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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti expressing views in Balochistan Assembly

CM Bugti authorizes opposition to hold talks with protestors on behalf of govt

Says government believes in dialogue to solve the issues; our doors are always open for those who agreed to set on table with us for any kind of talks in order to maintain peace in the province

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Monday has authorized members of the opposition in Balochistan Assembly to hold talks with Baloch Yakehti Committee on behalf of the government.

Addressing the assembly session, he said that the government believes in dialogue to solve the issues and asked

the opposition members to play their vital role in the current situation.

He offered that our doors are always open for those who agreed to set on table with us for any kind of talks in order to maintain peace in the province.

Sarfaraz Bugti said that the state would ensure all rights including right to assemble to the people on a

condition to accept the right to organized. Sarfaraz Bugti said the government had held negotiations multiple times to convince the BYC to organized gathering at Turbat instead of Gwadar.

He added that the BYC was decided to hold rally in Gwadar with clear intentions to sabotage the CPEC, development works and malign the country internationally.

The Chief Minister said foreign delegations are to visit Gwadar in August as the second phase of CPEC is to begin, the government was granted the permission to organized the gathering at GDA stadium.

Sarfaraz Bugti said the government cannot give the authority to run the government affairs in the hand of Jehtha and would not allow

anyone to chock the government machinery and stop the development process in the province. arfraz Bugti said that intelligence driven war is being run against the country and the province. He said that there is conspiracy against Pakistan, one group is using violence in Balochistan and another group is defaming the state institutions through social media.

PM welcomes Fitch upgrades Pakistan rating to CCC+ following IMF agreement

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hailed the upgrading of Pakistan's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating (IDR) from CCC to CCC+ by the Credit Rating Agency Fitch.

Appreciating the efforts of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and his team, the prime minister said the country and the nation had started receiving the fruits of the government's policy of sacrificing politics for the sake of state in the shape of improvement in the country's economy.

In a statement, he said upgrading of Pakistan's global rating to CCC+ was the international recognition of the government's right economic policies.

The prime minister emphasized that the gov-

ernment was working hard on the economic reforms agenda, the fruits of which would surely reach to the people soon.

The reports of Fitch and other international financial institutions are important for the economic improvement of Pakistan, PM Shehbaz said adding that "we will move forward with more effort and passion on the path of economic improvement of the country". He hoped that the new International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme would further improve the economic activities in the country.

The announcement of another one percent reduction in interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan was another sign of economic improvement, he added.

He said that recent cut in the interest rate would

further reduce inflation and increase the business activities.

Earlier, Fitch Ratings has upgraded Pakistan's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'CCC+' from 'CCC'.

In a statement released on Monday, the Fitch rating agency said "The upgrade reflects greater certainty over continued availability of external funding, in the context of Pakistan's staff-level agreement (SLA) with the IMF on a new 37-month USD7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF)".

It said that strong performance on the previous, more temporary IMF arrangement helped Pakistan narrow fiscal deficits and rebuild foreign exchange (FX) reserves, and further improvements are likely.

Pakistan committed to CW agenda of connectivity, climate resilience: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to working with the Commonwealth to promote its agenda of connectivity, education, youth and women empowerment, and climate resilience.

The deputy prime minister, addressing a joint press stakeout with Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland after their meeting, said that Pakistan was also resolved to support the initiatives aimed at strengthening and modernizing the Commonwealth to meet the 21st-century challenges, besides continuing to play an active role in building bridges among member states.

He appreciated the secretary-general, who is on a five-day maiden visit here, for serving the organisation with "dedication and grace" across her eight-year term and her role in promoting the Commonwealth's values and mission and modernizing the outlook.

The deputy prime minister lauded her contribution to promoting cooperation in education, youth empowerment, capacity building, and climate action, besides supporting Pakistan after floods, particularly regarding the appointment of a climate finance advisor for Pakistan.

Ishaq Dar urged the Commonwealth's role to resolve outstanding disputes among member states with greater urgency and press for implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds meeting with Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Soldier martyred, 16 injured as violent mob assaults security forces' personnel in Gwadar

RAWALPINDI (APP): A violent mob in the garb of so called Baloch Raji Muchi assaulted Security Forces' personnel employed for security duties in Gwadar district that resulted in the martyrdom of a soldier and left an officer and 16 others injured during unprovoked assaults.

The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Shabbir Baloch (Age: 30 years; resident of: District Sibi), who embraced shahadat, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

While on the other hand, fake and malicious

propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to gain sympathy and support for the unlawful violent march, it said. "Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations."

The violent actions of the mob are unacceptable and those responsible will be brought to justice," the ISPR said.

All citizens were urged not to fall prey to the propaganda, remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining public safety and order, it added.

"Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace and stability of Balochistan," the ISPR said.

Moreover, the ISPR said fake and malicious propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to gain sympathy and support for the unlawful violent march.

"Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations," it said.

Govt condemns life threats to CJP, adopt legal course against such tendencies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government on Monday strongly condemned life threats to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa by a certain group and announced initiating legal proceedings so that no one could dare to challenge the writ of the state.

"The law will take its course against the elements behind the provocative and baseless propaganda campaign against the CJP" said Defence Minister Khawaja Asif while addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal.

He regretted that an attempt was being made to spread bloodshed in the

name of religion for vested political interests.

He said that believing in the finality of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is part of our faith. He said that the Supreme Court has already clarified its position on the matter.

The minister pointed out that Qazi Faez Isa is being targeted for many years under various pretexts. He stated there is an ongoing effort to silence a principled and upright voice in the judiciary.

Emphasizing the need for the rule of law, Khawaja Asif stated that the dictation of any individual or group will not be accepted.



QUETTA: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Funeral prayer of martyred FC official held in Gwadar

By Special Correspondent
GWADAR: Funeral prayer was held for Frontier Corps (FC) official Sabir Baloch, who was martyred during protests in Gwadar. The prayer was attended by Balochistan's Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau, DC Gwadar Ahmedullah Larak, and other high-ranking civil and military officials.

The body of Sabir Baloch was sent to his native area for burial with state honors.

Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau praised the martyrdom and bravery of Sabir Baloch, saying that he was a true patriot who sacrificed his life for the country.

