

Independent

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Gwadar

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XX No. 69, Rabi-ul-Awwal 14, 1446 AH Thursday September 19, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

Chief Minister says Private Special Economic Zone to be encouraged to boost economic activities

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated Balochistan is the suitable region for making investment. He said that private Economic Zone would also be encouraged besides formulation of the special economic zone at the government level.
 The Chief Minister was presiding over the meeting about formulation of the private special Economic Zone here on Wednesday.
 The meeting discussed in detail the matters about formulation of the private special Economic Zone in the province.
 In addition to this, the meeting also discussed potential of the province for investment in different sectors.
 The Chief Minister was briefed about the pro-

posed project of the private Economic Zone in Turbat.
 Emphasizing upon the formulation of the Economic Zone, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the economic activities would be boosted with the project in Balochistan.
 The Chief Minister on the occasion assured that the government would encourage the viable projects for formulation of the private Economic Zone in the province.
 He said that the private sector would be provided facilities for promotion of the investment under one-window operation. The private investors would also be extended every possible assistance, adding he assured. He directed to the Industries Department to issue necessary no objection certificates in different sections at the provincial level without any delay.

COAS reiterates desire to foster defence ties with Russia

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering



traditional defence ties with Russia.
 He was talking to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, who paid a courtesy call on him at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi today.
 Both the sides reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen security and defence cooperation in multiple domains.
 During the meeting, they engaged in productive discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, and bilateral cooperation across various sectors. The visiting dignitary praised pivotal role played by Pakistan Armed Forces in combating terrorism, and their tireless efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) celebrated with due religious respect and enthusiasm in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) was celebrated with due religious respect and enthusiasm in the provincial metropolis on Tuesday.
 The main procession marking the Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) was taken out from Bacha Khan Chowk. The procession terminated at the Manan Chowk after passing through Liaquat bazaar, Junction Chowk, Prince Road, Masjid Road and Shahrah-e-Iqbal.
 Strict security measures were adopted for the procession in and around the metropolis. Over 2,000 personnel of police and other law enforcement agencies were deployed to ensure peace on the occasion.
 The cellular phone service also remain suspended during the procession of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW). The senior police officials and Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lieutenant (Retd) Saad bin Asad personally supervised the security and other arrangements made for the procession.
 The surveillance of the procession was also carried out through the close circuit TV cameras installed on the route and other different parts of the city.



GADDANI: Team of IMO visiting Gaddani Ship Breaking Yard

Despite fierce coalition govt wooing, Fazal completely rejects constitutional package

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who took the centre stage as both the government and the opposition sought his support, has completely rejected the draft of the "controversial" constitutional package, aimed at making changes to Pakistan's judicial and parliamentary systems.
 "The draft we were given was reviewed, and it was in no way acceptable," the veteran politician said while talking to journalists after attending a luncheon at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser's residence on Wednesday.
 The government pushed the proposed constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who is set to retire in October this year, following the PTI's request last month for the early issuance of a notification regarding the appointment of the next top judge.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar alongwith Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexei Overchuk addresses a joint press stakeout at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad

Pakistan, Russia to cement ties through dialogue, cooperation

DPM Ishaq Dar says Pakistan views Russia as key player in regional cooperation; Calls for enhanced energy, trade cooperation with Russia; Pakistan, Russia sign MoU to boost economic, trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday underscored the considerable potential in Pak-Russia relations, emphasizing the importance of boosting economic ties and increasing cultural and educational exchanges, as well as enhancing cooperation in energy, trade, and regional connectivity.
 Addressing a joint press briefing with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, Ishaq Dar welcomed the Russian delegation and noted last year's record high in bilateral trade.
 He pledged to tackle logistical challenges in future meetings, including the Pak-Russian intergovernmental commission and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) discussions, which are crucial for enhancing cooperation on Afghanistan, energy security, and food security.
 Ishaq Dar stated that the visit of the Russian Deputy Prime Minister and his delegation reflects the growing depth and scope of economic cooperation, highlighting a clear mutual desire to strengthen Pak-Russia relations.
 Strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation remains a key priority of Pakistan's foreign policy.
 Ishaq Dar noted that Pak-Russia relations have advanced significantly, with a strong desire to forge cooperation between the two countries. A step-by-step approach based on trust and mutual respect has placed the relationship on a positive trajectory. Both delegations engaged in in-depth discussions focused on bilateral relations, identifying potential areas for economic expansion. Specific areas of mutual interest were outlined, including trade, economic collaboration, cultural relations, and people-to-people contacts.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting regarding establishment of Private Special Economic Zone Turbat

Islamabad High Court Impression of kidnapping citizens by intelligence agencies is threat to national security

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Babar Sattar of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed to make all intelligence and investigation agencies of Islamabad, director generals of IB, FIA, ISI, MI, and Naval intelligence agencies and CTD Punjab respondents on the petition seeking recovery of missing person Faizan Usman from Islamabad and initiation of action against them.
 Justice Babar Sattar remarked chief commissioner be also made party and he should file affidavit that as to why enforced disappearances are taking place persistently in his power of jurisdiction.
 The applicant should file amended memo of respondents and notices be issued to new respondents.
 The court inquired the intelligence agencies and investigation agencies should give report that have they information how enforced disappearance of Faizan took place.

We can resolve issues of people at local level by strengthening democratic system: Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that democracy is the most accepted and prioritized system at the international level despite the geographic and national limitations.
 He said that concept of democracy is deep rooted in implementation of the rights and authorities.
 In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the Governor said that there is priority of effective participation of all citizens, protection of basic rights, freedom of expression and following the social justice in democracy.
 Therefore it is necessary to know that we can resolve the issues of people at local level by strengthening democratic system and promoting participation of great majority of the society.
 He said that it has been observed that democracy is comparatively considered to be better system for ensuring equal opportunities and facilities because of its distinctive qualities in the multinational states and societies.
 The Governor made it clear that it is essential to honour the differences of opinion, adopt democratic behaviors and action for strengthening democracy just because it is basis of the healthy and civilized society to make our words and action democratic.
 By doing so, we make it sure that everyone must be heard and provide justice to our subordinates besides seeking justice from others.
 He stressed that we also have to ensure that everyone gets equal opportunities of participation in decision making at the collective level.
 Let's unite for formation of the healthy and exploitation free society so that everyone gets equal opportunities and facilities to moved ahead, adding Governor stressed.



QUETTA: MPA Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Parliamentary Secretary Haji Barkat Ali, Senator Abdul Qadir and Sardarzada Aurangzeb Khetran meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Demands action against Modi over HRs' violations President rejects IIOJK elections amid human rights concerns

Asif Zardari says such elections unacceptable to Kashmiris, calls for plebiscite in line with UN resolutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday categorically rejected the elections for the Legislative Assembly of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), asserting that the polls were no substitute for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.
 President Zardari, talking to a delegation of migrants from the IIOJK residing in Pakistan since 1989 led by Uzair Ahmed Ghazali at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, emphasised that such elections were unacceptable to the people of Kashmir and called upon the international community to hold the Modi government accountable for ongoing human rights violations in the occupied territory.

