

Independent

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Gwadar

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QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Mir Naseebullah Marri and MPA Nasrullah Zarey giving away notification of upgradation to President Government Teachers Association Habibur RehmanMardanzai

PM Shehbaz orders inquiry, crackdown on human traffickers

Announces day of mourning over death of Pakistanis in Greece shipwreck incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday announced the observance of a day of mourning on June 19 over the death of Pakistani nationals who lost their lives after a ship carrying migrants sank off the coast of Greece on June 14. "Tomorrow, the national flag will fly on half-mast and special prayers would be offered for the deceased," PM Office Media Wing said in a press statement issued in the Urdu language.

Moreover, according to another notification of the PM Office, the prime minister has constituted a high-level four-member

committee to conduct an inquiry into the tragic incident. "In an unfortunate incident on 14th June, 2023, a boat carrying migrants capsized off the coast of Greece resulting in the deaths of Pakistani/AJK nationals along with other nationals. The number of casualties are being still ascertained. The prime minister, while expressing his grief over the incident and also taking a serious note of it, has been pleased to constitute an inquiry committee," the notification said.

The committee will be headed by its chairman Director National Police Bureau Ehsan Sadiq and Ad-

ditional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Africa) Javed Ahmad Umrani, DIG Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police Region Poonch Sardar Zaheer Ahmad and Joint Secretary Interior Division, FIA Faisal Nisar Ch. as its members.

The inquiry committee would submit its report within one week.

According to the notification, the inquiry committee would ascertain facts of the Greece boat tragedy, identify loopholes and lapses in the legal/enforcement mechanism in Pakistan that exposed precious human lives to the vagaries of human trafficking in this particular case

and similar incidents in the past.

The committee is tasked to analyze similar past incidents and action taken so far and to take stock of the existing legal framework, enforcement measures (in the country) and international coordination to prevent, control and punish human smuggling and to prepare short-and long-term recommendations (including legislation, enforcement measures, awareness campaigns and improvement of national and international coordination) to apprehend agents, facilitators, masterminds, rackets and for the eradication of the menace of human trafficking.

Deficit may exceed from Rs. 150 billion: Balochistan's budget for next Fiscal Year to be presented in BA session today

Sum of Rs. 5.8 billion likely to be allocated for Health Card Programme; allocation of Rs. 2.7 billion proposed for provision of medicines in govt hospitals; Rs. 2 & 1 billion proposed for Balochistan Education Endowment Fund & Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund respectively

Independent Report
QUETTA: The next financial year's budget of Balochistan for 2023-24 is scheduled to be presented today (Monday) in the special budget session convened by the Governor, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

The Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai would present the budget for the next financial year for necessary preparations have already been made.

According to the sources, the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo-led provincial coalition government has faced an uphill task to prepare the next financial year's budget just because of the finan-

cial constraints. The sources informed that the provincial government has not received the arrears under NFC Award from the federal government, nor it got the dues payable against the PPL, which actually runs in billions. Still, the finance minister told the media persons couple of days back that it is our utmost effort to prepare a public-friendly budget.

However, it would be a deficit budget to be presented which may be in between Rs. 150-200 billion. He said that preference would be given to education, health, livestock and agriculture sector in the next budget.

Similarly, during a media briefing on Friday last,

the spokesperson, Government of Balochistan, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah also told the media persons that the government would present a public-friendly budget for the next financial year despite the financial crunch.

However, according to the sources, the total volume of the province's budget is likely to be Rs. 700 billion or around so. In the budget, the estimate of the income in next financial year budget has been made as Rs. 529.32 billion. With this, the total deficit of the budget may increase to around Rs. 150 billion, the sources informed.

It was also learnt that development expenditures in the budget are expected to be around Rs. 200 billion.

Chief Minister says Provision of platforms to provide opportunities to youth our Govt.'s priority

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has stated that it is our government's priority to provide platforms to our youth for bringing them at par with the youth of other provinces.

This was stated by the Chief Minister in a tweet on his social media account, Twitter on the eve of National Youth Summit began on Sunday at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) here.

The Chief Minister said that our younger generation is our precious as-

set. He said that our objective is to aware our youngsters about the challenges of present era.

He added that holding of the first National Youth Summit is part of the government initiatives in this regard. Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo also said that the government is determined to empower the youngsters and utilise their potential for the prosperous future of the province and country.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the efforts of all the organisers of Youth Summit and said that they deserve appreciation on this.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri and Secretary Irrigation Abdul Fateh Bhanger being briefed by XEN Nadeem Ahmed Dehwar regarding rehabilitation work of canal and repair and renovation of basic structure

Infrastructure of Balochistan severely damaged due to last year's floods: Lehri

Independent Report
QUETTA: Provincial Irrigation Minister Haji Mir Muhammad Khan Lehri said, "the infrastructure of Balochistan has been severely damaged due to last year's floods, for which the Balochistan government is taking steps for rehabilitation and construction in a coordinated manner."

He said this while inspecting the construction and repair work of the maintenance canal and related in-

frastructure in Hana Orak, a suburb of the Quetta district. Provincial Irrigation Secretary Abdul Fateh Bhanger was also present with him on this occasion. Provincial Ministerand Secretary, XEN Irrigation Quetta Division, Nadeem Ahmed Dehwar, while giving a briefing about the project, said, "The project is estimated to cost more than 170 million rupees, which is located at the confluence of Hana River.

Govt teachers call off 12-day long hunger strike as notification of demands issued

Independent Report
QUETTA: The government teachers called off their protest and hunger strike as their demands were finally met here on Sunday.

The Provincial Minister for Education, Mir Naseebullah Marri along with the Minister Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai reached the protest and hunger strike camp set up outside the provincial assembly building.

They met the govern-

ment teachers on protest and handed over the notification regarding demands made by them earlier. They said that demands of the government teachers regarding up-gradation have been met. After that, the government teachers announced to end their hunger strike and protest. It may be mentioned here that the government teachers had been observing strike for last 12 days outside the provincial assembly.

Governor Balochistan says Sustainable peace can provide strong basis to economic growth and prosperity

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the strong basis can be provided to the economic development and prosperity by establishing sustainable peace.

The Governor was speaking to the officials of district administration of Ziarat at the Governor House Ziarat on Sunday.

The Governor was briefed about the overall law and order situation of Ziarat and the ongoing de-

velopment projects in the district.

Also present on the occasion were the Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Shabbir Ahmed Badini, Principal secretary to Governor, Abdul Nasir Khan Dotani, District Police officer, Akhtar Muhammad Achakzai and Assistant Commissioner Abdullah bin Arif. The Governor on the occasion appreciated the district administration and the people of Ziarat for establishing peace in the district.



