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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.

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 Mohtarma 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 discrimination. 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.



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 utiliz-

ing 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. He said despite the damage caused to the national economy by the previous government, his government worked hard and brought economic stability.

He said he considered consultation with the allied parties very important, adding last year for the first time in the history of Pakistan, the 13-parties alliance saved the state by putting in danger their own politics.

"We cannot find this kind of effort to save the country's economy, anywhere in the world."

He said Pakistan was saved from economic destruction and agents of chaos.

Federal Ministers Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal, Moulana Asad Mehmood, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Maulana Abdul Wasey, Syed Aminul Haque, Agha Hassan Baloch, Sardar Israr Tareen, Advisor to PM Ahmad Cheema, Ministers of State Hashim Notezai, Ehsanullah Reki, member National Assembly and Convener Muttahida Qoumi Movement Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, MNAs Aslam Bhotani, Mohsin Dawar and member Awami National Party Sardar Hussain Babak and

officers concerned attended the meeting.

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, member National Assembly and Chairman Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Mengal attended the meeting through a video link. The leaders and members of the allied parties thanked the prime minister for taking them into confidence about the development budget and for including their suggestions. The meeting was held in detail about the economic targets and figures and proposed projects of the development budget.

The PM directed the officials concerned and the Ministry of Finance to implement the suggestions of the allied parties and incorporate them in the upcoming budget.

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.

IHC bans airing of judges' remarks in cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): While hearing a plea for the recovery of former advisor 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 (Pema). 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.

Imran Fitna has become minus from national politics: Rana Sana

FAISALABAD (Online): Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan has said Imran fitna has become minus from country's politics.

"Imran Khan 'fitna' has become minus from national politics. He will have to reap the crop what he had sown. Farah Goggi and Pinki peermi plundered the country. PTI indulged in rebellion and treason by challenging the writ of state on May 09 under an organized planning. Therefore, those who committed trea-

son against the state will not be pardoned. They have too no right to participate in national politics. Elections will be held at every cost but the fitna will stand minus from the politics of the country, he said this while addressing inauguration ceremony of NADRA and passport office on Amin pur Bangla road in his constituency. Whosoever will distance them from these events and their offence is verbal, they can be pardoned, he added.

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 'nishan-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."

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'.

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.

Gen (R) Bajwa mistreated in France

PARIS (Online): An incident of maltreatment has taken place with former army chief Gen (Retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and his wife abroad.

The unidentified man who is involved in mistreatment was apparently Afghan.

According to media reports it can be seen from video which went viral on social media that former army chief is sitting with his wife outside a building in foreign country.

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 re-

spects 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.



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

Military installations attackers being tried under Army Act: Fazl

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Monday that the miscreants involved in attacking the state institutions, military installations and GHQ, were being tried under the Army Act.

Talking to the media after visiting residence of Federal Minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to offer condolences over the death of his brother, he said the other political and religious parties had also been staging protests, but they remained peaceful and no one went to the extent of setting ablaze state properties.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan was a political party in nature, it staged protest demonstrations but did not attack the state institutions or GHQ. "We are facing a new situation which cannot be compared with the past," he added.

"We have respect for national institutions including the judiciary; however, one has the right to express reservations if there was a question over the performance of any institution," he added. "Despite difference of opinion, we will reach a consensus and conduct elections together," he said adding that the PDM was not an electoral alliance; however, adjustments at the local level could be made.

The PDM chief said that the country should go to elections, adding that people were understanding who had pushed the country to the swamp.

To a question, he said that everyone was worried about inflation; however, there was a hope that things would get better as the economy was moving in the right direction.

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), Mujeeb 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 of Muhammad Asif Khan, Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dr. Shabbir Ali Amir 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.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Hidayat Ullah, Chairman Senate standing committee on aviation presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

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 psychopedic 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 believes 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

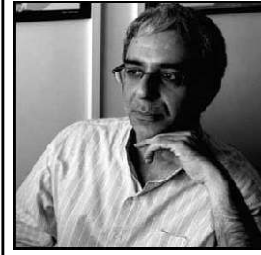
the dial lower when you worry about a near economic collapse that awaits, the tensions in families for opposing political views, the lack of opportunities for the youth and so forth?

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 behavioural 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 Khuro

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-fuse 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: "Everything 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 fulfill 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 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.

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 Murtaza 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 (CCI) 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 Zhonglong on Monday said that his country would speed up the construction of virtual private networks in 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, Jiu-Li-669, Saver-1, 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 Mandviwala, 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 leadership 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 Pakistanis & 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, 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

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.



