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CM Bugti hints at ending deadlock with BYC

Government has always welcomed the protests held under the umbrella of the constitution. We are open to dialogue and respect the voices raised for their genuine demands; Lots of things have been matured and things have been moving in positive direction as 90 percent of BYC demands have been fulfilled," Deputy Commissioner Gwadar

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Thursday hinted at ending deadlock with Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) and said there is a positive headway towards resolving the sit-in protest by BYC in Gwadar. "It is too early to share the details of the headway in the dialogue process underway with the BYC. Soon the issue will be resolved for good," the CM Bugti remarked while talking to newsmen.

To a question, he reiterated that "The government has always welcomed the protests held under the umbrella of the constitution. We are open to dialogue and respect the voices raised for their genuine de-

mands." Soon after the protest, the leaders of various parties, including Haq Do Tehreek's Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, Hussain Vadera, Hussain Ashraf, parliamentarians, district administration and others, made strenuous efforts to persuade BYC to call off the sit-in protest. "Lots of things have been matured and things have been moving in positive direction as 90 percent of BYC demands have been fulfilled," Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Hamood-ur-Rehman said while talking to this scribe.

About the recent development, the DC disclosed that except Gwadar, the cellular network has fully been restored, coastal

highway leading to Karachi from Gwadar is partially opened while people coming from other areas to Gwadar are being checked, quashment of the FIR has been notified.

"The government is fulfilling its commitment regarding the agreement as 90 percent of protestors held under three MPO have been released while working is on to release the remaining within a day, he added.

It may be recalled that BYC demands include the release of all arrested participants of sit-ins, withdrawing of all cases, and registration of FIRs against those involved in the killing of BYC activists in Gwadar and Noshki.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir NI(M) attending the National Ulama & Mashaikh Conference in Islamabad.

Stresses unity to overcome national challenges

Unprecedented cooperation between govt, institutions to rid country of challenges: PM

Says collaboration between military establishment and government for Pakistan's benefit is a "role model" for future; Efforts are being made to bring relief to masses; hopes upcoming IMF programme to be country's last; Asks Ulama to play role in countering fake news

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the coalition government and the national institutions were in an unprecedented harmony and cooperation to serve the better national interests and steer the country out of prevailing challenges.

The prime minister, addressing the Ulama-Mashaikh Conference here, said that the country never needed unity and national harmony more, and he had never seen such a level of cooperation between a political government and the institutions throughout his political career.

Appreciating the support extended by Chief of

Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, also attending the moot, he said that such exemplary collaboration was a role model for the future.

He said that the challenges pervading the country necessitated learning lessons from past weaknesses and mistakes and making sincere efforts to develop Pakistan as a country as was dreamt by the forefathers and sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives during the Pakistan Movement.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the nation, which was about to celebrate its 77th Independence Day on August 14, was yet to find its destination, but the goal was

achievable provided the dedicated efforts were made and the teachings of Quran and Sunnah were followed.

He called for the efforts to wipe out Fitna al-Khawarij - a term referring to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan - which he said was involved in anti-Pakistan activities despite claiming to be a Pakistani. He also criticized the use of social media to spread lies and propaganda - particularly after 2018 - instead of appreciating the government's efforts for public services.

He said even the army soldiers, who sacrificed their lives to protect millions of other children from being orphaned, were be-

ing humiliated on social media.

Calling the May 9 attacks "the most heart-wrenching" incident in the country's history, the prime minister highlighted that the characters behind the tragedy of 1971 met their fate in Bangladesh amidst the recent developments in the country.

He urged the Ulama to play their role to do away with the division in the society and highlight the Islamic economic system, and said that no force could obstruct the country's development if the nation was determined to achieve its goal.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the gathering that the government was

making all-out efforts to address the economic challenges and expected the upcoming IMF program to be the last one. At the same time, it had scraped Rs50 billion to support the power consumers of the protected category consuming up to 200 units. But the consumers using 200-500 units of electricity were still under the burden, he added.

However, he assured the gathering that the coalition government and the COAS were in consultation to work out a comprehensive plan to ease the inflation-stricken people and the provinces would soon announce their respective plans in this regard.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti presiding over a meeting to review progress of development projects

No power in the world could harm Pakistan

COAS resolves to block attempts of creating chaos in Pakistan

No one has the courage to desecrate the glory of the Holy Prophet (SAW). If someone tries to create anarchy in Pakistan, by God, we will stand against him.; Ulama, Mashaikh may play pivotal role for promotion of tolerance & unity in society: Army Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday urged the Ulama and Mashaikh (religious scholars) to work for promotion of tolerance and unity in the society in order to banish the tendency of extremism.

Addressing the National Ulama Convention the COAS said the Pakistan Army was working hard to end strife from the motherland as per the commandments of the Allah Al-

mighty as it was the greatest crime to Allah on the land. He said, "We do not consider those as Pakistanis, who do not follow Shariat and Constitution." The religious scholars should bring back moderation in the society and reject dissension, he added.

The western civilization and way of life was not the nation's ideal, it should be proud of its own civilization, he said and mentioned the verses of Allama

Dr Muhammad Iqbal's poetry that stated Muslim ummah has no comparison to the followers of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are a special nation.

The COAS noted that the Pakhtun brothers and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had rendered great sacrifices in the war against terrorism and the Armed Forces along with the nation stand with them appreciating their efforts.

President Zardari for unity among Muslim countries to address challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the need for greater unity and cooperation among Muslim countries to overcome the challenges being faced by the Muslim Ummah.

He expressed these views while talking to the Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi, Dr Salah bin Mohammad M AlBdeer, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Thursday.

Welcoming Dr Salah bin Mohammad M AlBdeer, the president said that Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) enjoyed excellent relations, based on common faith, history, and brotherhood.

He expressed satisfaction that relations between two brotherly countries were growing stronger, and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further boosting bilateral ties.

He urged the need for promoting cultural and people-to-people relations to bring the two brotherly countries further closer.

Reiterating Pakistan's support to KSA, the Presi-

dent said that KSA was a close friend and Pakistani would always stand with Saudi Arabia.

The Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi said that the leadership and people of KSA highly valued their relations with Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan and KSA enjoyed strong partnership and both countries should work together to address the challenges faced by the Islamic World.

He lauded the contributions of the Pakistani community towards the development of Saudi Arabia.

He also highlighted that the reforms initiated by the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud would bring further development and prosperity to KSA.

The president appreciated the courage and vision of Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who was spearheading the process of reforms for the betterment and welfare of the people of KSA.