THATTA: Fishermen are anchoring on shore as they are returning to their homes after fishing at Keti Bandar Beach after removed ban on fishing on subsided of Cyclone Biporjoy, in Thatta.

First three-day National Youth Summit begins at BUIITEMS

Independent Report
QUETTA: The first-ever three-day National Youth Summit commenced at the Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) here on Sunday. The National Youth Summit encompasses the youth from all over the country representing different provinces.

Mostly the youngsters participating in the summit are the students from different universities and higher educational institu-

tions of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh besides Balochistan.

The Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports, Muhammad Ishaq Jamali and other senior officials addressed the Youth Summit. They highlighted the salient features and objectives behind the Youth Summit.

Secretary Youth and Sports Ishaq Jamali welcomed the participants of National Youth Summit and hoped that they would learn a lot from the event.

PM orders action against unfit vehicles

ISLAMABAD (INP): Expressing condolences to the bereaved families of passengers who lost their lives in the ill-fated Kallar Kahar bus accident, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed his deep anguish over the occurrence of repeated traffic accidents near the Salt Range on motorway.

"My sympathies and prayers are for those families who have lost their dear ones in this painful accident," he said in a tweet.

Motorway authorities should ensure that vehicles plying on Motorways have the required fitness and compatibility, besides, the drivers meet all the driving requirements, he stressed. The prime minister observed that with strict implementation of rules and regulations, traveling could be made safer. At least a dozen passengers including women and children died on Saturday when a passenger bus lost control and overturned on the Lahore-Islamabad motorway some 130km from the federal capital. The Jhang-bound passenger bus coming from Rawalpindi overturned due to a brake failure on the M-2 motorway near the Kallar Kahar.



QUETTA: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Ishaq Jamali, Spokesman of Balochistan Chief Minister, Babar Yousafzai and Coordinator of Chief Minister for Youth Affairs addressing participants of 1st National Youth Summit in province



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing the NASFF's high achievers who are leaving for Australia to participate in the National Amateur Film Festival Award.

Info Minister terms screen tourism as best way to propagate Pak narrative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that the revival and expansion of Pakistan's film industry were vital to project the national narrative through screen tourism.

"Screen tourism presents an opportunity to spread the narrative of Pakistan, as seen in the successful examples of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran, where budding film indus-

tries have thrived", she said while addressing 25 high achievers of the National Amateur Film Festival Award bound to leave for Australia on Monday. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has sponsored these 25 students one-year training in New York Academy, Australia.

The government was to promote Pakistan's narrative, focusing on heritage, youth engagement, and tourism through screen

tourism, she maintained. The minister said it was high time to invest in Pakistan's entertainment industry, which currently enjoyed tax exemptions.

"Over the next decade, I foresee a revival of the industry that will allow it to compete with neighbouring countries and even international markets," she said adding that the high achievers had the potential to make a significant impact in this field.

Boat capsized incident: Day of mourning to be observed in Balochistan today

Independent Reporter
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has decided to observe today (Monday) as the day of mourning on the tragic incident of a boat carrying migrants capsized off the coast of Greece.

According to an official notification issued here on Sunday, the National flag would fly at half-past throughout the province today.

It was mentioned that the boat capsized off the coast of Greece had resulted in the deaths of several Pakistani citizens.

Budget approved with allies consensus: Ahsan Iqbal

PML-N decides to address PPP concerns on budget

ISLAMABAD (INP): Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal shooting down the concerns of ally party PPP about federal budget for fiscal year 2023-24, clarified that the budget was approved by the consensus of the allies.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif always included allies in his decisions.

Ahsan said when the PMLN government came into power along with its allies, there were two ways in front of the PMLN leadership, saving politics or the state, and the PMLN choose the latter

option. He alleged that 'change' of 2018 has become a nightmare for Pakistan. "Terrorism was eradicated from Pakistan under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif but the journey of progress from Pakistan was ended under conspiracy. PML-N gave CPEC as a gift to the country but a clumsy, inexperienced worker was given a certificate of trustworthiness," he said.

Planning minister said "inexperienced worker" was made the country's prime minister and that person had not planned a single project in four years stint in power.



QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch addressing during the book launching ceremony organized by Baloch Students Organization (PAJAR).

Pakistan activating 'Plan-B' as stalemate with IMF talks persists

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Shehbaz government is reportedly moving ahead with the 'Plan B' (The arrangement referred to by both Finance Minister Ishaq dar and his deputy dr Aysha Gahus pasha on several occasions) under which it is requesting the friendly nations to plug the up to \$4 billion financial gap as the negotiations with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) aren't going nowhere.

With the IMF programme set to expire on June 30, the government believes it can meet all the financial needs, sources say, if the countries like China, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia agree for additional deposits.

Earlier, Dar had said after presenting the 2023-24 budget that the government was working on a Plan B if the IMF did not release the pending loan.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Undoing the past

The PDM coalition government seems to be preparing for the next general elections with some last-minute measures to 'level the playing field', so to speak. It has recently introduced legislation that will allow politicians handed a lifetime disqualification from holding public office to return to the political arena, and also to 'restore' to the ECP the sole power to announce and amend election schedules.

The latter seems to be a bid to preclude any legal challenges that may arise over any further tinkering with election timelines. The proposed amendment will allow the ECP to unilaterally decide when elections are to be held once they become due.

While this may have passed much scrutiny in simpler times the present context has complicated matters: the move seems aimed at providing legal cover to the ECP for its failure to hold elections to various assemblies within constitutionally stipulated timeframes.

The other proposal, to limit disqualifications under Article 62(1)(f) to five years instead of a lifetime, is likely to draw even more controversy because critics will invariably see it as 'person-specific'. In particular, it will directly benefit PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif and the newly minted Isteekam-i-Pakistan Party's patron, Jahangir Tareen.

But, as the government has generously pointed out, the rule change will also apply to PTI chairman Imran Khan, who is the latest to have the disqualification sword hanging over his head. While the timing of this legislation is indeed unpropitious, the historical context must be considered.

The Supreme Court has been roundly criticised for ruling, in 2018, that an Article 62(1)(f) disqualification is for life. The article sets a rather nebulous standard for lawmakers, and the apex court's strict interpretation of it was widely seen as just a means to keep a thrice-elected prime minister out of the running from any future political contest on the basis of a rather weak conviction in the Panama Papers case.

That said, the manner in which the Supreme Court's earlier decision is being undone is problematic. Laws that are passed without following the legislative process — ie, after robust debate and due consideration by both the government and opposition benches — remain vulnerable to future challenges and, therefore, lack durability. Parliament should be seen to be representative of the people, not just a party or group of parties, nor any individual.