In a statement, Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau said that the government and people of Balochistan stand with the grieving family of Sabir Baloch in this difficult time. He condemned the terrorist attack that led to Baloch's martyrdom and said that the government will take all necessary measures to ensure justice is served.

Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau also condemned the actions of protesters who failed to respect the dignity and cooperation of the security forces during the protests.

"All protestors dispersed; normalcy returns in Gwadar": Ready for talks according to Constitution: Ziaullah

We can't let anyone to challenge writ of state and harm government properties under garb of protests
Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langau has categorically stated that we are ready for talks according to the constitution of Pakistan, however, can't put the national security at stake on anyone's blackmailing.

He also made it clear that we can't let anyone to challenge writ of the state

Govt, Ulema agree to curb religious intolerance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ulema, belonging to different schools of thought, and the government have agreed that nobody will be allowed to take law into hands in the name of religion.

Addressing a joint news conference, along with Ulema, in Rawalpindi today, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar strongly condemned the issuance of fatwas against Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. He said the Supreme Court, in its Urdu press release, has clarified that believing in the finality of Holy Prophet Hazrat

Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is part of every Muslim's faith.

The Minister said neither law nor society permits anyone to issue decrees against fellow Muslims' faith. He said a case has been registered against the culprits behind such fatwas, aimed at spreading hatred. He said strict action will be taken in this regard.

He said that the state would respond to the malicious campaign against the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and no one would be allowed to decree religious notions against anyone.

Justices Sardar Tariq, Mazhar Alam take oath as SC's ad hoc judges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Chief Justice of Pakistan on Monday administered the oath of offices to Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal as Ad-hoc Judges, Supreme Court of Pakistan.

A simple and dignified oath taking ceremony was held at Supreme Court of Pakistan in this regard. The judges of apex court, Attorney General for Pakistan, members of Pakistan Bar Council, Supreme Court Bar Association, senior lawyers, law officers and officers of Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan attended the ceremony.

Registrar Supreme Court of Pakistan conducted the proceedings of oath taking ceremony.

Lightning strike claims 8 lives

HYDERABAD (APP): As many as 8 people died as a result of lightning strike during rain in Tharparkar on Monday, while more than 60 cattle were killed in different areas.

According to details, six individuals lost their lives when lightning struck the village of Akrao in Nagarparkar during the rain. The deceased include 20 year old Ramesh Bheel, 17 year old Ranjit Bheel, 40 year old Bhamro Bheel, 14 year old girl Sagna Bheel, 16 year old Vikram Bheel and 17 year old girl Anita Bheel. Another person, named Tabo was injured and shifted to the civil hospital Mithi for treatment.

Indonesian envoy calls on Jaffar Mandokhail: Governor stresses need to expand relations between Pak & Indonesia in various sectors further

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that deep and pleasant relations are established between Pakistan and Indonesia and there is a need to expand these relations in different sectors further according to the changing circumstances and modern requirements.

There would be positive impacts on the bilateral trade and commerce relations between Pakistan and Indonesia with participation of the people associated with the trade and commerce in the International Business Expo due to



be held in October in Indonesia. The Governor Balochistan was speaking to the Indonesian ambassador to Pakistan, Rehmat Hiniarta Kasuma, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Monday.

During the course of meeting, different matters about bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia as well as the potential of investment in Balochistan and others were discussed.

One document passport regime to remain enforced at Pak-Afghan border, Brigadier Umar Hayat

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Brigadier Umar Hayat of Frontier Corps (FC) has categorically stated that the one document passport regime would remain enforced at the Pak-Afghan border.

He said that there has been no talk of the higher authorities with the dharna committee about the national identity cards or tazkara for across border movement.

Brigadier Umar Hayat was speaking to the media persons of Chaman at the FC Qila Chaman on Monday.

He said that the anti-passport dharna "parlat" had come to an end on resolving the issues of education and health besides increasing the staff of passport and Laghri package.

He made it clear that the passport regime is enforced at the Pak-Afghan border Chaman and there was no agreement on the identity cards or tazkara.

He also said that the state had not made any commitment about ending the passport policy.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Counsel General Zhao Shiren.

SBP cuts policy rate by 100bps to 19.5% as inflation cools down 'slightly'

SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed says inflation rate eased to 12.60%, while external account continues to improve

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday reduced the interest rate by 1% or 100 basis points (bps) from 20.5% to 19.5%, the second cut in a row, citing a slight cooling in the inflation rate — a move that is mostly in line with the general market consensus.

Addressing a press conference after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad said, "We have noted that the inflation is on a declining trend."

"The inflation rate has come down to 12.60% from 38% while the external account has continued to improve," the SBP governor said adding, "The reduction

in the interest rate reflects our confidence in the current economic trajectory."

Last month, the SBP's MPC trimmed its benchmark interest rate by 150 bps to 20.5%, following a record-high 22% that had been maintained for almost a year.

The finance czar further stated that "future projections expect the average inflation rate to stabilise between 23% and 25%, following last year's 23.4%".

The central bank in a statement said the announcement of monetary easing showed positive indicators for the national economy citing a slight drop in inflation, a build-up in SBP's foreign exchange (FX) reserves despite repayments of debt, and a staff-level agreement.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Constitutional limits

Throughout Pakistan's turbulent history, coup-makers and strongmen have looked to the courts to provide legitimacy to their extra-constitutional forays.

Whenever the courts have obliged, these actions have been justified by the 'doctrine of necessity', that odious principle used to legitimise, for example, Ghulam Mohammad's dissolution of the Constituent Assembly, and later the Iskander Mirza-Ayub Khan military coup.

Today, as extreme political polarisation threatens Pakistan's fragile democracy, and unelected forces tighten their grip, people are wondering whether this doctrine will again be resurrected. In this regard, the remarks made by Supreme Court Justice Athar Minallah at a recent event in the US regarding the judiciary's role in protecting the constitutional order bear repeating.

Justice Minallah urged the courts to remain vigilant where defending the Constitution was concerned. He added that mistakes in this regard had been made by the higher judiciary in the past and that if the SC failed to protect the basic law, then "judges are committing misconduct". These frank admissions and stark warnings should be heeded especially by state institutions. There can be no compromise when it comes to respecting the constitutional order, and their lordships have a duty to protect the document. It seemed that after the epic struggle between Gen Musharraf and justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, the 'doctrine of necessity' had been buried. Yet, as things have developed since, it is clear that this doctrine has multiple lives. What gives one hope is the fact that conversations about protecting the constitutional order are taking place, even in a suffocating atmosphere. Whether it is Justice Minallah's remarks, the Islamabad High Court judges' letter regarding interference by intelligence agencies in judicial affairs, or Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's comment about the need to create a 'firewall' around the judicial system, these hints from within the judiciary point to a will to resist unconstitutional moves.

