

Governor KP stresses on upholding law, ethics for national progress

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi here on Monday emphasized the critical role of law and ethics in national advancement and asserted that it was the collective responsibility to bolster faith in the justice system. Addressing the convocation ceremony as the chief guest at a private college, the Governor highlighted the escalating challenges posed by the disregard for legal and ethical standards, attributing them to increasing immorality. He lamented the consequences of eroding confidence in the judiciary, asserting that it is the collective responsibility to bolster faith in the justice system. The Governor underscored the significance of the day for students and the institution alike. Faisal Karim Kundi urged the graduating students to embrace heightened responsibilities, stressing that safeguarding the supremacy of law and constitution is paramount for national progress and prosperity. He emphasized that democracy hinges on the enforcement of law, cautioning that nations forsaking legal integrity risk losing their identity. He called upon Pakistanis to champion the cause of legal supremacy, urging a spirit of sacrifice for the nation's welfare. Acknowledging the post-pandemic surge in online activities, he highlighted the growing importance of the digital sector. The convocation was attended by Vice-Chancellor Hazara University Professor Dr. Mohsin Nawaz and Vice-Chancellor Abbottabad University of Science and Technology Professor Dr. Majid.

Three cases of May 9 dismissed related to PTI founder's interim bail

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) dismissed all three applications related to interim bails in 3 cases of former Prime Minister Imran Khan on the basis of withdrawal.

During the hearing, Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh inquired that while we are hearing this case, is Imran Khan in custody? The PTI lawyer told yes, he is currently in custody. The lawyer further said that on July 9 our bails were rejected by the Anti-Terrorism Court, we filed an application in the Lahore High Court on July 13. On this, Justice Anwar-ul-Haq remarked that we have to see from the official record when the applications were filed, Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh said that it is not proved from the record that application was filed on July 13. On this PTI Lawyer said that we want to withdraw these applications. Later, the Lahore High Court dismissed the petitions on the basis of withdrawal. It should be remembered that Imran Khan had challenged the Anti-Terrorism Court's decision to reject the bails in the Jinnah House, Shadman Police Station and Askari Tower attack cases.

Police seize 3,000 liters of smuggled fuel

RAJANPUR (APP): Rajanpur Police claimed to have successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle fuel and seized 3,000 liters of oil here Monday. Following the instructions from District Police Officer (DPO) Dost Muhammad, a crackdown against smuggling is in progress across the district. SHO Sadar Police Station Asad Abbas, along with his team, conducted the operation which resulted in the seizure of a tanker filled with smuggled diesel. One suspect involved in the smuggling was arrested along with the vehicle. DPO Captain (Retd.) Dost Muhammad has issued directives to all SHOs in the district.



ABBOTTABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing media persons during his visit to Abbotabad Press Club.

Punjab govt facilitating religious minorities: Arora

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, visited Multan and attended a reception held at the local Poyam Church in Razaabad. The provincial minister highlighted practical steps taken by the Punjab government to realize Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision of a "Minority-Friendly Punjab." He stated that for the first time, the Punjab government has increased minority funds by 200% in the recent budget, which will provide more resources for the welfare of minorities. He mentioned that the government had allocated a 5% job quota and a 2% quota in universities for minorities to provide employment and educational opportunities to the minority community. Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora said that a significant amount has been allocated in the development fund for minorities in South Punjab, and the Punjab government is issuing special grants on occasions like Christmas, Easter, Holi, and Diwali.

Minister reviews progress in 27 schemes for Murree

LAHORE (APP): Progress in 27 schemes under the Murree Development Plan was reviewed in a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat, which was presided over by Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq on Monday. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed Mian, Special Secretary Asia Gul, Additional Secretary Maria Tariq and others participated. The Deputy Commissioner Murree briefed the meeting on the development plan through video link. The minister said that on the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, it has been decided to start projects including upgrading of the water network in Murree. "Drainage and streetlight services will also be upgraded in the main tourist hub of Punjab", he said. He elaborated that the water schemes for Murree would be completed in three phases and short-term scheme would be started first.

