

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Thursday, August, 29, 2024

dquettavoice@gmail.com



Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti distributing cheques among the students: Photo provided by the DGPR

Kidnapped Quetta Youth Found Safe In Musakhail

Abdul Rehman Musakhail:

MUSAKHAIL: Talat, a young man abducted three days ago from Sarayab Road, Quetta, has been found safe in Musa Khel. The victim, identified as Talat Abdul Azz Shahwan, was located in the mountains of Musa Khel and has been taken to the Kangri police station.



The abduction was reported promptly, leading to a search operation by the Leves Force. Investigation Officer Ismatullah Khan played a key role in the recovery and subsequent transfer of Talat to the police station.

Talat is the son of Abdul Azz Shahwan, principal of Shaikh Khan College on Kali Raisani Road. The investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Tragic Drowning Incident Claims Four Young Lives in Balgitar, Turbat

From Our Correspondent:

TURBAT: In a heart-wrenching incident, four children tragically drowned in a rullah in the Balgitar area of Turbat. The victims, identified as Abubakar, Yaqoob, Kalsoom, and Mehboob, were all pronounced dead upon retrieval.

According to local sources, the children were playing near the rullah when they accidentally fell into the water. Despite the swift response from the community, who managed to retrieve the bodies and rush them to a nearby hospital, all four children were declared dead on arrival.

The incident has cast a pall of grief over the Balgitar community, with residents mourning the loss of such young lives. Local authorities have urged parents to ensure the safety of their children, especially near water bodies, to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Further investigations are underway to understand the circumstances that led to this devastating event. The community is coming together to support the grieving families during this incredibly difficult time.

This tragic event underscores the urgent need for increased safety measures and awareness to protect children from similar incidents in the future.

CM Sarfraz Bugti: Baloch Youths Must Stay Connected to the State

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti emphasized the importance of keeping Baloch youths connected to the state, stating that while dissatisfaction with the government's performance is understandable, alienation from the state itself is not an option. He made these remarks on Wednesday while addressing a ceremony for the distribution of educational scholarships.

Under this initiative, the provincial government will sponsor higher education for 200 students in top universities worldwide. Additionally, the program has been expanded to include transgender individuals, with scholarships being distributed to 2,500 male and female students this year, an increase from the 1,200 scholarships awarded annually in the past.

Commitment to Youth Development
The Chief Minister announced the expansion of the Balochistan Youth Policy, designed to foster closer ties between the province's youth and the state while providing ample opportunities for development. "This program aims to address the deprivations in the province by ensuring access to quality education. You all are the future of Balochistan and Paki-

stan, and we will expand this program further," Bugti remarked.

Expanding Educational Opportunities
Under this initiative, the provincial government will sponsor higher education for 200 students in top universities worldwide. Additionally, the program has been expanded to include transgender individuals, with scholarships being distributed to 2,500 male and female students this year, an increase from the 1,200 scholarships awarded annually in the past.

Merit and Transparency in Jobs
CM Bugti also vowed to uphold merit and transparency in government jobs, urging the public to report any attempts to solicit bribes in exchange for employment. "If anyone asks for money for a job, make a video and send it to us immediately. We will take swift action to ensure that all jobs are awarded purely on merit," he assured.



SC urges government to minimise detention period for death row prisoners

NEWS DESK: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has urged both federal and provincial governments to reconsider policies and enact or amend existing laws to align with international standards, aiming to minimise the duration of death row prisoners' detention in death cells.

In a nine-page judgment authored by Justice Jamal Khan

Mandokhail, the court highlighted the prolonged and often inhumane conditions faced by death row inmates, noting that many prisoners remain in death cells for years, sometimes even decades, due to delays in the judicial process and subsequent execution of sentences.

The ruling came during the hearing of a criminal review petition filed by Ghulam Shabbir, a convict who has been imprisoned for 34 years, that included 24 years spent in a death cell.

Inclusivity and Development Initiatives
The scholarship program has been broadened with five new categories, benefiting children of martyrs, minorities, transgender individuals, Ph.D. students abroad, and top-performing matric and intermediate students at the district level. The Chief Minister also highlighted ongoing efforts to solve public problems through development projects across all districts without discrimination, reiterating that democracy is about service delivery.

