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Israeli presence in occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and must end: ICJ

Monitoring Desk

THE HAGUE: The United Nations' highest court said on Friday that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and settlements there are illegal and should be withdrawn as soon as possible, in its strongest findings to date on the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

The advisory opinion by judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), known as the World Court, was not binding but carries weight under international law and may weaken support for Israel.

"Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the regime associated with them, have been established and are being maintained in violation of international law," President Nawaf Salam said, reading the findings of a 15-judge panel. He court said Israel's obligations include paying restitution for harm and "the evacuation of all settlers from existing settlements".

In a swift reaction, Israel's foreign ministry rejected the opinion as "fundamentally wrong" and one-sided, and repeated its stance that a political settlement in the region

can only be reached by negotiations.

"The Jewish nation cannot be an occupier in its own land," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

The opinion also angered West Bank settlers as well as politicians such as Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, whose nationalist religious party is close to the settler movement and who himself lives in a West Bank settlement.

"The answer to The Hague - Sovereignty now" he said in a post on the social media platform X, in an apparent appeal to formally annex the West Bank.

Israel Gantz, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, one of the largest settler councils, said the ICJ opinion was "contrary to the Bible, morality and international law". The ICJ opinion also found that the U.N. Security Council, the General Assembly and all states have an obligation not to recognise the occupation as legal nor "render aid or assistance" toward maintaining Israel's presence in the occupied territories.



LORALAI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding departmental performance and progress on development projects



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman H.E. Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Governor stresses need to prepare comprehensive strategy for socio-economic protection of women

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed the need to prepare comprehensive strategy for socio-economic protection of the womenfolk besides learning them different skills as it is necessary to keep them abreast with the modern world.

The Governor said that seeing the increasing political and economic role of women, one can believe that the present century is the century of women.

He said that 21st century has witnessed remarkable advancement in acquiring the women's rights and powers. He said that the women are posted at key posts at the national and international levels.

These views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to the women delegations of Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, who called on him separately here at the Governor House on Friday. The delegation of PPP Kalat Division was led by Ms. Rabia Khawajkhal and the PML-N's delegation was led by Syeda Sajida.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that the women of Balochistan are very talented and sociable and they are second to none as compared to women of other provinces.

But, they couldn't come forward due to lack of necessary facilities and proper opportunities.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Pakistani prisoners in Sri Lanka to return home within 7 days: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sri Lankan High Commissioner Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Srivijay Gunaratne on Friday met Minister of Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi and discussed issues of mutual interest including the release of Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lanka. Both sides agreed to expedite the necessary steps for the release of Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lanka jails within 7 days. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner, Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Srivijay Gunaratne assured all possible support in this regard.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed gratitude to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner for his support in facilitating the repatriation process. "All necessary steps are being finalized to ensure the swift return of Pakistani citizens imprisoned in Sri Lanka," he said. In addition to the prisoner repatriation, the meeting also discussed anti-narcotics and border security issues. Naqvi emphasized the need to further develop mutual relations and promote cooperation in counter-narcotics and border security.

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner reiterated the importance of Sri Lanka's relations with Pakistan, highlighting the strengthening of ties between the two nations over time.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Sri Lankan High Commissioner Admiral (R) Ravindra Chandrasiri Wijegunaratne.

PML-N, PPP agree to file review petition against PTI reserved seats verdict

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) agreed on Friday to file a review petition against the Supreme Court's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) reserved seats verdict.

According to a private TV channel, a meeting was held between the ruling coalition to discuss administrative matters in Punjab, the current political situation, and the government's proposal to ban PTI.

It was decided that further consultations would be held regarding the ban on PTI, and a review petition would be filed against the Supreme Court's verdict.

The PML-N delegation included National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Rana Sanaulah.

Policeman martyred, two injured in Takhtbhai checkpoint attack

PESHAWAR (APP): A policeman was killed and two others were seriously injured in an attack by miscreants on a police checkpoint in Takht Bhai in Mardan district between Thursday and Friday night.

According to police, the miscreants attacked the police checkpoint at Malakand Raod and fled away. The dead body of a policeman and two injured policemen were shifted to the hospital while the local police started search operations against the terrorists in the area.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor condemned the attack and expressed sympathy with the victim's families.

Session of BA summoned on July 23

Independent Report QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to be held at 03:00 PM on July 23 here.

According to an official notification issued here by the Provincial Assembly on Friday, the Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has summoned the session of assembly.

As per the schedule, the assembly session would remain continued till August 1.

SC bench to hear cases in Quetta from July 22

Independent Report

QUETTA: A two-member bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear cases related to Supreme Court orders and judgments at the Balochistan High Court and Balochistan Service Tribunal in Quetta from July 22 to 26.

Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Mr. Justice Malik Shehzad Ahmed Khan will comprise the bench.

PM offers Pakistan's support to Oman in dealing with terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the dastardly terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib in Wadi Kabir district of Muscat that took place on July 16 and offered Pakistan's support to Oman in elimination of terrorism in all of its forms.

The prime minister, talking to Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi, who paid a courtesy call on him, appreciated Oman's swift response and cooperation with the Pakistan mission in the repatriation of the dead bodies and treatment of the injured.

The attack on Imam Bargah had resulted in the death of six people, including four Pakistani nationals, and over thirty injured, nearly all of whom were Pakistanis.

ECP to implement SC's order in reserved seats case: spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday decided to implement the Supreme Court's order in the reserved seats case.

"The Election Commission has decided to implement the decision of the Supreme Court", the ECP spokesperson said in a statement issued here.

The ECP held a meeting to discuss and implement the SC's decision, he said and added that instructions were issued to the legal team of the ECP that if there is any obstacle in the implementation of the Supreme Court's decision, then they should immediately identify it so that the Apex Court can be referred for further guidance.

In response to criticism by a political party, the ECP while condemning and rejecting the act said that the demand for resignation was ridiculous and the Commission would continue to work in accordance with the law and the constitution without any pressure, the statement said.



QUETTA: View of site after bomb blast on police vehicle, at Band Khushdil Khan road in Pishin area of Balochistan.

CM expresses anger over poor performance of Teaching & other hospitals of Loralai Division

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed his anger over the poor performance of Teaching Hospital Loralai and other hospitals of Loralai division.

The Chief Minister was chairing high level meeting on the departmental performance of different departments as well as progress of different ongoing development projects in Loralai Division, at Loralai on Friday morning.

The Parliamentary Secretary Mir Barkat Rind, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, besides other concerned high ups were present. The Commissioner Loralai, Balach Aziz Khan

Provision of higher education to youth included in priorities of Provincial Govt: Chief Minister

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that provision of higher education to youth is included in priorities of the provincial government.

The Chief Minister said that several special programmes have been started by the provincial government for providing technical education to youth.

He said that it is unavoidable to get higher education for formation of the healthy society.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the visit to University of Loralai on Friday.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inaugurated newly established computer lab in the University of Loralai.

He also inspected the library and different other sections of the University. The academic and other staff of the University also had meeting with the Chief Minister.

