

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Hub

Ph: 284 1470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 256, Jamaadi ul Awwal 17, 1446 AH Wednesday November 20, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

Unconditional loyalty with Pakistan is an important part of constitution & our moral duty: CM Bugti

Mir Sarfraz Bugti emphasizes need to promote modern education along with conventional education; says students are leaders of future & ambassadors of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that unconditional loyalty with Pakistan is an important part of the constitution and is our moral duty.

He said that history is witness to the fact that Allah Almighty gave honour to whoever has been loyal with Pakistan, while he committed betrayal with the country, got disgrace and humiliation. The Chief Minister was addressing the science and art exhibition organized at the Jinnah Elite School here on Tuesday morning. The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani and other con-

cerned high ups, head of the institution, Sardar Usama Khan Tareen, were also present.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the science and art exhibition at the school in which students from different educational institutions participated.

He expressed heartfelt joy over seeing the creativity depicted in the science and art projects put on display at the exhibition.

He said that he is very much pleased to see the project based on the artificial intelligence. He exhorted the students to move forward taking the same positive mindset.

The Chief Minister underlined the need to promote modern education along

with conventional education in the province.

He said that students are leaders of future and ambassadors of Balochistan and adding he noted with contentment that the future of province is in beautiful and diligent hands, who have to shoulder future responsibilities.

He said that someone among the students would become Chief Minister and Education Minister in future and added that we have lot of expectations from the future builders. He said that there's no denying the fact that our future is in safe and capable hands because of the talented and diligent youth like you, as he spoke to the students participated in the science and art exhibition.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating Sciences and Art Exhibition at Jinnah Elite School.

Governor exhorts political parties to play role for promotion of unity among nationalities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has exhorted the political parties to play role for promotion of unity and trend of dialogue and encouragement of the open contact among different nationalities.

He said that the dialogue connects different minds in politics, synchronize diversified voices and provides thoughtful guidance for finding solution to the major issues.

The Governor made it clear that we can't afford more mutual differences and disputes. Therefore, it is necessary for us to create collective spirit to take all along. We can make our progressive and bright future safe by connecting with the national thinking and approach.

The Governor was speaking to the organizers of National Defence University and participants of National Security Workshop, who called on him under leadership of Major General Muhammad Raza Azad, here at the Governor's House on Tuesday.

Also present on the occasion were Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai and Special Secretary Home, Abdul Nasir Dotani.

The participants posed different questions about the law and order situation, development projects, political stability as well as the measures taken by the government against the terrorism and narcotics in the province.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif along with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurating IDEAS 2024 Exhibition at NRTC Pavilion.

Full court remains no more after 26th constitutional amendment: Justice Mazhar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) constitutional bench has issued notice to federation and all provinces in the case pertaining to imposition of tax on ghee mills and sought reply from them besides adjourning the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

During the hearing of the case Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar remarked full court remained no more after 26th constitutional amendment.

Justice Jamal Mandokhel remarked Constitutional bench be considered full court now.

on making mention of full court bench decision by counsel for petitioner during hearing of the case of imposition of tax on ghee mills Tuesday.

The petitioner had said it was an important case, therefore, full court bench be constituted.

A seven members constitutional bench of SC presided over by Justice Amin ud Din took up the case regarding tax on ghee mills for hearing. Justice Jamal Mandokhel remarked he has given decision on the case in Balochistan High Court. I think I should not hear the case.

Arms for Peace: Khawaja Asif inaugurates defense exhibition IDEAS 2024

KARACHI (INP): Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday said International Defense Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024 would boost the country's defense industry.

The minister was addressing the inaugural session of the IDEAS 2024 being held here at the Expo Centre. He welcomed foreign delegates and guests urging them to "get the best out of the exhibition."

Three services chiefs also attended the opening ceremony. He said that the slogan of IDEAS 2024 is "Arms for Peace" as Pakistan is a peace-loving country. "Pakistan believes in resolving issues through dialogue," the minister stated.

Khawaja Asif said Pakistan's defense industry was booming. "Public and private sectors can play an important role in enhancing defense production," he added.

Exports of defense equipment would help strengthen country's economy, he continued.

The defense minister said the IDEAS 2024 would be a regional gateway. "Promoting connectivity is essential for regional peace and socio-economic development," he said.

Opposition lambasts Govt over law and order situation in BA

Independent Report

QUETTA: The leader of Opposition and other members of the provincial assembly lambasted the provincial government over law and order situation in the session of provincial assembly here on Tuesday.

The Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair.

In start of the session, the leader of Opposition, Mir Younas Aziz Zehri raised the point of order urging the chair to cancel the routine agenda of the session and speak on the law and order issue because of the prevailing law and order situation in the province. However, the Provincial Minister, Mir Saleem Khosa objected to it saying that as the Chief Minister is not in the House, so defer the debate on law and order some other day. On that, the members from Opposition and Treasury benches exchange hot words.

The member of provincial assembly belonging to National Party, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch pointed out that a worker of his party (NP) was murdered in Bhag, and maintained that the government has failed to maintain law and order situation in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Federal Apex Committee of National Action Plan.

Apex Committee approves military operation against terrorist outfits in Balochistan

PM stresses need to crush terrorism, addressing sub-nationalism, extremism, crime-terror nexus, disinformation; Wants all stakeholders to lend helping hands in economic, political stability; links it with end to terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The participants of Federal Apex Committee of the National Action Plan on Tuesday approved a comprehensive military operation against terrorist organisations operating in Balochistan including the Majeed Brigade, BLA, BLF and BRAS who were targeting innocent civilians and foreign nationals to scuttle Pakistan's economic progress by creating insecurity at the behest of hostile external powers.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chaired the meeting of the Federal Apex Committee, attended by the federal cabinet, provincial chief ministers, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), and senior government officials. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The agenda of the meeting focused on the "Reinvigorating Pakistan's Counter Terrorism (CT) Campaign".

The participants were briefed on the evolving security landscape and the measures being taken to counter terrorism and other critical challenges, including general law and order situation, actions against efforts to stoke sub-nationalism, religious extremism, tackling the illegal spectrum & crime-terror nexus, subversion and disinformation campaigns, among other issues.

