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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of coalition partners for consultation on proposals for Public Sector Development Programme 2023-24.

Public welfare, business friendly policies focus of budget: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said the focus of the budget for the financial year 2023-2024 will be progress, public welfare and business-friendly policies. He was speaking at a high-level consultative meeting with the allied parties here on the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He said the size of PSDP in the budget would be increased from Rs 700 billion to Rs 950 billion in the next financial year to spur economic growth and create job opportunities. He said the next financial year would be the year of economic progress for Pakistan, adding economic conditions were difficult and the government was adopting a policy of utilizing available resources in the best possible manner. The PM said substantial funds would be allocated in the new budget for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas. During a briefing, the participants of the meeting were told that the long-delayed National Flood Response Programme would be restarted after a lapse of many years.

Apex Court says: Political issues can best be resolved through negotiations, consensus

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has said that political issues can be resolved in a better way only through negotiations and consensus. It is expected that political parties will agree on a date for simultaneous elections across the country. The Supreme Court has issued a written order of the previous hearing in the case related to holding elections across the country on one day. The order said the effort of the parties to solve political issues through negotiations is commendable. It further said the PTI and the government committees submitted their reports on the negotiation process. Saad Rafique said there has been consensus on holding elections on a single day across the country. He also said that if talks continued, they could agree on a date as well. However, Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed disappointment over the progress in the negotiations. The court adjourned the hearing of the case for an indefinite period. It should be noted that the Ministry of Defense has filed a petition to hold simultaneous elections across the country. The ministry has further said in the petition that the Supreme Court should withdraw its order for elections in Punjab in view of the security situation and order the exercise after the completion of the term of the Sindh and Balochistan assemblies.



KASHMIR: Chief Organizer of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz addressing to the huge crowd during public gathering at Bagh area.

Maryam Nawaz says: No respect for those who disrespected martyrs on May 9

BAGH (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz Monday declared that no respect for those who disrespected martyrs on May 9. Addressing a rally in Bagh district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir during her mass-contact campaign in constituency of party candidate Mushtaq Minhas today, Maryam Nawaz said that those who burn our fighter jets and martyrs memorials are not among us because no matter how much angry someone is, they cannot cause damage to their country. She held the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan responsible for the May 9 attacks and vowed that he would be made a 'nisan-e-ibrat' for others. "Your people are revealing that the chairman is the mastermind of May 9." The PML-N senior vice president reiterated that people would not respect anyone who burnt graves of martyrs, adding that the arsonist did not belong to the country. "Anyone who vandalised martyrs' scriptures could not be a Pakistani," she added. She added that the nation will not forgive the May 9 rioters and people who are hiding as they hurt the feelings of martyrs' families. "The nation will not forgive those who meted out ill treatment to the martyrs," she remarked. The PML-N chief organizer lambasted PTI saying that those who came to power in 2018 through rigging are now leaving them and those who wanted to divide PML-N their party is now no more in the politics. "The party which was imposed by rigging has crumbled today."

IHC bans airing of judges' remarks in cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): While hearing a plea for the recovery of former adviser to Prime Minister Shahzad Akbar's brother Murad Akbar, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday banned the airing of judges' remarks and said that only the written verdict of the court would be aired. The court in its order stated: "Only the written verdict of the court will be aired. Neither the name nor the picture of the judge will be displayed. It will be contempt of court otherwise." The judge said: "I am writing to Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra). If there is a violation, the license of the TV channel will be cancelled." The additional attorney general, Islamabad inspector general of police (IGP) and the interior secretary appeared in the court. "The file of the case is being sent to the chief justice. Similar cases are pending in the division bench," the text of the verdict read.

FM Bilawal hopeful of stronger Pakistan-Iraq cooperation in future

BAGHDAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday expressed the hope that bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Iraq would strengthen in the future. The foreign minister, while addressing a joint press stakeout with his Iraqi counterpart Dr. Fuad Hussein, said that both the countries enjoyed decades old ties as they always supported each other in the hour of need. The foreign minister, arrived here on a three-day visit from Jordan, on the second leg of two-nation tour. Bilawal told the media that every year, a huge number of Pakistani pilgrims visit Iraq to pay respects at Ziarat. He said, "My mother, Muhtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed held Iraq in very high esteem and had very fond memories of her visit. I have come here with a desire to reinvigorate our fraternal ties and build them on solid foundations based on mutual respect, interests, and institutional linkages."

"I want to reiterate our desire to transform our bilateral relations into mutually beneficial economic ties. During my visit, we would have range of exchanges with the Iraqi leadership and private sector. We would be signing bilateral agreements focusing on strengthening our collaboration in diverse fields," he added. Bilawal said, "Similar to Pakistan, Iraqi nation has shown exemplary resilience, steadfastness, and resoluteness in combating terrorism and defeating this scourge. Our two nations have made great sacrifices in achieving this victory, fruits of which are being enjoyed by the region and beyond." Bilawal said both countries always stood by each other at the multilateral forums.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar in a group photo with delegation of Ulema and Tribal elites from Hazar Ganji led by Maulana Tahir.

Soldier martyred amid intense exchange of fire with terrorists in S. Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): A soldier of Pakistan Army on Monday embraced martyrdom after an intense fire exchange took place between the Army troops and terrorists in general area Ladha, South Waziristan District. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. However, during intense exchange of fire, Lance Naik Muhammad Sabir (age 30 years, resident of District Mansehra) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat. The sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Six killed, 13 injured in passenger van-truck collision

MANDI BAHAUDDIN (APP): At least six persons were killed, while 13 others suffered injuries in passenger van-truck collision near Pahrianwali area. Rescue 1122 said here on Monday that the accident occurred at Gujrat-Sargodha road that claimed lives of six people, while leaving 13 others injured. The deceased were identified as—Kaku (driver of van) r/o Pahrianwali, three women.

Environment Day: Governor House Quetta's role vital in keeping environment clean for around 150 years

Kakar emphasizes on making contribution by all for ending environmental pollution from country

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that a very least people would know that there has been an important role of the Governor House in keeping the environment clean and ending the pollution for around 150 years. Referring the serene and beautiful environment of the Governor House Quetta on eve of the World Environment Day on Monday, the Governor Balochistan said that a very appropriate arrangement is present for feeding and breeding of the birds besides taking constant concrete measures for watering hundreds of the trees and saplings during such a long period. And obviously in this good deed, invaluable services and conscious efforts of the former and incumbent Governors, officers and staff of the Governor House are included. The Governor remarked that climate changes are threat for the world globe and matter of great concern for all the human beings and other creatures, he maintained. Therefore, the Governor stressed, there is an urgent need to adopt measures on emergent basis for improving the current situation. He also underlined the need to inspire the people towards tree plantation and make organized efforts for forestation.



QUETTA: Participants are holding awareness rally on the occasion of World Environment Day organized by Balochistan Environmental Protection Agency.