He further urged the need to take concrete steps toward conducting a plebiscite in line with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.
 Welcoming the delegation, the president condemned the Legislative Assembly elections in the IIOJK, terming them part of India's broader strategy to consolidate its illegal occupation of the region.
 He highlighted that such measures could neither legitimize India's occupation nor suppress the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people.
 He stated that India was trying to alter the demographic structure of the IIOJK by turning the Kashmiri Muslims into a minority and transforming them into a disempowered community in their own land.

President Zardari said that Pakistan greatly valued the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people for their rights and would continue to stand in solidarity with them. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their right to self-determination.
 The delegation apprised the president about the atrocities being committed by the Modi regime in the IIOJK. It was highlighted that the entire Kashmiri leadership had been imprisoned to suppress the voice of the Kashmiri people.

Consultations on constitutional package underway: Info Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that extensive consultations with all political parties on the proposed constitutional package were underway.
 Talking to the media, he said that all the political parties tried to reach a consensus on the draft bill both inside and outside the Parliament.
 The parties on both sides of the aisle in the Parliament had thorough discussions on the constitutional amendments, he added. Tarar said the role of the Law Minister in the drafting of constitutional amendments and engaging all political forces was highly commendable.
 He cited that many countries, including Italy, Germany and Spain, had supreme courts and constitutional courts side by side.



ISLAMABAD: Brigish High Commissioner Jane Marriott meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif

COPHC chairman meets Jam Kamal to discuss Gwadar Port development

ISLAMABAD (APP): The China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman, Yu Bo, on Wednesday met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss proposals for the activation and enhancement of trade activities at Gwadar Port.
 During the meeting, Yu Bo presented suggestions to boost operations at the port and sought the government's support to increase trade through Gwadar, said a press release issued here.
 In response, Jam Kamal Khan assured full government backing, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to enhancing Gwadar's trade capacity, in line with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's priorities for the region.

King Charles phones PM Shehbaz; invites to attend CHOGM in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): King Charles III of the United Kingdom on Wednesday telephoned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and formally invited him to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa in October.
 Accepting the invitation, the prime minister said that the CHOGM in Samoa would be a significant moment in the history of the Commonwealth, being the first summit to be chaired by the King since becoming Head of the Commonwealth, according to a PM Office press release.
 Prime Minister Sharif reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth and the values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.
 He said that the CHOGM in Samoa would provide a forum to discuss opportunities for enhancing intra-Commonwealth cooperation on a number of important issues, such as fostering sustainable development, strengthening democratic institutions, and empowering Commonwealth youth.
 Noting the King's longstanding interest in environmental issues and various initiatives for climate sustainability, the prime minister said that he particularly looked forward to engaging with Commonwealth leaders on climate change, as Pakistan was highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
 The prime minister also inquired after the King's health and conveyed his best wishes for the Princess of Wales, who had successfully completed her treatment.



Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti offering Dua after condoling death of Provincial Minister Sardar Safar Chakar Khan Domki with his relatives in Lehri.

CM visits Lehri, condoles death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki; pays rich tributes on services

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti visited Lehri House in Lehri Tehsil of Sibi district on Wednesday.
 During the visit, he expressed condolence the death of late Provincial Minister and Lehri tribal chieftain, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Khan Domki with his son, Kohyar Khan Domki, brother Mir Hairbiyar Khan Domki and other bereaved family members and offered fatha for the departed soul.
 Also accompanied him were the Speaker Provincial Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai, former Chief Minister and Senator Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, Provincial Ministers, Mir Zahooreh Buledi and Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Parliamentary Secretary, Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri.
 Also present on the occasion were the Senator Dostain Khan Domki, Senator Dhanesh Kumar, former caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Domki, other political and tribal personalities and people belonging to different walks of the life from all over the country.
 Expressing grief and sympathy over death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki with his family, the Chief Minister paid rich tributes to him on the invaluable services.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Government has once again contacted PTI for evolving consensus on constitutional amendments.
 Rana Sana Ullah advisor to Prime Minister (PM) has requested the PTI to consider to review the draft.
 Speaker National Assembly (NA) made this request on the occasion of his meeting with arrested MNAs.
 Sources said Rana Sana Ullah said to PTI MNAs for making consultation with legal team.
 Rana Sana Ullah during telephonic contact asked law minister Azam Nazir Tarar to give draft to opposition. PTI members have also been asked to make consultation with PTI founder on draft.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Parliament's place

With the storm around the government's planned amendments to the Constitution now behind it, will parliament turn its attention once again to protecting its privileges and reasserting the stature it has been granted within the configuration of the state?

The issue, it may be recalled, had been taken up last week after masked individuals entered the National Assembly's premises to arrest several lawmakers associated with the PTI — a serious infraction of House privileges that had triggered an uproar on both the treasury and opposition benches.

In the aftermath, a special 16-member committee was set up through a unanimous motion moved by the Lower House, which has been followed by the formation of a similar 13-member committee in the Senate as well. The committees are tasked with discussing, analysing and making recommendations regarding issues related to parliament, rules and procedure, and conduct of business.

While the committees get to work on their mandates, it is pertinent to examine the scope of the crisis parliament faces today. Over the years, a series of poor precedents have been set under successive governments that have greatly undermined its prestige and power. For example, it would be a big step towards restoring the prestige of parliament if our elected representatives agreed to stop constantly painting each other as the vilest villains to roam the earth. The executive and judiciary have remained shielded from the kind of continuous controversy that afflicts the legislature mainly because they do not air their members' dirty linen in public.

This, of course, should not be taken to mean less transparency and accountability; however, there is an urgent need to set some basic rules of engagement between political rivals.

Relatedly, there is a need to realise that parliament and its members must be respected regardless of who controls the government and who sits on the opposition benches. For example, parliament injures itself when it blacks out the speeches of some of its lawmakers. If parliamentary privileges protect all lawmakers' speeches on the floor of the House, then no power should be able to dictate which speeches can be heard by the public, and which cannot. It should be left to parliamentarians to bear responsibility for their words.

Secondly, those who champion parliamentary politics must also respect its procedures. Attempts to bulldoze major legislation through backdoor deals, with votes coerced out of unwilling lawmakers, undermines everything parliament stands for. Legislative activities must be open to scrutiny and debate — it is this transparency from which parliament derives its legitimacy and, ultimately, its power. Lastly, the effort to restore parliament's sanctity must not be predicated on the actions or words of any individual. It must rise above all political differences, no matter how serious, if it is to achieve its intended results.