CM meets PA Speaker, discusses assembly affairs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan to discuss affairs of Punjab Assembly and overall political situation in the country. She also had a detailed discussion on various development projects of the government in the province. The CM said the Punjab government was focused on providing maximum relief to the poor people. She added, "We want to bottle up inflation and bury it forever." Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan appreciated the steps taken by the Punjab government to rid people of artificial inflation.

Heatwave hits Jacobabad, dozens hospitalized

JACOBABAD (APP): Dozens of people were admitted to the hospital after fainting and humidity due to extreme heat and humidity in Jacobabad on Monday. According to rescue sources, many people became unconscious and had to be admitted to the hospital due to the severe heat and humidity.

All stakeholders should work together to promote inter-faith harmony in the country

LAHORE (Online): Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly, Anthony Naveed and Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Zaheer Iqbal called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore today. Pastor Daniyal Saleem also accompanied Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed. Both the Deputy Speakers congratulated Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on assuming the office of Governor of Punjab and expressed best wishes to him. In the meeting, ways to promote inter-provincial relations was discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that all stakeholders should work together to promote inter-faith harmony in the country. He said that everyone has to play a positive role in the development of country.



LAHORE: Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly, Anthony Naveed called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Tarakai directs EMA to focus on facilities provision in schools

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai has directed the authorities of the Education Monitoring Authority (EMA) to focus on the provision of facilities, including the attendance of teachers, students and ongoing academic activities in schools. He said that according to the data of the authority, policy level decisions are made for schools and students and the achievement of all important goals has been ensured due to the excellent performance of the monitoring authority. The minister said that the monitoring of double shift schools programmes and complete details of the girls' community schools and monthly visits to schools have also been entrusted to the authority. He said that all the employees of the authority have worked very diligently in provision of furniture free textbooks to schools, details of enrolment campaign and vacancies, which is appreciable.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique chairs meeting to review projects under Marri Development Plan.

International News

Israel sends tanks back into Khan Younis area, 49 killed after new evacuation order

CAIRO: Israel sent tanks back into the greater Khan Younis area and at least 49 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, Gaza medics said on Monday, after ordering evacuations of some districts it said had been used for renewed attacks by militants. The Palestinians were killed by tank salvos in the town of Bani Suhaila and other towns fringing the eastern side of Khan Younis, with the area also bombarded by air, they said. Residents of the densely built-up area of southern Gaza said the tanks advanced for more than two kilometres into Bani Suhaila, forcing residents to flee under fire. "It is like doomsday," one resident, who only identified himself as Abu Khaled, told Reuters via chat app. "People are fleeing under fire, many are dead and wounded on the roads." The Gaza health ministry said the dead included several women and children and that at least 186 other people had been injured by Israeli fire. The Gaza ministry does not distinguish between militants and civilians in its death tallies. Around 400,000 people are living in the targeted areas and dozens of families have begun to leave their houses, Palestinian officials said, adding they were not given time to get out of harm's way before the Israeli strikes began. Some families fled on donkey carts, others on foot, carrying mattresses and other belongings. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said two of its clinics located in eastern Khan Younis had been knocked out of operation because of the new Israeli offensive. At Khan Younis Nasser Hospital, some people stood outside the morgue to bid farewell to dead relatives. "We are tired, we are tired in Gaza, every day our children are martyred, every day, every moment," said Ahmed Sammour, who lost several relatives in bombings of eastern Khan Younis. "No one told us to evacuate. They brought four floors crashing down on civilians... and the bodies they could reach, they brought to the refrigerator (morgue)," Sammour added. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the strikes on the eastern side of Khan Younis, whose population initially fled their homes when Israeli tanks stormed in several months ago, before returning after they withdrew to rebuild their lives.



A Palestinian woman sits on a wheelchair as she and others flee the eastern part of Khan Younis area after they were ordered by Israeli army to evacuate their neighborhoods, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Russian troops mount pressure on Ukrainian logistics hub of Pokrovsk

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine's top commander said on Monday that Russian forces were staging relentless assaults to try to advance towards the town of Pokrovsk, a logistics hub in the east and that there was active fighting taking place along the entire front line. Nearly 29 months after the full-scale invasion, Ukraine has stepped up its mobilisation effort to address its manpower shortages and been reinforced by supplies of Western artillery shells, but Russian troops have continued to inch forward. "The enemy pays no attention to their fairly high level of losses and continues to push through towards Pokrovsk," Colonel General Oleksandr Syrskiy said in a statement from the eastern front. Pokrovsk is less than 25 km (15 miles) from Russian-occupied land, according to open-source intelligence battlefield maps, and lies at an intersection of roads and a railway that makes it an important logistics point for the military and for civilians in the east.

