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PM Shehbaz lauds KSA's support for economic revival

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to enhance bilateral trade, investment

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday highlighting the importance of deep-rooted brotherly relations between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, appreciated Kingdom's support for the economic revival and stability.

The prime minister met with Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud on the sidelines of the eighth session of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The two leaders took

stock of the ongoing bilateral engagements, especially in follow up to the decisions taken in previous high-level meetings held in Makkah and Riyadh in April.

Apprising the crown prince on the government of Pakistan's economic, institutional and policy reforms agenda, the prime minister said that the Kingdom had a central role in Pakistan's future economic plans. The prime minister appreciated Kingdom's efforts to promote regional peace and stability in the Middle East and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to stand by the Kingdom in these efforts.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of Future Investment Initiative Forum.

Gas companies seek up to 53% price hike from July 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): Another inflationary blow seems imminent as gas companies have requested to increase Sui gas prices by up to 53%, effective from July 1, 2024.

Sui gas prices are expected to rise by 53.47% for Sindh and Balochistan, while for Punjab, Islamabad, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the proposed increase is 3.66%.

The Sui gas companies have submitted their applications to the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to increase the gas prices from the back date.

Sui Northern has proposed an average price increase of Rs 64.16 per MMBTU, raising the average rate to Rs 1,810.38 per MMBTU.

COAS reiterates Pakistan's commitment to strengthening traditional defense ties with Russia

RAWALPINDI (Online): General Fomin commended the Pakistan Army's achievements in combating terrorism and highlighted the importance of a unified, cooperative approach among the global community to counter extremism.

Meanwhile, a high level delegation led by Deputy Defence Minister of the Russian Federation, Colonel General Aleksandr V. Fomin called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters here on Tuesday. The meeting remained focused on bolstering military cooperation and industrial collaboration between the two sides.

Global peace without end to Gaza bloodshed out of question: PM

Calls for collective global collaboration in realms of AI, education, health to overcome present-day challenges



RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, while underscoring the importance of knowledge-based economy driven by innovation in domains of artificial intelligence, education and health, called for collective global efforts and partnerships to overcome the contemporary challenges.

He said that no nation could overcome today's challenges alone and no single country could harness the potential of tomorrow without the support of others. "Pakistan stands ready to join those who dare to dream big. We invite you to invest, to bring your expertise and creativity to Pakistan, as we build a future, rooted in resilience and shared prosper-

ity," the prime minister said during his address at the plenary session of the 8th edition of two-day Future Investment Initiative (FII) held here. The prime minister said that he was elated to share that Pakistan, too, was on a transformative journey; a journey of resilience, sacrifice, and a relentless pursuit of stability and growth.

Attended by global leaders, this year's FII is themed "Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow" and focuses on global investments aimed at addressing major issues such as artificial intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, finance, healthcare, and sustainability.

The participating countries engage in the dialogue for the promotion of investment and a sustainable future while highlighting the strength of their respective economies. The FII conference featured discussions on artificial intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, public health, and challenges, confronting sustainable development. The prime minister, citing future course, said Pakistan was laying the foundation for a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation in three pivotal domains, artificial intelligence, education,



QUETTA: A delegation of PML-N MPs led by Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Khosa meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Cop martyred; 3 terrorists killed in polio team attack in Orakzai

PESHAWAR (APP): In an attack on police, escorting an anti-polio team in Upper Orakzai on Tuesday, a policeman was martyred while three of the terrorists were eliminated in retaliatory firing by the Frontier Corps.

SDPO, Upper Orakzai, Muhammad Rahim said the incident took place in Dabori Badan area of Upper Orakzai where terrorists attacked an anti-polio team, and martyred a policeman, Sayyed Hameed. Another cop, Muzammil sustained bullet injury in the attack. The injured cop was shifted to DHQ Hospital Orakzai by the police.

However, the jaws of Frontier Corps swiftly responded to the attack and eliminated three of the terrorists and arrested another in injured condition.

Pak-Iran border opened for 45-day thanks to Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: In a significant development, the Pak-Iran border has been opened after a long time at Taftan thanks to the untiring efforts made by the Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

According to an official handout issued here on Tuesday, the Governor Balochistan was making endeavours for opening the Taftan border. And now the border has been opened for 45 days, mentioned in the official release.

The very initiative has won the hearts of people especially the traders community and zayreen.

They have also thanked the Governor from core of their hearts.

Sarfraz Bugti condemns Paroom firing incident: Terrorists opponent of dev. & peace, followers of anti state elements: CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has condemned the incident of firing in Paroom area of Panjgur.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the incident of terrorism is unforgivable and condemnable.

He said that the terrorist are opponents of the development and peace and are the followers of anti-state elements.

The Chief Minister also said that peace and development is just irritating the enemies.

However, the terrorists can never get success

in their nefarious designs. While slamming the terrorism act, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that terrorists are cowards, who targeted the innocent persons in the darkness of night.

He said that the terrorists would not be spared and they have to be accountable for the bloodshed of the innocent people.

He asserted that the terrorists involved in the incident would be taken to task. The Chief Minister expressed sorrow with the bereaved families of the martyrs. He also prayed that may Allah Almighty give the bereaved families enough strength and patience to bear the loss of precious lives.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President BNP-Mengal Sajid Tareen Advocate, Former federal Minister Agha Hassan Baloch and former MNA Mir Muhammad Hashim Notezai addressing a Press Conference at NPC.

