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PM Shehbaz brushes off 'threat of contempt', says vote of confidence upholds Parliament's supremacy



82 years old Pakistani shepherd accepts Hajj offer of Javed Afridi

Election impasse: Govt, PTI members to meet again today after opening round of talks at Parliament House

Members of the ruling coalition and opposition PTI will resume talks on elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tomorrow (Friday), following the initiation of dialogue at the Parliament House today.

Representatives from both sides met inside Senate Chairman Saqib Sanjram's chamber on Thursday evening to begin the negotiations, a correspondent confirmed, saying that the talks concluded after more than an hour.

The negotiations have taken place while a written order is awaited by the Supreme Court regarding elections in Punjab and KP — an issue on which there has been a weeks-long impasse between the ruling coalition, the opposition and the higher judiciary.

PPP's Yousaf Raza Gilani, who participated in the negotiations from the government's side, said while speaking to the media that the talks would be resumed tomorrow at 3pm at the Parliament House, during which the PTI would present its demands.

Parties part of the ruling coalition would then be apprised of the PTI's demands, he added

Alongside him, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said it was principally decided that matters would be resolved within the ambit of the Constitution.

Later, Senator Ali Zafar, who was part of the PTI's negotiating team, said it was agreed during today's talks that a solution to the ongoing deadlock should be such that it worked best for the country and the nation.

We agreed not to employ any delaying tactics and assured each other that sincere efforts would be made to find a good solution,



he added

Zafar shared these details during Geo News programme Capital Talk, saying that a consensus was reached today that all aspects of the issue of elections should be discussed and debated during the negotiations.

The senator said the PTI intended to conclude the talks before the end of this week, but the talks may continue for a longer period. But "we intend to submit our findings to the Supreme Court by Monday", he added, referring to the top court's directives for political parties to hold talks and evolve a consensus on elections.

He further said that no allegations were exchanged between the two sides during the talks today.

Ruling coalition to take all allies on board: Qureshi

Meanwhile, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, another member of the PTI's negotiating committee, said while speaking to the media in Islamabad that both sides had presented their stance today and members of the ruling coalition told them that they had to take all allies on board.

We have already consulted PTI chief Imran Khan and have his full mandate," he said, adding that representatives of the ruling coalition had told the PTI delegation that all coalition partners had to be consulted and

taken on board.

The PTI leader said the PTI had agreed to their request and asked them to propose a solution after consulting their allies. "And if the solution is within the constitutional ambit, we will discuss it with an open mind."

Regarding the progress of today's talks, he said both sides agreed that solutions to political problems could be found through talks, provided that they are held with sincere intentions and in a meaningful way.

"Our intention is to find a way forward for these talks and not use them as delaying tactics," he said, adding, "We believe that whatever solution we will come up with it would be within the constitutional ambit."

'One-point agenda'

Earlier, video footage from before the meeting showed Qureshi and Senator Zafar — two of the members included in the PTI's negotiating team — arriving at the Parliament House.

Accompanying them was Faisal Chaudhry, brother of PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry who is also part of the PTI's negotiating committee.

Speaking to the media ahead of the meeting, Qureshi said that there was only "one-point agenda" for the talks, and that was elections.

When a reporter sought clarification on whether he meant early elections, he succinctly replied, "elections."

In response to another question, he said the PTI's delegation had Imran Khan's complete mandate for the talks. "Whether the Pakistan Democratic Movement has the mandate for the talks, this you may ask them." Web Desk

82 years old Pakistani shepherd accepts Hajj offer of Javed Afridi

Abdul Ghaffar Langah, Syed Ali Shah

HUB The 82-years old Pakistani shepherd, Haji Abdul Qadir accepted the Hajj offer of Javed Afridi, the owner of Peshawar Zalmai on Thursday.

I accept this offer, I want to perform Hajj again," the white-bearded aged man from the Hub district of Balochistan told Daily Quetta Voice in an exclusive interview. "I heard about his offer through my neighbors," he said.

