



Justice Ijaz ul Hassan passes away

Former Peshawar High Court (PHC) judge Justice Ijaz ul Hassan has taken his last breath in Islamabad, family sources confirmed to media. He served as a PHC judge from 2000 to 2007. His funeral prayers will be offered at H-11 Graveyard in Islamabad at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 29, 2024.



New US Govt interested in Pakistan's nukes, missile program: Saad Rafique

Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that the upcoming US administration has no interest in the PTI's founder but they have interest in Pakistan's nuclear and missile programs. "You are being sieged, we could not shut our eyes," addressing a gathering here, former federal minister said. "No one can bury someone in politics," he said. "The talks between the government and the PTI must be successful," Saad Rafique emphasized.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Welcome New Year

ISLAMABAD: A girl walks in front of 2025 sign displayed alongside a road for celebration of new year in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Putin apologies for AZAL airliner incident in Russia's airspace – Kremlin



TASS

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin offered his apologies to his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev that the incident with the AZAL airliner occurred in Russia's airspace and conveyed his condolences to the families of the plane crash victims, the Kremlin press

office reported on Saturday. "Vladimir Putin offered his apologies that the tragic incident had occurred in Russia's airspace and once again conveyed his deep and sincere condolences to the families of the plane crash victims and wished those injured the quickest recovery," the press office said in a statement.

Security forces kill 15 while thwarting infiltration attempt at Pak-Afghan border

Umar Wazir

WANA: Security forces thwarted an infiltration attempt by the Khorasan faction of the Khawarij terrorists at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

According to sources, 20 to 25 Khawarij terrorists attempted to infiltrate into Pakistan from two locations in Kurram and North Waziristan on the night between Dec 27 and 28, using Afghan Taliban border posts. Pakistani security forces acted promptly and foiled the infiltration attempt.



Sources revealed that on the morning of Dec 28, the Khawarij and Afghan Taliban jointly opened fire on Pakistani posts

with heavy weapons without provocation.

Pakistani security forces responded swiftly and forcefully to the firing. According to sources, initial reports indicate significant losses on the Afghan side.

Effective retaliatory fire led to the death of over 15 Khawarij and Afghan Taliban fighters, with several others injured. Due to the effective counter-action and shelling, Afghan Taliban forces fled, abandoning six posts.

Security sources stated that Pakistan had repeatedly urged

the interim Afghan government to prevent the Khorasan faction of the Khawarij from using Afghan soil against Pakistan. Instead of controlling the Khawarij, the Afghan Taliban continues to support these terrorist elements.

Sources further mentioned that the Khorasan faction of the Khawarij operates freely in Afghanistan and is exploiting Afghan territory for anti-Pakistan terrorist activities. Pakistani security forces are fully capable of giving a befitting response to any act of aggression.

Bilawal laments federal govt not fulfilling commitments regarding PSDP

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Sindh government was committed to resolve public issues on priority basis despite limited resources.

Talking to media in Larkana on Saturday, Bilawal Bhutto said all stake holders have to play their due role to solve the problems of the people. PPP chairman complained that federal government was not fulfilling their commitment with the Sindh government.

Bilawal Bhutto said before the formation of federal government, it was decided and agreed with Shehbaz government that public sector development projects will be released for four provinces without discrimination. He said it was promised that funds would be given for development projects in Sindh and Balochistan by central government. Bilawal Bhutto said that federal government has failed to fulfil promises made with PPP. He announced that Sindh government will register its complaint with federal government.



PM directs completion of smart meters' installation; steps to overcome power theft

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed to complete the installation of smart meters as soon as possible to ensure transparency in the billing system and called for concrete steps to prevent electricity theft.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on the performance of Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs). The deliberations centered on the affairs of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) and Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that the overbilling was unacceptable and strict action would be taken against officers involved in such practices.

He expressed concern over the delay in the appointment process of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the distribution companies and directed for ensuring CEOs' appointments through a highly transparent process and asked for its completion at the earliest.

