

Independent

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CM Sindh, other personalities attend annual breakfast at Turkish Consulate

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and other prominent personalities have attended a traditional annual breakfast hosted by Turkish Consul General here at Karachi Consulate on Sunday.

Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs Qaisar Ahmed Shaikh, Provincial Minister Makhdoom Mehboob uz Zaman, DIG Maqsood Hussain Memon, Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi, Chairman KPT, showbiz fraternity, navy and government officials, Halil Basaran representative TIKA, Murat Guzeller Vice Consul Turkish Consulate and fraction of civil society were among the attendees.

Talking to media here at Turkish Consulate, Syed Murad Ali Shah said Pakistan and Turkey have deep relationship with greater

understanding since the establishment of two countries.

He said that Turkish breakfast tradition is celebrated worldwide and we are doing the same in Karachi.

CG Turkiye Cemal Sangu, in his welcome address said that it was indeed a great pleasure and privilege to be your host. I cordially welcome all of you at your second home here.

Cemal Sangu added, this is a celebration of taste and tradition, a journey through the heart of Turkish hospitality, "today, we gather here to share not just a breakfast, but a tapestry of flavours, a testament to the warmth & generosity that binds and defines our two cultures and countries."

"The aroma of fresh herbs and spices, the vi-

brant hues of the olives and cheeses, the gentle hum of conversation, all weave together to create a symphony of welcome, a testimony of flavours, a testament to the enduring bond between Turkiye and Pakistan where even the sunrises are steeped in traditions".

Turkish Diplomat further added, as we savour and share these flavours together, let us share our love, a share to the enduring brotherhood between our two nations, a silent language understood only by two hearts beating as one.

Making his closing remarks Sangu said, "Dear guests let us enjoy the beauty of this moment, the love and sentiments we share, and the joy of being together, just like these delicious flavours, perfectly intertwined".



LAHORE: Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing a press conference in the provincial capital.

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 Sindh is a revolution and they will try to implement Sindh-style development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well.

Minister Mahar for devising mechanism for interest free-loans to agri students

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Agriculture Minister Muhammad Bux Mahar has said that the Research Wing of the Agriculture Department would devise a mechanism to provide interest-free loans to the students of Sindh Agricul-

ture University, Tandojam. He said that he would also talk to the Chief Minister regarding the grant so that the youth of Sindh could start their own agricultural business.

He stated this while presiding over a high-level meeting of the Agricultural Research Wing of the Department of Agriculture at the Sindh Secretariat, a committee said on Sunday.

The provincial minister said that the Research Wing should introduce new varieties of wheat, rice and sugarcane crops and give the varieties to the farmers of the province for free.

Mahar said that climate change had become a

major problem, the biggest impact of which is on agriculture, which needed more budget to work on capacity building and provide more training to agriculture officers. He directed DG Research Noor Muhammad Baloch to improve the pro-

duction and quality of mangoes, dates and cotton.

The DG Research, while briefing the meeting, said that the Research Wing had introduced 13 varieties of wheat by 2023 and 14 varieties of cotton by 2020, the yield of which was 85 to 80 maunds per acre, while 11 varieties of rice, sugarcane 11 varieties and 7 varieties of vegetables had been introduced. He further informed that the Agricultural Research Wing had trained more than 300 women in the Institute of Food and Science Technology to produce agricultural products so that women could earn by doing small business at home.

Bilawal congratulates newly elected body of Larkana press club

LARKANA (APP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatto Zardari has congratulated the newly elected body of Larkana Press Club (LPC) including President Ghulam Murtaza Kalhoro, General Secretary Naveed Lark and other office bearers along with members of the governing body.

He hoped that the elected officials will play their role in solving the problems of the journalist community.

He said Pakistan People's Party strongly believes in freedom of expression and independent journalism.

Fly Jinnah flight 'makes emergency landing' at Karachi airport

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.

Hyderabad cylinder blast toll rises to 10

HYDERABAD (INP): The death toll rises to 10 as another injured of the Hyderabad cylinder blast incident died during treatment in the burns ward of Karachi hospital on Sunday.

According to hospital administration 13 injured are under treatment in the hospital while seven are in critical condition.

It may be mentioned here that a heavy explosions occurred in a gas cylinder shop in Hyderabad on Thursday triggering subsequent blasts in other cylinders. The explosions caused fires in several nearby homes and injured more than 60 people including women and children. The injured were rushed to Civil Hospital Hyderabad, but due to inadequate facilities, 23 severely injured people including children were shifted to Civil Hospital Karachi. 10 of these patients have died, while 13 remain in critical condition in Karachi.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a group photo with Turkey's Consul General Jamal Sango on the eve of traditional Turk breakfast invitation.

Home Minister says Karachi Safe City Project aims to eliminate crime, ensure arrest of criminals

Announces the release of Rs 1 billion for the first phase of the project and emphasized the need for its swift completion within 12 months

Independent Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Home Minister, Ziaullah Hassan Lanjar, chaired a meeting at the DIG CTD office to discuss the first phase of the Karachi Safe City Project. The meeting was briefed by DG Safe City Project, Asif Aijaz Sheikh, on the project's progress and priorities.

