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India should benefit from CPEC, avoid creating hurdles: PM

Says CPEC's 10-year, transformed Pakistan's development landscape; Enemies of CPEC enemies of development, peace, prosperity in Pakistan, region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on the completion of 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Wednesday asked neighbouring India to take benefit of the mega project instead of creating obstacles in its way.

Highlighting the significance of project, he said Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the whole region would also benefit from it.

"CPEC is a beautiful plan to connect not only regions and areas but also people's hearts," he said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

The prime minister vowed to double the pace of the development as it was not only for improving roads, rail, sea ports and air routes, but it would also help health, education and skill development areas, besides masses' participation in the process.

Terming it a game changer for the whole region, the prime minister said CPEC would have a positive impact on the people's living standards in the region.

PM Shehbaz congratulated the leadership and the people of Pakistan and China on 10 years completion of CPEC, which was a

new chapter of the ever-green and trusted strategic cooperative partnership between the two iron brothers.

He said the project was a tremendous example of great Chinese leader Xi Jinping and PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's vision of "development for all".

"The Belt and Road initiative is the manifestation of Chinese President Xi's vision of peace, friendship, and economic partnership."

He regretted that during the four years of previous government, hurdles were created in the way of the project, besides level-

ling baseless allegations against a great friend like China.

"The enemies of CPEC are against peace, development and prosperity in Pakistan and the region, as they do not want to eradicate poverty from the country," he added.

CPEC, he said, also initiated a new era of mutual partnership between Pakistan and China, and fortified their bilateral relationships.

PM Shehbaz said CPEC encompassed multiple projects ranging from provision of water to education, and technical and skilled-based training.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad Ms. Pang Chunxue and Federal Ministers cutting a cake marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the agreement for CPEC

CM Murad assigns police to eliminate dacoits, street criminals, drug mafia

It is our responsibility to protect life, property and freedom of movement of the people of the province, therefore we have to eliminate the menaces

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that he had given three tasks to the police to eliminate dacoits from Katcha area, bring street crime in the city to zero level, and crush drug mafia to protect our young generation from the menace.

"It is our responsibility to protect life, property and freedom of movement of the people of the province, therefore we have to eliminate the menaces," Chief Minister said this on Wednesday while speaking at the 117th passing out parade ceremony at Shahid Hayat Police Training College, Saeedabad. The Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, DIG Training Hamid Khoso, Principal of the college Bashir Chachar and others were present on the occasion.

CM said the passing out of 787 constables would be a good addition to the numerical strength of the police force. "I have strengthened the provincial police by offering them good salary packages, shuhda compensation along with one job, and continuation of their salaries till their superannuation, latest equipment, and even mess allowance to the under-training policemen," he said and added that the morale of the police have been enhanced and now "I have entrusted you [police] three most important tasks with the hope you would deliver," he added.

The first task the CM spelled out was a clean-up operation against the dacoits who keep kidnapping people, including children for ransom.

"This is quite painful that the dacoits kidnap peaceful people, including their children for ransom,"

he said and added this was totally unacceptable and by considering them terrorists they must be crushed so that nobody again could dare to form such gangs for kidnapping.

The second task the chief minister mentioned in his speech was Street crime in the city. He added that one of the factors behind the increase in street crime was the 'economic situation' of the country but under this pretext, it could not be justified. He added that street crime in the city has become a challenge for the Karachi police.

Shah said that street crime has affected the free movement of the families in the city which needed to be curbed with iron hands. "I want the police to eliminate the street criminals and restore the confidence of the people of the city," he said.

The third task the chief minister assigned the police

to eliminate drug mafia and drug peddling in the city. "I know the targeted operation against the drug mafia is in progress but even then, the desirable results have yet to come out," he said.

Murad Shah said that synthetic drugs have reached our educational institutions and are destroying our young generation.

He directed the police to speed up operations against the drug mafia because they were also involved in street crime.

Lauding the Sindh police, the chief minister praised the services and bravery of the Sindh police and said that their 2400 jawans laid their lives in the line of duty while fighting against terrorists, target killers, street criminals, drug mafia, and protecting polio teams. "I believe in you and I am sure you [Sindh police] are capable enough to eliminate these three

threats – dacoits of katcha, street criminals in Karachi," he hoped.

Shah also recalled the sacrifices of the Rangers, Pak Army jawans, and other law enforcement agencies in restoring peace in Karachi and other parts of the province.