"This was my dream of life to be at the Holy Place"



Dressed in a simple white shalwar kameez, Haji Abdul Qadir said, "This was my dream of life to be at the Holy Place." He thanked the Saudi government and the royal family for their support. I wanted to perform Umrah for many years but could not go because of poverty. Finally, I took goats from someone and grazed half of them, one part belonged to the owner and the other part was mine. I sold my goats and left for Umrah. I don't know any other language except Balochi. I didn't know that Allah has blessed me so much. The video of the elderly man from Pakistani frail shepherd roaming the Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) mosque went viral. This prompted Turki Alalshikh, adviser to the Saudi Crown Prince, prompting him to a tweet asking about his whereabouts to

meet him.

"I have no mobile phone and property", Haji Abdul Qadir informed

Living in a hut in a very miserable condition, Haji Abdul Qadir can only speak in his own language i.e. Balochi. He is the father of five children and constructed his hut on the land provided by another tribal elder, Haji Rahim Marri. "I have no mobile phone and property," Haji Abdul Qadir informed. "I want to establish a Masjid, if the government provided land and a small house for my children," the elderly man said. Scores of people in the area were gathered around him and inquiring about him. The elderly man was slowly speaking to every individual and telling the story of his travel to the Holy Place.

Blast in Khuzdar martyrs a police officer: Police

From Our Correspondent:

KHUZDAR: A senior police officer was martyred in a bomb explosion in Balochistan's Khuzdar city on Thursday. Police inspector Sharbat Khan was martyred in the blast near the medical complex of the city, police said.

The vehicle of Sharbat Khan was targeted through a remote-controlled bomb in the medical complex area. The police officer was martyred on the spot, police said. He was currently serving in the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD). The inspector was completely destroyed in the attack.

The blast rocked the entire area and police rushed towards the spot. The dead body of the police officer was shifted to the district headquarters hospital.

Senior police and administration officials reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. The motive

Pakistan will overcome prevailing political crisis: German CG

Mir Salam Jogezi

Germany's Karachi Consul-General, Dr. Rudiger Lotz on Thursday said that Pakistan is an important country and it will overcome the prevailing crisis. "For us, Pakistan is an important country", the Consul General of Germany said while talking to reporters.

He expressed these views on the occasion of a ceremony held with regard to the appointment of the newly appointed consul general for Balochistan Mir Murad Baloch.

"We are confident that Pakistan would overcome these problems"

Mr. Lotz stated, "We are confident that Pakistan would overcome these problems." No doubt, Pakistan is a democracy and it has a democratic structure, the Consul General mentioned.

He said Pakistan is an emerging economy and it is the fifth most populous country in the globe. Mr. Lotz stated that Germany has financed huge development



projects to improve socio-economic conditions in Balochistan. He said, "We have the support of senior citizens." He congratulated the newly

appointed Germany Consul General, Mir Murad Baloch, and said that Mr. Baloch would play an important role in the issues of the people.

Secretary Home Balochistan to probe into martyrdom of 6 policemen

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Special Secretary (Home) Balochistan would probe into the martyrdom of six policemen in the province's Jaffarabad district on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo took serious notice of the martyrdom of six policemen in Jaffarabad, an official handout issued said. The provincial government has appointed the Special Secretary of Home Balochistan to probe into the martyrdom of policemen.

CM inquired whether the police party had gone with full preparation

Expressing concern over the evidence of the police, the chief minister inquired whether the police party had gone with full preparation and planning to confront the dacots, whether any senior police officer was supervising the action, and whether there was a raid against the dacots. The Chief Minister has directed the Additional Chief Secretary Home to appoint the Special Secretary Home as an



inquiry officer to review all the motives and submit a report. The chief minister said that the brave and courageous security

personnel are the protectors of our lives and property, we cannot afford to lose them, the statement concluded.

PM Shehbaz brushes off 'threat of contempt', says vote of confidence upholds Parliament's supremacy

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif secured a vote of confidence from the National Assembly on Thursday, with 180 lawmakers reposing "full confidence" in his leadership as the premier.

