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Signs Christian Marriage (Amend) Act into law President desires enhancement in jobs quota for minorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday reiterated that the minority communities living in Pakistan, enjoyed equal rights and stressed upon increasing jobs quota for them in different government departments.

Addressing a ceremony after signing Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act 2024 at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, the president said that he would write to the federal government to enhance the jobs quota in different departments including police, FIA etc. for the minorities.

"I will definitely write to the government and ask them for this," he said, adding there should be a quota for the minorities in every department.

The president said that all the citizens of the country had equal rights and urged the minorities to continue playing their role for the progress and prosperity of the country as this soil and land belonged to them as much as to him.

He also advised them not to be disheartened at certain issues pertaining to

politics as in every society, there might be some problems.

President Zardari mentioned that PPP had given sacrifices for the country as their leaders and workers laid down lives for the people.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain, secretary of the religious ministry, officials and representatives of the Christian community.

Speaking on the occasion, Bishop Abraham Daniel said that raising the age of marriage for men and women had been a long-standing demand of the Christian community.

He expressed his gratitude to the President for signing the Act into law during a special ceremony and also thanked him for his role in his previous tenure in reserving a 5% quota for minorities in government jobs, besides allocating special seats for minorities in the Senate as well as declaring 11th August as Minorities' Day in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari is signing the Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act 2024 into law in a special ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Mastermind of May 9 conspiracy confesses his crimes: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lahore to attack the building. He said the PTI sought nothing but violence, chaos and anarchy to do political point scoring on the "dead bodies".

PTI founder who, according to him, orchestrated and facilitated the May 9 conspiracy to attack more than 200 military installations, the Corps Commander House Lahore and other important buildings.

According to the Information Minister, the leader of the "Tehreek-e-Intishar" has finally confessed his crime of "planning and facilitating" the May 9 tragedy. His family members found instructing outside the Corps Commander House

participated.

The PTI leaders announced that they would extend the scope of the hunger strike camp.

Shibli Faraz said the scope of the hunger strike camp would be extended to other assemblies. He said their mandate was stolen in the Sindh Assembly and announced a camp there as well.

The purpose of the camp is the release of the PTI founder. He said this was a symbolic protest for the release of the political workers. "They want to tell the world what is happening to them," Faraz said.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Hengeng Trade Company calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

TTP targeting people through propaganda, direct attacks

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the heinous business of spreading unrest in the country, TTP is targeting the people of Pakistan through propaganda and direct attacks.

A series of recent attacks and targeted killing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has revealed the direct involvement of TTP in all such incidents in Pakistan.

In their recent attacks, TTP blew up the building of Government Girls Model School Fazal Elahi Kot in village Zirkai of Mir Ali with explosives.

and government buildings by this terrorist group and the targeted killing of teachers shows that the implementation on the recent secret call of the TTP leader Noor Wali Mehsud has already.

The recent martyrdom of innocent men, women and children by the TTP attack on the rural health center in DI Khan is also a link in this chain.

The elements which are creating unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, are the major opponents of Operation Azm-e-Istehkam. It is pertinent to mention that for being responsible to maintain public order, it is responsibility of the KPK government to protect provinces, especially schools.

The targeting of schools



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan H.E. Rashid Meredov called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to deepen political, economic, defense cooperation

PM invites Turkmen companies to benefit from promising investment climate in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday invited the Turkmen companies to benefit from the promising investment climate of Pakistan and highlighted the role of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating foreign investors to invest in different sectors.

He also underlined the importance of regional cooperation and connectivity and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to early completion of TAPI Pipeline as well as working together on other connectivity projects. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Deputy Chairman of the

Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov who called on him at the PM House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Meanwhile Pakistan and Turkmenistan on Tuesday agreed to intensify their efforts for deepening bilateral cooperation in political, economic and defence domains besides reiterating their commitment to enhancing bilateral trade to make it commensurate to existing potential. The bilateral ties were discussed during the one-on-one meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of

Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov, as well as the third round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) co-chaired by them here.

Both the foreign ministers, addressing a joint press stakeout following their engagement, told the media that the BPC undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral relations in all dimensions besides deliberating on the development of closer economic engagement in priority areas of investment including energy, connectivity and information technology.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said both sides would enhance exchanges at the leadership level as Pakistan eagerly looked forward to the visit of Turkmenistan national leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to further advance and foster friendly ties between the two countries.

He said both countries enjoyed deep-rooted relations based on a common vision for peace and prosperity.

The deputy prime minister highlighted Pakistan's investment climate, particularly the special role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and invited Turkmen companies to benefit from the conducive investment climate and opportunities in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Members National Assembly of Opposition parties sits outside Parliament House during hunger strike protest in favor of their demands in the Federal Capital.

Nation stands united with one voice against terrorism: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday said the whole nation stands united with one voice against terrorism and it is needed to fully implement the National Action Plan.

Talking to President of Awami National Party (ANP) Senator Aimal Wali Khan who called on him here, the minister said that there was a dire need for taking strict action against the facilitators of terrorists, said a press release.

President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan congratulated Aimal Wali Khan on the success of ANP in the recent by-election at Bajaur. He said that for the development of the country, political harmony among parties was of utmost importance to ensure stability of political policies on a long-term basis. He said that the construction of the motorway from Mansehra

to Babu Sir Top in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was his top priority because he believed that the fastest road network from Mansehra to Gilgit would be a game changer for the entire province. He said that the entry of overloading trucks and trailers on the motorways has been prohibited to protect the national highways from vandalism and accidents.

President ANP Senator Aimal Wali Khan discussed the current domestic and political situation with President IPP and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and pointed out some problems related to their area. Moreover, the Member of National Assembly of Pakistan Muslim League-N from Mansehra, Sardar Muhammad Yusuf, also called on President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and invited him to visit Mansehra.

He discussed with the federal minister about the political situation of KPK province in particular.



ISLAMABAD: President of Awami National Party and Senator, Aimal Wali Khan called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

Welcomes Chinese investment in Pakistan PM directs GPA to provide all facilities to Chinese companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, welcoming the Chinese investment in Pakistan, said that during his recent visit to China, a number of significant bilateral business-to-business agreements between companies of two countries, was a good sign in this regard.

