

QUETTA VOICE

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Monday, September 04,2023

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4 burnt to death in a traffic accident near Noshki

Riaz Baloch:

NOSHKI: At least four people burnt to death when a van carrying smuggled Iranian petrol collided with a Mazda truck on Sunday.

Levies sources said fire erupted inside the van soon after the accident. Four people burnt to death as a result of roaring fire.

Levies force and people of the area reached the spot and extinguished roaring flames of fire. Rescue workers reached the spot and retrieved the dead bodies.

The incident happened in the Jorkin area near Noshki. The victims belonged to Mastung district of Balochistan.

Reckless driving and narrow roads have claimed thousands of precious human lives in various parts of Balochistan.

Quetta Karachi highway claiming more precious human lives than Terrorism

Especially, Quetta-Karachi highway, which is commonly called the 'killer highway' continues to claim precious human lives. Much has been said and written about this. But with no effective response from the authorities to bring an end to the deadly accidents. At least 41 people were burnt to death last year when a passenger coach fell into a ravine near the Beta area of district Lasbela Balochistan.

Causes of road accidents

- 1: Reckless driving
- 2: Overspeeding
- 3: Overloading
- 4: Narrow and poor roads
- 5: No timely repair and maintenance of roads by NHA
- 6: No signals
- 7: Overloaded marble trucks on Quetta-Karachi highway
- 8: Passenger buses carrying petrol and diesel
- 9: Drivers using drugs
- 10: No Fire extinguisher in buses
- 11: Absence of Motorway Police



Sugar per kg now at Rs. 220 as common person witnesses worst inflation

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Sugar price per kilogram reached Rs. 220 in the provincial capital as common person witnessed worst inflation currently.

"Yes, now we are selling sugar per kg at Rs. 220", Abdul Hanan, a sugar dealer in the city's Kandahari Bazar area told Daily Quetta Voice. The skyrocketing prices of sugar have several affected common man. The government claimed to have launched a crackdown against the elements involved in sugar smuggling. Nevertheless, the people are forced to pay skyrocketing prices of sugar.

He said sugar was also likely to complete three centuries in view of increasing prices.

Customs department claimed to have seized dozens of trucks loaded with sugar near Pak-Afghan border. The caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar had also directed to establish a specific cell against smuggling at the home department in Balochistan to stop the smuggling of commodities.

End sugar smuggling: People demand

However, people are critical of the interim government for increasing prices of commodities. "Action, no lip service", Samad Khan, a daily wage worker demanded. He urged the government to translate its words into action regarding an end to smuggling.

"Sugar sale dropped", Dealers Complained

"Sugar sale dropped and we are concerned about our business", Abdul Hanan lamented.

2 policemen injured in Hazar Ganji hand grenade attack in Quetta

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: At least two policemen were injured in a hand grenade attack in the Hazar Ganji area of the city on Saturday. Police sources said unknown miscreants lobbed a hand grenade at the patrolling police vehicle in the Hazar Ganji area of the provincial capital.

The attack left two policemen injured. The injured were rushed to the Bolan

Medical Complex (BMC) hospital for medical treatment. An emergency was declared in the hospital to provide medical treatment to the injured of the attack.

The attackers managed to escape unhurt from the spot.

A huge contingent of police reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway. Police investigators also collected evidence from the spot of the blast.



Political leaders pay rich tribute to Sardar Attaullah Mengal

Manan Mandokhail :

QUETTA: Political leaders paid rich tribute to Sardar Attaullah Mengal at a public meeting in the city on Saturday. The Balochistan National Party (BNP) organized a public meeting to mark the second death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal, the Baloch nationalist leader.

"Sardar Attaullah Mengal spent precious days of life behind the bar for oppressed people", Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the Chief of BNP told bags-waving party supporters at the Hockey Ground Quetta on Saturday evening.

The party supporters chanted full-throated slogans in support of the party and Sardar Attaullah Khan Mengal. The leaders of other political parties also addressed the public meeting and paid rich

tribute to the Baloch nationalist leader.

BNP to continue the political struggle of Sardar Attaullah Mengal

"We will continue the political mission of Sardar Attaullah Mengal", Sardar Akhtar Mengal said. He urged the workers to step up efforts to strengthen their ranks to protect the Baloch coast and resources. Sardar Akhtar Mengal stated that seasoned Baloch and Pashtoon nationalist leaders spent precious days of their lives behind bars for the protection of their rights. He said they (leaders) were not demanding any relief from courts and jail administration rather they accepted all troubles and pain for their rights.