Ceremony Attendance
The event was attended by Provincial Ministers Mir Zahoor Ahmed Bili and Mir Asim Kurd Gilo, former Minister Roshan Khurshid Brocha, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Finance Babar Khan, CEO of Balochistan Education Endowment Fund Zakaria Khan Noorzi, along with a large number of students.

Security Guard Killed in Mekhtar Loralai Bank Attack

Manan Mandokhail, From Our Correspondent:

LORALAI, QUETTA: A security guard was killed and another seriously injured in a tragic incident on Tuesday when unknown motorcyclists opened fire outside Meezan Bank in Mekhtar, Loralai district. According to sources, the attackers swiftly fled the scene, leaving the injured guard in critical condition. Authorities are investigating the incident to identify the assailants and their motives.

Eagle Squad Targeted in Quetta
In a separate incident in Quetta, unknown assailants opened fire on soldiers of the Sarayab Road Eagle Squad during a routine patrol. Fortunately, the

youths and civilians in the Eagle Squad were unharmed, and no casualties were reported. The attackers managed to escape, and security forces have launched a search operation in the area.

Increased Security Measures
These incidents have raised concerns over the security situation in Balochistan, prompting law enforcement agencies to increase vigilance and enhance security measures across the province. The authorities have vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure the safety of citizens.



File Photo: Police on the spot after a bomb explosion in Quetta

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa urges high court chief justices to nominate additional judges

NEWS DESK: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, has called on the chief justices of the country's high courts to initiate the process of nominating additional judges. In a letter dated 28 August 2024, Justice Isa emphasised the importance of filling vacancies in the judiciary to ensure the smooth functioning of the courts.

According to CJP Isa, the Supreme Court, which comprises sixteen judges, including himself, recently resumed full operations after two and a half years on 25 June 2024. The Shariat Appellate Bench also became functional again after the appointment of a second ailm member in July. Justice Isa urged the high courts to consider suitable candidates for judicial appointments, highlighting the need for transparency and adherence to democratic principles in the selection process.



Cops in Punjab refuse to join operation in Kacha area, exit midway

LAHORE: Punjab police officers have refused to participate in an operation against dacots in the Kacha area of Rajanpur, disembaring from their transport en route, according to Express News. 25 officers from the Ferozabad Constabulary, dispatched for the operation, declined to enter the Kacha area and disembarred near the Zahir Pir Interchange four days ago.

The officers reportedly told their superiors, "We are responsible for our own safety, but under no circumstances will we participate in the operation in the Kacha area."

In response to the officers' refusal, a report was prepared by their in-charge, recommending disciplinary action against the 25 officers. Inspector General of Punjab Police Usman Anwar has since sent replacement personnel, and the new contingent has arrived in Rahim Yar Khan, Anwar stated. "We now have full deployment in the Kacha area, and no officers will be absent."

The operation in the Kacha region follows a severe attack by dacots four days ago, which resulted in the deaths of 12 police officers. In response, the Punjab government, in collaboration with Sindh, decided to launch a joint operation in the area. IG Punjab Usman Anwar visited the Kacha region four days ago to boost the morale of the officers. The region, notorious for its organised criminal gangs, has long been a hotspot for kidnap-for-ransom operations, with such gangs operating in the riverine border areas of southern Sindh and central Punjab for decades.

Evolution of Pashtun Wedding Traditions: A Balochistan Love Story
Continued to page 2

Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development
Continued to page 2

BISP-GIZ join hands for expanding social protection services in KP
Continued to page 4

WOMAN

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Needs Action, Not Another Failed Polio Campaign

Editorial: The news of a children in Chaman and Dera Bugti contracting polio, in Balochistan after three years, is a damning indictment of the provincial health department and donor agencies entrusted with this critical public health mission.

Where are the collaborative campaigns that educate our communities in the local languages? Where are the efforts to address vaccine hesitancy through dialogue and trust-building with local leaders?

The presence of poliovirus in environmental samples since last August is a glaring failure of our health department. This isn't just a recent oversight; it exposes a systemic weakness in surveillance and outreach programs.

This is a wake-up call. Let Balochistan not be known for this resurgence of a preventable disease. Let's work together, with our own solutions at the forefront, to banish polio for good.