The prime minister was talking to a delegation of Hengeng Trading Company led by Chairman Zhang Bin. The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanvir Hussain, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik and other relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister said that Pakistan wanted to seek benefits from the Chinese experience in agriculture sector and directed Gwadar Port Authority for provision of all possible facilities to the Chinese companies. He also asked for ensuring uninterrupted supply of utilities at Gwadar Free Zone.

The company was also constructing a slaughter house with all the latest facilities at Gwadar, at a cost of \$50 million.

Its completion could generate \$30 million annual exports from Pakistan's livestock sector while it would provide 1,000 new jobs opportunities to local populace. The company was also exporting pharmaceutical products to China after processing them at Gwadar Free Zone, it was further added.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff of Brazilian Armed Forces, Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes called on Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

PTI kicks off hunger strike to demand Imran Khan, other leaders' release

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) set up a symbolic hunger strike camp outside Parliament House in Islamabad.

The hunger strike camp continued from 3pm to 7pm. Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan led the camp.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar, Asad Qaiser, Shibli Faraz, Latif Khosa, and other central leaders of the party participated in the hunger strike camp. Other leaders of PTI including Sheikh Waqas Akram and Zartaj Gul also

Justice Jahangiri says: Allah's wrath upon a judge who deliberately makes wrong decisions

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court Judge, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri has said that if a judge deliberately makes a wrong decision, the wrath of Allah will descend upon him.

In his message on Egypt's National Day, he highlighted the enduring friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and the Arab Republic of Egypt, expressing the desire to further strengthen ties between the two brotherly nations. The Chairman also conveyed prayers for Egypt's continued progress and prosperity.

He said, "Both countries share strong and historic ties, marked by mutual respect and cooperation across various fields. We have consistently supported each other on numerous international platforms, reflecting the depth of our relationship."

Ahsan chairs meeting on transfer of PSDP projects executed by Pak-PWD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting to address the matters related to the transfer of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects being executed by Pak-Public Works Department (PWD) to provinces and various federal government entities.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Housing & Works, members of working groups and senior officials from the Ministry of Planning, who deliberated on the optimal redistribution of these projects,

a news release said. Out of the 162 PSDP projects managed by Pak-PWD, as many as 138 projects are attributed to provinces and 24 to federal entities. The minister underscored the pivotal role of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in this process, emphasizing that all PSDP projects must be presented before the CDWP forum before any transfer decisions were made. He directed the departments concerned to compile comprehensive "Position Papers" outlining each province's projects for consideration during upcoming CDWP meetings.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Frankfurt vandalism

The state needs to seek serious answers from the German authorities regarding the July 20 mob attack targeting Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt. A crowd of around 400 protesters — some holding aloft tricolour Afghan flags used before the Taliban takeover — had descended on the consulate in the German city. Later, protesters stormed the premises, "endangering the lives of ... consular staff", as per the Foreign Office. There were also reports of protesters trying to remove the Pakistani flag and pelting the mission with stones. German state media has said the demonstrators were highlighting "complaints" against Pakistan's defence institutions. As the government has pointed out, under the relevant Vienna Conventions, it is the responsibility of the host government to protect foreign missions on their soil. If, for example, a foreign mission had been stormed in Pakistan, all hell would have broken loose, and Pakistan would have been derided for its 'poor' security protocols. Therefore, the German authorities need to explain how a mob of hundreds was able to descend on a foreign mission and storm it relatively unhindered. They must also ensure that such ugly attacks, which endanger lives, are not repeated.

Segments within Afghan society have for decades harboured an anti-Pakistan bias, and it is likely the protesters were inspired by them. Pak-Afghan relations have been testy since independence — Afghanistan voted against Pakistan's entry to the UN — while matters have turned more complicated over the years as Afghanistan has suffered from internal unrest, foreign invasions, insurgencies and terrorism. There is little doubt that Pakistan's own record vis-à-vis Afghanistan has hardly been stellar. Past mistakes and flawed policies must be acknowledged and avoided. Moreover, Pakistan should never again allow itself to be sucked into the proxy war of global powers. The legacy of war, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, left Pakistan with millions of Afghans on its soil. Each new conflict has compounded the issue. Aggressive international diplomacy is now needed by Pakistan to address the problem of refugees as well as to improve ties with Kabul — in the latter case, through a frank discussion about the past and present and the need for both sides to cooperate to contain violence. Unfortunately, a long history of hate and mistrust — which underpins both Pakistan's ties with Kabul and the violence of the (anti-Taliban) protesters in Frankfurt — will be difficult to overcome.

On the edge, again

Dr Niaz Murtaza

We are at a familiar spot today — on the edge of a deep precipice where we land every few years during intra-elite conflicts where some elites act unconstitutionally. We are there for the third time in three years due to the same PTI-establishment tussle as no side has won and imposed order.

The last such long tussle was in the 1950s between political parties and the bureaucracy, which ended in 1958 when our alpha institution trumped both to impose its hegemony till today. It now faces a broad middle-class axis led by the PTI. It has not been able to crush the PTI, despite the no-trust vote, crackdown, rigged polls and false cases. The PTI has been reduced to waging mental warfare since May 9 — gung-ho talk from jail, social media abuse and global cribbing — as against its disruptive street war earlier. Yet, even mere mental sledding is giving powerful people sleepless nights.

Court verdicts have hurt too as they have showed spine on PTI cases, buoyed by strong currents flowing in its favour. The Supreme Court rightly undid the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) original sin in misreading its order on just denying the party its electoral symbol to actually barring the PTI totally from polls, treating its candidates as independents and depriving it of regular and reserved seats. Yet, ignoring this, the PML-N alleges that the court rewrote the Constitution to give the PTI unfair benefit that it didn't even seek and when it wasn't even a party to the case. But no law bars the apex court from

giving relief that no one seeks or to a third party. It has done both, as in suo motu cases and the 62(1)(f) case where Nawaz Sharif profited too. Doing so, using the 'complete justice' clause (187), also makes eminent sense when all pleas of parties to a case violate laws and/or do substantive injustice, as in this case.

