office.



LAHORE: Activists of Young Doctors Association holding a press conference for their demands in the Provincial Capital.

MUST, DHQ signs MOU to modernize healthcare services in Mirpur

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Mirpur Divisional Headquarters (DHQ) Teaching Hospital have teamed up to transform healthcare services in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), signing a landmark agreement to develop a cutting-edge Hospital Management System. According to APP Correspondent, Mirpur University and DHQ Hospital have taken a significant step towards modernizing healthcare services in the region. The two institutions have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance and develop the Hospital Management System (HMS), revolutionizing the hospital's digital infrastructure. The partnership will see the university's Network and Telecommunication Centre (NTC) providing expertise and resources to improve patient care, streamline operations, and increase efficiency. This collaboration will strengthen the bond between MUST and DHQ Hospital, advancing healthcare services and education in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Online open court at Tax House Peshawar on May 21

PESHAWAR (APP): An online open court will be held at Tax House Peshawar to address the genuine problems of the taxpayers from 12:00 P.M to 1:00 P.M on May 21, 2024.

Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Regional Tax Office (RTO) Peshawar, Zafar Iqbal Khan will participate in the proceedings while Commissioner Withholding Syed Khalid Shah, Commissioner Peshawar Zone Dr Farooq Jameel, Commissioner Corporate Zone Fazal Malik, Additional Commissioner Headquarters Bahadur Sher Afridi, Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Riaz Ahmad Khan and Assistant Commissioner/Focal Person Sheraz Ahmad Khan will be present for the assistance of the Chief Commissioner. Trading community and other taxpayers have been invited for participation in the online open court to redress their problems through website www.facebook.com.

9 community NGOs pledge cooperation to end polio

LAHORE (APP): Heads of nine key community organisations in Punjab have pledged their full support to eradicate polio from the province, extending their cooperation from major cities to all districts. The commitment was made at a jirga, organised at the office of the Director General Health Punjab here on Thursday, attended by over 30 representatives from significant community organisations including Pakhtun Falahi Tanzeem, Mohmand Loya Jirga, Afghan Refugees Aman Committee, Khattak Welfare Association, Marwat Welfare Association, Bajaur Ittehad, Hazara Welfare Organisation, Muzil Welfare Organisation, and Pakhtun Qabail Movement. The session was chaired by Khizer Afzaal, the head of the polio programme in Punjab and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Coordinator. During the jirga, the organisations reviewed past initiatives aimed at eradicating polio in Punjab, such as awareness campaigns.

International News

China and Russia reaffirm their close ties as Moscow presses its offensive in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday reaffirmed their "no-limits" partnership that has deepened as both countries face rising tensions with the West, and they criticized U.S. military alliances in Asia and the Pacific region. At their summit in Beijing, Putin thanked China's proposals for ending the war in Ukraine, which have been rejected by Ukraine and its Western supporters as largely following the Kremlin's line. China claims to take a neutral position in the conflict, but it has backed the Kremlin's contentions that Russia was provoked into attacking Ukraine by the West, and it continues to supply key components needed by Moscow for weapons production. China, which has not criticized the invasion, proposed a broadly worded peace plan in 2023, calling for a cease-fire and for direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv. The plan was rejected by both Ukraine and the West for failing to call for Russia to leave occupied parts of Ukraine. China also gave a rhetorical nod to Russia's narrative about Nazism in Ukraine, with a joint statement Thursday that said Moscow and Beijing should defend the post-World War II order and "severely condemn the glorification of or even attempts to revive Nazism and militarism."



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping attend an official welcoming ceremony in Beijing, China.

US questions China's no-first-use nuclear call given buildup

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: China has not responded to US nuclear-weapons risk-reduction proposals and Washington has questions about Beijing's call for no-first-use talks while China continues to build up its arsenal, the top US arms control official said on Wednesday. Under Secretary of State Bonnie Jenkins told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the US estimates China currently has 500 operational nuclear warheads and will probably have more than 1,000 by 2030. She said US officials met with Chinese counterparts last November, opens new tab to discuss arms control and proliferation, their first such talks in nearly five years. "The meeting enabled a preliminary discussion on potential measures for managing and reducing risks," she said. "Unfortunately... the PRC has declined a follow-on meeting and has not provided (a) substantive response to risk-reduction suggestions we put forward," she said.