Earlier, the chief minister, as a chief guest, inspected the passing parade and distributed prizes among the position holders of the training programs.

The Inspector General Police Ghulam Nabi Memon briefed the chief minister about different categories of training programs such as commando, riot handling, thwarting dacoity attempts, and conducting raids. Speaking on the occasion, the IG police said that in the past under training policemen were required to bear the expenses of the mess facility at training centers.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah distributes certificates among the position holders during the passing out parade ceremony held at Shahid Hayat Police Training College Saeedabad

PTI's own people exposed Panama conspiracy

Only Nawaz Shrif can resolve country's problems: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's own people had exposed the Panama conspiracy.

Addressing a press conference here, she said that characters behind that conspiracy pushed the country towards multiple crises by imposing an incompetent and inefficient person at the helm of affairs.

The minister said that the solution of Pakistan's problems lied only with Nawaz Sharif who served three as Prime Minister.

"During the Nawaz

ures and characters who were burning the country today, stood on the container to stop the CPEC project in 2013-14.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said on that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif was disqualified under a conspiracy when "Panama verdict was changed to Iqama."

During the press conference, she played a video clip of senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and legal wizard Hamid Khan who told a private TV channel that it appeared that the decision to disqualify Nawaz Sharif in Iqama case was done somewhere else.

Sharif era, the economy was stabilized, he gave the people a gift of China Pakistan Economic Corridor", she said adding that great injustice was done to the person who had done great service to the country as prime minister.

Taking a jibe at Imran, she said the shadowy fig-



Murtaza Wahab assures Karachiites of hassle free monsoon season

Independent Report
KARACHI: There is a glimmer of hope for the residents of Karachi as Mayor Murtaza Wahab has assured them that the upcoming monsoon season is unlikely to bring any major problems. In a statement, he said that citizens will not face any inconvenience during the monsoon rains.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab said the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has ramped up efforts to clean the city's drains in preparation for the expected arrival of monsoon rains.

However, he also noted that it is impossible to pre-

dict the intensity of the rainfall or whether the nullahs (drainage channels) will overflow.

Nonetheless, the cleaning process for the nullahs is currently underway, with specific attention given to clearing choke points.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab further stated that this four-month exercise will continue throughout the monsoon season, ensuring that the city's drainage system remains unobstructed.

He declared that the administration will not confine themselves to idle discussions at Cafe Piana but instead will actively participate in field operations.



KARACHI: Leaders and activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration to condemning the latest incident of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, held outside Baitul Mukarram Mosque located on Gulshan-e-Iqbal area in Karachi



LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President, Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro addresses to gathering during ceremony to mark the 5th July 1977 as Black Day, held in Larkana.

SHC issues notice to K-Electric over 'excessive billing'

KARACHI (INP): Sindh High Court on Wednesday issued notices to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and K-Electric seeking a response for overbilling for consumers.

After visiting K-Electric (KE) and Federal Ombudsman offices several times, a female citizen of Karachi approached the Sindh High Court (SHC) and filed a plea against over-billing.

The woman pleaded to the court that the license of the K-Electric (KE) should be canceled as the power-generating company has made the life of citizens of Karachi miserable.

In the plea, the petitioner Shamim

Akhtar emphasized the urgent need for corrective measures to address the issue of overbilling and demanded the return of the excess charges.

Shamim Akhtar, while expressing her grievances, highlighted a shocking instance where a bill of Rs 18,000 was issued to a small 60-yard house in Bihar Colony, Lyari.

The court has issued notices to all concerned parties, including the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and K-Electric.

The court directed the nominated parties to submit their responses for the upcoming hearing scheduled on August 7.

FM Bilawal arrives in US on private visit

NEW YORK (INP): After concluding his maiden Japan visit, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday reached USA on a private visit, sources said on Wednesday.

Sources privy to the matter said that the foreign minister will stay in the USA for a period of one week where he will hold important conferences being arranged by the US think tank.

The foreign office is also making efforts to arrange between FM Bilawal Bhutto and US diplomatic officials, say sources. The foreign minister is visiting USA on a special invitation from US think tank, they say.

Three soldiers embrace martyrdom in suicide blast in North Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Three soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced 'Shahadat', while three innocent civilians got critically injured when a vehicle borne suicide bomber exploded himself in general area Miran Shah, North Waziristan District on Wednesday.