Giving reserved seats to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) violates the law that parties must submit their reserved seats lists before polls and overly rewards a small party adopted by the PTI only due to the ECP's fault. Giving them to other parties violates the law on awarding them in line with parties' Assembly strengths and creates the injustice of rewarding some parties who may say plotted to keep the PTI out of polls. Even leaving them vacant violates the constitutional clause on the number of such seats for women and minorities and deprives weak groups of full representation.

This conflict offers little to the masses. Whoever wins — the PML-N, PTI or the establishment — will rule as badly as before. The establishment's new hybrid set-up, like the PTI one, is failing as political and economic stability and security remain elusive due to misrule, the TTP and delayed Gulf billions. It is high time it quit politics. Politicians too must act maturely and jointly pursue political legitimacy via fair polls.

While all of them are inept, regular polls may force them to do well or lose to better new parties. Punjab's politics especially has become truly competitive with two major parties that can't afford not to perform. Thus, the public mandate must be allowed to cleanse politics. — Courtesy Dawn

Animal farm

Shahzad Sharjeel

What is common between Jackie Kennedy, Melania Trump, and Princess Nefertabet who lived more than 4,000 years ago in Egypt? All three are known to have draped themselves in leopard print dresses. Only the pharaohs were old money and did not mind faux over fur as leopard spots; to be precise, rosettes were commonly printed and woven into fabric in ancient Egypt.

According to an NYT story, Ms Kennedy's jacket was made from pelts of many wild leopards killed for their lustrous coat. Estimates indicate that some 250,000 leopards were killed in the fashion frenzy ignited by Jackie's sartorial choice.

Appalled by the ever-increasing list of endangered animals, conservationists, fashionistas, and animal rights activists have launched a movement calling for royalties for the species appropriated in any commercial product. The royalties, even if levied in pennies, can raise millions that can be directed towards the well-being of the species.

The leopard print is also a favourite in Pakistan; we call it the 'cheetah print', as it is an oft-used misnomer for a whole range of the Panthera family. If the royalties for appropriation trend catches on, owls, billy goats, and jackasses will stand to benefit the most here.

Not sure how many readers remember the anthropomorphic mascot of a US tobacco company, Joe Camel, aka Old Joe. Created for an advertisement campaign in France and later used in the US, the company stopped using it in 1997 after the Journal of the American Medical Association published a study that led to a lawsuit

claiming the mascot made smoking popular among children.

Fast forward to the camel criminal who went about ordering the mutilation of an animal for trampling on his crops recently. This barbaric act has been wrongly described in the media as an amputation that is usually carried out under strict medical supervision, ensuring against pain and a series of measures to deal with PTSD.

Our diminishing faith in humanity was somewhat restored by offers that poured in to provide medical aid, a prosthetic limb for the leg chopped below the knee, and permanent shelter for the poor animal. The accused has so far faced no serious accountability. Some strawmen have been produced as the executors of this atrocity. While it remains to be seen if the real culprit will ever be awarded a punishment in keeping with the heinous nature of the crime, the accused now has the prefix of 'wadera', a much-maligned honorific, courtesy of its caricatures in the media, added to his name. In the good old days, the title referred to a family or community elder; its feminine, 'waderi', though much less used, does exist.

Historically, cruelty to animals has evoked consequences both divine and temporal. According to the scriptures, an entire nation paid the price for the ill treatment of the prophet Saleh's she-camel. The British colonialists may never have had any qualms about mistreating an entire people living under their yoke, but they did initiate animal rights legislation in the subcontinent. Our subsequent masters have shown similar disdain for the masses; however, the same degree of empathy

for the four-legged creatures has been missing.

This brings to mind an English sahib named Eric Blair. His father was an opium agent in India. Born in Bengal and raised in Bihar, Eric oversaw floggings and hangings as a 19-year-old policeman in Burma. After returning to England, it seems he got in touch with the more humane side of his character and authored that most quoted line, "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others". Yes, this is the same man the world came to know as George Orwell of Animal Farm fame.

It is hard to talk of 'wadera' and leave out the 'waderay ka beta' (son of the wadera), another archetype of a spoilt brat of privileged ancestry. This tragicomic caricature was made famous by a rap artist who pointed out that not just the lord himself but his dog demands to be treated like a lord.

Not too long after the song was released, a brown sahib lost his dog on a foreign assignment to Pakistan.

Many a serf who never bothered to refill a birdbath trudged to the sahib's mansion to offer condolences on the junior lordship's demise.

For weeks, a pall of gloom hung over the mansion, and all people could talk about was the spiritual experience of attending the junior's last rites, complete with sitting on the ground around incense-burning censers, flower petals, and wreaths covering the soon-to-be cremated remains. The mansion's lawn was turned into a temporary crematorium. Environmental and social safeguards are for the less equal farm animals.

Who knows, maybe this sahib too may have found his humane side; it gives an entirely new meaning to Orwellian, no? — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM gives \$60b target for country's annual exports in three years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the National Export Development Board wherein he tasked the authorities concerned to take the country's annual exports to \$60 billion within three years. The prime minister asked the commerce ministry and other relevant departments to take all necessary measures to achieve the given target. He said the country's exports crossed the \$30 billion mark during the previous fiscal year, and

the government's policies also took the IT exports to over \$3.2 billion. The prime minister asked the ministry to resolve the issues pointed out by the exporters and present a report within two weeks. He said that he would personally chair the National Export Development Board meeting every one-and-half months. Calling for collective efforts for the country's development, he paid tribute to the business community and investors for their role in increasing

exports despite tough circumstances. Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the commerce ministry to finalise the policy proposals, in coordination with representatives of the potential export sectors. He also tasked the Ministry of National Food Security to improve extension services, in coordination with provinces, to enhance agricultural exports. He instructed for exporting of quality seeds and agricultural products after further processing and

taking measures to introduce crop varieties with high yields. He said that the delivery time of Pakistani goods to Europe and America should be reduced by solving the problems related to the shipping of exports immediately. Similarly, the commerce ministry and Board of Investment should ensure cooperation regarding the transfer of Chinese export industries to Pakistan. He also called for carrying out research and development, innovation and brand development.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of National Export Development Board (NEDB).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with the Representatives from Moody's Ratings.