The Vice Chancellor of University of Loralai briefed the Chief Minister about overall its functioning.

The Chief Minister was presented the commemorative shield by the Vice Chancellor of Loralai University.

Meanwhile, he visited

the Balochistan Residential College Loralai the same day.

The Member Provincial Assembly, Muhammad Khan Toor Utmankhail, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and other high ups were present.

The Principal of BRC, Dad Muhammad Kakar briefed the Chief Minister about the institution.

During the briefing, it was informed that all the top three positions were clinched by the students of BRC Loralai.

The Chief Minister appreciated the services of Principal and academic staff of the College and assured them of his every



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah alongside Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Islamabad Capital City administration and representatives of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan addressing a joint news conference.

SHO CTD escapes life bid in Pishin

Independent Report

QUETTA (APP): Station House Officer (SHO) of the Counter terrorism Department escaped a life bid when a remote control bomb went off in Pishin district of Balochistan on Friday.

The blast left six persons, including three officials of the CTD injured, police said.

They said that unknown men had placed explosives along the roadside that exploded, leaving three CTD men and three passerby injured.

The injured were rushed to Civil Hospital Pishin for medical aid. SHO CTD Chaudhry Asghar remained unhurt.

Zhob-Dhana Sar highway restored for all types of traffic

Independent Report

QUETTA (INP): In Balochistan, Zhob-Dhana Sar highway (N-50) has been restored for all types of traffic.

A portion of the highway was affected by heavy rains the other day. According to the spokesperson of NHA, necessary safety measures are being taken in view of the risk of landslide on the highway.

He informed about the state of affairs of the health, education, water supply and law and order situation besides the pace of work continued on different development projects in the division. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister expressed his anger over the poor performance of the teaching hospital Loralai. He was also displeased with performance of other hospitals and health centres of the division.

He also directed to appoint the teachers at union council level so as to make all the schools functional.

He stressed that all the recruitment should be made on contract basis at the district and divisional level.

TLP ends sit-in after successful dialogues with government

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (Online): Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) announced to end Faizabad sit-in after successful dialogues with the federal government on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, Adviser to PM on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah said that the federal government affirmed its commitment to support the people of Palestine against Israeli atrocities.

Faizabad sit-in ended, an agreement was reached between Tehreek-e-Labbaik

Pakistan and the government. According to the agreement, Pakistan will boycott Israeli products, declare the Israeli prime minister as a terrorist and continue to provide ample aid to the oppressed Palestinians in Gaza.

Adviser to the Prime Minister, Rana Sanaulah and Federal Minister of Information Attaullah Tarar signed while Shura member Dr. Muhammad Shafiq Amini and Allama Ghulam Abbas signed on behalf of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan.

Pakistan asks Afghan authorities to take action against terrorist groups

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday strongly urged the Interim Afghan Government to take immediate, robust and effective action against the perpetrators of the 15 July attack at Bannu Cantonment and to prevent such attacks in the future as such attacks undermined bilateral relations and regional stability.

"We conveyed to the Afghan authorities our se-

rious concern on the terrorist attack at Bannu Cantonment on 15 July 2024 and the continued use of Afghan territory by Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to carry out deadly attacks in Pakistan with impunity," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.



LORALAI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti giving away medals to students during his visit to Balochistan Residential College Loralai

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Misplaced priorities

Trouble is brewing in KP, where terrorist outfits are growing ever more emboldened in their attacks. This week, two outrageous assaults on a cantonment and a rural health centre in Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan, respectively, claimed the lives of 15 Pakistanis, including 10 soldiers, in the latest escalation by TTP-backed militants, who are believed to be operating from safe havens in Afghanistan.

Though Islamabad has issued a 'strong demarche' to Afghan representatives, demanding "immediate, robust and effective action" over the attack on the Bannu cantonment, it has been clear for a while that the de facto government in Kabul is failing to rein in the TTP, which is now the "largest terror group" operating on its soil, according to a recent UN report. It is imperative, therefore, for the Pakistani state to act against these terrorists and their facilitators. However, its plans have so far been frustrated by the state's poor strategising.

About two weeks ago, the government had floated a proposal for an all-parties conference to discuss Operation Azm-i-Istehkam, which had been welcomed by the opposition parties, including the PTI. However, after the early enthusiasm, there has been no development on this front, and it is feared that the initiative may be delayed indefinitely due to the breakout of fresh hostilities between the PTI and the current regime.

This is dangerous from a national security perspective, as plans for combating a major existential threat have inadvertently become subservient to the seemingly never-ending political tussle. The state must keep in mind that it is not just the PTI, but several mainstream parties that have serious concerns about the proposed operation, and it is vital to get them on board before the state launches kinetic operations. Not doing so risks provoking the citizens residing in these areas, which may create unnecessary complications.

Consider, for example, that the first reaction from Bannu residents to the assault was to issue a statement that, among other things, made it clear they would not evacuate the area in case of a military operation. Locals said they would rather stand up and fight the terrorists themselves than abandon their homes for another anti-terrorism drive. They recognise the problem, but they have no interest in the solution being proposed by the state. This is mainly a political failure, arising from the government's inability to manufacture broad-based consensus around the need for a military operation. There is an urgent need for this failure to be rectified. Too many lives are being lost to an enemy that is growing in strength the longer the infighting continues in the corridors of power. The government must call its APC at the earliest and invite all stakeholders to take part. This matter cannot be delayed further.

Milk banks

Nikhat Sattar

From the 1950s onwards, it became common practice to feed formula milk to babies, even newborns. Many women considered breastfeeding to be outdated or unnecessary, or they were ill and unable to feed their babies in the natural way. Later, research showed that human milk was best for its nutritive value as well as bonding between mother and baby.

The WHO recommends that breastfeeding be carried out at least for the first six months, and then, preferably, for another 18 months; ie, for a total of two years. This is the exact period stipulated in the Quran for breastfeeding (2:233).

Therein lies a problem. Some mothers die soon after childbirth or they are so ill that they have no or very little milk. Some children are also born preterm or are very fragile and unable to accept formula milk. On the other hand, some babies are stillborn or die early, leaving the mother not only distressed but unable to use the milk she is producing. The Quran proposes a solution based upon a carefully designed agreement between the two families concerned. The woman who can offer her milk feeds the child for at least two years and is compensated by money or equivalent for her invaluable services. This results in a bond between the child and this mother that is almost the same as a mother and her biological child. More importantly, the children of this foster mother become foster siblings to the child, and marriage between the two is forbidden.

To manage the problem of lack of human milk for babies who need it, human milk banks have been around since 1909, and the experience has been very useful. Hu-m-an milk banking

involves a detailed, intensive process that includes rigorous screening. All milk must be properly collected, stored, pasteurised and cultured in accordance with clearly defined guidelines.

Milk banks are operating in 35 countries, but the only Muslim country with extensive usage is Iran. Singapore started using them in 2017, and Malaysia is planning for 2025. In Malaysia, "after a series of consultations with the Islamic authorities, milk kinship is no longer an issue". In Pakistan, a milk bank was inaugurated at the Sindh Institute of Child Health after obtaining a fatwa from a Darul Uloom, but this facility was closed within a week when the fatwa was revised.