According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release issued here, Subedar Sahib Khan (age 41 years, resident of Mianwali), Naik Muhammad Ibrahim (age 40 years, resident of Dera Ismail Khan) and Sepoy Jehangir Khan (age 24 years, resident of Mardan) embraced shahadat.



RAWALPINDI: Advisor to President of Azerbaijan, Khalid Ahadov, along with delegation in a meeting with Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen and officials of MoDP

Alvi appoints Justice (Retd) Roolul Amin as FST chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday appointed Justice (Retd) Roolul Amin Khan as Chairman of the Federal Service Tribunal (FST).

The president appointed Justice (Retd) Roolul Amin as the FST chairman for a non-extendable term of three years.

One killed, two injured in road accident in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A man was killed while his wife and a minor girl sustained injuries in a road accident in Karachi on late Tuesday night.

According to details the accident occurred near the shrine of Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi (RA) in Clifton area where a motorcycle fell into a pit, killing a man on the spot and injuring his wife and minor girl.

Rehana Laghari for election reforms to strengthen role of women in politics

Independent Report
KARACHI: Acting Speaker Sindh Assembly and Pattern in Chief Women Parliamentary Caucus Sindh Rehana Laghari, on Wednesday, stressed on need of reforms in the election laws to strengthen role of women in politics.

She was addressing a consultative meeting of Women Parliamentary Caucus of National and Sindh Assembly on election reforms organised here at Sindh Assembly building in collaboration with UN Women and UNDP.

Rehana Laghari said that female members also wanted to contest elections on general seats so political parties should give tickets to women politicians to contest elections on general seats and necessary amendments be made in the relevant laws and rules. The meeting discussed various matters concerning to election reforms for making women's role in politics and process of elections more

effective and meaningful.

Secretary of Women Parliamentary Caucus National Assembly Dr. Shahida Rahmani, speaking at the occasion said that the meeting was aimed at formulating recommendations regarding reforms in election laws related to women so women members give their recommendations as to. She added that such meetings would also be held in other assemblies of the country in collaboration with the Women Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly.

Member National Assembly Nafisa Shah said that most of the business in assemblies was done by women members that shows that women wanted to participate in every development process of the society including elections.

She suggested amending the election laws to increase women quota in assemblies from 5% to 10% and threshold of women's turnout from 10% to 20%.

Pak, US discuss ways to enhance economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome here on Wednesday exchanged views about areas of common interest and enhancing existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

According to a statement issued by the finance ministry the discussion was made during the call on the meeting of the US Ambassador with the finance minister. The finance minister appreciated the deep-rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts.

He updated the Ambassador about successfully reaching the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and communicated about the economic policies and priorities of the government in order to set the economy on the path from stability to growth. Dar appreciated the support and cooperation of the US and reiterated the desire of the government to further deepen bilateral economic and trade ties with the US.



ISLAMABAD: Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

FAO Launches DVI Pilot: Bridging the Technological Divide in Rural Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Government of Punjab, launched a Digital Village Initiative (DVI) pilot site, in a ceremony organized at the Food Security & Agriculture Centre of Excellency (FACE) in Rahim Yar Khan.

This pilot launch is the FAO's global initiative under the 1000 Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific to bridge the technological divide and empower rural communities with access to digital resources, education, and opportunities.

During the ceremony, female lead farmers from the pilot site villages also received 10 tablets to use the agriculture-related applications on which they were already trained by FAO. A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Hyper Localized Weather Station pilot site was also organized along with a briefing on the digital monitoring and forecasting function of the weather station. The stations were installed on both pilot sites along with the provision of necessary equipment installed at training halls of both sites for virtual training of farmers. The stations will provide customized weather advisory, forecast pest & disease models and other information to farmers of 10 kilometres range from its vicinity. Both weather station facilities are also equipped to arrange online trainings for farmers on the latest innovations in agriculture. Male and female farmers of selected pilot sites received training on different features of the weather station. Through these stations, farmers will be able to get customized and specific information to their farmland, accurate data and information which will help them in reducing costs related to inputs and taking measures for crop protection.



KARACHI: GCBSO, PTCL and Ufone 4G Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief IT and CTO of NBP, Amin Manji, GCTO PTCL and Ufone 4G Jaffar Khalid, EVP of NBP Noman Muzaffar and others senior officials in a group photo during the signing ceremony of provision of primary Data Center Colocation Service, held at PTCL's Tier-III Data Center to support NBP's digital transformation, in Karachi.