As some observers have noted, an unambiguous institutional response is required; undemocratic forces cannot be allowed to exploit divisions within the judiciary. From their lordships in the SC to the magistrates and trial judges, the judiciary as an institution must pledge to uphold the constitutional framework, and refuse to entertain 'requests' from any quarter to subvert the democratic system.

As Justice Minallah suggested, those who fail to defend the Constitution must face the consequences of their actions. Pakistan's salvation lies in all institutions staying within their legal bounds, and letting civilian set-ups govern with freedom. Of course, there are still many pieces missing from this puzzle — a transparent electoral process, maturity and tolerance in political parties for each other, etc — but only if the democratic process is allowed to continue unhindered can the system correct itself.

Noble profession or not?

Gaitee Ara Siddiqi

It is always encouraging to see the huge pool of resourceful and talented young people that we have in our educational establishments. Having been associated with the field of education for over a decade and a half, this writer has gained immensely from the experience of teaching a large number of students from nearly all walks of life. One of the biggest advantages of this profession is that those who practise it remain young in mind and heart, simply because they are constantly in touch with the younger generations.

As mentioned, Pakistan boasts a huge reserve of young and talented people with immense potential; unfortunately, the country lacks the resources to allow them to exploit their potential to the fullest. As a result, young, bright and ambitious individuals who manage to secure employment abroad are leaving the country for greener pastures. A massive brain drain is in progress, with hordes of young people shifting abroad in search of better standards of living and a brighter future for their children.

What can educationists do to retain this vast reserve of human resources and help it realise its maximum potential? The first thing is to be honest with the profession, which is becoming increasingly challenging keeping in mind the rapidly changing environment of educational establishments and the increasing commercialisation of academia. However, there are still a large number of educationists that this writer has encountered during her professional journey

who are doing their best to do justice to their profession. That means inculcating a sense of responsibility in their students and nurturing and cultivating them, spotting their potential, and fostering an environment for them in which they can realise their hidden skills and abilities.

While it is widely acknowledged that teachers are overworked, underpaid and have minimal job security, there is still a huge contribution that they can make, even with their authority curtailed by institutions seeking to win over more 'clients'. By and large, it still remains an extremely respectable profession, especially for females, and most women prefer being associated with academia due to its relatively shorter working hours and other perks, such as concessions on school fees.

With a massive increase in population and millions of children out of school, education will remain in demand as the country equips its future generations with the skills and abilities they need to excel and carve out a niche for themselves in the world. With the vast reserves of the young people we have, bright and competent educationists who can use their skills and competencies to groom the generations of tomorrow are direly needed. For that, training needs to be provided and incentives given to encourage more highly educated individuals to join this profession.

Another depressing reality is that individuals from privileged backgrounds do not join this profession. Nearly all of us are here by accident, and very few out of choice. This is especially true for

men associated with this profession, who mostly belong to low-income backgrounds and are teaching because they were unable to pursue a profession in a more promising field. Most of them are making just enough spending their days teaching in schools, and their evenings in tuition centres. With the crippling stagflation, the majority is burning the midnight oil but remains unable to make ends meet. As essentials become more and more dear, the true ethos of education is being compromised, like everything else in this country.

Because teachers shape the future of a nation, the government should make a concerted effort to facilitate them by providing tax exemptions and subsidies on basic expenses. A nation which respects its teachers and aims to make their lives easier prospers, grows and develops. It encourages students to respect and value those who are devoting their lives to enable them to make something of theirs.

Let's continue to keep the flame burning. Those in the profession should keep fighting for their rights. We can do our bit by practising professional honesty to preserve the sanctity and respectability of this occupation, in the hope that it will have a spill-over effect and, in time, the government will start offering incentives to the unsung heroes and heroines of this country who may not be fighting on the borders, but are still waging important battles daily (sometimes at their own expense) to ensure a bright future for our coming generations. - Courtesy Dawn

Facing homelessness

Arif Hasan

As you drive along Mauripur Road towards Hawkes Bay, a concrete wall appears about two kilometres from the sea and runs along the road on your left-hand side. After it reaches Hawks Bay Drive, it turns left and continues for another kilometre or so. The area enclosed by the wall contains a number of small fishermen's villages. Roads are being laid within the area enclosed by the wall, and the nullah that flows through this area has been blocked; the space where the water fanned out from the nullah to the sea has been blocked as well. Much of the area has extensive mangrove forest.

The villages within this area and around it are Brahvi- or Balochi-speaking. They claim that they had been living here well before the British came. Many of their families own small boats in which they go into shallow waters to fish and then take their fish to the many piers along the bay to sell their catch. Others are boat-hands on larger ships that go out into the deep sea. They are paid on a daily basis, or a percentage of the catch.

The retail and wholesale trade in fish is big business for the villagers, but given the unequal relationship between the fishermen and the aartis, the villagers remain poor financially, and are burdened with a 'culture of poverty'. Most of the villages have no education or health facilities, and those that do, function erratically.

The villagers are terrified. The rumour is that the entire area is part of KDA scheme 42, because of which they will be evicted and their livelihoods will be

taken away from them. As a result, they will not only become homeless but also paupers. Rumours are that the area enclosed by the wall will contain multistoried condominiums, clubs and high-end eating places. They argue that if this is true, new people with different skills will replace them.

Again and again, they mention the fact that the agricultural villages have suffered, in the case of Gadap. The residents of Gadap villages have lost everything, including their community and their culture. Many of them have been killed while resisting eviction from their lands. They have become nomads. They claim that they have no one to turn to since these schemes have government, politicians and big money support.

Apart from the livelihood and community-related concerns of the fishing community, the environment of the area will be devastated. Mangrove marshes will disappear and with them the wildlife that WWF has been trying to protect. The noise and intensive human activity that will be generated will make it impossible for the green turtle to breed, and they too will disappear like the flamingos, pangolins, storks, and ducks at the China Creek and Sandspit backwaters.