One ummah

Qasim A. Moini

In the Holy Quran, in the Almighty's final message, as relayed to His beloved final Messenger, the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the Creator classifies believers as members of one ummah (community) as mentioned in Surah Muminun.

Of course, the Quran classifies mankind using different terms. For example, elsewhere (Surah Nisa), it is stated that humanity has been "created ... from one soul", highlighting the common origins of the human race.

Yet the ummah is a specific classification, bringing together all those who testify that there is no god but Allah, and that Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa is His last and final Messenger. In essence, while humanity is one tribe, the ummah is a smaller subgroup consisting of close 'relatives'. Therefore, when members of one part of the ummah are in distress, it should concern all other members of this 'family'.

Critics can question why such focus on members of the ummah, when Islam claims to be a universal religion, more so when the Holy Prophet, whose birth we are celebrating today, is described in the Quran as a "Mercy to the worlds". Indeed, we should be concerned when any part of humanity is suffering. But going back to the tribe/family analogy, while one would be concerned about troubles confronting those in one's neighbourhood or city, one would be most concerned when members of one's immediate family are in anguish.

Apart from the Quran, the need for believers to come to the aid of other believers is clearly mentioned in hadith literature. For example, in Biharul Anwar, it is stated that "if any believer comes to the aid

of one who is oppressed, that would be better than fasting for a whole month and performing i'tikaf in the Sacred Mosque". Similarly, in Sahih Bukhari, it is stated that "a Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should not oppress him, nor should he hand him over to an oppressor".

Where the suffering of Muslims is concerned, there are many vulnerable populations worldwide. For example, there has been no satisfactory resolution of the Rohingya's plight, as this stateless population continues to live in squalid refugee camps. Elsewhere, the people of Kashmir endure a brutal Indian occupation, while a vicious civil war in Sudan has disrupted life for millions. But perhaps no other Muslim population is enduring the hellish circumstances that the people of Gaza have been going through for the last year, due to Israel's genocidal assault.

Unfortunately, most members of the ummah living in comfort seem oblivious to Gaza's suffering. The terrified screams of its children do not move them; the numb bodies of its adults do not affect them. Surely, this lack of empathy for fellow believers in distress is diametrically opposed to the message of the Quran, and the teachings of the Holy Prophet.

While some Muslim governments have tried to raise the issue internationally and ostracise Israel for its vile behaviour, most rulers of Muslim-majority states seem unconcerned about Gaza's plight, other than issuing statements of condemnation. The 'Muslim street' — ordinary believers — on the other hand, is reacting in a variety of ways, including the boycott of brands seen as supportive of Israel, along with taking part in demonstrations to de-

Perverse third way

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Capitalism and socialism are the great global ideologies of our age. The word before 'ism' reflects the core logic running a system. So, under capitalism, the interests of private capital do so and subjugate all societal concerns. Private capital, profits, wage labour, etc — wrongly seen as capitalism's core — have actually existed forever. But as American sociologist Karl Polyani reminds us, capitalism emerged in the 17th century when capital's interests became dominant societally. Since then, it has given us efficiency and productivity, but also huge inequity, ecological damage and conflict.

Under socialism (a response to capital's ugly hold), common social interests rightly serve as the dominant concern. Communist states, though, wrongly equating capitalism's core with private capital, wage labour, etc, eradicate them, with poor results. Scandinavian states, seeing the sway of capitalist interests as the real problem, make social concerns paramount, but allow private capital to operate under them, with better results.

However, a few states (Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar, Sudan, Egypt, etc.) follow a perverse third way where military interests subjugate both capital and social interests in six key spheres. Their specific patterns vary much across such states. First, armies control ties with key states. Some, like Egypt, become clients of big states to ensure their own survival, while others, such as Sudan and Myanmar, have tense ties with the West. Some, like Pakistan, oscillate between the two extremes. But normal ties away from the two extremes are usually absent. Neither

extreme delivers good outcomes. Clientage results in a dependent, rent-seeking economy with little innovation and productivity. Tensions with the West results in isolation and the blockage of investment and technology flows.

Second, the economy suffers from other ills too. Security concerns often impede dynamic economic sectors, such as IT and social media. Some armies, as in Pakistan and Myanmar, control large parts of the economy and curtail the growth of the private sector there. Military businesses often thrive on state support that gives them monopoly or preferential access, thus distorting market processes. Resultantly, most such states have stagnant economies.

Third, security concerns dominate, and many states, like Pakistan, Myanmar and Sudan, have conflicts with their neighbours. This consumes huge state resources, diverting the states from development aims and isolating them regionally. Some, for example, Sudan and Pakistan, also employed non-state actors to pursue their security goals, which boomeranged as terrorism in Pakistan and state collapse in Sudan.

Fourth, politics is autocratic in such states. Militaries often rule directly or via thinly veiled hybrid regimes and undermine fairly elected set-ups. State institutions and entities, such as parliament, the judiciary and bureaucracy, are deliberately weakened and forced to toe the security establishment's line. In ethnically diverse states, the lack of democracy leads to ethnic tensions and rebellions and even state break-up, as in Sudan and Pakistan.

Fifth, some states

also manipulate social narratives to fan extremism in the service of security aims. This unleashes huge social problems, such as poor status of women and religious minorities, regressive attitudes towards science, vaccines and population control, and knee-jerk xenophobia.

Sixth, while raw military powers underpin such a system, the state is run via a powerful intelligence apparatus for so-called surveillance and control. Human rights abuses by spy agencies still abound.

Almost all such states do poorly. But Sudan is currently worst off, as ferocious battles between its army and a non-state ex-ally, involving tanks and planes, rage in the capital and countryside, something not seen even during decades of war against South Sudan and the Darfur rebels. Myanmar stands isolated and war-ravaged too. But beyond violence, the state that has been damaged most, going by the wide nature of damage inflicted, may be Pakistan. It may be the only one in the category to have suffered all the ills listed above and more.

Even worse, there is no sign of a transition to a better system, and the establishment's control appears to have been increasing rapidly since 2017. But given its diversity and huge challenges in every realm, Pakistan direly needs to change course quickly to avoid Sudan's fate. However, it must avoid a transition to neoliberal capitalism, where corporate hegemony replaces the military but follows similar policies. Only a model where common social interests dominate can save us from doom. --

Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt considers proposal to establish a new steel mill with Russian cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government is considering a proposal to establish a new steel mill in Karachi with Russian cooperation and the two countries agreed to form working groups to negotiate the project's details.

In this regard, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Russian Federation Alexey Gruzdev met with Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, said a news release here on Wednesday. The minister informed that the government has earmarked 700 acres land of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) for establishing a new Steel Mill.

He said despite being blessed with considerable reserves of iron ore (estimated reserves of 1887 million tons), Pakistan is importing around \$2.7 billion of iron and steel.