Training workshops for cotton growers organized

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Food Security and Research in collaboration with Central Cotton Research Institute Multan organized pesticide management workshops for cotton growers in order to avoid their harmful impact on human health and the environment.

This major cash crop of the country. Besides, the government was also working to ensure the availability of certified seeds for different crops including cotton, wheat, rice, maize and other major and minor crops to enhance crop output to achieve sustainable agriculture growth and social development in the country.

In this regard, the track and traceability of certified seed was launched and the traceability data revealed that total cotton seed requirements were estimated at 41,048 metric tons, whereas seed availability was registered at 25,986 metric tons.

Meanwhile, about 25 master trainers were also trained for further disseminating training to growers on innovative crop sowing techniques, fertilizers and pesticide management to enhance the per-acre output of cotton during the current season, said an official.

Talking to APP he said that over 100 farmers from different crop-producing areas were also trained on the latest production technology, which was used to attain higher per-acre cotton output to enhance local production of

the hearing was presided by the NEPRA Authority comprising of Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi, Member (Technical), Engr. Rafique Ahmad Shaikh, Member (Licensing), Engr. Maqsood Anwar Khan, Member (Technical & Finance), Mathar Niaz Rana and Member (Law), Ms. Amina Ahmed.

Power tariff for KE's consumers likely to increase Rs 1.45 per unit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The power tariff is likely to increase by Rs 1.45 per unit to the consumers of Karachi Electric on account of the monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for May.

Government officials, community leaders, researchers, male and female farmers, the private sector, and other key stakeholders were present at the launching event.

Fly Jinnah's SkyTime will now feature content from HUM TV

Independent Report KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's new low-cost carrier (LCC), has collaborated with HUM TV to provide content for

its inflight entertainment system "SkyTime". All Fly Jinnah aircraft are equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices and right after takeoff. By collaborating with HUM TV, Fly Jinnah customers can now enjoy a wider selection of content that includes HUM TV leading dramas, Telefilms, Award Shows and celebrity shows.



At present, Fly Jinnah connects five major cities of Pakistan including

to extra comfort provided by the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin, the carrier offers customized and affordable travel experiences to its passengers through "SkyCafe" onboard menu where passengers can enjoy a wide variety of delicacies between snacks, sandwiches, and meals at affordable prices.

Sohail Barlas elected as SIAL chairman

SIALKOT (APP): A leading Sialkot based exporter Sohail Barlas was elected unopposed as chairman of Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), while Mian Daud Sair was elected unopposed as vice chairman for the year 2023-24.

The newly-elect chairman SIAL pledged to make all out sincere efforts to make the SIAL as a model airport of Pakistan, says a news release issued here on Wednesday. He said that SIAL had been a hallmark of the sincerity, dedication, enthusiasm and unity of Sialkot exporters, which had established the international airport by setting a unique example of self help. The new leadership aims to bring fresh perspectives and drive further growth and development at the airport. Under their guidance, the airport is expected to enhance its operations, infrastructure, and passenger services, he said

to foster a culture of exports and savings in the country to ensure development without current account deficit.

He said that GDP growth on a sustainable basis is impossible until the current savings rate is doubled. The savings rate in Congo is 61.4 percent, in Singapore it is 53.8 percent, in the United Arab Emirates the savings rate is 47.8 percent, in China it is almost 44.9 percent and in India and Bangladesh it is between 30 and 31 percent, he informed.

Business leader stresses need to adopt culture of savings

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain stressed the need to adopt culture of savings has said that lack of savings prevent investments and opened doors of loans.

However, in Pakistan this rate is only twelve percent which is rapidly decreasing due to current inflation and unemployment, he said. The business leader said that in 2007-2008,



KARACHI: A large number of the people holds protest against the load shedding of Gas, Electricity and Water at Liyari, in Provincial Capital.

Gold prices up by Rs.1,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,000 and was sold at Rs.206,000 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.205,000 the previous day.

Services' trade deficit narrows by 88 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The services' trade deficit shrank by 88.26 percent during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has reported.

The services trade deficit was recorded at \$607.67 million during July-May (2022-23) against the deficit of \$5,175.24 million during July-May (2021-22). The exports of services during the period increased by 3.38 percent by going up from \$6,438.33 million in 2021-22 to \$6,655.82 million in the first eleven months of FY2022-23, according to PBS data.



FAISALABAD: An Iron smith are busy in their work at shop at Dajkot Road in City.