CM Balochistan finally decides to boycott NEC's meeting in Islamabad

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has categorically stated that no member of National Economic Council (NEC) from the province including him would participate in the NEC's meeting being held today (Tuesday) in Islamabad. According to an official handout issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister has made the decision of boycott of the NEC's meeting in view of the non-

cooperative attitude of the federal government. The Chief Minister regretfully pointed out that the federal government has not implemented the assurances and commitments so far made regarding the province. He said that this attitude of the federal government reflects the extreme disappointing situation. Even Rs. 10 billion as announced by the Prime Minister for rehabilitation of the flood affected people of the province has also not

been provided yet, he added. In this regard, repeated reminders were also made to the federal government and an official memorandum was also sent to the Prime Minister, but in vain. Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that the provincial government helped and rehabilitated the flood affected to its best mobilizing its limited resources. He said that it was hoped that the rehabilitation activities would be promoted further after receiving the grant of Rs. 10 billion from the federal government.

He pointed out that the flood affected people are still awaiting the government support under the open sky. He said that the federal government has also been asked to include the projects proposed by the members of Senate and National Assembly in the federal PSDP. He said that we can't give development funds to the members of Senate and National Assembly because of the limited funds and resources.



BAGHDAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari alongwith his Iraqi counterpart Dr. Fuad Hussein addressing a joint press.

PM, Fazl make consultation on budget, prevailing political situation

ISLAMABAD (Online): JUI-F President Maulana Fazlur Rehman has called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the two made consultation on the budget for next financial year besides holding talks in details on the prevailing political situation of the country. Talking to media men later Maulana Fazlur Rehman said the political parties stage protest but they don't damage the properties. If they attack the GHQ then army act will come into action too. He went on to say the court has to decide about matter of ban on PTI. He held court is demonstrating partiality. Therefore, we had to move to people court. If court thinks ban should be imposed then it is good riddance, he remarked. We are desirous of stable judicial system.

Woman killed, five injured in Quetta firing

QUETTA (INP): A woman was killed and five others including four women were injured in firing of armed men in Hazar Ganji area of Quetta on Monday. Police said that armed men sprayed bullets a group of people killing a woman Shabnam Binte Lajer on the spot. Five people including Nazia Binte Daleel Khan, Shafeeqa w/o Rehmattullah, Nadia w/o Abdul Rahim, Shamkeena w/o Noorullah belonging to Marwat community and Gul Muhammad were injured in the firing. The assailants fled the scene. The body and injured were shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Sardar Rind demands action against culprits involved in bid on life of his son

Says 9th May incidents of violence done under planned conspiracy; strongly condemnable to attack and torch civil and military buildings

QUETTA: The senior politician and Member Provincial Assembly, Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind has accused of the local administration of Kachhi for not taking any action against the culprits involved in the attack on his son's caravan in Kachhi district two months back. He said that while he had informed to the Deputy Commissioner Kachhi about the incident and culprits involved soon after the attack was made on his son with remote control device two months back, but any action against the nominated culprits is yet to be taken. Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind was addressing a press conference at his residence on Zarghoning road on Monday morning. He said that he knew well that who were involved in the attack on his



gretted that forensic of the area where his son was attacked could not be done even. He said that his opponents are being rewarded against his in the district he belonged to. He also charged that allocations have been made for his political opponents in the provincial budget, and so is being done in the next budget too. He alleged that special grant of Rs. 7 crore and 75 lakh was allocated for his political opponents in the current budget.



KARACHI: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langu talking with Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori during his visit. Senator Danesh Kumar and Home Minister Son Mir Ahmed Khan also present.

BHC declares Decision of transferring new waste water treatment plants to Q-WASA as illegal

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court has declared the decision of handing over of the "New Waste Water treatment plants in Quetta project" to Quetta WASA as illegal and null and void. The division bench headed by the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan heard the petition in this regard. Mr Justice Muhammad Amir Rana was the other judge in the bench. According to the judgment, the summary sent by the Additional Chief Secretary development and planning and development to Chief Minister violated the recommendations and it was approved to transfer the project in violation of the recommendations made in the summary. The record shows that the approval of para No. 10 was made without considering the facts mentioned in the para No. 6, 7 and 9. It is also surprising that the Chief Secretary Balochistan endorsed the para No 2/S without any justification and explanation despite the objections of Secretary PHE department in para No 6 and 7 of the summary. Although these objections were also supported by the ACS development and P&D department in para No 9. Apparently it seems that the Chief Secretary was not provided proper required assistance in this regard.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Environment Day

Our world is not reusable nor can it be made perishable. As the plastic tide spins out of control, World Environment Day, being observed this year with a focus on plastic pollution, is a requisite to stem it. An alarming level of plastic — 8m to 10m tonnes — spills into the oceans each year, becoming a devastating rogue wave for the ecosystem. Take the North Pacific Ocean where a mass of litter comprising common trash, belongings and fishing equipment is known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. There isn't much comfort for life above water either: UNEP sounded the alarm last month when it stated that, considering the invisible "microplastic fragments" plaguing the highest peaks and the ocean floors, single-use plastics and disposable consumption must drop to half as the next few years are precarious. These were identified in "blood, breast milk and placenta" — foreboding signs of a noxious marine and animal feed and food chain. The report also pronounced plastic as the source of 19pc of global greenhouse emissions by 2040; it presented a 'reuse, recycle and diversify' approach for used materials to meet the diminution target.

The same month, climate ministers at the G7 summit vowed to halt surplus plastic pollution in their nations by 2040. However, the most significant development that can set the path to recovery was in Paris — some 200 countries came together and assented to negotiate an international treaty which plugs the plastic crunch, similar to the Paris Agreement on climate change. The charge of mapping an agenda to lessen global plastic excess fell squarely on the shoulders of UN affiliates. Likely to be settled by the end of 2024, the accord should translate into a powerful, stringent plastic policy with legal teeth, resolute on restoring the globe. Closer to home, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have banned single-use plastic fare. But Pakistan and India's undertaking to phase out expendable plastic has sunk.

Pakistan's pollution laws — Section 11 of PEPA forbids the discharge of effluents, waste and air pollutants — are met with oblivion. And resistance from retailers and consumers defeated the government's SRO to ban plastic bags in 2020. In April, the climate change ministry disclosed that the production level of plastic waste was 3m tonnes and, according to UNEP, only 3pc is recycled. If unaddressed, this will stand at 12m tonnes by 2040. A World Bank survey in 2022 claimed 10,000 tonnes of macro-plastics flow through the Indus into the sea annually. Meanwhile, untreated sewage and solid refuse continue to ravage Karachi's marine ecology. The fatal threat of toxic plastic, which makes flora, fauna and humans sick, must emerge as a rebel yell for environmentalists and media. Also, without a habit revolution, a plastic ban is just the tip of a rapidly dissolving iceberg.