Sajid Tareen says: Senators Ranjho, Naseema expelled from BNP-Mengal for violating party policy

ISLAMABAD / QUETTA (Online) - Sajid Tareen Advocate, the acting central president of the Balochistan National Party (BNP), announced the expulsion of Senators Qasim Ranjho and Naseema Ehsan Shah from the party due to their violation of party policy and support for a controversial constitutional bill. During a press conference at the Islamabad Press Club, Tareen was accompa-

nied by former federal ministers Agha Hassan Baloch and central committee member Haji Hashim Notezi. He stated that the decision to expel both senators was made after consulting with party leader and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, and other party leaders. Tareen criticized both senators for their betrayal, stating they provided facilitation.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with Colonel General Aleksandr V. Fomin, Deputy Defence Minister of the Russian Federation during meeting held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Five labourers killed, two others injured in terrorists attack at Paroom dam

President, PM condemn terrorist attack on workers at Panjgur dam site

Independent Report QUETTA / ISLAMABAD: Five workers were ambushed to death and two others got injured in terrorists attack at the dam in Paroom area of Panjgur in wee hours of Tuesday.

The spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind confirmed that five workers engaged in the look after work of the dam in Paroom were killed while

two others injured when unknown armed assailants attacked the site with weapons. He said that local people were targeted in the attack. The armed assailants fled from the scene after the attack. According to the spokesman, the dead bodies of deceased persons and injured were shifted to the local hospital.

The condition of both injured workers is stable and out of danger.

DPM Dar says: Pakistan committed to CPEC-II to deepen agri, industrial cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Tuesday calling the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a "wonderful gift" of China to Pakistan, said that his country was committed to taking the project to the next level to deepen cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industrialization, renewable

energy and others. The deputy prime minister in his remarks at the International Conference "China at 75: A Journey of Progress, Transformation and Global Leadership" said that being the symbol of China-Pakistan cooperation, CPEC helped uplift the country's energy infrastructure to address the load-shedding woes.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with members during 12th Senate session of BUITEMS.

Governor Balochistan says: Govt ready to set new avenues of future, move on path of scientific development

Mandokhail insists we have to decide in all public sector universities keeping in view modern requirements and needs of 21st century

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that we have to make decision in all public sector universities keeping in view the modern requirements and needs of the 21st century that which departments and faculties are to be closed and which new

ones are to be introduced there. This wise initiative would not only increase our relevancy but it would also promote mutual understanding between the academy and market while adopting new changes.

This means that we are ready to set new avenues of future, move on the passage of scientific development and empower our fu-

ture builders. The Governor was chairing the 12th Senate meeting of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) here on Tuesday. Those who were present in the meeting were included: Judge of the High Court, Mr. Justice Aamir Nawaz Rana, Provincial Minister for Education.

Independent group's Rauf Atta elected president of SCBA

SC bar elects best person as its President: Atta Tarar

QUETTA / ISLAMABAD (Online): In the annual elections of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Mian Rauf Atta Advocate of the Independent Group, backed by Asma Jahangir's faction, emerged victorious over Munir Ahmed Kakar Advocate of the Professional Group led by Hamid Khan. Polling took place across the country, including in Quetta on Tuesday.

According to unofficial results, Mian Rauf Atta

Advocate secured 1,270 votes, clinching the position of SCBA President, while Munir Ahmed Kakar received 1,155 votes. Rauf Atta Advocate received backing from political entities including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Pakistan Muslim League (N), and Pakistan People's Party. Vote distribution revealed regional support differences: in Quetta, Rauf Atta received 70 votes to Kakar's 120; in Peshawar,



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bkhat Muhammad Kakar inaugurates ICU Cardiac Surgery at Civil Hospital.

Minister Health inaugurates Cardiac Surgery's ICU in Sandeman Hospital

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar inaugurated the Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (ICU) established in the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital here on Tuesday.

The Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Hospital, Dr. Noorullah Musakhail, cardiologist from USA, Dr. Usman, Chief of Taragee Foundation, Amjad Rasheed, provincial Head of Alfalah Bank, Sanaullah and other concerned high ups were

present on the occasion. It may be mentioned here that the repair and renovation of the Cardiac Surgery ICU was done by the Taragee Foundation and Alfalah Bank.

Addressing the ceremony, Provincial Minister said that it is our priority to facilitate the patients in hospitals by extending them all necessary healthcare facilities there.

He appreciated the role of Taragee Foundation and Bank Alfalah in improving the healthcare facilities in the hospitals.

Four killed, 5 injured near Sibi traffic accident

QUETTA (APP): Four persons were killed and five others sustained injuries in a traffic accident that took place near Sibi road, TV channels quoting Rescue sources reported on Tuesday. According to initial reports, a rashly-driven van hit a truck coming from opposite direction, resulted in killing of four persons on the spot. The five other persons were also injured in the same incident.

Rescue and Police team rushed to the site and shifted the dead and injured to Sibi district headquarter hospital.



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

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Regional trade

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb was correct in saying that not trading with your neighbours makes little sense.

In Pakistan's context, trade with regional states is negligible, and South Asia remains one of the least integrated regions in the world. Mr Aurangzeb was replying to a question at an event in Washington, and observed that while "political" and "geopolitical" issues were beyond his purview, Pakistan sought to expand its trade relations. He pointed out that this was one of the key reasons for joining the SCO, and seeking membership to BRICS.

Indeed, trade can be a key conduit to bring states closer and reduce tensions and conflict. But in Pakistan's case, the biggest obstacle standing in the way of greater regional commerce is its long-time strained relationship with India. Yet it is also true that if Pakistan and India were to improve trade ties, better bilateral ties could develop across the spectrum.

The ruling PML-N, with its 'pro-business' outlook, has historically always argued for better trade ties with India. Both the prime minister and the foreign minister have earlier expressed the desire to improve trade ties with our eastern neighbour, hence there is nothing novel in what the finance minister suggested in Washington. The issue is that important stakeholders within the state must be on board if there is to be a normalisation of trade ties.

For example, despite the elected leadership's enthusiasm for trade with India, the Foreign Office had clarified in August that normalisation of commercial ties with Delhi was not on the agenda. This indicated that influential quarters were not overly enthused with the idea of trading with India. Cross-border commerce was suspended in 2019, after the abrogation of held Kashmir's limited autonomy by India, though it has resumed slightly, while smuggling and indirect trade through the UAE continue.