The coast now consists of posh villas which are increasingly being used as hotels. Originally, the bye-laws permitted only a single-storey hut with a removable roof. This preserved the physical and social environment of the beach. Reverting to this would mean the demolition of tens of villas, which is not possible.

However, we can still try and salvage the situation and prepare special bye-laws and zoning regulations for KDA scheme 42 that stop it from becoming a concrete jungle and which protects the sanctity of the environment, especially of the flora and fauna, and all that is related to it.

It is important to note that in the Karachi master plan 2020, which was approved by the city council, special interest was taken to protect the sea fronts of the city. It was proposed that the flora and fauna of the area, fishing communities, lower- and lower-middle-income Karachiites who throng to the beaches and the persons who serve them, are the major stakeholders of any beach development. Under the KSDP 2020, no reclamation from the sea, mangrove marshes, or mud flats, which are fish and turtle nurseries, and the land they require for survival is permitted. Also, all beaches should be accessible to the fishing communities and the public. No development between the high water mark and 150 metres beyond it, on the seaward side of the coastal road, is permissible.

While the KSDP was being framed, a citizen's movement for the protection of the beaches was taking place. It has now fizzled out. People are tired for they cannot indefinitely fight the nexus of developers, politicians and bureaucrats. To save the Karachi coastline and its beautiful environment for the citizens of the city, strong institutional arrangements are required that can fight corruption, which has seeped into every aspect of our lives. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Syed Zahid Raza says Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots

Ambassador designate to Mauritius visits
Islamabad Chamber

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots and is characterized by mutual respect and cooperation.

By harnessing mutual cooperation, Pakistan and Africa can unlock new economic opportunities and foster sustainable development. This has been stated by Pakistan's Ambassador designate to Mauritius Syed Zahid Raza during his meeting with former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry here on Monday.

He said that deeper engagements with Africa remains a strategic imperative for Pakistan,

adding that forging a strong and effective partnership for peace, progress and prosperity is an indispensable goal, which should be advanced through a clear vision, consistent policy, and a long-term strategy.

The Ambassador, while appreciating the role of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in advancing trade relations with friendly countries all over the world said that he would do his level best to strengthen the business to business and people to people relations with Mauritius alongside the diplomatic ties.

He said to achieve the objective, he will do his best to organize business delegations' visits to Mauritius especially the ICCI members for

nurturing the bilateral business relations.

Zafar Bakhtawari apprised the visiting guest that the Chamber is already Africa focused and has recently celebrated Africa Day in a befitting manner for bringing Pakistan and the African countries closer to each other and that the Ambassador to Mauritius who is known as the best friend of Pakistan was also among the attendees.

He said that in the changed circumstances, Pakistan's envoys have to work with missionary zeal and devotion for the economic betterment of the country and bringing the countries closer to each other and strengthening business relations especially in the promotion of Pakistan exports and tourism potential.

SECP initiates consultation to revamp Mutual & Pension Fund regimes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Monday published a consultation paper, suggesting various alterations to the total expense regime (TER) and distribution paradigm for mutual funds and pension funds.

These suggestions aim to reduce the burden on retail investors, optimize their returns, inculcate better saving habits, and increase retail penetration, said a news release.

The consultation paper is made available on SECP's website to solicit public feedback and comments from stakeholders.

The paper reviews the current regime in three parts including the TER

framework for mutual funds, the TER of pension funds, and a review of distribution models.

While evaluating the current TER frameworks for mutual and pension funds, the paper suggests alterations to reduce the financial burden on investors, enhance their long-term returns, and guarantee equity and transparency in the expenses of fund managers.

The problems that have impeded the growth of the distribution network and affected retail penetration are discussed in the third part of the paper. Further, it recommends a transformative framework to revamp the distribution model and improve its usability and accessibility for average investors.

Zong launches 'Doorstep Delivery'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, the leading telecommunication service provider in Pakistan, on Monday announced the launch of its new 'Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service'.

Zong is committed to making digital services accessible to all Pakistanis by offering affordable and convenient solutions.

The company's focus on affordability ensures that everyone can benefit from the power of technology, while its commitment to convenience brings services directly to the doorstep, said a news release.

According to the official spokesperson for Zong 4G, "Keeping the evolving demands of our customers, Zong's new Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service innovates the customers experience.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan.

Shares rise as Pakistan Stock Exchange awaits monetary policy decision

KARACHI (INP): The share prices at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) rose by over 700 points on Monday as the buyers kept their eyes on the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) monetary policy announcement due later today.

As the business was set into motion in the first session, the stocks soared by 768.61 points or 0.98 percent, taking the benchmark KSE-100 index to 78,798.11 points as

compared to previous close of 78,029.50.

Experts were of the view that the market was reacting positively to a string of factors including monetary policy decision and support by China.

On the last trading day on Friday, the stock market had failed to protect the psychological level of 80,000 points, closing the week in the red at slightly above 78,000 with a sharp drop of nearly 2,100 points.

The bourse began the last week on a highly bearish note as it nosedived over 1,600 points owing to high political uncertainty following the government's potential move to ban a major opposition party.

Bulls returned to the stock exchange on Tuesday as the KSE-100 climbed over 400 points. On Wednesday, the market extended gains, driven by a rally during the earnings season and hopes of policy rate reduction.

Minister, WB team discuss green tourism

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora held a significant meeting on Monday with a World Bank team at his camp office.

The meeting was attended by Kiran Fazal Butt, representing the World Bank, along with the team from the Tourism for Economic Growth Project while Secretary of Human Rights Ali Bahadur, deputy secretary minorities, PS Syed Sajjad

Imran Haider, and other relevant persons were also present.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the topics of minority religious tourism and green tourism. Furthermore, a five-year strategic plan was also discussed.

Provincial Minister Ramesh Singh Arora said that Pakistan's cultural and religious heritage holds a unique position worldwide and that it should be thoroughly promoted.

Finance Minister lauds PM's Youth Programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday appreciated Prime Minister's Youth Programme, recognizing it as a valuable scheme for supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

During a meeting with the Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, the minister expressed support for the initiative, highlighting its role in stimulating entrepreneurial activity and contributing to economic growth.

Earlier Rana Mashhood provided an overview of the

Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme. The scheme promotes entrepreneurship among youth by providing business loans on simple terms and with less markup through Commercial, Islamic and SME banks.