Clashing realities

BY Tariq Khosa:

HOW to restrain a powerful, overweening and tyrannical state is the key challenge we face today. The institutions of restraint on executive excesses are the rule of law and democratic accountability.

However, to govern a democratic society requires contending with disagreement. Michael Sandel in The Tyranny of Merit: Politics, for some of us, in the words of Ben Ansell, "signals the distant example of the 1936 victory of politicians" but fundamentally, politics is about how we make collective decisions.

Elections have winners and losers, but their legitimacy through a fair process is crucial. We have the police and armed forces to protect us, but who will protect us from them? We need to answer this question.

work. "While politics is imperfect, it may be our last best hope to reach common ground," says Ansell, identifying five areas to focus on: democracy, equality, solidarity, security and prosperity.

correctly avers that "the ascent of identity politics and the influence of social media... were better at inflaming us rather than uniting us," and promoting "a self-obsession at odds with community, civility, comity and compromise."

Amidst the current devastating scenario in the province, Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres remain sharply divided. Balochistan's Political and Intellectual Spheres Divided

CHANDNI KAKAR:

In Pakistan's Pashtun areas, where traditions run deep and families are paramount, weddings are not just celebrations of love but also complex negotiations of social and financial arrangements.

in the Balochistan province, nestled amidst the craggy mountains and arid plains, lies a small Pashtun village named Gulzarabad. Here, the rhythm of life is dictated by age-old customs and traditions, and weddings are the pinnacle of societal events.

Dr. Faiz Kakar:

Balochistan, even as a resource-rich province, grapples with alarming rates of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and infant and maternal mortality, indicative of severe underdevelopment.

Provision of social services through self-help approaches. Failure to adapt to this evolving development approach over the past 10 years serves a stark reminder of the need for change.

Potentials of the Province Ensure Success of SEZ

Balochistan, often referred to as the "fruit basket" of Pakistan, stands out as a resource-rich province boasting the largest landscape and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers.

Learning from global case studies, the potential of Balochistan as a resource-rich province with vast ecological and topographic diversity, coupled with its strategic location, warrants a paradigm shift towards infrastructure development and economic growth.

Evolution of Pashtun Wedding Traditions: A Balochistan Love Story

Amidst the preparations for the wedding of Zainab, the daughter of a respected Pashtun leader, Malik Abdul Rahman Zainab, a vision of grace and modesty, has caught the eye of Shahid, a young man from a neighboring village, whose family has long-standing ties with the Rahmans.

The bride's price, known as Walwar, hangs heavy in the air as both families deliberate over its amount. Malik Abdul Rahman, a man of principle, is keenly aware of the pitfalls of exorbitant bride prices.

Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Dr. Faiz Kakar:

Potentials of the Province Ensure Success of SEZ

Balochistan, often referred to as the "fruit basket" of Pakistan, stands out as a resource-rich province boasting the largest landscape and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers.

Urbanization and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan is paramount to ensure effective social and infrastructure development.

places on young grooms and their families, often leading to financial strain and debt. Drawing inspiration from the winds of change sweeping through the region, Malik Abdul Rahman proposes a modest bride price, one that reflects the true essence of the tradition without succumbing to extravagance.

The negotiations for Zainab's wedding began in earnest as Shahid's family sends a formal proposal to Malik Abdul Rahman. Gathunging around the yard of the Rahman household, the intricacies of negotiation and delicate balancing act between tradition and practicality.

These potentials not only justify the focus on SEZs but also serve as a guarantee of their success. SEZs The Only Option

Ensuring the full operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified commenced in Balochistan stands out as the foremost priority area for intervention.

This industrial growth at the grassroots level will facilitate the much-needed tri-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the population.

The momentum for expediting the establishment of industries is being further strengthened by the concurrent development of private housing schemes announced and currently under construction by the real estate dealers.

Urbanization and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan is paramount to ensure effective social and infrastructure development.

As the negotiations for Zainab's wedding began in earnest, Shahid's family sends a formal proposal to Malik Abdul Rahman. Gathunging around the yard of the Rahman household, the intricacies of negotiation and delicate balancing act between tradition and practicality.