Recruitment of workforce in distribution companies should be merit-based, with no compromise on transparency, he further added.

The prime minister said that all the available resources should be utilized to



meet the targets of NEPRA.

Minister for Economic Affairs Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Power Division Sardar Owais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervez Malik, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal and senior government officials attended the meeting.

The meeting was given a detailed briefing on the achievement of targets which included recovery rates (up to November of FY 2024-25): LESCO: 96.82 percent, PESCO: 87.98 percent and FESCO: 97.57 percent.

Transmission and distribution losses

(up to November of FY 2024-25) in these companies remained at: LESCO: 13.04 percent, PESCO: 33 percent and FESCO: 6.01 percent.

The meeting was also apprised of the smart meter installation progress:-

LESCO: Out of 223,365 three-phase smart meters, 49,470 had been installed.

PESCO: Out of 152,559 smart meters, 51,173 have been installed.

FESCO: Out of 192,311 smart meters, 11,276 have been installed.

Economic stability impossible sans political stability: Omar Ayub



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub has said that it is age of Internet therefore spread of accurate information is need of the hour.

Talking to media, Opposition leader made it clear that "dream of economic stability in the country will never come true until and unless we bring political stability in the country".

He claimed that the federal government owes Rs15000 billions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. He said federal government has not given any help to KP govern-

ment. Opposition leader said PTI wanted to talk about May 9 and November 26 events. He said PTI wants judicial inquiry on these accidents. He also questioned the veracity of military courts. He claimed that Hassan Niazi and other PTI leaders will get relief from high courts.

He said decision regarding starting of talks with TTP during PTI government was General Bajwa's decision as he used to say that talks were the best solution.

Omar Ayub claimed that Rs550 billion petrol is being smuggled from Afghanistan and Iran border and who are sitting at borders and who is responsible for it. Opposition leader advised intelligence officials to look into borders issues instead of controlling the media. He said country was being run on the advice of IMF. He claimed there was a hell of difference in the economics of 2021 and 2024.

PTI founder, Nawaz Sharif, Zardari should sit together for Pakistan, says Rana Sana

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah said that PTI founder Imran Khan, PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari should sit together resolve Pakistan's problems.

Addressing a seminar in connection with martyrdom ceremony of Shaheed Khawaja Muhammad Rafique in Lahore today, he said attitude of some political parties has been changed after failed protest on November 26 this year.

He expressed Government's resolve to make negotiation process with Opposition successful.

Special Assistant said national issues can only be

resolved through talks. He said PML-N saved the country from default, even by suffering political setback.

Earlier, PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui said that talks between PTI and the Centre are ongoing, with Nawaz Sharif's approval.

Senator Siddiqui emphasized that the committee will focus on written demands rather than statements made by PTI's founder.

Prior to this, PTI set a deadline for the completion of talks with the government, aiming to conclude negotiations by January 31, 2025.

Addressing reporters outside Adiala jail, SIC head Hamid Raza stated that Imran Khan has expressed confidence in the negotiating committee who are working to resolve issues with the Centre.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Introduced Exemplary Projects in Health Sector

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's healthcare projects have set remarkable examples for the other provinces to follow. She said, "The projects like Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital Lahore, Cardiology Institute Sargodha, Clinics on Wheels, Field Hospitals, Children's Heart Surgery Card, and Free Medicine Home Delivery have no doubt revolutionised the healthcare system of the Province." She added, "Chinese cancer treatment method: 'No Chemotherapy, No Surgery' will also be introduced for the treatment of cancer patients in Punjab."

Madam Chief Minister highlighted, "Punjab has become the first province in Pakistan to formally start air ambulance service." She said, "About 6.8 million patients are benefiting from Clinics on Wheels and Field Hospitals across Punjab." She added, "Mega project of revamping rural and primary health centers across Punjab is nearing completion." She converted the traditional BHU into "Maryam Health Clinic."



Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "We are revamping a record number of more than 2800 hospitals across Punjab. Field hospitals are providing quality healthcare services in remote rural areas across Punjab." She added, "Unparalleled hospital services continue as 950,000 patients have benefitted from the field hospitals.

60,000 X-rays, 135,000 lab tests, ultrasound, first aid and maternal & child health facilities have been provided."

Madam Chief Minister noted, "6.7 million patients have benefitted from Clinics on Wheels in densely populated areas of cities. Doctors, LHVs, vaccination and ultrasound facilities are available in Clinics on Wheels." She said, "Pa-

kistan's first public sector Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital in Lahore for the treatment of cancer patients is rapidly moving towards completion. The first Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology for the treatment of heart diseases in Sargodha Division is also nearing completion." She added, "A target has been set to meet the shortage of specialist doctors in district hospitals. A proposal of special package for the doctors working in remote areas has also been agreed upon, besides a decision to establish cath labs and cardiology centres in district hospitals of Punjab in phases."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Free treatment and operation of children with heart disease under the Chief Minister's Heart Surgery Program have been started." She added, "Public health is a priority, provision of sufficient resources will be ensured." She highlighted, "We want to provide a better environment for public in government hospitals than in private clinics." She underscored, "We want to bring improvement in every hospital, every patient should get free treatment and medicine."

Hazar Khan says Coordinator's and Social Security team harassing the factory owners

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Coordinator of the Minister for Labour and Human Resources Punjab has started conducting raids on various factories in Faisalabad, harassing their owners, while we are fully complying with social security contributions and paying all workers' dues. This was stated by Hazar Khan, Senior Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association, during a media talk.

He said that workers' social security payments are being made in accordance with the minimum monthly salary of Rs. 37,000 set by the Punjab government, whereas social security laws do not set a limit on the maximum wage, and these workers are not subject to it.

Hazar Khan further said that, unfortunately, the Coordinator's team and the Social Security Commissioner's team have been harassing our factory owners for the last few days, forcing them to pay all workers' dues. He added that our industry is already facing major challenges, and these unforeseen raids could disrupt our Christmas and New Year orders, heightening the risk of worker unemployment.

He urged the government to promptly stop these surprise raids and restore the officers from the Social Security and Labour Departments who were suspended. He warned that if this issue is not resolved, a press conference will be held, and a strike will be called.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto: A Symbol of Democracy and Struggle

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, the Sindh Textbook Board Jamshoro pays tribute to her unparalleled sacrifices, ideals, and relentless struggle for democracy.

In a message he said "In line with the policies of the Sindh Textbook Board Jamshoro, the mission of spreading the light of knowledge and providing free education to every child in Sindh will continue. We are committed to building a society following the path laid by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, where every child has access to the fundamental right of education and awareness."

"Education is the guarantee of a bright future."

Police bust two bike-lifting gangs, recover 12 stolen bikes, laptop

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Khana and Humak police teams apprehended five wanted members of two bike lifter gangs involved in numerous bike lifting activities and recovered 12 stolen motorbikes and one laptop from their possessions on Saturday.

Police spokespersons told APP that the Khana and Humak police teams used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending five wanted members of two bike lifter gangs involved in numerous bike lifting incidents.

The police team also recovered 12 stolen motorbikes and one laptop from their possession. The accused were identified as Rasheed, Nazrik, Sajjad, Azeem and Mohsin.

Cases were already registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. During the preliminary investigation the accused confessed to being involved in numerous bike listings activities.

SSP operations/Investigations Muhammad Arslan Shah Zaib directed all officials for effective crackdown against the accused involved in car and bike lifting incidents. The performance of police officers in this regard would be reviewed on a continuous basis.

They further directed all zonal officers to intensify the crackdown against the criminal elements. "Safety and security of the citizens is our foremost priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard."