He expressed the hope that the visit of the Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi would further boost bilateral relations. The Imam of Masjid



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari welcoming the Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi, Dr Salah Bin Mohammad M AlBdeer, upon his arrival, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Zia pay homage to martyr lawyers on 8th death anniversary of Aug 8 tragedy

Says August 8 is such a tragedy pain of which would always be felt, asserts we would not leave war against terrorism unfinished; Sardar Khetran leadership and people determined to eliminate terrorism

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove and Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran have paid homage to the lawyers martyred in the tragic incident of terrorism occurred on August 8, 2016 in the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta.

In their separate messages issued on eve of the August 8 tragedy observed on Thursday, the Provincial Ministers prayed for the

departed souls of the martyr lawyers.

The Provincial Minister for Home said that the August 8 tragedy was a nefarious conspiracy against the conscious and active segment of the society.

He said that August 8 is such a tragedy pain of which would always be felt. He said that the lawyers martyred in the tragedy were the great asset of law sector, and vacuum caused due to their death would not be filled for long.

The Provincial Minister for PHE said that the aim behind the August 8

tragedy was to destabilize the judicial system of the country.

He said that the talented lawyers were martyred in the incident, which caused huge vacuum in the legal sector.

Mir Ziaullah Langove said that the provincial government and security institutions have got important successes for bringing improvement in circumstances of the province.

He said that our morale is high and we would not leave the war against terrorism unfinished.

Governor thanks PIA & CAA high ups on decreasing fare of special Umrah flights

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has thanked the high ups of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on decreasing Rs. 10,000 in the fares of Quetta to Jeddah special flights.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, Governor said that this commendable initiative has made the sacred air travel accessible and cheaper for many Umrah zayreen.

As a result of this, they would be able to fulfill their spiritual obligations more easily, he added. It may be mentioned here that the facilities of ATM, currency exchange and stretcher would also be available to the intending pilgrims of Hajj and Umrah besides other passengers at the Quetta international airport.

The Governor said that the endeavours made for providing facilities to the pilgrims visiting Makkah and Madina Munawara to perform religious obligations are really commendable.

NEPRA notifies Rs 2.56 per unit increase in FCA for June

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Thursday notified Rs 2.56 per unit increase in power tariff under monthly fuel cost adjustment mechanism for the month of June. In the petition, the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) on behalf of XWDISCOs had sought Rs 2.63 per unit increase in power tariff for June.

The CPPA-G maintained in its petition that the actual cost of electricity remained Rs 9.70 per unit against reference fuel charges of Rs 7.14 per unit for the said period. The increase would be applicable to all the consumer categories except Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) and lifeline consumers. It would be shown separately in the consumers' bills on the basis of units billed to the consumers in the month of June 2024.

XWDISCOs would reflect the fuel charges adjustment in respect of June 2024 in the billing month of August 2024, said a notification issued here.

Govt to scrap 1990s IPP contracts in major relief move

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has decided to terminate the power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) made in the 1990s, aiming to provide significant relief to consumers suffering from high electricity costs.

According to media reports, the federal government, under the leadership of Energy Minister Owais Leghari, has finalized a framework for this major policy shift. An official announcement is expected soon. In addition to terminating old IPP contracts, the government is reviewing agreements with other IPP companies. A new frame-

work is being developed for consumers using more than 201 units, with changes to the policy that currently maintains them in the same slab for six months. Special slabs are being considered for these high-usage consumers, with a potential rate of Rs. 26 per unit for those exceeding 201 units.

Minister Owais Leghari emphasized the importance of the energy sector for the economy and assured that reforms are underway, with coordination crucial for their implementation. The National Task Force is working on 20-point reforms to address the sector's issues swiftly and stabilize the economy.



QUETTA: Former Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

All concerned MPAs be taken into confidence: CM directs to finalize approval of unapproved dev. projects from concerned forum by August 28

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QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to give final shape to the approval of unapproved development projects from the concerned forum by the end of August 28, 2024.

In this regard, the concerned members of provincial assembly should be taken into confidence, the Chief Minister added while chairing a review meeting about progress of the development projects of financial year 2024-25 here on Thursday.

The Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Development, Hafiz Abdul Basti, Secretary Finance and other concerned high ups were present in the

meeting. The Additional Chief Secretary Development, Hafiz Abdul Basti briefed about the progress of new and ongoing development projects. The meeting was also briefed about the progress of sector wise development projects besides their authorization and release status. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to expedite the implementation on the departmental development projects in the province.

He stressed that it is necessary for early completion of the development projects to get their approval from the concerned forum at the earliest.

He said that the people can benefit from the fruits of development with timely completion of the schemes in different sectors.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners Conference

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Temporary relief

The government must have heaved a sigh of relief on securing commitments from allies China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE to roll over Pakistan's bilateral debt of \$12bn for yet another year.

This rekindles hopes of approval of the new \$7bn IMF bailout, crucial to shore up Pakistan's official international reserves and meet its foreign financing needs, by the lender's executive board later this month. These loans come up for a rollover at different times every year because we are unable to repay them due to a liquidity crunch. That these countries have apparently declined, or deferred, Pakistan's request to extend the maturity period of the loans to three to five years to provide greater predictability over the tenure of the IMF programme shows that even friendly nations are hesitant to bet on us over the long term.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, who broke the news on Tuesday, noted that our projected financial needs stood at around \$3-5bn for the next three years, and that these funds could be managed comfortably. According to him, the government had received offers from foreign commercial banks for concessional loans and had hired a Chinese adviser to launch the Panda bond to initially raise \$300m amid efforts to reprofile the Chinese energy debt of \$15bn for a longer period to ease pressure on the fragile external account.

Indeed, Pakistan's economy, which is characterised by a shrinking GDP, a balance-of-payments crisis and high inflation, has 'stabilised' in recent months thanks to the emergency loan of \$3bn from the Fund. However, its short- to medium-term outlook remains uncertain. The country needs nearly \$25bn annually to finance its large trade deficit and repay its foreign debt, while it has around \$9bn in its reserves.

The new IMF programme is expected to help consolidate this newfound stability but the quest for faster and sustainable economic growth will remain elusive for years even if we move in the right direction. Most of us, including the policymakers, believe that compliance with the IMF's tough conditions and its successful reviews constitute the much-needed structural reforms.