Indonesian diplomat for collaboration to increase mutual trade

LAHORE (APP): Charge d' Affaires of Indonesia Rahmat Hindarta Kusuma has said that this is time of collaboration to bring the trade between the two countries at a par with the potential. Talking to the business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Tuesday, LCCI President Kashif Anwar welcomed the diplomat and highlighted the trade and economic ties between the two countries. LCCI Executive Committee

Members Raja Hassan d' Akhter and Mian Attiq ur Rehman were also present. LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed LCCI's eagerness to learn from Indonesian technology and advancements. He agreed with the diplomat on the significance of economic stability and the low cost of doing business. He urged LCCI members to participate in the 39th Trade Expo-Indonesia, scheduled from October 9 to 12, 2024.

Gold rates decrease by Rs.500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs. 250,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs. 251,000 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 429 to Rs. 214,763 from Rs. 215,192 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold came down to Rs.196,866 from Rs. 197,260, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,920 and Rs.2,503.42 respectively.

Senate body on National Food Security & Research convenes

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research convened today under the chairmanship of Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan. The inaugural session included a comprehensive briefing on the roles, functions, and performance of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research and its affiliated departments. Present at the committee meeting were Senators Danesh Kumar, Dost Muhammad Khan, and Poonjo Mal Bheel, alongside

the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research and senior officers from related departments. The committee members engaged in an extensive interactive session discussing the ministry's operations, with each department outlining its responsibilities. During deliberations, the committee raised concerns about the ministry's human resource strength, noting 40 vacant positions which they highlighted as impacting operational efficiency.

Social media provides modern information to farmers: Secretary

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Agriculture Muhammad Javed Marwat on Tuesday said that through social media, information related to the agriculture and modern methods of cultivation could be provided to the farmers and landowners. In this connection landlords can also take benefit from it because this is the age of social media. Through YouTube

channel, farmers will have easy access to timely, useful and actionable information related to farming, modern technology and agricultural research, he while speaking as a special guest at the inaugural program of the YouTube channel launched in the name of "Zaraat aur Kisan" in the Bureau of Agriculture Information.

FM meets virtually with the Representatives from Moody's Ratings

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb had a zoom meeting with the representatives from Moody's Ratings at Finance Division today. The meeting was also attended by senior officials of the Ministry. The Federal Minister commenced the session by giving an update on

Pakistan's economic outlook. He highlighted the foreign exchange reserves surpassing USD 9 billion, stable CPI inflation at 12.6%, and a robust 7.7% increase in foreign remittances, reflecting economic resilience. He emphasized a 30% rise in tax collection in FY 2024 and outlined reforms to broaden the tax base, including new agricultural taxes and digital initiatives

at the FBR. He also noted that over 150,000 retailers have registered as first-time taxpayers, marking a significant stride towards broadening the tax base. The Minister mentioned the ambitious targets aimed to increase revenues by 3% of GDP by FY 2027, with plans for a primary surplus of 1% of GDP, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment to fiscal sustainability and growth.

Rupee sheds 10 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 10 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.40 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.30. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.5 and Rs 280 respectively. The price of Euro came down by 22 paise to close at Rs 302.79 against the last day's closing of Rs 303.01.

US, China, and UAE top destinations for Pak exports during FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the fiscal year 2023-24, followed by China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Total exports to the US during July-June 2023-24 were recorded at US 5,432,929 million against the exports of US 5,932,358 million during July-June 2022-23, showing a decline of 8.41 percent, according to the

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$2,707,225 million against the exports of US \$2,025,741 million last year, showing an increase of 33.64 percent. UAE was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$2,082,206 million during the year under review against the exports of US \$1,475,832 million, SBP data revealed.

KhUJ office bearers call on Governor; pledges to enhance journalists' skills, resolve problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday reaffirmed his commitment to address the province's challenges as well as the problems of journalists community. He said this during a meeting with the delegation of Khyber Union of Journalist (KhUJ) led by President Nasir Hussain, Senior Vice Presidents Abdul Baseer Qalander, Bukhar Shah Bacha, Muhammad Naem and others. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the importance of constructive criticism in fostering societal improvement, stating that prioritizing peace is essential for economic progress. He urged the chief minister to convene cabinet and apex meetings regarding recent incidents of lawlessness, stressing that security is paramount for development. Highlighting the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he acknowledged the adverse conditions around the Dera Ismail Khan economic zone, proposing enhanced economic zones near CPEC routes. Governor Faisal Kundi commended KP athletes for their achievements across various fields, citing PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's recent visit to Peshawar as a morale booster for provincial sports. He underscored empowerment for women and youth as crucial for fostering progress. He pledged to enhance journalists' skills and

resolve their problems on priority basis. Governor Faisal Kundi also expressed his intent to collaborate closely with the federal government, to resolve issues facing journalists. In reference to provincial assembly rights, he assured support from Parliamentary leader of PPP, Ahmed Kundi and others, advocating for increased public engagement across different regions. Protecting Peshawar's cultural heritage and promoting interfaith harmony were also highlighted as priorities. Governor Faisal Kundi criticized the provincial government for misstatements in court, noting disparities in university funding compared to Sindh.



GILGIT: Rescue 1122 crew in action, expertly lifting a car from the ditch after an accident.

DC stresses for collective work of departments for development of district

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Sarah Rehman on Tuesday underlined the need of collective work among all the departments and administration for the development and prosperity of the district. While chairing an introductory meeting of line departments held at her office, the deputy commissioner said that achievement of the goals would be her priority. The cooperation of all the departments was of utmost importance for the purpose, she added. She said the departments should perform their duties diligently and make all efforts for the development and prosperity of the area and better provision of facilities to the people. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General, ADC Relief, assistant commissioners and representatives of different departments including C&W.

ANF seizes 330 kg drugs in 9 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 9 operations across the country managed to recover 330 kg drugs and arrested 8 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 826 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Islamabad Airport.