There is perpetual gap between domestic production and demand of iron and steel. For the last year, the gap is estimated at 3.1 million tons, he added.

Pakistan's per capita steel consumption level is below even those of developing countries indicating significant growth potential over medium and long term.

He said efficiency of Pakistan's steel industry is limited as it segmented (600 small units) and based on old inefficient

technology.

The proposed site is located at Karachi and is closed to Port Qasim that reduces cost of transportation of raw materials.

Pakistan's industrial and agricultural experts are set to visit Russia, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations.

During the meeting, they emphasized on balance trade between both countries. Rana Tanveer stressed the need for modern agricultural machinery to boost crop yields and enhance agricultural productivity.

He said the government will provides all the facilities to the Russian investor in the country.



The Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Russian Federation Aleksei Gruzdev meets with Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad.

Pak, Turkmenistan agrees for strengthening bilateral economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkmenistan on Wednesday agreed for strengthening bilateral economic and trade relations in potential sectors.

The Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss the enhancement of bilateral trade and explore avenues for increased cooperation between the two nations, said a press release issued here.

The meeting, held at the Commerce Minister's office, focused on finalizing key agreements and exploring new sectors for future collaboration.

Minister Jam Kamal emphasized the need for robust business-to-business (B2B) engagement to boost trade volumes between Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

He highlighted the untapped potential in various sectors including energy, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and construction materials.

Despite long-standing brotherly ties, trade between the two countries remains meager, and steps very essential to increase it.

A key focus of the conversation remained the expedited finalization of the Turkmenistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, which is expected to significantly enhance the movement of goods between the two nations.

This agreement will also improve cooperation in banking, customs, and trade transit operations.

Govt committed to resolve industry's issues; Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that the economic indicators show positive results and the country is moving in the right direction.

Addressing the Oath-taking ceremony of the All Pakistan Marble Industries Association here on Wednesday, he said that foreign investments showed remarkable confidence in the country's economy due to the tireless work of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and 2025 will be the

year of Pakistan's rise.

Rana said that the government was committed to resolving the industry's issues and was taking effective measures to address the industry's challenges, adding the transformation of the industry to technology-driven initiatives would positively impact the growth of the economy.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had set up a Gems and Stone Committee which would form a growth-oriented policy with the consultation of all stakeholders.



FAISALABAD: Voters casting their votes during the Elections of Chamber of Commerce in the city.

Cotton production drops by over 63pc

MULTAN (APP): Country's cotton production has dropped by 63.55 per cent this year, says the latest report by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), here on Wednesday.

By September 15, 2024, only 1.43 million bales have been produced which is a remarkable drop from 3.93 million bales during the same period last year. Punjab, the country's largest cotton-producing province, has seen a severe 65.13pc decline, with only 538,686 bales produced. In comparison, 1.54 million bales were produced by this time in 2023. The Sindh province has also faced a sharp reduction of 62.5pc, producing just

895,342 bales this year compared to 2.38 million bales last year. Balochistan, contributing the least, has managed to produce only 34,900 bales so far. According to cotton experts, the steep decline is being largely attributed to climate-related challenges. Record-breaking heat, pest infestations, and erratic rainfall have devastated crops in key growing regions. This year, heatwaves of up to 48°C scorched cotton fields across Punjab and Sindh and led to lower yields.

Similarly, continuous rains over the past two weeks in Sindh have further delayed cotton picking and it resulted in labour shortages and price.



LAHORE: A vendor displaying and selling the used toys on their handcart at Landa Bazar in the Provincial Capital.

RDA inflows rise to \$8.581 bn in August

ISLAMABAD (APP): The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$8.581 billion by the end of August 2024 as compared to US \$8.416 billion by July (2024) end. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during August were recorded at US\$165 million as compared to US\$ 161 million in July and US\$ 200 million in June 2024, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan.

The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 11,515 to 735,113 in August 2024 from 723,598 accounts in July 2024.

ADB delegation discusses Metro Bus Service

FAISALABAD (APP): A delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) called on Deputy Commissioner Capt (ret) Nadeem Nasir here on Wednesday and discussed the 'Faisalabad Quality Public Transport Network Report'.

Members of the delegation were Huma Daha, an expert in an urban transport system, Ashar Lodhi and Muhammad Mubashar Moeen.

A spokesman said all stakeholders are being taken on board to give practical shape to the project. On the instructions of the Punjab government, paperwork on the Metro Bus Service project under BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) is underway, added the spokesman.

FDA Director General Muhammad Asif Chaudhry, Chief Engineer FDA Mehr Ayub and others were present. The DG FDA briefed the delegation about the study report and a proposed plan for metro bus service.

Business activities soar at Sust Dry Port, boosting employment opportunities

GILGIT (APP): The Sust Dry Port at Pak-China border in Gilgit-Baltistan has witnessed a significant surge in business activities recently, with customs authorities collecting over 1.17 billion rupees in duty for the national treasury in just two weeks.

This increase in commercial activities has led to an uptick in employment opportunities in various sectors.

The Import-Export Association GB and Dry Fruit Association GB have expressed satisfaction with

the boost in business activities at Sust.

Chairman import and export Association GB Haji Liaquat Ali and other business leaders while talking to media here stated that thousands of people are employed in the Pakistan-China border trade and currently business activities at Sust Port are at an all-time high. They expressed that this has resulted in increased employment opportunities for traders, transporters, laborers, and other sectors.

Rupee gains 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.04 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.12.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.20 and Rs 280.70 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 18 paise to close at Rs 309.47 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.29, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

CM KP launches "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched an innovative portal "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" as an important initiative towards promoting good governance and addressing public issues in the province.

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has formally launched this newly developed portal at a ceremony held here at Civil Secretariat Peshawar on Wednesday.

The "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal is a robust and users-friendly digital platform that is now open for citizens to file complaints regarding their issues and grievances. This 24/7 portal will ensure a real time-tracking and

monitoring of public complaints regarding services delivery in public sector entities allowing for swift redressal and resolution. Overseas Pakistanis can also register their concerns and issues on this portal.

This inclusive platform featuring simplified complaint submission mechanism, multi-channel interaction, data security and privacy, citizen feedback loop, and AI-powered analytics and reporting, is available on mobile app, WhatsApp, email, telephone and written application, offering dashboards for all departments and officers, ensuring seamless coordination and swift implementation of government decisions.

Similarly, this pioneering initiative, fostering effective communication between the government and citizens, will also facilitate to increase transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the government.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur emphasized the portal's significance, stating, "The purpose of this portal is to provide immediate solutions to people's problems. We are empowering the people, because solving their problems is our priority." He assured that complaints will not be closed until the complainant is satisfied, reiterating the government's commitment to citizen-centric governance.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain laying the foundation stone of the project to build 19 centres of excellence in Government College of Technology here at Allama Iqbal Town.