The discussion covered the current structure of the scheme, including its three operational tiers, and explored the potential benefits and logistics of introducing additional tiers. They underscored the government's commitment to enhancing opportunities for the youth and promoting sustainable business development across the country.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

FPCCI seeks industry status for packaging sector

LAHORE (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Aijaz on Monday demanded of the government to grant industry status to the packaging sector and revise the contracts of Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

He said revisiting and renegotiating these capacity payment agreements with the IPPs could solve the problem of high power tariffs, which was a major impediment to economic growth. He expressed these views while addressing the members of All Pakistan Corrugated Cartons

Manufacturers Association (APCCMA) here at FPCCI Regional Office.

Zaki Aijaz emphasized that the packaging sector is the backbone of all industries, and the government should grant it industry status to reap maximum benefits.

Zaki Ijaz stressed that packaging is a significant sector where products inevitably reach local and international consumers. This industry is the backbone of our business, but regrettably, this sector has not yet been given industry status.

The packaging industry is the world economy's third-largest and fifth-largest industry in Asia.

KP assembly passes Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2024

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly on Monday passed the Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2024 while Khyber KP Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill 2024, the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2024, and the KP Police (Amendment) Bill 2024 were introduced in the house.

Assembly Secretariat Employees Terms and Conditions of Service Bill 2024 was also presented. The passage of the Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill aims to enhance accountability in the province. The bill, introduced by Law Minister Aftab Alam, passed with a majority vote. It stipulates that the Ombudsman will serve a three-year term, with a maximum age limit of 60 years, and will have the authority to address

corruption complaints from citizens.

The KP Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill 2024 facilitates the collection of Ushr from landowners, lessees, or occupants. The Assembly Secretariat Employees Terms and Conditions of Service Bill 2024 was referred to the Select Committee, chaired by Law Minister Aftab Alam, with the Deputy Speaker and Advocate General as members.

The government proposed amendments to the Police Act 2017, including changes in the recruitment process for Assistant Sub-Inspectors and increasing the quota for police martyrs' families from 5% to 12.5%.

The Assembly also adopted several resolutions. PPP Parliamentary Leader Ahmad Kundli highlighted the deteriorating law and order situation.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundli presides over the 4th senate meeting of the University of Agriculture D.I.Khan at Governor House.

Chairs 18th Senate meeting of Gomal University Governor stresses for improvement in quality of education, finance

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundli on Monday chaired the 18th Senate meeting of Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan here at Governor House and stressed the administration of the varsity to bring improvement in quality of education and in finance.

Education Commission (HEC) and the remaining amount to be covered by the university's own resources, briefed the Governor.

"A total of 480 million rupees is required for the complete solarization of the university,"

The Governor emphasized the need to make every effort to secure the necessary funds and mentioned discussions with State Life Insurance to develop a scheme for universities.

He urged Gomal University administration

to provide the required information promptly to facilitate the process and set an example for other institutions.

He said that technical issues were noted in the budget preparation, and the committee will review the transparency of the statistics. Governor Faisal Kundli stressed that the university should contribute regularly to its pension fund, noting a current need of 1.7 billion rupees solely for pension payments. He expressed the desire for universities to become self-reliant and increase their resources.

British High Commissioner, Governor discuss climate change, bilateral issues

Independent Report
LAHORE: The British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called on Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and discussed ways to strengthening bilateral relations and tackling challenges of climate change during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Monday.

also having adverse effect on the agricultural sector of the country.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said federal and provincial governments are working on various projects to deal with the issue of climate change. He said Pakistan has plenty of renewable energy resources. He said that there is a need to bring people towards solar energy to deal with the energy crisis. The Governor informed the British High Commissioner about the efforts to solarize the Governor House Lahore and universities of Punjab.

Governor Sardar Saleem Haider said Pakistan attaches great importance to relations with Britain, adding that the British government's cooperation in education, health, social and other sector is commendable.

He said climate change is a global issue, stressing despite having minimum contribution in carbon emissions climate, Pakistan has suffered a lot due to climate change. He said that climate change is

He hailed the British government for the water management program started in different districts of Punjab.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, speaking on the occasion,



PESHAWAR: Activists of Human Rights Association hold protest outside PPC.

Investigation into Janikhel incident referred to KP Standing Committee

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has referred the investigation into the Jani Khel incident, in which four people were killed, to the Standing Committee.

The Assembly session, presided over by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, began with a delay of two and a half hours.

be referred to the Standing Committee, citing the government's lack of concrete steps to address the issue. Law Minister Aftab Alam clarified that the agreement was made with the district administration, not the Chief Minister, and a package was announced for the affected families.

During the session, MPA Adnan Khan of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) party questioned the Home Department about the 2021 incident in Jani Khel, Bannu, where four bodies were found.

He inquired about the actions taken since the agreement made with the then-Chief Minister but received an unsatisfactory response from the department.

Adnan Khan demanded that the matter

Provincial Minister for Public Health mentioned that talks with the affected families were planned and a package would be announced soon. Adnan Khan persisted in his request for the matter to be referred to the Standing Committee.

Speaker Babar Saleem Swati emphasized the importance of addressing the security concerns of lawmakers and suggested forming a committee to tackle these issues.

IGP releases Rs2m for medical treatment

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar on Monday released over Rs2 million for providing medical facilities to police employees in Lahore as well as other districts.

Court adjourns hearing of Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-corruption court on Monday adjourned the hearing of the Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case until September 4 and gave a final opportunity to former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to submit an exemption application, stating that his client had not recovered from a fracture yet and that doctors had advised him to rest. He pleaded with the court to exempt Parvez Elahi from personal appearance for one day.

Intense rains, RCB personnel put on high alert

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Cantonment Board has put its filed personnel on high alert after the city has witnessed intense rain with gusty winds on Monday. Since the MET Office has predicted more rain during the current monsoon spell in Punjab province, the RCB's filed teams have been tasked to be vigilantly prepared to respond with full magnitude.

US Deputy Chief Mission appreciates formation of Youth Assembly

MULTAN (APP): US Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer appreciated the formation of Youth Assembly at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan and stated that youth were future of Pakistan and it could play role in promotion of civic, social justice and gender equality.