This, however, is misleading. Our deep-seated problems need tough and politically unpopular reforms beyond just securing a new bailout from the lender of last resort; the IMF loan will provide only temporary relief. The IMF is here to simply ensure that the country carries out its external financial commitments, because boosting economic growth or reforms in a client economy does not constitute the Fund's mandate as such. Some 20 years ago, Pakistan's economy was 18pc the size of India's; now that figure is only 9pc. This is in spite of five bailouts from the IMF during that period. This means we must look beyond the temporary support of bailouts to overcome our crisis.

Heart drops

F.S.Aijazuddin

Readers and Leonardo da Vinci are owed an apology. The tableau at the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics that caused such offence was not a pastiche of Leonardo's iconic mural Last Supper.

The organisers have clarified that the tableau depicted a bacchanalian scene showing an assembly of Greek gods, led by Dionysus, the god of wine. The inspiration came from a painting — The Feast of the Gods — by the 17th-century Dutch artist Jan Harmensz van Bijlert.

Was there no symbol closer to France's reputation as the capital of wine than Greek gods and a Dutch painter?

Whatever other lessons the French have learned from the 2024 Olympics, one is that too many cooks can spoil a bouillon, even in France. The other, never to take decisions by committee, for didn't a wit warn that 'a camel is a horse designed by a committee'.

The Olympic events, spread over the last week in different venues, have confirmed France's administrative talents. The stunning gardens of Versailles palace could not have been a nobler backdrop for the riding competitions, a fusion of equestrian elegance and ineffable taste.

The 2024 Olympics will be remembered, though, for unexpected issues that emerged.

Gender, for one. For millennia, men and women were classed as opposites, compatible but uniquely separate. Being a hermaphrodite (the word comes from the fusion of the Greek deities Hermes and Aphrodite) put one in a no-man's or no-woman's land.

Parisians have for long tolerated the nightly infestation of its Bois de Boulogne gardens by provocative professionals from Brazil. The Olympic organisers had no problem with gay divers like Greg Louganis (gold medalist, Los Angeles, 1984, Seoul, 1988) or Tom Daley (gold, Tokyo 2020), even when Daley spent his off-platform time knitting for his partner.

Two boxers — Imane Khelif of Algeria and Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan — were slammed by critics for competing as women, even though they had failed gender eligibility tests sometime in the past.

Will the IOC be forced to create a new category for trans people? They have already provided for national ambiguity by allowing refugees to compete as displaced nationals, and athletes from Russian and Belarussian to be admitted as Individual Neutral Athletes.

For some competitors, the use of technology has proved a bane. Photo-finishes are a tool of the past. Now, even turns in a swimming relay are scrutinised with shark-eyed precision. In the women's 200-metre individual swimming medley, Alex Walsh finished the backstroke and was going into the breaststroke. That millisecond turn was deemed illegal and Walsh (who would otherwise have won a bronze medal) forfeited her prize.

Similarly, the British medalist Luke Greenbank thought he had qualified in the 200m back-stroke heat for the semifinals. To his grief, he was disqualified because he was "completely underwater past the red 15-metre mark following a turn". They were no grounds for review. Replays could not be refused. Understandably, he felt "absolutely gutted".

For every Olympic medal winner — whether gold, silver or bronze — there are hundreds of disappointed athletes who have spent years preparing for the event. As one athlete put it: "We have ups and

downs. Unfortunately, you can't pick the days they come on."

If one has to admit partiality in favour of any single contestant, it would have to be for the Serbian tennis ace Novak Djokovic.

Djokovic has won an all-time record of 24 Grand Slam titles. He achieved a triple Grand Slam by winning each of the four majors at least three times. "Djokovic is also the only man in tennis history to be the reigning champion of all four majors at once across three different surfaces."

In the recent Wimbledon men's final last month, a 37-year-old Djokovic lost to the 21-year-old Carlos Alcaraz. Djokovic had reached the age when men look forward to playing with un-born grandchildren. Critics wrote him off. But Djokovic craved an Olympic gold as the glittering capstone to a pyramid of hard, unrelenting endeavour.

On Sunday, the sun and the Serbian saints shone on Djokovic. In a tense duel, he secured his victory. Alcaraz wept in defeat. Neither need feel shame: 'Les larmes sont les gouttes du coeur' — tears are the drops of the heart.

By the time of future Olympics (Los Angeles, 2028, and Brisbane, 2032) the world will welcome a fresh crop of competitors. An increasing number will be black, representing traditionally white nations. The IOC should dispense with nationality and gender, and instead honour individuals.

We should applaud those who, despite a lifetime of commitment, never gained a medal, for many of them will no longer be athletes. They will have only memories of having been one. -- Courtesy Dawn

The voiceless

Syed Saadat

Whenever one reads news items, attributed to a 'source', about the IMF's recommendations to further tax salaried individuals, one always wonders why the Fund never singles out the tax exemptions given to military organisations like the FWO and NLC, or property tax exemptions given to residents of DHAs. One asks why the IMF is hell-bent on taxing salaried individuals, to the extent of pushing them into a state of chronic depression.

I got the answer to this question in a recent casual meeting with an official from the Fund itself. As per this source, the IMF never asks for the salaried class to be taxed; it only asks that tax revenues be increased. Connecting the dots leads one to the realisation that such news items are intentionally fed by the Government of Pakistan to shift the blame on the IMF for the weaknesses inherent in our system. The government lacks the power to tax the powerful sectors, and it all comes down to les miserables — the voiceless salaried class.

When, at a recent press conference, the finance minister was asked the reason for this, he replied that there was no magic wand and that nothing would change overnight. He said we would keep going back to square one unless the untaxed and undertaxed sectors of the economy were brought in the tax net.

This really sums up the fate of the nameless, faceless, voiceless salaried class for many years to come. It would take only one notification to tax the FWO; it would take only one notification to remove the

exemption of tax on 500 square-yard houses in DHA, it would take only one day to make the pension expenses of military personnel a part of the defence budget. But the problem is that a lot would be done overnight if the finance minister adopted this course.

Though I agree with the finance minister that salaried individuals are the easiest route to raising taxes, can he elaborate on any incentive, including amnesty schemes enjoyed by others, given to salaried individuals over the last couple of decades? Is there a scheme by the Government of Pakistan that gives individuals who cross a certain threshold in the amount of income tax deducted from their salary, privileges like getting preferential treatment at CMHes (they are the only reasonable hospitals in the public sector) or admission fee discounts for their children in public sector universities? The finance minister wants salaried individuals to make this sacrifice for the sake of the IMF deal but is not ready to introduce even a single small incentive for these individuals.