LCCI invites political parties to discuss charter of economy

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has taken a proactive step in addressing Pakistan's economic challenges by sending invitations to the heads of all political parties. The invitation, sent in the form of a letter, requesting their presence at the LCCI to participate in a comprehensive discussion on the crucial topic of the Charter of Economy (CoE), according to LCCI spokesman here on Wednesday.

transitioning towards sustainable economic growth, said Kashif Anwar, adding that in order to address these concerns, LCCI has formulated a draft of the Charter of Economy, which serves as a guiding framework for economic governance. The aim of this charter is to establish a minimum agenda that all political parties can include in their respective manifestos. By doing so, it ensures a level of consistency and continuity in economic policies, regardless of which party forms the government, he added.

In the letter, the LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted the daunting economic challenges facing the nation and underscored the need for consistency in economic policies. LCCI firmly believes that a unified approach is imperative for dealing with these challenges and

President LCCI said the Charter of Economy is designed to create a working consensus among political parties on key economic issues. It provides a set of guidelines for policy formation.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House.

Sharmila calls for introducing reforms in taxation system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party's Sindh MPA, Sharmila Farooqui Wednesday called for bringing big fishes into the tax net and for introducing reforms in the taxation system to achieve durable economic progress.

adding, Pakistan had to take some tough economic decisions to comply with the conditions of IMF, but the programme was necessary for Pakistan's economy and growth.

"Pakistan's survival is linked to tax collection as no nation that relies on loans can maintain its pride," she said while talking to PTV news channel. She appreciated that the PDM-led government was making hectic efforts to revive the economy, adding, the signing of a staff-level agreement with IMF was a great success of government policy and measures.

Under the IMF programme, the record stock exchange, decrease rate of the dollar and down gold rates were witnessed in the market which bring further financial discipline to the economy. Sharmila Farooqui said that the IMF programme would now open financing of multilateral financial institutions as well from bilateral creditors.

Replying to a question, she urged that we need to work positively for the welfare of the state instead of politics and we need to control expenditure as well.

She said political stability and the end of polarization in the country were the need of hour,



QUETTA: Roadside vendor puts dates on display to attract the customer.

Directs flights needed to commence at once for economic revival: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan is lagging far behind the world in the race of development, which is mainly due to the lack of connectivity at the regional and international level.

and regions and this is the main source of economic development. Regions like the European Union and ASEAN are great examples in this regard. These regions have accelerated economic growth by improving connectivity through rail, direct air links and road.

In a statement on Wednesday, he said, "Pakistan needs to be connected to the region through rail, road and direct air links. PIA has failed to connect Pakistan to the world, the government should announce a fast-track privatization program without wasting more money and capital. Despite its effective presence in various regional and international blocs, Pakistan has not yet been able to benefit at the commercial level. Work is required on an emergency basis to start direct flights."

He said that Pakistan is an important member of several regional and international groups including SAARC, D-8, ECO, SCO, and OIC. Due to the lack of railway, road and direct air links of Pakistan with all these countries, despite political activity, Pakistan has not been able to benefit from these groups at the commercial level. He said that in order to advance the current debt-ridden economy of Pakistan, the series of direct flights with different countries of the world should be carried forward rapidly. Recently, Ethiopia has started a series of direct flights. Similarly, Kazakhstan, an important country in Central Asia, is also starting direct flights from July 8. This is important news for Pakistan's regional connectivity.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan has lagged far behind in the race of development at which the world is moving forward. In today's world, no country can develop alone, but now interests can be protected through blocs

President upholds penalties, enhances fines upon sexual harassers

ISLAMABAD (APP): After the charges of black-mailing and sexually harassing a female employee at MEPCO were proven, President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of "dismissal from service" imposed upon Khizer Hayat, Assistant Director and enhanced the amount of the fine from Rs 500,000 to Rs 1 million.

He also upheld the penalty of "reduction to lower post" imposed upon Mian Sohail Afzal, Director (Admin), for three years and increased the fine from Rs 1 million to Rs 1.1 million to be paid as compensation to the victim, a President House press release said.