The Home Minister announced the release of Rs 1 billion for the first phase of the project and emphasized the need for its swift completion within 12 months. He stated that the project aims to eliminate

crime and ensure the arrest of criminals, with plans to expand it to other cities in Sindh after Karachi.

The Home Minister also mentioned that the Sindh government has transferred Rs 3 billion to the project account to expedite its launch.

The DG Safe City Project informed the meeting that Pakistan's largest screen and data center will be established under this project, with 12000 cameras to be installed at selected locations in Karachi, and 2000 existing cameras to be upgraded.



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar presides over the meeting regarding Safe City Project.

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 Totuaiev, 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 sector," Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Ulanbek Totuaiev, 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 bi-



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

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.

The deputy prime minister reiterated Pakistan's full support for all initiatives aimed at ending the genocide in Gaza and for humanitarian relief to the Palestinian people.



US wants to support Pakistan for economic development: Blome

ISLAMABAD (INP) - American Ambassador Donald Blome has said it is high time for Pakistan to improve its economy, adding America wants opportunities to support Pakistan in its efforts for economic development.

Talking to journalists, Donald Blome said, "America is an important partner of Pakistan in terms of trade and investment. America is the biggest export market and investor for Pakistan."

Saudi envoy pledges royal Hajj invite for World Cup-winning Pak team

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al Maliki on Sunday announced that the Pakistan cricket team will be the royal guests on Hajj next year if they win the T20 World Cup.

In a special video message released, the Saudi ambassador extended his best wishes to the Pakistan cricket team for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup-2024.

"My message to my brothers of the Pakistan cricket team is that, God willing, you will win this tournament.

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).

Termining Gwadar as a very important and strategic 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.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada and PPP Senator Sherry Rehman cutting the cake on the 78th anniversary of Italy's Republic Day, along with Italian Ambassador Ms. Marilina Armellini at Federal Capital.

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.

"The PPP didn't respond to the government over the offer, neither the party held consultations over the issue," sources said.

Sources said that the PPP leadership has been under pressure to join the government. The party's parliamentarians from Sindh backing to join the government.

Minister Dharejo says: Sindh govt to promote use of electrical vehicles for reducing pollution



Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo and Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yousuf Farooqui, including infrastructure, workforce and market competitiveness. They explored ways to stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities and enhance the industry's contribution to the national economy.

Jam Ikramullah Dharejo emphasized the government's commitment to supporting industrial growth and development, highlighting initiatives to improve the business environment, facilitate investment and promote innovation.

hicles in Pakistan.

The provincial minister discussed various aspects of industrial development with Dewan Muhammad Yousuf Farooqui, including infrastructure, workforce and market competitiveness. They explored ways to stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities and enhance the industry's contribution to the national economy.

Jam Ikramullah Dharejo emphasized the government's commitment to supporting industrial growth and development, highlighting initiatives to improve the business environment, facilitate investment and promote innovation.

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-imer 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 fall 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

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 Naemur Rehman

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 protestors, 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 Rafah 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC), Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood 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 high-

lighted 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 Dar-ul-Ifta institutions in 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. He suggested that Pakistan could benefit from adopting a similar model, which would help mitigate the risks associated with arbitrary and unqualified Fatwas that can incite violence and extremism.

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.



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

Rana Mashhood stresses govt's commitment to empower youths

LAHORE (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, has emphasized initiatives for youth empowerment, highlighting the significance of upcoming budget allocations in fostering public hopes. Addressing a ceremony at Awan-e-Iqbal here on Sunday, Rana Mashhood Ahmad 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 development. 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 Arfa Karim, showcasing her lasting impact. Rana Mashhood 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. In response to questions, he assured that the upcoming budget would reveal extensive programs to promote sports nationwide.



LARKANA: Members of Sindh United Party (SUP) and Sindh Journalists Alliance are holding protest demonstration for demanding arrest the killers of Journalists Nasrullah Gadani, Jan Muhammad Mahar, Ajay Lahwani and immediate release of missing innocent girl Pirya Kumari at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Shaikhani for adopting international city-town planning methods to prevent urban flooding

HYDERABAD (APP): Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry has said that the Pakistan Meteorological Department forecasted higher-than-normal monsoon rains in southern Sindh from June to September this year. He said that this significant weather event was expected to impact most districts, including Hyderabad. Shaikhani highlighted that following the previous monsoon, four to five PC Is aimed at system improvements were approved and incorporated into the Hyderabad package. However, due to a lack of funds, no progress has been made on these initiatives, he said. He urgently called for the release of the necessary funds to commence work on these critical projects. Farooq Shaikhani pointed out the longstanding and severe issue of urban flooding in Hyderabad. The primary cause, he noted, is the connection of drainage water to the sewage system, which has not seen upgrades for years. Shaikhani stressed that open fields play a crucial role in flood protection and advocated for the adoption of international city-town planning methods to safeguard urban areas from floods. Utilizing valuable floodwater in agriculture could also bolster the country's economy. He urged the Government of Sindh, the Irrigation Department and other relevant institutions to complete the cleaning of lakes and barrages to protect region from another disaster. Despite the catastrophic floods of 2010 and 2022 in Pakistan, no effective strategy has been implemented by the concerned departments to prepare for the upcoming monsoon, he added. He pointed out that many gates of the Sukkur and Kotri barrages remained permanently closed due to silt and sand accumulation.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government had 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 gov-

ernment 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.