The committee highlighted the necessity of a unified political voice and a cohesive national narrative to effectively address these multifaceted challenges.

It was emphasized that political support across party lines and complete national consensus were critical to reinvigorating the national CT campaign under the framework of Vision Azm-e-Istehkam.

Revitalisation of NACTA and the establishment of National and Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre was also agreed upon.

A whole-of-system approach was adopted, incorporating diplomatic, political, informational, intelligence, socio-economic, and military efforts to address these issues comprehensively.

Specific emphasis was placed on strengthening collaboration between federal and provincial governments and between relevant institutions and ministries to ensure seamless execution of the CT campaign.

It was decided to establish district coordination committees under the Provincial Apex Committees to ensure implementation of directions received from federal and provincial governments. The forum demonstrated political resolve to dismantle ecosystem of illegal spectrum and crime-terror nexus.

At the conclusion, the prime minister directed all stakeholders to pursue the outlined initiatives with

upon.

Gen Asim Munir said that the constitution of the country is supreme for all of us. "The constitution holds us responsible for ensuring the internal and external security of Pakistan," he observed.

He said the personnel of armed forces and other law enforcing agencies are compensating for shortcomings in governance on daily basis through the sac-

vigour, ensuring their timely implementation.

He underscored the importance of sustained, coordinated efforts to protect Pakistan's sovereignty, ensure the safety of its citizens, and reinforce economic and social stability.

The COAS reiterated the Pakistan Army's unwavering resolve to eliminate all threats to national security and provide robust support to the government's initiatives aimed at ensuring peace and stability.

Those who obstructs Pakistan's security to face consequence: COAS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Tuesday said that all those who creates obstruction in Pakistan's security or tries to stop them from performing their duty will face the music.

Speaking at Apex Committee, here, the COAS said we all must collectively fight the menace of terrorism. "Every Pakistani is a soldier in the war against terrorism, whether in uniform or not" he said.

Gen Asim Munir said that the constitution of the country is supreme for all of us. "The constitution holds us responsible for ensuring the internal and external security of Pakistan," he observed.

He said the personnel of armed forces and other law enforcing agencies are compensating for shortcomings in governance on daily basis through the sac-

vigour, ensuring their timely implementation.

He underscored the importance of sustained, coordinated efforts to protect Pakistan's sovereignty, ensure the safety of its citizens, and reinforce economic and social stability.

Join Nov 24 protest or leave party: Imran to PTI leaders

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan has urged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and ticket holders to participate in the party's upcoming protest on November 24 or sever ties with the party.

In a recent statement, he stated that those unable to join the planned "power show" should "disassociate themselves" from the PTI, calling it a critical moment in the party's struggle for freedom and justice.

This call follows Imran's announcement on November 13 for nationwide protests, where he denounced what he described as a "stolen mandate," unjust arrests, and the passage of the 26th

amendment, which he claimed strengthened a "dictatorial regime."

In a statement shared on X, Imran reiterated the importance of the November 24 protests. He framed the event as "a golden opportunity to secure genuine freedom for Pakistan" and warned that "enslaved nations eventually die away."

He also acknowledged that while his initial calls for protest were directed at PTI members, he now extended the invitation to the entire nation. He called for people to join the demonstration with the same fervour as they did during the February 8 elections, which were marred by controversy.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ali Tareen, Parliamentary Secretaries Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Mir Liaquat Lehari, MPAs Mir Zaid Ali Reki, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Fazal Qadir Mandokhail and Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat being briefed about Quetta Package.

SC constitutional bench dismisses petition against extension in tenure of COAS

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) constitutional bench has dismissed the petition against extension in tenure of Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir.

The court dismissed the petition being not persuaded.

The objections raised by registrar office related to

non maintainability of the petition were kept maintained.

The petition filed by Mehmood Akhtar Naqvi against the extension in tenure of army chief Gen Asim Munir came up for hearing before 7-member constitutional bench presided over by Justice Amin ud Din Tuesday.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with participants of National Security Workshop organized by National Defence University.

Quetta traders observe shutter down against non-recovery of missing Musawir Khan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The shutter down strike was observed by the traders' community against non-recovery of the missing 10-year child, Musawir Khan in the provincial metropolis on Tuesday. All the main business concerns, markets and shops remain closed because of the shutter down strike in the metropolis.

It may be mentioned here the call for shutter down strike was given by Markazi Anjuman Tajran Balochistan to press the government and administration for early recovery of the child kidnapped from Patel Bagh area of Quetta on Friday last.

Almost all the political and religious parties announced their wholehearted support to the traders for

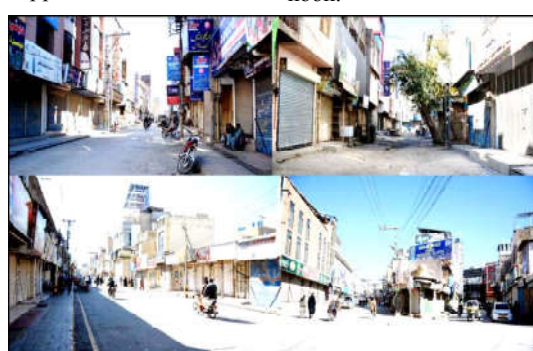
observation of the shutter down strike.

While the shutters of shops and markets remained down, the flow of traffic also remained thin in the main and other areas of the city due to the strike.

Meanwhile, the protest sit-in remain continued on third consecutive day i.e., Tuesday by the family members of the kidnapped child and traders at the Unity Chowk.

The members of the family and other people from different walks of life participated in the dharna being staged for recovery of Musawir Khan.

On the other hand, the family members and traders community lodged protest outside the provincial assembly the same afternoon.



QUETTA: A view of closed shops and markets during shutter down strike called by Anjuman Tajran and All Parties against kidnapping of Muhammad Musawir Khan.

Zakaullah & Hazrat Wali appointed as DC Ziarat, Harnai

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Secretary Quetta Development Authority (QDA), Zakaullah and Deputy Secretary Food Department, Hazrat Wali have been posted as the Deputy Commissioners of Ziarat and Harnai districts respectively.

This was announced in an official notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) here on Tuesday.

It may be mentioned here that Deputy Commissioners of Ziarat and Harnai had been suspended by the government on account of negligence in the official duties last week.