LDA seals another 15 properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams, during an on going operation against commercialization fee defaulters, sealed another 15 properties in the Sabzazar Scheme here on Tuesday. On the directions of Director General LDA Tahir Farooq, the teams sealed properties including Plot No. 120 Block A, Plot No. 41 Block G, Plot No. 59 Block G, Plot No. 51 Block C, Plot No. 54 Block C, Plot No. 22 Block C.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Nazir Bughio during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

IGP inaugurates model police station Timergara

DIR LOWER (APP): Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan visited Lower Dir and inaugurated the newly constructed Model Police Station Timergara. On this occasion, Regional Police Officer Malakand Range Muhammad Ali and District Police Officer Lower Dir Rai Mazhar Iqbal welcomed the IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the inaugural ceremony, the young

daughter of martyr Israr Ahmed presented a bouquet of flowers to the IGP, and a smartly turned-out contingent of Lower Dir saluted him. The IGP inspected the building of the Model Police Station, equipped with modern facilities, and received a detailed briefing from the DPO Lower Dir. On this occasion, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan stated that the establishment of the Model Police Station would prove to be a milestone in providing facilities to the local people.

FIA arrests two human smugglers

LAHORE (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday apprehended two members of a group involved in human smuggling and visa fraud here from Laxmi Chowk. According to a spokesman for the agency, the suspects, identified as Malik Naveed and Khalid Munir Bhatti, were arrested during a raid. The authorities recovered three Pakistani passports, fake passports of Iran and Italy, and counterfeit immigration arrival stamps of various countries, including a fake immigration arrival stamp of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

3-days training workshop by ICIMOD on cryosphere monitoring in Pak kicks off

PESHAWAR (APP): A three days training workshop by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in collaboration with the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), and the National Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG) on cryosphere monitoring has been kicked off on Tuesday.

According to a press release issued here, the workshop aims to enhance the capabilities of participants from various institutions and universities across Pakistan, enabling them to conduct independent

research and monitoring of glaciers, snow, and permafrost. Participants are introduced to methods and tools for collecting and analyzing data on glaciers, snow, and permafrost, utilizing both fieldwork and advanced satellite remote sensing technology. The cryosphere, including glaciers, snow, and permafrost in High Mountain Asia, supplies water to approximately one-fifth of the world's population. Monitoring these components is crucial for assessing meltwater, especially during dry seasons.

Tree plantation drive inaugurated in Dir Lower

DIR LOWER (APP): The district's youth office in collaboration with the district administration and the forest department has launched a plantation campaign titled "Green Growth Strategy - Billion Tree Plus Plantation Drive," to make the area clean and green. Additional Deputy Commissioner Plantation (General) and Focal Person of the initiative Bashir Khan inaugurated the drive by formally planting a sapling.

Now entire nation knows about digital terrorists: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari has said that the entire nation now knows who digital terrorists are and who is behind them. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, she said the younger generation is being incited against the country's security institutions through systematic planning. "The children of the person conspiring against the country are living a luxurious life in London. Pakistan's youth should stay away from the agenda of this disruptive party," she added. She mentioned that parents should learn a lesson after the events of May 9.

"A specific group and their facilitators are causing unrest, disorder, and divisive politics in Pakistan under their agenda. A progressing and developing Pakistan is not acceptable to this group. They continuously create new obstacles against the country's security and development. The PTI started different movements against the country including resignations from assemblies, jail bhara movement, and hunger strikes. The failed movements of the 'Nakaam' Khan have become a source of disgrace and embarrassment for him. All the narratives of this group have failed just like their politics."



RAWALPINDI: A view of rain water accumulated in the street at Imambara Mohallah after rain that experienced the Twin Cities.

SDMA warns people to refrain from visiting streams, rivers

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Seasonal nullahs, besides rivers and streams, flowing in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), including in Mirpur division, were flooded after the upper reaches - besides various ground parts of the state lashed with first heaviest rainfall since the wee hours on Tuesday. The AJK State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has warned people living near the seasonal nullahs and streams to refrain from visiting the flooded ponds, rivers and streams as the

main spell of the torrential rains reported in various parts of the State today. The Mirpur district and outskirts lashed with much awaited heavy rains that opened the advent of the monsoon rains which also hit various other parts of the liberated state. Various parts of the AJK state lashed with first heaviest rainfall that affected various areas including Mirpur district causing partial loss to the material - especially in the New City and various adjoining slums areas of this district.

International News

Gazans flee after Israel orders safe zone evacuation over rockets

Monitoring Desk
KHAN YUNIS: Hundreds of panicked Gazans fled after the Israeli military on Monday ordered the evacuation of part of a humanitarian zone, warning it was preparing to launch an operation in the area. The military had declared Al-Mawasi, along the Gaza coast between the cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah, a humanitarian zone in May, and told Palestinians to go there for their own safety. But it has now ordered people to leave part of the zone in eastern Khan Yunis that it says militants have been using to launch attacks on Israeli targets. The military said the evacuation was due to "significant terrorist activity and rocket fire toward the state of Israel from the eastern part of the humanitarian area", making it too "dangerous" to remain. In a statement, it urged people to relocate from eastern Khan Yunis to the west of the "adjusted humanitarian area of Al-Mawasi" that runs along the Gaza coast. Many Gazans are hesitant to join the swelling tent camps in Al-Mawasi, however, after a recent attack on the zone killed at least 92 people and wounded more than 300, according to figures from the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. "No place is safe," said Yussef Abu Taimah, from the town of Al-Qarara in Khan Yunis, as he prepared to relocate his family for the fourth time since the Gaza war broke out in October. "We left in the middle of ongoing air and tank shelling, and drones firing shots," said the 27-year-old, who witnessed dead and wounded people being transported to Nasser Hospital by tuk-tuks and donkey carts. Abu Taimah said his family was heading to Al-Mawasi, but expected to

find no space in the crowded, makeshift encampment. "We will stay on the street," he said. "Even the sidewalks are full of people and tents. We are tired and fed up. Enough of this displacement." Ahmed al-Bayuk, 53, said each of his three displacements has been harder than the last. "We barely settle for a few days before the army comes, bombs, displaces us and destroys more," he said. "Where should we go? Every place is at risk of bombing."

