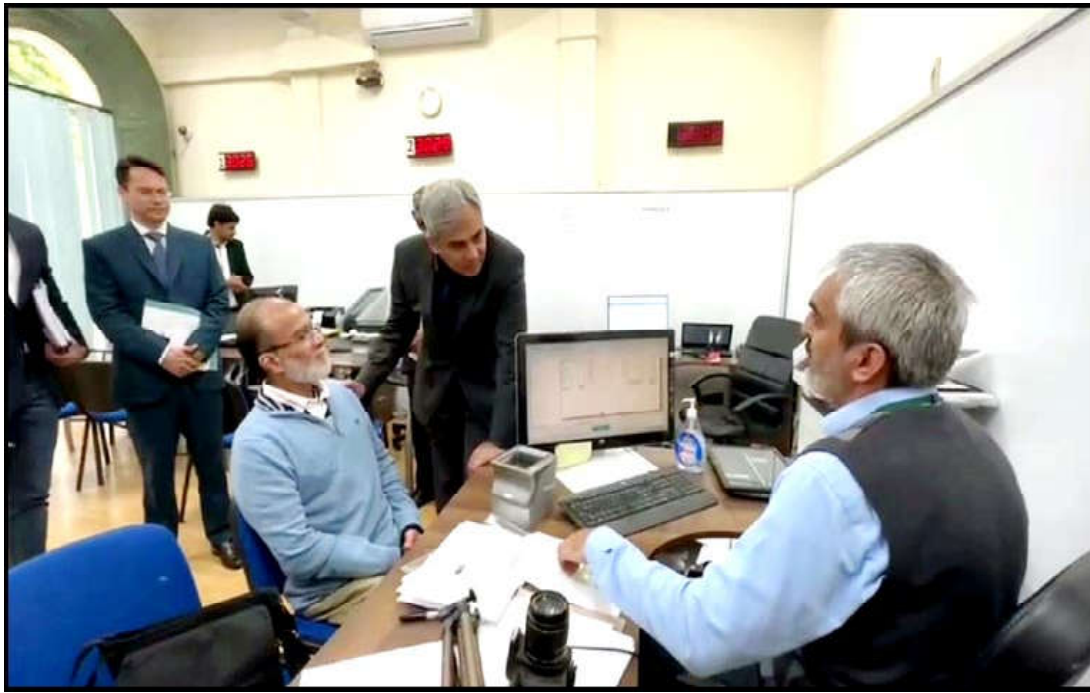


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Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting NADRA and Passport Centers in London.

Gwadar to become internationally acclaimed world-class port city: Ahsan

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said that Gwadar will become an internationally acclaimed world-class port city, which will have tremendous opportunities for its people.

"We hope that Gwadar will become an internationally acclaimed world-class port city, which will have tremendous opportunities for its people," he told Xinhua while applauding the development of Gwadar Port under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Terming Gwadar as a very important and strate-

gic port in this region, he said that China has shown its remarkable contribution and the development of different regions of Pakistan including Gwadar under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

"In Gwadar, we have seen that China has not only developed the port facility but also has contributed towards socio economic development of the people," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that China has set up a state of the art modern hospital for the people of Gwadar who have as good facilities in that hospital as big cities like Karachi or Lahore. Similarly, it has helped

set up a technical training institution. It has also helped poor people with solar panels to provide them electricity and has also undertaken other initiatives to improve the lives of the local people.

"So, we really appreciate that China has contributed immensely to the uplift of Gwadar, but it is just the first steps go other port has a long way to go," he added. He remarked that in partnership with the Gwadar and in partnership with China, we hope that Gwadar will become an internationally acclaimed world class port city, which will have tremendous opportunities for its people.



ZIARAT: Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar presiding over a meeting to review Harnai Development Projects Public Sector Development Program.

ISPR says: Col Helen's elevation to Brigadier's rank beacon of hope for Christian community

RAWALPINDI (APP): Colonel Dr Helen Mary's promotion to the rank of brigadier was a beacon of hope for the Pakistani Christian community.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Sunday, Colonel Dr Helen Mary Robert was another living example of merit and national representation in the Pakistan Army.

The founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, while addressing the First Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947, said: "You are free, whatever religion, caste or creed you belong to has nothing to do with state affairs."

On another occasion, the founder of Pakistan said: "Minorities shall be deemed to be citizens of Pakistan without distinc-

tion of caste, colour, religion or creed and shall enjoy all their rights and privileges and the rights of citizenship."

The Pakistan Army made the same decree of the Quaid-e-Azam a slogan and today decisions are made in the Pakistan Army regardless of religious, linguistic and gender discrimination.

Colonel Dr Helen Mary recently became the first Christian woman to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier in the Pakistan Army.

Col. Dr. Helen Mary Robert has been serving as a pathologist in the Pakistan Army Medical Corps for 26 years.

Colonel Dr Helen Meri considered it an honour to serve the country and the nation while living in the Pakistan Army

Deputy PM, Iran's FM discuss situation in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday received a telephone call from Acting Foreign Minister of Iran Ali Bagheri, discussing matters of mutual concern and the dire situation in Gaza. The two sides discussed the situation in Gaza and unabated Israeli atrocities there, a Foreign Office statement said.

Magnitude 4.8 earthquake jolts Swat, adjoining areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.8 jolted Swat and its adjoining areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday. According to a private news channel, the quake's epicenter was Tajikistan border, with a depth of 195 kilometers.

To facilitate maximum people Efforts to be taken to expand green bus service to other routes: Hamza

QUETTA (APP): Over 11,000 people travel daily in eight buses of 'Quetta Green Bus Service' being run from Balochistan University to Balesi.

Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat while talking to APP said that the state-owned public bus transport project in Quetta has become fully successful as over 11,000 people ride daily from Balesi to Sariab Road route.

He said that around 25

more buses would be added soon to the project as a total of 100 green buses would be on roads in Quetta after some time. He added that efforts would be taken to expand the green bus service to other routes to facilitate maximum numbers of Quetta dwellers.

Hamza Shafiqat said after the inclusion of 25 more buses, the daily capacity will increase to facilitate 50,000 commuters.

He said that green buses operate from 7 am to 10 pm. He said that safe travel in a pleasant environment is the right of the citizens and feels glad that our female segment can now travel with satisfaction.

The green bus service has made it easier for people of all age groups especially, women, students and senior citizens, to reach work timely with the provision of convenient travel facilities.

Visits passport, NADRA centers in London Naqvi orders expedited passport issuance for overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited London Passport and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Centers and directed urgent and normal passports to be issued to overseas Pakistanis within seven and 30 days respectively.

According to the press release received on Sunday, Naqvi visited the passport and NADRA centres in London on Wednesday and took notice of the delays in the issuance of passports to overseas Pakistanis. The minister ordered that urgent passports should be issued within seven days and normal passports within 30 days, directing that this policy should be implemented at all Pakistani missions worldwide.