No document from UAE govt on visa restrictions on Pakistanis: Embassy

DUBAI (APP):

The Embassy of Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday rejected the media reports referring to the sharing of a document by the UAE government citing reasons for imposing visa restrictions on Pakistani nationals.

"These claims are factually incorrect. No such document has been shared by UAE authorities," the embassy said in a press release.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Tribunals' failure

The election tribunals have let the nation down. Following one of the most contested general elections in recent memory — elections so controversial that, more than nine months later, they still cast a long shadow over the incumbent government — these tribunals were tasked with adjudicating the results of 350 National Assembly and provincial assembly seats that had been disputed by the candidates.

It was expected that the tribunals would work in an expeditious manner and do justice where there was compelling evidence of misdoing, as alleged by many candidates and supported by the findings of various independent observers. By acting transparently and with purpose, they could have helped the nation move forward. Instead, with the year almost out, only 17pc of the cases before them have been decided; the legitimacy of the ruling set-up remains in doubt, while yet another protest has been called this coming weekend to protest the 'theft' of the people's mandate.

Meanwhile, the ruling coalition has been able to use its numbers to pass a highly controversial constitutional amendment and a slew of widely criticised laws to consolidate its strength. The Election Commission of Pakistan, which is responsible for appointing the tribunals, has seemed least interested in their progress, even though legal deadlines for the conclusion of tribunal proceedings have long lapsed.

Indeed, the ECP was itself responsible for delaying the formation of election tribunals for Punjab, where the bulk of the disputes were registered, over a petty turf war with the Lahore High Court. Though it eventually managed to appoint retired judges of its choice — thanks to some timely changes to the law — it has now emerged that four out of the eight tribunals for Punjab had not heard a single petition by Nov 15, while the remaining four had decided only 10 out of the 155 disputes lodged. The Balochistan tribunals fared better, having resolved 30 out of the 51 disputes before them. On the other hand, the KP and Sindh tribunals had respectively decided only eight and 12 of the disputes before them.

With the election tribunals having thus failed to fulfil the purpose for which they were created, it is not surprising that Pakistan has not been able to stabilise. In the absence of the legitimacy conferred by a free and fair election, the authorities continue to resort to repressive means to enforce 'order'. However, these will not bear long-term results and are only hollowing out the country's already crumbling political structure. It is imperative, therefore, for the election tribunals to conclude all proceedings as soon as possible while delivering justice. Too much time has already been lost in dilly-dallying — all further proceedings must now be completed transparently so that faith in the electoral process can be restored.

Promotion criteria

Parvez Rahim

During my years at an American multinational, my boss told me that I had to be ambitious to be promoted. However, just having ambition was not enough; the candidates for promotion had to demonstrate their ability to consistently go beyond what was expected.

There was no place for mediocrity, where workers would just say 'yes' to their bosses. Dissent by subordinates was encouraged provided it was prudent, in the right direction, and helped resolve the issue under discussion. Employees, who would work in the same job for many years and had no chance of promotion, were asked to leave.

The company had a robust, competitive annual performance evaluation of every employee. The appraisal was done by assessing an employee's performance against yearly goals, which were specific and measurable, and given and agreed with him at the beginning of the year. The respective supervisors would discuss the performance evaluation of the subordinate staff with a group of senior managers, who would critically review the assessment and agree to a rating through consensus.

Those with consistently high ratings were considered for promotion, subject to the availability of vacant positions. Merit, and not seniority, was the sole criterion for promotion.

There was great emphasis on the performance of every employee. Supervisors were required to conduct periodic reviews of their subordinate's performance within the year so that the latter was not taken by surprise at year-end. In the event of a vacant position at a higher level, the senior management would try to find a suitable candidate from within the organisation, instead of hiring from outside. It was believed that a manager hired at a senior position might disrupt the organisation's prevailing systems through a rash action, without adequate knowledge of its culture and traditions.

The factors described for eligibility and criteria for promotion include "tenure, performance metrics, skill acquisition, and adherence to company values. By setting specific criteria, the promotion process becomes transparent".

In contrast, the criterion for promotions in our government departments is seniority; not much weightage is given to employees' performance, and there is an uproar if seniority is ignored in promotions. The annual confidential report (ACR) has always been a feature of government service. The head of department gathers information related to the performance and behaviour of the subordinates and finalises the report. What is reported is not communicated to the employee unless there are negative comments, which he is required to explain.

It is reported that over the last few years, employees have been bringing ACR forms to their department heads to fill. Once filled, the forms are handed back to the employees, so that they can submit the same themselves. Such practices make a mockery of the system of performance evaluation. Consequently, employees don't find any motivation to improve their performance and people interacting with them find their behaviour frustrating and non-caring.

In the corporate world, success of companies depends on an effective and credible performance evaluation system, based on which the employees are promoted. According to LeapSome, a platform for performance management and employee engagement, "A well-made promotion decision has the potential to boost morale and inspire trust in employees. A poorly made promotion decision ... can lead to disengagement and resentment among team members."

LeapSome mentions the key criteria observed by progressive companies in promoting employees. Curiosity is a trait that supervisors should look for in candidates. "When an employee asks questions, that's a sign that they're engaged and trusting."

Second, a candidate for promotion to a management role must possess managerial and leadership skills. He should be ambitious about managing people and building his leadership skills.

Third, the "ideal candidate should know that more responsibility could bring more challenges. They must be ready to handle these and know when to ask for support", which is never discouraged in professionally managed companies.

Fourth, the time an employee spends with the organisation — or more categorically, "employee achievements made against the time served" — and his experience in a certain role is a useful yardstick. And last, "Giving feedback to employees builds trust, motivates them to improve, and shows that you care about their growth". Candidates value genuine and realistic feedback. Deserving promotions will help companies retain their best talent, besides cutting down on costs, and will impact other team members in a positive way. — Courtesy Dawn

Valuing educators

Gaitee Ara Siddiqi

As an educationist who has worked in multiple schools, I have observed the majority of teachers in private schools struggling to cope with excessive work-related demands. Although a number of high-end schools have employed mental health counsellors for students, very few encourage teachers to approach them, and the educationists themselves do not do so for fear of being stigmatised.