Ease the pain



Muna Khan

Is there a more dismissive response to pain than hearing someone tell you "it's all in your head"? As someone who has suffered chronic pain for at least a decade, I can't tell you how upsetting it is.

I've often felt dismissed by doctors treating my pain from a limited perspective, ie looking at the painful part and not the whole body. A few healthcare professionals have told me how they're seeing more patients with complaints similar to mine, especially since Covid. But can't explain why. I think it's pretty clear that stress levels amplified during the pandemic haven't receded.

I've tried just about every pain relief method shared by friends and family — from myofascial massages to acupuncture to physical therapy, osteopathy, cupping to hypnosis, even sound healing. I also tried psychedelics microdosing. Each provided various levels of temporary relief. I know stress aggravates pain but if any reader has a tip on how they manage stress that doesn't involve leaving the country or switching off the news, let me know.

So it was with some trepidation that I read Rachel Zoffness' Pain Management Workbook after hearing her on a podcast. While her book does not provide magic cures, nor has it changed my life, it has shifted my attitude.

Her basic premise is that the causes of pain are a mix of biological, psychological and sociological factors. Treating lower back pain in isolation, for

example, won't provide long-term relief; one's emotional health has to be taken into consideration. How a person views their own pain is of equal import. The section on pain dial — imagining your pain as a volume button — and how to control it, was particularly useful.

"Any time your brain perceives or bel-eyes that your body is in danger, the pain dial is turned up, so pain volume is loud — loud enough to grab your attention, change your behaviour, and get you out of harm's way. However, if your brain determines that your body is safe, the dial is turned down — so pain volume is lower, and warning signals are quieter," she writes.

When your body is stressed, it tenses and tightens and "cerebral cortex and limbic system (which control thoughts and feelings) send signals to your pain dial, turning it way up", she adds. The same is true when your mood is low or you have negative thoughts or when your attention is focused on pain.

In the good news though, the opposite is also true. When your stress is low, you are happy, your mood is high, your brain determines "little protection is needed", turning pain volume low.

"Thoughts, beliefs, emotions, perceptions, coping behaviours, and context can adjust pain volume," she writes.

The trick then is to focus on keeping the pain volume low, and she suggests many activity-based things — from being outdoors, to more socialising — and reduced screen time. I can attest to how this has helped me tremendously in pain management but they are difficult goals, especially when everyone you know shares your anxiety about the uncertainty in the country.

Is it possible to turn

the dial lower when you worry about a near economic collapse that awaits, the tensions in families for opposing political views, the lack of opportunities for the youth and so forth?

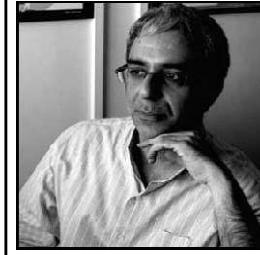
While Dr Zoffness does not have an answer specific to the pain Pakistanis are afflicted with — neither, it seems, does the PDM government — she says having a deeper understanding of the science behind pain, and coping behaviours, allows one a greater control of their pain. She explains cognitive behaviour therapy and how it has helped people improve their lives, reduce dependency on medication and lower their pain dials.

Perhaps the most useful part of the book is the tools she offers, like the school exercise book where you fill in the blanks to questions that will give you insight into your emotional state and help you recalibrate your relationship to pain. It may seem simplistic but putting things down on paper, like how you react to certain situations, can be very useful, even cathartic, maybe surprising. Seeing those words on paper helped me make lifestyle changes. I spend 10 minutes in direct sunlight upon waking to manage circadian rhythms in a bid to help improve sleep hygiene.

Pain is debilitating. It can lead to isolation and reduced activities; it can impact your work and all your relationships. I especially chose to write this piece given the situation in Pakistan, a nation in perpetual crisis mode, because the environment impacts mood and the body.

Many may not understand how pain is the body's warning system. Zoffness' action focused book offers useful techniques and tips without sounding new age-y. More importantly, it offers hope that life without chronic pain is possible provided you're willing to do the work. - Courtesy Dawn

It's an ant's life



Zarrar Khuhro

There are some clips that go viral time and again, because they're absolutely incredible. One such clip on social media feeds is from a 2006 documentary named Ants! Nature's secret power in which scientists discovered a massive abandoned ant city somewhere in Brazil and proceeded to pump it full of 10 tons of cement over three days so that they could take a look at its inner workings.

The ant megapolis, which had been created by leafcutter ants by displacing over 40 tons of dirt was a masterpiece in construction which covered an area of 46 square metres and reached about 8m below the surface. Dubbed the "ant equivalent of the Great Wall of China", this megacity contained subterranean highways linking the main chambers with "side roads" connecting the highways. The ant city comes complete with dedicated fungus gardens where the ants grew their own food and separate re-use pits to avoid disease and contamination.

The design was so intelligent that it emerged that the entire colony, its chambers and routes were built in the most efficient and sustainable way possible: minimising commute time and maximising ventilation to keep its residents cool and healthy. It was a more sustainable design than most above-ground cities we live in. As per the documentary's narrator: "Every-thing looks like it has been designed by an architect with a single mind ... the collective will of the ant

colony, the superorganism." A superorganism is defined as a "group of synergetically interacting organisms of the same species", or, simply put, a group of organisms acting in concert to fulfil the will of the collective.

Apart from ants, bees and termites are also examples of superorganisms, as are some fungal networks. Recently, the shocking discovery was made that in the mouths of those afflicted with severe tooth decay, microbes and fungi can combine into a superorganism that can then sprout 'limbs' allowing it to 'walk' and 'leap' over teeth surfaces — an ability that the individual organisms do not have, thus proving that the sum is truly greater than its parts.

The concept of superorganisms has also helped scientists better understand the human biome, in particular the complex and still little understood way in which microbes and bacteria within our body interact. The field of cybernetics, working on the concept of 'distributed intelligence', has also found interesting applications for this concept in yet another example of man learning from nature.

And there's a lot to learn, especially in the field of architecture; the way that insects like termites use collective, distributed intelligence to collaborate to build enduring, sustainable structures has inspired scientists at Harvard to work on developing an army of bug bots of their own. Dubbed TERMES, this miniature automated team of robots works together to build castles, pyramids and towers out of foam blocks without any supervision, even constructing staircases when they need to reach a higher level, and responding to unexpected changes in the structure or the environment spontaneously without any need to 'talk' to one another — exactly how bees, ants and termites work by utilising a process of implicit communication known as 'stigmergy'.

This means that, unlike systems where swarms of robots need a central operator giving them instructions, these robots can work more or less independently and can pick up where one leaves off. The scientists hope to use this model to one day have the robots construct emergency housing in remote/ disaster-stricken areas, placing sa-n-dbags where floods are expected, or even to perform simple construction tasks on the moon or Mars.