The bride's price, known as Walwar, hangs heavy in the air as both families deliberate over its amount. Malik Abdul Rahman, a man of principle, is keenly aware of the pitfalls of exorbitant bride prices.

These potentials not only justify the focus on SEZs but also serve as a guarantee of their success. SEZs The Only Option

Ensuring the full operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified commenced in Balochistan stands out as the foremost priority area for intervention.

This industrial growth at the grassroots level will facilitate the much-needed tri-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the population.

The momentum for expediting the establishment of industries is being further strengthened by the concurrent development of private housing schemes announced and currently under construction by the real estate dealers.

Urbanization and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan is paramount to ensure effective social and infrastructure development.

with Shahid by her side, she embarks on a path paved with hope and promise, guided by the wisdom of generations past. In the weeks that follow, whispers of the wedding of Zainab and Shahid echo through the narrow lanes of Gulzarabad, a testament to the triumph of love over tradition.

As the negotiations for Zainab's wedding began in earnest, Shahid's family sends a formal proposal to Malik Abdul Rahman. Gathunging around the yard of the Rahman household, the intricacies of negotiation and delicate balancing act between tradition and practicality.

These potentials not only justify the focus on SEZs but also serve as a guarantee of their success. SEZs The Only Option

Ensuring the full operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified commenced in Balochistan stands out as the foremost priority area for intervention.

This industrial growth at the grassroots level will facilitate the much-needed tri-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the population.

The momentum for expediting the establishment of industries is being further strengthened by the concurrent development of private housing schemes announced and currently under construction by the real estate dealers.

Urbanization and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan is paramount to ensure effective social and infrastructure development.

Appointment of heads of private sectors

The Government of Balochistan has indeed taken steps to establish authorities focusing on thematic areas such as Economic Zones and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). However, the effectiveness of these appointments is quietly dwindling by the appointment of heads from higher officials.

These individuals should possess local knowledge, familiarity with public sector practices, and established connections with politicians and higher authorities within the government.

Based on the aforementioned discussion, it is strongly believed that effective operation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) could play a crucial role in the mainstreaming of Balochistan at the national level.

Hybrid pitfalls for PML-N

BY Abbas Nawaz:

HYBRID setups have internal power struggle built into them. Like me, if you find some of the statements confusing—signalling differences of opinion within the top tiers of the major political parties— you must determine whether this is a precursor to something dramatic or merely about how to struggle to create some elbow room in the straitjacket these parties find themselves in.

Apologies for the mouthful above. Before you give up on this column and move on to the next, let me explain what I am trying to say. Just as the PML-N is contributing to the establishment's ever-expanding footprint (as did the PTI before it), it is also clear the party isn't exactly content with the status quo.

Don't you consider it bizarre that

Maryam Nawaz appeared helpless and couldn't stop this policeman's transfer. Such slights might be an integral part of hybrid regimes, which politicians willingly accept as they feel their political careers hang on them. Still, it must be hurtful.

So how do they air their disappointment while, at the same time, keeping outside their establishment beneficiaries? Well, they let the Rana Sanauallahs and Javed Latifs hold forth about who is who in the country's power structure and point out its flaws. Obviously, all this is done in the hope of exerting some pressure on the powers that be for a few concessions, so a little space is secured in decision-making.

They may have decided to ride on the

coat-tails of the establishment to power, but they also understand that in the ultimate analysis whatever political capital is at stake it is theirs alone to lose. Ergo, the quest for a little more elbow room.

So how do they air their disappointment while, at the same time, keeping outside their establishment beneficiaries? Well, they let the Rana Sanauallahs and Javed Latifs hold forth about who is who in the country's power structure and point out its flaws. Obviously, all this is done in the hope of exerting some pressure on the powers that be for a few concessions, so a little space is secured in decision-making.

They may have decided to ride on the

moment, you hear a party stalwart saying there is no point in talking to other political parties, and that dialogue can only take place with the real rulers such as

the army chief and the DG ISI, or, in the next moment he is contradicted by Imran Khan himself.

