

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com



Students participating in the climate conference are presenting environment-friendly recommendations to Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Security Beefed Up in Quetta Following Karachi Attack

Staff Reporter:
QUETTA: In response to the recent deadly attack in Karachi, authorities in Quetta have implemented heightened security measures to prevent similar incidents. The decision comes as a precautionary measure to safeguard the city and its residents.

Following the attack against Chinese nationals in Karachi, security forces in Quetta have been placed on high alert. Checkpoints have been established at key points in the city, and patrols have been intensified. Additionally, public gatherings and events are being monitored closely.



Local officials have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the authorities. They have also assured the public that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure their safety.

The heightened security measures in Quetta reflect the ongoing challenges faced by Pakistan in combating terrorism and maintaining peace and

Airforce plane carrying two crashes in Swabi, pilots safe: Rescue official

NEWS DESK: A trainee airforce plane crashed in the mountainous terrain of Gadoun Amazi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swabi district on Tuesday. Rescue 1122 officials said.

"While the trainee plane was destroyed, both pilots successfully ejected through their parachutes and landed safely with slight injuries," Rescue 1122 official Luqman Khan said.

Local people helped the two pilots during the initial phase of the rescue operation, he said. In a video that went viral on social media, one of the locals said that both the pilots were slightly injured due to the incident and were immediately taken to a safe area.

Luqman further added that the rescue and a medical team reached the spot after they received the information despite the mountainous terrain of the region.

"Both the pilots were slightly injured and were given first aid in the Rescue 1122 ambulance," he said.

Balochistan's Climate Crisis: CM Sarfraz Bugti Urges Action

News Desk:
QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressed a climate conference panel organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and FDI Pakistan at BUITEMS University. He emphasized the devastating impact of climate change on Balochistan, despite the province's negligible role in its causes.

During the event, students asked the Chief Minister various questions about climate change and its effects on Balochistan. Responding to their queries, Bugti reiterated that addressing climate change is a top priority for the Balochistan government.

"Balochistan has no role in causing climate change, yet we are among the hardest hit by its consequences," Bugti remarked. He stressed that the provincial government is working within its limited resources to mitigate the effects of climate change.

He further added that tackling deforestation and environmental degradation is essential, and warned that commercial deforestation will be treated as a criminal offense, with strict action taken against those responsible.

Collaborative Solutions Through Public-Private Partnerships
Bugti also announced plans to

propose long-term strategies for combating climate change, emphasizing the importance of public-private partnerships in finding sustainable solutions. He stated that all relevant stakeholders and institutions would be engaged to address the climate crisis effectively.

"It is encouraging to see the youth of Balochistan aware and actively discussing climate change," Bugti said, noting the importance of student engagement in environmental issues. The Chief Minister concluded by reaffirming the provincial government's commitment to tackling climate change in collaboration with supporting institutions.

NA Speaker urges ECP for swift ruling on women and minority seats.

NEWS DESK: Speaker of the National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq has written a letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for a quick decision regarding women and minority seats at the request of parliamentary leaders.

According to Express News, parliamentary leaders have expressed concern in a letter to the National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq about the ECP not deciding on the seats of women and non-Muslim members of the assembly in

the context of the Election Amendment Bill 2024. Sources indicate that parliamentary leaders requested the Speaker of the National Assembly to write a letter to the Election Commission to decide on this matter quickly. Sources say that the Speaker of the National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq has written a second letter to the Election Commission at the request of parliamentary leaders, requesting a quick decision from the Election Commission.

It is noteworthy that the Speaker of the National Assembly had already sent a letter to the ECP on September 19, 2024. In his initial letter to the ECP, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq urged prompt action to fully implement the revised Election Act, particularly regarding reserved seats and party affiliation changes. He stressed that the ECP has a constitutional responsibility to enforce laws passed by Parliament and respect its authority.

Women's Empowerment and Hygiene: A Key to Socio-Economic Development in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah:
QUETTA: A groundbreaking initiative launched in Balochistan aims to empower women and girls by addressing critical hygiene and sanitation issues.

The "She Power" initiative, supported by the Chinese government, aims to improve the health, quality of life, and educational opportunities for young women in the province. Speaking at a high-level event to distribute hygiene kits, Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator of the Prime Minister on Climate Change, emphasized the close link between women's socio-economic empowerment and access to adequate hygiene facilities.