Had these two proposals been discussed and debated with opposition parties, had the government helped their critics understand how its proposed legislation would benefit the political process, and had the government been transparent about the drafting of the laws, perhaps the objections raised would not have arisen. Parliament cannot be used only as a rubber stamp — it must be meaningfully invested in all legislation that passes through its two Houses.

The whole scoop



Muna Khan

On a few people's recommendations I watched the Netflix show *Scoop* about an Indian journalist Jagruti Pathak's quest for front page stories and how, in that chase, she gets embroiled in the murder of another journalist. The person reporting stories suddenly becomes the story. It's a fascinating show that sheds light on the connections between the media, law enforcement and criminal gangs. And it's based on Jigna Vora's memoir *Behind Bars in Byculla*, about her time in prison, charged for the murder of journalist Jyotirmoy Dey in 2011. She was acquitted in 2018.

Scoop is not just about Pathak's incarceration and her fight to clear her name. It tells the story of a female crime reporter navigating a very male-dominated space in which she must deal with their aspersions on her character and ethical practices. Pathak has worked hard to rise to reach her position and enjoys the full support of her editor. She deals with jealous colleagues and police officers playing politics in a bid to broker their own deals.

Is Pathak a hero for trying to get to the truth or a ruthless reporter seeking glory for that front page story? Must she be one or the other?

While the TV series shines a spotlight on the media industry, journalistic practices and relationships between the government (advertisers) and media companies, I thought it also aptly showed journalists' personal lives. Too often one

doesn't realise how their work impact families and relationships.

Scoop first came to my attention on social media because users were sharing a still from the show wherein the paper's editor cites weather to illustrate objectivity. The quote actually came from Jonathan Fraser, a journalist and professor at Sheffield University: "If someone says it's raining, and another person says it's dry, it's not your job to quote them both. Your job is to look out the [expensive] window and find out which is true." Many people sharing this quote said 'this is how journalism must be' or 'tell facts as they are'. The trouble is, often people don't like facts.

Facts, for journalists, are like spices for chefs — an essential part of their craft. Journalists use them to make arguments, substantiate claims and also hold the powerful to account. Sadly, selling wild claims as facts has turned into a profitable business for which there are many eager buyers — the case of partisan YouTubers earning in the hundreds and thousands selling unsubstantiated claims is a prime example of how journalists' role has been misunderstood.

Journalists are meant to play by the rules of the game but these rules assume politicians would "stay within the guardrails of truth" wrote the Australian editor Lenore Taylor in the *Guardian* in 2020. And we've seen, all over the world, how it's difficult to play by those rules "if the politicians themselves aren't in any way constrained by facts — if they lie, contradict themselves or simply make things up, or if their calculated tactic is to upend or subvert civic dialogue rather than participate in it". It's so easy to say 'fake news' to an opposing opinion or one not suited to your reality. I won't be surprised if

'fake reality' becomes a term given that TV channels all over the world seem only too happy to air 'alternative facts'. There are consequences of this and the pandemic is one example of how leadership that put aside its divisions and chose to create policies based on scientific evidence fared better than others. At one point when then president Donald Trump was calling Covid the 'China virus' the mortality rate, measured as deaths per 100,000 citizens, was 54.18. Over in the UK when prime minister Boris Johnson was shaking hands with coronavirus patients to downplay the fear, that figure was 62.4. The rates came down when policymakers turned to evidence, not science fiction.

Facts save lives. They have an essential role to play in news-consuming audience's everyday decision-making — whether in choosing how to prepare for the cyclone or where to repose their trust at election time. If journalists demand evidence-based information, not hyperbole, from politicians, I believe the audience's trust in the media will see a rise. Placing a group of ill-qualified analysts or party spokespersons to pass as a diverse panel is not journalism. Reporting a political leader's conferences without contextualising is not journalism.

So if a minister says the country is not going to default and an opposition leader says it is, your job is not to report what they said but to look out the window, smile in the knowledge that you've done your homework — based on evidence — and are ready to ask the tough questions. Perhaps it bears reminding that journalism is hard work and one that requires employing all tools of verification to get to the truth. -- Courtesy Dawn

Civil service reform



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

In the heart of Vienna lies a flourishing Pakistani restaurant that caters to thousands of tourists and locals. The owner has credited much of the restaurant's success to an enabling business environment. For instance, while his restaurant is regularly and rigorously inspected by government officials, there is no expectation of or demand for bribes. One wonders what motivates Austrian government functionaries to do their job effectively and honestly. Is there a lesson we could learn from international best practices?

An Institutional Reforms Cell (2018-2021) with Dr Ishrat Husain at its helm examined this question. It noted that, besides law and order, the essential role of any government is to create an enabling environment for commerce and industry. This requires an efficient civil service, physical infrastructure and rule of law. The IRC observed that in Pakistan's case, the government is "weak and expansive", cumbersome, centralised and inefficient.

Greater devolution of power, authority and resources to grassroots levels of government also contributes to the provision of efficient public service delivery, provided there is, inter alia, a competent bureaucracy. China's stellar economic performance, for instance, is attributed to a 'meritocratic bureaucracy' and focused leadership. In our case, the IRC noted that civil servants were "badly motivated" and "unresponsive" to public needs. It formulated pro-

posals for reform, which were only partly implemented. Several other attempts to reform the civil services have suffered a similar fate. Committees and task forces are formed, reports are finalised, but not implemented.

The last major civil service reform took place in 1973 when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto changed the categorisation of civil servants from Class I, II, III and IV to a new structure based on pay grades 1-22. The 1973 reforms sought to end the elite culture and false sense of superiority that civil servants seemed to have assumed. Eminent titles like the Civil Service of Pakistan were abolished, and instead, a Common Training Programme for 13 occupational groups was introduced.

But these reforms had a downside. They withdrew constitutional guarantee for service security, leading to frequent transfers of civil servants on political grounds and undermining rule-based governance and policy continuity. Salaries were also compressed. Over time, the best and brightest started avoiding the civil service, and "mediocre and pliable" civil servants began to run government offices and institutions. Politicisation and mediocrity have severely impaired the government's capacity to create a congenial business environment or render efficient public service delivery.

Gen Musharraf's National Reconstruction Bureau tinkered with some aspects of the civil service, ostensibly to 'reconstruct' local governments, but many of the measures became controversial and were later reversed. Clearly, a reform package should cover the "whole value chain" of human resource policies. The IRC rightly observed that recruitment methods and intake had outlived their utility; specialisation

and technical expertise were marginalised, and performance had no link with remuneration. Internal accountability mechanisms had become weak. To address this, the IRC proposed an 'All-Pakistan National Executive Service' for senior management positions, and the introduction of four specialised cadres under it for economic management, technical, social sector management, and general management. Another sound proposal was to reduce the hierarchy of each ministry and department from five to three — deputy secretary, joint secretary, secretary — in order to infuse efficiency.