Slovak PM 'able to speak' after shooting: president-elect

Monitoring Desk HANDLOVA: Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico on Thursday was speaking but tired and still in a "really difficult condition" a day after being shot multiple times, the president-elect said after visiting his ally. "He is able to speak but only a few sentences and then he is really, really tired... The situation is very critical," President-elect Peter Pellegrini told reporters outside the hospital.

Four killed in New Caledonia riots; France declares state of emergency

Monitoring Desk SYDNEY: France declared a state of emergency on the Pacific island of New Caledonia on Wednesday after three young indigenous Kanak and a police officer were killed in riots over electoral reform. The state of emergency will give authorities additional powers to ban gatherings and forbid people from moving around the French-ruled island. Police reinforcements have been sent — and more are on the way — after rioters torched vehicles and businesses and looted stores. Schools have been shut and there is already a curfew in the capital. Rioting broke out over a new bill, adopted by lawmakers in Paris on Tuesday, that will allow French residents who have lived in New Caledonia for 10 years to vote in provincial elections — a move some local leaders fear will dilute the Kanak vote. "Since the start of the week, New Caledonia has been hit by violence of a rare intensity."

Turkey says it killed PKK members in northern Iraq strikes

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Turkey hit northern Iraq with air strikes on Wednesday and claimed to have killed 12 members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) sheltering there. The Turkish defence ministry said the PKK militants had been "neutralised" in the Gara and Hakurk regions of northern Iraq. The ministry's use of the term "neutralised" commonly means killed.

UN's top court opens hearings on the Israeli military's incursion into Rafah

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: The United Nations' top court on Thursday opened two days of hearings into a request from South Africa to press Israel to halt its military operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population has sought shelter. It is the fourth time South Africa has asked the International Court of Justice for emergency measures since the nation launched proceedings alleging that Israel's military action in its war with Hamas in Gaza amounts to genocide. According to the latest request, the previous preliminary orders by The Hague-based court were not sufficient to address "a brutal military attack on the sole remaining refuge for the people of Gaza."

Ukraine says it has checked Russia's offensive in a key town, but Moscow says it will keep pushing

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukrainian units locked in street battles with the Kremlin's forces in a key northeastern Ukraine town have halted the Russian advance, military officials in Kyiv claimed Thursday, though a senior Moscow official said the frontline push had enough resources to keep going. Russian attempts to establish a foothold in the town of Vovchansk, which is among the largest towns in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region with a prewar population of 17,000, "have been foiled," Ukraine's general staff said in a midday report. It was not possible to independently verify the claim. Six people were injured Thursday in one Russian daylight attack on Vovchansk using cluster munitions, local officials said, as emergency workers and volunteers were rescuing people affected by shelling. Among the injured were two medics, he said. Ukrainian authorities have evacuated some 8,000 civilians from the town. The Russian army's usual tactic is to reduce towns and villages to ruins with aerial strikes before its units move in. Vovchansk, located just 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the Russian border, has been a hotspot in the fighting in recent days. Russia launched an offensive in the Kharkiv area late last week, significantly adding to the pressure on Ukraine's outnumbered and outgunned forces which are waiting for delayed deliveries of crucial weapons and ammunition from Western partners. Ukraine has repeatedly tried to strike behind Russian lines, often using drones though Russia's response to the new technology used in unmanned vehicles has improved in recent months.



Congolese people react during the funeral of the nine victims, including seven children who were killed in a strike earlier this month at the Bulengo displaced persons camp (IDP), in Goma, North Kivu province, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

More than half of Zimbabwean population will need food aid, cabinet says

Monitoring Desk HARARE: More than half of Zimbabwe's population will need food aid this year following a devastating drought that led to widespread crop failure as humanitarian organisations seek funding to save many from hunger, the country's cabinet heard late on Tuesday. About 6 million people in rural areas and 1.7 million in urban areas will require assistance, according to the Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZIMLAC). Zimbabwe is among the worst hit countries by the El Nino induced drought in Southern Africa, with Zambia and Malawi also facing food shortages this year. This is Zimbabwe's worst drought in 40 years, according to the government.