After the House reposed confidence in him, the premier spoke at length about recent orders of the higher judiciary, expressing reservations on rulings that questioned parliament's confidence in him and warned of "serious consequences".

The unexpected development came days after Information Minister Mariyam Aurangzeb vehemently refuted reports claiming that the premier had decided to seek a vote of confidence from Parliament.

The resolution for the trust vote, moved by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, stated, "The National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of



Pakistan reposes its full confidence in the leadership of Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, as the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. After the resolution was moved, voting was conducted with lawmakers in favour of adopting the resolution rising from their seats. Web Desk

Country needs to boost bilateral cooperation with Iran, Romania: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has stressed the need of boosting bilateral cooperation with Iran and Romania in all areas of mutual interest.

These views were expressed by him on Thursday during separate meetings with the envoys of Iran and Romania here at the Awan-e-Sadr.

President Arif Alvi while speaking to the outgoing ambassador of Iran, Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, said that Pakistan greatly valued its fraternal relations with Iran as both brotherly countries shared historical linkages and cultural affinities, besides having commonalities of views on issues of regional and international significance.

He emphasized the need for increasing economic cooperation and expanding the trade volume for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He also highlighted the atrocities being committed by the Indian security forces against Muslims in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India, saying Muslims were being isolated and persecuted in India and the Muslim World needed to take notice of the Indian brutalities against Muslims. The President thanked the Iranian government for its support and stance on the Kashmir issue.

Appreciating the landmark initiative taken by Iran and Saudi Arabia to normalise diplomatic relations, Arif Alvi said that normalization of relations between the two countries would lead to peace and stability



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shebaz Sharif addresses a session of the National Assembly after getting the Vote of Confidence.

Seven killed, 13 injured in T.T Singh road mishap

TOBA TEK SINGH: At least seven people were killed and about two dozen others including women and a child injured in a tragic road mishap here on Thursday.

Rescue 1122 sources said that a min-truck rammed into a coaster near Dharmapara area of Toba Tek Singh.

Both vehicles caught fire after the collision resulting in death of seven people and leaving 13 including three women and a child seriously injured.

The injured were shifted to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital, Gojra and private hospital in Faisalabad.

Police have registered a case into the incident and started an investigation.

Five gamblers held with stake money

ATTOCK: As many as five gamblers were arrested besides recovery of stake money during a raid in Christian Colony, Hazro police station jurisdiction in Attock on Thursday.

In a tip-off, SHO Hazro Malik Anif Hussain along with his team raided a gambling den.

During raid, five gamblers identified as Liguat Masih, Muhammad Mansha, Osim Khan, Ahmed Nawaz and Nasir Ali were arrested.

Police recovered gambling tools and Rs 9010 stake money from possession of the detainees.

A case was registered against the nabbed gamblers at concerned police stations and investigations were underway.

Governor urges varsities to focus on character building of students

LAHORE: Governor Punjab/Chancellor Punjab University Muhammad Baligh-un-Rehman has urged the universities to focus on strengthening the character of students and teachers must play an effective role in classrooms in this regard.

He expressed these views during an introductory meeting with Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood at Governor's house here on Thursday.

Talking to the VC, Muhammad Baligh-un-Rehman said that universities must be run in accordance with rules and regulations.

A case was registered against the nabbed gamblers at concerned police stations and investigations were underway.

Torkham border: Propaganda about sugar smuggling exposed

ISLAMABAD: Propaganda on social media about the smuggling of sugar in containers via the Torkham border has been exposed.

On April 18, several trucks loaded with goods were on their way to Afghanistan via Torkham border, when they were buried under the debris after a landslide in the area.

Following the incident, propaganda was hatched about the smuggling of sugar in the trucks loaded with cement. Sources said that three of the damaged containers labeled with sugar were waiting to cross the Pak-Afghan border after scanning? The sugar was being exported to Afghanistan with the permission of the government of Pakistan through private trucks and they had nothing to do with the National Logistic Cell (NLC). All agencies, including Customs and the FIA, are performing their responsibilities efficiently at the Torkham border and trucks and containers are allowed INP.