Previously, overseas Pakistanis had to wait for four months for a normal passport and one and a half months for an urgent passport. The minister emphasised that any delay in issuing passports would not be tolerated and action

would be taken against officials responsible for it.

To ensure timely delivery of passports, the Interior Minister established a monitoring cell, which would be headed by his PSO, ASP Sher Bano Naqvi.

Overseas Pakistanis who do not receive their passports within the specified time can file a complaint at the following email address:

complaints.passport@interior.gov.pk

The minister also took notice of the staff shortage at the passport and NADRA centres and directed effective staff management to address the issue. During his visit, Mohsin Naqvi met with the staff of the passport and NADRA centres and directed them to issue passports to overseas Pakistanis within the specified time. He appreciated the performance of NADRA staff and encouraged them to continue providing efficient services to overseas Pakistanis.

Dummar vows to work for development of Ziarat, Harnai together

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Food Department, Noor Muhammad Dumar has stressed that we have to work together for development of Harnai and Ziarat.

He said that we have to ensure that we have to make our efforts compatible with our efforts.

The Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Dumar was in meeting with the administrative officers of Ziarat and Harnai on Sunday.

During the course of meeting, there was comprehensive discussion on different matters including the challenges faced in the official matters of the two districts.

The administrative heads of the departments presented reports of their respective departments.

There was also discussion on the development works, review of public sector development programme besides the schemes for the next financial year.

Spokesman of GoB dispels impression of emergency landing of CM's plane

Independent Report QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has dispelled the impression of emergency landing of the plane of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

In an official statement issued here on Sunday, the spokesman of provincial government said that the plane of Chief Minister didn't make an emergency landing at the airport.

He said that there was fire alarm in an engine of the aircraft of Chief Minister Balochistan after landing in Islamabad.

He said that the Chief Minister's plane had took off for Islamabad from Quetta.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister, Mir Shoaib Noshervani talks with protesters from Mashkel Tehsil to negotiating during their protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Quetta press club.

CM Bugti, Malala Yousafzai others attend signing ceremony: University of Oxford to provide scholarships to students of Balochistan

CM Sarfraz Bugti says we are proud to provide our students with opportunity to study at Oxford University, where Benazir Bhutto and other great leaders have studied; Noble Laureate Malala thrilled to see GoB taking steps towards promoting education and empowering youth of the province

Independent Report LONDON: In a landmark development, the University of Oxford has agreed to provide scholarships to students from Balochistan, Pakistan, under the Benazir Scholarship Programme.

The agreement, in this connection, was signed between the Oxford University and the Government of Balochistan, with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Malala Yousafzai, the global ambassador for girls' education, in attendance at the landmark ceremony held at

Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford.

The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon signed the agreement on behalf of the provincial government.

Under this programme, as mentioned in an official press release issued on Sunday, talented students from Balochistan will receive full scholarships to pursue higher education at Oxford University, one of the world's most prestigious institutions. The program aims to provide access to quality education and empower the youth of Balochistan.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said, "We are proud to provide our students with the opportunity to study at Oxford University, where Benazir Bhutto and other great leaders have studied."

Education is key to unlocking the potential of our youth, and we are committed to providing them with the best opportunities."

It is yet another milestone achieved by the incumbent PPP government, striving hard under the supervision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, CM Bugti remarked.

Malala Yousafzai, the Nobel laureate and education activist, praised the

initiative, saying, "I am thrilled to see the Government of Balochistan taking steps towards promoting education and empowering the youth of the province."

The agreement was signed in the presence of 150 delegates, including Malala Yousafzai, former caretaker Prime Minister and Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar, Aamir Ibrahim, Muhammad Kheshgi, Farooq Sheikh, and Professor Kamal Munir.

This historic agreement marks a significant milestone in the journey towards quality education and empowerment for the youth of Balochistan.



LONDON: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and officials of Oxford University exchanging documents of Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program.

PM Shahbaz hails Hamzah Sheeraz's victory in Riyadh boxing bout

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday extended his warm felicitation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on hosting a successful boxing event at the Kingdom Arena in Riyadh.

"Congratulations to brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on hosting an impressive boxing bout at Kingdom Arena, Riyadh," the prime minister wrote on his official X timeline.

Expressing delight on the victory of Pakistani origin young superstar Sheeraz Hamza, he said "We are proud of you and look forward to welcoming you soon as world champion," he commended."

ECP sets June 6 date for PTI intra party election case hearing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has scheduled June 6 for the hearing of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) intra-party election case, following its removal from the agenda on May 30 due to the unavailability of a bench. The Election Commission has sent notices to Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Barrister Gohar Ali and Raouf Hassan.

Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail says Public friendly policies of federal Govt. receiving great appreciation at public level

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government's public friendly policies are getting great appreciation at the public level.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Governor said that new avenues of development are determining by meeting the public aspirations, decreasing the inflation especially bringing down the rates of petrol and petroleum products and drawing attention of the investors from all over the world towards the opportunities of investment in the country.

The Governor maintained that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is taking special interest in development of Balochistan besides providing new opportunities of employment and livelihood to the unemployed youth of the province.

He said that the world is changing at fast pace and it requires from all those who are in power to prepare comprehensive strategy to set and achieve new targets and priorities.

He stressed that we desperately need the visionary and wise people for formation and preparation of public friendly policies that are compatible with the modern requirements.

He said that is a fact that public interest happens to be the center of all policies and development projects in the democracy. Therefore, it is duty of all elected public representatives to reach fruits of development projects to the masses and play their due role in establishing rule of law.

Seven-day anti-polio campaign due to begin in 14 districts of Balochistan today

Independent Report QUETTA: The seven-day anti-polio campaign is due to begin in 14 districts of Balochistan from today (Monday). However, the immunization campaign has been deferred for five days and would commence on June 8, 2024.

According to the Coordinator Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication, Syed Zahid Shah, at least 7,636 teams have been formed for vaccinating above 1.884 million children below five years of age in all 20 districts of the province.

The districts included in the campaign starting from Monday (today) are included: Quetta, Pishin,

Killa Abdullah, Chaman Hub, Chaghai, Duki, Lasbela, Khuzdar, Zhub, Noshki, Killa Saifullah, Loralai and Mastung.

While remaining other districts in which immunization would start are included: Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sib, Usta Muhammad, Dera Bugti and Sohbatpur.

The EOC Coordinator informed that in these six districts, the polio immunization campaign has been postponed for time being owing to the heatwave to be prevailed there.