She highlighted that addressing hygiene challenges can directly impact women's education, work, and leadership opportunities, fostering healthier and more equitable communities. The initiative, part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, aims to distribute 20,000 hygiene kits to schoolgirls in four

districts of Balochistan. These kits contain essential hygiene products, educational materials, and promote better health practices among young girls.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, echoed the importance of addressing hygiene and sanitation issues in Balochistan. She noted that lack of access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene products can lead to social stigma, health complications, and limited opportunities for women.

The "She Power" initiative seeks to address these challenges by providing hygiene kits, promoting health awareness, and creating a supportive environment for women and girls.

By empowering women through education and access to essential resources, the initiative aims to contribute to their socio-economic empowerment and overall well-being.

QUETTA: Balochistan: Rotary Club Quetta, in partnership with local government agencies and community organizations, has continued its ambitious "Quetta Go Green Initiative" with the planting of 150 trees on October 8, 2024.

This latest effort is part of a larger project aimed at planting 10,000 trees in Quetta between July 2024 and June 2025. Previous phases of the initiative have seen the planting of over 1,800 trees in various locations across the city.

Beyond the tree planting, the Rotary Club Quetta has been actively engaging local schoolchildren in environmental education programs. These sessions focus on the importance of trees, planting techniques,

and tree care, fostering a love for nature among the younger generation. The initiative has received strong support from the Forest & Wildlife Department, Government of Balochistan, which has provided technical expertise, plants, and materials. The district administration of Quetta City has also played a crucial role in facilitating the project.

Rotary Club Quetta is calling on the people of Quetta to join the initiative and contribute to making the city greener.

The club is open to planting trees in institutions, residential areas, and other suitable locations where communities are willing to participate in the care and maintenance of the trees.

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Balochistan Advisor Calls for Stronger Public Health Legislation and One Health Policy

Health Desk:

QUETTA: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan on Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, has underscored the urgent need for comprehensive public health legislation and the establishment of a One Health policy in the province. She made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the International Health Regulations Islamabad, led by Dr. Saifi Ullah.

Dr. Buledi emphasized that the province's health system requires significant bolstering to effectively address current and future public health challenges. She stressed the importance of modernizing health laws and policies to not only tackle pandemic situations but also to ensure preparedness for potential health emergencies.

Highlighting the significance of collaboration, Dr. Buledi advocated for the implementation of a One Health policy. This approach would foster cooperation across various health sectors, leading to a more comprehensive understanding of health interconnections.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial government is actively working to improve the health sector in Balochistan. Dr. Buledi reiterated the government's commitment to collaborating with relevant institutions to achieve these goals.



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Water Challenges Gripping Balochistan: A Looming Crisis

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The Persistent Polio Challenge in Balochistan

Continued on page 2

PM says will not allow PTI to repeat 2014 dharna in Islamabad

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Ukraine says Russian missiles strike two Black Sea grain vessels

MOSCOW (INP): A Russian missile hit a Palau-flagged vessel in Ukraine's southern port of Odesa, killing a Ukrainian national and injuring five crew members in the second such attack in as many days, officials said.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybaha said on X that the two ships were damaged in the Black Sea grain-export hub without giving details on the ships' conditions. He condemned Russia's actions.

"We must join forces of all responsible states and organisations to ensure freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and global food security."

Russia's defense ministry did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Moscow has repeatedly denied it attacks civilian targets.

Odesa regional governor Oleh Kiper, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said the man killed in the latest attack was a port worker.

The five injured men were foreign nationals and ship crew members.

Deputy Prime Minister Oleksiy Kuleba identified the vessel as the Optima and said it arrived in Odesa hours before the attack.

Russia "is attempting in this way to destroy shipping in the Black Sea guaranteeing food security. The consequences can only mean greater instability in sensitive regions dependent on food imports and tension in international relations," Kuleba said.

Ukraine's Restoration Ministry identified the ship attacked on Sunday in the nearby port of Pivdennyi as the Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged Paresa which had a cargo of 6,000 tonnes of corn.

In a Facebook post, the ministry said

the Paresa's 15-member crew, Syrian and Egyptian nationals, was not injured.

The ministry said the Paresa was the 20th civilian vessel to be damaged by Russian attacks.

Last month, the Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged bulk carrier Aya was hit by a Russian missile in the Black Sea. Another vessel, an Antigua-flagged carrier, was damaged in a Russian missile strike in Odesa.