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Personnel 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, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, 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): Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that environmental pollution and environmental changes including climate change and global warming are adversely affecting mankind.

In a message on the occasion of World Environment Day here on Monday, he said everyone in the society needs to take eco-friendly steps to meet these challenges.

The Governor Punjab said according to this year's theme of World

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.



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. Mission 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 Jhanjhano who was shifted to Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) for surgery on his leg injury.

The police spokesman claimed that Jhanjhano 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

recycling plants installed at two Garbage Transfer Station (GTS) at Baldia and Sharafi goth and both of pilot projects were already recycling waste into organic compost fertilizer, plastic granules, and plastic flakes," Imtiaz Shah informed adding that now plastic dust bins had been made from the plastic granules produced by converting polythene bags into granules which could also be used for making other plastic items.

He said that SSWMB was taking all possible steps to protect the city from environmental pollution and Sindh government's waste-to-energy project.

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.

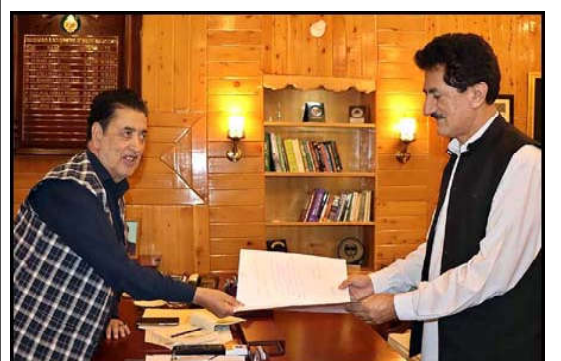
ANF seizes over 135 kg drugs in eight operations

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): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan Monday said that the Malakand Police had rendered matchless sacrifices in war against terrorism and reiterated his determination to make the divisional police stronger and more integrated to deal with all kinds of challenges.

He expressed these views while addressing a Police Darbar of officers and jawans of Malakand region in Swat Police

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.



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

Single-use plastics to be banned in PM Secretariat, federal ministries: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday announced that the government has decided to ban single-use polythene items in Prime Minister Secretariat, federal ministries and in all the divisions to end non-degradable plastic use as model for the nation to embrace behavioural change for beating plastic pollution.

Addressing a seminar in connection with the World Environment Day at Shaheed Bhutto Foundation (SBF), the federal minister informed that the ban would be imposed from today at PM Secretariat and federal government divisions would be directed to ensure refillable water bottles and containers for official use.

Senator Rehman informed that the prime minister has endorsed it and regulations would be released in the evening.

However, the plastic manufacturers have directed to stop manufacturing of non-degradable plastics and by August 1, 2023 it would be discontinued.

She said environment has become a serious topic at present but there was very low awareness among the public on the matter that made it necessary to hold maximum events of this kind. "Unless a community, household, office, trader, manufacturer or others do not contribute their input; no policy can come from the blue as climate policy cannot be policed if demand mutual consensus."

"Human legacy of this generation would be heaps and mountains of plastics as entire world recycles 9% plastic waste and it is not being recycled. Only Norway do 100% recycling of plastics and then Germany. The European countries can do it because they have environmental literacy," she added.

Some 624 containers, she said were dumped on our beaches full of hazardous plastics because the world was unable to recycle it, adding, "This plastic is going into our rivers, drains and oceans. We turned River Indus into the second most polluted river of the world."

The minister underlined that there was no plan and planet B as we cannot throw away this planet.

"Plastics are not degrading even after a century. It is where it is and it's proliferating. By 2050 plastics will be more than marine life in world oceans," she added.

Senator Rehman noted that without active citizenship government could not police its policies and regulations as no policy was successful without student and youth engagement.

"This is becoming humanity's biggest sin of polluting entire environment. We have skin in this game that we have to reduce plastic pollution for our coming generations because it is our next generation's matter," she concluded.



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."



ISLAMABAD: Mir Shai Mazar Baloch, Director General (Coord/Pdu), senate attending a meeting between the PDU and the Country Director of the United Nations World Food Program (UN-WFP) at Parliament House.

Its not in my knowledge who is in contact with whom: Qamar Kaira

ISLAMABAD (Online): Whichever party or parties form government in future, all will have to legislate keeping in view the national interest.

He went on to say population census is a constitutional process. PPP too had placed its reservations in federal government. If there are mistakes in population census these should be rectified.

We are opposed to banning political parties, he said adding people are joining PPP. People have come to know about PTI, therefore, they are returning.

He held several people have joined PPP and more are joining it.

Pakistan Navy observes World Environment Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy on Monday celebrated World Environment Day to underscore the significance and emphasize on taking suitable measures to protect the marine ecosystem.