For its own economic interests, Pakistan should trade with India, Afghanistan, Iran and all other regional states. With reference to India, though it is the larger economy, cross-border trade can offer Pakistani businesses new markets in India, while Delhi can tap Central Asian markets by transiting through Pakistan. If done right, restored trade relations can also open the door to better bilateral ties. But for proper commercial ties to flourish, other ancillary facilities — a friendlier visa regime, direct flights, and banking channels — will be essential. It remains to be seen whether hardliners in the Indian capital would be willing to resume trade with Pakistan, while powerful quarters in this country must also be on board for cross-border trade to succeed. A blueprint for normalising trade finalised in 2012 can be used as a reference point to start the process afresh. As witnessed in other regions, economic interdependence can significantly help reduce chances of conflict.

Imbalance of power

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Power is a double-edged sword. It corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. But it produces order as well. Without power, there is chaos. Eschewing absolute power in the hands of a few, the sages suggest a balance of power with checks and balances, one that is diffused vertically and horizontally among state organs. Power must be legitimate to reduce violations and revolt.

But we have long blithely ignored such wisdom. The 2008-18 era had witnessed progress. But the last two years under the PML-N/ PPP have seen a huge reversal of this progress, with power illegitimately sucked upwards vertically and inwards horizontally. This concentration and illegitimacy of power in a diverse, complex and large state bodes ill for stability and peace.

We had earlier devolved power. Sadly, local bodies today are even more in a state of limbo than previously. Even the provinces have lost powers they had won via the 18th Amendment, due to fiscal cuts, court verdicts and the informal sway of an omnipotent centre. The centre dominates the peripheries such as Balochistan and the former Fata areas, leading to local ire, revolt and violence.

We now see autonomous entities being defanged: the ECP and NAB earlier and the higher courts now in the name of parliamentary, but in reality executive, sway. In parliamentary systems, executives come from parliaments. So, it's easy to confuse the executive and parliamentary dominance. True parliamentary sway in hiring judges means legislators in cabinets, not sitting in appointing

committees, which also have cross-aisle parity and follow Article 63-A's party discipline provisions.

A two-stage system with open applications and clear merit criteria is best where legal acies (judges, ex-judges, bar council heads and legal academics) first vet the applicants. Parliament rechecks their decisions, rejecting the nominees only if both aisles agree. This ensures that decisions don't reflect narrow executive concerns but those based on merit. We had a system like this, with its easily fixable gaps being lack of merit criteria and open applications. Instead of fixing them, we adopted an opaque, non-merit, executive-run system.

Some people present long lists of post-2009 judiciary ills — oddly without a proper 'before versus after' review — to argue that 'free' courts caused us harm and deserve their fate. The logic mimics the clichéd one that democracy causes harm. Judicial freedom is a big part of democracy and basic rights such as fair trials; undoing it undoes democracy as well as basic rights of which we have had little experience.

A free judiciary forms slowly when it's not hired by executives but emerges through a process of merit that employs able judges who do not succumb to pressure and who curb personal biases. It is strengthened by formal laws that enhance court freedoms and when agencies don't hound judges. The only formal freedom courts got briefly was the one via the 19th Amendment. So, the blame for the judiciary's many ills goes to the old system when its current old guard leadership was first hired long ago by executives on mainly political grounds.

It is unsurprising if some judges misused the informal space. We are sadly back to that system. But the fruits of limited formal freedom will surely emerge once able judges hired in the high courts via the 19th Amendment adorn the judicial leadership. Six such judges have already shown unprecedented guts in their recent letter against the agencies, which many say spurred the apex court's judges to rule rightly against regime interests on reserved seats. So, the courts are being chained not for old wrongs but present resolve.

This sucking of power upwards and inwards should mean a muscular, omnipotent ex-cutive in Islamabad. Oddly, we see an emaciated one. Where did all the inflow of power go? Wise ones talk in hushed tones of the establishment.

This then is our power (im)balance: top-stuffed, illegitimate and opaque. Diverse and autarkic groups in large and complex states chafe at such power traits and pursue legal, peaceful avenues against them.

But they are all being shut with courts defanged, parliament disabled, media silenced and protests crushed. Unfortunately, in this case, legitimate gripes erupt in ugly forms: crime, mob rage attacks or terrorism. Nearby Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have shown the power of huge upheaval. Earlier years showed our struggles in conflict despite armed power, even against ragtag militants. The future will show if our muscles can curb upheaval. The right way lies in renewing power legitimacy and diffusion. But when power lies elsewhere, more sensible and complex ways evade rulers quite easily. — Courtesy Dawn

Essential judgments

Parvez Rahim

While almost all employers in Pakistan engage third-party contractors to carry out some or most of their work, many are not aware as to what type of work they can safely contract out and how the job will be managed administratively.

Human resource professionals had believed that core jobs in the office or factory operations should not be assigned to contractors' employees. Such jobs required constant supervision by the company's staff, which provided an opportunity for the contractors' employees to claim the status of the principal employer's workers. The experts believed that ancillary services, or non-core jobs, such as housekeeping, gardening or canteen operations, could be safely contracted out as supervision by the company personnel was not required.

However, due to a spate of Supreme Court judgments, employers now feel it has become risky to outsource even support services. The provisions of the draft labour codes have triggered caution because they state that permanent jobs cannot be contracted out. Nevertheless, a perusal of three SC judgments, since the 2013 landmark judgment in the Fauji Fertiliser Company (FFC) case, reveals that none of them bars ancillary services' outsourcing. These judgments establish the principle that employees hired through contractors and working with the company's own staff under the same supervision are the latter's employees and not the contractor's.

In a landmark SC judgment on May 16, 2013, then chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry confirmed the status of 112 workers of the bagging and loading section as

FFC's employees and not of the contractor. The reasons were valid: 1) The authority to hire and fire, including settlement of wages and benefits of the contractor's workers rested with the company; 2) their work was supervised, controlled and looked after by the in-charge of the bagging department and his subordinate staff/ supervisors; 3) these workers had been continuously in the employment of the company for a long time; 4) they were also responsible for cleaning the machines and floors.