He also upheld the exoneration of Sohail Abbas, Deputy Director, and Jamshed Ahmed Niazi, Director, as no cogent evidence or substance was available against them to prove them guilty of the charge beyond any shadow of a doubt. The president gave these orders while rejecting two representations filed separately by Khizer Hayat and Mian Sohail Afzal against the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAP) imposing fines and major penalties upon the two officers. A female Commercial Assistant at Multan Electric Power

Company (MEPCO) had filed a complaint before FOSPAP against four employees stating that they hacked her mobile data, made sexual demands, got published false news items against her, and demanded Rs 500,000 from her to stop the series of news from its further publication. In his decision, President Alvi stated that a good message had to be sent to society that we would ensure the protection of women against harassment so that our women feel safe in the working environment of the country and our families were confident that if women get harassed, the law of the land would take strong action.

"When Islam came, it lifted women out from exploitation, live burials, and denial of property rights and granted unbelievable gender parity. Such acts of harassment reflect poorly upon our country, which is an Islamic Republic", he said.

He emphasised that a strong message should go out to the people of Pakistan that their daughters, sisters, and mothers would be protected in society from harassment so that they could participate in public spaces and in their work without fear, adding that measures should be taken to uphold our religious values and international norms.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada cutting the cake along with the Ambassador of Republic of Belarus to Pakistan Andrei Metelitsa and others on the occasion of the celebrations of the Independence Day of Republic of Belarus, at Serena Hotel on in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Mir Shai Mazar Baloch, Director General (COORD/PDU), Senate attending the meeting between Senate Parliamentary Development Unit (PDU) and the team of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), at Parliament House.

COP28 President to visit Pakistan on Sherry Rehman's invitation

ISLAMABAD (INP): The incumbent government will welcome the President of COP28 and UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology H.E. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, on July 6 as a distinguished state guest for a day-long official visit.

This is the outcome of an official invitation extended by Senator, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Sherry Rehman aimed to share the country's progress on climate and environmental goals ahead of the COP28 conference in UAE, and build common ground for the global stock-take ahead in the context of Pakistan's accelerated climate stress, said a press release on Wednesday.

Minister Al Jaber will call upon Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during the official visit. The meeting will focus on

Pakistan's climate adaptation challenges, specifically its vulnerability to climate-induced disasters, and the need for enabling greater international cooperation at the upcoming COP28 in UAE.

Sherry Rehman will host H.E. Al Jaber and the accompanying delegation for a bilateral meeting at the Ministry for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, and bring attention to Pakistan's programmes and initiatives to prevent environmental degradation and building resilience through policy action. Energy transition cooperation will also be on the agenda. Sherry Rehman will also share Pakistan's vulnerability to accelerated climate impacts, and the need for a global reset that enhances support for developing countries on the frontline of climate emergencies.

Case registered against 8 Pak, 5 arrested for doing job in Israel

ISLAMABAD (Online): FIA Mirpur Khas circle has registered case against 8 Pakistanis and arrested 5 among them for doing job in Israel.

According to FIA these accused reached Israel via different countries and they did jobs therein. 5 cases have been registered against 8 accused. These accused worked as helpers and car washer in Tel Aviv.

The arrested accused include Noman Siddiqui, Kamil Anwar, Kamran Siddiqui, Muhammad Zeeshan and Muhammad Anwar. These accused stayed in Tel-Aviv for the period ranging between 4 to 7 years.

The accused got entry into Israel through an Israeli agent. The accused paid Rs 300000 to 400000 to Israeli agent. They all belong to Mirpur Khas.

NA Speaker strongly condemns Israeli attack on Palestinians in Jenin

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervez Ashraf has vehemently condemned the deadly airstrikes and raids carried out by Israeli occupation forces on a Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin.

He also deplored that the dispossession and displacement of Palestinians from their homes by the aggressive Israeli forces are unacceptable.

Speaker said that the recurring instances of unlawful raids and assault on the innocent Palestinian men, women and children raises serious concerns on the international laws prohibiting such hate-fueled incidents.

The freedom of expression has also been tarnished by the Israeli forces and such blatant violations exposed the

Ahsan express satisfaction with recent IMF package

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the recent IMF package, which alleviated concerns of an immediate default.

However, he emphasised that the deal should be considered as a temporary relief and merely a breather, rather than a lasting solution. During the "Beyond IMF Agreement: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan" Twitter space organized by the Planning Ministry, the minister conveyed his views to a global audience, said a press release issued here.

In June, Pakistan secured a \$3 billion short-term financial package from the IMF, in recognition of the consistent efforts of the current government, which took office in April 2022.

Minister Iqbal described this as a much-

needed respite that restored investor confidence.

However, he stressed the need for structural reforms to ensure long-term sustainability and capitalize on this breathing space.