World Environment Day is observed globally on 5 June to raise awareness of the significance of a healthy and green environment. It aims to promote healthy measures for improving quality of life. This year's theme for World Environment Day is 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution', which aims to bring focus on the importance of pollution caused by plastic material and promote its responsible use to protect the environment, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

To show firm resolve and create awareness, Pakistan Navy organised various lectures, harbour cleaning campaign at Karachi and an awareness walk at Manora Beach to highlight the importance of preserving the environment. Additionally, PN has launched various initiatives to conserve the environment ranging from a collection of solid waste from the harbour.



ISLAMABAD: Students of the International Islamic University Shaheed, 1-8 Campus visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

Speakers say: Administrative hurdles in beating plastic pollution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at seminar on Monday said that the environmental hazards of plastic are multifarious but often glossed over.

Policies are ineffective and lack implementation whereas plastic has detrimental effects on human health that take their toll on millions of lives every year. The impact of plastic on aquatic life in oceans is an example of this. Pakistan is no exception to plastic pollution.

Pakistan produced 3.9 million tonnes of plastic waste in 2020, over 65 per cent of which was mismanaged. 18 per cent of municipal solid waste produced in Pakistan is plastics. Only 3 per cent of plastic used by the manufacturing industry in Pakistan is recycled material.

The presence of plastic bags is now ubiquitous. Starting from shops, plastic bags are seen flying in streets, floating on water bodies, tangled in trees, blocking sewerage networks and choking trachea of aquatic life in sea. Mass production, low cost and easy access have turned plastics into a major hazard.

The seminar titled "Beat Plastic Pollution" was organized by the Bahria University Environment and Earth Sciences Department and APGA on Monday. The guest speakers included well-known environmentalist and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, Dr. Said Akbar Khan, Dr. Abrar Shinwari, UNIDO technical expert Hammad Bashir, former Member CDA Sanaullah Aman, environmentalists Sana Tahir and Rehan Tahir.

Speaking as a guest of honour, well-known environmentalist and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said Pakistan's single-use plastic consumption is rising by over 15 per cent a year despite all the legislation by the federal and provincial governments.

Four Corona cases reported in last 24 hours: NIH

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Monday said that four new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.28 per cent while six patients were in critical condition.

No death was reported from the Coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 1,424 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19.

PMD forecast isolated rain at various places

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-wind/thunderstorms for isolated places in South Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and adjoining areas during the next 24 hours.

According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. Western currents were reaching into western and central parts of the country.

The PMD stated that "Mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country, while very hot in southern parts".

10 catch during police dragnet

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad police have taken 10 suspects into custody during a search and combing operation in the limits of Secretariat Police Station (PS), informed a police spokesman.

The detained suspects have been moved to the police station for further investigation. He said the police were carrying out search and combing operations in various areas of the Federal Capital following Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan's directions to flush out the anti-social elements and criminals from the district and to maintain law and order. He said that the search and combing operation at 'Bari Imam' in precincts of Secretariat.



ISLAMABAD: Special Committee on affected employees Mr. Qadir Khan Mandokhail chairing committee meeting at Parliament Lodges.

Poland vows to enhance ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Poland, Wojciech Gerwel on Monday reiterated his resolve to enhance bilateral relations with Pakistan in various fields including trade, investment and energy.

The diplomat expressed his resolve during a Round-Table discussion organized by the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

Undersecretary Gerwel underscored the importance of Poland's 'friendly and solid' relationship with Pakistan.

"In the changing and uncertain times, Poland was reaching out to its partners, and as such Pakistan is a valuable partner," the diplomat added.

He highlighted the vast potential in economic relations between the two countries in a number of key sectors including trade, investment and energy.

Undersecretary Gerwel was apprised of the evolving regional situation including in Ukraine as well as Poland's perspective on the range of issues of peace and security confronting Europe.

Highlighting the cordial relations between Pakistan and Ukraine for the last six decades.

IHC issues written order in plea regarding kidnaping of Shahzad Akbar's brother

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday issued written order regarding hearing on a petition seeking recovery of Murad Akbar, the brother of PTI's leader Shahzad Akbar.

The court order said that it was sending the case file to the chief justice so that the case could be transferred to the other bench.

It said that a division bench was already hearing identical cases.

It further instructed the investigation officer to probe the matter as per the law. The FIR had already registered against the kidnaping Murad Akbar against the unknown people.

It said that the IGP Islamabad was ensuring investigation of the incident, adding that as per the footage, police uniforms had been used in the incident.