Pakistan to be among world's top 10 economies by 2047: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that by 2047, Pakistan would be included amongst top 10 economies in the world.

"By working hard, we can bring Pakistan to the top 10 economies of the world by 2047 and for this we have to silence negative voices," he said.

Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal's address at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Conference was held in the Ministry of Planning regarding the national development agenda.

The minister said that development is possible only through implementation of SDGs.

"It is also to be taken into consideration that Pakistan's budget would be compatible with the SDGs", he said.

Ahsan said that natural resources were misused in industrial revolution. He said that "We want to retain a better country for future generations".

The minister said that sustainable development goals are included in Pakistan's 2025 agenda.

He said that Pakistan is among top ten countries affected by climate change.

The minister said that parliamentarians have a very important role regarding sustainable development goals and the work of distribution of resources is done by the Parliament.

He said the private sector has an important role to play in achieving the SDGs and media should help spread awareness of SDGs to the public.

The Sustainable Development Goals, when formulated, were intended to develop and it is our responsibility to establish safe and sustainable development for future generations, he said.

He said that "We want to retain a better country for future generations".

The minister said that sustainable development goals are included in Pakistan's 2025 agenda.

Today, all the stakeholders, civil society and private sector can also play a role in achieving sustainable development goals, he stressed.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding Balochistan Youth Policy 2024



BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meets with the Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China Lan Fo'an.

War against terrorism vital for survival of next generations: Decisions of political & military leadership guarantees prosperity of Pakistan, Speaker BA

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has stated that today's decisions of the political and military leadership are guarantor of the prosperity of Pakistan.

He said that the war of Pak Army against recent terrorism and extremism is vital for survival of our future generations.

He said that it is because of the Pak Army that nation is united and the trust of world is increasing on Pakistan because of the patriotism and sacrifices of our jawans.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the Speaker said that the war that was started against Pakistan after 9/11 is still continuing.

The world knows that Pak Army defeated all such elements who had attacked the sovereignty of the country.

He said that Pakistan should be our priority

Pakistan accepts IMF's condition to abolish subsidy to energy sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has accepted to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) condition to abolish subsidy on the energy sector on Thursday.

Quoting its sources, the channel reported that the IMF had also set the condition of timely issuance of the notification of annual tariff adjustment.

Sources disclosed that both sides also agreed on speeding up the collection of electricity bills.

Besides that, they revealed, Pakistan and the Fund had agreed on presenting a plan for abolishing the subsidy the government had offered on tube wells.

The international money lending organization, they elaborated, had also demanded the government to eliminate circular debt in the gas sector.

Sources further said that the IMF had also demanded the issuance of a notification for an increase in gas prices on June 1 besides stopping gas supply to captive power plants at cheaper rates during the ongoing year.

The Fund, they elaborated, had not only urged the government to supply gas to all fertilizer plants in the country at the same rate but also to other industries across the country.

The negotiations between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the 24th 'longer and larger' bailout programme had kicked off on Monday.

Pakistani side, led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, comprised Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed, Federal Board of Revenue Chair-man Amjed Zubair Tiwana and their respective teams.



QUETTA: Former MPAs Akhtar Hussain Lango and Ahmed Nawaz Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Pakistan, UK vow to enhance coordination on multilateral fora

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the United Kingdom have expressed their commitment to further enhance coordination on multilateral fora on matters relating to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The commitment was expressed during the 6th Round of Pakistan-UK Dialogue on Arms Control & Non-Proliferation here on Wednesday, a Foreign Office press release said on Thursday.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Arms Control & Disarmament) Ambassador Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, and Director Defence and International Security at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom, Ambassador Stephen Lillie, led their respective delegations.

A broad spectrum of topics relating to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation came under discussion during the dialogue.

Both sides also shared their perspectives on issues concerning global and regional security, new and emerging technologies, including the military use of artificial intelligence and the peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

The discussions encompassed matters pertaining to the agenda of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). While reiterating the need to ensure continuity in the conduct of the dialogue, the two sides agreed to hold the 7th Round of Consultations next year in London.