Central to civil service reforms is the system of recruitment of candidates for the central superior services by the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC). The process of recruitment is long and tedious and benefits rote learners more than critical thinkers. In the CSS results for 2022, out of the 20,262 candidates who appeared in the written examination, only 393 passed. The FPSC should consider open, transparent, technology-based methods, which are now being applied across the world, to recruit civil servants who are critical thinkers, tech-savvy and can relate to the growing needs of the people. Alternatively, the system of centralised recruitment through FPSC should be done away with, leaving recruitment, performance evaluation and promotion to each service to encourage specialisation and efficiency. An honest, competent and efficient bureaucracy is the 'steel structure' that can help Pakistan secure a stable and prosperous future. Implementing civil service reforms should be a high priority if we want economic security and rule-based governance for our people. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

AJK cabinet reviews supplementary budget for fiscal year 2022-23

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) cabinet on Sunday reviewed the supplementary budget for the fiscal year 2022-23.

The AJK Cabinet met at Jammu Kashmir house in the federalmetropolis on Sunday with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq in the chair.

AJK Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, on the occasion, presented the figures of the supplementary budget for the financial year 2022-23 before the cabinet.

The Cabinet also reviewed the recommendations of the

Scrutiny Committee constituted with reference to supplementary grants.

While deferring the demands of some departments in light of the recommendations put forth by the committee, the cabinet approved the rest of the demands to be presented in the AJK State Legislative

Assembly. The Finance Secretary has been directed to present the demands approved by the cabinet in the Legislative

Assembly. The cabinet also approved an ordinance for better management of

government buildings.

Under this ordinance, better management and maintenance of state-owned buildings within and outside the state would be possible. In this regard, the Prime Minister also formed a committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary. The committee has been asked to submit a report within a month regarding the illegal use of the state-owned buildings inside and outside Azad Kashmir.

The cabinet also approved the proposed ordinance seeking a complete ban on deforestation.



MULTAN: Members of All Pakistan Clerks Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Multan press club.

Indonesian envoy stresses on product diversification to raise bilateral trade benefits

ISLAMABAD (APP): The diversification of products and robust market research to identify new business sectors would be the key for the Pakistani business community to gain maximum benefits from the bilateral trade relationship between Indonesia and Pakistan.

This was stated by Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio while interacting with top CEOs at a "Dialogue on Indonesia-Pakistan Trade Relationship" organized by CEO Club Pakistan, said a news release issued

here Sunday.

Answering to various queries of leading business companies' chairpersons during an engaging session, Ambassador Tugio highlighted many opportunities to further enhance bilateral trade beyond raw materials and agricultural products. "Textiles, leathers and pharmaceutical industries are the areas where business community of the two countries have the potential to team up in JV and produce items for the third country markets", the envoy said. Responding to the prospects of FTA, the Indonesian

envoy suggested the business community to identify more items where Pakistan has comparative advantage and consult with relevant authorities to include them in Trade in Goods Agreement (TIGA) as part of the review process to expand the PTA. He reminded the audience on the important location of Indonesia as hub for expanding trade to the wider area in Southeast Asia and suggested leapfrogging strategy to explore possibility of joining Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement which represents 15 countries.

Murtaza says: Industrial development will help in increase of export curtail imports

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Industry and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmood on Sunday visited Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

The minister also met with President FPCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and discussed ways and means to promote small and medium enterprises in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Irfan Iqbal

Sheikh urged the need of industrial development to attain rapid economic growth.

He said that industrial development will help in increase of export curtail imports and generate employment opportunities for the people.

He said that whenever we borrowed from the IMF, our GDP growth decreased instead of increasing and also become a reason for other economic hardship.



CHINIOT: Labourers busy in unloading maize from trolley at grain market.

PSX snaps two-week winning streak on economic uncertainty

KARACHI (TLTP):

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) snapped a two-week winning streak owing to the uncertainty about International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, growing political noise, failure of the federal budget to meet investors' expectations and several other developments, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index dropping by 602.9 points to close the week in the red.

The KSE-100 Index fell -1.44 percent from 41,904.2 points to 41,301.3 last week after gaining 551.22 points (+1.33 percent) and 388.44 points (+0.95

percent) in the preceding weeks.

Among other indices, the KSE All Share Index slipped by 333.04 points (-1.18 percent) last week to 27,920.66 points from 28,253.7 points, while KMI All Share Islamic Index fell by 202.21 points (-0.97 percent) to 20,487.75 points from 20,688.96 points on a week-on-week basis.

The PSX remained bearish and lacklustre throughout the week, closing all the five sessions in the red, as investors took the new budget deviating from the context of the IMF loan programme.



CHINIOT: A farmer spreading fertilizer in a field.

Govt striving to give maximum relief to the poor: SAPM Hamid

SARGODHA (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Gas and Petroleum Chaudhry Hamid Hameed said on Sunday Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government was making all-out efforts to provide maximum relief to the poor and deserving segments of society in its limited resources.

Talking to APP here on Sunday, he said the PML-N, during its previous tenure, launched significant uplift projects, eliminated terrorism, overcame power outage, revived economy and achieved other milestones for progress and prosperity of the country. He said that in 2013, before formation of the PML-N government,

Rupee edges lower against dollar for third week

KARACHI (INP): Pakistani rupee fell for the third consecutive week against the US dollar in the interbank market, depreciating by 0.09 percent on a week-on-week basis.

According to the figures shared by the central bank, the rupee opened at 286.93 in the interbank market on Monday and closed at 287.19 on Friday.

Measures taking to develop underprivileged, neglected districts in KP: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, on Sunday said that steps are being taken to bring underprivileged and neglected districts on par with developed areas of the province.

The Malakand Division, particularly the district Dir, is blessed with natural beauty, and promoting tourism in the region will create employment opportunities for the local population.

In this regard, it is crucial for local officials and youth to play their role in promoting tourist activities.

Governor Haji

Ghulam Ali expressed these views during a meeting here at Governor House with a 28-member delegation, consisting of elected chairpersons, councilors, and representatives from political parties, including the Peoples Party of Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Awami National Party.

The delegation, led by Chairman Maulana Ashfaq Hanafi, apprised the Governor of various issues related to the Dir district and highlighted the challenges faced by local municipalities. Governor Haji Ghulam Ali assured the delegation of his full cooperation in finding solutions to their problems.

He said that the provincial government is committed to ensure equal development in all urban and rural areas of the province.

Furthermore, the federal government is also providing assistance to expedite the development process.