The middle and upper middle class, which is comprised mostly of salaried individuals in Pakistan, is the most unfortunate social class in the country. The poor have already given up on any ambition; this class, however, has ambitions and awareness as well. They know a lot and have too little. They are being decimated by government policies and don't have any mechanism through which to fight back.

You may add value to your individual skills to earn a better living but the government has the final say in your earnings. It is better to be robbed by highway robbers, because at least you can complain about it and it is considered a crime by any court of law. Without getting into too many numbers, let's try to answer a very simple question: has the standard of living of a person earning Rs5 million per annum improved in the last five years, or has it deteriorated drastically? The answer is a no-brainer; the said individual is finding it tougher and tougher to make ends meet because he has to afford a certain lifestyle.

Also, it is pertinent to point out that the riches of an individual working in the private corporate sector or finance sector — like our finance minister, who was president and CEO at a bank until a few months ago — is not the result of government incentives or favours by powerful quarters but his own hard work and many sacrifices by his family in terms of time. The government unabashedly robs a sizable chunk of his earnings and does not provide any incentive whatsoever — not even access to a social media platform like X. Maybe, even unblocking X.com cannot be done overnight?

Lastly, a few weeks ago, the Salaried Class Alliance of Pakistan requested the Supreme Court's intervention in this unfair taxation through a suo motu notice. Truth be told, if your last resort is the Supreme Court in this country, then it is already a lost cause. Salaried individuals in Pakistan are indeed an apt representation of the following line of Victor Hugo's Les Miserables: "It is nothing to die. It is frightful not to live." -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan-Turkey agree to boost business activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Turkey and Pakistan have agreed to boost up business activities and investment in various fields by enhancing mutual trade and promote economic activities.

It was decided in a Round Table Business Conference co chaired by Trade Minister of Turkey Professor Dr. Omer Bolat and Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

Deputy Trade Minister of Turkey Mustafa Tuzcu, Ambassador in Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, Presidents of Chambers of Turkey were also accompanied while prominent business community figures from Pakistan joined this session.

Abdul Aleem Khan while addressing the Pakistan-Turkey Business Round Table Conference said that the brotherhood, mutual cooperation and friendly relations of Turkey and Pakistan span decades and these two countries have already entered into economic and joint business agreements.

He added that Pakistan wants to promote bilateral investment and business ties in various fields with Turkey because it is prime time to increase the economic activities between Turkey and Pakistan.

Aleem Khan welcomed the interest of the business community from Turkey and said that it would benefit both countries and all possible support will be provided.

Turkish Minister of Commerce said that the economic and business relations and bilateral partnership between

Pakistan and Turkey are going to be in a new beginning as Turkey will also ensure all possible cooperation for Pakistan in all circumstances.

Turkish business leaders purposed that in various sectors including infrastructure bilateral investment can be increased.

Representatives of Pakistan's main commercial institutions welcomed Turkey's proposals and said that Turkey can develop better with its modern machinery and Pakistan with its raw materials.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with a delegation of Meezan Bank, led by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Riyadh S.A.A Edees.



QUETTA: A delegation led by PIA General Manager Passenger Sales Islamabad Muhammad Shafiq meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Govt committed to transform Pak into cashless economy: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Thursday said that the present government was committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy.

She said that the government aimed to reduce reliance on physical currency and promote digital transactions through initiative like the SBP's RAASST instant payment system.

Speaking at a meeting of a high-level Committee on Promotion of Cashless Economy, Shaza Fatima said that digital payments have critical role in driving economic growth and efficiency, said a news release.

She said that steps were needed to accelerating digital financial inclusion and boosting economic growth.

The state minister also emphasized the importance of data integration and effective change management.

Tourism, Cuisines play vital role in connectivity among countries: Commerce Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday said that tourism and cuisine played a vital role in the relations and connectivity between the countries.

The minister said this while addressing a Cuisines exhibition organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in Karachi.

He said that foods were the main factor to closely connect the peoples in different regions of the world and Asian, South African and Arabian cuisines were known all over the world.

Jam Kamal said that Malaysian foods were very famous in the world as their admirers were all over the world. He said that food and tourism brought different nations closer together. The Minister said that to invigorate the economy, tourism should be promoted in the country.

Chinese investors group meets Ch Shafay Hussain

LAHORE (APP): A big group of Chinese investors called on Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain in the committee room of the Punjab Investment Board.

In the meeting, it was agreed to cooperate in technical education, IT sector and electric business. The Chinese investor group expressed interest in setting up a plant of electric bikes in Punjab.

Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain while speaking on this occasion said that the government is serious in promoting electric vehicles to control environmental pollution.

The government is giving 10,000 electric bikes to students of universities and colleges.

Chinese investor will set up a plant of electric bikes and government will provide all possible facilities.

Macroeconomic indicators on upward trajectory: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday emphasized that Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators were on an upward trajectory, leading to a growing public trust in the country's economic management. In a meeting with a delegation of Meezan Bank, led by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Riyadh S.A.A Edees, the finance minister outlined the government's ongoing efforts in reforming the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), energy sector and privatization initiatives. According to press release issued by finance ministry, the delegation also included President and Chief Executive Officer, Irfan Siddiqui, Deputy CEO Syed Amir Ali. Governor

SBP, banks to remain closed on Wednesday

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and all the banks and financial institutions will remain closed on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 on the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan. The central bank, in a statement issued here on Thursday, announced, "The State Bank of Pakistan will remain closed on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 being public holiday on the occasion of 'Independence Day' as declared by the Government of Pakistan." Subsequently, all the banks, Development Finance Institutions (FDI),

Back feeding process of Suki Kinari hydropower station completed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Back feeding process of Suki Kinari Hydropower Station on Thursday successfully completed.

Located on the Kunhar River in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in northwest Pakistan, SK Hydropower Station is a flagship project within the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" under China's Belt and Road Initiative, said a press release. It stands as the largest greenfield hydropower investment project by Chinese enterprises abroad and the most significant hydropower station investment by Energy China. Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, an investment and construction project of China Energy Overseas Investment Co., Ltd. (Energy China, marked the official countdown to grid-connected power generation for the station.

HE Xiongfei, the Chairman and General Manager of SK Hydro (Private) Limited, commented on the Back Feeding process.

Craftmanship of KP women important for province identity: Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday emphasized the importance of introducing the craftsmanship of women of this province on an international level to ensure their economic empowerment.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation from the Handicraft Association, including Chairperson Maryam Iqbal and Mahira Imad, the Governor highlighted the necessity of global exposure for these crafts.

Governor Kundi announced that a handicraft exhibition was scheduled to take place in Tajikistan in November.