ISLAMABAD: Participants are holding awareness walk in connection of Climate Change to increased knowledge on plastic pollution organized by Ministry of Climate Change, held at D Chowk.

CDA aims to make sports Islamabad's identity: Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Captain Noor Ul Amin Mengal has announced that the civic body was working to make sports the identity of Islamabad city and to achieve this goal, the authority prioritized improving sports facilities in the city.

He said that CDA was working on a mega project to upgrade sports grounds in the city, adding that providing facilities to the youth was essential for building a better society, said a press release.

Noor Ul Amin expressed these views as a special guest at the cricket tournament organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The teams of ICCI, CDA, media anchor and ICT XI participated in the tournament.

The senior officials of CDA, Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber Faad Waheed, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam, Zafar Bakhtawari also participated in the tournament.

Speaking on the occasion, the chairman CDA the authority was taking effective steps regarding sports and would provide complete sports facilities in every sector of the capital.

He said that CDA was also working to improve the condition of the existing grounds, special sports enclaves, and jogging tracks had been made indispensable in all major parks.

"ICC's interest in the promotion of sports is welcome, I hope the Chamber and CDA would work together for the promotion of sports", he added.

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that sports could be best alternative for youth in any society and promoting heels meant highlighting positive activities in the society.

He said that the chamber had a keen interest in promoting sports related activities in the city.

Development process can be augmented by active women participation: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said there should be no discrimination in terms of services as women had performed outstandingly in every profession over the years. He said the women constituted half of the population in Pakistan and by ensuring their active participation in the socioeconomic sphere the development process could be augmented in true letter and spirit.

The minister said he stood there not just as a government's representative but also as a proponent of progress, equality and justice for all. The Constitution of Pakistan was a beacon of hope, a guiding force that laid the foundation for the nation's values and principles, he added.

He said it was essential that "we view it through a diverse lens that encapsulates the struggles and aspirations of all the members of the society, specifically of the women. When we speak of reading the Constitution from women's perspective we aim to enhance our understanding and ensure that all individuals are treated equally under the law". He said the gender-based discrimination still existed in various forms with our society and it was more visible in remote areas.

IHC extends protective bail of Babar Awan for 10 days

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has extended protective bail of Babar Awan for 10 days.

The court has also ordered to provide details of cases registered against the senior lawyer.

The case pertaining to protective bail and provision of details of cases against Babar Awan came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Chief Justice Amir Farooq Monday.

The court extended the protective bail of Babar Awan for 10 days besides ordering to provide details of cases against him.

SDPI and GAIN sign collaboration agreement to further cause of nutrition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) has signed an agreement to collaborate to further the cause of nutrition in Pakistan.

SDPI Executive Director Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri, while speaking on the occasion, said nutritional security was the most important aspect which was threatened by variety of factors with particular threat from climate change and consumption of microplastics.

He said plastics were highly resistant to degradation and sustained in the environment for a prolonged period resulting in getting way into human food chain.

Microplastic exposure to humans, he added, was caused by foods of both animal and plant origin, food additives, drinks, and plastic food packaging. As this year's Environment Day theme was "Plastic Pollution", by reducing micro-plastic consumption, "we can ensure proper utilization of food consumed by the humans and avoid plastic-toxicity", he concluded.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Ufone 4G Group Head, HSE Corporate, Fawad Farukh along with others team members plant a tree in connection with World Environment Day held in Islamabad.

PIMS makes medical waste disposal system fully functional

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has made it fully functional of its system to properly dispose of medical waste in the hospital.

According to the hospital spokesperson Dr. Mubashir Mushtaq Dahi, following Secretary Health's directions, measures were adopted on an emergency basis to dispose of the hospital's waste and make the system fully functional.

The association also emphasized the need to bridge the existing disparity in the salaries of various government employees.

President of APPLA Professor Munawar Abbas while talking to APP, expressed concerns over the current state of affairs, stating that the current house rent allowance provided by the government is insufficient to rent even a single room.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Vice President (VP) of APPLA Dr. Rahima Rehman highlighted the disparity between the conveyance allowance and the soaring transportation costs, which had been fueled by the exorbitant prices of petrol.

The General Secretary (GS) Professor Jamsheed Khan pointed out the inadequacy of the medical allowance, noting that it failed to cover the expenses for essential medications such as the monthly purchase of panadol tablets. Addressing these pressing issues, APPLA leaders Dr. Kaleem, Prof. Tariq Baloch, Prof. Rehmat Ali, Prof. Shah Jahan, Prof. Tariq Saleem, Prof. Faiz Muhammad, Prof. Abdul Razaq kakar, Prof. Ehtesham Gul.