He informed that all necessary arrangements have been finalized for the anti-polio campaign.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Dutch courage

The Election Commission of Pakistan continues to act as if it has no interest in ensuring fairness. Just days after it was ordered by a Lahore High Court judge to notify six more election tribunals for Punjab, for which nominations had been sent weeks earlier by the LHC chief justice, a senior ECP official, responding to a reporter's question, brushed aside the injunction as "meaningless".

It seems the ECP had grown more confident about defying the LHC since Commission officials met the law minister and attorney general to discuss, among other things, the controversial ordinance passed recently by the acting president, Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani. The ordinance in question empowers the Commission to appoint whoever it pleases to election tribunals without worrying about what the LHC chief justice has to say.

It bears highlighting that these election tribunals are supposed to rule on complaints made by losing candidates against the irregularities and illegalities they claim were committed during the vote-counting process. Many of these claims — especially those pertaining to changing results — have been supported by the findings of independent observers, election watchdogs, and even statements made by other losing candidates. In recent weeks, the courts have also separately overturned several controversial decisions by the ECP concerning the recounting of votes and changing of results well after the elections were concluded.

As regards the matter at hand, it bears recalling that the LHC chief justice had sent a list of nominations to the ECP for the purpose of appointing more tribunals in Punjab, where the number of complaints far exceeds the capacity of the two tribunals that have already been appointed. For weeks, the ECP sat on these nominations and refused to appoint more tribunals till Mr Gilani's ordinance came along like a deus ex machina to do away with the 'problem' entirely.

The ECP can now appoint whichever judge it pleases, be they retired or serving, to sit in judgement against its own decisions. It will be difficult not to view with deep suspicion the fact that the ECP, which is constitutionally mandated to ensure non-partisanship in all election-related matters, seems to have agreed to lean on an ordinance, one of the most patently undemocratic legislative tools available, just so it may bypass Section 140 of the Elections Act as it existed in its original condition.

One wonders how this will engender public faith in the impartiality or fairness of the tribunals that will eventually be formed by such blatant disregard for checks and balances. Alas, the Commission has been supported wholeheartedly in implementing its twisted interpretations of the democratic process by some willing collaborators in the legislature. They must take stock of the long-term harm their actions are causing to the Pakistani democracy.

Gaza in flames

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Nothing seems to make Israel stop its murderous spree and war crimes in Gaza. Besides killing and injuring thousands, Israeli military operations have impeded humanitarian access, pushing Gaza to the brink of famine.

On May 20, the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor applied for warrant to arrest senior members of the Israeli and Hamas leadership. Tel Aviv termed the move "disgraceful", while President Biden called it "outrageous". Twelve Republican US senators wrote a threatening letter to the ICC that if "you target Israel, we will target you".

On May 24, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to halt its offensive in Rafah. South Africa had brought this case before the ICJ, accusing Israel of subjecting the Palestinians to a genocide. Israel refused to accept the order. Instead, it carried out deadly air strikes (May 26) against Palestinians, killing 45 and injuring over 100.

On May 29, Algeria, on behalf of the Arab states, circulated a proposed resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. While most countries welcomed the Algerian initiative, the US lost no time in vetoing it, while the UK abstained.

Despite the recent ICJ orders, and an earlier call by 153 member states of the UN General Assembly in December 2023, Israel continues to defy demands to protect civilians and uphold humanitarian obligations in Gaza. Israel's daily assaults have demonstrated that there is no longer any rules-based international order. The spirit of multilateralism and respect for human

rights have been battered by the ongoing relentless show of unilateralism in Gaza.

Why is Israel rejecting every call to stop its killing spree? One obvious reason is the unending support it receives from the US and some European countries. These countries have often lectured the world on the sanctity of human rights, yet they are reluctant to condemn what Israel's military is doing to defenceless civilians. The double standards of these champions of human rights have been exposed.

Yet, one is encouraged to see how the people in the US and Europe have come out to condemn the excessive use of force by Israel. Special tribute must be paid to the students of leading universities in the US, who have risked their academic careers but have not stepped back from voicing their support for the oppressed. Some European governments are now responding to the calls of their people. Spain, Ireland, and Norway have announced formal recognition of the state of Palestine. Several others had already done so, including Sweden, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria. The UK and Australia are also considering recognition.

Sadly, the Muslim world has not been able to exert enough pressure on Israel to stop its atrocities in Gaza. Iran, however, has emerged as a country that has demonstrated its capability to give a punishing response to Israeli aggression while avoiding a wider war.

What is Israel's endgame? Some analysts argue that Israel would like to see all Gazans pushed into Egypt via the Rafah crossing so that its

cherished goal of a Greater Israel can be fulfilled. Others opine that Israel will continue its war until Hamas has been destroyed — for that it enjoys complete American support. Nikki Haley, former governor of South Carolina, was seen recently writing 'Finish them' on an artillery shell in Israel.

Clearly, the key to ending the war in Gaza is in the hands of the US. However, the Israel lobby in the US is so strong that the government is unable to stop Tel Aviv from what it is doing to innocent civilians. John Mearsh-heimer of the University of Chicago and Stephen Walt of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government wrote a book in 2007 titled 'The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy' that describes how this lobby nudges US foreign policy in a pro-Israel direction, which in their view is not in America's national interest and not even in Israel's long-term interest.

Meanwhile, Benjamin Netanyahu is becoming increasingly unpopular in his own country as well. In a poll conducted by the Israel Democracy Institute recently, only 15 per cent of respondents wanted Netanyahu to continue in office after the war in Gaza ends. There is also the financial stress that this war is inflicting on Israel's economy. International opinion is fast developing against Israel.

Netanyahu and his cohorts will soon discover that Israel cannot buy peace for itself by making others insecure. He would be well-advised to remember what Albert Einstein said: "Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding." -- Courtesy Dawn

Paper cuts

Muna Khan

I am not alone in worrying about the future of journalism. I learned this in my conversations (in person and online) with journalism instructors in the US, Canada and Armenia. Then there are the many conversations I have with my friend, ZB, a journalist and media instructor in Karachi: how do we get young people to read the paper or how can the mainstream media reduce the trust deficit with its audience? What will happen to journalism as the government doubles down on its efforts to tighten a muzzle on us? Instructors and practitioners in the US, for example, have plenty of reason to worry because it's been a terrible year with layoffs at Los Angeles Times, Vice, Deadspin, to name a few. Northwestern University, my alma mater, estimates that by year's end, the country may lose one-third of all its newspapers and two-thirds of all its newspaper staff since 2005. They say this will increase news deserts across the US.

Where will people turn to for news then? Many news outlets in the US were bought by Big Billionaire Businesses which seem to employ a similar strategy: buy distressed newspapers for cheap, lay off staff and then earn profit from papers' advertising revenues.

In its reporting in 2020, Vanity Fair referred to one New York-based hedge fund — which owned among many papers the LA Times until it was bought by biotech billionaire doctor Patrick Soon-Shiong in 2018 — as a "vampire that bleeds newspapers dry".