He directed the Chambers of Commerce to ensure representation for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's women at the event.

He also stressed the need for providing digital skills and market exposure to women involved in handicrafts to ensure their efforts are rewarded.

The Governor noted that promoting the soft image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa globally was crucial for the province's development and prosperity.

He praised the delegation's efforts and accepted an invitation to attend an awards ceremony hosted by the Association.

The delegation, in turn, commended the Governor for his initiatives and commitment to women's empowerment.



RAWALPINDI: On the call of Ameer Jamaat-Islami Hafiz Naeemur Rahman, the rally against rising electricity bills and inflation is passing through Murree Road.

KP assembly approves salary increase for police personnel

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution to increase the salaries of police personnel in the province. Moved by JUI member Makdoom Zada, the resolution highlighted the risks faced by police officers in combating terrorism and pointed out the disparity in salaries compared to those in Punjab and Islamabad.

The resolution recommends aligning police salaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with those in the neighboring regions.

In addition to the police salary increase, MPA Ijaz Khan presented another resolution addressing public transportation concerns.

He emphasized the success of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system but noted the lack of adequate public transportation on other routes. The resolution calls for the provincial government to introduce new BRT routes on Kabir Road, Warsak Road, and Shah Alam Bridge to Naguman Road. During the session, some resolutions were presented without prior notice, leading to objections from government members who argued that such practices hinder informed decision-making. Speaker Babar Saleem Swati said that resolutions lacking advance notice might not be included in the proceedings unless deemed urgent after consulting the relevant minister.

18 killed, 1,323 injured in 1,189 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least 18 persons were killed and 1,323 injured in 1,189 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 579 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 744 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 707 drivers, 43 underage drivers, 160 pedestrians, and 474 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

Minor girl drowns in canal

FAISALABAD (APP): A minor girl drowned in canal water in the area of Jaranwala Sadar police station. Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Thursday that 3-year-old Eshal Fatima resident of Chak 635/8 was playing outside her house when she accidentally slipped and fell in a nearby canal in Chak 8 Bair Mor on Nankana Road. Receiving information, divers of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and fished out the girl.



LAHORE: A delegation of International Lawyers Association UK Lahore Chapter led by President International Lawyers Association Ashiq Ali Rana in a group photo with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Overseas Pakistanis rendering great services to the country: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: The delegation of International Lawyers Association UK Lahore Chapter led by President International Lawyers Association Ashiq Ali Rana called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

The delegation presented suggestions to Governor Punjab about overseas desk to solve the problems of Pakistanis living abroad, free legal aid for prisoners involved in minor crimes, training of law students in Punjab universities.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the overseas Pakistanis are rendering great services to the country in terms of sending valuable foreign exchange.

He added that their services are truly recognized. He said that the proposal to set up Overseas Desk in the Governor House is being seriously considered to solve the problems of Overseas Pakistanis. Governor Punjab appreciated the efforts and recommendations of

International Lawyers Association Lahore Chapter for Overseas Pakistanis. Governor Punjab further said that it is commendable that Overseas Pakistanis have always helped their fellow countrymen in difficult times.

President International Lawyers Association, Ashiq Ali Rana, while briefing the Governor of Punjab, said that resolving the property disputes and taxation issues of Overseas Pakistanis are the priorities of their association.

Mujtaba Shjua visits Municipal Corporation General Hospital

LAHORE (APP): On the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shjuar-Rehman visited the Municipal Corporation General Hospital, Kot Khwaja Saeed, on Thursday.

During the visit, he assessed the available medical facilities and reviewed the recent upgrade facilities at the hospital.

The Minister inspected various departments, engaging with patients to inquire about the quality of care, the

presence of doctors, availability of medicines, and the behavior of the hospital staff.

Addressing the hospital staff and the media, the Provincial Minister emphasized that the health sector remains a top priority for the Punjab government, with significant budget allocations directed toward health and education.

He highlighted that the upgrade of hospitals across Punjab is currently underway and that within a year, the enhancement work at all hospitals.

ANF recovers 188 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 188 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 800 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger at Multan Airport. 52.8 kg opium and 61.2 kg hashish were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near North Bypass Peshawar and two accused were arrested during the operation. In third operation, 48 kg hashish was recovered from a parcel sent to Karachi from a courier office in Ring Road.

Minister for effective campaign to create zero-waste environment

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq on Thursday directed the waste management companies to conduct special campaigns to increase public awareness regarding zero-waste environment.

During a video link meeting of the CEOs of waste management companies across the province held at the Civil Secretariat, the minister reviewed the plan for an efficient and sustainable sanitation system in the province. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmad Mian, Additional Secretary Maria Tariq also

attended the meeting. The CEOs of the companies informed about progress made so far in their respective areas.

Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that it was the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to implement a uniform sanitation system throughout Punjab. "A large proportion of the population resides in rural areas, so it is not possible to achieve sanitation targets by neglecting villages", he added.

Zeeshan Rafiq said that sanitation challenges could be tackled through outsourcing system.

Members of All Pakistan Clerk Association are protesting for their demands in front of the press club of the provincial capital.



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerk Association are protesting for their demands in front of the press club of the provincial capital.

Compensation for landmine victims referred to standing committee

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly discussed the issue of compensation and aid to victims of landmine blasts during its session presided over by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati here on Thursday.

MPA Asif Khan presented a call attention notice, highlighting that despite the passage of 15 years, victims in Upper South Waziristan have not received compensation.

He further stated that people whose houses were destroyed during military operations have also not been provided any

assistance, leaving many in severe distress.

In response, Law Minister Aftab Alam mentioned that the Relief Department handles this matter and that financial aid is provided to the victims through a committee under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. He emphasized the importance of this issue and the need for immediate resolution.

Housing Minister Dr. Amjad termed the matter a humanitarian issue, noting that such incidents are occurring continuously across the country and need urgent attention.

International News

Haniyeh's killing risks 'wider' Middle East conflict, OIC warns

Monitoring Desk
JEDDAH: The heinous killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh risks tipping the Middle East into "wider conflict", the chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) told a meeting on Wednesday. The comments from Gambian Foreign Minister Mamadou Tangara came as a senior Iranian official said during the meeting that the Islamic republic would need to defend itself from Israel, which it blames for Haniyeh's death last week in Tehran. Iranian and Palestinian officials called for Wednesday's gathering of the 57-member OIC in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah, saying the body needed to respond to the killing of the Hamas leader.