Shutter down strike observed in Quetta against skyrocketing petrol prices

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: A shutter-down strike was observed in the city against the worst inflation and skyrocketing prices of petroleum products on Saturday. Jamaat e Islami (JI), the traders' community had given the call to strike. The strike call was backed by the Jamaat e Islami (JI) and other political parties.

All main markets, shopping centers, and shops remained closed on the eve of the shutter down strike in the provincial capital. "We the trader's community backed the strike call of Jamaat Islami against inflation", Rahim Kakar, the President of the Markazi Anjuman e Tajaran said. He said all traders pulled down their shutters to record their protest against the worst inflation, and economic situation of the country.

The traffic flow was also thin on roads and streets of Quetta because of the shutter-down strike. Baton-wielding policemen were deployed at all main roads and streets of the city to maintain order.

The flow of traffic thin on roads

"Rulers have deprived people of a one-time meal", Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi, the Balochistan Amir of the JI lamented. He said rulers must decrease their luxuries and avoid putting further burdens on the shoulders of the common man.

Police were also patrolling throughout the day on roads of the city to avert any untoward incident on the eve of the strike. Senior police officers were also in the city to personally monitor the situation.

Traders warn intensifying protests

"We have announced not to deposit our electricity bills", Hazrat Ali Achakzai, another trader's leader said. He said the traders' community was fed up with increasing taxes and they were not in a position to pay such heavy bills. The traders' community and political parties have also threatened to intensify their protest if the government failed to give relief to the masses. "We will block the entire province if the government fails to do so", Rahim Kakar warned the federal and provincial government.



Detained Pervaiz Elahi shifted to Attock Jail

ATTOCK (INP): Former Punjab chief minister and PTI President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, who had been arrested by the Islamabad Police from Lahore on Friday, was shifted to Attock Jail late at night.

Soon after he was shifted to Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad ordered his detention for a period of 15 days under 3MPO.

Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Inran Khan is already in the Attock Jail.

On arrival, a three-member team of doctors carried out medical examination of the former chief minister.

Section 3 of MPO empowers the government to arrest and detain suspected persons. It states: "The government, if satisfied that with a view to preventing any person from acting in any manner prejudicial to public safety or the maintenance of public order, it is necessary to do, may, by an order in writing direct the arrest and detention in such custody [...]

and [the] government, if satisfied that for the aforesaid reasons, it is necessary so to do, may extend from time to time the period of such detention, for a period not exceeding six months at a time.

The district magistrate's order said that law enforcement agencies had intimated

to the judge at various times that Pervaiz Elahi was the PTI president and "remained involved in creating unrest and disturbance and has further potential to disrupt the public peace and tranquility, if set free".

He further said that in the past as well, "he has provoked PTI supporters to take law into their own hands ... The intelligence agencies have further reported that they have credible information that he would be a threat and can worsen the law and order situation along with his supporters if he is not detained." The order added that it was also reported by agencies that multiple cases were registered against Pervaiz Elahi in different police stations for his involvement in disruption of peace, law and order.

The magistrate said it was highlighted in various reports from intelligence and law enforcement agencies that Ch Pervaiz Elahi has "planned actions against law enforcement, public infrastructure and property", adding that the Intelligence Bureau and Islamabad's assistant inspector general and senior superintendent of police had also recommended the PTI president's detention under Section 3 of the MPO to prevent public disorder.

The order added that a district intelligence committee meeting was con-

vened on the above reports on Thursday and not only endorsed them but also recommended detention order for Pervaiz Elahi.

The magistrate said that on the basis of the material placed before him and the committee's recommendation, he was convinced that Elahi should be detained for "ensuring public peace and tranquillity". He ordered that Pervaiz Elahi be detained for 15 days "to avoid any likelihood of breach of peace/unlawful assembly in the district", adding that the PTI leader had the right to appeal to the government against the decision.

Earlier, the former chief minister's son Moinis Elahi claimed his father was "abducted" from outside his Lahore residence.

Personnel of the Islamabad police had taken former Punjab chief minister into custody on Friday, just moments after the Lahore High Court (LHC), in its explicit orders, had barred the Punjab police, anti-corruption agencies, NAB (National Accountability Bureau), and other law enforcement agencies from arresting him in connection with any FIR or inquiry.

The LHC had ordered the additional registrar for security, DIG Operations, and other senior police officials to ensure that Pervaiz Elahi returned safely to his home.