Some schools have counsellors, which both students and teachers, can approach but nothing concrete is achieved as students are primarily 'clients' of the schools and every effort is made to hold on to them. In fact, today, there are multiple cases of students harassing teachers and making their lives miserable, but very little is done to address these issues. Until we learn to value the well-being of our teachers, the future looks very bleak.

Educational institutions are meant to instil values in the student body but since this client mentality has become the trend, teachers are not allowed to say anything to the students. If the teacher feels pressured or overburdened by the excessive workload as well as the mental torture she is subjected to by both the students and the management, she is told to just get on with the job. Most private educational institutions know that teachers are available a dime a dozen and that supply exceeds demand, so that the services of those who do not conform can be easily dispensed with.

In addressing mental health concerns, it is very important that a

congenial environment is fostered not only for the student but also the teaching body because after all, the teaching staff is on the front line. If their mental well-being is looked after, the change will automatically be transmitted to the student body. However, the so-called counsellors can only function in a limited capacity. Their hands are tied and the senior management dictates work policies. Mental health is, unfortunately, very low on their list of priorities, which is why the turnover in the education sector is very high. The environment for teachers is, for the most part, toxic which translates into high absenteeism levels and a high turnover.

Teaching is a noble profession and it is essential for individuals associated with it to be well looked after and given the care they deserve. Think about it: teachers as front-line workers are expected to take an average five to six periods a day, check copies, plan lessons, and carry out all manner of administrative tasks — often at the last minute. With deadlines looming, most are taking work home and working late into the night, although teachers are expected to have a healthier work-life balance than most other professions.

A number of women enter this profession because most of them do not have a choice in the matter as they receive a substantial rebate on the fee of their child who is studying at the school where they teach. Most working women are fighting on a lot of fronts and burning the midnight oil at both ends. Hence, looking after their well-being is of paramount importance.

As individuals

tend to spend most of their day at work, an excessive workload and constant deadlines can lead to stress, anxiety, and depression, and ultimately, burn-out. Teachers must be given time to relax and unwind and be looked after. In fact, it is becoming increasingly stressful for them with each passing day; they are also held accountable for everything that goes amiss as they are soft targets and convenient scapegoats whose services can be easily dispensed with. Very few work out of a passion for the profession or because they have time on their hands; the majority of women in this profession are teaching out of economic necessity which is why it is very important for schools to give them the time, space and mental and emotional care which they need and to be more accommodating of their needs.

Educational institutions should pledge to take care of their teaching staff and ensure a healthy and congenial working environment, which will also benefit them by increasing teacher productivity and resourcefulness. It will be a win-win situation because teachers would then be motivated to deliver, and confident, happy teachers mean confident, self-assured students, which, in turn, will translate to better academic performances.

As a policy, school managements should prioritise the mental health of teachers and encourage, motivate and support them to do their work well.

We should not treat teachers as a means to an end, giving short shrift to their mental and emotional welfare and well-being. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM directs strict action to curb hoarding, tax evasion in sugar sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Federal Board of Revenue, Federal Investigation Agency and the Intelligence Bureau to carry out joint action to curb the undocumented sale of sugar, tax evasion and price hikes of the commodity.

The prime minister, in a major decision about the sugar mills and sugar-dealers, asked the said these agencies to ensure full

recovery of General Sales Tax as the crushing season was about to start, according to a PM Office press release.

He instructed the authorities concerned to install cameras at the sugar mills to check sugar hoarding to help maintain the prices.

It will also help recover the sales tax by monitoring the mills' production process and checking the hoarding. The prime minister

warned of strict action against the owners of sugar mill founds involved in sugar hoarding and tax evasion.

"No increase in the sugar price will be tolerated," the prime minister said and called for strict action against the "satta mafia."

He also instructed the government agencies to take similar actions in steel, cigarettes, cement, beverages and other sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan, Mrs. Henny de Vries calls on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.

Tanveer reiterates govt resolve for uplift of women entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to uplifting women entrepreneurs in Pakistan by addressing the challenges they faced.

He expressed this resolve during a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority

(SMEDA) Socrat Aman Rana on the occasion of International Women's Entrepreneurship Day.

Secretary Industries and Production Saif Anjum also attended the meeting, which exhibited a commitment to create a conducive business environment for women entrepreneurs in the country, said a news release.

Rana Tanveer said SMEDA, under the

patronage of the ministry, was poised to introduce a transformative Women Entrepreneurship Policy, aimed at fostering growth, enhancing financial inclusion, and increasing market access for women entrepreneurs across the country.

Currently, only 10% of women entrepreneurs have access to formal markets, and just 2% utilize online marketplaces, he said.

Pakistan, Qatar discuss cooperation in field of IT, Telecom

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Qatar on Tuesday discussed matters of mutual interest, increasing cooperation in field of IT and Telecommunication, startups and cybersecurity.

During a meeting with the ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that Pakistan and Qatar have deep friendly relations, adding that the two countries can jointly work in the field of IT and Telecommunication.

She said Pakistan wanted to further enhance ties with Qatar in the field of IT and Telecommunication, according to a news release.

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan aspired to work with Qatar in the cybersecurity field. The signing of MoUs between the institutes of two countries in the field of technology is vital, she said, adding that IT companies of both countries can do joint ventures.

Gold prices increase further by Rs.3,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased further by Rs.3,600 and was sold at Rs.273,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.269,900, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.3,086 to Rs.234,482 from Rs.231,396 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.214,942 from Rs.212,113. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3250 and Rs.2,786 respectively.

Dutch Ambassador, finance minister discuss ways to strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan on Tuesday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore ways for further strengthening the existing ties between Pakistan and The Netherlands. According to press release issued by finance ministry, during the meeting, various aspects of the longstanding friendship and bilateral cooperation

between the two countries were discussed.

They identified priority areas like mining, IT, oil and gas, agriculture, dairy, and farm production for further business collaborations. On the occasion, the minister highlighted the government's economic plan and reform agenda for promoting economic growth and ensuring fiscal sustainability. He mentioned the economic gains achieved over the last 14 months and reiterated the government's resolve to stay the course.