But before we get ahead of ourselves, it's instructive to study how insects instinctively come up with efficient designs, and then to apply those principles to human design. Take spider webs, the design of which parallel the way humans construct suspension and cable-stay bridges. The way that spider webs can catch flies travelling at high speeds without breaking can benefit the designers of aircraft carriers aiming to secure planes landing at high speeds. Termite mounds have also inspired architects, with the Eastgate center in Zimbabwe mimicking the cooling techniques employed in termite mounds, using air pockets that drive natural ventilation, thus cooling the building with outside air. Considered the first building to use natural ventilation on this scale, the Eastgate Centre consumes a fraction of the energy that other buildings of this size do. Then there's the honeycomb, perhaps nature's most efficient design, which is being incorporated into products like bicycle helmets and car bumpers. In fact, the latest tyres for US military vehicles are based on the honeycomb design and are capable of surviving an IED attack and keep chugging away. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ECC approves over Rs 422bln supplementary grants

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), in addition to other decisions on Monday, approved Supplementary and Technical Supplementary Grants (TSG) of Rs 422.3 billion in favour of various divisions.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the ECC meeting.

The meeting was attended by Federal

Minister for Industries and Production Syed Muraza Mahmud; Member of the National Assembly (MNA) and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi; Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghous Pasha; Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik; Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance Tariq Bajwa; SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha; federal

secretaries and other senior officers.

The ECC accorded approval to the summary of Ministry of Communications for issuance of Government of Pakistan's (GoP) guarantee amounting to Rs 9,500 million for the construction of Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway on build-operate-transfer basis.

The committee also approved Rs 12 billion for the National Disaster Management Authority for

procurement of relief items to restock/replenish its reserves in order to be better prepared to respond to any impending disaster.

The ECC on the summary of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination approved fixation of maximum retail prices (MRPs) of 49 new drugs on the basis of being lower as compared to their prices in the neighbouring countries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Power Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan is addressing a gathering after laying foundation stone for the construction of 500/132-KV grid station of Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) near Sahianwala.

Govt plans to upgrade major airports at par international standards: Saad Rafique

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that the PML-N-led government had planned to upgrade the country's major airports with the addition of modern facilities for passengers to bring the airports at par with international standards. Talking to a private news channel on Monday, the minister said, "We will provide maximum basic facilities to

passengers in airports and railway stations and generate more revenue for the department aiming to drive it to self-sufficiency." Apart from this, the government was also planning to upgrade security checks at railway stations, he added.

Rafique said the government was taking several steps to improve the performance of airport authority and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) services and would

provide maximum facilities to the passengers.

He said that a contract had been signed with the New York City government to operate the renowned Roosevelt Hotel of the PIA situated in New York (USA) for three years.

The minister further said that three international airports, including Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad, were being outsourced and made it clear that "outsourcing did not mean privatisation".

Inflation rooted in system, will continue to hurt masses in next FY: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday that inflation is deeply rooted in the system and it will continue to damage the interests of masses with full force in the next financial year to increase public anxiety.

In a statement issued here, he said that the merciless inflation has broken the backs of the

people and pushed millions of people below the poverty line. People in rural areas are more affected by the inflation than people in urban areas, which is unfortunate, he added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that as per data released by the government, inflation has reached 38 percent in the month of May, which is the highest level in the history of the country and in South Asia.

China to expand 5G application scenarios, boost R&D on 6G

ISLAMABAD (APP): China's Industry and Information Technology (IIT) Minister Jin Zhuanlong on Monday said that his country would speed up the construction of virtual private networks in the 5G industry and enrich the 5G application scenarios. "China will improve the coverage of high-quality networks such as 5G and gigabit optical networks by continuously optimizing the infrastructure layout, and building a batch of 5G factories," Jin said at the opening forum of the 31st PT Expo China in Beijing.

Chairman of China Telecom Ke Ruiwen said, "The company has been building an all-optical network, with gigabit optical networks now covering more than 300 cities," China.org reported. China Mobile, another telecom giant in China, said "It has led nearly 200 international standards for 5G and applied for more than 4,100 patents." According to China Tower, "The company has made more than 200,000 communication towers smarter by equipping them with 5G and artificial intelligence."

Khurram Dastgir lays foundation of 500/132kV grid station in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan laid the foundation stone of 500/132-kV grid station at Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC), Sahianwala, here on Monday.

He said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its leadership believed in serving mass. It always preferred to initiate development projects in the country so that life standard of masses could be

improved by providing them with basic amenities at their doorsteps. He said that the PML-N government had launched a number of mega projects including transmission lines, new grid stations, industrial cities and CPEC in addition to eliminating the menace of terrorism and load-shedding during its tenure 2013-18. Later, the incompetent rulers were imposed on the country, who did not launch even a single public welfare or development scheme. He

said that the incompetent rulers had committed criminal negligence which increased price of development projects manifold and now the nation was facing its consequences.

He said that the PML-N government established new grid stations near Painsara and Lalian few months ago, which saved Rs1.5 billion for FESCO. If these schemes were not completed, the people had to pay this amount in their electricity bills.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Chem-Leona and Karimata, carrying 17,850 tonnes of palm oil and 50,779 tonnes of mogas, berthed at Liquid Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile, seven more ships, Budapest Express, RSG, Ju-Li-669, Saver-I, Valiant, Ullswater and Alexandra Kosan, scheduled to load/offload containers, bitumen, palm oil, coal, LPG and chemicals also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port during the last 24 hours.

Senate body on Aviation meets

ISLAMABAD (Online): The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation was held on Monday at Parliament House, Islamabad. Members were briefed on various issues that currently being faced by the Aviation Sector in Pakistan.

The meeting was presided over by Senator Hidayatullah. Members of the Committee who attended were Senator Saleem Mandiwala, Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah, Senator Umer Farooq,

Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman and senior officers from the Ministry of Aviation.

Matters taken up by the Committee included bidding process of the Allama Iqbal International Airport, Remittances due to ticket sales not being allowed to remit foreign exchange, Action against those appointed in PIA on fake degrees, setting up security agencies counters in one place at different airports and Distance of the Islamabad Airport building from the parking lot.