It wasn't always like this, but at least in the US, newspapers were owned by a small group of families because they were good in-

vestments. The decline began with the disruption caused by the internet and then the 2009 recession. Some papers struggled more because they invested in print rather than digital. "When the time came to ask people to pay for content," one editor told Vanity Fair, "it came at the same time when the content had been diminished. That kind of set the table."

This is true for media in Pakistan where I only know of Profit magazine that has a paywall and subscribers, allowing them to practice independent journalism. Big Billionaires who invested in failing newspapers did so because they were "looking for profit maximisation over the next few years" as the editor said. When the quest is for profit, reporting will fall by the wayside. Today, 'journalist' has been replaced with 'content manager'.

Big Billionaires don't put money back into the paper and if they do, it is often at the cost of local journalism. The world's third richest man, Jeff Bezos owns the Washington Post, which he bought for \$250m in 2013, made it profitable but then a decade later laid off 240 staff members. The New York Times bought the Boston Globe for a whopping \$1.1bn in 1993 but sold it for \$70 million in 2013 to John Henry, a billionaire who owns a baseball team. He claims the paper has been profitable since 2018, but this is disputed by media insiders who say "the billionaires who wanted to save the news industry are losing a fortune".

The idea that benevolent billionaires will save journalism is flawed. Also, rich men buying media don't adhere to newspapers' principle: holding the powerful to account.

Who then is left to

be the country's — and communities' — watchdog? Vloggers whose motivation is solely to earn money off the audiences they lure in with their 'journalism'? The disinformation machinery in Pakistan is truly mind-boggling and I'm curious to see whether the new defamation law will help calm the storms created by some of these vloggers.

The problem is the media industry hasn't figured out a way to create a business model that is not dependent on the market — advertising, subscriptions, etc. (There are exceptions like The New York Times and Wall Street Journal.)

We face new challenges in how to get quality journalism out to audiences. This requires new thinking: whether it is treating journalism as a public good, non-profit journalism, journalist owned co-operative models. This means rethinking journalism as something that just can't be monetised. This is why we should support calls for a robust public media system that receives funding but is independent and produces quality journalism for the sake of public good. So far, we've seen governments in power use PTV, for example, as a loudspeaker to advertise their policies and quash dissent. This is not the model Pakistanis deserve. It may seem rich (pardon the pun) of me to demand a poor government create a fund for public media even though it has the funds for lavish renovation projects. But until then, I hope you will be wary of billionaires buying media everywhere. What is their motive? Surely, it is not our well-being and right to information in a fair manner.

-- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt to improve fumigation system, digitalize pesticide registration: Rana Tanvir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain said here on Sunday that the government would formulate a comprehensive strategy to improve the fumigation system.

The strategy included enhancing the number of fumigation companies and digitalizing the registration system of pesticides to

streamline the processes, the minister said during a meeting with Plant Protection Department (PPD). The minister underlined the role of Plant Protection Department in the development of agriculture sector adding that efforts would be made to further improve its performance and bring it up to high standards and ensure its operations meet

top quality benchmarks, according to press release issued by the ministry.

The minister said that PPD would be developed on modern lines to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness and all resources would be utilized to address staff shortages within the department. "We have a strong commitment to promote merit and transparency



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan talking to media persons during his visit to Property Exhibition at Expo Centre Lahore.



FAISALABAD: Owners proudly display their pets during the competition 26th International camel and Goat contests of beautification, weigh and milk, contest is jointly arranged by the Faculty of Animal Husbandry (FAH), UAF and International Goat and Bull Association at UAF Stadium.

Over Rs 16 billion disbursed among 15,00,000 beneficiaries under Benazir Kafaalat scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed over Rs. 16 billion among over 15,00,000 beneficiaries from across the country so far under the Benazir Kafaalat quarterly payments (April-June).

"Till May 30, over Rs. 16 billion has been disbursed among over 15,00,000 beneficiaries which make 46 per cent of the total beneficiaries",

said an official source.

The disbursement of the quarterly tranche (April-June) of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance to the beneficiaries is continued across the country in two phases to disburse Rs. 10,500 per household among over nine million registered beneficiary families. In the first phase, the payments are being issued among the beneficiaries in all districts of Islamabad, Balochistan,

Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

The payments are also being disbursed in Peshawar, Mardan and all districts of Malakand and Hazara Division in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, all districts of Karachi Division and District Hyderabad in Sindh province and Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Rawalpindi and all districts of Sargodha Division and District Vehari in Punjab.

RCCI-ICCI join hands to resolve business community issues

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Islamabad Chambers of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) of the twin cities have reiterated their firm resolve collective efforts to solve the issues of the business community.

Both the chambers also agreed to organize joint events to promote industrial and commercial activities for the benefit of the region.

A joint working group comprising members from both sides will be established to further enhance collaboration and

Pakistan's 49.6mln tonnes solid waste potential source of energy, recycling for circular economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's annually generated 49.6 million metric tonnes of solid waste is a potential source of waste-to-energy, resource recovery and recycling to promote the circular economy, simultaneously addressing waste management and livelihood creation.

This was the crux of the consultative workshop on Integrated 'Solid Waste Management in Pakistan' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the

Ministry of Climate Change's Living Indus Initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Secretary, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Muhammad Farooq in his opening remarks said waste management was a complex issue that demanded multisectoral and stakeholder interventions to promote workable and bankable projects that not only manage the trash but also generate a separate economy providing

livelihoods and green entrepreneurship among the communities.

He said, "Pakistan is producing 5 billion plastic bags every year that end up in water bodies, channels, drains and rivers across the country. The federal government has banned the one-time use of polythene and plastic bags". The Living Indus Initiative is the project of the government of Pakistan to restore and purge the largest river of the country from plastic pollution, contamination, degradation and habitat loss, he added.

Real estate – Paying price of an economic gimmickry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Billions of rupees black money was thrown to the real estate basket when former Premier Imran Khan announced incentives for tax evaders, paving way for whitening their black money and resultantly creating an artificial boom in this sector.

Seeing the market dynamics hundreds of thousands common people with moderate income also stepped in having a desire to buy some property for their kids and future needs. But, they were mistaken as the bulk

investors sold out their properties to individual buyers and made their way leaving them in turmoil.

If some invested their retirement dues, the others invested their savings or the provident fund money — they were accumulating penny after penny over the decades with an innocent desire of getting their children married after earning some profit by selling their plots.

But, swayed by desire to have an abode, they fell prey to real estate tycoons least knowing about their exploitive tendencies and

plans to suck their hard earned money.

Some developers and builders described the PTI era boom in real estate as a bubble that when burst, washed away the belonging of hundreds of thousands small investors leaving them in dire desperation.