So how do they air their disappointment while, at the same time, keeping outside their establishment beneficiaries? Well, they let the Rana Sanauallahs and Javed Latifs hold forth about who is who in the country's power structure and point out its flaws. Obviously, all this is done in the hope of exerting some pressure on the powers that be for a few concessions, so a little space is secured in decision-making.

alone to get into government. My guess is that, given that any such fundamental change isn't likely in the foreseeable future, hybrids of one sort or another

— i.e., with one permanent player and a revolving door policy to choose the junior partner — will continue, regardless of the consequences. So expect a lot more of meaningless, often combative rhetoric that leads to nowhere.

For the love of my beloved land, where some 40pc of the population lives below the poverty line, where a staggering 26 million children are out of school and where basic health facilities and potable water are like gold dust, I earnestly hope that even this deeply flawed system is able to deliver some basics to the people.

Electricity price hike in Pakistan brings new chance for PV companies

ISLAMABAD (INP): Electricity price hike in Pakistan brings new chance for photovoltaic companies...

photovoltaic panel installation contractor in Islamabad, who has been very busy recently...



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Sindh Premier League (SPL) presenting the SPL shirt to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aitwan-e-Sadr.

South Asia air pollution fell in 2022, but remains major killer

BANGKOK (INP): Broad range of health problems. For two decades, air pollution has increased annually in South Asia...

little funding despite its outsized impact on human health. For example, in some of Africa's most polluted nations, air pollution is a more serious threat to life expectancy than HIV/AIDS, tropical diseases, malaria or war...



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh was chief guest in the special event program organized by Pak-China Institute in COMSTECH Auditorium.

Ignored in Lok Sabha, Muslims demand greater representation in Maharashtra Assembly

MUMBAI (INP): An alliance of Muslim community leaders in Maharashtra, India, has demanded greater representation in the state assembly...

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Development Officer Local Govt. Tehsil Gowargo District Panjgur invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule rates 2023...

UP court orders demolition of mosque on alleged land encroachment grounds

LUCKNOW (INP): A Revenue Department court in Uttar Pradesh has ordered the demolition of a mosque in Binkdi tehsil of Fatehpur district...

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered An Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPR/GOB...

Highly polluted countries that have little or no air quality data of ten fall into a bad feedback cycle where having little data leads to little attention or policy investment in the issue...

PUBLIC NOTICE. Application for issuance of letter of Administration to the Zameen Dar (Landlord) of the Zameen (Land)...

PUBLIC NOTICE. Application for issuance of letter of Administration to the Zameen Dar (Landlord) of the Zameen (Land)...

PUBLIC NOTICE. Application for issuance of letter of Administration to the Zameen Dar (Landlord) of the Zameen (Land)...

PUBLIC NOTICE. Application for issuance of letter of Administration to the Zameen Dar (Landlord) of the Zameen (Land)...

PRO No. 63/27-08-2024. Procurement shall be made under the Bidding System Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligible Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents...

PRO No. 63/27-08-2024. Procurement shall be made under the Bidding System Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligible Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents...

PRO No. 63/27-08-2024. Procurement shall be made under the Bidding System Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligible Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents...

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) seeks Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) support for two senators

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman has demanded two Senate seats from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in exchange for his party's full support in parliament.

According to sources, JUI-F has demanded PTI's support in electing his two senators, while PTI's committee is willing to support one senator from JUI-F.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam wants to elect former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor Ghulam Ali as a senator, while PTI's committee is inclined to support another candidate, sources said.

However, JUI-F lacks sufficient votes to elect a senator on its own, and therefore, needs PTI's support. Sources said that the PTI committee has sought time to consult party chairman Imran Khan on JUI-F's demands.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) wants to elect Talha Mahmood as a senator, which JUI-F is likely to oppose.

Notably, Mehmood parted ways with his decade-long affiliation with the JUI-F and announced joining the Pakistan Peoples Party.

Earlier, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that it would be 'fortunate' if his party and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) develop a consensus.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that there were big 'mountain-sized' differences between the two parties. "PTI's delegation has come to us and as per our tradition, we have welcomed them," Maulana Fazlur Rehman added.

The JUI-F chief said that if their issues with the PTI get resolved, it would be good. "I'm not, every political party has its stance and opinion," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with UN's Special Representative for Afghanistan Imrati Ratwatta.