ICCI and BECHS ink MoU to establish a state-of-the-art Expo Centre in Capital

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and the Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society (IBECHS) on Saturday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Expo Centre in the Federal Capital.

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Secretary IBECHS Shajiat Ullah Qureshi signed the MoU on behalf of concerned organizations during a ceremony held in a local hall here.

Speaking on the occasion, President IBECHS Tariq Mehmoos said that by establishing an Expo Centre in the Federal Capital, we would be discharging an important national responsibility. He said that China and Turkey have increased their exports and tourism by organizing

expos and a joint venture between ICCI and IBECHS for this important project would also help enhance exports and tourism in Pakistan. Shujat Ullah Qureshi, Secretary, IBECHS said that their society is located at an ideal place and many new development projects would be completed here. He was optimistic that the expo center would open up many new avenues for promotion of business, investment and exports.

Senior Vice President ICCI Faad Waheed said that IBECHS has been making efforts since long for the establishment of a new industrial estate in the region and it would like to work with IBECHS for materialization of this important project.

Group Leader ICCI Khalid Iqbal Malik said that the joint venture between ICCI and IBECHS is a great step for the revival of the economy. He said that Pakistan has great

potential to boost exports and hoped that this expo center would also help enhance exports and tourism in Pakistan. Shujat Ullah Qureshi, Secretary, IBECHS said that their society is located at an ideal place and many new development projects would be completed here. He was optimistic that the expo center would open up many new avenues for promotion of business, investment and exports.

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Hot, humid weather expected in most plain areas of country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Mainly hot and humid weather is expected in plain areas of the country during the next twelve hours.

However, rain and wind with thunder-shower is expected at isolated places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pothohar region, Islamabad, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Temperature of some major cities recorded on Saturday morning.

Sindh interim govt to promote IT sector as much as possible:

Younus Dagher KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning & Development Muhammad Younus Dagher has said that the interim provincial government will promote the IT sector as much as possible. This was stated by him while speaking after inaugurating the 23rd ITCN Asia Summit

Inflation driven by food prices hikes to 27.83% in August

ISLAMABAD (INP): Inflation in Pakistan mostly driven by food prices spiked to 27.83% in the month of August, reported on Saturday.

The rate of inflation is continuously rising in Pakistan. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, inflation increased by 1.72% in the month of August.

Inflation rose to 27.38% during a period from July to August. During this period, prices of tomatoes increased by 75.3%, spices by

16.9%, eggs by 16.2%, and sugar by 9%.

In a week, the rate of sugar has increased by Rs11.54 per kg. The maximum price of sugar has increased to Rs190 per kg. In August, prices of Daal Mash and dry milk increased by 5.5%, wheat products by 3%, potatoes by 4.2%, rice by 2.6%, liquid fuel by 14.6%, motor fuel by 8.2%, electricity charges by 1.37%, transport fares by 2.2%, and postal charges by 20%.

According to the PBS, the Sensitive Price Index for the week ended on 31st August, 2023 increased by 0.54%.

Major increase is observed in the prices of food items, sugar (7.17%), Gar (2.11%), pulse Masoor (1.50%), and pulse Mash (1.39%).

Non-Food items: ghee (1.77%), sandal (13.01%), LPG (3.92%), lawn printed (2.36%), long cloth (2.22%), and Match Box (1.07%).

On the other hand, a decrease is observed in the prices

of tomatoes (3.36%), bananas (2.49%), onions (2.01%), chicken (1.23%), garlic (0.58%), vegetable Ghee 2.5 kg (0.31%), vegetable Ghee 1 Kg (0.19%) and mustard oil (0.49%).

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 20 (39.22%) items increased, 08 (15.68%) items decreased, and 23 (45.10%) items remained stable.

The year-on-year trend depicts an increase of 24.39% in electricity for Q1 (126.26%), gas

charges for Q1 (108.38%), cigarettes (121.29%), sugar (94.06%), tea Lipton (93.94%), rice basmati broken (89.04%), chilies powder (86.05%), rice Irti-6/9 (81.82%), gur (67.02%), gents sponge chappal (53.37%), gent sandal (53.37%), salt powder (49.09%), bread (45.42%), and powdered milk (43.44%), while decrease is observed in the prices of onions (57.06%), tomatoes (48.77%), electricity for Q1 (126.26%), and pulse Masoor (9.04%).

ISLAMABAD (INP): The hearing on PTI chairman's bail application in the cipher case was adjourned till September 4.

Judge of the court established under Special Secrets Act Abul Hasanat Zulfikarain conducted hearing on PTI chairman's bail application in the cipher case.