"This policy of the previous government was a severe blow to real estate sector as the tax evaders escaped by whitening their money and faulty policies supplemented by economic recession struck billions of rupees of common people," said a builder Falak Khan.

"The previous government ruined real estate sector. The artificial bubble has burst leaving hundreds of thousands investors in lurch."

He opined that a gradual development in this sector could have ensured sustainability. "But, abruptly forging ahead has trapped local investors as well as overseas Pakistanis. Therefore, the government should seriously look into this crisis and bail out small investors."

Seeing the series of events, one can easily understand how the poor

Pakistan is committed to extend cultural ties with Sri Lanka: Saleem

Independent Report
LAHORE: Sri Lankan delegation led by Vidura Wickramanayaka, Minister of Buddhadasa Religious and Cultural Affairs called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest, ways to enhance cooperation in economic, tourism and other sectors between the two countries were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Saleem Haider Khan said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka have cordial relations. He underscored the need to enhance existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The Punjab Governor said that Pakistan is committed to

extend cultural ties with Sri Lanka. Governor Punjab said Government of Pakistan has preserved the ancient Buddhist relics in the historical places Taxila, Takht Bahi and Swat Valley. He said that the Buddhist monuments in Pakistan provides opportunities to increase religious tourism between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Governor Punjab said that there is a need to explore new avenues of cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the economic and tourism sector and ensure sustainable development in the region. He said that we invite Sri Lanka to explore the possibilities of joint ventures in tourism and hospitality sectors and to

invest in the tourism sector. Governor Punjab added that Pakistan is committed to promoting peace and cooperation in South Asia.

The head of the delegation said that he is taking away pleasant memories from here. He praised the hospitality of Pakistanis and especially the liveliness of the people of Lahore.

Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan was met a delegation of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association led by All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association President Kashif Adeb Jadhani and Malik Riasat at Governor House Lahore.



LAHORE: Sri Lankan delegation led by Vidura Wickramanayaka, Minister of Buddhadasa Religious and Cultural Affairs in a group photo with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Minister says: PML-N to bring vibrant local government system

SIALKOT (APP): Provincial Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique has said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) wants to bring a strong and vibrant local government system in the province.

He expressed these views during an open court in his constituency PP-51 camp office Daska City.

"As soon as the government was formed in Punjab, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif established a committee consisting of provincial ministers, assembly members and senior

officers to remodel the local government system, which has completed 80 percent of its work," he added. The minister said that the local government department was collecting basic information in digital format for solid waste management at the rural union council level and tehsil level in all the districts of the province and after the final approval from the Chief Minister, sanitation in rural areas would be outsourced under which manual, mechanical sweeping, waste collection, drain cleaning and waste disposal would be ensured.

Use of plastic products banned from June 5

FAISALABAD (APP): The Environment Protection Agency has announced that there will be a complete ban on the use of plastic products from June 5.

According to the district administration spokesperson here on Sunday, plastic bags with thickness less than 75 microns and size less than 12x16 inches and earbuds with plastic sticks will be banned.

The plastic sticks with balloons, plastic flags, and plastic candy sticks, plastic ice cream sticks will also be banned.

The polystyrene disposable cups, glasses.

Police conducts crackdown in RYK

RAHIM YAR KHAN (APP): Rahim Yar Khan police on Sunday launched a full-fledged crackdown against criminals.

According to police sources, during the police crackdown across the district, 869 accused, including 434 advertised criminals were arrested, a large quantity of drugs and illegal weapons were recovered, and cases were registered.

Advisor Tourism visits Peshawar Museum Living nations learn from history by preserving it: Zahid Chanzeb

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture and Archeology Zahid Chanzeb along with the officials of the Tourism and Archeology Department made a detailed visit to Peshawar Museum and witnessed its various parts.

He expressed his satisfaction that the museum has preserved rare artefacts and statues including the Gandhara civilization belonging to this region, many of which traced back to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD.

The advisor said that living nations always preserve their history and learn from it in the same way, and such nations, by

dint of their continuous efforts, get out of the swamp of backwardness and reach the pinnacle of development with great speed, he added.

On this occasion, Director Archeology Dr Abdul Samad showed him the dance floor of the Victoria Dancing Club which was later converted into the museum, having been built in 1907 with full splendour in the memory of Queen Victoria in a short period of one year.

Later, an Englishman, Bob Wrightson, leased it and turned it into a dancing studio and entertainment club.

However, it was converted into a museum in 1974.



HYDERABAD: Jamath-e-Islami (JI) District Chief, Aqeel Ahmed Khan along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Hyderabad press club.

KP govt urged to fund Hindko Academy

PESHAWAR (APP): Gandhara Hindko Board, a literary and cultural organization, on Sunday urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to provide funds to Gandhara Hindko Academy and set up a Saraiki Academy as well in the province to promote Saraiki language and culture.

Muhammad Ziauddin, General Secretary of the Board, made the appeal after a meeting of the board members, said a press release. Ziauddin, a research scholar and author of

several books, said that as per official statistics, Hindko was the second main language of KP and the sixth widely spoken regional language of the country.

"This language remained deprived of official patronage for a long time subsequent to Independence. After 68 years of wait, the KP government set up Gandhara Hindko Academy in 2015 under the public-private partnership."



HYDERABAD: Mehwish Ajaz Additional Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad giving cold water (Sharbat) to people during hot wather.

Four-day PCR training for S.Asian medical entomologists concludes

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Under the auspices of the Directorate of Malaria Control, National Health Services and with financial support from the Malaria Consortium South Asia and the Asian Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN), a four-day PCR training session for South Asian medical entomologists was successfully concluded at Arid University, Rawalpindi, said an official

handout issued here Sunday. The training session saw participation from medical entomologists from all four provinces of Pakistan, as well as officials from Afghanistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh. During the training, the participants were extensively taught and observed molecular identification techniques, which will facilitate the diagnosis of Vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue.

DC inaugurates modern EPI training hall

FAISALABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayar Sheikh on Sunday formally inaugurated a new modern EPI (Expanded Immunization Program) training hall at the office of the District Health Authority.

The EPI training hall is one of nine developed in different districts of the Punjab province with the support of the International Health Organization (WHO).

CEO Health Dr Asfand Yar, WHO divisional officer Dr Mudassar Saleem, and other officers were present on the occasion.

The EPI halls have already been made ready in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Sahiwal, Dera Ghazi Khan and Rahim Yar Khan Districts.

Earlier, CEO health Dr Asfand Yar gave a presentation about EPI program in detail.

All set to launch campaign against plastic use: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that the Punjab government is taking important steps in the perspective of "No to Plastic Campaign".