PTCL Group Partners with Atlas Honda Ltd. to champion road safety

LAHORE: PTCL Group, Pakistan's leading telecommunication services provider, has taken a step forward towards road safety with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Atlas Honda Ltd. This collaboration underscores PTCL's commitment to promoting safe commuting practices for motorcyclists and aligns with the Group's

certified trainers from Atlas Honda, aimed at instilling essential safety skills amongst PTCL's field staff, who rely on motorcycles for their daily commute.

The training sessions will cover a comprehensive range of topics, from essential bike handling techniques to advanced road safety protocols. Moreover, the collaboration aims to cultivate a proactive safety mindset amongst PTCL employees, enhancing their awareness and reducing on-road risks.

Furthermore, the MOU with Atlas Honda also exemplifies PTCL Group's commitment to its ever-growing employee well-being program by fostering sustainable activities that benefit employees and contribute to community welfare at large.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater.

Pak, Germany agree to strengthen collaboration in renewable energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): German Ambassador Alfred Grannas called on Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday and both sides agreed to strengthen their collaboration in renewable energy and other development projects to ensure continued cooperation moving forward, Ambassador Grannas expressed Germany's commitment to supporting Pakistan's energy sector reforms, said a press release issued here.

He stated that financial and technological assistance would be provided to address key

challenges in the sector, where possible.

The ambassador noted that innovations in artificial intelligence and battery storage facilities were helping reduce electricity costs. He acknowledged the important role of Germany's private sector in Pakistan's energy projects.

He assured that cooperation would continue in the future to help Pakistan transition to clean energy.

The minister shared Pakistan's target of having 88% renewable energy in the national mix by 2034.

Remittances surge by 24% due to SIFC's efforts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's remittances have witnessed a significant rise of 24 percent due to efforts of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). According to latest statistics, the annual remittances were registered at three billion dollars by last month.

During the last month, over 766 million dollars were received from Saudi Arabia, 620.9 million dollars from the UAE and 429.5 million dollars were received from the United Kingdom in terms of remittances.

Rupee sheds 10 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated 10 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.95 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.85.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by Rs 1.16 to close at Rs 294.17 against the last day's closing of Rs 293.01.

Azma Bokhari says: 300 electric buses for Lahore by year-end

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari Tuesday announced that electric buses would roll out in the province by December's end, a major step to combat smog and boost eco-friendly transportation. The government's long-term plan, led by the Chief Minister, would further reduce pollution and switch to environmentally friendly transportation solutions. Azma Bokhari, in an exclusive talk with a private news channel, unveiled Punjab's ambitious plan to

revolutionize public transportation in Lahore, adding, "We are committed to providing eco-friendly transportation solutions to our citizens."

"The 300 electric buses will not only reduce environmental pollution but also provide a comfortable and efficient commute experience," Bokhari explained.

She also expressed her gratitude to Allah and praised the environment department for effectively managing the smog situation in Punjab and revealed, "The Punjab government is planning to transition to green technology soon."

Azma Bokhari, in an exclusive talk with a private news channel, unveiled Punjab's ambitious plan to



LAHORE: Participants hold a banner during smog awareness campaign walk at Liberty chowk, in the Provincial Capital.

PHC dismisses NAB notice against KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday dismissed a notice issued by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed conducted a hearing on the petition of Ali Amin. During the proceedings, the petitioner's lawyer argued that NAB could only investigate cases involving amounts exceeding Rs 500 million, while the case in question concerned Rs 304 million. The NAB prosecutor informed the

court that the inquiry against Gandapur was still ongoing and that the notice issued to him had now expired. The prosecutor also clarified that no new notice had been issued to the petitioner and stated that the amount under investigation might exceed Rs 500 million.

Chief Justice PHC Ishtiaq Ibrahim questioned NAB's jurisdiction under the revised laws, noting that only cases involving amounts above Rs 500 million fall within its purview. The court concluded that since no new NAB notice was pending against the petitioner, therefore there was no basis to continue the case.



LAHORE: A delegation of Punjab University students in a group photo with Governor Punjab/Chancellor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

CM Punjab launches dialysis program card 1st in history of Pak

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the first 'Chief Minister Dialysis Program Card' in the history of Pakistan and funds for the treatment of each dialysis patient have been increased up to Rs 1 million.

Over Rs. 8.5 million for dialysis and Rs. 1.5 million for tests are being allocated for each patient suffering from kidney disease.

The CM while presiding over a special meeting to review progress

on health programs and other projects, here on Tuesday, directed to ensure free tests and medicines for dialysis patients. She also directed to continue dialysis procedure of patients under any circumstance. It was agreed in principle to establish more dialysis units in Punjab.

The CM directed the Punjab Healthcare Commission to ensure implementation of SOPs in dialysis centres. She directed the Punjab Healthcare Commission to

closely monitor dialysis centres across the province. The CM expressed strong indignation over the spread of AIDS in Multan and sought a report within 24 hours. She said, "Spreading of AIDS among dialysis patients is not only regrettable but also shameful. Halting dialysis procedure due to non-availability of funds is regrettable and it should continue." It was apprised during the briefing that patients from other provinces are also

benefiting from free dialysis facility. Free medicines from Punjab are being provided to Sindh, Balochistan and other areas. It was agreed to set KPIs to determine performance of the health department. A progress report on the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital was presented.

The CM directed to appoint the head of the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital. A report on the ongoing projects of PIC-2 and Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology, Sargodha.

Punjab Governor says: Concrete steps being taken to improve the quality of education in universities

Independent Report

LAHORE: A delegation of Punjab University students called on Governor Punjab/Chancellor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. Office bearers of various student societies of Punjab University were included in the delegation. During the meeting, People's Party Punjab Leader, Faisal Mir, PSF Punjab Information Secretary, Sibte Hasan, Member Punjab Executive, Ahsan Rizvi and former President PSF Lahore Mansoor Kataria were also present. Speaking on the

occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the youth are the future of the country.

He said that the most important purpose of education is to develop tolerance in oneself. Governor Punjab said that concrete steps are being taken to improve the quality of education in universities. Governor Punjab emphasized that students should pay special attention to research and innovation. Governor Punjab said he has always been in favor of union elections.



KARTARPUR: Sikh pilgrims pay their respect during celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism, at the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur near the India-Pakistan border.