27-km two-way road connecting Pakpattan to Sahiwal completed: Malik

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has delivered on yet another promise under the 'Punjab Khushhal' project, with the completion of a 27-kilometer two-way road connecting Pakpattan to Sahiwal.

This was stated by Punjab Minister for Communication and Works (C&W) Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth while talking to the media, here on Wednesday. He said the road was completed with Rs. 2.7 billion and was expected to serve between 20,000 to 25,000 vehicles daily.

This road is a critical infrastructure development, linking important locations including Malka Hans, Noorpur, Baba Farid's shrine, the GT Road, and the Motorway, thereby facilitating smoother travel and boosting local connectivity.

During a briefing with the Secretary of the C&W Department and other officials, it was disclosed that an additional 13-kilometer section is being constructed to further connect Sahiwal to nearby areas, with a budget of Rs. 1.4 billion.

ATC grants bail to TLP leader in two cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday granted bail to Maulana Muhammad Tahir Saifi, a leader of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), in two cases registered under terrorism charges for creating disturbances and damaging state property.

The court ordered the TLP leader to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 in each case.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed heard the post-arrest bail applications of the TLP leader. The petitioner's counsel argued that Murriddke police had registered two cases against his client in 2021, but he was arrested in the cases after a lapse of many years.

Eve-teaser arrested on CPO orders

FAISALABAD (APP): Rail Bazaar police have arrested an accused after CPO orders on charge of eve-teasing. Police spokesman said here on Wednesday that City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil had received complaints that a youth Majid was involved in habit of eve-teasing in the area of Rail Bazaar police station. Therefore, taking serious notice, the CPO directed the police to ensure immediate arrest of the accused and take him.

Chaudhry Shafay lays foundation stone of 19 centres of excellence

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain laid the foundation stone of the project to build 19 centres of excellence in Government College of Technology here at Allama Iqbal Town on Wednesday.

Under the project, Centres of Excellence will be established in 16 institutions of TEVTA and 3 institutions of Punjab Vocational and Training Council. With the support of Asian Development Bank, 19 centres of excellence will be built and the project will cost Rs. 5 billion.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that the plan to establish centres of excellence in Punjab is a milestone in the preparation of skilled manpower. Completion of the project will increase the efficiency and professional technical skills of these institutions. CETA based courses will be conducted on modern lines in all these centres of excellence. Chaudhry Shafay Hussain apprised that under this project, access to technical and vocational education will be easy. The youth will get decent employment opportunities.



LAHORE: Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Salman emphasises quality research in medical institutions

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has reiterated the government's commitment to promoting quality research across medical institutions in the province. He was speaking at the 15th syndicate meeting of Nishtar Medical University, which was held at the Department of Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the minister stressed the importance of completing the ongoing revamping project at Nishtar Hospital in Multan, instructing that it be finished on a priority basis. Earlier, the Nishtar Medical University registrar presented the meeting agenda, and the syndicate approved the creation of new faculty positions for professors and associate professors in the pharmacy college. Key officials, including Special Secretary Development Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Additional Secretary Finance Sidra Salim, and Deputy Secretary Hamad Al-Rab, joined via video conference. Punjab Assembly Member Fizza Maimunah, Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University Prof. Mahnaz Khakwani.

Fortifying provincial border checkpoints nearing completion: IGP

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said the mission to strengthen provincial border checkpoints is progressing towards completion. Addressing a video-link meeting at the Central Police Office on Wednesday, he emphasised that Punjab Police's border and riverine checkpoints were the first line of defence against terrorists.

"These checkpoints play a crucial role in combating smuggling and illegal activities," he said and added that prevention of weapon and terrorism material transport through

Taunsa Ghazi Ghat and Mithanwala bridge must be ensured, with timely and effective countermeasures based on ground realities and intelligence reports. He added that the riverine checkpoints were being further strengthened with modern resources and infrastructure development. Personnel at these checkpoints have been equipped with bulletproof vests, helmets, modern vehicles, and logistics. Dr. Usman Anwar also directed all DPOs to regularly inspect border and riverine checkpoints, and to improve the quality of facilities.

Name of KP speaker removed from PNIL; PHC disposes of writ petition

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Wednesday disposed of a writ on completion of Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Saleem regarding inclusion of his name in Pakistan National Identity List (PNIL). During the hearing on the petition, the bench comprising Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed was informed by the petitioner's counsel that the name of Babar Swati had been removed from the list.

Governor Kundi pays tribute to Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday issued a heartfelt message commemorating the anniversary of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto.

He emphasized that Murtaza Bhutto's contributions to democracy are unforgettable and highlighted his pivotal role in the struggle against authoritarianism.

In his statement, Governor Kundi remarked, "Mir Murtaza

Bhutto was a guiding light in the fight for democracy. His unwavering commitment to democratic ideals continues to inspire us today."

He further said that democratic forces acknowledge and honor the sacrifices made by Murtaza Bhutto in the pursuit of a just society.

Kundi's tribute reflects the ongoing recognition of Bhutto's legacy among those who champion democracy in Pakistan.



LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chairs the 15th syndicate meeting of Nishtar Medical University, held at the Department of Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education.

International News

Blinken warns against further Middle East escalation after Lebanon blasts

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday warned against the risk of escalation in the Middle East after the detonation of thousands of Hezbollah paggers threatened to derail his latest regional diplomacy push.

News of the blasts broke as the top U.S. diplomat traveled to Cairo to meet senior Egyptian officials hoping to advance efforts to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and improve ties with Egypt.

Militant group Hezbollah promised to retaliate against Israel, accusing it of detonating paggers across Lebanon on Tuesday killing at least 12 people, including two children, and wounding nearly 3,000. Israel has declined to respond to questions about the explosions. Asked about the blasts, Blinken said the

United States was still gathering facts but it was in no one's interest for conflict to spread.

"It's imperative that all parties refrain from any actions that could escalate the conflict," Blinken said at a news conference alongside his Egyptian counterpart.

He did not say who the U.S. believes was behind the blasts.

Item 1 of 6 U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends a U.S.-Egypt strategic dialogue with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty in Tahrir Palace in Cairo, Egypt.

Blinken said he was focused on securing a ceasefire deal that would bring calm, including to Israel's northern border with Lebanon, and that 15 out of 18 paragraphs of a deal

had been agreed by all sides.

Making progress involved long waits for messages to be passed between the parties that left time for incidents to disrupt the talks, Blinken said.

"We've seen that in the intervening time, you might have an event, an incident - something that makes the process more difficult, that threatens to slow it, stop it, derail it - and anything of that nature, by definition, is probably not good in terms of achieving the result that we want, which is the ceasefire," Blinken said.

He cited Hamas' execution of six Israeli hostages last month. He did not name Israel, which is believed to have targeted members of groups aligned against it in Lebanon, Syria and Iran that have set back the talks.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends a U.S.-Egypt strategic dialogue with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty in Tahrir Palace in Cairo, Egypt.