In a statement, she said that on the special directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a campaign has been launched to protect the masses from deadly diseases being caused by plastic usage. She said that from 5th June,

preparations have been made to ensure strict implementation of the mechanism to ban the manufacture, production, distribution and sale of illegal plastic bags. "Plastic usage causes cancer and other deadly diseases and sole usage of plastic is increasing environmental pollution and causing serious health issues. A crackdown will be launched against factories which are manufacturing illegal plastic products," she added.

International News

Zelensky accuses China of pressuring other countries not to attend upcoming Ukraine peace talks

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused China on Sunday of helping Russia to disrupt an upcoming Swiss-organized peace conference on the war in Ukraine.

Speaking at Asia's premier security conference, Zelensky said that China is pressuring other countries and their leaders not to attend the upcoming talks. He did not say which ones.

"Russia, using Chinese influence in the region, using Chinese diplomats also, does everything to disrupt the peace summit," he said at a news conference at the Shangri-La defense forum. "Regrettably this is unfortunate that such a big independent powerful country as China is an instrument in the hands of (Russian leader Vladimir) Putin."

China has staked out what it says is a neutral

position on the war, putting it at odds with Ukraine, the United States and most of Europe. Its trade with Russia has grown, easing the economic impact of Western sanctions. And American, Ukrainian and other intelligence agencies say there is evidence that Chinese parts are winding up in Russian weaponry, even if China is not directly arming its neighbor.

The Swiss had been hoping China would attend the peace conference in mid-June, but Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning signaled on Friday that that was unlikely. China has been calling for a peace conference with equal participation of all sides, including Russia, which has not been invited.

"There is still a clear gap between the arrangements for the meeting and the demands of the Chinese side, as well as the general

expectations of the international community," Mao said. "This makes it difficult for China to participate in the meeting."

The foreign ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment on Zelensky's accusation.

The Ukrainian leader said of China's pressure on others, "That is not only support to Russia, that is basically support of war."

In a speech to the security conference earlier in the day, Zelensky urged top defense officials to attend the upcoming talks in Switzerland, saying he was disappointed at the failure of some countries to commit to joining.

Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun spoke before Zelensky at the Shangri-La conference but he did not appear to be in the room when Zelensky made his appeal.



Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and South Korean Defence Minister Shin Won-sik attend a trilateral meeting on sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

Israel hammers Rafah with tanks and artillery

Monitoring Desk
RAFAH: Israeli forces hammered Rafah in southern Gaza with tanks and artillery on Saturday, hours after US President Joe Biden said Israel was offering a new roadmap towards a full ceasefire.

Residents reported tank fire in the Tal al-West neighborhood in west Rafah, while witnesses in the east and centre of Rafah described intense shelling. "From the early hours of the night until this morning, the aerial and artillery

bombardment has not stopped for a single moment", a resident from west Rafah told AFP on condition of anonymity. "There are a number of occupation (Israeli) snipers in high-rise buildings overseeing all areas of Tal al-Sultan... making the situation very dangerous," the resident added.

Shortly after Biden's announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted his country would still pursue the war until it had reached all its aims.

Woman among 17 hopefuls registered to replace Raisi

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: US-sanctioned former Revolutionary Guards commander Vahid Haghanian was among candidates who registered on Saturday to run for election as Iran's president after Ebrahim Raisi died in a helicopter crash, state media reported.

Haghanian, a close aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told reporters after registering that his qualifications were based on "experience from serving 45 years in the presidency and the leader's

office". The US Treasury designated Haghanian in 2019 among nine individuals in Khamenei's inner circle responsible for "advancing... domestic and foreign oppression".

Iran says most US sanctions are prompted by baseless accusations. Former parliamentary speaker Ali Larijani, a prominent conservative, was among candidates who registered on Friday, as was Abdolnaser Hemmati, a former central bank governor.

Sri Lanka monsoon floods kill 14, schools shut

Monitoring Desk
COLOMBO: Flash floods, mudslides and falling trees have killed at least 14 people in Sri Lanka as the island nation is battered by monsoon storms, the country's disaster centre said on Sunday. Some drowned, including three members of the same family swept away near the capital Colombo on Sunday. Others were buried alive in mudslides, including an 11-year-old girl and a 20-year-old man, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said.

Activist arrested for attacking Monet painting in Paris

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: A climate activist was arrested on Saturday for sticking an adhesive poster on a Monet painting at the Musee d'Orsay in Paris to draw attention to global warming, a police source said. The action by the woman, a member of "Riposte Alimentaire" (Food Response) — a group of environmental activists and defenders of sustainable food production — is the latest in a string of protests aimed at drawing attention to global warming by defacing art.

US, South Korea and Japan agree to hold joint military exercises

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The United States, Japan and South Korea agreed to hold new trilateral joint exercises this summer, a joint statement issued by US Department of Defense said on Sunday, after a meeting of the three allies' defense ministers.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Japan's Defense Minister Minoru Kihara and South Korea's Defense Minister Shin Won-sik met on Sunday in Singapore on the sidelines of the annual Shangri-La Dialogue security summit there.

The three "committed to continue to

strengthen trilateral cooperation to ensure peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, the Indo-Pacific, and beyond," according to the statement.

The three also agreed to establish a Trilateral Security Cooperation Framework this year in an effort to institutionalize their three-way defense cooperation.

The top defense officials of the three countries criticized North Korea's recent launches of ballistic missiles and a military spy satellite using ballistic missile technology as a violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Energy shutdowns hit Ukraine after Russian attacks target infrastructure

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine imposed emergency power shutdowns in most of the country on Sunday, a day after Russia unleashed large-scale attacks on energy infrastructure and claimed it made gains in the eastern Donetsk province.

The shutdowns were in place in all but three regions of Ukraine following Saturday's drone and missile attack on energy targets that injured at least 19 people. Ukraine's state-owned power grid operator Ukrenergo said the shutdowns affected both industrial and household consumers. Sustained Russian attacks on Ukraine's power grid in recent weeks have forced the government to institute nationwide rolling blackouts. Without adequate air defenses to counter assaults and allow for repairs, though, the shortages could still

worsen as need spikes in late summer and the bitter-cold winter. Among the most significant recent strikes were an April barrage that damaged Kyiv's largest thermal power plant and a massive attack on May 8 that targeted power generation and transmission facilities in several regions.

Following Saturday's barrage, Ukraine's air force said Sunday that air defenses had shot down all 25 drones launched overnight. Russia claimed Sunday that it had taken control of the village of Uman'ske in the partially Russian-occupied Donetsk region. Russia's coordinated new offensive has centered on Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, but seems to include testing Ukrainian defenses in Donetsk farther south, while also launching incursions in the northern Sumy and Chernihiv regions.

Karachi echoed with demands to end genocide in Gaza as JI takes out million march

Each and every children of Pakistan support Palestinian resistance against Israel in Gaza but political parties maintain silence, why? asks Naem

Independent Report
KARACHI: Millions of Karachiites marched at Shahrah-e-Faisal, demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza carried out by the Zionist regime of Israel.