May 9 vandalism exposes evil face of attackers: Sajid Turi

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Humans Resource Development, Sajid Hussain Turi on Monday said that May 9 vandalism had exposed the evil face of the attackers and elements involved in the ransacking of national installations could not escape from the law. He strongly condemned the ransacking of public, government and defence installations on May 9 and 10 vandalism and said that the burning of Radio Pakistan Peshawar's historic building showed that the attackers had "no regard for cultural heritage and media". He expressed these views during his visit to the burnt building of Radio Pakistan Peshawar and expressed solidarity with employees of the national broadcaster and Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation. Sajid Turi said the

ransacking and burning of Radio Pakistan Peshawar, Jinnah House Lahore and defence installations on May 9-10 exposed the barbaric mindsets of the rioters. He said that former president Asif Ali Zardari had raised the slogan of "Pakistan Khapay" after the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed in 2007 and PPP had always raised the national flag sky high. The federal minister said the destruction and damages of the May 9 vandalism were beyond immigration and the culprits could not escape from the clutches of law. He said Radio Pakistan Peshawar was a historic station established on March 6, 1935, from where the announcement of Pakistan's independence was aired on midnight of August 13-14, 1947. Sajid Turi said he would talk to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto about the devastations caused to the Radio

Pakistan Peshawar's building and announced five motorcycles for the national broadcaster. Later, talking to APP, the federal minister said that the government in the last year had sent over 9,50,000 skilled labourers abroad for employment. The minister said the death grant of overseas Pakistanis had been increased from Rs 600,000 to Rs 800,000 and the dowry grant from Rs 400,000 to Rs 600,000. Sajid Turi said that 800,000 children of overseas Pakistanis and 62,000 students of other Pakistanis were enrolled in his ministry schools. He said many politicians were approaching the leaderships of the Pakistan People's Party to join the party and senior parliamentarians like Dr Haider Ali and Usman Lala had joined PPP and expressed full confidence in the leadership of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.



PESHAWAR: Media briefing by Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistani & Human Resource Development Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi at Radio Pakistan.

Sindh Cabinet approves procurement of 60 ambulances, Hindu Marriage Act

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Cabinet Monday met under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister and approved procurement of 60 ambulances, including 30 mobile medical vans and five mobile laboratories for which Rs 2 billion were required. The cabinet was told that the purpose of procuring ambulances, medical vans, and laboratories was to link Gaucher's Diseases (GDs) with Primary/Secondary care; rapid medical assessment and treatment; transport patients, supporting mass casualty incidents. It was pointed out that mobile medical units would be utilized where medical facilities were limited or inaccessible. The mobile laboratory would be used in disease outbreak investigation, rapid diagnostic testing, and surveillance and

monitoring, environmental testing, and support for field hospitals and medical teams. The ambulances would be included in the fleet of Rescue 1122. The cabinet approved the request and funds for the purpose. The cabinet discussed and approved the Sindh Protection and Promotion of Breast Feeding and Young Child Nutrition Act, 2023. Dr. Azra said that it was expedient to ensure safe and adequate nutrition for infants and young children up to the age of 36 months by promoting protecting and supporting breastfeeding, promoting healthy diets to prevent obesity and non-communicable diseases and regulating the marketing and promotion.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, special assistants, chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, AG Sindh Hassan Akbar, PSCM Fayaz Jatoi, and others. Sindh Minister Health Dr Azra Pechuho briefing the cabinet said that there was a need for the procurement of 60



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Personnels and students of Bahria University cleaning the beach on the occasion of World Environment Day.

Afridi says: Drug addiction most heinous social evil

PESHAWAR (Online): KP caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi on Monday said that drug addiction is the most heinous social evil which has rapidly infiltrated in our youth and is eating away all their talents. Talking to a delegation from Shiro Jhangi locality of Peshawar here on Monday, the provincial minister said that the time has come to pay full attention to the spread and treatment of drug addiction and to protect the new generation from the menace of narcotics. The delegation lauded the people-friendly steps of the provincial government, especially the minister of Excise in respect of waging war against narcotics. They while appreciating the sincere

efforts on anti-narcotics, assured of full cooperation at the public level to make this important initiative a success story in all respects. Haji Manzoor Afridi said that his Excise and Narcotics Control Department has launched a comprehensive campaign against drugs with three major goals, including blocking the sources of supply and demand of all kinds of narcotics, the effective prevention of the use of drugs among the youth as well as treatment and rehabilitation of the addicts. He said that unfortunately the youth suffering from the curse of drugs consider themselves to be healthy, but in reality, they are terminally ill and their abilities fade with time and eventually they die in very miserable conditions.

19 dead, 1,204 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Nineteen people were killed and 1,204 others injured in 1,136 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 610 seriously injured people were shifted to different hospitals, while 594 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The analysis showed that 602 drivers, 45 underage drivers, 114 pedestrians and 507 passengers were among the victims of the road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 243 RTCs were reported in Lahore, which affected 261 people, followed by 84 in Faisalabad with 88 victims, and at third Multan with 72 accidents and 71 victims. According to the data, 1,000 motorbikes, 78 auto-rickshaws, 119 motorcars, 26 vans, 12 passenger buses, 22 trucks and 110 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road traffic accidents.

Governor urges people fight environmental pollution

LAHORE (APP): Environment Day, it is very important to spread awareness among the people about the pollution caused by plastic. He added that the use of plastic bags should be discouraged as they are harmful to the environment. He said more plantations not only make the environment beautiful but also prevent floods, provide oxygen and reduce temperature. "We all have to play a role in making the planet safe from environmental pollution," he said.

Young doctors strike challenged in LHC

LAHORE (Online): Petition has been filed against illegal strike of young doctors in Lahore High Court (LHC). The petition has been submitted by Judicial Activism Panel (JAP) against Young Doctors Association (YDA). Plea was taken in the petition that inexpensive treatment in hospitals is fundamental right of people. But doctors have gone on illegal strike. The strike has added to miseries of the poor patients. JAP has requested the court to revoke registration of YDA. It is pertinent to mention here that YDA had announced to shut the OPDs.

Nominated 'Mayor of Karachi' Murtaza vows to deliver, take city forward

KARACHI (APP): Spokesperson for the Sindh government and Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister on Law Barrister Murtaza Wahab, after his nomination as the Mayor of Karachi, on Monday pledged to deliver for the people under the guidance of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. While expressing his gratitude to the PPP leadership for his nomination as the Mayor of Karachi, he said, "I have no words to express my gratitude to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari, Adi Faryal Talpur Sahiba, and the entire leadership of PPP for this

Federal Ombudsman directs, NHA resolve the issue of sewerage in Abbottabad

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Regional In-charge Federal Ombudsman Office Abbottabad Abdul Ghafoor Baig Monday said that public complaints against mismanagement in federal institutions will be addressed promptly at the doorsteps of the masses. He expressed these views while talking to the media here said, immediate action against the National Highways Authority (NHA) in response to the complaint filed by Nazir Ahmed, President of the Citizen Traffic Society Abbottabad we have resolved the issue. The complaint highlighted the prolonged construction work on the Main Manshera Road, causing immense difficulties and distress for the public due to the blocked sewerage pipelines. Upon receiving the complaint, the NHA promptly initiated measures to address road

construction, cleaning and restoration of the surrounding drains for water supply. On this occasion, the complainant Nazir Ahmed and other residents of the area expressed their gratitude to the federal ombudsman's office and Regional Head Abdul Ghafoor Baig. Regional Head Abdul Ghafoor Baig stated that the federal ombudsman's office is committed to the timely resolution of public complaints related to mismanagement and public issues in various federal institutions, without any tolerance for delays. He further mentioned that the office of the federal ombudsman addresses public complaints in all federal institutions within a short period of 60 days without any charges, and after receiving complaints, it seeks responses from the relevant departments to resolve the issues faced by the complainants.