Dozens of families get stuck as River Indus bursts its banks near Mehar

KARACHI/LAHORE (INP): Dozens of families have been left stranded as water from the River Indus has entered the katcha area near Mehar, Sindh, while, on the other hand, record-breaking monsoon showers continue in large swathes of the country, resulting in urban flooding and swelling of rivers on Wednesday.

The lives of flood victims in Mehar is in jeopardy as rescue and relief activities in the affected areas is still to get underway.

Apart from that, people in the affected area are faced with the food shortage while contagious diseases have also started breaking out.

And to make matters worse, the water level in the river is still on the rise.

Meanwhile, torrential rains, lashing large parts of Sindh for the last two to three days, has set off alarm bells ringing as there are fears that these could not only lead to urban flooding but also rise in water levels in the River Indus.

On the other hand, fishermen have been advised not to go deep into the sea.

There are reports of intermittent rainfall from different areas of Karachi such as Shane Faisal, Shah Faisal Colony, Defence, Clifton, Saddar, Kala Pull, Tower and other cities of Sindh.

Heavy rains have also been reported from several cities of Punjab.

In Multan 48-year-old record was broken after the city received 147 millimeters of rain in just two hours as a result of which not only low-lying areas were inundated but the water also entered the Social Security Hospital.

BISP-GIZ join hands for expanding social protection services in KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) have joined hands for expanding social protection services especially in the Newly Merged Tribal Districts (ex-FAITA) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In this regard, a meeting was held between the Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid and a delegation from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) led by Johanna Knoess, Head of Project, Adaptive Social Protection.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid held a meeting with a team from GIZ, led by Johanna Knoess, Head of Social Initiative Social Protection at BISP headquarters.

The meeting primarily focused on collaborative efforts between the two organizations to intensify registration process by deploying Mobile Registration Vans especially in erstwhile FAITA region and other remote tribal areas of KP.

Ensuring access to BISP services for vulnerable populations, expanding Dynamic Registry Centers to enhance registration and beneficiary management, promote digital and financial literacy among BISP beneficiaries.

Additionally, a skill development program to empower beneficiaries financially was also discussed.

The meeting also touched on the Hybrid Social Protection Scheme and nutrition program for adolescent girls.

Senator Rubina Khalid reiterated BISP's commitment to reaching the most vulnerable populations in Pakistan, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

This partnership with GIZ aims to strengthen social protection mechanisms and improve the lives of marginalized communities. GIZ team assured it's cooperation, proposing follow-up meetings to discuss the modalities of implementing the agreed initiatives.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding economic growth and investment.

Nationwide traders' strike against high electricity bills, heavy taxes, IPPs and IMF pacts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Traders across Pakistan, from Karachi to Khyber on Wednesday are observing a nationwide strike against the government's economic policies, particularly the high electricity bills, oppressive taxes, the controversial "Trader-Friendly Scheme," and IMF pacts.

The strike has received broad support from various political parties, including the PTI, JUI-F, and PP, as well as associations like the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

The traders' strike has brought business activities to a standstill in major markets, with shops closed and streets empty. In Karachi, markets such as Liaquatabad, Jodia Bazaar, Light House, Bolton Market, and Tariq Road have shut down, with banners protesting the IMF's grip, rising power bills, and the government's policies displayed prominently. Lahore's major markets, including Anarkali, Nalokha Landa Bazaar, and Hall Road, have also joined the strike.

However, the Karachi Transport Ittehad (KT) did not join the strike, citing a lack of consultation. Similarly, a traders group in Lahore, the Anjuman Tajran Naeem Mir Group, has opposed the strike and kept their markets open.

In Karachi, II held a protest demonstration in the Sher Shah area against rising inflation and electricity prices, following the call of Leader Hafiz Naeem. The protest disrupted traffic flow as demonstrators burned tyres and garbage on the road to voice their concerns.

In Gujranwala, a complete shutdown strike was observed on the call of trader associations. All business centres, markets, and bazaars in the city, including Satellite Town, Cloth Market, Jinnah Bazaar, Urdu Bazaar, Rai Bazaar, Fish Market, Aaramian Wali Gali, Sarafa Bazaar, Dal Bazaar, Loha Bazaar, and Mobile Market, remained completely closed, with banners displayed in support of the strike.

