

# Independent

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## PM highlights ancient heritage of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday highlighted that Pakistan was proud of its ancient Buddhist heritage, which flourished in the northwest Pakistan in the shape of Gandhara art and culture, over two thousand years ago. He underscored the importance that his government attached to interfaith harmony.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of esteemed Buddhist leaders who called on him.

The delegation is visiting Pakistan to attend a symposium and an exhibition titled "From Gandhara to the World," organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The delegation included Sri Lanka's Minister for Buddhadasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Vidura Wickramanayaka, Most Venerable Thich Duc Tuan from Vietnam, Most Venerable Anil Sakya from Thailand and Dr Keshabman Shakya from Nepal. Minister for Religious Affairs, Ch. Salik Hussain, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi also attended the meeting.

The prime minister warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed his gratitude for their participation in the symposium, being held in connection with the 'Vesak Day' that commemorates the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Lord Buddha.

He also acknowledged the valuable contributions of the Buddhist scholars and monks to the promotion of interfaith harmony and understanding. During the meeting, the prime minister and the delegation discussed ways to strengthen interfaith dialogue and cooperation, as well as opportunities for cultural and academic exchanges between Pakistan and the Buddhist majority countries.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Buddhist Monks led by Minister of Buddhadasana and Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka Vidura Wickramanayaka calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Prices of petroleum products likely to be reduced from June 01

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prices of petroleum products are likely to be reduced once again from June 01.

According to sources price of petrol per liter is likely to be slashed by Rs 5.50 for next 15 days while diesel price is likely to be decreased by Rs 4.30 per liter. Kerosene oil price may go down by Rs 2.15 per liter while light diesel price is likely to be reduced by Rs 5.08 per liter.

International market witnessed reduction in price of petroleum products.

OGRA will send working to government on May 31 in proportion to reduction in international market.

Final approval to reduction in price of petroleum products will be accorded by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Ministry of finance will issue notification in respect of reduced prices of petroleum products.

## Judge writes letter to IHC to transfer PTI founder's marriage case to another court

ISLAMABAD (APP): Judge Sharukh Arjmand of the District and Sessions Court of Islamabad on Wednesday wrote a letter to the Registrar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), urging him to transfer the marriage case of PTI founder and his wife to another court, as the plaintiff, Khawar Manika, had expressed no confidence in his court.

Judge Sharukh Arjmand earlier in the day left the courtroom without pronouncing the verdict in the case, which was reserved on May 23.

The judge, in the letter, took the position that the plaintiff had expressed no confidence in his court for the second time, therefore, it would not be prudent to pronounce a verdict in the case.

Citing the misbehaviour of Khawar Manika, he stated that the defence counsel and the plaintiff throughout the proceedings

## Acting President, PM express grief 29 people dead, 21 injured in fatal road accident in Washuk

CM Bugti orders shifting of Basima bus injured to Quetta by Air Ambulance

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: At least 29 people, including women and children, were killed and 21 others injured after a passenger bus turned turtle and plunged into a ditch in Basima area of Washuk district on Wednesday morning.

According to the reports reaching here, about 21 people sustained injuries in the accident and have been moved to the Civil Hospital in Basima from where at least 11 were moved to Quetta.

The initial reports suggested that the accident took place after the tyre of the passenger bus burst, said the rescue officials.

The ill-fated passenger bus was travelling from Turbat to Quetta carrying over 50 passengers.

The levies and local administration rushed towards the spot of accident. The bodies and injured persons were retrieved from the bus and shifted to the civil hospitals of Basima, Panjgur and Khuzdar.

Later, the seriously injured persons were brought to Quetta by the air ambulance and shifted to CMH Quetta for treatment where condition of few patients is stated to be precarious.

Balochistan's Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti offered his condolences over

the loss of lives in the horrific accident and prayed for those who were wounded.

In two similar incidents in May, 13 people belonging to the same family were killed and nine others got wounded as a truck plunged into a ditch in Punjab's Khushab district. The accident occurred because of a brake failure on Panj Pir Manawan Road in Khushab, consequently, the truck driver lost control of the vehicle and it fell into the ditch.

The deceased of the ill-fated crash included women, too, and the family was going to Khushab.