In recent months the Israeli army has launched intense military operations in several areas of Gaza that were previously declared free of Hamas militants. Earlier this year it carried out a sweeping operation in Khan Yunis for months that reduced swathes of the city to rubble and displaced tens of thousands of people.

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Palestinians flee the eastern part of Khan Yunis as they travel in an animal-drawn cart after they were ordered by Israeli army to evacuate their neighborhoods, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Death toll from Ethiopian landslides jumps to 229: official

Monitoring Desk
GFOA ZONE: The death toll from two landslides in southern Ethiopia has jumped to 229 and could rise further as the search for survivors and casualties continued into a second day, a government official said on Tuesday. A landslide buried people in the Gofa zone in Southern Ethiopia regional state on Sunday night, and then a second one engulfed others who had gathered to help on Monday morning. "I don't know when it will stop. We are still recovering bodies," Markos Melese, head of the National Disaster Response agency in Gofa Zone, told Reuters by phone. "We are still digging," Melese said. On Monday, an official said at least 50 people had died and children and police officers were among the dead. Footage shared by the local administration showed people digging up bodies with shovels and bare hands. "The death toll surged after the people who came to rescue also got trapped," said Gofa district administrator Misikir Mitiku.

scrambled fighter jets to prevent two US strategic bomber planes from crossing its border over the Barents Sea in the Arctic. The US military routinely carries out flights over international waters, operations that it says are conducted in neutral airspace and in accordance with international law. But Moscow has responded more aggressively to the exercises in recent months.

Russia says intercepted US bomber planes 'approaching' its border in Arctic

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia on Sunday said two US bomber planes had approached its border in the Arctic and that it had scrambled fighter jets to make them turn away. Moscow has previously accused the United States of making reconnaissance drone flights over neutral waters in the Black Sea to help Ukraine, and has said it could lead to "direct confrontation" between Russia and NATO. Russia said Sunday that it

Modi says focus on employment and middle class in first post-poll budget

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first post-election budget will focus on employment and the middle class, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday as she began presenting the final financial statement for 2024-25. The government will allocate 2 trillion rupees (\$24 billion) for job creation over the next five years, Sitharaman said.

Six Croatians die in nursing home shooting

Monitoring Desk
DARUVAR: Croatia was in a state of shock on Monday after a gunman opened fire in a nursing home, killing at least six people in a rare instance of gun violence in the Balkan country. Five residents and one employee were dead after the gunman entered the private nursing home in the eastern town of Daruvar and went on a killing spree, according to the police. The gunman then fled the scene and was later arrested at a cafe, where he was carrying unregistered firearms.

US Secret Service director Kimberly Cheatle resigns after Trump assassination bid

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle resigned on Tuesday, a day after acknowledging that the agency failed in its mission to prevent an assassination attempt against Donald Trump. Cheatle was facing bipartisan calls to step down after a 20-year-old gunman wounded the former Republican president and current White House candidate at a July 13 campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. "It is overdue, she should have done this at least a week ago," Mike Johnson, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, told reporters. "I'm happy to see that she has heeded the call of both Republicans and Democrats." President Joe Biden thanked Cheatle for her nearly three decades in the Secret Service and said she had "selflessly dedicated and risked her life to protect our nation throughout her career." "We all know what happened that day can never happen again," Biden said in a statement. "As we move forward, I wish Kim all the best, and I will plan to appoint a new director soon." Cheatle appeared before a congressional committee on Monday and said the attack on Trump, who was slightly wounded in his right ear, represented a failure by the Secret Service. She called it "the most significant operational failure of the Secret Service in decades." Both Republicans and Democrats called on Cheatle to resign. She drew the ire of lawmakers from both parties by refusing to provide specific details about the attack, citing the existence of multiple active investigations.

Kamala Harris closes in on US presidential nomination with delegates secured

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Vice President Kamala Harris will campaign in the critical battleground state of Wisconsin on Tuesday for the first time as a US presidential election candidate after enough Democratic delegates pledged to endorse her, clearing her path to the nomination. Harris has become the party's presumed nominee after President Joe Biden withdrew from his re-election campaign on Sunday, following weeks of party acrimony and internal polls showed his support collapsing in a battle against Republican rival Donald Trump. Less than 36 hours after Biden endorsed Harris, she secured the nomination on Monday night by winning the pledged support of a majority of the party's delegates who will determine the nomination, the campaign said. "Tonight, I am proud to have secured the broad support needed to become our party's nominee," Harris said in a statement late Monday night. "I look forward to formally accepting the nomination soon." An unofficial survey of delegates by the Associated Press showed Harris with more than 2,500 delegates, well over the 1,976 needed to win a vote in the coming weeks. Delegates could still, technically, change their minds but nobody else received any votes in the AP survey; 54 delegates said they were undecided. The Wisconsin trip offers another opportunity for the 59-year-old former California prosecutor to reset the Democrats' campaign and make the case that she is best positioned to beat Trump.

UK unveils training effort to reduce reliance on migrants

Monitoring Desk
FARNBOROUGH: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed on Monday to reduce the UK's "long-term reliance on overseas workers" as he unveiled a new skills training organisation aimed at boosting productivity and economic growth. Starmer said his government hopes the new body - named Skills England - will transform "not just how we train our young people and adults, but also the relationship between business and education system." In a speech at the Farnborough International Airshow, the UK leader added that many young people had been "let down" by a lack of skills training, creating an overreliance on migration within the economy. "I do not criticise businesses who hire overseas workers and I certainly don't diminish the contribution that migration makes to our economy, to our public services and of course to our communities," he told the audience. "Yet if you stand back, as a system it cannot be right that some people don't get to feel the pride of making a contribution, the dignity of work, just because we can't find a way of creating a coherent skill system."

US journalist jailed in Russia for six years

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: A Russian court has sentenced US-Russian journalist Alsu Kurmasheva to more than six years in prison for violating strict military censorship laws, a ruling her employer slammed as a "mockery of justice". Kurmasheva, 47, was convicted on Friday in a secret trial that was not announced in advance - the same day a separate Russian court sentenced US journalist Evan Gershkovich for 16 years on espionage charges. Both journalists have rejected the charges against them as baseless. Kurmasheva, an editor with the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) outlet in Prague, was arrested last year while travelling to Russia to see her sick mother.