Russia has struck the port repeatedly in the war since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Transportation Engineer Abdul Majeed Badini is meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

President, PM call for focusing on climate change mitigation

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Resilience Day is being observed across the country on Tuesday to express solidarity with the victims of 2005 earthquake.

In his message on the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the day is a motivation for us to embrace the best practices and implement policies and strategies in various sectors aimed at fortifying our nation's resilience.

He said Pakistan is facing an immense impact of climate change despite not being responsible for it.

He commended the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for its response towards such natural calamities.

Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam has said the go-

vernment will continue to take more effective measures for making Pakistan a disaster-free country. In his message on the occasion of National Resilience Day, he expressed solidarity with the victims of devastating earthquake of October, 2005.

The Minister lauded the exemplary role played by the institutions engaged in the national reconstruction following the earthquake. Engineer Amir Muqam also appreciated the cooperation extended by the international community following the deadly earthquake.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the National Resilience Day is also being observed to express solidarity with the victims of 2005 devastating earthquake.

The day dawned with special prayers in mosques for high ranks of the martyrs, the prosperity and development of Pakistan and the early liberation of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the blowing of siren, one-minute silence was observed at 08:52 am to pay respect to the martyrs.

Quran, Khawani, prayer ceremonies, documentary shows depicting events of miseries, pictorial exhibitions, awareness walks, candle vigils, seminars and speech contests are being held in all districts of the state.

All three stations of Azad Kashmir Radio are broadcasting documentaries and discussions on the observance of the day.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Saadiq Umrani and former Senator Rozi Khan is meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

Saud Shakeel firm as England force comeback with two key wickets

MULTAN (INP): Saud Shakeel remained firm with his half-century, however, England took two wickets to exert pressure on Pakistan on the second day of the first Test here on Tuesday.

Pakistan had scored 397-6 at Lunch on Day 2 with vice-captain Saud Shakeel staying strong at 67 and Salman Ali Agha, who just came out to bat, at 0.

Saud Shakeel started the day with a night watchman and Naseem Shah and 328 runs on the board. Together they added 64 runs for the fifth wicket much to the frustration of the English side. The Pakistan vice-captain completed his half-century in 96 balls with a boundary off Shoab Bashir.

Meanwhile, Naseem Shah displayed solid defence while chasing on the bad deliveries, striking three sixes and one four during his 81-ball knock of 33 runs.

Brydon Carse provided the breakthrough with the wicket of Naseem, taking his first wicket in Test cricket. The in-form Mohammad Rizwan joined Saud on the crease, however, he fell prey to Jack Leach 12 balls later without opening his account.

At the Stumps on Day 1, Pakistan were 328/4 with vice-captain Saud Shakeel (35%) and a night watchman Naseem Shah (0*) unbeaten in the middle.

The eventual final session marked the return of England as the touring side claimed three wickets including set batters Masood and Shafique and star batter Babar.

Gus Atkinson provided England with a much-needed break through when he got Shaheque caught in the eighth over after Test.

The right-handed opener scored 102 off 184 deliveries, laced up with a dozen boundaries including two sixes.

Meanwhile, Pakistan captain Masood perished two overs later when he spooned Jack Leach for a regulation catch and bowled briefly after amassing the 150-run milestone.

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BJP's defeat proves Kashmiris' won't compromise on self-determination: APhC

SRINAGAR (INP): The Bharatiya Janata Party's humiliating defeat in the sham elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a clear indication that Kashmiris reject India's occupation and are not ready to compromise on their right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APhC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement issued in Srinagar said that despite massive troop deployment and state machinery, the BJP's defeat proves Kashmiris' won't compromise on self-determination.

He said the APhC views the elections as a drama staged by India to perpetuate its illegal occupation, yet the outcome underscores Kashmir's status as an international dispute.

The spokesman stressed that adhering to the UN's January 5 resolu-

tion is crucial for a lasting Kashmiri dispute.

"Permanent peace in South Asia can only be achieved by addressing the Kashmiri dispute justly respecting the will of the Kashmiri people.

The conference asserts that India has obstructed a fair solution for over seven decades and that military force cannot suppress the rightful struggle of Kashmiris.

The APhC condemned Modi's actions on August 5, 2019, for violating UN resolutions regarding Jammu and Kashmir.

He urged global powers to facilitate a just resolution of the Kashmiri dispute.

China sees improving livelihood in 75 years

BEIJING (INP): Since the founding of the People's Republic of China 75 years ago, the living standards of the Chinese people have progressed from mere subsistence to moderate prosperity in all aspects.