He said this while addressing ceremony of Youth Assembly, held

under auspices of "HumAhang" at local hotel on Monday. The US deputy chief of mission also lauded the active role of the varsity.

He hoped that youth assembly would surely play its role for professional success by shaping minds of the students. He also pledged that US would continue to support such initiatives.

Andrew Schofer stated that he was first time visiting Multan.

International News

Western powers, UN warn Tel Aviv against escalation

Monitoring Desk
MAJDAL SHAMS: While Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant on Sunday vowed to "hit the enemy hard", raising fears that the Gaza conflict will spread after a rocket attack on Golan Heights, the European Union as well as Lebanon called for an independent probe into what happened.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Western powers, including the US, Britain France and Germany condemned the attack and appealed for calm, as Iran warned Israel any new military "adventures" in Lebanon could lead to "unforeseen consequences".

Israel's army called it "the deadliest attack on Israeli civilians" since October 2023 and blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah movement for firing the rocket but the Iran-backed group that has targeted Israeli military positions in the past in response to illegal occupation of territory and unabated strikes on Palestinians said it had "no connection" to the latest incident.

The rocket hit Majdal Shams, whose population are Arabic-speaking Druze. Many residents of the Druze town have not accepted Israeli nationality since Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who returned early from the US and went immediately into a security cabinet meeting, said: "Hezbollah will pay a heavy price" for the attack, "a price it has not paid before". Earlier, Netanyahu had told the US Congress that Israel would do "whatever it must" to secure its northern border.

Blaming Hezbollah for "crossing all red lines", Israel said it hit Hezbollah targets "both deep inside Lebanese territory and in southern Lebanon". Syria denounced

US upgrades military command structure in Japan

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: The United States on Sunday announced plans for a major revamp of its military command in Japan to deepen coordination with its ally's forces, as the two countries labelled China the "greatest strategic challenge" facing the region.

Forces Japan since its creation and one of the strongest improvements in our military ties with Japan in 70 years." The ministers said in a joint statement that the new command structure would be implemented in parallel with Tokyo's own plans to establish a joint command for its forces by March 2025.

The announcement followed security talks in Tokyo between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and their respective Japanese counterparts, Yoko Kamikawa and Minoru Kihara.

"The United States will upgrade the US Forces Japan to a joint force headquarters with expanded missions and operational responsibilities," Austin told reporters after the so-called "2+2" talks.

"This will be the most significant change to US

The overhaul is among several measures taken to address what the countries said was an "evolving security environment", noting various threats from superpower China. The statement criticised what it called Beijing's "provocative" behaviour in the South and East China Seas, joint military exercises with Russia and the rapid expansion of its nuclear weapons arsenal. Beijing's "foreign policy seeks to reshape the international order for its own benefit at the expense of others."

Hungary's Orban says Russia stands to gain as 'irrational' West loses power

Monitoring Desk
BUDAPEST: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Saturday Russia's leadership was "hyper rational" and that Ukraine would never be able to fulfil its hopes of becoming a member of the European Union or NATO.

Orban, a nationalist in power since 2010, made the comments during a speech in which he forecast a shift in global power away from the "irrational" West towards Asia and Russia.

No one has full picture of airport assault, says Manchester mayor

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: New footage has surfaced showing the alleged assault of three police officers at Manchester airport, followed by an officer kicking a man in the head. The chaotic scenes, captured in the video obtained by the Manchester Evening News, depict an officer kicking and stamping on the head of a man lying face down on the floor. A Greater Manchester Police (GMP) officer was suspended after the video was widely shared on social media, sparking protests in Rochdale and Manchester city centre. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) announced that the officer is now under criminal investigation for assault. The next steps involve determining whether to refer the case to the Crown Prosecution Service and deciding if the officer should face disciplinary proceedings.

French minister says foreign involvement not ruled out in rail sabotage

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France's interior minister said on Saturday he could not rule out foreign involvement in an attack that sabotaged signal stations and cables on the country's high-speed rail network, causing travel chaos on the opening day of the Olympic Games.

Friday's pre-dawn attacks damaged infrastructure along the lines connecting Paris with cities such as Lille in the

Five killed in Israeli strike on Gaza camp

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: The civil defence agency in Hamas-run Gaza said an Israeli strike Sunday hit tents at a declared safe zone in the Palestinian territory's south, killing at least five people.

A witness said a newborn was among the dead in Al-Mawasi near Khan Yunis city, where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought refuge from the war, now near its 11th month. Since Monday, Israeli forces have operated in and around Khan Yunis including in parts of the coastal area of Al-Mawasi.

Iran's Khamenei grants Pezeshkian presidential powers

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave on Sunday his official endorsement of Dr Masoud Pezeshkian as the country's ninth president, following snap elections won by the reformist camp's candidate.

In a message read by the director of Khamenei's office, the supreme leader said: "I endorse the vote (for) the wise, honest, popular and scholarly Mr Pezeshkian, and I am appointing him as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

China's foreign minister warns Philippines over US missile deployment

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has warned the Philippines over the U.S. intermediate-range missile deployment, saying such a move could fuel regional tensions and spark an arms race.

The United States deployed its Typhon missile system to the Philippines as part of joint military drills earlier this year. It was not fired during the exercises, a Philippine military official later said, without giving details on how long it would stay in the country. China-Philippines relations are now at a crossroads and dialogue and consultation are the right way, Wang told the Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo on Friday during a meeting in Vientiane, the capital of Laos where top diplomats of world powers have gathered ahead of two summits. Wang said rela-

tions between the countries are facing challenges because the Philippines has "repeatedly violated the consensus of both sides and its own commitments", according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement.

"If the Philippines introduces the U.S. intermediate-range missile system, it will create tension and confrontation in the region and trigger an arms race, which is completely not in line with the interests and wishes of the Filipino people," Wang said. The Philippines' military and its foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Wang's remarks. China and the Philippines are locked in a confrontation in the South China Sea and their encounters have grown more tense as Beijing presses its claims to disputed shoals in waters within Manila's its exclusive economic zone.

Yemenia Airways to resume flights to Cairo and India from Yemen's Sanaa

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Yemenia Airways announced on Sunday that commercial flights from Yemen's Sanaa to Egypt and India will resume starting Sunday evening, Yemen's state news agency SABA said.