President for expanding ties with Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for expanding bilateral ties with Turkmenistan across all areas of mutual interest and reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to its relationship with Turkmenistan.

The President expressed these views while talking to the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President said that Pakistan-Turkmenistan relations were based on a common vision for peace and prosperity in the region. The exchange of high-level visits between the two countries signified the mutual desire to further strengthen bilateral understanding and cooperation.

Welcoming the Minister, the President urged the need to enhance connectivity and communication between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, saying that Gwadar port offered great opportunities for promoting regional trade and Turkmenistan should benefit from the port.

The President stressed the need for continued exchanges and dialogue at all levels and enhanced trade, economic, investment and cultural relations for the prosperity of the two countries. He offered that Turkmen students could seek education from the medical institutions of Pakistan. The President noted the importance of the Third Round of Bilateral Political Consultations held today by the two Foreign Ministers.

The Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed cordial relations. He stated that his country would continue to promote economic, cultural and educational cooperation with Pakistan.

He highlighted the importance of constructing motorways and railways, through Afghanistan, to connect the two brotherly countries. Foreign Minister Meredov conveyed the greetings of the leadership of Turkmenistan to the President.

The President reciprocated the sentiment and said that he was looking forward to welcoming the Grand Leader of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Rashid Meredov, called on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was also present on the occasion.

Senate body on petroleum deliberates on Pakistan Minerals Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum on Tuesday deliberated on the "Pakistan Minerals Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024." The meeting, chaired by Senator Umer Farooq, was informed that the primary objective of the bill is to create cohesion between the federal and provincial governments to fully utilize and transform the potential of the minerals sector into a value-added commodity for the national economy.

Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir, the bill's mover, noted that despite the country's vast mineral reserves, a lack of coordination between federal and provincial governments has hindered their full benefit.

Secretary Petroleum Momin Agha apprised the Committee that the ministry is working on the "Harmonization of Minerals Laws" with the provinces, with the implementation plan expected to be finalized by the end of September 2024. The Committee was briefed on the roles and functions of the ministry and its attached departments. Secretary Petroleum Division Momin Agha informed the Committee that thirteen companies fall under the ministry's ambit.

The ministry's primary role is to facilitate collaboration between these companies to meet the country's oil and gas demand and to oversee their affairs, formulating policies for their smooth functioning. The Committee raised objections over the prolonged vacancy of the Managing Director (MD) position at OGDCL and directed the provision of details on vacant MD and Board of Directors (BoD) positions in these companies.

The Committee was informed about the current usage and demand for oil and gas in the country.

CJ IHC unhappy over arrest of people without FIR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice Islamabad High Court (IHC) Aamer Farooq on Tuesday expressed annoyance over arresting of citizen without any FIR and remarked that the court would pass an order regarding the matter. The Chief Justice remarked that an arrest couldn't be made mere on the wish of investigation officer, adding that whether someone could be arrested without any proof. He asked that whether it was necessary to arrest all the people sitting at PTI secretariat and if it was crime to sit in that office.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq gave these remarks during hearing of a case filed by PTI's activist Memon Kamal. DIG Operations Islamabad Police, Director Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Additional Attorney General appeared before the court. During the course of proceeding, the Additional Attorney General said that the FIA had registered a case against 12 accused including two women. The other people were released on personal sureties, he said.

The Chief Justice remarked that 32 people were arrested while the case was registered against 11. He said that 21 people were kept in illegal custody for ten hours. Whether all arrested people were wanted, he questioned.

The FIA's officials said that the mobile devices of ten persons were in its custody for technical analysis. The court questioned that under what law the mobiles were taken from the people who were not under arrest.

Further hearing of the case was then adjourned.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan calling on Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain.

Pakistan, Egypt agree to enhance cooperation in religious education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Tuesday said Pakistan intended to strengthen its relationship with Egypt in multiple areas of mutual interest, including religious education.

He said this during a meeting with Egyptian Ambassador, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan who called on him at his office.

The two sides discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations between Pakistan and Egypt. Both the dignitaries also discussed to exchange mutual studies in enhancing the Masajid roles as center of religious, spiritual, social guidance and social services.

The ambassador informed about establishing an institution in Punjab affiliated with Al-Azhar University to impart religious education. He informed that 11 professors of Egypt were already teaching in different faculties in International Islamic University, Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Ambassador of Egypt, Dr. Ihab Abdel Hamid along with others cutting the cake to celebrate the National Day of Egypt at Federal Capital.

NA body on Maritime Affairs on song to bridge gap between KPT, KDLB

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs in its meeting held here on Tuesday under the Chairmanship of Abdul Qadir Patel in the Parliament House invited the representatives of the joint action committee of Karachi Dock Labour Board (KDLB) to resolve their issues with Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

The Committee took serious view of the KDLB workers sit-in staging in front of KPT headquarters in Karachi. After listening the demands raised by KDLB protesters Standing Committee directed the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to prepare a new SRO through which the members of DOK workers in KDLB Board may be increased up to 5 to maintain a balance in the Board as per past practice.

The Committee recommended that the Ministry of Maritime Affairs should arrange a meeting of KDLB representatives with the Minister for Maritime Affairs and all other stakeholder in KP within 2-3 days to resolve their genuine demands and for ending their protest in front of KPT headquarters Karachi.

The Committee noted that the term of Executive Officer of KDLB has expired and strongly recommended that in order to bring transparency in the KDLB affairs. A fresh advertisement for the post of Executive Officer of KDLB may be published in leading newspapers across the country.

The committee deferred the remaining agenda for the next meeting.

Besides, Chairman of the Standing Committee Malik Shakir Bashir Awan, Kesoo Mal Kheal Das, Jam Abdul Karim Bijar, Syed Rafiullah, Sardar Nabil Ahmed Gabol, Hassaan Sabir, Pullain, Syed Shah Ahad Ali Shah, Shahid Ahmad, Muhammad Arshad Sahi, Khurram Munawar Manj and Muhammad Usman Badini, MNAs also attended the meeting.