Bushra Bibi will not lead protest: Shibli

PESHAWAR (Online): PTI leader Senator Shibli Faraz has said Bushra Bibi will not lead protest as she does not want to come in the politics.

There is no tussle between Bushra Bibi and Ali Amin Gandapur, he said this while talking to media men here Tuesday.

He held all the cases being made against us are fake and they are aimed at pressurizing us. The difference between political worker and terrorist has been ended.

Law and order situation in KP is worse, he said adding police and all forces are after PTI. In this situation who will

control law and order situation.

We are political people and not the terrorists. They are suppressing PTI since the last and two years but we cannot be coerced.

Imposing section 144 in Islamabad is not job of political government, he said adding it is job of cowards.

The petitions regarding details of cases against Shibli Faraz came up for hearing before Peshawar High Court (PHC).

Hearing was conducted by Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad.

ANF recovers over 210 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 210 kg drugs worth Rs 140 million and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday.

He informed that in an operation, 800 grams hashish and 200 grams ice were recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Sialkot.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

CM KP reviews progress of public complaints portal

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CM-KP) Ali Amin Gandapur to review the status of public complaints resolution through the public complaints portal (Iktiyar Awam Ka).

The CM was briefed by the relevant officials on the progress made so far in addressing the complaints registered on the portal.

The meeting was informed that a total of 6,242 complaints have been registered on the

portal so far. Out of these, 2,559 complaints have been resolved, while 3,683 complaints are still being processed. As many as 1,200 citizens have received relief through the portal, and 757 citizens have received partial relief.

The participants were informed that 13,384 citizens have registered on the portal, with nearly 300 women actively using the service. District Peshawar has reported the highest number of complaints, with 1,458 complaints, followed by Mardan 405, Bannu 363, Dera Ismail

Khan 335, and Abbottabad 344. Complaints related to municipal services topped the list with 1,966 complaints, followed by issues in education 1,040, public agenda implementation 876, corruption 602, and law and order 539.

The CM emphasized that complaints must be resolved within three to seven days.

He expressed dissatisfaction over delays in resolving certain complaints and warned the relevant authorities of strict action against any negligence.

International News

Ukraine hits Russia with US ATACMS missiles for first time on war's 1,000th day

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Ukraine used US ATACMS missiles to strike Russian territory on Tuesday, taking advantage of newly granted permission from the outgoing Biden administration on the war's 1,000th day.

Russia said its forces shot down five of six of the missiles, which were fired at a military facility in the Bryansk region. Debris of one hit the facility, starting a fire that was swiftly put out and caused no casualties or damage, it said.

Ukraine said it had struck a Russian arms depot around 110 kilometres inside Russia in an attack that caused secondary explosions. The Ukrainian military did not publicly specify what weapons it had used, but a Ukrainian official source and a US official later confirmed it had used ATACMS.

President Joe Biden gave approval just this

week for Ukraine to use the ATACMS, the longest-range missiles Washington has supplied, for such attacks inside Russia. Moscow has de-

Putin issues warning to United States with new nuclear doctrine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a warning to the United States on Tuesday, lowering the threshold for a nuclear strike just days after the administration of Joe Biden reportedly allowed Ukraine to fire American missiles deep into Russia.

The updated doctrine, formally known as "The basics of state policy in the field of nuclear deterrence", outlines the threats that would make Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power, contemplate using such weapons.

Russia would consider a nuclear strike if it, or its ally Belarus, faced aggression "with the use of conventional weapons that created a critical threat to their sovereignty and [or] their territorial integrity", the new doctrine said.

The previous doctrine, set out in a 2020 decree, said Russia may use nuclear weapons in case of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatened the existence of the state.

Trump plans to use military for mass deportation

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump confirmed on Monday that he plans to declare a national emergency on border security and use the US military to carry out a mass deportation of undocumented migrants.

Immigration was a top issue in the election campaign, and Trump has promised to deport millions and stabilise the border with Mexico after record numbers of migrants crossed illegally during President Joe Biden's administration. On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump amplified a recent post by a conservative activist that said the president-elect was

"prepared to declare a national emergency and will use military assets to reverse the Biden invasion through a mass deportation programme."



US President Joe Biden delivers remarks during an event launching the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty at the G20 Summit at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

China's Xi urges G20 to help 'cool' Ukraine crisis

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: Chinese President Xi Jinping urged G20 leaders to support efforts to de-escalate the war in Ukraine and reach a "political solution," state media reported.

His remarks at the G20 summit in Brazil came shortly after Ukraine received a US green light to launch long-range missiles provided by Washington against targets inside Russia.

"The G20 should support the United Nations and its Security Council in playing a greater role, and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises," Xi said,

according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

He called for leaders to avoid "spillovers" from battlefields and escalation of fighting, and to help "cool the Ukraine crisis and seek a political solution."

War in Ukraine continues to rage since Russia's invasion in 2022.

China presents itself as a neutral party in the war and says it is not sending lethal assistance to either side, unlike the United States and other Western nations.

But it remains a close political and economic ally of Russia. NATO members have branded Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war,

Lebanon says Israeli strike on central Beirut kills five

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said Israel struck a densely packed Beirut neighbourhood on Monday, killing five people, in the third attack in two days on the city's central districts.

"The Israeli enemy strike on Zaaq al-Blat in Beirut killed five people and injured 24," a ministry statement said, giving an updated death toll.

The official National News Agency (NNA) said an apartment near a Shiite Muslim place of worship had been targeted.

Iran offers to cap sensitive uranium stock to avoid IAEA resolution

Monitoring Desk
VIENNA: Iran has offered not to expand its stock of uranium enriched to up to 60% purity, near the roughly 90% of weapons grade, and made preparations to do that, the UN nuclear watchdog said in confidential reports to member states on Tuesday.

During International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi's trip to Iran last week.

Biden pledges record \$4bn to World Bank fund for poorest countries

Monitoring Desk

RIO DE JANEIRO: US President Joe Biden pledged a \$4 billion US contribution to the World Bank's International Development Association fund for the world's poorest countries, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday.

Biden announced the three-year US pledge during a closed session of the Group of 20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, the official told reporters, adding that the US Treasury was leading negotiations at the World Bank for the IDA replenishment.