Prior to the judgment, this case had been pending in the lower courts for over two decades. FFC had purchased a plant at Mirpur Mathelo in Sindh from the Pak-Saudi Fertiliser Company, a state enterprise. The intention was to manage the plant professionally. But erasing irregular practices required time.

The bagging and loading section was considered the most manpower-intensive area in a fertiliser plant. Another fertiliser plant of an American company at Daharki where I worked till 1982 was grappling with a similar situation. It was acquired by the Engro Fertiliser Company. When I visited it more than two decades later, I was amazed to see that the huge bagging and shipping area was now fully automated. Even the loading of urea bags on trucks was mechanised.

In the second SC judgment on Dec 8, 2017, a three-judge bench headed by chief justice Mian Saqib Nisar regularised the services of 210 employees at Pakistan State Oil. During the hearing, the top judge observed that unfortunately, companies, including large enterprises, do not regularise their employees. In fact, the hiring was carried out

through the contractor. The court also noted that it was sad that companies do not bother to own their workers. Instead of granting workers their rights, the companies file cases to avoid doing so. Some of the contractors' employees had been in service since 1984.

In the third SC judgment on April 4, 2024, the services of 20 employees, allegedly employed by contractors, were confirmed at IFFCO Pakistan (Private) Ltd, the user company. The judges stated "there is no bar to contract out the whole job, or in bits and pieces, to the outsource contractor, including human resource, within its own premises or through toll manufacturing agreements, but what is crucial is that the outsourcing should not be used as a weapon of circumvention of labour laws by means of sham agreements".

There is a common factor in the aforementioned judgments: the supervision and control of the employees hired through the contractors and regularised by the SC rested with user companies. Employers must bear in mind that they need to avoid hiring employees through contractors to save on costs or to retain the right to terminate their employment at will.

The judgment in IFFCO's case is significant as it clearly spells out the outsourcing of jobs in totality or partly, provided a lawfully executed agreement is complied with in letter and spirit.

The employers should honour such verdicts by ensuring that the contractors abide by the labour laws applicable to the establishment, and secure social security and pension schemes for their employees. — Courtesy Dawn

National News

Governor Punjab credits President Zardari for stable coalition govt in country

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that positive criticism was meant for improvement of the government's performance. He credited President Asif Ali Zardari for a stable current coalition government.

"Pakistan People's Party always plays its positive role when the country faces challenges of national integrity and dignity", he said and added that the credit goes to President Asif Ali Zardari for present stable coalition government. The governor remarked this during his address at the 8th annual session of Ghulam Rabbani

Qureshi Welfare Foundation (GRQWF) in Kahuta here Tuesday.

He said that education and health were the responsibility of the government, but unfortunately, the past governments did not pay attention to it. He further said that government owned schools should not be privatized.

"Where there is a shortage of staff, the government should fill this shortage", he maintained. Appreciating the dialysis center and the health facility being provided to the poor by the GRQWF in Kahuta, the governor said that people should come ahead

to serve the needy segments of the society. He said that the poor are treated free of cost in Sindh province. He informed the audience that a dialysis center would soon be established at Tehsil Hospital Pindi Gheb, Attock. A large number of people including former federal minister Mehreen Anwar Raja and former MNA Ghulam Murtaza Sati participated in the ceremony.

The Governor Punjab visited Al-Fateh Women Vocational Free Technical Center, Computer Lab, Laboratory, Free Kidney and Dialysis Center and other departments established in GRQWF.



LAHORE: Participants are holding Breast Cancer Awareness Walk organized by Lahore Press Club Administration, held in Lahore.

Swedish envoy, CM agrees to strengthen cooperation

LAHORE (APP): Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan Alexandra Berg von Linde called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif here on Tuesday.

The meeting explored avenues for strengthening bilateral relations. The discussions focused on potential collaboration in various sectors, including education, health, IT, agriculture, trade, and environmental sustainability, with an emphasis on creating a

conducive investment climate in Punjab.

CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized a strong focus on agriculture and support for farmers, stating, "There is a favorable environment for investment in Punjab." She assured investors that they can invest in the province without fear of risk.

The Swedish ambassador commended the Punjab government's initiatives to protect minority and women's rights.

KP Govt forms body to appoint VCs in universities

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has formed Academic Search Committee to appoint Vice Chancellors in public sector universities of the province. A notification issued said that Professor Abdullah Malik had been appointed as the convener of committee while the other members included Anwar-ul-Hasan Gilani, Muhammad Aslam Baig and Dr Sara Safdar while the secretary of higher education department had been appointed as secretary of the committee.

Smog engulfs Multan, disrupts routine life

MULTAN (APP): Early morning smog blanketed Multan and surrounding areas, intensifying pollution and disrupting daily life. According to Deputy Director Meteorological Department, Muhammad Arshad, the smog index hit 226 on Tuesday, with a further rise expected over the next two weeks.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the meeting of Pakistan Red Crescent Society Merged Districts Branch at Governor House.

Minister attends 25th COTHM convocation

LAHORE (APP): COTHM (Global UK) organised its annual 25th convocation on Tuesday at Golden Pearl Hall, Faletti's Hotel, in which Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora participated as the chief guest.

A large number of students of various programmes, including hospitality, culinary arts, baking & patisserie and travel & tourism management were awarded appreciation certificates and medals. In his address, Ramesh Singh Arora congratulated all graduating

students, emphasizing that their achievements are a result of their hard work, prayers of their parents, and the blessings of Allah.

He lauded the role of COTHM in leading the youth towards economic empowerment through meaningful education and training. He said that COTHM does not just prepare graduates equipped with market-driven skills but also produces graduates who are able to discover their own identity and serve the hospitality, travel and tourism industry in true sense of the word.