The per capita disposable income of China's residents was only 49.7 yuan (7.1 U.S. dollars) in 1949, but climbed to 39,218 yuan in 2023, an increase of 78.8 times, or an annual growth rate of 6 percent, adjusted for inflation, according to a report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Remarkable changes have been made since China ushered in the reform and opening up in 1978. The private economy has developed rapidly, and the national economy has expanded at a high speed.

Before the reform and opening up, the consumption level of residents was relatively low, and household expenditures were mainly used for food, clothing and daily necessities, but now people are spending more on durable goods such as automobiles and household appliances.

The changes can be mirrored in the Engel's coefficient, which measures food expenditures as a proportion of total household spending. The index was 29.8 percent in 2023, down 34.1 percentage points from 63.9 percent in 1978.

Take the household home appliance ownership for example, the av-

erage number of refrigerators per 100 households reached 103.4 at the end of 2023, in contrast to merely 0.2 in 1981. The number of household color TVs per 100 households stood at 107.8 at the end of 2023, in contrast to 0.6 in 1981.

The number of household washing machines per 100 households stood at 98.2 at the end of 2023, in contrast to 6.3 in 1981.

When the People's Republic of China was founded, the housing conditions were relatively poor.

After the reform and opening up, the housing system has transformed from welfare housing allocation to marketization, and the shortage of housing for urban and rural resi-



QUETTA: Former Provincial Amir Jammat-e-Islami Abdul Matin Akhunzoda is meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoab Noshirvani.

Three tons of Pakistani pine nuts arrive in Ezhou, China

BEIJING (INP): A fully loaded SF Airlines freighter carrying 3 tons of "Pakistani gems" pine nuts imported from western Pakistan arrived at Ezhou Huahu International Airport via the "Ezhou-Lahore" international cargo route.

After clearing customs, these fresh, high-quality pine nuts were dispatched from Ezhou to Yiwu and then distributed throughout China, Gwadar port occupied the monthly cargo route, coupled with efficient logistics services, has significantly facilitated trade between China and Pakistan.

Pakistan ranks as the fifth-largest producer of pine nuts globally and is the largest source of pine nut imports for China, accounting for 42% of the total import volume.

The newly established "Ezhou-Lahore" international cargo route, launched on January 13 this year, enhances trade relations between China and Pakistan, facilitating smoother access for Chinese brands into the Pakistani market and easing the entry of Pakistani products into China.

As the cargo routes expand, several safeguard measures have been implemented. Ezhou Customs now offers round-the-clock customs clearance, providing streamlined services such as "one-

stop clearance" and "one-click clearance."

As a specialized cargo hub, Huahu International Airport saw its international cargo flights exceed 200 in a single week in August, with monthly flights surpassing 3,000 for the first time, ranking third nationally.

Chinese logistics companies have further optimized transportation processes, significantly enhancing delivery efficiency.

With the support of SF Logistics, the pine nuts from Lahore reach their Chinese destination in just 24 hours, greatly reducing transit times.



QUETTA: Activates of civil society hold protest against recent attack on Chinese Engineers.

EXTENSION
 OF ENTRY TEST SCHEDULE FOR POSTGRADUATE DEGREE / DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES 2024.
 A call for information for all the concerns that the entry test of Degree / Diploma Programmes 2024, published in daily newspapers vide PRQ No. 96/2024-09-2024, has been reproduced and will be held on Sunday 13th October 2024 at Baloch Medical College Quetta.

Deputy Director,
 Post Graduate Medical Institute,
 Quetta.

PRQ No. 1382/08-10-2024
 www.bmc.edu.pk

CM Gandapur should clarify about his last 24-hour whereabouts: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said

Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur should tell the people where he had been during the past 24 hours.

A campaign was launched across the country that Gandapur had been abducted, he said, citing the allegations leveled by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders against every other institution in the country.

Talking to the media, he denounced the "drama" or-

chesterated by the PTI on "disappearance" of the CM KPK who brought the PTI workers to Islamabad, fled to the KP House in Islamabad, and then abandoned them to return to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa covertly.

"The question is very simple that where was he (the CM KP) during the last 24 hours," the minister said while lashing out the PTI for launching a malicious campaign against the institutions and the individuals during the last 24 hours.

He said the CM KP is an "irresponsible person" who did politics over the law and or-

der and tried to damage the image of the country.