A Study in White

Sameet Fatima

Two lessons echo in classrooms nationwide: the symbolism of the Pakistani flag's colors and the imperative of respecting minorities. The green embodies the Muslim majority, while the white signifies peace and inclusivity, symbolizing the rightful place of minorities. Though this ideal is ingrained in our collective conscience, it remains a theory seldom realized. Instead of celebrating diversity, troubling trends overshadow this symbolic white. The surge in blasphemy cases, disproportionately targeting minorities, raises grave concerns about justice, social harmony, and Pakistan's foundational principles. This ostracism drives minorities to question their basic rights to existence and religious freedom.

The current treatment of minorities starkly contradicts Quaid-e-Azam's vision, where every citizen, irrespective of faith, was promised equal rights. Misuse of blasphemy laws has turned them into tools of oppression, driven by personal vendettas, intolerance, and systemic bias. Recent years have witnessed attacks ranging from the burning of churches, forceful conversions of underage Hindu girls in Sindh, to the desecration of Ahmadi graves. These incidents highlight a systemic failure to protect the vulnerable, tarnishing the sanctity of justice and fostering an atmosphere of fear and exclusion.

The symbolic white of Pakistan's flag, now marred by fear and injustice, calls for restoration. Legal reforms to curb the misuse of blasphemy laws are imperative, alongside education that fosters tolerance and empathy. Mechanisms to safeguard minorities must be reinforced with sincerity.

Let us remember that the whiteness of our flag does not fade but grows brighter when illuminated by justice, equality, and humanity. Only by protecting the vulnerable can we truly honor our flag's promise, embracing every shade within it as an integral part of our nation's fabric.

Walima party

FAISALABAD: Group photo of Ustad Muhammad Tufail Tarar, RPO spokesperson Dr. Rizwan Bhatti, trader leader Alhaz Naseer Yousuf Vohra, Welfare Officer BISEF Dr. Sardar Babar Dogar, CTO spokesperson Muhammad Ismail, News Editor Abdul Wahid, Caretaker Iqbal Stadium Naveed Nazir, Chairman Professional Photographers Association Syed Tanveer Zaidi, President Muhammad Ahmed, Muhammad Aamir (Islamabad), Ali Shahid (Lahore), journalists, relatives, friends, and others at the Walima party hosted by Ghazanfar Majid at a local marquee. Photo Ghulam Nabi



Photo: Online

Press Conference of MNA Riaz Fatiana at Chaudhary House Kamalia

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to the Details, Press Conference of MNA Kamalia Riaz Fatiana at Choudhry House Kamalia. Former Chairman Market Committee Kamalia Chaudhry Faisal Qazafi, former Chairman Chaudhry Rizwan Ahmad Nusrat and Patron In-Chief of Kamalia Tajer Ittehad Chaudhry Kamran Ahmad Nusrat, Chaudhry Furqan along with others were present. In the press conference MNA Riaz Fatiana said that the opposition has expressed confidence in the Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. He further said that the government should show seriousness instead of obstinacy. The government and the opposition should sit together and increase the political process.



When political stability comes, the country will move forward and the national prestige of Pakistan will be better in front of the world. Riaz

Fatiana said that when the resignation process took place in the assembly

So I opposed it. When people were leaving the party, I organized the biggest gathering. After May 9, bank accounts raided at my house were seized. I voted for the party. Did not vote for the 26th Amendment. My son, former MPA Ahsan Fatiana, was kidnapped twice. I still sit on the opposition benches. The party showed Non-seriousness to me on the show cause notice. I said sit in Sanjani Chowk, I don't know whose decision it was to go to D Chowk

Whoever made the decision to go to D Chowk should think about it, the martyrdom and injuries are regrettable. We should reorganize the party and have a dialogue with my friends in all political parties.

Efforts to Improve Traffic Management in Multan: A Step Forward

Zain Khan

MULTAN: In 2024, the City Traffic Police of Multan made significant strides by registering over 500 cases against encroachments. This initiative is part of a larger effort to enhance traffic management and ensure smooth vehicular flow across the city.