The minister pointed out that the deal was necessary due to a severe balance of payment crisis in 2022, caused by poor policies of the previous government. He noted that the country experienced its worst deficit of \$50 billion after allowing imports worth \$84 billion.

The minister emphasised the importance of introspection and pursuing development for the country, rather than merely celebrating the deal.

It is worth mentioning that following the IMF deal, the country's stock market experienced a significant upswing, with renewed confidence from investors.

Additionally, the Pakistani rupee gained against the US dollar in the inter-bank market he said, adding that if the business continued as usual, the positive momentum could be lost.

He stressed the necessity of implementing structural reforms to guide the country onto a sustainable path and achieve desired results in the long term.

These policies should be maintained regardless of which government was in power, he added.

Highlighting the achievements of the current government, the minister mentioned that since assuming the charge of office, they had been focused on addressing immediate challenges.

The Planning Ministry successfully conducted a turnaround conference in June last year, leading to the development of a comprehensive 5Es framework.



HYDERABAD: Members of Peoples Labour Bureau Sindh are holding rally to mark the 5th July 1977, as Black Day

CJP Bandial terms Greece boat tragedy a 'human rights issue'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial said on Wednesday that the boat tragedy on Greek shores — which resulted in the deaths of nearly 300 Pakistanis — was a matter of human rights.

He passed these remarks as a two-member bench, comprising the CJP and Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, took up petitions pertaining to the trafficking of minors.

At least 600 migrants, out of possibly 750, on the fishing boat that set off from Libya towards European shores, perished when their vessel capsized in the Mediterranean Sea last month.

The passengers largely comprised Pakistanis, Afghans, Egyptians, Palestinians and Syrians migrating in the overloaded boat. It was a recurring tragedy — with no end in sight as economic, political and climate crises compelled increasingly large numbers of people to flee their homes.

The tragedy of such immense proportions was believed to have taken place in the presence of maritime authorities. It was also believed that Pakistani nationals were forced to stay below the deck by the crew, which maltreated them during the journey. Referring to the tragedy during the hearing today, Justice Bandial noted that innocent and poor people were tricked into going abroad on the pretext of better jobs.

"Citizens are duped by human traffickers and pay millions of rupees," the top judge said, pointing out that even children and women were becoming victims of human smuggling. "Does the government have statistics on the number of children being smuggled," the CJP asked.



KARACHI: A large number of the people holds protest against the load shedding of Gas, Electricity and Water at Liyari, in Provincial Capital

CJ GB postpones election for CM

GILGIT (INP): Chief Justice (CJ) Supreme Appellate Court Gilgit-Baltistan, Sardar Muhammad Shamin Khan Wednesday postponed the election for Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan which was scheduled to be held on today.

According to a press release issued by the spokesman Supreme Appellate Court, the CJ GB hearing of the case titled "Haji Shah Baig" postponed the election.

The court also stated that according to Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Rule (3) of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2017, it was necessary to advertise the election

schedule through television, newspapers, radio and gazette publications.

In addition, it is also necessary to notify the members by post.

Arguing on behalf of Haji Shah Baig, Advocate, Amjad Hussain said that even if there was an election in emergency, it was necessary to issue an election schedule of 72 hours.

After hearing the arguments of both sides, the court issued an order to postpone the elections for the chief minister and ordered the Speaker GB Assembly to submit the new election schedule to the court by tomorrow.

First case registered against suspects for dumping dead bodies of newborn babies

KARACHI (INP): After the directives of the Inspector General (IG) of Sindh, the province's first case has been registered against unidentified suspects for dumping dead bodies of newborn babies on Wednesday.

According to the details, Sindh police issued strict orders for the mandatory registration of the First Information Reports (FIRs) and medical examination of all unclaimed bodies of newborn babies across the province.

Following the directives of the Inspector General of Sindh, the first case has been registered in Sindh, meanwhile, a case has been filed at the Ittehad Town police station against unidentified suspects.

The body of the newborn baby was found in the garbage dump of Ittehad Town area of the metropolis, the first Information Report (FIR) was registered against unidentified suspects including the abortion of fetuses.

Three samples, including a postmortem and DNA, have been preserved at the Civil hospital, Karachi.

After the report, further investigation will be conducted into the matter.