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 Raoof Hassan.

Over Rs 16 billion disbursed among 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.



SUKKUR: People are quenching their thirst by chilled juice to beat the heat of scorching sun during the hot weather of summer season, at a relief camp of heat stroke under the supervision of Deputy Mayor Sukkur Dr. Arshad Mughal arranged by District Municipal Corporation, in Sukkur.

Searing weather spell continues in country

KARACHI (INP): The heat wave has continued in most parts of the country as mercury soared to 46 Celsius in Layyah and Kot Addu in Punjab. The heatwave, however, subsided in Karachi and temperatures have dropped in the port city. Maximum temperature recorded 45 Celsius in Jacobabad, Dadu, Sibi, Turbat, Faisalabad, Multan, and D.G. Khan. Temperature goes as high as 44 Celsius in Lahore, Bahawalpur and Larkana, 43 Celsius in Rahim Yar Khan, Bannu and Sukkur. Moreover, maximum

temperature remained 33 Celsius in Karachi after the Met Office said that the heatwave conditions have subsided in the port city with partly cloudy weather. The Met Office has also forecast rainfall with thunderstorm in Lahore next week. The Met Office last Wednesday forecast that the heatwave conditions would persist in Karachi and other areas of Sindh till June 1st. The highest temperature was recorded in Jacobabad on last Tuesday where mercury touched the 52-Celsius mark.

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-Hajjia) 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 vari-

ous 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.

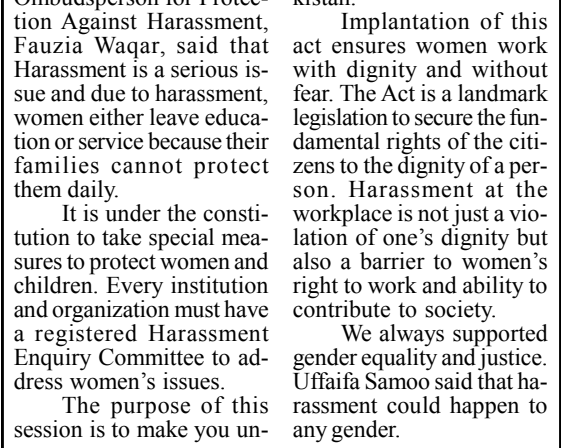


MULTAN: Senior politician Javed Hashmi meeting with Chief of JUI Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Fauzia Waqar says: Harassment of women serious issue, families cannot protect them daily

KARACHI (APP): Centre for Guidance, Career Planning and Placement of the Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) organized an awareness seminar on "The Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010". Addressing the awareness session, Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment, Fauzia Waqar, said that Harassment is a serious issue and due to harassment, women either leave education or service because their families cannot protect them daily. It is under the constitution to take special measures to protect women and children. Every institution and organization must have a registered Harassment Enquiry Committee to address women's issues. The purpose of this session is to make you un-

derstand that it is the State's commitment to protect women and to promote women's empowerment. Earlier Presenting a welcome note, Registrar SSUET, Cdre. (ret'd) Syed Sarfraz Ali said that the Act is a testament to our commitment to creating a safe and dignified working environment for women in Pakistan. Implantation of this act ensures women work with dignity and without fear. The Act is a landmark legislation to secure the fundamental rights of the citizens to the dignity of a person. Harassment at the workplace is not just a violation of one's dignity but also a barrier to women's right to work and ability to contribute to society. We always supported gender equality and justice. Uffaiifa Samoo said that harassment could happen to any gender.



HYDERABAD: Members of Sindh Journalists Alliance are holding protest demonstration against the killing of Journalists and demanding for justice at Hyderabad press club.

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. However, no loss of life or damage to property was reported from any part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so far.

Rangers arrest two robbery suspects in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Rangers have arrested two robbery suspects in an operation conducted in Saadi Town Karachi on Sunday. As per details, the Rangers' spokesperson said the suspects identified as Owais and Khalid, are allegedly involved in robbery and looting incidents in the area. The Rangers recovered a 9mm pistol, bullets, two mobile phones, and cash from the suspects. According to Rangers spokesperson, the suspects were looting citizens on Link Road, Malir, when they were apprehended by the Rangers.

Notorious robber injured, held with arms after encounter

LARKANA (INP): A notorious robber was injured and arrested with arms after exchange of fire with police here on Sunday. A gang of robbers fleeing after a dacoity came across patrolling police in Mahota area of Larkana and an encounter took place. In cross firing, robber Ikhtiar Gaddi wanted by police in more than 15 criminal cases was injured and held with weapons while his accomplices managed to escape.