Why are milk banks not common in Muslim countries? The reason is that Muslims believe that if a child drinks the milk of a woman who is not its biological mother, a "milk relationship" would be established, creating a potential marriage problem. Ulama also object to this practice on grounds that this would become a commercial practice, and women would offer their milk in order to earn money.

In this controversy, a major point has been missed. This has been highlighted by the scholar Javed Ghamidi, who suggests that the 'milk kinship' between feeding mother and baby is established only when the woman has decided that she will feed this child and takes it to her breast. The entire process is extremely sensitive and involves considerable emotion and planning. The baby, as it grows up, remains attached to the foster mother and its foster siblings as if they were its blood relations. This is a carefully established arrangement. None of these elements are

present in the operation of a milk bank. The late Egyptian scholar Yusuf al-Qaradawi also saw no religious problem in establishing or using these banks and issued a decree to the effect in 1983.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is of the same view, saying that milk kinship is formed only if the baby is breastfed. On the issue of women making this an earning practice or the process becoming commercialised, Ghamidi says that there is nothing wrong with making payments to the women who are providing milk. In Islam, even after divorce, the ex-husband is supposed to make payment to the ex-wife if it is decided that she will breastfeed the baby. Any process can be exploited through unethical means. Milk banks need careful guidelines, SOPs and trained and sensitive staff as well as individuals with counselling experience.

Kuwait operates a modified version of the bank. Milk would be obtained from one woman for a single baby, thus making it easier to avoid possibility of marriage between 'milk siblings'. The donor and the recipient baby's biological mother or father also meet. Indonesia is also planning to establish similar milk banks. In all countries with sizeable Muslim populations, religious scholars of all sects were consulted in the early stages and only then were milk banks set up.

Pakistan would do well to study models from Iran and other countries and consult stakeholders as well as non-traditional scholars. In this, as well as in other issues, the three basic Islamic principles of public interest, necessity and doing no harm must be applied. -- Courtesy Dawn

Strategic games

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

It is August 2021. Pakistani spymasters, pro-establishment ideologues and then prime minister Imran Khan unanimously celebrate the re-conquest of Afghanistan by the Taliban. The age-old pursuit of a 'friendly government' in Kabul has been achieved.

Fast forward three years. The shadowy entity which goes by the name of the TTP is again present in Pakhtun tribal districts like Waziristan. The same TTP and its affiliates plan and perpetrate attacks in settled districts like Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan, in the former case directly targeting the army cantonment.

Many innocents perish, as Islamabad issues recriminations against the 'friendly government' in Kabul. The security establishment warns it will respond with indiscriminate military operations to crush 'terrorism', without explaining why innumerable operations in the past didn't cut off what appears to be a never-ending supply of 'terrorists'.

The train of events is both predictable and tragic. Long before the last American troops left Afghanistan, progressive voices in Pakistan — both Pakhtun and others — had warned against hailing the change of guard as some kind of anti-imperialist triumph. Many also foresaw that Islamabad's backing of the so-called Afghan Taliban 2.0 regime would inevitably translate into rejuvenated religious militancy in the Pakhtun border districts.

If the people of KP and Balochistan are again paying the price of the establishment's delusions of grandeur, they, along with millions of ordinary Afghans, are also set up to be guinea pigs in a fresh wave of geo-

political sparring involving many regional and global actors.

Recall that, under the terms of the so-called Doha peace deal inked in February 2020, the US willingly handed Afghanistan back to the Taliban. Domestic political imperatives meant that the Pentagon could no longer justify extending what was already the longest war in US history. So, Washington decided to pursue its interests in Afghanistan and the wider region through other, familiar, means.

Even without troops on the ground, the US will resist China's growing influence over the Taliban government, evidenced by Beijing's offer to include Afghanistan in the billion-dollar Belt & Road Initiative. Then there are the Gulf kingdoms, Saudi Arabia in the lead, seeking to extend their expanding economic and geopolitical footprint in the region building on their historical ties with the Taliban. Finally, there is Afghanistan's immediate neighbour to the west, Iran, whose oil resources and enmity with both Washington and the Taliban also make it a party to the latest iteration of the Great Game.

The Great Game is, of course, the epithet for the strategic rivalry that played out from the 19th century onwards between the then British and Russian empires for control over Afghanistan, Persia and the wider central Asia region. A variety of hot and cold wars between the so-called Great Powers extended into the 20th century, intensifying after World War II, when the US empire sought to contain communist USSR and China.

Turkey and Pakistan were cultivated as garrison states on the frontline of this war against communism, as was Iran, until the Shah was deposed in the late 1970s.

But the biggest and most brutal confrontation played out in Afghanistan from 1977 onwards under the guise of the anti-Soviet 'jihad' against the left-wing PDPA government. Funded by Saudi Arabia and the US, and prosecuted by Pakistan, the legacy of this disastrous policy is now playing out for the umpteenth time.

Orientalist narratives in the West and racism in mainland Pak-istan caricature Pakhtuns on both sides of the Durand Line as religious fanatics wedded to prehistoric, uncivilised mores. This provides the justification to brand them 'terrorists' to be wiped out. Even though militancy in Baloch areas is largely secular in nature, a similar totalising narrative is deployed to dehumanise the Baloch people too. Little has changed in Pakistani and imperialist statecraft since the carrot and stick days of the British Raj.

Pro-establishment types will never tell us why there is no peace despite the 'friendly government' in Kabul. On the other hand are those who still think that the US invasion of Afghanistan was a godsend and refuse to acknowledge both the historical crimes of US imperialism and its continuing complicity in the cold wars of today. And then there are the voices who think China is to be supported at all costs because it ostensibly opposes US hegemony, regardless of what that means for the Pakhtun, Baloch and other masses across the region. The least we can do is speak up for the nameless masses paying a bloody price for the strategic games waged by unaccountable states. That is the bare minimum requirement for liberation from imperialism, shadowy spymasters and the Taliban. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Huawei's Training Program set to elevate Pakistan's IT exports: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Pakistan's Information Technology exports will rise with Huawei's annual professional training to 300,000 Pakistani students.

Talking to a four-member delegation led by Ethan Sun, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Huawei Pakistan, the prime minister stressed that collaboration with Huawei was essential for providing advanced IT training in various fields, especially for young people.

The prime minister emphasized that the government values its sustain-

able partnership with Huawei in Pakistan's digital economy. The government will prioritize including both women and the youth of Balochistan in this training program.

The prime minister stated that promoting the digital economy requires building a strong foundation of talented professionals within the country.

The prime minister stated that the recent visit to Huawei's headquarters in China was highly beneficial. The prime minister emphasized that digitizing government institutions was crucial for implementing a modern, automated,

and efficient governance system.

The delegation briefed the prime minister regarding the progress of ongoing projects under the cooperation agreement between Pakistan and Huawei for the Digital Pakistan Program.

The prime minister was informed that a new Massive Open Online Courses system for IT training has been developed and will be launched with the support of provincial governments.