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer of Arya Hospital Dr. Sohail Khan shaking hand with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sardar Ahmed Bugti

## Arya Hospital Chief calls on CM Bugti

QUETTA (APP): Head of Arya Hospital Quetta, Dr Sohail on Wednesday in a called on meeting briefed the Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti about the medical services provided by the hospital, which was established according to international standards.

The provincial government of Balochistan was keen to provide quality healthcare facilities through public-private partnerships, similar to the model in Sindh, so that people in Balochistan can also access quality medical facilities at the local level. The Chief Minister expressed his desire to visit Arya Hospital soon.

He noted that there is a lack of quality private hospitals in Balochistan, due to which most people travel to Karachi and other cities for medical treatment.

The Chief Minister praised Dr. Sohail Ahmed's services, saying that his decision to return to Quetta, Pakistan, from United States, and serving his province and people, is commendable.

On this occasion, Dr. Sohail Ahmed thanked the Chief Minister for his appreciation and said that the provincial government's determination to improve the health sector in Balochistan is commendable.

## Govt cracks down on smuggling, hoarding with zero tolerance policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant crackdown on smuggling, hoarding, and power pilferage, the government has made substantial progress in its zero-tolerance policy, yielding impressive results.

Since September last year, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been instrumental in facilitating the recovery of billions of rupees and scores of arrests, PTV reported. In a major anti-smuggling operation, authorities foiled the smuggling and illegal movement of 3,036 metric tons of fertilizer.

Additionally, 281 metric tons of wheat and flour were seized from smugglers, preventing the smuggling of essential items.

The government's efforts have also led to the seizure of 34,640 metric tons of sugar, putting an end to illegal profiteering.

Furthermore, authorities recovered 2,503 metric tons of wheat, 56,948 metric tons of ghee, and 10,379 metric tons of sugar from market price manipulators.

The government's commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting Pakistan's economy is evident in the registration of 145,365 FIRs against individuals involved in power theft, resulting in the arrest of over 70,000 power thieves and the recovery of PKR 93 billion.

the court then asked the assistant lawyer to consult with Rizwan Abbasi and clarify their intent on pursuing the case.

The assistant lawyer responded that they wanted that the case be transferred to another court, because the plaintiff was not satisfied with the proceedings in his court.

The judge inquired about the reason and requested him to furnish concrete evidence in support of his arguments.



Federal Minister for Communications, Investment Board and Privatization, Abdul Aleem Khan met with Prime Minister Tajikistan, Kokhir Rasulzoda in Dushanbe.

## Maternal mortality rate in Balochistan alarming: Dr. Rubaba Buledi

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has expressed concern over the high maternal mortality rate in the province, stating that it is higher than in other provinces. According to a survey, 298 women out of 100,000 women die during childbirth.

Dr. Buledi attributed the poor infrastructure in the province as one of the reasons for the high mortality rate, particularly in remote areas. She emphasized the need for legislation and awareness campaigns to address this issue.

The Balochistan Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response Bill 2024 is being introduced for the first time, and consultations with all stakeholders are underway.

Dr. Buledi appreciated the long-term support of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Balochistan's health care system and assured that collaborative efforts will continue to provide quality health facilities to the poor people in remote areas of the province. She stressed that effective measures will be taken to reduce the maternal, Perinatal and infant mortality rate in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Chairman Balochistan Public Service Commission Abdul Salik Khan presenting annual report of the Commission to Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Governor stresses need to strengthen BPSC financially for expansion of services at large scale

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has underlined the need to financially strengthen the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) further so as to expand its services at large scale.

The Governor said that the selection of talented and able officers is possible for different government departments through the competitive exams even today.

He was speaking to the Chairman of BPSC, Abdul Salik Khan and his members who called on him here at the Governor's House on Wednesday.

The Chairman BPSC presented annual report of the Commission to Governor.

During the course of meeting, overall performance of BPSC, implementation on the merit, financial matters and procedure of the tests and interviews for the posts came up for discussion.

The Governor was of the view that the issue of unemployment and especially the sense of disappointment among the youth can easily be removed by ensuring merit in the examinations and interviews of the Commission and giving right to the right persons.