PESHAWAR: Leader of ANP and former MPA Samar Haroon Bilour meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President, Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro addresses to media persons during press conference held at PPP Media Cell Bilawal House in Karachi.

Andrew Schofer for continued US partnership to empower Punjab economy

LAHORE (APP): U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Andrew Schofer has said that Punjab has immense economic potential and empowering economy of the province will economically empower local population besides having a positive spillover impact on the country economy. During a three-day visit to provincial capital Lahore and industrial hub Faisalabad, he underscored United States' partnership with people of Punjab through initiatives related to education, cultural preservation and economic development. The DCM Schofer visited higher education institutions, software houses, and places of historical and cultural importance during his visit to the two cities. In Lahore, the US diplomat met leaders at

NETSOL Technologies and discussed Pakistan's digital ecosystem and highlighted areas where U.S. Mission can partner with the private sector for innovative digital solutions. DCM Schofer also toured Sunehri Mosque and Wazir Khan Mosque and the adjoining areas. These cultural landmarks have been conserved through financial assistance from the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) of the US embassy Islamabad. Founded in 2001, AFCP has invested more than 7.6 million dollars on 32 cultural preservation projects. The latest project is an almost one million dollars restoration project of seven sites at the Lahore Fort. During his Faisalabad visit, Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer inaugurated a U.S. Mission Pakistan.

Police arrest two suspects in injured condition after encounters

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad police have arrested 2 suspects in injured condition in separate encounters in the limits of A-Section and Tando Jam police stations. The police spokesman informed here on Monday that a suspect booked in 37 FIRs in many police stations of different districts was arrested in injured condition after an encounter near Amani Shah graveyard in Latifabad. He identified the suspect as Abdul Razaq Jhanjhan who was shifted to Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) for surgery on his leg injury. The police spokesman claimed that Jhanjhan was allegedly involved in street crimes, robberies, theft and police encounters in different districts. He was the mastermind of a recent robbery conducted at a mobile communication shop near New Hyderabad City in the limits of Hatri police station, he added. According to the spokesman, he disclosed during initial interrogation to the A-Section police that last night they had planned another robbery but the police engaged them before their act.

SSWMB to set up more plants for waste recycling materials: Imtiaz Shah

KARACHI (APP): Managing Director Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), Imtiaz Shah, on Monday, said that more recycling plants will be set up in other districts of Karachi after success of the waste recycling pilot project. The Managing Director SSWMB, in a statement issued here on Monday in connection with World Environment Day, informed that SSWMB achieved significant progress in recycling waste under Haryali Hub project, an initiative carried out in collaboration with Tear Fund on a pilot basis. "We have waste

Another two PTI women leaders quit

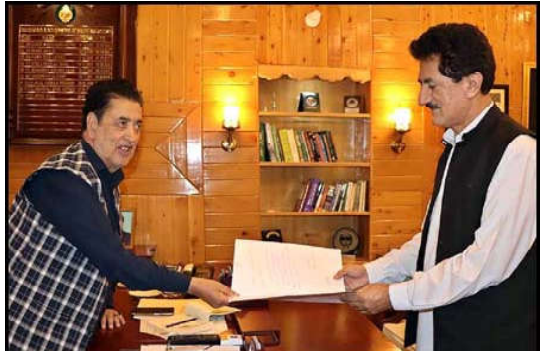
MULTAN (APP): Another two Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leaders including former MPA, Sabeen Gul and Shazia Abbas Khakhi joined the bandwagon of defectors of the party here on Monday. In a video message, Sabeen Gul announced not only to part ways with PTI but also to quitting politics saying that she always did peaceful politics and condemned May arsonist's attacks. She disclosed that she was suffering from breast cancer and had two young daughters to nurture and added that under these circumstances, it is difficult to continue with politics. In a separate video message, Shazia Abbas Khakhi stated that she condemned the incident of May 9. She maintained that our Armed Forces had always rendered sacrifices for the country, adding that she pays rich tributes to them for their valour and bravery. Khakhi said that she was on performing Umrah on May 9 and was still in Saudi Arabia adding that she will announce her future strategy with the consultation of her supporters after returning to the country.



RAWALPINDI: Health workers spraying anti dengue spray in the residential areas to protect from dengue fever at Pirwadhai neighbourhood.

ANF seizes over 135 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): ANF while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover over 135 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation conducted near Bahria Town Phase-4, over 100 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Rawalpindi. In another operation near Hangu Bypass, Kohat, 14.4 kg charras was recovered. In the third operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, 1256 grams of Ice drug and 6.5 kg of suspected material were recovered from the possession of a Saudi-bound passenger, resident of Mardan, going on flight no GF-751. In the fourth operation conducted by ANF and Customs Department, 270 grams of charras were recovered from a parcel booked for Bangkok at the GPO office, in Karachi.



GILGIT: Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah Returned the resignation letter to Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Syed Amad Zaidi at Governor Secretariat.

IGP commends matchless sacrifices of Swat Police

PESHAWAR (APP): Lines Officers and jawans of all ranks from various units and departments of the police force participated in large number in the darbar. DIG Malakand, DPOs Swat Lower Dir, Bajaur, Buner and other senior police officials were also present on the occasion. The police chief said that every officer and jawan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police had performed their duties beyond the expectations despite all kinds of adverse conditions for the past two decades and every rank of officer.

Pakistan 'very hopeful' of sealing IMF deal in June: PM Shehbaz

ANKARA (Online): Pakistan is "very hopeful" of finalizing a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month, according to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"We are still very hopeful that the IMF program will materialize. Our ninth review by the IMF will match all terms and conditions and, hopefully, we'll have some good news this month," Sharif told Anadolu in an exclusive interview in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Sharif was in Ankara for President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan's inauguration, one of dozens of heads of state and government who attended Saturday's ceremony.

Islamabad has been negotiating with the IMF since early February for the release of \$1.1 billion, part of a \$6.5 billion bailout package inked in 2019 by the previous government of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

In total, about \$2.7 billion are left to be disbursed from the package, which is scheduled to expire this month.

At the end of May,

Sharif requested IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva to help revive the stalled facility, but asserted that Pakistan does have a backup plan in place.

"We have met all conditionalities. I repeat, each and every requirement of the IMF as prior actions has been met," Sharif told Anadolu.

"Some of those actions are usually met after the board's approval, but this time the IMF required that those actions be met before the board's approval, so we have met them."