"This heinous act serves only to escalate the existing tensions potentially leading to a wider conflict that could involve the entire region," said Tangara, whose country currently chairs the OIC. Haniyeh's killing "will not quell the Palestinian cause but rather it amplifies it, underscoring the urgency for justice and human rights for the Palestinian people", he said. "The sovereignty and territorial integrity of nation states are fundamental principles underpinning the international order."

"Respecting these principles has profound implications and their violation equally carries significant consequences."

Israel has not commented on Haniyeh's death, which Iran has vowed to avenge.

"Currently, in the absence of any appropriate action by the (UN) Security Council against the aggressions and violations of the Israeli regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no choice but to use its inherent right to legitimate

defence against the aggressions of this regime," Ali Bagheri, Iran's acting foreign minister, told the OIC.

Hamas's Lebanese ally Hezbollah has also pledged to retaliate for Haniyeh's killing and that of its military commander Fuad Shukur in an Israeli strike in Beirut hours earlier. Wednesday's meeting was far from the first time the bloc has weighed in on the conflict, which began with Hamas's October 7 raids in southern Israel.

That operation led to bombardment of Gaza by Israel and the deaths of almost 40,000 people, mostly civilians. In addition to issuing regular statements condemning civilian deaths in Gaza, OIC leaders gathered with their counterparts from the Arab League in November for a summit that condemned Israeli forces' barbaric actions in Gaza.



Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus is pictured during a press briefing, as he arrives at the Hazarat Shahjalal International Airport, in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes charge of caretaker govt

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist Muhammad Yunus was sworn in as the head of the country's caretaker government on Thursday, three days after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to quit and flee the country following violent protests.

"I will uphold, support and protect the constitution," Yunus said during the swearing-in ceremony, adding that he would perform his duties "sincerely". Yunus, 84, was recommended for the role by student protesters and returned to Dhaka earlier today from Paris, where he was undergoing medical treatment. "The country has the possibility of becoming a very beautiful nation," an emotional Yunus told reporters at the Dhaka airport, where he was greeted by top military officers and student leaders.

Saudi king allows cabinet to meet without him or crown prince

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's King Salman issued a royal decree that allows the cabinet to convene in the absence of both himself and the prime minister, his son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, state media reported on Thursday.

The 88-year-old king of the world's biggest oil exporter, and a major US ally in the Middle East, received medical care for lung inflammation in May that prompted Prince Mohammed to later postpone an official visit to Japan due to the king's health.

Pilot, four Chinese nationals killed in Nepal chopper crash

Monitoring Desk
KATHMANDU: A helicopter crashed in central Nepal on Wednesday, killing all five people aboard including the pilot and four Chinese tourists.

Nepal has a woeful track record on aviation safety and the Himalayan republic has seen a spate of deadly light plane and helicopter crashes over the decades.

Israel kills 40 Palestinians in Gaza airstrikes amid fears of wider war

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli forces stepped up airstrikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing at least 40 people, Palestinian medics said, in further battle with Hamas-led militants as Israel braced for potential wider war in the region.

Israeli airstrikes hit a cluster of houses in central Gaza's Al-Bureij camp, killing at least 15 people, and the nearby Al-Nuseirat camp, killed four, medics said. Nuseirat and Bureij are among the densely populated enclaves' eight historic camps and seen by Israel as strongholds of armed militants. Israeli aircraft also bombed a house in the heart of Gaza City in the north, killing five Palestinians, while another airstrike in the southern city of Khan Younis killed one person and wounded others, according to medics.

Later on Thursday, 15

Palestinians were killed and 30 injured in Israeli bombings of two schools east of Gaza City, the territory's Civil Emergency Service said in a statement.

The Israeli military said it struck Hamas command and control centres embedded in the Abdel-Fattah Hamouda and Al-Zahra schools in the Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City, where Hamas militants were operating. It accused Hamas of exploiting civilians and civilian properties for military purposes, an allegation Hamas denies.

Footage circulated on social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed casualties being brought to a hospital on donkey carts. The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were firing anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs at Israeli forces operating across Gaza.

Turkey formally asks to join the genocide case against Israel at the UN court

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey on Wednesday filed a request with a U.N. court to join South Africa's lawsuit accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza, the foreign minister said. Turkey's ambassador to the Netherlands, accompanied by a group of Turkish legislators, submitted a declaration of intervention to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

With the development, Turkey, one of the fiercest critics of Israel's actions in Gaza, becomes the latest nation seeking to participate in the case. Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua and Libya have also asked to join the case, as have Palestinian officials. The court's decision on their requests is still pending.

"We have just submitted our application to the

Large 7.1 earthquake recorded off Japan: USGS

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: A 7.1 magnitude tremor struck off southern Japan on Thursday, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said, with the local meteorological agency warning of tsunamis striking coastal areas.

Initially, the USGS erroneously recorded two separate earthquakes, registering two tremors at 6.9 and 7.1 magnitude, respectively.

The USGS acknowledged the error on its website, stating, "This event originally showed as two events in our event list. This error has been fixed. There was one event."

Tsunamis of up to one metre were expected to arrive or have arrived in some coastal areas in Kyushu and Shikoku islands, broadcaster NHK reported.

US leaders call for calm in the Middle East, even as more American forces head to the region

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Calling for calm in the Middle East, top U.S. national security leaders said Tuesday that they and allies are directly pressing Israel, Iran and others to avoid escalating the conflict, even as the U.S. moved more troops to the region and threatened retaliation if American forces are attacked.

"It's urgent that everyone in the region take stock of the situation, understand the risk of miscalculation, and make decisions that will calm tensions, not exacerbate them," Secretary of State Antony Blinken

said at the close of a meeting with Australian leaders.

At the same time, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin noted the attack Monday on U.S. forces in Iraq by an Iranian-backed militia group, which injured seven personnel, and made it clear that the U.S. won't hesitate to respond. "Make no mistake, the United States will not tolerate attacks on our personnel in the region," Austin told reporters at a press conference after the meeting. "And we remain ready to deploy on short notice to meet the evolving threats to our security, our partners or our interests."

Russia says fighting continues in Ukrainian region

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian troops are fighting Ukrainian forces in the Kursk region in the third day of one of the largest cross-border incursions of the war, the Russian Defense Ministry said Thursday. A ministry statement said the Russian military and border guards have blocked Ukrainian forces from advancing deeper into Kursk region in southwest Russia and that the army is attacking Ukrainian combatants who are trying to advance on the area from Ukraine's Sumy region.