Return flights to Cairo will operate once daily, while flights to India will run twice weekly.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), led by the senior member Akbar Hussain Durrani called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Gilani expresses gov't's desire to expand bilateral relations with UK

LONDON (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday said that Pakistan greatly values its bilateral relations with United Kingdom (UK) and desires to further expand the bilateral relations to new levels for mutual benefit. The Chairman Senate expressed these views in a meeting here with Speaker of the House of Commons Lindsay Hoyle during his visit to the UK.

The Chairman Senate, along with a delegation of Senators, is visiting UK to explore opportunities for further strengthening bilateral, multilateral and institutional cooperation in diverse sectors.

Chairman Senate was accompanied by Senators Agha Shahzeb Durrani,

PM deeply grieved over demise of Saudi Prince Abdullah bin Turki

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed grief over the death of Prince Abdullah bin Khalid bin Turki bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister, in a social media post on X, conveyed his condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"My heart goes out to the royal family and the people of Saudi Arabia in this moment of grief. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace," he prayed.

President for enhanced representation of women, minorities in govt jobs

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday called for greater representation of women and minorities in government jobs to enhance their inclusion in the mainstream of society.

The president, talking to a delegation of Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), led by the senior member Akbar Hussain Durrani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said that the Commission should find ways and means to further improve the civil service recruitment process to select the right person for the right job, according to a President House press release.

He said that FPSC had an important responsibility of recruiting civil servants to improve service delivery and promote good governance in the country.

He urged the need to make the recruitment process more efficient and transparent by adopting modern technology and new methods, particularly computerized testing, that would help in the selection of qualified and efficient civil servants.

The president said that candidates securing high marks during the written examination should be fairly evaluated.

Akbar Hussain Durrani briefed the president about the role and function of the FPSC in recruiting government servants. He also highlighted certain issues being faced by the Commission.

President Zardari assured the delegation of his support and guidance in the resolution of problems and improving the recruitment system.

We are determined to provide relief to common men under guidance of Chairman PPP, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti says 70 percent approved development projects made part of annual budget for the first time; projects being made compatible with public needs

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that we are determined to provide relief to the common men under guidance of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He said that the development projects are being made compatible with the public needs. In addition to this, steps are being taken to provide basic amenities of life including health and education to the people.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), who called on him under leadership of the senior leader of party and Senator Sardar Umar Khan Gorgeji here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

The delegation was comprised the candidates contesting general elections on the party tickets from different constituencies of the province. The Chief Minister said that implementation has been started on the development projects from first month of the new financial year.

He said that for the first time, 70 percent approved development projects were made part of the budget. He said that new era of development would start with implementation on development projects. With this, the standard of living of common men would also be improved in the province, he added.

He also urged them to highlight the public issues so as to ensure implementation on the suggestions for their solution.

Govt not to offer PTI for talks on various issues: Irfan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) in the Senate, Senator Irfan Siddiqui on Monday said the government would not offer to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for talks on various issues anymore.

Talking to media outside the Parliament House, he said that it was now time for PTI leadership to request the government for the negotiations to settle down the matters.

Irfan Siddiqui said that earlier, the government's doors were opened for the PTI leaders to initiate dialogue with it, adding that the opposition party had always showed reluctance, non-seriousness and immaturity. He said the coalition government would complete its five years constitutional tenure as it was effectively working for the welfare and economic stability of the country.

Commenting on Asad Qaiser's statement about PTI will come into power in December, Irfan Siddiqui said that there was no restriction and curbs on dreaming.

Opposition to protest against the implementation of Article 6

ISLAMABAD (Online): The session of the National Assembly will be held today at five o'clock in the evening under the chairmanship of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. The opposition to protest against the implementation of Article 6 against former President Arif Alvi, former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri, while the government is likely to present important bills regarding legislation in the National Assembly. There is also a possibility that a privilege motion will be presented in the National Assembly session regarding the use of free electricity by the parliamentarians and false propaganda by the Ministry of Energy.



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola and Provincial Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani talking with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

PM commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday commended the officers and personnel of security forces for launching successful operations against terrorists at three separate places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, the prime minister said the security forces fought bravely with Khawarij terrorists in Mohmand, Dera Ismail Khan and North Waziristan areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and killed five of them.

He paid tribute to Police Constable Ibrar Hussain who embraced martyrdom during fight against the Fitnah-al-Khawarij terrorists.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the departed soul in Jannah and to grant patience to the family members of the martyr to bear this loss with courage.

The joint operation of the security forces proved that the terrorists cannot escape from the officers and soldiers who are determined to defend their homeland, the prime minister added.

He said the nation stood by its security forces until the menace of terrorism was completely uprooted from the country.

Speaker BA slams interference of BYC in Govt. affairs

Says roads closures, strikes not solution to any issue

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has strongly condemned the interference of Baloch Yekjehti Committee (BYC) in the government affairs.

In an official statement issued here on Monday, the Speaker said that the steps taken by what it termed "unregistered" BYC are challenging writ of the government. He said that the closure of roads and observing strikes are not solution to any issue as such the BYC should hold constructive talks with the government. He insisted that Balochistan is such a province which doesn't belong to Balochs only rather this province also relates to other tribes.

He said that the closure of roads and strikes have paralyzed routine life of all people of the province. Immense hardships and disturbance have caused to the common men due to the situation, he added. The Speaker said that the representatives of Baloch people are already present in the provincial assembly of Balochistan.



QUETTA: MD Balochistan PIA Abdul Ghaffar Miankhail meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

NP members stage walkout in assembly over Gwadar violence

Independent Report
QUETTA: National Party members in the Balochistan Assembly staged a walkout during Monday's session to protest the use of force against peaceful protesters in Gwadar, resulting in violence and the arrest of party leader Mir Ashraf Hussein and his sons.

During the session, members Khair Jan Baloch and Kulsom Naz Baloch condemned the incident and criticized the government for its actions. The members also expressed solidarity with the people of Gwadar and demanded immediate release of the arrested leaders. The walkout was a show of protest against the government's handling of the situation in Gwadar, where peaceful protesters were met with force, leading to injuries and arrests. The National Party has demanded an explanation from the government and sought action against those responsible for the violence.

TLP senior leader arrested for threatening CJP Isa

LAHORE (INP): Deputy Amir of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) Pir Zaheer-ul-Hassan Shah has been arrested in Okara for issuing death threats to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa.