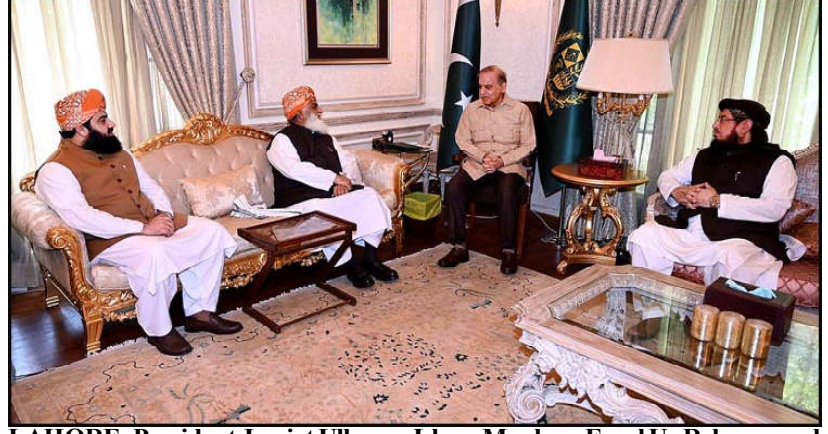
On contingency plans in case the IMF talks fall through, Sharif emphasized the resilience and fortitude of the Pakistani nation.

He said the people of Pakistan have faced challenges in the past, and if needed, will "tighten our belt" and rise again.

According to Sharif, Pakistan has been facing a plethora of problems since April 2022, when the current government took over after Khan was ousted in a no-trust vote. The issues are the result of the previous government's policies, the deadly floods in August.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in a group photo with participants at seminar "Reclaiming the space: Reading the Constitution from Women's perspective organized by WPC."



LAHORE: President Jamiat Ulema e Islam, Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman and Federal Minister for Communication Maulana Asad Mehmood calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

World Environment Day observed: CM Balochistan calls for taking serious measures to overcome issue of global warming

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has underlined the need to take serious measures for overcoming the issue of global warming and adding stressed that we have to move forward with a comprehensive effort for remaining safe from the effective of climate change.

In a message issued here on eve of the World Environment Day observed on Monday (June 5), the Chief Minister said that the day requires to plant maximum trees and keep our environment clean.

Moreover, we also have to use energy efficient vehicles and reinforce our joint efforts against the environmental pollution, add-

ing he stressed.

The Chief Minister said that we have to move ahead towards pollution free Pakistan being a patriotic Pakistani.

Referring the provincial government's efforts against the environmental pollution, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo said that every year hundreds of thousands saplings are planted in the province. The provincial government also take wholehearted part in the tree plantation campaign, he mentioned.

In addition to this, the provincial Environment department arranges public awareness programmes for creating neat and clean environment.

The Chief Minister maintained that clean envi-

ronment is symbol of best health. He said that there happen to be least diseases of lungs and asthma in the countries which are pollution free in the world.

While on the other hand, the increasing temperature has caused certain environmental issues in the whole world especially in Pakistan, he noted with concern.

He said that an unending process of natural disaster has been started due to increase in the temperature the world over.

The climate change has badly affected Pakistan and also Balochistan, which is also evident from the unprecedented rainfall in the province last year, the Chief Minister recalled.

President directs COMSATS varsity to allow student to complete degree

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed COMSATS University to provide its student with a chance to complete their education as his future was at stake after the institution cancelled their admission.

The university cancelled the admission after the student had already completed 7 out of 8 semesters of his degree, a President House press release said on Monday.

COMSATS had cancelled Hammad bin Zain's admission after 3.5 years on the ground that he was not eligible for admission to the university in 2017 as he

had obtained fewer marks than required.

The president said that it was surprising that the administration of the university could make such a huge error by granting him admission and then informing him, after a lapse of 3.5 years, that he was not eligible for admission.

He noted that the student paid his requisite fees for 8 semesters and diligently completed the semester course.

He added that justice demanded that COMSATS should rectify the situation by allowing the student to complete his degree program.

CJP says: Court not to interfere in economic matters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial on Monday said the court would not interfere in economic matters as it did not have the required expertise.

The CJP expressed these views while heading a three-member bench which heard a case related to the K-Electric's (KE) privatization.

During the course of proceedings, CJP Bandial asked the petitioner's lawyer Rashid Rizvi to approach the high court con-

cerned in the matter.

He said the Parliament had made two laws related to the clause 3 of Article 184 and asked whether any old cases were scheduled for hearings so the issue could be observed live.

Advocate Salahuddin said an application had been filed against the KSC Labour Union. Upon this, Justice Ayesha Malik said the matter was not before the court as yet. The petitioner's lawyer pleaded that the hearing should be adjourned till next week.

NA Speaker says: Ensuring gender parity pivotal for socio-economic progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf while appreciating the active participation of women Parliamentarians in the country's August House Monday stressed the need for ensuring gender parity for socio-economic progress.

"Social progress and development are interlinked with women's inclusion in every sphere of life," said the NA Speaker while inaugurating the seminar, "Reclaiming the Space: Reading the Constitution from Women's Perspective" organized by the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC).

He said the struggle of Pakistani Parliamentarians to further the cause of democracy is unmatched in

the annals of world political history. "The need of the hour is to focus on the implementation of laws regarding ensuring gender equality in every sphere of life," he remarked.

The NA Speaker said he has been honoured and proud to learn politics from the unmatched and astute leadership of Mohtama Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

While demanding for establishment of a Women Federal Ministry for empowering women, he said, "It is time that our men must come forward for empowering their women."

Raja Pervez Ashraf emphasized the need for direct elections of women Parliamentarians and said the text of the Constitution is above gender discrimina-

tion. Shahida Rehmani General Secretary of WPC stressed the need for gender parity and gender equality as enshrined in the constitution. She expressed her gratitude to the NA Speaker for supervising with a dedication to the whole procedure of Gender Budgeting for this financial year. She said that WPC would continue to strive for women and children-friendly legislation. She said that since its inception in 2008, WPC has achieved milestones in increasing chances for women's participation. MNA Mehnaz Akbar Aziz Convener of the Parliamentary Caucus On Child Rights signified the struggle of women parliamentarians for finding space in the Parliament of Pakistan.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Provincial Minister Haji Tor Utmankhail meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Government donates two months salaries for Govt. Inter college Kuchlak

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has donated his two months salaries in the fund of Government Inter Boys College Kuchlak.

He made the donation of financial issues being faced by the College.

This financial assistance by the Governor Balochistan not only manifests the interest of Governor in educational development but also sets trend for other government functionaries to follow the initiative and spirit.

By doing so, the financial issues of the educational institutions can also be resolved to the great extent.

Road to Makkah initiative proposed for provincial capital of Pakistan: CG

JEDDAH (APP): Saudi authorities were being persuaded to initiate the "Road to Makkah" project in the provincial capitals of Pakistan from next year, Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah Khalid Majeed said Monday.