Not ready to hold talks with PTI, says Fazl

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) head and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazi (JUI-F) supreme Maulana Fazl Rehman claimed on Thursday that Prime Minister Shebaz Sharif had shown agreement not to hold talks with PTI during yesterday's session which was attended by the heads of the ruling coalition parties.

The session's agenda was talks with PTI but on what basis we should hold dialogues with PTI, the PDM head alleged that the Supreme Court (SC) was forcing political parties to dialogue.

He said that the PDM was not ready to accept that PTI was not a political party and that the SC's verdict was not enforceable which should be realised by the judiciary.

Holding polls is the matter of the election commission and it will take this matter forward."

Regarding the digital census, the PDM head said that a lack of confidence was exhibited in the procedure of the population census in different parts of the country including Karachi, rural Sindh and Balochistan capitals.

Maulana Fazl Rehman demanded the government to constitute an investigating committee to ascertain the reasons why the country's population is decreasing instead of increasing at five years in census statistics INP.

Another CPEC project worth Rs 1.25 trn approved to connect KP with Balochistan: Asad Mahmood

DI KHAN: Federal Minister of Communications Asad Mahmood has announced that a project worth Rs 1.25 trillion to connect Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Balochistan through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route had been approved.

He stated this during a meeting with a delegation of Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazi (JUI-F) local leadership on Thursday.

The minister said this project of a 210-km long road would connect Yarik to Saggi and then Saggi to Zohb which would be completed with the joint cooperation of the governments of Pakistan and China.

He informed that the secretary of communication was on a visit to China for the final approval of matters from field staff in Peshawar City, Rawalpindi, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan and raided 34 Cable. Among them 20 were found airing illegal Indian channels as well as Indian content and imposed fine as well.

Field staff in PEMRA Regional Office Lahore has initiated drive against illegal/Indian content and conducted 89 surprise inspections in all 7 districts. Total number of violations found was 3 in Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib and Kasur. All three operators have been strictly warned and issued show cause notices and called for personal hearing. During the mentioned raids, the enforcement teams confiscated illegal equipment. Moreover, Regional Office Sargodha conducted surprise inspections INP.

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Keel laying ceremony of Pakistan Navy's 2nd OPV held at Romania

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), Dr. Anwar-ul-Haq Ali Khan said that powerful sugar mafia is depriving poor masses of their income.

He said that the mafia is constantly increasing the price of the commodity. He said that before the completion of the project, the country was five million tonnes and an increase of one rupee per kg, in its price increases the burden of five billion rupees on the public, which was transferred to the coffers of the sugar mafia.

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in the Middle East. The meeting also underscored the need for promoting counter-terrorism cooperation to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

Ambassador Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini underlined the need for enhancing economic, cultural and political cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He said that both countries had great potential to further expand economic cooperation. He informed that both sides had agreed to construct six border markets that would boost bilateral trade. He appreciated the President of the ongoing electricity transmission projects that would benefit the people of Balochistan.

The President appreciated the contribution of the outgoing ambassador to promoting bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. In his meeting with the Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia, the President said that Romania was an important country in Eastern Europe and Pakistan desired to deepen its relationship with Romania in the fields of trade and economy. He thanked the Romanian government for its support to Pakistan in financing and construction of GSI. He also appreciated the Romanian government for improving economic relations and undertaking regular exchanges and interactions at the highest levels to further cement bilateral ties. The Romanian ambassador conveyed gratitude on behalf of the President of Romania for the support provided by Pakistan in the evacuation of the Romanian nationals from Afghanistan during August and September 2021 INP.

Skill development scheme for textile sector to be launched: WeathPK

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Commerce has decided to launch a skill development scheme for the textile and apparel industry to enhance exports, said a report.

The objectives of the scheme include human resource development, increasing exports, creating employment opportunities, poverty alleviation and gender inclusion in the textile sector.

The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs4 508 billion, while the time period of the scheme would be for five years. The Ministry of Commerce has sought Rs118.2 million from the government for the next fiscal year (2023-24) to initiate the project.