According to sources, Babar Awan and Salman Saikar, the lawyers of PTI chairman, advanced arguments on the bail application.

Salman Saikar said the lawyers of PTI chairman should not be obstructed in Attock Jail.

Lawyers had to walk one and a half kilometers every time they went to Attock Jail. A petition has been filed against the trial in Attock Jail.

Mahmood Qureshi's lawyer Ali Bakhtari also appeared in the court and said that he would like to present arguments on his client's bail application today.

Sources said the lawyers of PTI chairman requested the court to hear the arguments on the bail plea today (Saturday). However, FIA's special prosecutor opposed PTI lawyers' request.

They said the special prosecutor objected to applications filed by PTI's legal team in the Islamabad High Court and requested to adjourn the hearing on the bail application.

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ISLAMABAD: Cricket fans watch the Asia Cup 2023 one-day international (ODI) match between Pakistan and India at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, on a screen in Islamabad.

Xinjiang to deepen medical cooperation with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): China Xinjiang's region will deepen cooperation with Pakistan in medical field, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

Recently, Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan and his delegation visited Xinjiang Medical University and had a symposium with school president Haji Akber Asa to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation between Pakistan and Xinjiang Medical University in the fields of education and scientific research. "In our previous exchange with BRI countries, we learned that they are very interested in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), in-

cluding Uygur, Kazak and Mongolian medicines," said Haji Akber Asa.

Xinjiang Medical University's medical exchanges with BRI countries started long ago, but there is a lack of a platform for all-round medical cooperation.

Earlier this year, at the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), Haji Akber Asa put forward the proposal of carrying out an action plan for BRI medical science and technology innovation. Strengthening exchanges of international medical talent and building a bridge for mutual learning are important parts of the plan. At the symposium, the two

sides had in-depth discussions on education policies, student exchanges and other aspects. They also planned to build a platform for international education cooperation, further strengthening cooperation in scientific research, exchange of teachers and joint training of students.

"Our university has 30 years of experience in international education, with a mature system covering undergraduate and postgraduate stages. We have cultivated about 1,200 Pakistani students. In the future, we will strengthen interschool cooperation with Pakistan and collaborate in medical qualification examinations.



ISLAMABAD: Young girls cyclists from different schools and colleges take part in an Adadi Cycle Rally in connection with the Defence Day celebration organized by Right to Play at Jinnah Avenue.

Businessmen vow to continue protests till power tariff hike withdrawal

KARACHI (INP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has pledged to carry on protests until government withdraws unprecedented hike in power bills and rising fuel cost.

The FPCCI's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar stated that the inflated power bills triggered country-wide protests, demanding that the government to abolish imposed taxes on electricity, saying that increase in electricity bills is unbearable and demanded relief from the government.

In July, the then federal cabinet gave its go-ahead to a massive increase in the base tariff of electricity to the Rs7.50 per unit against the national average tariff determination of Rs4.96 by the power regulator National Electric Power Regulatory Authority. The regulator had hiked the tariff to increase revenue collection for the loss-making power distribution companies during the current fiscal year.

According to a Nagra statement, the revised national average tariff for the 2023-24 fiscal year has been determined at Rs29.78 per unit kWh, which is Rs4.96 per unit higher than the previously determined national average tariff of Rs24.82.

While the regulator cited the rupee's devaluation, high inflation and interest rates, the addition of new capacities to overall low sales growth as reasons behind the increase, it was actually hiked to meet one of the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund of introducing structural reforms in the energy sector. He said that the applicable tariff would be much higher after including surcharges, taxes, duties and levies, besides monthly and quarterly adjustments.

Anjum Nisar said that IPPs were earning huge profits in dollars, but the businesses

were badly suffering due to exorbitant power tariffs and the rising cost of doing business. He said that PPAs in Pakistan had made energy cost highest in the region and stressed that to save the industry, the government should renegotiate PPAs with IPPs in the best national interest.

He stressed that due to the significant depreciation of rupee, the import of industrial raw materials had become very expensive which was pushing up the production cost.

He stressed that the government should take urgent measures to stabilize the value of rupee in order to save the industry from further troubles.

The Chairman BMP said that the excessive hike in the power tariffs, the government should focus on controlling the transmission and distribution losses and power theft besides improving the performance of power companies to save the consumers from further burden.

The business community was of the view that the government could mobilize the required resources through increasing the number of taxpayers, reducing line losses and power theft, and ending exemptions to narrow the fiscal deficit instead of increasing the power tariff.