The new US pledge is a record and substantially exceeds the \$3.5bn Washington committed in the previous IDA fund replenishment round in December 2021.

It is unclear if US President-elect Donald Trump, who has proposed cutting foreign aid in the past, will honour Biden's pledge as he and billionaire Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk seek to slash US spending through a new government efficiency panel.

An appropriation by the US Congress to fund the commitment would not likely take place until after Trump takes office in January.

Jailing of 45 Hong Kong democrats in landmark trial draws criticism

Monitoring Desk

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's High Court on Tuesday jailed 45 pro-democracy activists for up to 10 years following a landmark national security trial that has damaged the city's once feisty democracy movement and drawn criticism from the US and other countries.

A total of 47 pro-democracy activists were arrested and charged in 2021 with conspiracy to commit subversion under a Beijing-imposed national security law which carried sentences of up to life in prison.

Benny Tai, a former legal scholar identified in the judgement as a "mastermind" of the activists' plans, was sentenced to 10 years in jail, the longest sentence so far under the 2020 national security law.

The charges related to the organising of an unofficial "primary election" in 2020 to select the best candidates for an upcoming legislative election.

The activists were accused by prosecutors of plotting to paralyse the government by engaging in potentially disruptive acts had they been elected.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia H.E. Dr. Nasser bin Abdul Aziz Al Dawood calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

NA Speaker says Durable peace cannot be achieved without resolution of Kashmir, Palestine dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said that durable global peace cannot be achieved without the resolution of Kashmir and Palestine dispute.

He said this during a meeting with Minister/Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development, United Kingdom, Himesh Falconer along with UK Parliamentary delegation on Monday.

Ayaz Sadiq expressed concern over the grave human rights violations in these regions, stating that without addressing these issues, regional stability would remain elusive. The Speaker stressed that Parliament of Pakistan represents all political parties and the incumbent Parliament has active opposition that plays a constructive

role on matters of national importance.

He affirmed his impartiality as Speaker, ensuring a balanced approach in managing parliamentary proceedings.

Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan is committed to fostering regional peace and stability in the region. He also said that Pakistan has long standing and historic ties with the United Kingdom.

The Speaker said that by enhancing and promoting parliamentary and economic cooperation these ties can be further strengthened.

He emphasized that close interaction and cooperation between the parliaments of both countries could play a pivotal role in bolstering bilateral relations.

The Speaker mentioned that Pakistan has rendered immense sacrifices in the global war on terror

and it has always strived for regional peace.

He also highlighted initiatives of the Parliament, namely the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat established in 2014, which actively works toward achieving sustainable development goals in Pakistan.

Additionally, he mentioned the establishment of a parliamentary caucus to protect the rights of women and children, playing a vital role in addressing discrimination against women and promoting gender equality.

Furthermore, the Speaker underscored Pakistan's minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions while being one of the most affected countries by climate change. He called for greater international collaboration to address this pressing challenge.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Minister/Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Foreign, Commonwealth & Development, United Kingdom Mr. Hamish Falconer along with delegation at Parliament House.

\$ 77 million 'Recharge Pakistan' initiative unveiled to mitigate flood risk

BAKU (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that managing exacerbating flood risk in Pakistan through ecosystem-based adaptation (Eba) as a transformative approach is the most viable and effective way to turn devastating floods boon for the socio-economic well-being and ecosystems of the country.

"While Pakistan continues to face escalating climate risks including devastating floods, adopting and promoting Eba strategies in managing the growing flood risks and its adverse impacts on infrastructure, lives and livelihoods of the people is crucial to protect

vulnerable communities, restore degraded ecosystems and build climate resilience across the country," the PM's climate aide made these remarks as keynote speaker at a high-level event 'Recharge Pakistan as Life to Indus' held here in Baku on Tuesday at Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of the COP29 global climate conference in Baku.

She highlighted that floods have long continued to pose growing risks to Pakistan's landscapes, infrastructure, communities and their livelihoods with catastrophic events such as the 2022 floods, which displacing millions and causing loss of billions of rupees

in economic damages.

"We must realise that traditional flood water management or defence mechanisms alone can no more provide long-term solutions to the floods, which are becoming increasingly frequent and intense, Romina Khurshid Alam cautioned and suggested.

"However, mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation techniques is a viable adaptation and risk mitigation solution, that can help leverage the natural processes of ecosystems to mitigate flooding risks while delivering co-benefits for biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate resilience."



QUETTA: Director General NADRA Kashif Iqbal meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai.

Mirwaiz calls for dialogue to resolve Kashmir dispute, reviving cross-LOC trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has emphasized that dialogue was the only viable path to resolving the Kashmir dispute.

He urged India to revisit initiatives such as cross-LOC trade and bus services, describing them as vital confidence-building measures between Pakistan and India.

According to Kashmir Media Service, speaking to the media in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Mirwaiz stressed, "The policy of repression can not resolve conflicts and reiterated that dialogue is only way forward."

Highlighting the limitations of local governments in resolving political issues like Kashmir, he called for sincere engagement by the Indian government in ad-

ressing the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The local government can address issues of basic amenities, but for the political aspect of the Kashmir issue, New Delhi must change its perspective. People here want an end to uncertainty and bloodshed," Mirwaiz said.

Welcoming the relative calm along the Line of Control over the past few years, Mirwaiz urged India and Pakistan to capitalize on this momentum by reopening trade routes and improving connectivity.

"Such initiatives have benefited many families in the past and must be revisited. These steps are beyond the purview of the local government and rest with the central authorities," he noted.

PHC extends interim bail of Bushra, orders for not arresting her till Dec 23

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) while extending interim bail of Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder Imran Khan has ordered for not arresting her till December 23 in any case.

Bushra Bibi could not appear in the court being unwell.

The petition filed by Bushra Bibi in connection with details of cases and interim bail came up for hearing before two members bench of PHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) PHC Justice Ishaq Ibrahim and justice Waqar Ahmad Tuesday.

During hearing of the case, Alam Khan Adenzai, counsel filed exemption plea for one day from attendance in the court in respect of Bushra Bibi stating that she is ill and she cannot appear in the court.