"Attempts by individual units to break through deep into the territory in the Kursk direction are being suppressed," the ministry said. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said that as of Wednesday, Ukrainian troops had advanced as much as 10 kilometers (6 miles) into Rus-

sian territory, but that information wasn't confirmed. Ukrainian officials haven't commented on the scope of the operation around the town of Sudzha.

"The enemy has not advanced a single meter, on the contrary, it is retreating. The enemy's equipment and combat forces are being actively destroyed. We hope that in the near future... the enemy will be stopped," the Kursk region's acting deputy governor Andrei Belostotsky said Thursday, according to state news agency RIA-Novosti. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday described the incursion as a "large-scale provocation." Putin met with his top defense and security officials to discuss what he called the "indiscriminate shelling of civilian buildings, residential houses, ambulances with different types of weapons."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb exchanging views with Prof. Dr. Omer Bolat, Trade Minister of Turkiye during meeting held in Islamabad.

PDMA on high alert, protecting citizens with round-the-clock monitoring: Director

QUETTA (APP): Director of Planning and Coordination at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Balochistan Naveed Ahmad Sheikh assured on Thursday that his team is closely monitoring the monsoon rain situation 24/7 hours and conducting assessments of crop damaged to compensate affected farmers.

Talking to PTV news channel, he said that PDMA is identifying and establishing safe places to accommodate people affected by the heavy downpour, adding, with PDMA's proactive measures, those impacted by the rains can expect timely support and relief mitigating the suffering and financial losses caused by the natural disaster.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Balochistan has been taking proactive measures to ensure public safety amidst the monsoon

rains, he said, adding, in addition to monitoring the situation and assessing crop damage, PDMA has been issuing regular weather advisories and updates to keep the public informed.

Furthermore, in light of the hazardous weather conditions, PDMA has notified Section 144 to restrict tourist activities, prioritizing the safety of visitors, he added.

This precautionary measure aims to prevent accidents and minimize risks associated with traveling during the monsoon season, he mentioned.

By taking these steps, PDMA is demonstrating its commitment to protecting both the local population and tourists, ensuring that everyone remains safe and informed throughout the duration of the monsoon rains, he highlighted.

Naveed Ahmad Sheikh also revealed that the authority is engaged in a mul-

titude of activities to mitigate the impact of the monsoon rains, besides issuing weather advisories and restricting tourist activities, PDMA is conducting comprehensive surveys to assess damages to buildings and infrastructure.

The authority is also collaborating closely with dedicated officials from the Pakistan Army, volunteers, and the National Highway Authority (NHA) to provide timely assistance to citizens affected by the monsoon, he added.

Through these coordinated efforts, PDMA aims to ensure a swift and effective response to emergencies, providing relief and support to those in need, Director said.

By working together with various stakeholders, PDMA is demonstrating its commitment to protecting the well-being and safety of the people of Balochistan during this challenging time, he concluded.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani being briefed about installation of early warning system in wake of flood water

CM Bugti vows to provide medical facilities to people

Approves construction of odern wards, solarization & bus service for SMBZAN Institute of Cardiology

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has accorded approval to the construction of modern wards of paediatrics as well as solarization and bus service for the Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (SMBZAN) Institute of Cardiology Quetta. The Chief Minister issued directives to finalize the PC-I and other necessary matters in this regard. The Chief Minister issued these directives while chairing the third meeting of the governing body of the Institute of Cardiology as its chairman here on Thursday.

The meeting discussed different administrative matters of the

SMBZAN Institute of Cardiology and accorded approval to certain important decisions. He expressed satisfaction over the overall performance of the Institute and assured that the provincial government would extend every possible support and assistance for provision of quality medical treatment to the poor patients. The Chief Minister said that we are determined to provide quality health services to the masses without interruption by making these part of essential services. He directed to the administration of the Institute to formulate the sustainable projects for next 15 to 30 years besides the important projects of immediate nature.

"This landmark achievement was accomplished under the support and guidance of the Pakistan Army," said Sirbaz.

Sultana Niaz, a team member from Shamsal in Gilgit-Baltistan, shared her elation at hoisting the national flag atop K2 and thanked the Pakistan Army for their vital support.



QUETTA: Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), Meena Majeed Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

The way Bangladeshi PM expelled from politics, country is wrong: Fawad

RAWALPINDI (Online): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has termed as wrong the way Prime Minister (PM) Bangladesh has been expelled from power and country.

"It happened too much wrong the way PM Bangladesh was expelled from power and country. But when people are pushed to wall then the situation deteriorates. Peace in politics is inevitable to solidify economy in Pakistan. It can become possible only if founder of PTI Imran Khan is set free, he said this in his brief talk with media men after his appearance in anti corruption court Rawalpindi Thursday.

Government and establishment should give positive response to what

PTI founder Imran Khan is talking about and making efforts persistently to lower temperature in politics, he added. Because what change has come in the attitude of Imran Khan and PTI, it is necessary to take it positive. Otherwise Bangladesh situation is before all of us.

The way a PM was expelled from power and country, it should not have happened so, he observed. A vacuum has created in the country due to her ouster. Bangladesh is in grip of violence and riots. There is no such leadership therein which could bring normalcy by controlling the situation, he added.

Tranquility in politics is possible only if former chairman PTI is kept included in the politics, he urged.

Orders stern action against those elements involved CM expresses anguish over illegal trawling in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed anguish over the illegal trawling in the province and ordered to take stern action against those involved in the illegal fishing process.

The Chief Minister was presiding over high level meeting about preparations of the national meeting of Inter-Provincial Coordination here on Thursday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included: the Advisor to Chief Minister for Labour and Manpower, Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani, Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries, Mir Barkat Rind, Parliamentary Secretary

IPC, Ms. Mina Majeed Baloch, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Fisheries, Javed Anwar Shahwani.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister expressed anger over the illegal trawling in the province. He regretfully pointed out that our own people are involved in illegal trawling.

He said that what was done in the past by the previous government, we have to stop that devastation. He said that our national resources and coast are damaging due to the illegal trawling.

He noted with concern that our resources were looted ruthlessly. He asserted that the future of new generations is being

destroyed just for the short time financial benefit.

He said that different institutions are established for prevention of the illegal trawling, but their performance is not satisfactory.

He said that the fisheries department has emerged as major department for last eight to ten years in the province. But no solid mechanism was introduced for prevention of the illegal trawling in the province, which strengthened the mafia. However, action would be taken against those involved in plundering of the resources, adding he asserted.

He issued standing directives to introduce modern monitoring system for prevention of the illegal trawling.