PITB, Al-Khidmat signs MoU

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to empower women with digital and entrepreneurial skills. In this regard, an Al-Khidmat Foundation delegation visited PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf, marking a significant step towards fostering inclusive growth within Pakistan's digital ecosystem.

PITB Director General (DG) e-Governance Sajid Latif and Al-Khidmat Foundation Lahore President Engr Ahmad Hammad Rashid signed the MoU on behalf of

their respective organizations. Key participants included PITB Director Skills Development Chaudhary Ahmad Islam, Al-Khidmat's Director BanoQabil Program Lahore Dr. Usman Afzal, and Regional Head VMD Al-Khidmat Foundation Lahore Moawiz Bin Tahir.

As part of the MoU, PITB will provide Al-Khidmat Foundation with a database of high-achieving and deserving female students from its SheWins program. Al-Khidmat Foundation will support these students by offering interest-free financing for essential digital tools, including laptops and mobile phones.

Kundi for promotion of merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday urged the development of a comprehensive operational proposal to attract donor funding, highlighting that the Red Crescent should actively engage in fostering interest among potential donors regarding the merged districts.

He said this in a meeting of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) merged districts chapter was convened at the Governor's House. The meeting included participation from the chairman, Imran Wazir, Vice President Farzand Wazir, members of the

managing committee, and various officials.

During the session, comprehensive briefings were provided on the objectives, duties, financial management, and administrative matters of the merged districts branch.

Key discussions focused on the availability of relief supplies for natural disaster response, annual income and expenditures, securing funds from donors, and the importance of volunteer services. Governor Kundi emphasized the effective use of PRCS-managed properties and the necessity of utilizing funds responsibly.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora distributing certificates amongst the students during annual convocation.

Opposition decries worsening law, order situation in merged areas, demand to convene APC

PESHAWAR (APP): Opposition parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Tuesday demanded to convene All Parties Conference (APC) to ponder over the deteriorating law and order situation in merged areas and to address feelings of insecurity among people.

The proceedings of the day were presided over by Muhammad Idris of Panel of Chairman. Opposition benches demanded convening of APC to deliberate over law and order situation while treasury benches stressed to form a full house committee to assess the situation. Parliamentary leader of Awami National

Party, Arbab Usman said that incidents of insurgency had been increased in merged districts during last two months and writ of government was being challenged time and time again. He suggested a meeting of APC and a visit of parliamentarians to meet members of affected families and express solidarity with them.

He also questioned delay in investigation of attack on Bara Check Post and said that compensation amount should be paid to heirs of martyred. Ahmad Kundi of PPP said that insurgency was not confined to district Khyber but whole province is affected by these incidents.

Maritime Minister lauds China's economic model, strengthens bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh, on Tuesday emphasized China's economic model as a global example during a recent conference, underscoring the strengthening partnership between Pakistan and China.

Addressing the conference "China at 75: A Journey of Progress, Transformation & Global Leadership," organized by the Pak-China Institute, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh praised China's economic approach, which he said surpasses Western liberal and neo-liberal models. He highlighted the Chinese

economic model as an ideal for other countries, adding that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also inspired by this approach.

The minister discussed the strengthening strategic partnership between Pakistan and China, noting that the two nations consistently support each other in international fora, a reflection of their close ties. He expressed optimism about the completion of Phase II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with China's continued support and thanked the Chinese government for prioritizing Pakistan within South Asia.

PCCC, CEMB to collaborate on cotton research

MULTAN (APP): The Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) and Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB) have agreed on a joint proposal to advance cotton research and development in Pakistan.

The initiative was agreed between Dr. Yusuf Zafar who represented PCCC, and Dr. Abdul Qayyum, on behalf of CEMB.

Under this proposal, the PCCC will supply valuable genetic material, while CEMB would contribute cutting-edge gene technology to support research. Together, both institutions aim to develop cotton varieties with higher yield potential that can withstand climate challenges. This initiative would surely modernize Pakistan's cotton sector, boosting economic resilience. Dr. Yousaf Zafar highlighted the partnership as a unique opportunity to transform the cotton industry and expressed hope that it would bring Pakistan's cotton standards



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador HE Wada called on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad.

Chairman WAPDA reviews construction work on Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project

TARBELA (APP): Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) on Tuesday visited under-construction 1530 MW-Tarbela 5th Extension and reviewed the progress on the project.

The Chairman had a detailed visit of the key sites, which include the Raised Intake, the Tunnel and the Power house, and witnessed construction work going on there, said a press release.

During the on-site

briefing, the Project Director and the Construction Manager briefed the Chairman about the milestone achieved on these sites. Temporary support work in the tunnel is complete paving the way for commencement of construction on the connecting tunnel.

Installation of equipment such as draft tubes of all three units - Unit No. 18, 19 and 20 - is in progress at the Power house Site.



QINGDAO: The first 'Pakistan-China B2B Investment Meeting' on Fisheries was organized in Qingdao, Shandong province, on 29 October 2024. Ambassador of Pakistan to China Mr. Khalil Hashmi and Secretary of the Board of Investment Mr. Rahim Hayat Qureshi in a group photo with the representatives of participating companies of Pakistan and China.

Chinese-Pakistani companies participate in B2B Investment Meeting on Fisheries in Qingdao

BEIJING (APP): As many as 45 Chinese and 28 Pakistani companies participated in the first Pakistan-China B2B Investment Meeting on Fisheries held on Tuesday in Qingdao, Shandong province in China.

The event was the first in a series of sector-specific meetings to foster joint ventures and partnerships between Pakistani and Chinese companies.

Shahid Usman lauds EDB efforts in promoting innovation technologies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production Shahid Usman on Tuesday commended the Engineering Development Board (EDB) for its remarkable progress in promoting innovative technologies, aligning with the government's vision.

During his visit to the EDB for a detailed briefing on its activities, the secretary expressed his appreciation, said a news release.

The secretary praised the efforts of EDB's current management in formulation of Auto Industry Development and Export Policy (AIDEP 2021-26), Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy, interventions for promotion of Solar and Allied Equipment.