According to the scheme, industrial value-added textile sectors will be trained according to international quality standards. The goal is also to encourage entrepreneurship among the young generation.

Expanding the pool of skilled workers in the country is another objective of the scheme. People would be provided skills along with entrepreneurial motivation and competence so they can start their own businesses.

This scheme will also contribute towards poverty reduction, social and economic development of the country through employment and entrepreneurs," the Ministry of Commerce said.

Another aspect of the scheme will be gender inclusion. "Promoting gender equality and women empowerment in education, employment and industrial participation will be focused under the scheme," the report said.

The scheme would also help increase the country's exports through uplift of hands-on skill of textile-related personnel (especially garment stitchers) by enabling them to comply with international export standards.

The scheme will also focus on increasing value addition in terms of per unit value and exports in textile sector.

"Textile factories and production units will be encouraged and trained to use modern management techniques for improving efficiency and reducing wastages," the ministry said.

The availability of skilled workforce for the textile industry will make it more competitive and export-oriented. One of the objectives of the scheme is to uplift the economic status and living standard of textile workers, especially women, through their employment-based skill development," the ministry said.

It will make sure sustainable employment and industry promotion all over the country. It will also engage a panel of professional agencies for innovation, project identification and execution of the scheme to make it result-oriented. INP

Influent sugar mafia robbing poor masses: PEW

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), Dr. Anwar-ul-Haq Ali Khan said that powerful sugar mafia is depriving poor masses of their income.

He said that the mafia is constantly increasing the price of the commodity. He said that before the completion of the project, the country was five million tonnes and an increase of one rupee per kg, in its price increases the burden of five billion rupees on the public, which was transferred to the coffers of the sugar mafia.

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ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Iran, Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Awan-e-Sadr.

PPP taking steps for resolving farmers' issues: Kundi

DI KHAN: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Secretary Information Faisal Karim Khan Kundi has said that his party was taking steps for resolving the issues being faced by the farmers.

He expressed these views during a meeting held here at the circuit house with a delegation of local farmers including Raju Anwar Khan, Azmat Ullah alias Mannu Khan, Jafri Khan, Haji Abdul Razzaz, Hafeez Ullah, and others. On this occasion, PPP district president Malik Farhan Afzal Dhap was also present. The minister regretted that Punjab, but its owners did not get the price of sugarcane to the farmers

even at the end of the crushing season. He said that several important steps were being taken by the government for the welfare of the farmers.

On this occasion, the farmers' delegation apprised the state minister that the management of Miran Sugar Mills Dera was not paying the prices of sugarcane to farmers properly.

Kundi said that the agriculture sector was the backbone of the country's economy and the development of this sector needs full attention. He assured the delegation that their issues would not only be taken up before the local administration but also with the quarters concerned in Islamabad. INP

IPRS ideal for commercial fish farming: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs to improve its aquaculture in order to export quality fishery products in both processed and non-processed forms, said Dr. Shaista Waqar, Assistant Director of the Department of Fisheries Punjab, in an interview with WealthPK.

"On commercial scale, as a sustainable fishing practice, in Pond Rearing system (IPRS) is ideal for aquaculture producers to enhance their regular production. IPRS is an innovative combination of extensive fish production from a regular fish pond. Traditional farming requires a large area but produces less

output. On the other hand, the IPRS is more practical than other fish farming practices due to its higher stocking densities, improved water quality, ease of feed maintenance and grading, precise disease treatment, fish waste collection, less loss of oxygen levels in the water, faster and ease of harvest," she added.

Through the IPRS-type mechanized fish farming system, a great yield is produced. In this system, cemented raceways are established in a regular fish pond. The fish is stopped and intensive feeding of oxygen levels in the water naturally turns into nitrates or fertilizer.

"IPRS is a fully automated system and seems expensive due to its demand for an uninterrupted power supply. In this system, farm activities like the maintenance of oxygen levels in the water, feeders and power supply are programmed INP

Quetta: Administrator Quetta Tariq Javed Mengal, Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shahaq Baloch are meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Kakar.

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