The delegation suggested backing the development of a national data center in line with Pakistan's

national cloud strategy.

This initiative will improve cloud services and lead to considerable cost reductions. Huawei was interested in collaborating with the Pakistani government to transform Islamabad into a smart city. As part of the Islamabad Smart City project, various services such as traffic management, health care, education, and parking will be accessible through a digital platform.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ishaan Afzal, and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: CEO of Huawei Pakistan Mr. Ethan Sun along with a delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, called on the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research.

Jazz secures landmark credit facility to enhance 4G network, promote digital inclusion nationwide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator has successfully secured the largest private sector syndicated credit facility, totalling up to Rs 75 billion.

The banking consortium was led by The Bank of Punjab (BoP), and this 10-year financing arrangement will significantly support Jazz's ongoing 4G network expansion and technological upgrades while supporting its new ServiceCo model, said a news release. The signing ceremony was attended by VEON Group CEO, Amir Ibrahim, CEO of

Jazz, and the Presidents of participating banks along with their representatives.

The consortium includes prominent financial institutions acting as mandated lead advisors and arrangers, namely Habib Bank Limited, Bank Alfalah Limited, Meezan Bank Limited, MCB Bank Limited, Allied Bank Limited, The Bank of Punjab, Askari Bank Limited, Habib Metropolitan Bank, Soneri Bank Limited, Bank Islami Pakistan Limited and MCB Islamic Bank Limited.

Jazz, a major investor in Pakistan with over 30 years of history and investments exceeding USD 10.6 billion, leads the industry with a 45% revenue market share and serves over 71.4 million subscribers, including 49 million 4G users.

The company recently announced a major shift from a traditional mobile operator to a ServiceCo structure, creating Strategic Business Units (SBUs) focused on digital financial services, software & analytics, data centers & cloud, and entertainment & digital platforms.

Govt to introduce track and trace policy in local cotton, ginning

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industry and Production, National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said that the government has decided to introduce track and trace system in local cotton and ginning industry aimed at avoiding tax evasion. Talking to a delegation of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, who called on minister, he said that the cotton industry has a pivotal role in the rural economy and the potential to provide employment opportunities for a large

portion of the skilled and semi-skilled workforce in the country. The meeting discussed matters relating to additional taxation measures on seed cotton and cotton seed cake in the current budget, said a press release.

The minister said that a track and trace system will be implemented on locally produced cotton bales in order to avoid tax evasion to protect local farming communities as well as the industrial sector of the country.

US Ambassador calls on Minister for Privatisation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome Friday called on Minister of Investment and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan. Both the sides discussed matters relating to mutual interest, especially promoting trade and business between both the countries, said a press release. The meeting held detailed discussions on various issues including fur-

ther strengthening Pakistan-US relations, especially, investment opportunities in Pakistan also came under discussion in which business community from United States of America also interested. Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Aleem Khan expressed his determination to promote Pakistan-US business relations and said that there are many opportunities in the challenges faced by the Pakistani economy for which various measures.

Govt taking initiatives for economic revival: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Friday that the incumbent government intended to take up short, medium and long-term initiatives to ensure economic revival of Pakistan.

The minister was chairing the first steering committee of the FCDO-funded Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMIT) programme, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

British High Commissioner, Jane Marriot co-

chaired the meeting while among others it was attended by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Jehanzeb Khan and senior government officials. The finance minister emphasized that the government's focus on inclusive economic growth could be complemented by the support of development partners with a focus on performance and implementation.

Reviewing the work done by the programme in the areas of revenue mobilisation, investment climate, macroeconomic governance and trade, with

cross-cutting themes of gender and climate change, the minister appreciated the overall progress to date.

He also emphasized the need for government stakeholders to be more proactive in taking up implementation.

The minister appreciated the technical assistance provided, stressed on consolidation of interventions and on speeding up on government implementation for impact. Jane Marriot, thanked the minister for his interest in the programme interventions and commitment to reform that will take Pakistan forward.

Gold rates decrease by Rs.3,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.3,000 and was sold at Rs.251,000 on Friday against its sale at Rs.254,000 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.2,572 to Rs.215,192 from Rs.217,764 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.197,259 from Rs.199,617.

Pakistani jeweler eyes bigger role in China-ASEAN trade

BEIJING (APP): In a move to bolster the global footprint of Pakistani jewelry, Pakistani jeweler Aqeel Chaudhry attended the CIE in Guangxi event held in Nanning, the provincial capital of Guangxi, China this month, highlighting his commitment to the Chinese market and exploring new horizons for business expansion within the ASEAN region.

The event, which attracted 110 international companies and investment promotion agencies in attendance, including 73 Fortune 500 companies and industry leaders, served as a platform for fostering international business collaborations and unlocking new market opportunities, local media reported. Chaudhry's presence underlined his keen interest in Guangxi's strategic position as a gateway to ASEAN countries, thereby expanding the reach of Pakistani jewelry.

KP Governor assure to resolve problems of Wazir tribesmen

PESHAWAR (APP): A representative delegation of the Wazir tribe belonging to Bannu Domain called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi and informed him about their problems. Provincial President of Pakistan People's Party, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha and Provincial Secretary Coordination, Farzand Ali Wazir were also present on the occasion.

The delegation briefed the governor about the overall situation of their area and the problems being confronted by people. Talking to the delegation, the KP governor said that deteriorating law and order conditions have negatively impacted business activities in the area. Expressing concern over the situation, he assured that promises made to tribal people would be fulfilled

and efforts would be made to bring tribesmen into the national mainstream of development. He said that voice would be raised at available forums for the facilitation of tribal people and to provide them opportunities for growth and development. He also urged locals and the young generation to support the efforts of security forces in maintaining peace in the area.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan meets with affected individuals from the Dasu Hydro Power Project at the CM Secretariat.

KP Govt sanctions 25pc, 20pc adhoc relief allowance to employees

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa sanctioned an Adhoc Relief Allowance 2024 at the rate of 25 percent of the basic pay as on June 30, 2024 to the employees from BS-17 to BS-22 and 20 percent to the employees in BS-03 to BS-16 falling under the civil servants of the provincial government including contingent of paid staff and contract employees employed against civil posts in Basic Pay Scales on standard terms and conditions of contract appointment, said a notification issued by the Finance Department

here on Friday. The Adhoc Relief Allowance with effect from 1.07.2024 will be subject to income and admissible during leave and entire period of LPR except extraordinary leave and will not be treated as part of emoluments for the purpose of calculation of pension/gratuity and recovery of House Rent. Similarly, it will also be not admissible to the employees on their repatriation from posting/deputation abroad at the rate and amount which would have been admissible to them had they not been posted

abroad. The term 'Basic Pay' for the purpose of Adhoc Relief Allowance 2024 will also include the amount of the personal pay granted on account of annual increment (s) beyond the maximum of the existing pay scales. The Adhoc Relief Allowance-2024 shall be accommodated from within the budgetary allocation for the Year 2024-25 by the respective Departments/organizations and no supplementary grants would be given on this account to all the government employees of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with effect from 1st July, 2024.