The court while accepting exemption plea for one day in respect of Bushra Bibi remarked exemption plea on next hearing will not be accepted.

The court extended the interim bail of Bushra Bibi besides ordering that she be not arrested in any case till December 23.

PM expresses satisfaction over implementation of MoUs on \$2.8 bln Saudi Investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, emphasizing the significance of cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in different sectors, expressed satisfaction over the implementation of recently signed bilateral MoUs for Saudi investment worth \$2.8 billion in Pakistan.

The bilateral ties were discussed as Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling the historic and fraternal relations between the two countries, the prime minister thanked the Saudi leadership and government for always supporting Pakistan and said both sides were working together to further

strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Arabia ties into mutually beneficial economic and investment cooperation.

The prime minister welcomed the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister to Pakistan and wished him a successful visit.

He also conveyed his greetings and best wishes to The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

Discussing the situation in Gaza and the broader Middle East, the prime minister recalled the recent Arab-Islamic Summit held in Riyadh, and appreciated the leadership of Saudi Arabia for holding the event and also the stance of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the issue of Palestine.

Prime Minister Shehbaz lauded the leadership role of Saudi Arabia and the efforts of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in unifying the Ummah to collectively seek an end to violence in Gaza due to Israel's genocidal actions.

Emphasizing the significance of bilateral cooperation in defence and security sectors, he said that the visit of the Saudi deputy interior minister and his delegation would help bring both sides closer in terms of cooperation in these specific areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also reiterated his invitation to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience as the people of Pakistan were waiting to accord him a very warm welcome.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Raheela Hameed Durrani and MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

World Bank Country Director meets former Senate Chairman Sadiq

QUETTA (Online): The World Bank's Country Director, Najib Benhassine, met with former Senate Chairman and Member of the Provincial Assembly, Sadiq Sanjrani, at his residence on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on the ongoing development projects in Balochistan being supported by the World Bank. During the discussion, Sadiq Sanjrani emphasized

the importance of international institutions in the development of any country. He lauded the World Bank's significant contributions to the social and developmental sectors of Balochistan.

The two also discussed challenges posed by climate change and other matters of mutual interest. Following the meeting, Sadiq Sanjrani hosted a luncheon in honor of the World Bank's Country Director.

Yousuf Ch says Imran nods yes for talks with powers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry counsel for PTI founder has said Imran Khan has nodded yes for talks during his meeting with Ali Amin Gandapur and Barrister Gohar.

Talking to a private TV channel Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry said Ali Amin Gandapur and Barrister Gohar had come to Imran Khan to seek permission that if contact is made then talks will be held on what matters.

PTI founder said talks will be held with the powers that be. PTI founder has allowed us to talk on PTI demands, they indicated.

PTI founder has said November 24 protest will end when all the demands are accepted.

Chaudhry said PTI founder has accorded permission to hold talks. Earlier he had forbidden from holding talks.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti visiting stalls at Sciences and Art Exhibition in Jinnah Elite School.

Ahsan Iqbal urges ADB to establish database systems for Courts, Police

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday urged Asian Development Bank (ADB) to establish database management systems for Courts and Police stations.

A delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Pakistan Mission, led by Senior Director Tariq Niazi, called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, said a press release issued here.

The delegation included Zain Fawzi, Senior Project Officer; Asad Aleem, Deputy Country Director; and Sana Masood, Senior Economist.

During the meeting, Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need for technological integration across various networks and urged the ADB to develop a judicial information system for

Pakistan's 2,500 courts. "The system should provide detailed profiles of all judges, track the status of disposed cases, and include timelines for pending cases to ensure transparency and efficiency," he stated.

The Minister recommended the establishment of a comprehensive police information system to integrate all 1,500 police stations in the country. This system would include details of each station's jurisdiction and streamline operations. He underscored the importance of leveraging technology to modernize Pakistan's administrative and service delivery systems. "Technology should expose discrepancies in a way that eliminates human manipulation," he said, citing the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) successful implementation of the Iris software as a model for digital automation.



QUETTA: Minister IT Gilgit Balistan Surriya Zaman meeting with Advisor of Chief Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch.

Pakistan, ADB sign \$500 mln for climate resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Tuesday signed a US\$500 million loan agreement for the Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Program (CDREP).

The agreement was signed after the approval of Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Cheema, according to a press release issued by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz and ADB Country Director, Ms. Emma Fan signed the Loan Agreement. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from the government and ADB.

Cheema, while giving consent regarding the agreement, said that signing the

agreement underscores Pakistan's commitment to prioritize climate change initiatives and scaling up disaster risk financing using a risk-layered approach.

Secretary Economic Affairs and ADB Country Director said that this program was designed as a programmatic approach and aims to strengthen Pakistan's capacity for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, addressing the country's vulnerabilities to natural disasters and climate impacts.

The core objective of the program is to enhance institutional frameworks for disaster risk management by improving disaster risk mapping, response coordination, and gender-sensitive public investments.

Whole story will come to open within 72 hours: Faisal Vawda

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda has said water is going to turn into bubble on November 24 and no release is going to be made.

PTI leaders are enjoying perks by bargaining over PTI founder. Inside the talks are running. The whole story will come to open within 72 hours, he said this while talking to media men here Tuesday.

He held PTI wala's give call of protest every other day. They have also given call for protest on November 24 and now we have to see they selected this day for what purpose. Their all drama is meant for the release of PTI founder.

Ali Amin Gandapur himself is sitting in the feet after asking the people to wear shroud.

Criticizing US Con-

gressmen he said interference is being made in internal affairs of Pakistan from outside. You say to yourself super power you are zero power. You are not seeing human rights violation in Aafia Siddiqui case. You are not seeing human rights violations in Kashmir.

Tell us human rights violations are being committed where in Pakistan.

Gandapur should tell whose message he brought to Imran Khan. They don't want release of PTI founder.

PTI all leadership is sitting in KP. Threats for mounting federation with using all resources of KP are being hurled.

No talks of establishment are being held with PTI. The party has been divided into factions. All MPAs have turned against them in Punjab.



QUETTA: MPAs Shahnaz Umrani, Shahida Rauf and Safia Fazalur Rehman talking with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazla Gola after Assembly session.