Chinese Finance Minister reaffirms continued support for Pak financial stability

BEIJING (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday met with Chinese Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an and underlined the Government of Pakistan's reform agenda with a focus on governance, revenue, and ease of doing business to attract Foreign Direct Investment.

The deputy prime minister, who is on a four-day visit to China, also emphasized Pakistan's high priority to investments from China, and shared an overview of the priority sectors identified for this purpose, including agriculture, IT, mines and minerals and renewable energy.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Minister Lan expressed profound appreciation for Pakistan-China financial and banking cooperation calling it a manifestation of the 'All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' between the two countries.

They discussed ideas to further enhance financial cooperation, especially in view of growing business-to-business (B2B) linkages between Pakistan and China.

Taking note of the positive trajectory of Pakistan's economy, the Chinese finance minister commended Pakistan's economic agenda and reiterated China's continued support to Pakistan in the efforts to strengthen financial stability.

National Assembly told Pakistan witnessed 1,514 terror incidents in 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan witnessed 1,514 terror incidents in 2023, the interior ministry told National Assembly (NA) on Thursday. According to details, the interior ministry submitted a written in the National Assembly regarding law and order situation in KP, where 858 terror attacks were reported that claimed lives of 402 security personnel and 178 civilians. As many as 148 security personnel were martyred and 198 were injured in 626 terror attacks in Balochistan during the past year.

Incidents in 2023, while 358 citizens lost their lives and 700 sustained wounds. The report highlighted the worsening law and order situation in the country specially in KP, where 858 terror attacks were reported that claimed lives of 402 security personnel and 178 civilians. As many as 148 security personnel were martyred and 198 were injured in 626 terror attacks in Balochistan during the past year.



QUETTA: A representative delegation of Balochistan Veterinary Doctors Association meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan are also present

15 injured in Lasbela coach accident

LASBELLA (APP): At least fifteen people sustained injuries when a passenger coach traveling from Karachi to Awaran met with a fatal accident near Lasbela district of Balochistan on Thursday.

According to the details, the ill-fated passenger coach was heading towards Awaran when it turned turtle due to over-speeding near the Land pull area of Lasbela, injuring 15 persons, a privater news channel reported.

Soon after the incident, rescue teams reached the spot after getting information and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital.

Salik expresses satisfaction over arrangements for Pakistani Hujjaj

MADINAH al-MUNAWWARAH (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Thursday expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made for extending maximum facilities to Pakistani Hajj pilgrims by the country's Hajj Mission and supporting team.

"All the team present is working with full dedication. So far, by the grace of Allah Almighty, there is not even a single complaint which the ministry had been receiving in the past," he said.

The minister was talking to media after visiting different sections of the Pakistan Hajj Mission's Main Control Office (MCO), working round-the-clock for facilitation of the guests of Allah Almighty, and getting a briefing from Director Hajj Madina Zia-ur-Rehman.

He said providing accommodation to 100% Pakistani Hujjaj in the Markazia, from where Masjid Nabvi and Roza-e-Pak (SAW) is hardly a 5-10 minutes walking distance, is one of the big achievements.

He said best quality food was being provided to Pakistani Hujjaj, while a state-of-the-art medical facility, equipped with world-class doctors and paramedics, had been established adjacent to the MCO.

Minister Salik Hussain thanked the Saudi authorities for extending all possible assistance and co-operation to Pakistan in making seamless Hajj arrangements for its citizens.

"Our team will stay here until each and every Pakistani does not leave for the homeland after performing the religious obligation of Hajj, safely," he added.

Expressing a strong commitment of the government for facilitation and well-being of Pakistani pilgrims, he said the entire team of Pakistan Hajj would remain active throughout the Hajj operation without repeating mistakes of the past.



QUETTA: Members of Pakistan Citizen Liberation Forum are holding protest demonstration against price hike of essential commodities and inflation, at Quetta press club.

Interest free loan to be provided to veterinary doctors: CM directs to advertise 92 vacant posts of veterinary doctors in Livestock dept. at earliest

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to the concerned high ups to advertise 92 vacant posts of the veterinary doctors in Livestock department at the earliest.