Governor Punjab recognizes businessmen as backbone of economy

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab, Sardar Salim Haider has said that businessmen are the backbone of the country's economy. Traders always played an important role in economic prosperity in the country, he said adding that the government is doing everything possible to solve the problems of traders.

He expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), which called on him here on Friday, led by President Chamber Saqib Rafique. The delegation informed the governor regarding the problems of the business community. The governor said that business circles have always played a role in the development of the country. "We are making every possible effort to solve the problems of the businessmen", he said. Later, a delegation of lawyers also met the governor. Speaking to the lawyers, the governor said that the role of lawyers is very important for the rule of law and supremacy. Lawyers have always made sacrifices for the stability of the democratic system, the rule of law and the constitution.



LAHORE: A delegation of Lawyers from Rawalpindi meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

KP Assembly discusses Bannu incident, law and order situation

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly convened on Friday to discuss the firing incident on a peaceful procession in Bannu and the deteriorating law and order situation in the province. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) MPA Adnan Khan, speaking on a point of order, highlighted that the people of Bannu, who were peacefully demanding peace, were fired upon, resulting in 20 injuries. He urged the government to take action against the perpetrators and ensure the safety of the people. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) parliamentary leader Lutfur Rehman highlighted security concerns, stressing that the country was facing a critical situation and de-

manding governmental action against terrorism to protect the citizens. Other members of the provincial assembly also called for steps to restore peace in the province. Provincial Minister Dr. Amjad Khan reassured the assembly that the government was taking the law and order situation seriously. He announced that an inquiry into the Bannu firing incident had been ordered and a committee would be formed to investigate the incident and ensure public safety. Speaker KP Assembly Babar Salim Swati emphasized the need for a collaborative approach to address the issue, suggesting the formation of a committee comprising on the government and the Opposition members.

Woman killed, three family members injured in accident

KHANEWAL (APP): A woman was killed while three other family members injured as their motorcycle collided with a tree near Thatha Sadiqabad road. According to details, a citizen named Muhammad Irfan was going to home Chak No 136/10-R from Tibba Sultan Pur along with family members riding on a motorcycle. Suddenly, the motorcycle went uncontrolled and collided with a tree. As a result, his wife 30-year-old Beenish died on the spot while Irfan, his daughter Eman and minor boy Anus sustained injuries. The injured were shifted to Tehsil headquarters hospital Jehania for medical aid.

Punjab sets up flood relief camps amid threat of flooding

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique announced on Friday that the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) had established flood relief camps in anticipation of potential flooding. The announcement was made during his visit to the PDMA Head Office here. He highlighted the risk of flooding due to recent rains in the Koh-e-Sulaiman mountains, which could lead to rising water levels in rivers and mountain streams. He assured the

public that the situation is being closely monitored around the clock in the Epidemic and District Control Rooms, and that prompt measures will be taken to protect lives. He also urged the public to take necessary precautions during the rainy season. During his visit, he reviewed various schemes aimed at preventing river erosion. He also toured the PDMA control room to assess the rain situation across the province. DG PDMA, Irfan Ali Kathia, provided a comprehensive briefing on the current weather conditions and the safety measures in place.

Eight dead, 1,359 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least eight people were killed and 1,359 others injured in 1,204 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 600 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 759 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 693 drivers, 50 underage drivers, 152 pedestrians, and 522 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 226 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 264 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Multan with 77 accidents.

Health Minister meets MSF officials, discusses ongoing projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of Health, Syed Qasim Ali Shah met with officials from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) at his office to discuss ongoing projects of international humanitarian organization. The meeting was attended by Director EPI Dr. Arif, Director MCH Dr. Khizr Hayat, DHO Khyber Dr. Zafar Ali Khan, Focal Person Health Department Dr. Mohammad Nabi Jan Afridi, and other relevant officials. MSF officials briefed the Minister of Health on their ongoing projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the establishment of two clinics for the

treatment of leishmaniasis at City Hospital Peshawar and Budh Bher Hospital. They also informed the minister about their work in Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital and Tirah Valley in Khyber District. The MSF officials also discussed their plans to establish a leishmaniasis treatment center at the Dargai Hospital in Khyber district. They informed the minister that a five-year project has been designed, which will be technically and financially supported by MSF. The project will also include the establishment of a pediatric health care center and a blood bank.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan chairs meeting regarding Marri Rail Link Project.

International News

Relentless Israeli attacks claim 54 lives in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: The Gaza health ministry said on Thursday that 54 people have been killed in 24 hours as Israel kept up its heavy bombardment of recent days. All health facilities in southern Gaza have been pushed to their "breaking point" by the influx of casualties, the International Committee of the Red Cross said. Television images showed mourners at Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central town of Deir el-Balah, where several white-shrouded corpses lay on the ground. One man cradled the covered body of a child. Also on Thursday, the Israeli parliament voted to oppose a Palestinian state as an "existential threat". The vote, which drew swift criticism from the Palestinian leadership and the international community, is largely symbolic but laid

down a marker ahead of a planned address by Netanyahu to the US Congress next Wednesday. The veteran hawk has shown little interest in efforts by the US administration to broker a truce and prisoner release deal for Gaza, insisting that "absolute victory" over Hamas is within reach and vowing to ramp up the military pressure. The White House acknowledged on Thursday that it had no firm date for any talks between Netanyahu and President Joe Biden, saying only that it had "every expectation" the two men would meet, dependent on the president's recovery from Covid. The resolution passed by Israeli lawmakers in the early hours said a Palestinian state on land occupied by the Israeli army would "perpetuate the Israel-Palestinian conflict and destabilise the region". The resolution passed by 68

votes to nine in the 120-member parliament. The Palestinian Authority accused Israel's hard-right ruling coalition of "plunging the region into an abyss". Neighbouring Jordan said the vote "constitutes a serious violation of international law and a challenge to the international community". France expressed "consternation", noting that the text was "in contradiction" with multiple UN Security Council resolutions. The establishment of a Palestinian state on lands occupied by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967 has been the cornerstone of the international community's efforts to resolve the conflict for decades. UN chief Antonio Guterres was "very disappointed" by the Israeli parliament's move. "You can't vote away the two-state solution," his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.



Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump is joined on stage by wife Melania and other relatives after he finished giving his acceptance speech on Day 4 of the Republican National Convention (RNC), at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.

'Isolated' Biden faces calls to drop re-election bid

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Joe Biden still has mild Covid symptoms but is continuing to work, his White House doctor said on Thursday, a day after the US president tested positive for the disease shortly after conceding he would consider dropping his re-election bid if doctors diagnosed him with a serious medical condition. "The president is still experiencing mild upper respiratory symptoms associated with his recent Covid-19 infection," doctor Kevin O'Connor said in a letter. "He does not have a fever and his vital signs remain normal". The 81-year-old Democ-rat gave reporters the thumbs up and said "I feel good" as he cut short a trip to Las Vegas and flew to his beach home in Delaware to go into isolation, which will take him off the campaign trail for days. The infection comes at a critical moment for Biden's campaign, with the president seeking to show he is up to the job after a disastrous debate performance against rival Donald Trump sparked concerns about his health and calls from some Democrats for him to step aside.