UK's Rwanda asylum scheme has cost 700 million pounds

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Britain's now-scrapped plan to deport migrants who arrive illegally on British shores to Rwanda has cost taxpayers 700 million pounds (\$904 million), new interior minister Yvette Cooper said on Monday. "Two and a half years after the previous government launched (the Rwanda plan), I can report it has already cost the British taxpayer 700 million pounds," she told parliament.

Netanyahu to face US Congress amid Gaza tensions

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Facing intense pressure to quickly cut a ceasefire deal with Hamas in Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to deliver a landmark speech to the US Congress on Wednesday. While Netanyahu will become the first foreign leader to address a joint meeting of the two chambers four times, pulling ahead of Britain's Winston Churchill on three, an expected meeting between Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden is still not confirmed.

Hezbollah says fires rockets, drones at Israel

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah said it fired Katyusha rockets and drones at Israel on Sunday after strikes which the Israeli army said targeted Hezbollah weapons storage facilities. Hezbollah has traded near-daily cross-border fire with Israeli forces in support of Hamas since the Palestinian militant group's October 7 attack on southern Israel triggered war in the Gaza Strip. Six people were wounded in the overnight Israeli strike, according to the official Lebanese National News Agency. In retaliation, Iran-backed Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, said in separate statements that on Sunday it targeted two Israeli military positions in northern Israel with Katyusha rockets and drones. An earlier statement by the group had said its fighters also struck the Dafa area with Katyusha rockets "in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks that targeted civilians in the town of Adoun, injuring several of them". Israel's military had said its air force "struck two Hezbollah weapons storage facilities in southern Lebanon, containing rockets and additional weaponry" overnight Saturday to Sunday. Hezbollah on Sunday also said that three of its fighters had been killed in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese army also reported that two of its soldiers were wounded "moderately" on Sunday when Israeli fire hit a watchtower in the south of the country. The violence since October has killed at least 518 people in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally. Most of the dead have been fighters, but they have included at least 104 civilians. On the Israeli side, 18 soldiers and 13 civilians have been killed, according to Israeli authorities.

China and Philippines reach deal to avoid clashes at disputed reef

Monitoring Desk MANILA: China and the Philippines have struck a deal aimed at stopping the two countries from clashing over the fiercely disputed Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippine government said Sunday. In the past year, the territorial standoff at the reef has flared and came to a head in mid-June when Chinese forces seized and damaged two Philippine navy boats with machetes and improvised spears. Several Filipino navy personnel were injured in the incident. China and the Philippines reached a deal they hope will end confrontations at the most fiercely disputed shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippine government said Sunday. The Philippines occupies Second Thomas Shoal but China also claims it, and increasingly hostile clashes at sea have sparked fears of larger conflicts that could involve the United States. The crucial deal was reached on Sunday, after a series of meetings between Philippine and Chinese diplomats in Manila and exchanges of diplomatic notes that aimed to establish a mutually acceptable arrangement at the shoal without conceding either side's territorial claims. Two Philippine officials, who have knowledge of the negotiations, confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity and the government later issued a brief statement announcing the deal without providing details. "Both sides continue to recognize the need to deescalate the situation in the South China Sea and manage differences through dialogue and consultation and agree that the agreement will not prejudice each other's positions in the South China Sea."

Bangladesh student group suspends protests over death toll

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: The Bangladeshi student group leading demonstrations that have spiralled into deadly violence suspended protests on Monday for 48 hours, with its leader saying they had not wanted reform "at the expense of so much blood". What began as demonstrations against politicised admission quotas for sought-after government jobs snowballed into some of the worst unrest of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's tenure. A curfew has been imposed and soldiers are patrolling cities across the South Asian country, while a nationwide internet blackout since Thursday has drastically restricted the flow of information to the outside world. "We are suspending the shutdown protests for 48 hours," Nahid Islam, the top leader of the main protest organiser Students Against Discrimination.