He said that the easiness and facilities can be created for the Commission and candidates appearing in the competitive examinations by building a big hall in the premises of BPSC.

He said that it is responsibility of the government to provide new opportunities of the employment and utilize their hidden potential for the national interests.

He said that there creates big hope for youngsters of the province when hundreds of the poor but able candidates are selected for jobs through different competitive examinations like CSS, PCS and ISSB.



QUETTA: Benazir Income Support Program Chairperson, Rubina Khalid along with Director General Balochistan Abdul Jabbar interacting with women during her visit to camp site located on Saryay Mill in Quetta.

## Rubina Khalid reaffirms federal govt commitment to alleviate poverty in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Abdul Jabbar, (BISP), Rubina Khalid Wednesday reaffirmed the federal government's dedication to alleviate poverty in Balochistan by providing substantial economic support to the women of the province.

This announcement was made during a high-level meeting with key stakeholders to discuss the coordination and implementation of BISP initiatives in Balochistan.

The meeting was attended by Secretary IT Ayaz Khan Mandukhel, Secretary Industries Noor Ahmed Perkani, Secretary Colleges Hafiz Tahir, DG Benazir Income Support Programme Abdul Jabbar, and other relevant officials.

The discussion centered on enhancing the effectiveness of BISP in the province and introducing new initiatives aimed at poverty reduction.

Rubina Khalid stated that her visit was in accordance with the directives of the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, who has shown a keen interest in the welfare of Balochistan. "The President has instructed us to pay special attention to the needs of Balochistan, particularly focusing on the economic empowerment of its women," she emphasized.

## Interior Minister leaves for UK

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has left for the United Kingdom on the first leg of his visit to Europe.

He will hold meetings with the British Interior Minister and other top officials. Later, the Interior Minister will also visit Italy and Vatican City where he will have important meetings including with the Italian Interior Minister in Rome and Pope Francis at Vatican city.

## Pak Armed Forces pay tribute to martyrs on UN Peacekeeping Day

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan Armed Forces on Wednesday paid tribute to its martyrs who had rendered the ultimate sacrifice while serving as UN peacekeepers in conflict-hit countries across the world on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

"Today, Pakistan joins the international community in commemorating the International Peacekeepers Day, paying tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world," an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langgo enquiring about health of injured of Washuk bus accident at CMH

## Langove, Buledi visit CMH to inquire health of accident injured

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove and Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Buledi visited the Combined Military Hospital on Wednesday.

During the course of visit, they went to see the injured persons of Washuk passenger coach accident and inquired about their health. They assured their cooperation to the injured being treated at CMH.

They also directed the concerned high ups to provide best medical treatment to the injured persons.

They also prayed for their early recovery from the injuries caused to them in the fatal accident.

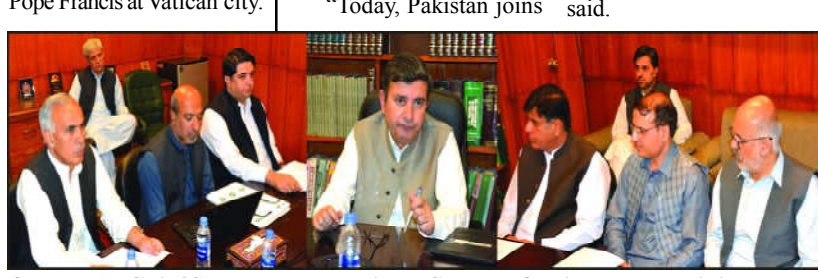
## Establishment piling up pressure on state institutions, PTI says after iqqad ruling delay

ISLAMABAD (INP): A delay in the ruling on the un-Islamic nikah case has apparently shattered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) hopes of the early release of its founder Imran Khan from prison.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, PTI Information Secretary Raouf Hasan said state institutions were trying to keep the party founder behind bars despite him securing bail in several cases.

"Establishment's pressure on state institutions is piling up," he stated while reacting to the delay in the announcement of a reserved verdict in the iqqad case against the PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi by an Islamabad sessions court earlier today. The Islamabad court had reserved the verdict last week on appeals filed by the PTI founder and his wife against their conviction in the iqqad case. However, District and Sessions Judge Shahrukh Arjmand sought his recusal from the case because it would not be appropriate for him to announce the verdict owing to repeated expression of no-confidence by Khawar Maneka, Bushra's ex-husband and the petitioner in the case.