Ex-CIA analyst charged with spying for South Korea

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: A grand jury has indicted a former US Central Intelligence Agency analyst on charges of acting as a spy for the South Korean government in exchange for luxury goods, bags and fancy meals, the BBC reported on Thursday. Sue Mi Terry, who previously worked as a senior official for the White House National Security Council, faces two counts of failing to register as a foreign agent and conspiracy to violate the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Taiwan must rely on itself for defence, foreign minister responds to Trump

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan must rely on itself for defence and is likely to keep increasing spending and modernising its military given the threat it faces from China, Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung said on Friday, responding to criticism from Donald Trump. US former President Trump, the Republican candidate in a rematch with President Joe Biden, said in an interview published this week that "Taiwan should pay for its defence", adding that the island had taken American semiconductor business. The United States is the most important international backer and arms supplier of Taiwan, which China claims as its own. Despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties, Washington is bound by law to provide the means for the island's defence. But Taiwan has no formal defence pact with the United States, as Asian neighbours Japan and South Korea do, since Washington terminated a previous treaty with Taipei in 1979 when it switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing. Biden angered China in 2022 by saying US forces would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion, a deviation from a long-held US position of "strategic ambiguity". Asked about Trump's comments, Lin told foreign reporters in Taipei that "we pay great attention to" them, and Taiwan-US relations are built on the bipartisan support Taiwan enjoys in the United States. "I think everyone has a consensus on the main point, which is the China threat," said Lin, who took up his post on May 20 as part of the cabinet of newly elected President Lai Ching-te.

North Korea plans to launch major tourism site next year though it still blocks foreign tourists

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited a major tourism site being constructed on the country's eastern coast and discussed steps to open the zone by next year, state media reported Thursday, though the country still blocks visits by most foreign tourists. The Wonsan-Kalma zone is one of Kim's most talked-about tourism projects. For years, North Korea has been building luxury hotels and recreational facilities there to create a key attraction for international visitors. But the project reportedly suffered setbacks due to shortages of construction materials as a result of toughened U.N. sanctions and COVID-19 restrictions. Kim toured the Wonsan-Kalma zone with top deputies on Tuesday and discussed preparations for its opening by May 2025 as decided by a ruling party meeting in January, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. "A coastal wonderland to be known to the world as the best tourist resort of (North Korea) would be successfully built," Kim was quoted as saying by KCNA. It cited Kim as saying construction has entered its final stages. North Korea has been slowly easing its harsh pandemic-era curbs and entry restrictions as part of its efforts to revive its economy. But it still hasn't reopened its borders to foreign tourists, except for a relatively small number of Russians who visited earlier this year as ties boomed between the two countries. A return of Chinese travelers would likely provide a much bigger source of revenue as they represented about 90% of international tourists visiting North Korea before the pandemic.

Bangladesh TV news off air, communications widely disrupted as student protests spike

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Television news channels in Bangladesh were off the air and telecommunications were widely disrupted on Friday amid violent student protests against quotas for government jobs in which nearly two dozen people have been killed this week. There was no immediate word from the government. French news agency AFP reported that the death toll in Thursday's violence had risen to 32. Reuters had reported that 13 people were killed, adding to six dead earlier in the week, and could not immediately verify the higher number. There was fresh violence in some parts of the country on Friday and police were using tear gas to disperse protesters, a Reuters photographer said. India's Economic Times newspaper reported

that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government "was forced" to call in the army late on Thursday to help "maintain order". Reuters could not independently verify the information. Although the protests were sparked by student anger against the controversial quota system, some analysts have said that tough economic conditions, including high inflation, rising unemployment, and depleting foreign reserves, were pouring fuel on the fire. The protests have also opened old and sensitive political faultlines between those who fought for Bangladesh's independence in 1971, including Hasina's Awami League. Authorities had cut some mobile services on Thursday to try to quell the unrest but the disruption spread across the country.

Belarus to introduce 90 day visa-free regime for 35 European countries

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Belarus, traditionally a close ally of Russia, said on Wednesday it would introduce a 90-day visa-free regime for citizens of 35 European countries in a sign Minsk may be keen to ease tensions with the West. Under the new policy, citizens of the 35 listed nations - which include Germany, Britain and France - will be able to enter Belarus without a visa and stay for up to 90 days per year. Currently, travellers from those countries can only remain in Belarus for 30 days and must fly in via Minsk airport. The new policy takes effect on Friday, the National Border Service said in a statement.

Thailand says cyanide killed 6 foreigners in hotel, including perpetrator

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Cyanide poisoning caused the deaths of six foreigners whose bodies were found in a room in a plush Bangkok hotel, Thai authorities said on Wednesday, with the suspected killer among the dead. Traces of the rapid-acting, deadly chemical were found during autopsies of the bodies and on drinking glasses and a teapot in the room at the luxury Grand Hyatt

Erawan hotel where the dead were discovered late on Tuesday, according to police and a hospital. Interviews with relatives of the three women and three men who died revealed there had been a dispute over debt related to an investment, according to police, who said they were investigating how the cyanide was obtained. The six were all of Vietnamese ethnicity, two of those US nationals.

Arson suspected as fire kills seven in France

Monitoring Desk
NICE: Police were hunting three arson suspects on Thursday after an apartment building fire killed seven people in the southern French city of Nice, Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said. The dead include three children - 5, 7 and 10 years old - and a 17-year-old who tried to escape by jumping from a window, they added. The apartment is located in the low-income neighbourhood of Les Moulins.

Gilani for exploring new avenues of cooperation between Pakistan-Algeria

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Friday underscored the need to further diversify Pakistan-Algeria relations and explore new avenues of cooperation to further add impetus to bilateral relations.

"Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Algeria which are rooted in history, religion and similarity of views on various regional and international issues" he expressed these views during a meeting with Algerian Ambassador Brahim Romani.

He also acknowledged and appreciated Algeria's support to Pakistan in the United Nations and at other international fora, in particular, the support for Pakistan's various candidatures.

He called for broadening the political and economic ties. "There is a great need for closer trade and economic relations as the current level of trade is far below its true potential", the chairman stated.

He highlighted the significance of frequent exchange of business delegations to boost trade and explore opportunities for joint ventures and investment.

He said that Pakistan has one of the best quality rice in the world and Algeria may consider importing rice from Pakistan.

He underlined that there is huge potential for mutual collaboration in IT, pharmaceutical and other sectors.

Collaboration between Pakistan and Algeria in the IT sector particularly freelancing can be beneficial for both countries as there are thousands of companies in Pakistan providing freelancing services, he maintained.

He highlighted the need for parliamentary linkages and institutional cooperation to learn from each other's experiences.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Algerian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Brahim Romani at Parliament House.

PPP office bearers, workers led by Sarbuland Jomezai call on CM in Loralai

QUETTA: The office bearers of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Loralai Division called on the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in Loralai on Friday. The Provincial Secretary Information, Sardar Sarbuland Khan Jomezai led the PPP delegation.