A nationwide shutdown strike on the call of central Anjuman Tajran was also observed in Toba Tek Singh, as the Grocery Association, Anjuman Dukandaraan, Anjuman Aartiyan Ghalla Mandi, and Sarafa Association supported the strike.

In Bahawalpur today, traders were on a complete strike, important trade centres and markets were completely closed, and grain markets remained closed at the tehsil level, including Bahawalpur Circular Road, Shahi Bazar, Giri Ganj Bazar, Commercial Area, and other markets closed.

through more Government-to-Government (G2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) arrangements. The meeting underscored the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, founded on shared faith, history, and cultural affinities.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciating the outgoing Ambassador for his contributions to strengthening bilateral relations reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continue deepening its partnership with Türkiye across various sectors, including trade, investment, technical cooperation, and more. He also highlighted the progress made during

the recent visit of the Turkish trade delegation to Pakistan, led by Trade Minister of Türkiye, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat which helped in exploring new avenues for cooperation in sectors such as energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and technology. The Finance Minister extended his best wishes to Ambassador Paçacı in his future endeavors and expressed confidence for continued collaboration and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The outgoing Ambassador Paçacı, in his remarks, expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support extended by the government during his tenure.

Pakistan, Türkiye reiterate commitment to boost bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Türkiye Wednesday reiterated commitment to further boost trade relations for mutual benefit of the two countries. This was vowed during the farewell courtesy call of Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, Mehmet Paçacı on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb. During the meeting, Finance Minister and Ambassador termed the signing of the Trade in Goods Agreement 2022 as a significant step towards achieving the bilateral trade target of USD 5 billion. They underscored the need for enhancing the trade and investment portfolio

through more Government-to-Government (G2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) arrangements. The meeting underscored the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, founded on shared faith, history, and cultural affinities.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciating the outgoing Ambassador for his contributions to strengthening bilateral relations reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continue deepening its partnership with Türkiye across various sectors, including trade, investment, technical cooperation, and more. He also highlighted the progress made during

the recent visit of the Turkish trade delegation to Pakistan, led by Trade Minister of Türkiye, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat which helped in exploring new avenues for cooperation in sectors such as energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and technology. The Finance Minister extended his best wishes to Ambassador Paçacı in his future endeavors and expressed confidence for continued collaboration and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The outgoing Ambassador Paçacı, in his remarks, expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support extended by the government during his tenure.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, Mehmet Paçacı called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Improving cricket infrastructure in Sindh vital to nurture province's talent: President

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has highlighted the importance of improving cricket infrastructure and training facilities in Sindh to nurture and promote the talent in the province.

He said, "It is vital to explore the possibility of joint ventures in the Cricket sector to develop state-of-the-art stadiums, besides providing modern coaching and mentoring opportunities to youth of Sindh."

The President was talking to a delegation of Sindh Premier League (SPL), led by Chairman SPL, Malik Aslam which called on him at Awan-e-Sadr on Wednesday. The delegation briefed the President about the role of SPL in uncovering and promoting Sindh's cricketers talent and improving Cricket infrastructure. He also highlighted the achievements of SPL's inaugural season and shared future plans for establishing a high-performance centre in Karachi aimed at training young talent, particularly from rural and under-represented areas of Sindh. The delegation also apprised the President about the problems being faced by the League.

President Zardari assured the delegation of his support to encourage and promote Cricket in Sindh, stating that he would ask the Sindh Government and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to extend all necessary assistance to help improve Cricketing infrastructure in Sindh as well as provide mentoring to make SPL a success.

Later, the SPL delegation also presented an SPL shirt to the President.

President Zardari assured the delegation of his support to encourage and promote Cricket in Sindh, stating that he would ask the Sindh Government and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to extend all necessary assistance to help improve Cricketing infrastructure in Sindh as well as provide mentoring to make SPL a success.

Later, the SPL delegation also presented an SPL shirt to the President.

President Zardari assured the delegation of his support to encourage and promote Cricket in Sindh, stating that he would ask the Sindh Government and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to extend all necessary assistance to help improve Cricketing infrastructure in Sindh as well as provide mentoring to make SPL a success.

Later, the SPL delegation also presented an SPL shirt to the President.