He said the last increase in power tariff left the industrial sector, particularly the export industry like textile, uncompetitive in comparison to regional competitors. This may lead to the loss of more export orders and render many more people jobless. Despite the tariff surge, he said, power companies would not be able to recover the targeted revenue loss of around 28-30%. At the same time, it will force many consumers to stop paying their bills, which have become unbearable.

Anjum Nisar asked the government to undertake fundamental reforms in the power

sector to make electricity affordable. Besides, the government should launch a crackdown on the habitual power bill defaulters like putting them behind bars. He the latest increase in power tariff would prove counterproductive as it has taken the cost of industrial production up by at least 30% or more in one month. He pointed out that a large number of industrial units had closed down in the past one year due to the government's strategy to cool the overheated economy. Not a single company is operating at 100% production capacity these days.

The BMP Chairman observed that the rising interest rates, the uncertain rupee against soaring fuel prices, higher gas and power tariffs, and unabated food inflation were extremely serious issues that need to be addressed by the government on a priority basis. He said that since the arrival of the caretaker government dollar has gone out of control. The new finance minister should call of the real stakeholders to finalize policies, suggesting the institutions which are getting free electricity and petrol should be ended.

FPCCI former president stressed that the government should change the basic tariff of IPPs in rupee instead of US dollars as this change would save billions of rupees of the national exchequer and provide electricity at affordable cost to the trade and industry, making our export competitive in the international market. Similarly, the profits of the IPPs should also be paid in local currency instead of US dollars, he said. Mian Anjum Nisar said that they cannot compete with the international market in the current price of electricity, it is impossible to do business in the current conditions and businesses are closing down, the government should focus on alternative sources of energy to provide.

Extra running time of trains in timetable cost millions to national exchequer

ISLAMABAD (INP): At transcontinental practice in Pakistan Railways has been noticed as trains having least stops, additional section speed arrive at destination in more time against those having more stops and less section speed.

Despite repair of the railway track and increase in section speed, the trains were taking more time than the schedule time raising a question mark on performance of the officers responsible for making time table besides resulting in additional fuel consumption causing loss of millions of rupees to the national exchequer.

During a research conducted by INP News Agency, it was revealed that though condition of railway tracks has been improved besides enhancing the section speed but despite all this, the trains arrive at the destination with hours of delays. The Railway Headquarter and Division held each other responsible for consulting the time table of trains and avoided to disclose the reasons for delay of trains.

Time table of trains with

special focus on Mehar Express, Thal Express and Attock Passenger having same route from Bisal Junction to Daudkhal extended over 121 kilometers, was scrutinized during the investigation.

At the time of constituting time table, the section speed from Bisal to Jand was 50 kilometer and Jand to Daudkhal was 40 kilometer per hour and this section lying between Attock and Kotri was named as ML2. The running time of Attock Passenger on 121 kilometer Daudkhal to Bisal Junction with 12 stops is three hours one minute, running time of Thal Express with seven stops is 3 hours and 42 minutes, while running time of Mehar Express on the same track is 3 hours and 36 minutes.

In response to date shared by INP with Peshawar Division and PR Headquarter, they denied that it was not true that the train which has least stops arrives the destination earlier than other. The Peshawar Division was of the opinion that Thal Express has 10 coaches while Attock Railcar has seven

coaches due to which Attock passenger despite having more stops takes less time to reach the destination.

However, the PRs Engineers turned down the opinion saying that number of coaches of passenger trains having same section speed don't affect the running time and difference of 42 minutes was beyond recognition.

During scrutiny of Rawalpindi Division's Goods Bisal Junction extended over 76 kilometer, it was learnt that the section speed of the train was 70 kilometer per hour. As per Pakistan Railways official website when you travel on said route through Mehar Express, it takes 1 hour and 16 minutes to reach the destination. Though Rawalpindi Division has removed all speed restrictions other than one on the respective track, official running time of Mehar Express between Golra Sharif and Bisal Junction is 1 hour and 33 minutes. The official running time of Kohat Express on the same track is 1 hour and 34 minutes.



QUETTA: Nazma of Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan Shazia Abdulla speaks during a press conference.



QUETTA: Activists of Qandil Human Rights Development hold a protest in favor of their demands in front of Press Club.

Development of SAARC countries linked with durable peace: Iftikhar Ali

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that economic growth, prosperity, and development for all countries of South Asia is linked with durable peace in region.