The Chief Minister announced to provide interest free loans to the unemployed veterinary doctors under the Soft Loan Programme.

The Chief Minister was speaking to a representative delegation of the Balochistan Veterinary Doctors Association here on Thursday.

The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Livestock Department, Muhammad Tayyab Lehri and other concerned high ups were also present in the meeting.

Speaking to the veterinary doctors, Chief Minister said that the veterinary doctors would be provided interest free loans under the Soft term loan Programme.

Under the programme, the veterinary doctors would be able to establish their service centers in the field, the Chief Minister added.

They would also be able to start their earning and livelihood in a dignified manner by providing professional services and facilities to the livestock breeders. He said that at the time when world is heading towards the corporate farming, then we would also have to pay attention on the corporate farming.

The Chief Minister assured the members of delegation to provide suitable opportunities to the youngsters for provision of other veterinary services by formulating effective policies in the province.

Ghazala Gola lauds efforts of CM Bugti regarding farmers

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Ghazala Gola on Thursday lauded the role of the Balochistan Chief Minister (CM) regarding the best policy of the province farmers.

In a statement issued here, she said that Balochistan CM Mir Sarfaraz Bugti set an example for the farmers by talking to the prime minister in the best way. The deputy speaker further said that by providing basic facilities to the farmers, its fruits would reach the common people saying that the current policies of the Balochistan government have won the hearts of the people.

She said that the CM fought for the farmers sitting on a peaceful protest for seven days sent a message to the citizens of Balochistan that the government of Balochistan would provide good amenities to its citizens by planning the best, she said.

LHC dismissed petition against appointment of Dar as DPM

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has dismissed the petition against appointment of Foreign minister Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister (DPM).

Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan of LHC had earlier reserved judgment.

The court while announcing judgment dismissed the petition declaring it non maintainable.

The petitioner took the plea senator Ishaq Dar is already appointed as foreign minister and he has been appointed as DPM too to favor him further. There is no post of DPM in the constitution. Therefore, the court should nullify the appointment of Ishaq Dar as DPM. The counsel for the federal government told the court Ishaq Dar has been nominated.

China's high quality development model offers new opportunities for Pakistan: Jiang Zaidong

ISLAMABAD (APP): China, Ambassador Zaidong said that China did not have a problem of 'overcapacity' as China was exporting to the whole world and had a matching production capacity.

"China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries," he said in a news release.

Ambassador Zaidong explained that to promote an in-depth integration of China's new development of 5Cs with 5Es (5 Corridors: growth corridor, livelihood-enhancing corridor, innovation corridor, green corridor and open corridor) Pakistan and China needed yet closer cooperation both at the governmental as well as the societal level.

While China's new energy product exports were already benefiting the world and making important contributions to addressing climate change issues and promoting green transformation, with the new developmental plans China aspired to transform and upgrade traditional industries, cultivate and strengthen emerging industries, and lay out the construction of future-oriented industries.

Dispelling the impression of an overcapacity problem being faced by



MUZZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir with regard to 960 MW Dudhnial Hydropower Project.

Revolutionary changes to be brought in agri sector, pledges Jatak

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has stated that revolutionary changes would be brought in the agriculture sector of the province.

He said that at present the major issue being faced by the zamindars is electricity supply. He assured that every possible steps would be taken to provide relief to the zamindars resolving their issues.

The provincial government has prepared strategy for converting the agricultural tube wells of the province on solar energy in collaboration with the federal government.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture was speaking on occasion of the visit to Directorate General of Water Management here on Thursday.

The Director General Water Management Maqsood Ahmed briefed the Minister about the overall functioning of the institution.

Also present on the occasion were the senior officers of Water Management from all districts.

Ali Madad Jatak said that water management is very important section of the Agriculture department.

On one hand zamindars benefit from the water management but it also plays important role for stopping wastage of water, he added.

The Minister said that every possible effort would be made to remove hurdles for bringing improvement in the water management sector and release funds for it.



USTAMUHAMMAD: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani talking with mediamen