Hundreds wounded as Hezbollah hand-held radios detonate across Lebanon in new explosions

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Hand-held radios used by Lebanon's armed group Hezbollah detonated late on Wednesday afternoon across the country's south and in the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut, injuring hundreds, a security source and a witness said.

At least one of the blasts took place near a funeral organised by Hezbollah for those killed the previous day when thousands of paggers used by the group

exploded across the country.

The group said on Wednesday it had attacked Israeli artillery positions with rockets in the first strike at its arch-foe since pager blasts wounded thousands of its members in Lebanon and raised the prospect of a wider Middle East conflict.

The hand-held radios were purchased by Hezbollah five months ago, around the same time that the paggers were bought, said a security source.

China announces sanctions on US companies selling arms to self-ruled Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China on Wednesday announced sanctions on American companies selling arms to the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory and threatens to annex by force.

Chinese state media made the announcement, citing the Foreign Ministry, but gave no details on the companies involved. Taiwan is awaiting deliveries of F-16 fighter jets.

North Korea fires short-range ballistic missiles for second time in a week

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles on Wednesday toward its east coast, South Korea and Japan said, days after Pyongyang unveiled a uranium enrichment facility and vowed to beef up its nuclear arsenal. The missiles lifted off from Kaechon, north of the capital Pyongyang, at around 6:50 am (2150 GMT Tuesday) in a northeast direction and flew about 400 km.

Erdogan says Turkey will deepen ties with East while still facing West

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday that Turkey would not stop deepening ties with the East, including the BRICS group of nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), even as it continued to face West, Turkey, a NATO member, has in recent months voiced interest in joining the BRICS and SCO groups, both of which include China and Russia. This has stirred U.S. and European fears that Turkey may be pivoting away from its traditionally Western geopolitical orientation, despite repeated denials from Ankara.

Speaking at an event in Ankara, Erdogan said de-

bates over an "axis shift" were unfounded, but that Turkey had to adapt to new "centres of power" forming in the fields of economy, production, and technology, while keeping itself open to opportunities with every structure and actor.

"That is the approach that lies behind our country's will to expand the basis of dialogue with all of them, from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to BRICS and ASEAN," Erdogan said. "Of course, our face is turned to the West, but this certainly does not mean that we will turn our backs on the East, that we will ignore the East, or not improve our ties with the East," he added.

Finland's president wants end of single state veto at UN Security Council

Monitoring Desk
HELSINKI: Finland's President Alexander Stubb has called for expansion of the U.N. Security Council, abolition of its single state veto power, and suspension of any member engaging in an "illegal war" such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Stubb, who leads the Nordic nation's foreign policy, said he would add his voice to reform calls at next week's UN General Assembly in New York which is to discuss composition of the global body's Security Council.

Consisting of five permanent and 10 rotating member states, the council's brief is to keep global peace, but geopolitical rivalries have deadlocked it on issues from Ukraine to Gaza. Stubb said in an interview on Tuesday he would propose the number of permanent members be expanded from five to 10, with one more from Latin America, two from Africa and two from Asia.

"No single state should have veto power in the UN Security Council," he told Reuters.

The US, one of five veto-wielding nations with Russia, China, France and Britain, has also backed two permanent seats for Africa.

Stubb said any member engaging in an illegal war, "such as Russia is in right now in Ukraine", should be kicked off.

Moscow has justified its invasion of Ukraine by saying it is creating a buffer against Western aggression and taking territory that is historically Russia's.

Stubb said he knew his Security Council proposals were "beyond what is usually said from small member states", but added that the big nations would otherwise not propose weakening their own influence.

"So they talk the talk, but don't walk the walk," he said, adding he hoped others would help take the plan forward by the UN's 80th birthday next year.

Any changes to Security Council membership need approval by two thirds of the General Assembly, including the five veto powers.

Ukrainian drones strike a large military depot in a Russian town northwest of Moscow

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian drones struck a large military depot in a town deep inside Russia overnight, causing a huge blaze and prompting the evacuation of some local residents, a Ukrainian official and Russian news reports said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a senior U.S. diplomat said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recently announced — but still confidential — plan for winning the war "can work" and help end the conflict that is now in its third year.

Ukraine claimed the strike destroyed Russian military warehouses in Toropets, a town in Russia's Tver region about 380 kilometers (240 miles) northwest of Moscow and about 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the border with Ukraine.

The attack was carried

out by Ukraine's Security Service, along with Ukraine's Intelligence and Special Operations Forces, a Kyiv security official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the operation.

According to the official, the depot housed Iskander and Tochka-U missiles, as well as glide bombs and artillery shells. He said the facility caught fire in the strike and was burning across an area 6 kilometers (4 miles) wide.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti quoted regional authorities as saying air defense systems were working to repel a "massive drone attack" on Toropets, which has a population of around 11,000. The agency also reported a fire and the evacuation of some local residents.

Trump slams India as 'very big abuser' on trade but calls Modi 'fantastic'

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Former US president Donald Trump on Tuesday said that he plans to meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week during the latter's visit of the United States for several official events. During a campaign event in Michigan, Trump slammed India as a "very big abuser" on trade, but said Modi was "fantastic."

"He happens to be coming to meet me next week," Trump told the crowd without providing further details. Modi will be traveling this weekend to Wilmington, Delaware — President Joe Biden's hometown — as part of the "Quad Leaders" summit alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio.

Egypt won't accept security changes on Gaza border, foreign minister says

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egypt will not accept any changes to the security arrangements that were in place on its border with Gaza before war broke out between Israel and Hamas last October, the Egyptian foreign minister said on Wednesday.

Security on the border, and whether Israel will maintain a troop presence along a 14-km (9-mile) buffer zone known as the Philadelphi Corridor, have become a focal point of months-long talks aimed at securing a ceasefire and the

release of hostages in Gaza. Israeli troops entered the buffer zone in May as they pursued an offensive around Rafah, Egypt, which is a mediator in ceasefire talks, says Israel must withdraw and that a Palestinian presence needs to be restored at the Rafah crossing between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Gaza.

"Egypt reiterates its position, it rejects any military presence along the opposite side of the border crossing and the formation of a (Philadelphi) corridor."

Gillani urges unity to overcome challenges in Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on Wednesday said that the Islamic world had been facing numerous challenges, including injustices, oppression, and genocide being inflicted on the Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir, Myanmar and other conflict-ridden areas.

Addressing a conference in connection with the Eid-e-Milad un Nabi (SAW), he stressed the need to unite, set aside petty differences, and work together for peace and social and economic growth.

The conference, themed "The Prophet (PBUH) Brings Us Together Under the Banner of Hussain," was hosted by the Embassy of Iraq.