WPC alongwith NA, PA Sindh hold roundtable on electoral reforms

Independent Report KARACHI: Women Parliamentary Caucuses of National Assembly and Provincial Assembly of Sindh on Wednesday jointly organized a roundtable on Electoral Reforms to enhance Women's Political Participation & Representation in Pakistan.

The event was held at the Committee Room of Sindh Assembly building with the support of UN Women Pakistan and UNDP.

Acting Speaker Provincial Assembly of Sindh and Pattern in Chief Women Parliamentary Caucus of

National Assembly Syeda Nafeesa Shah, Nuzhat Pathan, Member National Assembly of Muslim League (N) Mahnaz Akbar Aziz, Tahira Aurangzeb, Member National Assembly of JUI(F) Shahida Akhtar Ali, Women Members of Sindh Assembly and Women Parliamentary Caucus Heer soho, Sadia Javed, Nida khor, Sharmila Farooqui, Tanzeela Umm Habiba, Ghazala Siyal, Mangala Sharma, Sarwat Fatima, Shahina Sher Ali, Shazia Karim, and Shamim Mumtaz also participated.

Joint Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh

Technical Adviser UNDP Mary Cummins gave a briefing on election reforms. Speaking on the occasion, Acting Speaker Sindh Assembly Rehana Laghari said that there is a need to amend the election laws related to women, allowing women to contest election on general seats. Addressing the meeting, Member of National Assembly Dr. Shahida Rahmani said that the purpose of today's meeting is to formulate recommendations regarding reforms in election laws related to women. Such meetings will also be held in other Assemblies of the country in col-

PM files acquittal plea in money laundering reference

LAHORE (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has filed acquittal plea in money laundering reference.

Amjid Pervez advocate submitted acquittal plea on behalf of PM Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in Accountability Court (AC) Lahore in money laundering reference.

The petitioners have taken plea in the acquittal plea NAB made false and fabricated money laundering reference. The assets are as per law which have been declared in FBR and Election Commission (EC). NAB has no evidence of any kind in this regard.

It has been further said in the acquittal plea filed by PM and Hamza Shehbaz that any possibility of proving the case against them stands ruled out.



KARACHI: Anticreachment authorities demolishing illegal marriage halls constructed on residential land, during anti encroachment campaign under the supervision of local government departments located on Malir Model Colony area

Haq Parast parliamentarians strongly condemn Holy Quran desecration in Sweden

HYDERABAD (APP): Haq Parast parliamentarian of Muttahida Quomi Movement (Pakistan) have strongly condemned the desecration of Holy Quran outside the Masjid in Stockholm Sweden adding that this painful act has created unrest among the Muslims of the world.

In a joint statement issued here on late Wednesday evening, MNA Salahuddin, MNA Eng. Sabir Hussain Kaikhanji, MPA Rashid Khilji, MPA Nadim Ahmed Siddiqui and MPA Nasir Hussain Qureshi have said that such shameful incident has exposed the mentality of Anti-Muslim forces under the cover of right of the

freedom of expression.

They said that by committing such shameful acts, the Anti-Muslim elements were trying to stop spreading Islam, but they cannot succeed in their nefarious designs as Islam is strengthening roots with fast pace.

They also critical over the attitude of the Swedish government in to the issue and said that the citizens of Hyderabad who are in deep sense of grief like other Muslims of the world have already lodged their strong protest with successful shutter down strike today and now they decided to boycott the Swedish products.

Owners of industrial and commercial units to adopt civil defense safety measures

Independent Report MIRPURKHAS: On the instructions of Government authorized member of vigilance team Mehrab Khan khaskheli vigilance and enforcement officer civil defense mirpurkhas Division shall be visiting industrial and commercial units on 10 July 2023 as to ensure implementation of civil defense measures for this he has issued a letter to the entire district Owners of all industrial and commercial

units including Petroleum Services and L.P.G and also directed the owners including the industrial and commercial units to ensure the safety arrangements of Civil Defense in this regard . He has also directed to the industrial and commercial units' owners to make all arrangements and keep the record ready for inspection, he further said that defaulters shall be proceeded under the law in the public interest without any chance.



Sindh Assembly Rehana Laghari, Senator Rubina Khalid, Member National Assembly and Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus National Assembly Dr. Shahida Rahmani, Member Javed Iqbal, Deputy Director NADRA Syed Aziz Oun, UN Women representative Kapil Dev, Hasan Hakeem, UNDP representative Ambar Syed attended the meeting while Chief laboration with the Women Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly. Women Members should give their recommendations regarding election reforms.