In an interview with APP, he stated that Saudi authorities had assured that the airports situated in provincial capitals in Pakistan would also benefit from the Road to Makkah initiatives currently available in Islamabad only.

It may be mentioned here that the Road to Makkah Initiative by Saudi Arabia streamlines immigration for Hajj pilgrims from Pakistan.

Pre-clearance in their home countries eliminates processing at Saudi airports. Pilgrims are greeted at lounges and quickly

transported to their residences upon arrival, ensuring a smooth and efficient journey. The Road to Makkah project allows Hajj pilgrims to go through immigration facilities at their respective countries' airports, streamlining the process.

This year, Khalid said a total of 30,000 Pakistani pilgrims had already benefited from the Road to Makkah initiative, similar to the number in the previous year. It is anticipated that the number of beneficiaries will increase significantly in the coming year.

During the inaugural direct flight to Makkah, Arabia streamlines immigration for Hajj pilgrims from Pakistan to Jeddah as part of the "Road to Makkah" program, he said the Pakistani hajj pilgrims received clearance in a remarkably short time of only thirty minutes.

PPP names Murtaza as Karachi mayor candidate

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) on Monday announced it had nominated Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab as its candidate for the city's mayor slot and Salman Murad for the seat of deputy mayor.

The announcement was made by PPP leader Nisar Khuhro during a press conference in Karachi where he announced the list of PPP nominees for local body seats in Sindh — elections for which are scheduled to take place on June 15. Nisar Khuhro said his party's nomination for deputy mayor of Karachi was Salman Murad while Kashif Shoro was the nominee for Hyderabad mayor. Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) are yet to announce their nominees.

He said that Arsalan Sheikh has been nominated as a candidate for mayor of Sukkur city.

Muhammad Anwar Lohar is nominated as a candidate for the post of mayor of Larkana and Muhammad Amin Sheikh for Deputy mayor of Larkana. He said that PPP nominated Gul Muhammad Khan Jakarani as a candidate for chairman district council from Kashmir and Altaf Khoso as his vice chairman. Mir Rashid Khan has been nominated as the chairman candidate for municipal committee Kandhkot and Sher Muhammad Korani is named as a candidate for the vice chairman slot.



QUETTA: Iranian Deputy Consul General meeting with Additional Chief Secretary Home Saleh Muhammad Nasar.

Sanjrani boards on diplomatic visit to Russia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, along with a delegation of Senators, has commenced a four-day visit to Russia at the invitation of the esteemed Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko.

The chairman Senate and his accompanying delegation arrived at Moscow's Domodedovo airport, where they were warmly received at the VIP lounge, a press release received here from Moscow on Monday said.

Mariyum says: Phasing out single use plastic items govt's foremost priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Monday reiterated the government's commitment to curb use of plastic made items from routine life for preserving the planet earth from looming threat of climate change.

"Phasing out plastic shopping bags, plates, spoons, forks, containers, cups, bowls, knives, and similar single-use items is

the government's foremost priority," the minister said in news statement issued in connection with the World Environment Day being observed today across the globe. Theme for the World Environment Day 2023 is under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, "Ecosystem Restoration".

The minister said, use of straws, lids and wraps for drinks would also have to be curbed at all cost for protecting the environment.

For God sake punish the guilty and release the innocent, pleads Sheikh

RAWALPINDI (INP): The head of Awami Muslim League and former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed says the whole country curses the May 9 incident and calls it shameful.

In his video message on the social networking site Twitter, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that last night the Punjab police and Elite Force raided his house at 40-Golf City.

"The police again broke down the door and entered my house. The good thing is that no employee was beaten up and house items were not broken." He said God would dispense justice, though it might be late. He said every day was not a favourable day to everyone.

"They think that they have taken away my videos and cameras. It's not worrisome to me."



QUETTA: NHA's official Basharat Ali distributes souvenirs among participants of training workshop organized by journalists and NHA.

Harvard university's visiting fellow visits BCSA

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Executive Officer of Center for Economic Research in Pakistan and the visiting fellow of Harvard University, Maarooof Syed visited the Balochistan Civil Services Academy on Monday.

BFA directs food businesses to adopt Intl food standards

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) has taken steps to make sure people engaged in the food businesses adopt the international food standards measures for the provision of hygienic and quality food to the masses for a healthy society.

The present government has fully activated the BFA, which has made it possible to provide hygiene and quality food products across the province, an official of the food department said.

Termining substandard food intake as the basic reason for the multiple diseases, he stressed that the establishment of a healthy society was our mission, if achieved and it would lessen the burden on the hospitals.

He said the awareness

campaigns were also launched to sensitize the masses about the effects of low-quality food on human health. He said the BFA has demolished a huge amount of vegetables cultivated with contaminated and hazardous wastewater so far in collaboration with the district administration of Quetta. The BFA has accelerated its efforts against vegetable crops cultivated with contaminated sewage water, and discarded several ripen crops in the provincial capital of Quetta, he added. The vegetables prepared from sewage water were harmful not only to human health but also to animals, he warned.

The government has initiated the registration of food outlets and issuing of licenses for the franchising of restaurants, bakeries and canteens in the province.

PMNH Researchers to preserve remains of Dead Blue Whale

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Museum for Natural History (PMNH) will preserve the specimen of recently discovered 36-foot long dead Blue Whale from Balochistan, for public awareness and research.

According to the PMNH, the 36-foot long lifeless Blue Whale body reached to shore on coast of Jiwani, Gwadar, Balochistan on last Friday.

The concerned authorities identified it as a blue whale, one of the three whale species found in Pakistan's waters, alongside Bryde's whale and Arabian humpback whale.

Director General, Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Mubeen Ur Rehman Qambrani pronounced to preserve dead

specimen of Blue Whale for public awareness and research.

On the request of GDA, a team of PMNH zoologists comprising on Muhammad Asif Khan, Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dr. Shabbir Ali Aamir and Dr. Rifaqat Masroor reached onsite to inspect the dead specimen of Blue Whale to preserve its remains and skeleton.

Director, Administration, GDA, Zahid Ahmed Lango and Deputy Director Administration, Abdul Rahim Baloch also accompanied the PMNH team to facilitate them in preserving dead Blue Whale remains and skeleton for the purpose of public awareness and scientific research.

Consignment of 20,000 tons of DAP fertilizer dispatched to Afghanistan from Gwadar

Independent Report
QUETTA: The consignment of 20,000 tons of DAP fertilizer was successfully dispatched to Afghanistan from the Gwadar seaport on Monday.

The consignment of DAP fertilizer was imported by KB fertilizers and Aagon private limited working in the Gwadar free zone (South) under the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement from Australia.

The China Overseas Ports Holding Company high ups told that loading and unloading was performed by the Shipping Service provider Makran Trader and shipping clearing agent and both are the local companies.

This means Gwadar port is providing opportunities of business to the local people at large scale.