He also applauded EDB new initiatives for development of engineering sector including New Energy Vehicles (NEV) Policy, Indigenization of Agriculture Implements, and mainstream Petrochemical Policy and Promoting.

Additionally, he commended the EDB for preparing a comprehensive policy to promote local manufacturing and the early adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs), including New Energy Vehicles (NEVs), in support of a sustainable transport system in Pakistan, energy efficiency, and the transition to clean technologies and environment in the country.

New Service Center launched to enhance China-Pakistan cooperation in agriculture

BEIJING (INP): The Overseas Luban Workshop Agricultural Machinery Service Center, Pakistan was inaugurated at the International Conference Center in Changsha, Hunan.

It aims at enhancing agricultural capabilities in Pakistan and fostering greater cooperation between China and Pakistan in agricultural mechanization, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

The unveiling ceremony marked a collaboration

Rupee sheds 06 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 06 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.74 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.68. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.25 and Rs 278.75 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 27 paise to close at Rs 300.23 against the last day.

Ch Shafay chairs SMEs Council meeting

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain chaired the first meeting of the Provincial Council on SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) here Tuesday.

The meeting took several key decisions aimed at promoting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Managing Director of Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) Saira Umar gave a detailed briefing on actions and strategies being taken to support SMEs.

International News

Israeli strike in northern Gaza kills at least 60, officials say, as Hezbollah announces new leader

DEIR AL-BALAH: An Israeli strike on a five-story building where displaced Palestinians were sheltering in the northern Gaza Strip killed at least 60 people early Tuesday, more than half of them women and children, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

In a separate development, Lebanon's militant group Hezbollah said it has chosen Sheikh Naim Kassem to succeed long-time leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike last month. Hezbollah vowed to continue with Nasrallah's policies "until victory is achieved."

Israel also faced back-

lash from aid groups after its parliament passed legislation that could severely restrict the ability of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees to operate in the Palestinian territories. The agency, known as UNRWA, is the largest aid provider in Gaza. Israel has long accused it of militant ties, allegations denied by the agency.

A spokesperson for the U.N. children's agency said the decision "means that a new way has been found to kill children."

Hezbollah said in a statement that its decision-making Shura Council elected Kassem, who had been Nasrallah's deputy leader for over three de-



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the welcome ceremony for Finnish President Alexander Stubb at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

Finland warns Xi of 'provocation' by North Korea in Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Finnish President Alexander Stubb said he told China's President Xi Jinping that North Korean activities with Russia were an escalation and provocation in a message on behalf of NATO and the EU during talks in Beijing on Tuesday.

Stubb and Xi met as North Korea's foreign minister arrived in Russia, with Western military alliance NATO and South Korea warning that Pyongyang's troops could soon be entering the Ukraine war on Moscow's side.

The U.S. estimates 10,000 North Korean troops have been deployed in eastern Russia.

"My message to the president was that North Korean activity right now is a provocation in terms of sending troops to Russia, is escalation of expansion and provocation. So we had a good discussion about this," Stubb told reporters.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has not denied the presence of North Korean troops, while Pyongyang has not commented. Stubb, who met various European leaders in recent weeks, said he delivered to Xi messages coordinated with Finland's allies in NATO and the EU.



A crowd gathers to watch as first responders work after a tram derailed and crashed into a building in the center of Oslo, Norway.

Ship with suspected toxic waste in Albania

DURRES: A ship carrying hundreds of tonnes of possibly toxic industrial waste returned to Albania's largest seaport of Durres on Monday, months after setting sail to dispose of the material in Thailand.

The Turkish-flagged Moliva container ship, believed to be carrying around a hundred containers filled with suspicious waste, was expected to be tested by Albanian authorities.

Russia's air attacks kill four in Kharkiv, injure four in Kyiv, Ukraine says

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: At least four people were killed and another four injured in Russia's multi-wave overnight attacks on Ukraine's two largest cities of Kharkiv and Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said on Tuesday.

Four people were killed in Kharkiv after midnight on Tuesday in Russia's bombardment of the city's Osnoviyskiy district, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said on his Telegram messaging channel.

That attack followed a Russian guided bomb attack on Kharkiv late on Monday that shattered much of the Derzhprom building, one of the most celebrated landmarks in the city, dating from the 1920s.

In Kyiv, falling debris from a destroyed Russian drone injured four people and set a residential building on fire, the mayor of the Ukrainian capital said.

Hezbollah elects Naim Qassem to succeed slain head Nasrallah

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanese armed group Hezbollah said on Tuesday it had elected deputy head Naim Qassem to succeed slain secretary general Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli air attack on Beirut's southern suburb over a month ago.

The group said in a written statement that its Shura Council had elected Qassem, 71, in accordance with its established mechanism for choosing a secretary general.



US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign rally at Burns Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

US warns Iran at UN of 'severe consequences' in case of new attacks

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United States warned Iran at the United Nations Security Council on Monday of "severe consequences" if it undertakes any further aggressive acts against Israel or US personnel in the Middle East. "We will not hesitate to act in self-defense. Let there be no confusion. The United States does not want to see further escalation. We believe this should be the end of the direct exchange of fire between

Bangladesh immunity order sparks fears of justice denied

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Hundreds died in the student-led revolution that toppled Bangladesh's autocratic leader Sheikh Hasina, but those implicated in the violent aftermath fear the new authorities' promise of justice will exclude them.

The family of 16-year-old Shahriar worried those who beat their son into a coma may never face trial.

Firework explosion at temple in India's Kerala injures over 150

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian police detained two people on Tuesday after a temple fireworks show erupted into a ferocious explosion, leaving almost a hundred people in hospital, eight in a critical condition. Hundreds were crowded around a Hindu temple at Nileschwaram in the southern state of Kerala on Monday evening to watch the fireworks, videos posted by Indian newspapers showed.