In the presser today, the PTI spokesperson said the party has been witnessing "murder of justice" for the last two years and expressed fears that the former prime minister would have to spend more time in jail.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Finance Bill





On UN Peacekeepers Day, PM lauds Blue Helmets' contributions to peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world community observed the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to their services saying that the UN missions had been critical in maintaining peace and protecting civilians in conflict zones.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister, Mir Shoaib Noshervani exchanging views with Younas Aziz Zehri, Opposition Leader in Balochistan Assembly during meeting held in Quetta.

CPEC second phase to be successful with best dividends ahead: Sen Mushahid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Chairman Senate Defence Committee, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Wednesday said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project's second phase would be successful as its best dividends would be received in the coming years.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Baledi listening the problems of citizens, at Civil Secretariat.

One-day workshop and seminar on Fistula at Teaching Hospital Loralai

LORALAI (APP): A one-day workshop and seminar was held at the Teaching Hospital Loralai under the auspices of the Fistula Foundation and PNFWH on Wednesday.



KALAT: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langi presiding over a meeting regarding development projects and law and order situation



Federal Minister for Communications, Investment Board and Privatization, Abdul Aleem Khan addressing an International Conference in Dushanbe.

Pakistan ready to cooperate with regional countries in economic, trade sectors: Aleem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Investment Board and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, who is on visit to Tajikistan, held a meeting with Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda in Dushanbe and discussed with him matters of bilateral relations and important issues.

Governor assures to take practical steps to resolve issues faced by people of Zhob district

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that we are well aware of the issues of education, health and clean drinking water being faced by the people of Zhob and its adjoining areas and as such we are determined to resolve these issues very soon.



QUETTA: Advisor for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Meets with the World Health Organization (WHO) delegation led by Dr. Asfandyar Sherani.

Vision of Shaheed BB still alive: Deputy Speaker BA

QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mrs. Ghazala Gola has stated that although Shaheek Mohtarma Benazir Bhutti is not present among us, but her vision is still alive.



QUETTA: APCA Balochistan activates hold protest rally in favor of their demands.

Speakers highlights critical role of improved MHM in enhancing women's well-being

QUETTA (APP): Speakers on Wednesday highlighted critical role of improved Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in enhancing women's and girls' well-being and they asserted on the collaborative efforts to improve the lives of millions of women and girls of Balochistan.



KALAT: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langi presiding over a meeting regarding development projects and law and order situation

Economy improves as indicators stay positive

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the fiscal year 2023-24 is nearing a close, the economy of the country has been showing signs of resilience and growth as indicated by key economic indicators, the finance ministry said in a recent report released here Wednesday.



KUALALUMPUR: Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal receiving the APO Meritorious and Distinguished Award 2024 by the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) in Malaysia.

IHC stops telecom companies from recording phone calls for surveillance

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while hearing the petition against alleged audio leaks of Bushra Bibi wife of Imran Khan and Najam ul Saqib son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar has restrained telecom companies from seeking access to phone call or data for surveillance.

Jamal Raisani mourns tragic bus accident near Washuk

QUETTA (APP): The leader of the Pakistan People's Party in Balochistan, MNA Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani, has expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of lives resulting from the Quetta-bound bus falling into a ditch near Washuk.

PTA conducts QoS survey in 16 cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday has conducted an Independent Quality of Service (QoS) Survey in sixteen cities across Sindh, Punjab, Baluchistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to measure the performance of Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs).

Washuk bus accident UoT mourns loss of two esteemed faculty members

TURBAT: Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, Vice Chancellor of the University of Turbat (UoT), and the entire UoT fraternity expressed sorrow with heavy hearts over the unexpected and tragic demise of two esteemed faculty members, Dr. Niamatullah Kakar, Associate Professor, and Dr. Amir Zeb, Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural and Basic Sciences and Director of the Office of the Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC), who tragically lost their lives in an unfortunate road accident in the Washuk district of Balochistan last night.