Speaking to the delegation, the Chief Minister said that the party and its related matters would be strengthened at the district and divisional level.

He mentioned that it is directive of the chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to strengthen the party at the divisional, district, Tehsil and union councils further. He said that the Pakistan Peoples Party believe public service as it's manifesto and aim.

He said that public welfare is our mission.

The Chief Minister vowed that the implementation of the manifesto of public service would be ensured with support of the office bearers and workers.

The party leadership of Loralai division praised the public friendly vision of the Chief Minister.

Agri Dept accepts joining report of complaint on notice of Balochistan Ombudsman

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Ombudsman Nazim Baloch sought a response from the Agriculture Research Wing Department after receiving the complaint. The complainant, Bilal Ahmed, son of Abdul Malik, had complained to the Provincial Ombudsman against the Director General of Finance and Accounts Quetta some time ago that the same department refused to accept his joining report after receiving his appointment order and his salary has also stopped.

On which the Provincial Ombudsman, after preliminary investigation, registered the case for formal investigation and issued a notice of response to the department concerned.

In compliance with which the Director General (DG) of Agriculture Research Balochistan said in reply that the complaint of the questioner has been accepted on the same basis as his report and the salary of the complainant would be issued by the Finance Department of Turbat district.



QUETTA: Independent Layers Group Head Mir Attuaah Langouva along with Balochistan High Court Bar Sectary General Shah Rasool addressing a press conference.

Shibli Faraz opposes appointment of ad hoc judges in letter to CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stalwart and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Shibli Faraz has written a letter to the Chairman of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) and Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, urging the JCP to reject the proposal for appointing ad hoc judges.

Senator Shibli Faraz expressed concerns in his letter that the appointment of ad hoc judges gives the impression that the judiciary is being influenced for the benefit of a particular party.

Senator Shibli Faraz emphasised that the appointment of ad hoc judges should not create the perception of balancing opinions against a specific party within the judiciary.

The opposition leader in the Senate argued that pending cases cannot justify the appointment of ad hoc judges after the appointment of permanent judges.

He noted that the proposal for ad hoc judges came on the same day the Supreme Court ruled in favour of PTI with a 5-8 decision and that no transparent procedure was followed for the selection of ad hoc judges.

He added that the proposed ad hoc judge, retired Justice Maqbool Baqar, held significant positions in the caretaker government while retired Justice Tariq Masood prolonged the military custody case of 100 PTI supporters, and retired Justice Mazhar Miankhal made remarks about invoking Article 6 against PTI leaders.

Shibli Faraz highlighted that critical cases such as the civilian military trial, the February 8 election case, and the recent ban on PTI are pending in the Supreme Court.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Abu Dhabi Ports Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Abu Dhabi Ports Pakistan to invest \$250m in Karachi Port in 10 years: PM told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Ports Pakistan Khurram Aziz Khan on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and informed that the company would invest \$250 million in Karachi Port during the next 10 years.

The company CEO, who was accompanied by a delegation, also told that a fully equipped multipurpose terminal, being constructed through a \$130 million investment, would be completed within two years.

The delegation members briefed the prime minister about the company's investment in the improvement of the container terminal facility at Karachi Port featuring X control, automated gates, 200-meter expansion in berth, crane rail track and development of infrastructure.

It was told that after the development of new infrastructure, cargo ships of up to 120,000 tons capacity would be able to anchor at the port to boost economic activity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called for using modern technology and machinery to improve cargo and container handling at the port besides reducing the clearance time to a minimum.

He said that the objective of the agreement with Abu Dhabi Ports was to ensure transparency, enhance capacity and improve port operations. He also assured that the government would extend maximum support in executing the agreement to achieve maximum benefits.

The prime minister directed the railway authorities to provide freight rolling stock to operationalise the project, and improve the transportation of cargo from the terminal.

Open Court to be held in supervision of DC Quetta on July 24

QUETTA: An open court session will be held on July 24, 2024, at 11 am in the Metropolitan Corporation Quetta Lawn, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lieutenant (Retd) Saad Bin Asad. All district department officers will be present to hear public grievances and issue on-the-spot orders for their immediate resolution. The public is invited to attend the open court session and present their complaints and issues in person. This is an opportunity for citizens to directly interact with government officials.

AJK PM says: Pakistan center of Kashmiris' hopes

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while terming Pakistan as the center of Kashmiris' hopes, has said that the historical day of July 19 had special significance in the history of freedom struggle of Kashmir. "It was on this day in 1947 when Kashmiri leadership decided to align their destiny with Pakistan", he said in his message issued on the occasion of Kashmir's accession day to Pakistan being observed today (Friday).

The prime minister said that observance of day on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) was a reflection of Kashmiris' unconditional love and faith with the state of Pakistan.

"Those who laid down their lives in pursuit of this ideology are our real heroes", he said, adding that love for Pakistan ran in the blood of every Kashmiri.

Anwar ul Haq said that Kashmiris had rendered matchless sacrifices to materialize the dream that was envisioned by their ancestors much before the creation of Pakistan.

He expressed the optimism that the day was not far off when the Kashmiris' struggle and sacrifices would bear fruits.

Terming Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan as the biggest eyesore to India.



LORALAI: Office bearers of different political parties and representatives of civil society meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

CM inaugurates family park in Loralai

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurated the family park in Loralai on Friday.

The Member Provincial Assembly, Muhammad Khan Toor Utmankhail, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Commissioner Loralai, Balach Aziz and other high ups were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister directed to take well care of the cleanliness of the family park. He also directed to ensure provision of recreational facilities for the children and women in the park.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister went round of different sections of the park.

It may be mentioned here the Chief Minister had reached Loralai on two day visit to Loralai on Friday.

Mari Mining Company gets 2 licenses for exploration in Chagai

ISLAMABAD (INP): Mari Mining Company Private Limited has secured two licenses for mineral exploration in Chagai district of Balochistan. The licenses issued by the Directorate General of Mines and Minerals Balochistan cover an area of 501 square kilometers and 513 square kilometers respectively. Special Investment Facilitation Council is taking measures to exploit the rich mineral.

PN Ship YARMOOK deployed on regional maritime security patrol

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy has deployed its warship PNS YARMOOK with embarked helicopter in the Indian Ocean for safety and security of merchant ships bound to and from Pakistani Ports. During the deployment, the Pakistan Navy Ship will undertake independent operations as well as combined operations along with other friendly and partner nations to achieve common objectives of safe and secure maritime commons. The ship will also call on regional ports for Naval Diplomatic tasks in line with Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Pakistan Navy is committed to ensure freedom of navigation on high seas and safety of international sea lanes of communication.

Aleem sponsors repatriation of stranded Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan has come forward to sponsor the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka, where they have been stuck for several years.

This philanthropic move has been hailed as a major breakthrough in the efforts to bring back these prisoners, who were facing difficulties in paying their expenses and fines.

According to sources, the Ministry of Interior had been in touch with Sri Lankan authorities for the past three months to facilitate the release of Pakistani prisoners.