IHC removes objection on plea for restoration of PTI's website

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday removed the objection of Registrar office on a petition against the blockage of PTI's official website. The court instructed the Registrar office to fix the case again for hearing on July 26.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case along with the objections of Registrar office. The petition was filed by PTI's leaders including Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz.

The petitioners had adopted the stance that the official website of PTI has been blocked. The purpose of the website was to keep the public updated about the activities of PTI, it said.

It said that the website was carrying the manifesto of PTI and information about the leadership. The public were given the information about the candidates of PTI through this website, it said. The petition prayed the court to issue directives for the restoration of the website.

Naqvi directs CDA to ensure timely drainage of Water from low-lying areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following heavy rainfall in Islamabad, Federal Minister for Interior Moinhsin Naqvi on Tuesday directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to remain alert.

Minister called CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa and directed him to expedite the drainage process under his supervision, ensuring timely drainage of water from low-lying areas. He also directed that relevant officers and staff must remain in the field until the drainage work is completed.

While directing regular monitoring of Islamabad's streets, drains, and waterways, he emphasized ensuring water drainage at underpasses and other locations. He also instructed traffic police to proactively perform their duties to maintain traffic flow. He stated that additional resources should be deployed in the water drainage efforts.

IRSA releases 320,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 320,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 323,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 115.60 feet and was 117.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 181,500 cusecs and 190,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairing Executive Committee meeting on Islamabad digitalization plan.

NCSW hosts conference on women with disabilities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) on Tuesday hosted a groundbreaking national conference on women with disabilities as part of its esteemed series, "The Next Horizon".

This significant event convened experts from across Pakistan to chart a progressive path forward for the empowerment of women with disabilities.

Chairperson NCSW, Nilofar Bakhtiar in her opening remarks, underscored the pressing need to address the challenges faced by differently abled women in Pakistan. She highlighted the critical importance of making public spaces universally accessible and ensuring comprehensive support in health and education sectors.

Deputy Representative of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Latika Maskey Pradhan lauded NCSW's efforts and reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to empowering all women in Pakistan, advocating for a healthier and more inclusive society.

Senator Mahesh Kumar, the chief guest of the inaugural session, pledged his unwavering support for the empowerment of differently abled women in Pakistan. He emphasized the need for societal reforms to foster inclusivity and equality.

Federal Secretary for Law and Justice, Raja Naem Akbar, reiterated the ministry's dedication to providing equal opportunities for all citizens. Federal Secretary for Education, Mohyuddin Wani, expressed his commitment to crafting inclusive education policies.

Federal Secretary for Human Rights, Allah Dino Khawaja, announced the forthcoming launch of the Integrated Social Welfare System, a groundbreaking initiative designed to provide comprehensive support to persons with disabilities.

ICT admin ramps up efforts to combat dengue threat

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to combat the rising threat of dengue fever, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration has launched a city-wide surveillance and crackdown operations to prevent the spread of the disease.

Under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, all the Assistant Commissioners have been deployed across the city to conduct intensive dengue surveillance activities.

The ICT's administration spokesman said the district administration is working to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites and ensure hospitals are equipped to handle dengue cases.

Low to medium flood likely in rivers Chenab, Ravi in next 36 hours

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) has said that low to medium flooding is expected in the river Chenab at Marala, Khanki and nullahs of the river Ravi during the next 36 hour due to wet spell.

Similarly, medium level flood is also expected in Rivers Jhelum and Chenab, including nullahs of River Chenab during Wednesday to July 30 due to moderate to very heavy rainfall.

CDA, FCDO collaborate to transform Islamabad into a modern city

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman CDA Mohammad Ali Randhawa Tuesday met with FCDO British High Commission Development Director Joe Mayur and his delegation to discuss potential areas of cooperation for the development of Islamabad.

The meeting aimed to transform Islamabad into a brand city through various initiatives.

The CDA briefed the delegation on proposed projects to modernize Islamabad, including digitization of infrastructure and services, large-scale plantation to increase green cover, digital parking management, and digital billboards for outdoor advertising.

It was decided to digitize property tax collection for increased efficiency and transparency.

The meeting also gave consent for technical assistance for obtaining carbon credits and formation of a joint working group to enhance cooperation and develop multi-term goals.

Chairman CDA Mohammad Ali Randhawa emphasized the importance of collaboration for sustainable and efficient projects to modernize and prosper Islamabad.

Resolving public issues purely on merit is our foremost priority: IGP

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir



grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office. He directed all SDPOs and SHO's to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues. He strictly directed the officers to continue the crackdown against land grabbers and bring them to justice.

On this occasion, the IG Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHO's are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

During the katchery, he listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution.

He said that, resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for my citizens, the IGP said.

IG Islamabad further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen



ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Standing Committee Meeting on Maritime Affairs under the Chairmanship of Abdul Qadir Patel, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Secretary Maritime and senior officials of Ministry and KPT were present.

Police to form special squads for action against signal violators

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has decided to accelerate efforts to ensure implementation of traffic laws and take strict action against those involved in violation of red-signal, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police have decided to constitute special squads for taking stern action against those violating red signals.

A special campaign is underway to check violations while various squads are performing duties at main roads and boulevards of the city and taking action against the violators. Efforts are underway to ensure a disciplined traffic system in the city.

Islamabad Police personnel have been directed to ensure implementation on traffic rules and regulation irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users. The Islamabad Police are utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. The force issues traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but the purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the capital and secure the lives of the people. The education wing is also directed to give awareness to the road users about traffic laws and Islamabad Police FM Radio 92.4 to air special programs in this regard.

IFA cracks down on poor sanitation in city hotels

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) on Tuesday took a strict action against the hotels of the Federal Capital and sealed a kitchen of a famous hotel for violating sanitation standards.

Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of IFA, Dr Tahira Saddique said that during the inspection, the food safety teams (FSTs) found the hotel's kitchen in poor sanitary condition. The team discovered fungus-tainted meat and rotten vegetables being used for food preparation. The kitchen was also infested with cockroaches, posing a significant health risk to customers.



ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society (PESS) retired Lt-Gen. Abdul Qayyum addressing a press conference at press club in the city.