The Governor said that local representatives are closest to the people and, therefore, funds have been allocated in the budget for elected municipal representatives to initiate developmental projects at the grassroots level.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali urged the elected representatives from all districts.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to 28-member delegation, consisting of elected chairpersons, councilors, and representatives from political parties.

Baligh permits recruitment of homeopathic doctor for hospitals

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Baligh Ur Rehman has allowed the recruitment of 'homeopathic' doctors in government hospital to treat patients.

According to private TV channel a group of national council of homeopathy met governor Punjab Baligh Ur Rehman and brought his attention towards empty seat of homeopathic doctors in government hospitals.

Group said seat of Homeopathic doctors are empty in district headquarter hospitals

(DHQs), Tehsil headquarter hospitals (THQs) and teaching hospitals. Seats are also empty in village health units, basic health units, said group. population is deprived of alternate method of treatment. Majority of Punjab people rely on homeopathic treatment. Governor Punjab allowed recruitment of homeopathic hospital.

Official notification has been issued. It was said in notification that homeopathic doctors be recruited as per law and policy.

Electoral rolls to be frozen after July 13: DEC

MIRPURKHAS (APP): District Election Commissioner (DEC) Mirpurkhas Khalid Hussain has urged the people to get their votes registered before July 13 as the electoral rolls will be frozen after the date.

In a statement on Sunday, DEC asked the people of Mirpurkhas to register, transfer and validate their votes before July 13 and can contact the district Election Commission office Mirpurkhas. In this regard, especially women, transgender and persons with disability are requested to check their votes through SMS by sending their National Identity Card number to 8300, if any kind of correction is required.

KP CM finalizes proposals of expenditures for development

PESHAWAR (APP): by Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Secretary Finance, Muhammad Azam and other relevant high ups.

The meeting was given detailed briefing about various aspects of the current and development expenditures to be incurred during the first four months of the fiscal year 2023-24.

The meeting also finalised various proposals regarding austerity measures with the aim to create maximum fiscal space for development.



LAHORE: Chairperson Almarah Foundation Mrs. Sofia Warriach, Pakistani Singer Abrar ul Haq and Dy. Inspector General of police Mehboob Lilla cutting ribbon during the completion of 100 kids and inauguration of the 5th house of Almarah Foundation.

Youngster shot dead by unknown outlaws

KHANEWAL (APP): A youngster was shot dead by unknown outlaws at Village 42/10-R on Sunday.

According to police sources, Imran Khan s/o Musa Khan resident of Village 42/10-R in premises of Sadar police station was standing outside his house when unknown armed outlaws shot him dead.

The criminals also managed to escape from the scene.

Taking notice of the incident, the District Police Officer (DPO) Rana Omer Farooq directed officers concerned to arrest the criminals as early as possible.

The forensic team have collected the evidences from the crime scene and started search operation in the area after registration of the case, police sources added.

Forests preservation, growth mandatory to mitigate climate change impacts

PESHAWAR (APP): Where climate change issue is affecting the whole world, its impacts in Pakistan are also increasing by each passing year as according to a study Pakistan is among the list of countries vulnerable to climate change if timely measures are not taken.

As many other measures are necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change, the most important one is to grow more trees besides controlling deforestation.

No doubt, there are many other challenges being faced by the country but this issue requires special attention of the current governments, both central and provincial.

Keeping in view the gravity of the issue, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

government has taken numerous measures for sustainable growth and preservation of forest resources of the province by ensuring careful utilization and protection of forest lands.

"Considering forests a rich potential of the province, the government is giving due consideration to its protection and sustainable growth through different measures including setting up of enclosures, protection from fire, prohibition in cutting of trees and safety from livestock grazing," informed Ibrahim Khan, Senior Officer of the KP Forest Department.

Taking to APP, Ibrahim Khan said all the departments concerned had been taken on board for preempting fire incidents in

forests due to heatwave during summer season.

The department had constituted teams in all the forest areas for round the clock monitoring, while a new system of fire line technology had been introduced for developing distance among trees by removal of weeds and bushes which usually catch fire and spread the blaze instantly, he mentioned.

Ibrahim said awareness material in shape of printed pamphlets was also distributed among people living in forests and in its vicinity to educate them about response in case of fire. The same material was also shared with tourists visiting scenic sites with a request to avoid fire lit in forests.

The provincial

government, he added, also enacted Forest Amendment Bill 2022 for protection of forests, in which, penalties in shape of imprisonment and fines had been enhanced for those found involved in destruction of government controlled forests.

In the law, rules were introduced to increase sentence of two years imprisonment to three years and fine from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 500,000 for the violators. The law also enabled Divisional Forest Officers serving in newly merged districts to punish those found involved in degradation of forest.

According to the law, the government would also take necessary measures for protection of forest carbon rights, besides having the right to declare

any forest or nearby area as national park.

The ongoing Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project was initiated in 2019 with a total cost of Rs125.184bn for four years to plant and regenerate 3.296bn trees in the country, Ibrahim said, adding under the project, 650.14 million trees were planted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while 146.2 million trees in merged districts.

During the plantation drive, focus was also given on growing Miyawaki forest by planting 207661 trees on 280 kanals of land.

He said majority of trees planted in Miyawaki forests were Chir, Eucalyptus, Amlook, Phulai, Anar dana, Bottle Brush, Shisham, Wild anar, Kachnar.

PML-N steers out country of difficulties: Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): Amir Muqam said that during Imran Khan's government, the prices of all commodities, including essential items were out of control but when PML-N came into power, the economic situation was stabilized. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif effectively managed the prices of essential items, resulting in a noticeable decrease, and during Ramadan, free flour was distributed among the poor and needy.

Addressing at Shakas district Khyber after Alhaj Shaji Gul joining PML-N,

International News

Putin warns NATO over being drawn into Ukraine war, says Russia has more nuclear weapons

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned there is a "serious danger" of NATO being drawn further into the Ukraine war if members of the alliance continue to supply military weaponry to Kyiv. "NATO, of course, is being drawn into the war in Ukraine, what are we talking here," Putin said at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on Friday.

"The supplies of heavy military weaponry to Ukraine are ongoing, they are now looking into giving Ukraine the jets."

The comment ap-

peared to be a reference to the F-16 fighter jets some members of the NATO alliance are making plans to supply Ukraine with.

NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was formed in the aftermath of World War II to defend Western nations from the Soviet Union and the alliance contains a mutual defense clause where an attack on any one member is considered an attack on all. While Ukraine is not a member of NATO, some NATO members have been supplying Kyiv with tanks, armored vehicles and other weaponry - prompt-



President Joe Biden speaks at the Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia after an aerial tour of the Interstate 95 highway collapse.