The minister asked the CM KP why he left his people and fled from the scene to hide in the KP House and then to run away to Peshawar. The history had no such

an instance where a person led a mob and then abandoned them, he said asking the PTI why it created the whole drama.

The minister criticized the CM KP's attempt to damage the image of Pakistan and destroy law and order, and on top of that for taking the life of a Constable Hameed who got martyred.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with a group of investors led by Barclays at the Finance Division.

Govt focuses on structural reforms in key sectors of economy: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said the government is focused on ensuring that Pakistan stays on the course of structural reforms in core sectors of economy, including energy, SOEs, privatization, taxation and rightsizing of government.

Talking to a group of investors led by Barclays, who called on him at Finance Division on Tuesday, he said that in the past Pakistan has been seen as a single-tranche country but time has come to remove this perception and implement the structural benchmarks agreed under the programme with the IMF to ensure permanence to the macroeconomic stability.

Muhammad Aurangzeb briefed the delegation on various policy interventions and initiatives implemented during the last 12 months to reform the economy and also gave them an overview of the growth and macroeconomic stability in key economic indicators, including twin deficits, stable currency, foreign exchange reserves, and inflation that remained "a big story throughout the year".

He said the current macroeconomic stability was an outcome of a successful conclusion of nine-month IMF Stand-by Agreement, initiated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and implemented with discipline, rigour and vigour by the caretaker administration, paving the way for

a larger and longer EFF to bring permanence to the macroeconomic stability and implement structural reforms.

The finance minister highlighted a positive outcome of the macroeconomic stability for Pakistan was its ability to not only clear the Letters of Credit and Import backlogs by May and June last year, but also clear the payments of profits and dividends close to \$ 2 billion to foreign investors.

He said the new fiscal year had started on a clean slate and noted the continuation of macroeconomic stability in the first quarter with current account deficit remaining under control due to strong remittances, healthy RDA flows and exports showing positive trends in terms of diversification and a higher delta in IT exports and services as per August figures.

Muhammad Aurangzeb also referred to credit upgrades by the international credit rating agencies and shared plans to access the international capital markets. He said the government had sent some powerful signals to the local market by scrapping some bank auctions to convey the message that it was under no desperation to borrow and it would only borrow at more palatable rates.

He said the government wanted the banks to start lending to the private sector on impersonal terms and also mentioned the incentives offered to banks in the

budget this year for increasing their micro lending to the private sector, particularly agriculture, IT ecosystem and the SME sector.

The finance minister also briefed the delegation about various steps and measures taken by the government to demonstrate its seriousness to implement the reforms agenda.

Including the signing of a National Fiscal Pact between the federation and its four units to implement reforms in various sectors.

He said the government's vision was simple and it was to let the private sector lead the growth with policy framework and continuity provided by the government.

To a question, Aurangzeb noted a big drop in the inflation figures from a 38-pc high of last year to a 44-month low of 6.9 per cent in September this year, was a strong marker of economic recovery.

The members of the Barclays Investors delegation lauded the Minister for his through roundup of the Pakistan economy, and expressed their appreciation for the way "things have started looking up in Pakistan".

They also appreciated the structural reforms and stability visible in different sectors of the economy, and evinced keen interest in exploring opportunities for participating in the growth of Pakistan economy though investment and business collaborations.

Govt, Fazl to exchange constitutional amendment drafts with a pinch of salt

ISLAMABAD (INP) After month-long manoeuvring by the federal government to convince Jamiat-Ulma-e-Islam Fazl (JUIF) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on

its intended constitutional package, the government seems to have conceded to Maulana's demands in order to seek his support in bringing the constitutional amendment.

According to the parliamentary sources, it has been decided that the sessions of both houses of parliament will be summoned after the much-awaited Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

Rumours have it that the Maulana will present his draft on the constitutional amendment to the government within two to three days while the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) will also exchange their drafts with the JUIF chief.

Sources said the amendments to the procedure for the appointments of judges would be proposed in the second phase

while amendments regarding establishment of the constitutional court and appointments of its judges would be brought first.

Earlier, a government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar met JUIF chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to secure his support for the proposed constitutional amendment. The delegation included Khawaja Saad Rafique, Nayyar Bukhan, Naveed Qamar and Sherry Rehman while JUIF leaders Abdul Ghafoor Haideri and Aslam Ghauri also participated in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain chairing the meeting of Sugar Advisory Board.