The joint teams of Multan Police and City Traffic Police have been actively cracking down on encroachments and wrong parking, aiming to resolve the city's persistent traffic woes. CTO Multan, Sardar Moarahin Khan, personally visited key areas such as Vehari Chowk and Double Phatak Road to review the progress of anti-encroachment operations.



During his visit, he instructed sector-in-charges and circle officers to actively monitor their areas, clear wrong parking near shopping malls, and take immediate action against any encroachments.

His proactive and transparent approach has set a positive precedent and raised public expectations for better traffic management.

While the CTO's efforts are widely appreciated for being public-friendly and focused on removing obstructions, citizens have voiced concerns about the prevailing practice of targeted challans. Unlike Lahore's CTO, who abolished this system, Multan's traffic wardens are often seen prioritizing their monthly challan targets over ensuring smooth traffic flow. Residents have urged the CTO to address this issue, aligning the wardens' efforts with the broader goal of efficient traffic management.

The success of these measures will depend on consistent follow-ups and a balanced approach to addressing both enforcement and public concerns.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:42 am
Zohr 12:09 pm
Asr 3:30 pm
Maghrib 5:08 pm
Isha 6:37 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & & Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

A. Aleem Khan condoles Fayyaz Chohan's father's death

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Istahkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited the residence of senior party leader and former Provincial Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan in Islamabad. Abdul Aleem Khan expressed his heartfelt sympathies and condolences to him on the death of his father. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan offered Fateha for the deceased and prayed that may Allah Almighty grant him a place in His Mercy and grant Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan and the grieving family to bear this loss with courage and strength. Istahkam-e-Pakistan Party Punjab President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan was also accompanied with him on this occasion.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah calls for the establishment of a new 'Judicial Silk Road'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at a consultative roundtable titled 'A Holistic Assessment of Legislative Reform, Investment Protection, and Dispute Resolution under CPEC, co-organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and the Centre for Chinese Legal Studies at LUMS, Honourable justice Mansoor Ali Shah called for the establishment of a Judicial Silk Route between China and South Asia to strengthen legal collaboration and create effective dispute resolution mechanisms under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Justice Shah emphasized the significance of adopting advanced legal frameworks inspired by Chinese practices. He underscored the need to establish BRI commercial mediation centers and develop domestic commercial courts to facilitate investment protection and dispute settlement in Pakistan. He added that such measures would not only address Pakistan's reliance on litigation but also make the country more investor-friendly.

Honourable Justice Jawad Hassan emphasized Pakistan's legal and constitutional advancements supporting the implementation of CPEC, now approaching its third phase. He praised the formation of the Special Investment



Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a crucial measure to boost investor confidence. Justice Hassan underscored the importance of arbitration and mediation in efficiently resolving legal challenges, especially in large-scale projects like CPEC.

Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of IRS, highlighted concerns regarding the lack of institutional capacity to handle complex legal contracts for large-scale infrastructure projects. He emphasized the urgent need to enhance Paki-

stan's legal and institutional frameworks to eliminate ambiguities and ensure effective implementation of CPEC initiatives.

Dr. Sikander Ahmed Shah, Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for

Chinese Legal Studies at LUMS, highlighted the need to build mutual trust and understanding between Pakistan and China. He noted that their partnership extends beyond infrastructure projects, symbolizing friendship and shared objectives.

Mr. Khalid Taimoor Akram, Executive Director Pakistan Research Centre for A Community with Shared Future, pointed out that Pakistan's strategic location makes it a vital transit route for China and landlocked Central Asian states, however, he noted, the absence of a comprehensive legal framework to govern these projects effectively.

Other notable contributions included Dr. Tariq Mahmood, Barrister and Arbitrator, Ms. Riffat Inam Butt, Secretary of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, Mr. Aziz Qazi, Advocate Supreme Court and Vice Chairman of the Islamabad Bar Council, Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed Mirza, Chief Prosecutor and Head of Legal Affairs at the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad Khan, Deputy Inspector General of Police and Commandant of Police College Sihala (PCS).