Biden strikes economic populist tone during campaign rally before exuberant union members

Monitoring Desk

PHILADELPHIA: President Joe Biden delivered an unabashedly economic populist message Saturday during the first rally of his reelection campaign, telling an exuberant crowd of union members that his policies had created jobs and lifted the middle class.

Now, he said, is the time for the wealthy to "pay their fair share" in taxes.

Biden spotlighted the sweeping climate, tax and health care package signed

into law last year that cut the cost of prescription drugs and lowered insurance premiums — pocketbook issues that advisers say will be the centerpiece of his argument for a second term. "I'm looking forward to this campaign," Biden said to cries of "four more years!" before adding, "We've got a record to run on."

His choice of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania — and a friendly union audience — as his first official campaign stop reflected

their crucial role in his reelection effort. The city was the site of his 2020 campaign headquarters and the state was one of a handful that had voted for Republican Donald Trump in 2016 but flipped back to Democrats four years later.

Until the rally, Biden's primary reelection campaign activity had been fundraising as the campaign tries to amass an impressive fundraising haul before the year's second quarter concludes at the end.

Evidence suggests Russia blew Kakhovka dam in Ukraine, reports NYT

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Evidence suggests this month's destruction of the huge Kakhovka dam in a Russian-controlled area of Ukraine resulted from an inside explosion set off by Russia, The New York Times said. Citing engineers and explosive experts, the newspaper said on Friday that its investigation found evidence suggesting an explosive charge in a passage-way running through the dam's concrete base detonated, destroying the structure on June 6.

Heavy rains lash east Nepal; one dead, 25 missing

Monitoring Desk

KATHMANDU: One person was killed and at least 25 others were missing in flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains that battered east Nepal, officials said on Sunday, the first known fatality since the annual rains began last week. Heavy rains washed away a hydroelectric project under construction on the Hewa River in Sankhuwasabha district in eastern Nepal where 16 workers have gone missing, said Bimal Paudel, a government official.

Uganda sends more troops to pursue attackers who killed 37 students

Monitoring Desk

KAMPALA: Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni on Sunday ordered more troops to western Uganda where attackers from a group with links to Islamic State killed at least 37 secondary school students. Members of the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) killed the students late on Friday at Lhubirira Secondary School in Mpondwe, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Military and police said the attackers had also abducted six students and fled towards the Virunga National Park across the border. Their fate is unknown. Museveni said more soldiers had joined the pursuit in the area, which

includes Rwenzori Mountain, from where the ADF launched their insurgency against Museveni in the 1990s. "We are now sending more troops into the area south of Rwenzori Mountain," he said in a statement.

"Their action, the desperate, cowardly, terrorist action, therefore, will not save them. We are bringing new forces to the Uganda side as we continue the hunting on the Congo side."

On Saturday, privately owned NTV Uganda television said the death toll stood at 41, while the state-run New Vision newspaper said it was 42. New Vision said 39 of the dead were students, and some were killed when the attackers set off a bomb as they fled.

Europeans scramble on air defence after decades of complacency

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: The intensity of the drone and missile war in Ukraine has laid bare gaps in European states' air defences that experts say will be difficult, time-consuming and costly to plug.

Anti-air systems will likely have a starring role at the Paris Air Show starting on Monday, predicts Richard Aboulafia, managing director of AeroDynamic Advisory.

"You're going to see a lot of talk about production capacity for missiles. The market for missiles is easily the fastest growing segment of the industry and yet the manufacturers simply can't keep up," Aboulafia told AFP.

Western countries had enjoyed total mastery of the skies since the end of the Cold War and largely dropped the powerful defences once designed to protect NATO forces from Soviet aircraft.

France got rid of eight of its nine anti-aircraft artillery regiments, MPs flagged up in a recent report.

But NATO countries have been turning to air defence again in recent years as more states have acquired cruise missiles, short-range ballistic missiles and drones, said Mark Cancian, a retired US marine colonel who is a senior adviser at the US-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

"They started it, but basically didn't get too far," Cancian told AFP.

"In another five years, I think there'll be a lot more out there, but that doesn't help Ukraine right now," he added.

With anti-air systems and the missiles they fire lacking, the West is struggling to respond to Ukraine's pleas for supply — whether for short- or long-range defences.

Berlin plans to spend five billion euros on anti-air from a 100-billion-euro (\$110 billion) fund for rebuilding its armed forces in the coming years, with the same amount budgeted in Paris for the period to 2030.



Plane leaves Yemen capital for Saudi, first since 2016.

Blinken starts rare China trip with hopes low for any breakthrough

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken began meetings in Beijing on Sunday, the first top American diplomat to visit China in five years, amid frosty bilateral ties and dim prospects for any breakthrough on the long list of disputes between the world's two largest economies.

Having postponed a February trip after a suspected Chinese spy balloon flew over US airspace, Blinken is the highest-ranking US government official

to visit China since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang greeted Blinken and his group at the door to a villa in the grounds of Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guest House, as the two made small talk in English before shaking hands in front a Chinese and an American flag.

After heading into a meeting room, neither Blinken nor Qin made comments in front of reporters who were briefly allowed in.

Philippine coast guard rescues 120 people as ferry catches fire

Monitoring Desk

MANILA: All 120 people onboard a ferry that caught fire at sea in central Philippines on Sunday have been rescued, the coast guard said.

The M/V Esperanza Star, which was carrying 65 passengers and 55 officers and crew members, caught fire while sailing from Siquijor island in the south to nearby Bohol Island, the coast guard said. Coast guard firefighters onboard another vessel used a water cannon and declared the fire out by around 0200 GMT, a spokesperson said.

PDM resumes journey of development, stopped after 2018 rigged elections: Asad

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood on Sunday said the journey of development has resumed which was stopped after 2018 rigged elections.

He stated this while addressing a public gathering after inauguration of multi mega development projects worth Rs 5.65 billion by Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman here in a private marriage hall.

The federal minister said the mega projects were being initiated for the region under the National Highways Authority (NHA) and it was a message to the people of area that the development journey has been started, adding, the Dera Ismail Khan would be made a developed and prosperous city.

He said "a foreign agent was imposed in 2018 election to stop development process of Pakistan."

He said the founder of

Motorways Muhammad Nawaz Sharif along with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had initiated Hakla-Dera section of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government did not believe in the politics of victimization rather it was pursuing the agenda of development.

He said those who went missing after losing the government were trying to mislead the people and trying to get credit of different development projects of Dera Ismail Khan. "You could not mislead this nation," he added.

The project of Agriculture University of Dera was also on credit of PDM government which was announced by Nawaz Sharif.