Then, from inside a building, a surge of crack-

Israel votes to ban UN aid agency, Palestinians say 100,000 residents trapped

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israel's parliament passed a law on Monday to ban the UN relief agency UNRWA from operating inside the country, alarming some of Israel's Western allies who fear it will worsen the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Israeli officials cited the involvement of a handful of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees' thousands of staffers in the Oct. 7, 2023,

Harris to rally where Trump riled Capitol riot crowd

Monitoring Desk
MICHIGAN: Kamala Harris will urge Americans to turn the page on Donald Trump as she delivers her closing election argument Tuesday on the spot where her rival rallied supporters before the January 6, 2021 US Capitol attack.

With polls in a dead heat exactly one week before Election Day, the Democratic vice president's campaign said she chose the symbolic site to push her case that the Republican former president is a threat to American democracy.

But Harris will also deliver an "optimistic and hopeful" message, a senior campaign official said, amid rumblings in the party that she is focusing too much on Trump and not enough on her own policies.

She will address some 20,000 people on the Ellipse, a park outside the White House where Trump delivered a fiery speech in which he ranted up his false claims that he won the 2020 election.

Trump supporters then marched on the Capitol to disrupt the certification of Joe Biden's victory, in an assault that left at least five people dead and 140 police officers injured.

PM for utilizing potential for Pakistan-Russia multiple cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that there existed a huge potential for cooperation between Pakistan and Russia in multiple fields, which could be utilized to achieve the development goals of the people of both countries.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council Valentina

Matvienko, said that the strength and sustainability of the bilateral relations following the recent visits of Pakistan by the Russian senior leadership was welcoming, according to a PM Office press release.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of Türkiye, Dr. Irfan Neziroglu, and others cutting the cake during the 101st Anniversary of Turkish National Day at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

Visits Jamia Islamia Education System Institute: Chief Minister vows to encourage private sector for promotion of education in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has vowed to encourage private sector for promotion of education in the province.

The Chief Minister said that no child would remain deprived of basic right of education.

He was speaking on occasion of his visit to the Jamia Islamia Education System Institute here on Tuesday.

During the visit, he inspected different parts of the Institute and expressed pleasure over the

enforcement of curriculum compatible with the educational requirements of the religion and modern era there.

The Chief Minister announced to build road from the Institution to Muslim Abad, Airport road.

He also announced to construct basic health center and sports complex in the Jamia Islamia Institute.

In addition to this, he announced to provide 10 acres of government land to the Institute in view of its services in the education sector. He said that the land

acquired from the land grabbers in Chatham Ahozai would be allotted to the Institute.

He also mentioned that educational emergency is already enforced in the province and government is doing a lot for bringing improvement in the education sector.

He also mentioned that closed schools are being opened and the habitual absentee teachers are being sent home permanently.

He said education is basic right of the children as such no one would be deprived of it.

Imran, Bushra's indictment in new Toshakhana case deferred

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were once again not indicted in new Toshakhana case on Tuesday. Special Judge Central Shahrukh Arjumand presided over the hearing at Adiala Jail.

Imran Khan was present in the court, while Bushra Bibi's request for exemption from appearance was accepted. FIA prosecutor Umair Majeed opposed her exemption.

The court allowed Bushra Bibi's exemption but issued notice for her next appearance.

Govt sets to increase number of SC judges from 17 to 23

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has initiated steps to increase the number of Supreme Court of Pakistan judges from 17 to 23, with sources revealing that an official bill will be introduced in the National Assembly soon in this regard.

The Supreme Court will be consisting of 23 judges including Chief Justice of Pakistan and the bill regarding the increment of number of judges from 17 to 23 will be presented in National Assembly on Nov 1 (Friday).

It is noteworthy that Barrister Danyal

Chaudhary of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has already presented the bill in a private proceeding.

According to sources, after the private bill, an official bill to increase the number of judges will be tabled soon. They said the official bill to amend the current structure of the Supreme Court is expected to be presented in the National Assembly session on Friday.

According to the proposed bill, the total count of Supreme Court judges, including the chief justice, will go up to 23.

ADB approves \$500 mln loan to support climate, disaster resilience in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million policy-based loan to support climate change and disaster risk reduction and resilience in Pakistan.

The Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Program (CDREP) will strengthen Pakistan's institutional capacity for planning, preparedness, and response; increase inclusive investment in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience; and support the scale up of disaster risk financing using a risk-layered approach, according to ADB press release received here Tuesday.

Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries

to climate change and disasters triggered by natural hazards in Asia and the Pacific. Average losses from disaster events exceed \$2 billion per year. Women and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change and disaster events.

"This program builds on ADB's longstanding work in Pakistan to understand and reduce climate and disaster risks and support effective disaster response," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

"We are proud to support an integrated and comprehensive approach to climate and disaster risk management, including a portfolio of disaster risk financ-

ing instruments for timely and adequate funding for disaster response," Zhukov added.

The program supports enhanced capacity for disaster risk mapping and modeling for investment and development decisions. It enhances coordination for disaster monitoring and response. It supports enhanced planning and prioritization of gender-sensitive and resilient public investments, including integrated flood risk management and nature-based solutions.

The program supports mobilization of climate finance from public and private sources. This includes issuance of a domestic green sukuk (Islamic bond).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning & Development, Ahsan Iqbal chairing a review meeting of the focal groups constituted by the PM to analyze recommendations made by the Chinese working team.

President greets Turkish gov, people on 101st Republic Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari extended his greetings to the government and people of Türkiye as they celebrated the 101st Republic Day on Tuesday.

The president said that over the past century, Türkiye had achieved immense development in various fields and expressed the hope that the country would reach more milestones under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, according to a President House press release. He said that Türkiye always raised voice on the issues faced by the Muslim world.

The president said that the government and people of Pakistan desired the progress and prosperity of Türkiye as both countries supported each other in difficult times.