While chairing a virtual conference titled 'The role of Afghanistan for durable peace in the region' here on Sunday, he said, "South Asia has long been plagued by instability and conflicts that have hindered the region's progress and potential."

Iftikhar Ali Malik said, "One of the major concerns contributing to this instability has been the presence of terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, which have posed a severe threat not only to Afghanistan but to neighboring countries, including Pakistan."

"Counter-terrorism cooperation and collaboration closely with regional and international stakeholders, especially Pakistan, to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, can help eradicate the breeding grounds for extrem-

ist elements and bring about much-needed stability," he added.

About economic integration, he said, "We must embrace economic integration initiatives within the South Asian region and enhanced economic cooperation can create an environment conducive to peace, prosperity, and development for all."

Former President SCCI said being trade leader of South Asia he firmly believed that by taking these steps, the Afghan Taliban government could play a pivotal role in shaping a more secure and prosperous South Asia, as this, in turn, would foster economic growth, improve living standards, and create a brighter future for all nations in the region.

"We remain committed to supporting any positive efforts towards peace and development in South Asia and are hopeful that, Afghanistan can become a beacon of hope and stability for the entire region."

Iftikhar Ali Malik hoped that Afghanistan would flush out all armed militants' sanctuaries on their soil.

Promoting religious tourism gov't top priority: PTDC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Promoting religious tourism in country is top priority of the government for which it has made various measures so that the sector can be help in re-viving the national economy.

Spokesman of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) said that a total of 480 tourist destinations exist in the country, out of which 120 are religious sites.

Pakistan is blessed with multiple religions such as Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism and due to its magnificent blend of cultural, religious and natural tourism opportunities, he added.

The spokesman further stated that almost 0.9 million international tourists visit the recreational and historical sites across the country annually.

The government was improving the law and order situation to attract the massive number of tourists coming from various countries as religious-based tourism is flourishing and attracting different communities, he said. It is important to realize that religious beliefs and practices are sacrosanct to their followers. Acknowledging,



Adnan Abbas, a Pakistani student from Harbin University of Science and Technology in Heilongjiang Province, northeastern China, can be seen.

Thousands of devotees to attend annual Urs of Data Ganj Baksh

LAHORE (INP): The three-day 980th Urs of Hazrat Ali Hajveri, popularly known as Data Ganj Baksh, will begin on September 5 at his shrine in Lahore. Thousands of devotees from across Pakistan and abroad are expected to attend the annual festivities.

The Urs will start with a traditional 'shahadat' laying ceremony at the shrine.

The Auqaf Department has made elaborate arrangements for the devotees, including langar (free food), mehfil-e-naat (religious gatherings), qawali (Sufi music), and tableghi (spiritual) programs.

Walkthrough gates and CCTV cameras have also been installed inside and around the shrine to ensure security. The district administration has also taken all necessary measures to maintain peace and order during the Urs.

The department has finalized some specific arrangements for the devotees as free Langar. The Auqaf Department will provide free food to

the devotees at the shrine. Mehfil-e-Naat: Religious gatherings will be held at the shrine, where famous naat khawan (poets who recite naats, or poems in praise of the Prophet Muhammad) will perform.

Sufi music programs will also be held at the shrine. Spiritual gatherings will be held at the shrine, where ulema (Islamic scholars) will give lectures and guidance to the devotees. Security: Walkthrough gates and CCTV cameras have been installed inside and around the shrine to ensure security.

The district administration has also taken all necessary measures to maintain peace and order during the Urs.

The Urs is a major religious event in Pakistan, and it is expected to attract a large number of devotees. The arrangements made by the Auqaf Department and the district administration are aimed at ensuring that the devotees have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Sugar price shoots to Rs220 per kg

QUETTA (INP): Sugar price spiked to a record high of Rs220 per kg in retail markets of Balochistan.

The sugar that was earlier being sold at Rs200 suddenly recorded a Rs20 per kg rise in Balochistan to reach an all-time record high of Rs220.

The commodity's wholesale price is Rs210 per kg in the province, while a 50-kg sack has reached Rs10,500, the market sources said. According to dealers, the price of the commodity increased after the supply of sugar got suspended as vehicles got stuck on the national highways after the suspension of permits. The sudden rise in sugar prices has added to the misery of the people who are already bearing the brunt of inflation. Earlier sources claimed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industries ruled out the shortage of sugar in Pakistan. The clarification came after sources claimed that Pakistan is seeking to import sugar from Brazil. The sources within the ministry said Pakistan has sufficient stock of sugar more than 2 million metric tons, which is sufficient for the country's use until December.