When the foreign agent was imposed on this country, the projects including Hakla-Dera Motorway, Yarik Grid station were in the completion phases but the PTI tried to

get credit of these projects. "Today, we started work on Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway," he said.

The planners of the conspiracy have run away and the beneficiaries went missing from the scene, he said and added that the beneficiaries should have to face the nation as they halted the journey of development.

He vowed that all the development projects initiated by the PDM government would be completed in stipulated time period.

He paid tribute to the workers of his party, saying, they faced difficulties but always stood by their leadership.

Earlier, JUI-F Chief Fazlur Rehman inaugurated rehabilitation work on two lanes 18-km long Qureshi Moor to Naivela road, two lane road from Muryali to Qureshi Moor and then to Ramak worth Rs 2.65 billion, two lane road from Multa Mahmood Chowk to Qureshi Moor on Dera Bypass worth Rs 3 billion.



ZIARAT: Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Abdul Khaliq Hazara inaugurating Cultural Mela organized by Culture & Youth Affairs at Ziarat Residency

Terrorist commander among three killed in Dara Adam Khel IBO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The security forces in a successful intelligence based operation on Sunday killed the most wanted terrorist commander Zafar alias Zafari and two of his group members in Dara Adam Khel.

According to the security sources, on the night of June 16th and 17th, security forces in a highly planned intelligence-based operation killed a most wanted Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorist commander Zafar Khan alias Zafari son of Ghulam Siddique in Dara Adam Khel whereas two of his members identified as Hasan Khan son of Mohammad Imran (Resident of Bazi Khel, Dara Adam Khel) and Anas alias Ali (Resident of Nangarhar Afghanistan) were sent to hell.

The intelligence agencies and security forces hunt down terrorists by adopting unconventional opera-

tional procedures based on corroborated intelligence.

The slain terrorist Zafri was a resident of village Malan in Dara Adam Khel and reached Peshawar from Nangarhar province of Afghanistan on 22nd May 2023.

Terrorist Zafri was also a former member of Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan (TTA) and was involved in 26 grenade attacks in Pakistan.

Commander Zafari was involved in dozens of terrorist attacks against security forces, coal contractors, businessmen and influential people and so far had stolen more than Rs 100 million in extortion and kidnapping for ransom.

The slain terrorist Hasan Khan was an expert in sniping and grenade attacks and was a part of Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan from 2019 to 2021 and lost Nangar province of Afghanistan several times.

CTD arrests 'terrorist' in DG Khan

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab, during an operation in Dera Ghazi Khan, arrested an alleged terrorist, who's a member of a banned outfit.

According to the spokesman, the CTD DG Khan received information from a reliable source that an active member of proscribed organisation, Baloch Liberation Army, Muhammad Rashid Bashmani, was present in the area and was sharing controversial content against the government and the law-enforcement agencies through the social media.

A team of CTD police station Sadar reached the spot and arrested the terrorist, the spokesman said and added that the police also registered a case against the terrorist and started investigation.

He said in case of any information related to terrorism, people might report on the helpline of CTD Punjab on 0800-11111.



QUETTA: Member of Civil Society hold a protest in favour of their demands in front of Quetta Press Club.

During the 10-day crackdown Customs Intelligence seizes smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 303 million

Independent Report
KARACHI. According to the instructions of Chairman FBR Asim Ahmad and on the orders of Director General Customs Intelligence Faiz Ahmad Chadhar, the crackdown against cigarette smugglers was intensified. Customs Intelligence has seized smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 303 million during nationwide operations in the last ten days.

The largest operation was carried out in Balochistan, where Customs Intelligence seized 4,280,000 cigarettes of foreign brands worth Rs 114.2 million. While in Sindh province, as a result of eight operations, 1,420,700 cigarettes of top brands worth Rs. 69.7 million were confiscated. Similarly, during intelligence-based operations in Punjab, the Customs Intelligence team recovered 1,294,000 smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 75.3 million. Similarly, PK Customs Intelligence seized

1,155,000 smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 43.9 million.

A total of 8,149,700 smuggled cigarettes worth 303 million have been seized by the Customs Intelligence during the last ten days. This brings the total number of seizures of smuggled cigarettes by Customs Intelligence to 33,994,850 in the current financial year 2022-23 with a value of 1,324 million.

Chairman FBR Asim Ahmad and Director General Customs Intelligence Faiz Ahmad Chadhar while appreciating the efforts of Customs Intelligence Quetta, Karachi, Multan, Gwadar, Hyderabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar, expressed the fact that despite the shortfall of human resources and logistics, Customs Intelligence is effectively making efforts to combat smuggling in general and smuggling of contraband cigarettes in particular.

Our desires & endeavor is to decorate each & every child with ornament of education

Governor visits Al-Hijra Residential School & College

Independent Report
QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar has stated that it is our endeavor and desire that each and every child of the province is decorated with the ornament of education.

He exhorted on the teachers of the Al-Hijra Residential School and College to pay attention on the character building and morality of the students so that they may become useful citizens of the society.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of the Al-Hijra Residential School and College who called on him under leadership of its Principal, Shabbir Ahmed, at the Governor House Ziarat on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that it our good fortune that major portion of our population consists of the youth. Therefore, it is necessary for us to utilize the hidden potential and energy of our new generation in the best interest of the country and nation, adding the Governor stressed.

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar on the occasion also appreciated performance of the Al-Hijra School and College and insisted that heavy responsibilities rest with the teachers of the province to play their role in materializing the dream of educated and developed Balochistan.



LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a press conference at Begumpura.

PML-N always preferred state over politics: Ahsan

NAROWAL (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has always preferred state over politics, and recently saved the country from bankruptcy after forming a coalition government in centre last year.

He was addressing the opening ceremony of Construction Division Narowal, along with Federal Minister for Energy Engr Khuram Dastgir Khan here on Sunday. He said the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government put the development gear in reverse and destroyed the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said that an incompetent person was

made the prime minister of a nuclear power Pakistan by giving him the certificate of 'Sadiq' and 'Ameen'. He said that in the past, instead of development projects, seeds of hatred were sown and only revenge actions were taken. He said that through the political of uncertainty, Imran Khan tried to destroy the national economy.

The federal minister said "we are responsible politicians; we have a national government, and we are serving people with national spirit, while Imran Niazi created a situation of anarchy". He said "we played our role, we saved Pakistan from bankruptcy in one-year rule and launched development programmes for the country".

The PML-N senior leader said "our allies are united, and they prepared a budget for the entire nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif". He said Shehbaz Sharif was taking all decisions through consensus among all coalition partners. He said the prime minister had always consulted the ruling coalition parties before making any crucial and national decision.

Ahsan Iqbal said the federal government distributed a huge amount among the flood victims through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). He said that the incumbent government was resuming all development projects which had been put on the back burner by the previous PTI government.