People, belonging to all walks of life without any discrimination of cast, creed and colour expressed solidarity with the people of Gaza, here on Sunday. The protesters, carrying placards and banners, chanted slogans against Israel and her supporters.

The million march was taken out in a backdrop when the Zionist regime of Israel has already martyred over 40,000 innocent Palestinians, including women

and children, whereas Israel has been on a killing spree against helpless people in Gaza camps despite the fact that the International Court of Justice has issued a verdict against it.

JI Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naemur Rehman delivered the keynote address at the million march.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that people and particularly the youth across the world have decided to side with Gaza and even in several Western countries, the youth have been resisting their own states.

He said that the US and west sponsored state

terrorism by Israel have exposed all of them and their dual standards.

He said that the spineless Muslim rulers have provided the courage to Israel for the genocide in Gaza. Despite heavy military might, the Muslim block had failed to deliver a single strong message to Israel, otherwise the Zionist regime would not show the courage to kill innocent children with impunity.

He praised the unity of people in Gaza and said that even children in Gaza have associated themselves with the Quran.

It's an irony that the international terrorist United States has declared

the resistance forces in Palestine as terrorist, he said, adding that the history of the US is evident the she has never been loyal to any state. He quoted Quaid e Azam as saying that Israel was an illicit child of the west. He also recalled that the All India Muslim League had not only passed a resolution for Pakistan but also for Palestine and they repeatedly did so.

He shed light in detail on the role of Pakistan in the Muslim World in the past and recalled that Islamabad's military might and position were used for Muslims in the middle east, in Bosnia and other parts of the world.



KARACHI: Supporters of the religious and political party Jamaat-e-Islami attend a demonstration against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in the Provincial Capital.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Sheikh photographed with Consul General Jamal Sango and other at annual traditional Turkish breakfast at Turkish Consulate.

Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan says: CASA-1000 to be completed by end of this year 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Ulanbek Totuaev, has said that CASA-1000 would be completed by the end of this year, 2024, which would also meet Pakistan's energy needs and also cause regional integration.

"The transmission capacity of the CASA-1000 energy project will be 1300 megawatts, which will be an energy link between Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan to provide clean energy not only to regional countries but also to prove the need of Pakistan's industrial sec-

tor," Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Ulanbek Totuaev, told APP here.

The Ambassador hoped that the CASA-1000 projects would be completed in due time and also to meet Pakistan's energy needs and enhance bilateral cooperation in the energy sector. He said, "Massive infrastructural projects will be beneficial for all of its stakeholders by fulfilling energy needs and strengthening regional connectivity."

Kyrgyz envoy said, "Nowadays, the governments of participating

states are actively working on the completion of the project."

Replying to question about the future of the Quadrilateral Traffic and Transit Agreement (ATTA) among Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, he hoped that in the near future the potential of the QTTA would be fully utilized.

The ambassador of Kyrgyzstan said, "The mutual trade potential between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan is up to \$1 billion, which both countries are moving forward in harmony to achieve."

Ministry deploys 300 buses for 24/7 travel of Pakistani pilgrims to Haram Sharif

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has launched a comprehensive 24/7 transportation plan for pilgrims, involving 300 luxury buses to transport them directly from their residences to the Haram Sharif in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. The bus service is available round-the-clock in order to provide Hajj pilgrims with the flexibility to travel at their convenience.

The all time available, bus service aims at alleviating inconvenience of the pilgrims allowing them to focus on their worship and spiritual journey.

Bus stops have been constructed at four entry points surrounding the

Haram to ensure efficient and organized transportation. Ensuring a smooth flow of traffic and minimizing congestion in the area, these designated stops serve as pick-up and drop-off locations for pilgrims.

The government has assigned guides to assist pilgrims throughout their journey to further enhance the travel experience.

These guides help pilgrims travel through their designated routes, ensuring that they reach their destination without any difficulties. To address any concerns or queries the pilgrims may have, the guides also provide valuable information and support to them.



MULTAN: Senior politician Javed Hashmi meeting with Chief of JUI Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

PCCI's Asif Tareen appreciates performance of DG Industries despite limited resources

Independent Report
QUETTA: The spokesman of Pishin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Executive Member of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Muhammad Asif Tareen has appreciated the performance of Director General Industries Anis Tariq Gorgej.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Asif Tareen said that the Industries department is being put on modern lines just because of the vision of the DG Industries, whose performance is appreciable despite limited resources.

He said that DG Industries has activated the department with better strategy and performance.

He announced to fully support the DG Industries on the basis of merit.

In his statement issued after meeting with sugar dealers, the spokesman of PCCI said that performance of any institution especially it's success and failure depends on performance and strategy of one's leader.

He also said that the credit of improving the Industries department and activating it goes to the DG being it's leader.

He expressed the hope that the DG Industries would play his active role for resolving the issues being faced by the traders community and increasing the resources and improving economic circumstances by utilizing his capabilities.

Celebrations to mark Pak, Denmark 75yrs of diplomatic relations begin

COPENHAGEN (APP): Thousands of Pakistanis turned up on Saturday (June 1) at Copenhagen Mela to kickstart 75 years of celebrations of Pakistan and Denmark diplomatic relations.

Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Sophie H Andersen, Denmark's Ambassador in Pakistan Jakob Linulf, Pakistan's Ambassador in Denmark Shoaib Sarwar and Former Member of Danish Parliament Sikandar Siddique cut a cake on the occasion, a statement issued by Pakistan Embassy in Denmark on Sunday.

Pakistan and Denmark established their diplomatic relations in 1949 and there are more than 40,000 Pakistanis living in Denmark which are an important link between the two countries.

PTI founder's social media post deemed 'Digital Terrorism'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The spokesperson for legal affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik on Sunday described a contentious social media post made by PTI founder Imran Khan as "digital terrorism" under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (PICA) Act.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has initiated an investigation into the matter, emphasizing that it will be dealt with according to the law. "A person of such stature, who remains a former prime minister, endorsing such content and facilitating its dissemination through various media, including social media, is a farce in terms of digital terrorism," he remarked.

Such statements were made to serve condemned political motives and to spread anarchy, adding, "No one will be allowed to sabotage the peace." He highlighted the evolving nature of terrorism.

Ashrafi advocates for issuance of structured Fatwa to curb extremism, citing Saudi, Egyptian models

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC), Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmoed Ashrafi has emphasized the urgent need for fostering dialogue across various societal factions.

Speaking at a recent national seminar on 'Countering Violent Extremism', organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here, he highlighted the ongoing challenges of violent extremism in Pakistan and said that this call for dialogue would reduce misunderstandings and create an environment of mutual respect among different groups, promoting a

more harmonious and resilient community.