PM says will not allow PTI to repeat 2014 dharna in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has vowed that he will not allow the Imran Khan-founded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to repeat what it did through its 2014 sit-in.

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has time and again blamed the PTI for compromising Pakistan's economy as Chinese President Xi Jinping had cancelled his visit to Islamabad due to the 126-day-long dharna.

Currently, as the main opposition party's protests take place in the federal capital, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) head of states' summit is set to take place on October 15 and 16.

Top officials from China, Russia, India, and other nations who are part of the regional organisation will attend the conference — in Islamabad's Red Zone — and if a protest is going on in the capital, it will pose a security threat.

"I will not allow the repeat of 2014 the conspiracy that took place. We will not allow this, we will not tolerate this at all. This is my promise to the nation," the prime minister told his cabinet members on Tuesday.

The PTI has said that it is protesting for the "independence of the judiciary" and the release of its founder Imran Khan. The party leaders have said that they will not step back unless the former prime minister asks them.

PM Shehbaz, while slamming the opposition party, said that the PTI had done nothing except create chaos and divide the nation. He said neither did the party bring back money to the country while it was in power nor did it end corruption — claims that were part of its election manifesto.

Recalling 2014 once more, he said that the Chinese president's dates for the visit were fixed, but the PTI went ahead with its sit-in, disregard-

ing its economy and global image.

"The Government of Pakistan tried its best, but they [PTI] refused to postpone their sit-in. I was shocked to know about the delay of the Chinese president's visit," the prime minister said.

Moving on, he informed the cabinet that after meeting the Chinese ambassador in Pakistan a day earlier, he had assured him of foolproof security for Chinese nationals in Pakistan, following the deadly airport blast.

He stressed that the economy is moving towards the right direction. PM Shehbaz added that the army men are sacrificing their lives for the nation, and at the same time, Chinese nationals are being killed in Pakistan.

He also called PTI's plans "nefarious" and said that it has been established without a shadow of a doubt that Afghan nationals were involved in the party's protests.

Constitution supreme document; to be strengthened through amendment: Governor

FAISALABAD (INP): Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said on Tuesday the constitution was a supreme document which would be strengthened through constitutional amendment.

Addressing the District Bar Association (DBA), he said amendments would be made after due process of consultation with all stakeholders including lawyers.

He said that PPP wanted a strategic balance between judicial commission and parliamentary party with a focused vision to strengthen the democracy.

He said that all decisions must be made on merit and there should be no room to speculate decisions on the ba-

sis of bench formulation.

He said that his party had offered unprecedented sacrifices for the independence of judiciary.

"I was in forefront of the movement for the restoration of former chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry," he said and added that upon his restoration, Iftikhar Chaudhry smartly ignored the lawyers as well as political parties.

He said that constitutional amendment had become a buzzword today. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari intended to add some constitutional amendments with a clear objective to strengthen the democracy and parliamentary system of the country.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh in a meeting with the representatives of Hutchison Ports Company.

PFA seals five restaurants on Motorways, imposes fine on 132 food outlets

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) conducted extensive inspection of food points located in motorway service areas and sealed five famous restaurants besides imposing fine worth Rs 2.57 million to 132 food outlets.

The PFA spokesman said on Tuesday that under the directives of the DG Food Authority, food safety teams conducted checks at 884 food outlets along the motorways and registered one case while notices for corrective actions were issued to 682 food outlets. The inspections also led to the confiscation of one amount of substandard used oil and over seven maunds of expired snacks and beverages.

During inspection, expired items were discovered on the shelves, alongside a lack of necessary records, prompting immediate action. DG PFA Asim Javed reported that expired cold drinks, snacks, and various confectionery items were found ready for sale. The inspections also revealed unsanitary conditions, including moldy freezers and poor cleanliness standards, with non-food grade utensils being used. The PFA is not only focusing on motorway service areas but is also inspecting food points at truck stops, bus stands, railway stations, and along GT Road.

The DG PFA said that all items sold at these food points must be approved by the Punjab Food Authority. He cautioned that consuming sub-

standard food products can lead to various health hazards.

Business owners are advised to purchase only from Punjab Food Authority-licensed suppliers to ensure quality. The DG emphasized that food points located on motorways M1, M2, and M3 must adhere to high standards of food safety, warning that strict actions will be taken against violators. Travelers are encouraged to check the quality of food items before making purchases at service areas and to report any complaints by calling 1223. The PFA is committed to ensuring that all travelers have access to safe and quality food during their journeys, the DG added.