The TLP senior leader and party workers were earlier booked for issuing death threats to CJP Isa. The case was filed at the Qila Gujjar Singh police station.

The charges against TLP deputy amir include sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), inciting religious hatred, causing public disorder, intimidating the judiciary, threatening the judiciary, interfering in official duties, and obstructing legal functions.

Five terrorists gunned down in three KP IBOs: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (INP): The security forces gunned down five terrorists in three different intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Monday.

In a statement, the military's media wing said that the security forces also destroyed the terrorists' hideouts during the IBOs.

"Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists," ISPR added.

The military's media wing said that a killed terrorist Sifatullah was involved in the suicide attack in Daraban on 12 December 2023 and other criminal activities. Another terrorist was gunned down in the IBO conducted in North Waziristan.

"Pakistan operations are determined to eradicate the scourge of terrorism from the country. Pakistan Army is fighting against terrorism alongside law enforcement agencies," the ISPR added.

Earlier on July 16, the ISPR reported that Pakistan security forces killed 10 terrorists who attacked Bannu Cantonment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ISPR. According to military's media wing, the attackers attempted to infiltrate the Bannu cantt but were repelled, leading them to detonate an explosive-laden vehicle against the perimeter wall.

Naval Chief takes up maritime security during Romania visit

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid an official visit to Romania and held a joint meeting with the Chief of Defence Staff of Romania and the Chief of the Romanian Navy.

According to an ISPR statement released on Monday, they discussed issues relating to regional maritime security and stability, bilateral military co-operation and professional matters of mutual interest.

Besides, Admiral Naveed Ashraf also delivered a lecture on the "Joint Maritime Defence" at the National Defense University of Romania.

Expressing his views on the joint role of naval forces in resolving issues in the maritime domain, he stressed the need for collective efforts by the naval forces to enforce law at the sea. The recent visit of the Naval Chief to Romania will further promote and expand relations between the two countries in general and naval forces in particular.

Balochistan's trade connection to CARs pivotal in Pak-Indonesia bilateral trade

QUETTA (APP): Charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Rahmat Hindiarta Kusumah has said that Balochistan's trade connection with the Central Asian states (CARs) will prove to be important in the mutual trade between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Similarly, due to its location, Balochistan is important in the economy and trade of Pakistan, he said in press release issued here on Monday.

Charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Rahmat Hindiarta Kusumah said this while visited Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Balochistan Office along with his economic team.

Meanwhile on the occasion Charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and his team were received by Senior Vice Chairman of FPCCI, Haji Jamaluddin and President Zhub Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the industrialists and business leaders of Balochistan.

The envoy said that due to its location, Balochistan is close to the Central Asian states on the one hand, and on the other hand, it is also connected with the Middle East, which is very important in its future trade. He said that this province of Pakistan can play an important role in the geo economy of Pakistan by using its geostrategic position.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administrator Metropolitan Corporation, Hamza Shafqat in a meeting with a delegation of Metropolitan Grand Alliance held in Quetta.

BFA foils big attempt to supply 2400 kg unhealthy chicken meat to Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Food Authority (BFA)'s team on Monday foiled a big attempt to supply unhealthy meat of chicken to Quetta city.

On special directive of Director General of BFA Ateequllah, on tip-off, BFA team led by Deputy Director of Operations checked a suspected truck coming from Multan at Khanuzai area and recovered 2400kg unhealthy chicken meat worth million of rupees from it. According to the laboratory report, the seized meat worth million was found to be harmful for human consumption after testing samples of meat. Moreover, under the supervision of the BFA team, a large quantity of unsanitary chicken meat was destroyed outside the city at a safe place. On the direction of Director General BFA, further legal action was initiated against the elements involved in the supply of defective meat. DG BFA said that the authority was active 24 hours a day to check the supply and supply of substandard meat including substandard meat.

ADC Sibi provides relief materials to affected man as his house damaged in rain

QUETTA (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General Sibi Asghar Magasi on Monday provided relief material to affected man on behalf of Balochistan government, whose house was damaged in rain.

He also visited Karak village area of Sibi district on special directive of Deputy Commissioner Sibi Jahnzaib Sheikh where he inspected the house affected by the rains and provided relief materials to the resident of the affected house.



RAWALPINDI: Leaders and activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking of electricity and petrol, at Liaquat Bagh

CII chairman rejects extrajudicial declarations of death

ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman, Dr Raghob Hussain Naeem on Monday declared that labeling an individual as deserving of death is both un-Islamic and illegal. He, in a video statement, emphasized that such emotional actions harm the cause of the Finality of Prophethood.

Dr Raghob said Pakistan, as a constitutional and Islamic state, has established punishment for all types of crimes within its legal framework, administered through the courts. "No individual, group, or mob has the religious or legal authority to set up courts and issue Fatwas (religious decrees) or orders for someone's death," he added. Dr Raghob said the council has repeatedly stressed that incitement, declarations of apostasy, and threats to government, state officials, or ordinary citizens contradict the clear teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. He said the unanimous statement of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" national narrative, endorsed by esteemed religious scholars and leaders of all sects, established that it is the duty of Ulema and Mufitis to provide religious awareness and the correct Islamic solutions to issues.

Senate body on Foreign Affairs convenes

ISLAMABAD (Online): The meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chaired by Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui, held today at Parliament House.

The Committee reviewed the performance of the Foreign Services Academy, (FSA) Institute for Regional Studies, (IRS) and the Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS). The committee also reviewed the number of Pakistanis imprisoned in foreign jails, including the names of the prisoners, the crimes committed, the periods of imprisonment, and the steps taken by the government for their release.

During the meeting, the chairman and members expressed their displeasure over the non-participation of the heads of the relevant institutions regarding the performance issues of FSA, IRS and ISS. Members emphasized that Parliament is the supreme institution and that the heads of these institutions must ensure their participation in committee briefings. The chairman demanded an explanation for the absence of the institution heads and questioned whose responsibility it was within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure their attendance.

Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar remarked that institutions should not adopt such an attitude, asserting that Parliament is the supreme institution. Senator Sherry Rehman added that the committee is important, and the heads of the relevant institutions should have ensured their participation and provided necessary information. The chairman expressed disappointment and directed that the briefing agendas for these institutions be postponed until the next meeting to ensure their participation.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.