However, the process was delayed due to financial constraints.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ali Tareen presiding over introductory meeting of PAC

Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day" observed with fabulous zest, renewed pledge

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): The people of Kashmir living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK), and around the world observed "Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day" on Friday.

They renewed their resolve to continue the struggle for freedom from Indian unlawful occupation and to realize the idea of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. This spirit is based on the historic resolution passed in Srinagar on this day in 1947.

On July 19, 1947, the Kashmiris adopted a historic resolution in a special meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of veteran Kashmiri leader and later founding President of Azad Jammu Kashmir government, Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Srinagar, demanding accession of entire Jammu and Kashmir state to Pakistan in accordance with the aspirations of the people of the Muslim-majority Himalayan State.

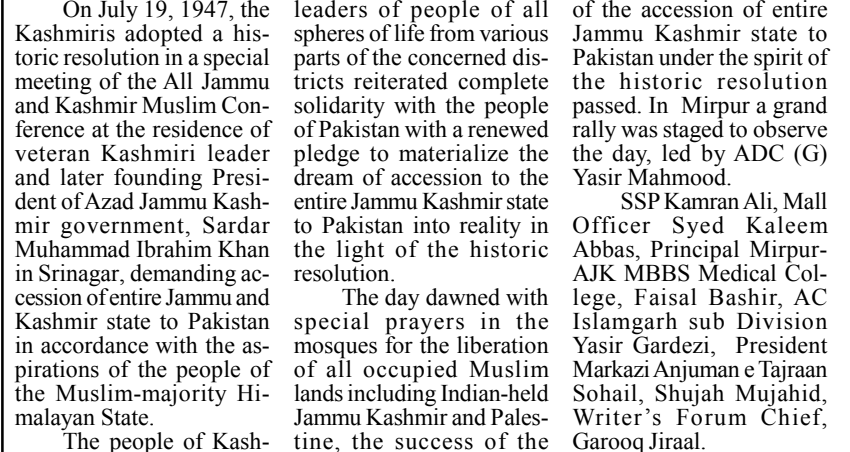
The people of Kashmir observe this historic day every year with a renewal of the pledge to continue the struggle, with full vigour, for the achievement of their birthright to self-determination and translate the idea of accession of the entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan under the spirit of the historic resolution passed this day in 1947 into reality. In AJK, it was a public holiday to facilitate the masses from all sections of the civil society to participate in the ceremonies held to mark the historic day.

The representative leaders of people of all spheres of life from various parts of the concerned districts reiterated complete solidarity with the people of Pakistan with a renewed pledge to materialize the dream of accession to the entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan into reality in the light of the historic resolution.

The day dawned with special prayers in the mosques for the liberation of all occupied Muslim lands including Indian-held Jammu Kashmir and Palestine, the success of the Kashmir freedom struggle and for the rest of the departed souls who laid down their lives for the cause of liberation of the motherland from the Indian illegal rule.

Special meetings including seminars and symposiums were held in all ten districts and tehsil headquarters of AJK including in the state's metropolis - Muzaffarabad to commemorate the historic day with the renewal of the pledge to continue the struggle to attain their birthright to self-determination and accomplish the dream of the accession of entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan under the spirit of the historic resolution passed. In Mirpur a grand rally was staged to observe the day, led by ADC (G) Yasir Mahmood.

SSP Kamran Ali, Mall Officer Syed Kaleem Abbas, Principal Mirpur-AJK MBBS Medical College, Faisal Bashir, AC Islamiyeh sub Division Yasir Gardezi, President Markazi Anjuman e Tajraan Sohail, Shujah Mujahid, Writer's Forum Chief, Garooq Jiraal.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb is chairing the meeting on the Establishment of Programme Steering Committee (PSC) for the UK-Funded REMIT Programme.



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Rubaba flays terrorists attacks in Pishin & Buleda

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Buledi has strongly condemned the terrorists attack in Pishin and Buleda.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Advisor to Chief Minister said that the martyrs and injured persons are pride of the country.

She said that the recent wave of terrorism is an attempt to destabilize the country.

However, the government and Pakistani nation is determined to foil the nefarious designs of terrorists, she added.

Spokesman of GoB condemns attack on police vehicle in Pishin

QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan has condemned the attack on a police vehicle in Pishin.

In an official condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the spokesman expressed sorrow over the injuries caused to a police cop in the attack.

He said that the morale of police can't be down with such cowardly acts.

He said that Balochistan police has rendered great sacrifices for the sake of peace in the province. The spokesman said that best medical treatment facilities would be provided to the injured police personnel.

One dead, 8 injured in Sibi Toll Plaza accident

SIBI (APP): A devastating accident involving several vehicles near Sibi Toll Plaza on Friday claimed the life of one person and left eight others injured. Emergency services, including Rescue 1122 and Edhi Ambulance rushed to the scene and transported the victims to Sibi Teaching Hospital.

NA Speaker urges youth to play role in nation-building

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday urged youth to play their role in nation-building rather than indulging in propaganda and political polarization. "Acquainting Youth with parliamentary procedures and norms is pivotal for the growth of democracy in Pakistan", he expressed these views during his keynote address to the orientation session of the Young Citizen Internship Program 2024.

He also said that youth need to be acquainted with the committee system of Parliament as the standing committee plays an effective role in legislation.

The speaker also informed the participants, "Pakistan Parliament is the first regional Parliament which transformed itself into the first-ever Green Parliament of the World through solarization".

Member National Assembly (MNA) Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, one of the pioneers of the Youth Internship Program initiated by the National Assembly graced the orientation session with her virtual presence and highlighted the importance of connecting the youth with the Parliament, imparting basic principles of democracy to youth, equipping youth with parliamentary etiquettes, processes and most importantly, directing the youth towards nation-building. Director Advocacy, Campaign, Communications and Media - Save the Children, Raza Hussain Qazi warmly greeted.



MUZAFFARABAD: Members of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir signatures on a banner on the occasion of Youm-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan, in the city.

PTI submits affiliation affidavits of 38 MNAs to Election Commission

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has submitted affiliation forms for 38 independent members to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Affidavits of allegiance from three independent members have yet to be submitted.

The affidavits of the PTI's elected representatives, Sahibzada Mehmood Sultan, Mobeen Arif, and Riaz Fatyana are currently abroad, but the affiliation forms for Sultan and Arif have been received by the party.

The sources said additional documents are also attached to the affiliation forms submitted to the ECP.

Maryam urges SC judges to let Pakistan progress

LAHORE, (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday urged the Supreme Court (SC) judges to let Pakistan progress following the apex court's verdict on Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) appeals, declaring Imran Khan-founded PTI eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities.

"The one who is being brought back is the nation's criminal," the Punjab chief minister said while apparently referring to PTI founder Imran Khan - who is currently incarcerated in May 9 riots cases.

Maryam Nawaz alleged that when the country starts to stabilize, some individuals become uncomfortable and make decisions that hinder progress.

She questioned the Supreme Court's judgement, asking if it was not a cause of instability, then what was? She also criticised the PTI-led government, saying that despite being in power for four years, they had caused unprecedented destruction.