Ashrafi urges political dialogue for stability in country

LAHORE (APP): Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and Central Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi called upon political parties on Sunday to hold dialogue for restoring stability and peace in the country.

Addressing a press conference at Baitul Aman here, he said investors were ready to come to Pakistan, but they wanted peace in the country. He said it was good that Pakistan's relations with Russia and other countries were improving. He said the supremacy of the law required everyone to avoid playing with the Constitution. The ulema of the country did not approve of political fights, he added.

Expressing his grief

over the loss of human lives in a boat, which capsized near Greece, he said peace would have to be restored in Pakistan if the youth were to be stopped from leaving the country for some job opportunities in other countries. He demanded the prime minister and the interior minister should take action against those involved in sending Pakistani citizens abroad illegally. He also appealed the chief justice of Pakistan to take suo moto notice of such events. He also expressed condolences to those who lost their lives in a bus accident near Kallar Kahar.

He said protests continued in the country throughout the year, but what happened on May 9 was first incident of its kind.



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango offering Fateha for departed soul of mother of Abdul Zahir Bangulzai

Elections should be held as per constitution: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Qamar Zaman Kaira Sunday said that the general elections in the country should be held according to the Constitution and not on the will and whims of a single party as PPP believes in democratic norms. "Any political party achieved people's mandate in free and transparent election would have all the right to form government and address the country's problems", he said while talking to a Private news channel.

PPP has strong roots in masses that would win the general elections and complete the mission of former prime ministers Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and

Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, he added. He said the PPP believes in services to people, not abusive politics, adding, PPP is not fighting against any political party but against poverty and inflation. PPP government had always worked for poor people and downtrodden segments of the society, he added. Replying a question, he said the blame of rigging is unacceptable as the party's success in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)-by-election reflected the AJK's people's fully support for the party.

To another question, he replied party would win the upcoming general elections with thumping majority with the support of its committed workers.

Rana Tanveer says: Imran played with country's interests

SHEIKHUPURA (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that Pakistan did not need any enemy in the presence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, as he had been playing with the country's interests continuously.

He was talking to the media after inaugurating Sui gas supply to Manjhi Road Noorpara here on Sunday. He said Pakistan was on the verge of bankruptcy when the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government took over the country through a no-confidence move against Imran Khan.

The minister claimed that Imran Khan looted the national kitty ruthlessly and caused irreparable dam-

age to the country, adding that the PTI chief broke all records of obtaining the foreign loans. Rana Tanveer said Imran Khan dubbed others as 'dacoits and thieves', but his crony Farah Gogi looted the national wealth with great impunity and shifted it abroad.

The minister said that Pakistanis posed confidence in the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in 2013 when the country was facing terrorism and long durations of load-shedding.

However, the PML-N overcame the menace of terrorism and power outages and put the country on the road to progress and prosperity within 4 years. The PML-N government always preferred public welfare programmes over its interests, he added.

Over 100 suicides incidents in Indian Army

NEW DELHI (Online): Indian Army is facing suicide after each three days and over 100 suicides are occurring in every year. Most of the incidents occurred in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). According to details more than 3300 army personnel do suicide in various incidents. In only last five year, more than 800 Indian army personnel ended their lives as they were tired of their officers behaviour. On January 23, 2023 colonel Khanna hanged himself to death with roof fan. While on January 09, 2023 Lt colonel Nashant gun downed his wife and suicided.

PkMAP Muslim Bagh Regional Unit meets; hundreds participate

Independent Report
QUETTA: The historic conference of the Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Muslim Bagh Shar regional unit was held at the Essa Hall, Muslim Bagh on Sunday.

While the conference was presided over by the party's provincial president, Abdul Qahar Wadhan, hundreds of the delegates belonged to the party participated in the conference.

Prominent among other participants were the central Secretary General of PkMAP, Abdul Rahim

Ziaratwal, Syed Liaquat Agha, Dara Khan Jozzai, Sardar Hayat Mirza, Abdul Baqi, Kamal Khan, besides others.

Special prayer was offered for the martyrs and other deceased of Muslim Bagh Shar including Usman Khan, Abdul Baqi and others.

Earlier, the report was presented in the conference, which was duly approved after discussion. Similarly, an election cell was also formed in the conference. Several office bearers of the regional unit were also elected on the occasion.



QUETTA: MPASana Baloch inaugurating business expo in Al-Hamd Islamic University

1,300 pilgrims from more than 90 countries to perform Hajj this year

RIYADH (APP): Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has given instructions that 1,300 pilgrims from more than 90 countries are allowed to perform Hajj this year (1444-AH), at their expense, as part of the Custodian of the two holy mosques Hajj Guests Program, which is supervised and implemented annually by the Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the Minister of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance, General Supervisor of the custodian of the two holy mosques Hajj Guests Program Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Al-Sheikh thanked the Custodian of the two holy mosques and HRH the Crown Prince for their generosity and keenness to see Muslims perform the rituals of Islam, and for assisting those who wish to perform Hajj and can only do that at the expense of the Custodian of the two holy mosques.

Fazal inaugurates multiple mega development projects worth Rs 5.65 billion

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday inaugurated multiple mega development projects worth Rs 5.65 billion for Dera Ismail Khan region.

The JUI-F chief unveiled the plaques of different mega development projects in a ceremony held here in a private marriage hall which was also attended by Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood, Caretaker Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Department Abdul Haleem Khan Qasuria, JUI-F District Ameer Maulana Lutfur Rehman, Maulana Ubaid, Sami Ullah Alizai and other local leadership of the party.

Addressing a gathering on this occasion, Fazl said "I am feeling happy that the journey of development which was stopped in 2018 through a foreign agenda was resumed in the country."

Fazl said he knows about the planners and beneficiaries of 2018 rigged elections. Most of the beneficiaries become absconders.

He said the JUI-F held about 14 million-march and gathered a huge public but never a single pot was broken in the protest. "We created awareness among people keeping in view the respect of the state," he said.

He said PTI should not blame anyone for eliminating their government as "we ended their government through the Parliament under the constitution."

On the other hand during PTI protests, state properties were set on fire, Corps Commander House, GHQ, Qilla Bala Hisar, Martyrs' monuments, Masajid were attacked, he added.

"I had raised clear stance from very first day which proved true with the passage of time," Fazl said.

He astonished that the enemies of China, Pakistan and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) besides the friends of Israel were supporting Imran Khan.

He said unfortunately the development projects which were initiated during Nawaz Sharif's government were also halted.



LORALAI: Provincial Minister for Industry & Trade Haji Muhammad Khan Toor Utmankhail talking with people at Abdul Rahim Khan Club