Ashrafi further highlighted the importance of implementing Paigham-e-Pakistan, a comprehensive doctrine designed to bridge gaps between different schools of thought and unify religious scholars and leaders in a joint effort to combat extremism across the nation. "This collaborative strategy is seen as vital for ensuring long-term peace and stability not only in the country but also in the region," he added.

Addressing the misuse of religious decrees, Ashrafi called for the establishment of a mechanism for issuing

Fatwas on matters of public importance.

Citing the examples of Saudi Arabia and Egypt, he emphasized the need for a government-level oversight to ensure that religious decrees are issued responsibly and effectively.

He said Dar-ul-Ifta Saudi Arabia and Dar-ul-Ifta Egypt were renowned for their systematic approach to issuing Fatwas as these institutions employ qualified scholars who deliberate on religious matters in a methodical manner, providing well-considered and balanced religious opinions.



LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashood Ahmed addressing a Press conference.

Mashood stresses govt's commitment to empower youths

LAHORE (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP), Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, has emphasized initiatives for youth empowerment, highlighting the significance of upcoming budget allocations in fostering public hopes.

Addressing a ceremony at Aiwan-e-Iqbal here on Sunday, Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan expressed his vision to propel Pakistan's IT industry to a \$25 billion market. He highlighted the current IT industry's value at \$2.5 billion and, following Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision, aims to increase it tenfold. The address also touched upon the importance of providing ample opportunities for the youth in the IT sector and recognizing sports as an industry to foster growth and develop-

ment. He underscored the need for providing ample opportunities for youth advancement in the IT sector. He hailed Arif Karim as a beacon of progress in the IT field, projecting his vision to guide Pakistan's youth towards IT sector prosperity. He shared his experience in Bangladesh, where institutions and tournaments are named after Arif Karim, showcasing her lasting impact.

Rana Mashood also discussed the challenges posed by IMF conditions but reassured that the government's focus remains on securing a better future for the youth. He mentioned the establishment of 250 e-employment centers across the country under the Prime Minister's Youth Program and the completion of IT complexes in Islamabad, with plans underway in Karachi.

Governor KP stresses role of all parties in development of country

LAHORE (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that all the political parties should play their role in the stability of the country's economy by showing consensus and unity for the sake of development of the country.

He said this during his visit to the residence of Pakistan Peoples Party senior leader Haji Azizur Rehman Chan Lahore.

Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan was also present on the occasion. They met with the political and social leaders and also discussed the overall situation of the country.

Addressing the press conference at the residence of Azizur Rehman Chan, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the country is currently going through a difficult situation and we urged all political

parties to play role in getting the country out of crisis. He said that there are 34 universities in the province, in which more than 25 universities do not have vice chancellors.

He said that the problems of the province can be removed with the cooperation of the federation.

The Governor said that the Peoples Party has worked in the health and education sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the credit of the 18th and 19th amendments goes to the Peoples Party, which gave powers to the provinces.

The founder of PTI back is an unqualified person who has given his social media account to a person who is also unqualified.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Communication & Works Lal Jan Jaffar presiding over meeting of Departmental Sub Committee

To enhance pilgrims experience Salik emphasises devotion, effective communication for Hajj welfare staff

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain has urged the Hajj welfare staff (Moavineen-e-Hujjaj) to perform their responsibilities with devotion as serving the pilgrims is a sacred duty.

He said this on the occasion of orientation sessions held by the Hajj mission for supporting staff in Makkah to make them aware of assisting pilgrims during the Hajj days.

Emphasizing the need for effective communication, the minister suggested that guides fluent in various Pakistani languages should be deployed to assist pilgrims visiting the Haram Sharif for Umrah or prayers. "This move would enhance the experience of pilgrims and help them navigate the area with comfort, given Pakistan's multicultural nature with language diversity," he added. He urged the supporting staff to ensure that the pilgrims should be provided with the best possible facilities and services during their stay for Hajj, showing compassion and empathy towards them in addition to their duties. The minister noted that properly marked and men-supported bus pick-up points could facilitate the transportation of pilgrims.

PML-N, PPP at odds over power-sharing formula in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) are at odds over the power-sharing formula in Punjab, sources said on Sunday.

Despite four meetings of the provincial coordination committees of both parties, no progress has been made.

The PPP alleges that PML-N is not showing seriousness regarding the power-sharing formula in Punjab, sources added.

Sources further said

that PPP is also concerned that its members in the Punjab Assembly are being ignored in the budget and have not received funds so far. Earlier sources revealed that PML-N is pressing PPP to join the coalition government in Centre.

Sources said that the PML-N has contacted directly and via mutual friends inviting the party to join the government.

The party has been invited to join the federal as well as Punjab government as an ally.



KARACHI: Supporters of PTI hold a protest in favor of their demands in front of Karachi Press Club.

Fly Jinnah flight makes emergency landing

KARACHI (INP): A flight of Fly Jinnah Airlines on Sunday made an emergency landing at Karachi airport after developing a technical fault.

According to media reports, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Islamabad-bound flight 670, carrying Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and 149 other passengers,

made an emergency landing at the Karachi airport, soon after taking off.

The flight was cancelled after the emergency landing, while the sources revealed that the same flight made emergency landings several times due to technical faults. The pilot wisely diverted the plane back to Karachi airport after spotting a technical fault in the flight near Nawabshah. The sources privy to the development said the flight passengers are safe and sound.

Govt releases Rs 33.16b for various power sector schemes so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has disbursed an amount of over Rs 33.16 billion for various power sector NTDC/PEPCO schemes under the annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) so far in the current fiscal year 2023-24.

According to the official data issued by the Planning Commission, the government had specified a sum of Rs 55.27 billion for various NTDC/PEPCO projects in PSDP 2023-24. Out of the total release amount, the local component stood at Rs 29.639 billion while the foreign aid component was Rs 25.638 billion. A sum of Rs 38.800 billion had been spent on various water-related projects so far.

Under ongoing schemes, an amount of Rs 12,000 million has been allocated for installation of

2x600 MW coal-fired power project GENCO-1 Jamshoro, Rs 2,536.471 million for interconnection of isolated Makran Network, Rs 1600 million each for 220kV Hairpur Substation, 220kV Swabi Substation, Rs 1200 million for 500kV Allama Iqbal Industrial City for 600 MW Demand of the Special Economic Zone, Rs 1,059 million for replacement of LT Bare conductor with ABC Cable in Peshawar Khyber Circle and Bannu Circle, Rs 1,439 million for 220/132 Kv GIS substation Dhabiji, Rs 964 million for electrification works at different valleys of District Chitral and Rs 900 million for 220 kV Quaid-e-Azam Apparell and Business Park in the PSDP for FY 2023-24.

Similarly, a sum of Rs 13,800 million has been specified for evacuation of power from Suki Kinari.