HUB: Federal Minister for Trade and leader of PML-N Jam Kamal Khan addressing a Press conference at residence of Provincial Advisor Mir Ali Hassan Zehri

Will work day and night for interests of the people, say Jam, Zehri

It has become inevitable to bring change thru no-confidence motion in municipal corporation Hub, joint candidates will be brought forward

Independent Report HUB: An important meeting was held between Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Provincial Advisor for Industries and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in Hub.

In the meeting, there was a discussion on other political and social issues, including the agreement to adopt a common plan of action for the problems faced by the hub city.

Meanwhile, Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan arrived at the residence of Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in Hub. Councilors and other leaders of Jam Group and Peoples Party were also present on this occasion.

Deprived due to which this area remained backward instead of developing. We have to work united to end this backwardness and put Hub on the path of development and prosperity.

On this occasion, regional problems of the Hub were also considered including consultation for in-house change in the Municipal Corporation Hub and agreed to make joint efforts for their lasting solution.

Speaking to the media in Komal City Hub along with Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Provincial Advisor for Industries and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that in the past periods, there was criminal negligence at the level of municipalities, which turned the Hub into ruins and the citizens of Hub had to bear the brunt of it.



QUETTA: DG NADRA Muhammad Kashi Iqbal meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

US Ambassador calls on Muqam to discuss Afghan refugees' issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Armin Blome on Thursday called on Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engr. Amir Muqam and discussed the matters related to the welfare of Afghan refugees, rehabilitation, and bilateral cooperation. During the meeting here, the minister expressed his gratitude for the long-standing cooperation of US with Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was combating successful war against terrorism and also rendered countless sacrifices in terms of human lives and economic losses.

He said that more than 70,000 lives had been lost due to terrorism in Pakistan since 2001 and more than \$150 billion in economic losses. Amir Muqam urged the international commu-

nity to recognize Pakistan's efforts in the war against terrorism. He emphasized the need for the assistance of the United States and other international partners in the return of Afghan refugees. He emphasized on increasing US aid to host communities and efforts to create favorable conditions in Afghanistan for the return of refugees. On the occasion, US Ambassador Donald Blome reiterated US commitment to support Pakistan's economic development, especially in improving exports in textiles sector. He acknowledged the Pakistan's efforts in eliminating the menace of terrorism and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were affected badly Donald Bloom appreciated Pakistan's role in supporting the hosting of Afghan citizens.

Chief PPP visits Dhoki's residence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited the residence of his Chief Media Coordinator, late Nazir Hussain Dhoki to condole with the family.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offered Fatiha for his Chief Media Coordinator and prayed for strength and fortitude for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity, said a news release.

Chairman PPP said that the Bhutto family has strong links with the Dhoki family for three generations.

Nazir Dhoki also worked with Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and his demise is a great tragedy for the party.

Engineers play key role in dev. of country: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that there is key role of engineers and engineering sector in the development and construction of country and nation especially providing strong bases to the basic infrastructure.

The Governor said that he realizes the challenges during the sustainable development what our engineers are currently facing to the extent of Balochistan.

He said that we would find solution to those issues right from the developing technologies to the complex regulatory environment.

The Governor was speaking to the 16-member delegation of the United Kingdom called on him under leadership of Chairman, Ishaq Ahmed Qureshi here on Thursday.

Also present on the occasion were the Vice Chairman of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Syed Nafasat Raza and Vice Chairman PEC Balochistan, Shahabuddin Sheikh.

The members of delegation apprised the Governor about the issues and hardships being faced by the engineers.

He gave patient hearing to their issues and assured his every possible cooperation to resolve the same.

New Toshakhana reference: IHC sends case file to CJ for deciding to fix it for hearing in available bench

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while ordering to club miscellaneous petitions seeking court's order to declare arrest of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi illegal in new Toshakhana reference has sent case file to Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq.

A two members bench of IHC sent the case file to CJ IHC on Thursday.

The court remarked the petitions be clubbed by CJ IHC and fixed for hearing before available bench.

The petition seeking court's orders for declaring the arrest of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against the law in new Toshakhana reference came up for hearing in IHC.

A two members bench of IHC comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the case Thursday.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked according to NAB reply Imran Khan said come what may he will not join investigation. It is not acceptable that accused says he will not cooperate in investigation.

The counsel Suleman Safdar said the matter of physical remand will come later. Let us see conduct of NAB first. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked your petition of similar nature is already pending hearing.

Suleman Safdar said the hearing of this petition has been fixed in October which is far away yet.

Justice Miangul Hassan inquired was the next date of hearing given in open court.

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SOHBATPUR: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa inspecting flood affected area

PML-N advocates dialogue for national betterment: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said on Thursday the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has repeatedly initiated dialogues for the country's betterment and strengthening democracy.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that PML-N had proposed a charter of the economy as a solution to pull the nation out of the economic crisis that worsened during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) regime. He said that the government was also engaging with the protesters of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) because their demonstrations follow lawful procedures. The purpose of these negotiations, he said, is to resolve issues through democratic means.

Sheikh also condemned the events of May 9, labeling them as terrorist acts that cannot be tolerated and should be regarded as an attempt to rebel against the state.

CII urges SC to review ruling in Mubarak Sani case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) has expressed concerns over several clauses in the Supreme Court's recent ruling on the Mubarak Sani case, calling on the apex court's judges to review their decision. In a statement issued by the CII on Thursday, the council, under the chairmanship of Dr Muhammad Raghieb Hussain Naemi, highlighted its reservations regarding the Supreme Court's July 24 ruling on the criminal review of the Mubarak Sani case. The council urged the judges to reconsider the verdict.

The CII stated that the decision contains aspects that scholars and the council believe do not align with Islamic teachings. The council announced that a detailed report outlining these concerns will soon be submitted to the Supreme Court, noting that the ruling has caused widespread unease among the public.

"This is a matter of faith and love for the Prophet (PBUH), rather than legal technicalities," the statement read. The council emphasized the need for all segments of society to work together to resolve the issue and expressed hope that the honourable Supreme Court will promptly.

Power Division Consumers to get 77 paisa relief in tariff in August

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Power Division on Thursday said that the consumers would get 77 paisa relief in tariff in the billing month of August as compared to July.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) issued notification into fuel adjustment cost (FCA) for June, the statement said.

The FCA for July was Rs 3.33 per unit, it further said. The FCA for August would further reduce to Rs 2.56 per unit in the billing month of August, it said.



ZIARAT: View of destruction after heavy downpour of monsoon season, in Ziarat.