The Senate chairman highlighted that the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Hussain's (RA) sacrifice "call upon the Mus-

lims to stand united against injustice and uphold truth and justice".

He said that the theme of the conference was highly relevant, timely and resonant, "reminding us of the enduring legacy of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his grandson, Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA). "Together, their lives and sacrifices continue to inspire and unite the Muslim Ummah."

Gillani recounted how the Arabian Peninsula, once a backward society mired in ignorance and idolatry, was transformed by the light of Islam, which brought a message of Tauheed (Oneness of Allah), equality, and human dignity. He praised the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions in the plains of Karbala as a beacon of righteousness, standing against tyranny, oppression, and the corruption of Islamic values.



ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Federal Minister for Defence, Defence Production, and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

EC authorities tell commission If intra party election of PTI not accepted then its Org. structure will not exist

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has said if intra party election of PTI are not accepted then its organizational structure will remain no more. A 3-members commission under member Sindh of EC Nisar Durrani took up the case for hearing Wednesday. Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar appeared in the EC.

Member Balochistan inquired were the election of PTI held in Chamakni.

Barrister Gohar replied no Sir, elections were held in Islamabad too.

Barrister Gohar said we have to file documents. Time from one week to 10 days be given to us.

The bench inquired from EC authorities if we don't accept intra party election of PTI now too then what will be future.

DG political finance told the bench no organizational structure of party will remain any more.

The bench directed the authorities to provide assistance to them at this point.

Barrister Gohar said we too will assist you on this matter. EC had done what it could do on not holding intra party election.

Member KP inquired if even now too we don't accept PTI intra party election then we have powers to do what.



MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris shouting slogans at Azadi Chowk against the elections in Occupied Kashmir and demanding referendum.

Chief Minister gives thumbs up to administration, police, Levies as appreciation

Satisfactory arrangements on Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW)

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has given thumbs up to the district administration, Police and Levies force as appreciation on making satisfactory arrangements on occasion of the Jashne Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) in Quetta and other parts of the province.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the situation of law and order remained satisfactory on eve of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) in the province.

He commended the role of religious leaders saying that they extended

wholehearted cooperation to the police, levies and local administration. As a result of which, all programmes came to end all over the province peacefully, he noted with contentment.

The Chief Minister thanked the religious leaders on their mutual cooperation in this regard.

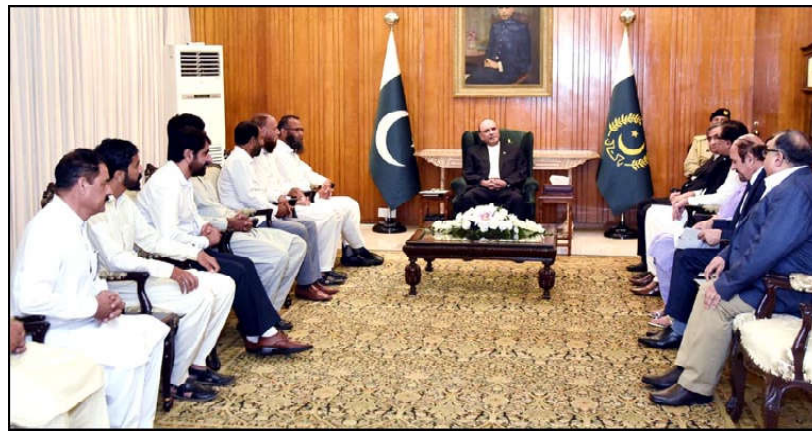
It may be mentioned here that Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) was celebrated with great religious respect and enthusiasm all over the province as elsewhere in the country. The processions were taken out and different other programmes were organized to mark the 12th Rabiul Awwal in the province.

Pashtoon political leaders appreciate Chaman parlat committee, labourers

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Pashtoon nationalist political leaders have praised the Chaman parlat committee and labourers for waging struggle for their rights in Chaman. They said that the ongoing protest sit-in for last one year proved the apathy and indifference of the rulers and they have nothing to do with issues of common men and labourers.

They said that people and labourers shouldn't

consider them alone in their struggle, rather voice is being raised for their rights everywhere in Pashtoon land. These views were expressed by the central Chairman Pashtoon khaw National Awami Party, Khushhal Khan Kakar, Provincial President of Awami National Party, Asghar Khan Achakzai, provincial coordinator of Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement, Noor Bacha, provincial president of National Democratic Movement.



A delegation of migrants from the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, led by Mr Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwān-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

UNGA adopts resolution demanding Israel end occupation of Palestinian territories in 12 months

Resolution receives 124 votes in favour, 43 abstain and Israel, the US, 12 others vote no; Saudi crown prince says kingdom will not recognise Israel without Palestinian state.

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday adopted a Palestinian-drafted resolution that demands Israel end "its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" within 12 months.

The resolution received 124 votes in favour, while 43 countries abstained and Israel, the United States and 12 others voted no.

The action isolates Israel days before world leaders travel to New York for their annual UN gathering. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is due to address the 193-member General Assembly on Sept. 26, the same day as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The resolution welcomes a July advisory opinion by the International

Court of Justice that said Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and settlements is illegal and should be withdrawn.

The advisory opinion - by the highest United Nations court, also known as the World Court - said this should be done "as rapidly as possible," although the General Assembly resolution imposes a 12-month deadline.

The General Assembly resolution also calls on states to "take steps towards ceasing the importation of any products originating in the Israeli settlements, as well as the provision or transfer of arms, munitions and related equipment to Israel ... where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they may be used in the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

The resolution is the

first to be formally put forward by the Palestinian Authority since it gained additional rights and privileges this month including a seat among UN members in the assembly hall and the right to propose draft resolutions.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield urged countries to vote no on Wednesday. Washington - an arms supplier to and ally of Israel - has long opposed unilateral measures that undermine the prospect of a two-state solution.

The ICJ advisory opinion is not binding but carries weight under international law and may weaken support for Israel. A General Assembly resolution also is not binding, but carries political weight. There is no veto power in the assembly.

DC Hub chairs meeting for implementation of Child Protection Act

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Hub Ruhana Gul Kakar chaired a meeting regarding the implementation of Child Protection act on Wednesday.

The focal person of Social Welfare Child Protection Unit Noreen and other officials participated in the meeting.

Issues related to strengthening the right of children to be protected from all forms of violence and exploitation through technical assistance from the District Administration in the Child Protection Program were discussed during the meeting.

During the meeting, the focal person drew the attention of the Deputy Commissioner, said that the absence of a shelter home and a safe protection for the affected children in Hub district is also a challenge.

She said that due to poverty, many parents are unable to afford their children's education expenses, so they send their children to work in factories and other places for extra wages but take it, children often face abuse during work.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

IHC stops trial court from announcing final decision in 190 million pounds reference

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped trial court from announcing final decision in 190 million pounds case.

The court has said in its decision trial court should complete its trial but it should not give final decision.