The event brought together judges, policymakers, legal scholars, media professionals, and industry leaders to discuss the strategic direction of CPEC Phase II.

Kashmir Rang

ISLAMABAD: Students wearing Kashmiri traditional dress as performing tableau during a ceremony title "Kashmir K Rang" at MCG F8-1, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

RCCI delegation led by Usman Shaukat visits Azerbaijan Embassy to offer condolences

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Usman Shaukat along with Executive Committee members, visited the Azerbaijan Embassy in Islamabad to express heartfelt condolences over the tragic crash of an Azerbaijani airliner near Aktau, Kazakhstan, which claimed numerous lives.



During his meeting with Azerbaijan's Ambassador,

Khazar Farhadov, President Usman Shaukat conveyed deep sorrow on behalf of RCCI and prayed for eternal peace for the departed souls. He also extended prayers for strength and patience for the bereaved families and wished a swift recovery for the injured.

The RCCI stands in solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan during this moment of profound grief and loss.

CDA pushes for Eco-friendly public transport in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) is intensifying efforts to establish an environmentally sustainable public transport system in Islamabad.

In a meeting chaired by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Saturday, progress on the operations of electric and feeder buses was reviewed.

Senior officials, including members from the Planning, Technology, and Finance departments, participated in the session.

During the meeting, it was revealed that 160 electric buses have been allocated to feeder routes, designed to integrate seamlessly with the city's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network.

The project also includes the establishment of 216 bus stops and four strategically located depots, supported by robust charging infrastructure.

Four feeder routes, operational since July this year, have already witnessed a notable increase in daily ridership.

IGP Islamabad to resolve public grievances on priority

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, reaffirmed his commitment to addressing public grievances during a Khuli Katchery (open court) held at the Central Police Office, on Saturday.



A public relation officer told to media that during the khuli katchery, IG listened the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives to senior police officers on the spot for timely resolution of their concerns.

IG Rizvi said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Citizens facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for my citizens, he said.

Rizvi further directed the officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office. He directed all SDPOs and SHO's to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues.

On this occasion, the IG Rizvi said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHO's are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

Practical steps must be taken to increase trade volume between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, Envoy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Taqtaev, has stated that the trade volume between Pakistan and Uzbekistan stands at \$400 million. Both countries need to take practical steps to further increase this trade volume.

He expressed these views during a conversation with the Secretary General UBG, Zafar Bakhtawari, Member Central Core Committee UBG, Ahsan Bakhtawari, and Chairman of Ba-Waqar Pakistan, Waqar Bakhtawari, who visited the embassy.

Ambassador stated that there is a direct air link between Lahore and Tashkent, and direct flights from Karachi and Islamabad to Tashkent will commence soon.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan share deep historical and religious ties, and there is a need for further initiatives to high-

light the cultural connections between the two countries.

It was stated that Uzbekistan has already begun efforts to import and export its goods through Karachi and Gwadar via railways and road networks.

It is expected that both nations will play a significant role in promoting regional connectivity. Zafar Bakhtawari suggested that Zahir-ud-Din Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, serves as a historical and cultural link between the two countries. He remarked that without Babur and the Indian Subcontinent, the existence of Pakistan might not have been possible. He suggested that we should establish the tradition of celebrating "Babur Day" every year to highlight the remarkable personality of Babur.

Similarly, the day of Uzbek national poet Alisher Navoi should also be commemorated annually to further

strengthen the literary and cultural ties between the two nations.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari emphasized the promotion of tourism between the two countries, stating that infrastructure, air connectivity, railway systems, and road networks should be further improved to achieve this goal.

He also suggested that students from both countries should be offered admissions and scholarships in each other's universities, enabling the younger generation to better understand each other's nations. These initiatives, he added, will not only strengthen educational ties but also foster cultural and economic relations.

Waqar Bakhtawari proposed that joint initiatives should be launched to promote tourism between the two countries, providing opportunities for people from both nations to closely understand each other's culture. He emphasized that both countries must