Planning Minister reviews draft plans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal here Tuesday chaired a review meeting of the focal groups constituted by the Prime Minister to analyze recommendations made by the Chinese working team.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh; Secretary Planning, Awaiz Manzoor Sumra; Chairman of the National Highway Authority and high-ranking officials from various ministries and divisions, including Communication, Investment, Petroleum & Natural Resources, Na-

tional Food Security, Power, Commerce, Economic Affairs, Interior, and Railways.

This was the third meeting chaired by Minister Ahsan Iqbal, following the Prime Minister's directives, to review the draft plans prepared by the focal groups. The Minister emphasized the need for action plans for implementation with timelines. He further stressed the need to highlight where Pakistan has already made progress.

During review of agriculture sector, the Ministry of Food Security highlighted that Pakistan lacks a long-term, comprehensive, and independent development plan for the sector.

Kakar meets QESCO Chief, discusses issues of electricity in hospitals

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar met the Chief Executive Officer of Quetta Electric Supply Company, Engineer Shafiq Ali, here on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the Minister Health discussed with QESCO chief the issues of electricity load shedding in the hospitals of province.

Speaking on the occasion, Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that modern equipments such as CT scan, MRI, Oxygen plants have been installed in the hospitals of Kech, Loralai and Khuzdar. These equipments are very important

for timely treatment and diagnosis of the patients. He on the occasion stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity to the hospitals so as to provide best medical facilities, he added.

The Minister also stressed the need to supply electricity to the hospitals located in the adjoining areas of Quetta.

In this regard, a committee has been formed comprising representatives of QESCO and Health Department.

Speaking on the occasion, QESCO chief assured to supply electricity to the important hospitals round the clock.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

190 million pounds reference IHC extends till Nov 7 its order for stopping AC from announcing final decision

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has extended till November 7 its order for stopping Accountability Court (AC) from announcing final decision in 190 million pounds reference.

Counsel for PTI founder and Bushra Bibi presented record related to acquittal plea from trial court in IHC. NAB prosecutor said time be given to us to see the record. The hearing be fixed after two weeks.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq remarked you are seeking two weeks. But we adjourn the hearing

for 10 days. The acquittal pleas of PTI founder and Bushra Bibi in 190 million pounds reference came up for hearing in IHC Tuesday.

CJ IHC Aamer Farooq and justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb took up the petitions for hearing.

Usman Gull, counsel for PTI founder and Bushra Bibi and NAB prosecutor Amjad Pervaiz appeared in the court. CJ IHC Aamer Farooq inquired trial has reached what stage.

NAB prosecutor Amjad Pervaiz said cross questioning of NAB investigating officer is underway.

Russian Deputy Minister for Defence calls on Naval Chief at NHQ

ISLAMABAD (PR): Russian Federation's Deputy Minister for Defence, Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional maritime security were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The Naval Chief expressed that Pakistan greatly values its relations with the Russian Federation and desires to forge a long-

term, multi-dimensional partnership with Russia. Various avenues including bilateral training, exchange of visits and conduct of bilateral naval exercises between the two Navies were also focused.

The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged the Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security. Both the leaders agreed to further strengthen and diversify the scope of existing bilateral defence relationship particularly in maritime domain and naval technologies.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Federation's Deputy Minister for Defence, Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

PTI brings back TTP activists in Pakistan: Aimal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Awami National Party (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan, while criticizing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday, accused PTI of bringing back Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) activists to the country.

Speaking on a point of order in the Senate, he alleged that PTI was a 'Political Wing' of the Taliban movement, which had been launched as a project by General (Retd) Faiz Hameed.

Aimal said that when Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP) were facing terrorist attacks in 2013, the PTI was inviting and establishing TTP offices in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), including Peshawar.

The ANP chief questioned the performance of the PTI-led provincial government in KP over the decade and claimed that from 1947-2013 the foreign loan burden was Rs 97 billion, which had soared to Rs 1500 billion during the PTI tenures, adding that if PTI continued in power till 2028, it was estimated to touch 3000 billion.

He went on to say that the provincial government led by PTI was selling the lands of universities and educational institutions.

Aimal added that the narrative, which began with the Cypher, now turned into a request from parliamentarians of Britain and the United States to release the PTI founder.

Martyrdom of over 60 labourers in two months matter of great concern: Khetran

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has strongly condemned the incident of firing on the labourers in Panjgur. In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Provincial Minister said that it is condemnable to kill labourers.

He said that the local labourers were targeted under a pre-planned conspiracy. The Provincial Minister said that martyrdom of more than 60 labourers during last two months is a matter of great concern. He said that there's an important role of labourers in implementation on the important development projects in the province and country. Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that we equally share the grief of the aggrieved families. He prayed for the departed souls of the deceased persons and grant of patience for their bereaved families.

Ministers, BA Speaker say Terrorists' attack on labourers working on Paroom dam cowardly act

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has condemned the incident of firing in Paroom in the strongest words. In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Provincial Minister said that the terrorists attack on the labourers working on the dam is a cowardly act.

He said that the attack on the innocent people wouldn't be tolerated at all.

The Minister Health directed to the concerned high ups to provide immediate medical assistance to those injured in the cowardly attack. He said that those responsible of the attack would be taken to task.

He also expressed sympathy and grief over the loss of lives of innocent labourers with their bereaved families. The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khatliq Khan Achakzai has strongly con-

demned the heinous incident of firing on the labourers engaged in the work on a dam in Panjgur.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Speaker said that this hatred act of terrorism is a condemnable and unforgivable.

He said that terrorists are enemies of the peace, development and prosperity. He said that we are united against the terrorism and adding pledged to give justice to the victims.

The Speaker provincial assembly also expressed heartfelt condolence with the bereaved families of martyr labourers and prayed for the early recovery of those injured in the incident of firing in Panjgur. QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women's Development, Dr. Rubaba Buledi expressed sorrow over the firing incident at an under-construction dam in the Paroom area of Panjgur.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran presides over the meeting regarding Journalists Welfare Fund.