The court issued notice on the acquittal plea of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi.

The court while removing objections on both the applications directed registrar office to fix the case for hearing again on September 26.

Acquittal pleas of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi came up for hearing with objections in the court Wednesday.

A division bench of

IHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) Amir Farooq and Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the petition.

It has been requested in the petition the trial court be stopped from proceeding with the case ahead as long as it is in high court.

The IHC while accepting the plea stopped trial court from giving final decision in 190 million pounds case. Trial court should complete trial but should not give final decision.

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi had resorted to IHC for their acquittal in 190 million pounds NAB case.

Accountability court had rejected acquittal plea and its decision was challenged in IHC.



Pakistan Navy ship SHAMSHEER conducted passage exercise (PASSEX) with HMS LANCASTER during Regional Maritime Security Patrol.

Inter-Institutions Minister Education Throwball Tournament: Every possible steps to be taken to provide all kind of facilities to talented players: Imran Khan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Secretary Information Department, Imran Khan has assured that every possible measures to be taken to promote sports and provide all kind of facilities to the talented players of the province at provincial level.

The Secretary Information was addressing the closing ceremony of All Quetta Inter-Institutions Minister Education Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani Throwball League Tournament at the Ayub

Sports complex on Wednesday.

The Secretary Information, who also happens to be the Chairman of Balochistan Throwball Association (BTA), said that the young players can brighten the name of province and country by taking interest in the sports.

He said that it is our earnest desire and endeavour to provide all basic facilities to the young players so that they are able to excel in sports.

He also said that the provincial government is

mobilizing all resources for support of the sports and sportsmen in the province.

In the end, the Secretary Information distributed prizes among the players and officials.

Earlier, the team of Government Sabzal school defeated Killi Sheikhan school in the final and thus won the tournament.

The office bearers of the Throwball Association as well as officials of sports and education departments and participating teams were present on the occasion.

PM urges nation to shun hatred, extremism and culture of abuses

LAHORE (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that division is the agenda of anti-state elements therefore entire nations has to join hands against negative elements and it was need of the hour to reject the culture of hatred, extremism and abuses in the country. Speaking at a ceremony here to mark Eid Milad-un-Nabi on Tuesday, PM Shehbaz expressed concern over the growing use of abusive language and rising societal divisions. "We must live our lives by the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH), whose ethical treatment of even his enemies stands as a moral guide for us today," said Sharif. He described the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a pivotal moment that changed the course of human history, calling it a "mercy for all of humanity."

His care for orphans and the elderly, are enshrined in the Quran. Highlighting the ongoing struggles of Palestinians and the people of Occupied Kashmir, PM Sharif expressed hope for their eventual liberation. "The day will come when the people of Palestine and Occupied Kashmir will breathe in the air of freedom," he said.

PM Shehbaz Sharif stressed the need for unity in society highlighting the importance of protecting minority rights in line with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He called for an end to divisive and extremist behaviours, urging the nation to adopt ethical conduct inspired by the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

He added that the true propagation of Islam comes through actions aligned with the Prophet's (PBUH) teachings, calling on the nation to pledge to follow his example in eradicating nega-

tive attitudes.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that in today's turbulent era, mere reading about the life of Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) life is not enough rather "we must follow his teachings in letter and spirit".

The solutions to the current era challenges was only in completely following the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) vision and principles, he said in his message on 12th Rabiul Awwal, 1446. The prime minister extended greetings to the entire Muslim Ummah, especially the people of Pakistan, on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) - the birth anniversary of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

He urged the nation to follow the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), emphasizing support for the vulnerable, prioritizing those struggling with poverty and hunger.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani presiding over joint meeting of University Finance Commission

Doors of Chief Minister's Secretariat opened for general public: Govt.'s employees are public servants, responsible for resolving problems: CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that the government employees are public servants and they are responsible for resolving their issues.

He said that it is decided that the public issues would have to be resolved any way by stopping to bothering the people in the government institutions.

He warned that the officers and other employees creating hurdles in resolving the genuine public issues wouldn't be spared.

He said that common men want to resolve one's problems and they have lot of expectations with the government as such we are working with dedication to

come up to their expectations.

In this regard, the government employees have to play their active role for resolving the public issues at the lower level while supporting the government with sincerity and honesty.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the public delegations who visited the Chief Minister's Secretariat and met him on Wednesday.

The common men belonging to different walks of life visited the Chief Minister's Secretariat for its doors were opened.

The common people coming from remote areas of the province met the Chief Minister and apprised him about their issues.

The Chief Minister issued on the spot directives to concerned authorities to resolve the issues.

Speaking to the public delegations, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that sustainable solution can be found to the public issues by improving governance.

He said that the common men are deprived of the basic facilities including health and education and they are facing different issues and hardships.

The Chief Minister said that if the institutions established for the public interests may play effective role as per their mandate, then 90 percent of the issues can be resolved at the local level. He stressed that every official has to perform to serve the general public.

Governor condoles death of Sarfraz Domki with bereaved family

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail condole the death of the Lehri tribal chief and Provincial Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Khan Domki at Lehri on Wednesday.

The former Chairman Senate, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Parliamentary Secretary, Barkat Rind were also accompanied the Governor during visit to Lehri House for condolence.

The Governor and others condole the death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki with his bereaved family members, son, brother and others.

They also offered fatha for the departed soul.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Sardar Faisal Jamali and Parliamentary Secretary Sanjay Kumar meeting with Parliamentary Secretary S&GAD Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri

Education Dept. initiates action against absentee teachers in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Education Department, Government of Balochistan has initiated action against the absentee government teachers in the province. According to the sources of Provincial Education Department, the departmental action has been initiated against as many as 2021 absentee teachers.

The sources informed that 14 absentee teachers have been dismissed from the service with immediate effect. Moreover, show cause notices have been issued to 998 teachers while explanation letters have been issued to 429 absentee teachers in different parts of the province. Besides, services of 78 teachers have been placed under suspension in the province, the sources of Education Department maintained.

Universities Finance Commission unanimously approves formula of funds distribution universities

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan Universities Finance Commission has unanimously approved the formula of distribution of funds for the universities.

The Commission was also agreed on the separate DDOs for the sub campuses of universities.

The Universities Finance Commission met with the Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Minister

for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durrani in the chair here on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary Higher Education, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, Special Secretary Finance, Aurangzeb Kasi and the Vice Chancellors of public sector universities of the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Finance said that our government attaches top priority to edu-

cation and as such is taking concrete steps for its promotion. He said that no conscious person can deny the importance of science and information technology in present era.

The Provincial Ministers and other participants stressed the need to improve performance of the universities further.

They asserted that no negligence would be tolerated in the educational activities of the students.



GWADAR: MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman inaugurating Biometric Security System of Gwadar Port. Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Passand Khan Buledi is also present.