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Gwadar

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President Asif Ali Zardari hosted a dinner in honour of Parliamentarians belonging to Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PMLQ), and Istehkaam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), at Aiwan-e-Sadr

President for political stability, strengthening democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday underscored the need to further strengthen parliamentary democracy and promote political stability to put the country on the path of development. Talking about the current challenges facing the country, the president emphasized the need to forge political unity to steer the country out of its political, economic and security challenges. The president expressed these views during a dinner held in honour of parliamentarians belonging to Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PMLQ), and Istehkaam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Chaudhary Salik Hussain, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, President ANP Senator Aimal Wali Khan, Former Caretaker Prime Minister and Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan, and senior political leadership of the country attended the dinner. Speaking on the occasion, President Zardari called for promoting tolerance and mutual respect as well as strengthening democratic institutions.

He said that political, economic and governance reforms were essential for improving public service delivery and bringing economic prosperity. He urged the need to rise above partisan interests and committedly work for the welfare of the people, adding that he was against the politics of confrontation that harmed the country. The parliamentarians from different political parties suggested various measures to bring stability and provide relief to the people. They also appreciated the president for his political wisdom and vision in evolving consensus on issues of national significance.

CM, CJ BHC, visit fire-affected Science College: Bugti directs to take prompt measures for resumption of classes in alternate building

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to take prompt measures for resumption of the classes otherwise affected due to the incident of fire in Government Science College Quetta. The Chief Minister said that the educational loss of the students would not be let done, as such he has issued directives to resume the classes in alternate building of the Science College, here on Monday. While he reached the Science College, the Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar also reached there. It may be mentioned

here that the main block and the class rooms of the Science College were badly damaged due to the fire erupted there on September 1. The Chief Minister and Chief Justice High Court inspected the burnt parts of the College. During the visit, the Vice Principal of Science College briefed the Chief Minister and Chief Justice about the incident of fire. The Chief Minister on the occasion said that the incident of fire in Science College is sorrowful and as such an inquiry committee has already been formed to look into and probe the incident. He on the occasion directed to take steps for resumption of the classes in the Science College.

First-ever convocation of Govt. Postgraduate Girls College Quetta: Martyrs lightening candles of knowledge, sacrificing lives for restoration of peace in Balochistan matter of pride for us, says CM

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti announces establishment of faculty in name of Shaheed Professor Nazima Talib in Postgraduate Girls College; announces 500 laptops for academic staff and students

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the martyrs lightening candles of knowledge and rendering sacrifices of their lives for restoration of peace in the province are matter of pride. The great sacrifices of our martyrs would always be remembered. The Chief Minister was addressing the first-ever convocation of the Government Postgraduate

Girls College here on Monday. The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Principal of the College, Professor Raheela Ramzan, teachers, students and their parents participated in the convocation. The Chief Minister on the occasion remembered the Professor Nazima Talib of the Balochistan University, martyred in an incident of terrorism and announced establishment of the faculty in her name. He also announced to provide 500 laptops to the academic staff and students of the college. Addressing the ceremony of distribution of gold medals and degrees among the position holder students in different BS programmes, the Chief Minister said that no society can progress without education of the women. He said that Islam has also preached to impart and promote education without any gender discrimination.

Gandapur's abusive outburst against woman opponents shows his sheer disregard for Pashtoon norms: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister



Amin Gandapur's abusive outburst against woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangjani public rally clearly showed his misdeed and sheer disregard for centuries-old Pashtoon norms and culture. Addressing a joint press conference along with Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam, he said the Pakhtuns had a great tradition of according high respect to mothers, sisters and daughters.

Taking a jibe at Gandapur, he said that the person, who had challenged a woman political leader (Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz) was scared of terrorists and criminals in his own province.

Only people of short stature like him could stoop so low by abusing and threatening political opponents especially women, he added.

NAB withdraws new Toshakhana case against Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has withdrawn the new Toshakhana case filed against former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi from the accountability court.

A hearing on the bail application was held in the new Toshakhana reference against the PTI founder and his wife on Monday. Salman Safdar, Imran Khan's lawyer, argued that the new Toshakhana case no longer stands after the restoration of NAB amendments, as the crime is invalid under the current law.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Nausherwani presenting Audit Report for the year 2021-22 in the Balochistan Assembly

No interest in seeking extension: CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Monday flatly refused to seek an extension in his tenure.

Talking to journalists, when one of the reporters, while quoting PML-N stalwart Rana Sanaullah, said that if the age limit of all SC judges was increased, he (CJP) agreed to an extension, the chief justice said, "No, this is not the case." He went on to say that in one of the meetings, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Azam Nazir Tarar and the attorney general of Pakistan were present. "But Rana Sana was not."

He said he had been told the government planned to increase the term of employment of all chief justices (CJs), including him. "I said to them that they should extend the term of employment of other CJs. But I am not interested." "I am not sure I will be alive tomorrow," Justice Isa said.

When a reporter asked why the case of a letter penned down by six judges was not being fixed for the hearing, he replied that it was the committee of judges, which had to do that. "The bench is not being formed due to the illness of Justice Musarrat Halali," he explained.

Sarbuland inspects dev. projects in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the special instructions of Commissioner Makran Dawood Khan Khilji and under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Hamoodur Rehman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Sarbuland Khan inspected two major development projects in Gwadar.

He visited the under-construction black top roads from Coastal Highway to Chib Kalmati and Ghulam Muhammad Shahzada Market, and took a detailed review of the projects. Additional Deputy Commissioner Sarbuland Khan thoroughly inspected the ongoing work and found that the base and sub-base of the roads had been completed, and the construction work was progressing rapidly.

PTI leaders Barrister Gohar, Sher Afzal Marwat arrested outside parliament

ISLAMABAD (INP): The police on Monday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Barrister Gohar outside the Parliament House.

Earlier, PTI's firebrand leader Sher Afzal Marwat was also taken into custody. The PTI leader was arrested outside the Parliament House along with his security guard. According to details, the PTI leader was shifted to Secretariat police station.

A scuffle was also witnessed between the police officials and Marwat's guards after which one of

the guard of the PTI leader was also taken into custody.

After the arrest of Marwat, PTI leader Shoaib Shaheen was also detained by the Islamabad police from his office.

It was reported by PTI leaders decided to remain inside the Parliament House as a heavy contingent of police was seen outside while red-zone also sealed from several points.

It also emerged that the PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan was not arrested by the police when he came out from the parliament.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti and Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani distributing certificates to girls during the 1st Convocation 2024 at Govt Girls Post Graduate College Quetta.

Joint resolution adopted in BA regarding implementation on quota allocated for minorities in provincial departments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Balochistan Assembly adopted a joint resolution about implementation on the quota for minorities in the provincial government departments, here on Monday.

The Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai was in the chair at the session.

The Member of Provincial Assembly belonging to JUI, Ravi Pahuja tabled the resolution, in which it was pointed out that the people belonging to different minorities have been serving in different sectors for development of the country.

It was also mentioned that the federal and provincial governments have allocated five percent quota for the minorities in all public and private institutions. But, there is least implementation on the five percent quota for the minorities, it was mentioned in the resolution demanding of the House to ask provincial government to take practical steps for implementation on the same immediately so as to end resentment and sense of deprivation prevailing among the minorities.

Earlier, the MPA Abdul Majeed Badini raised point of order in which he pointed out towards the non-functional basic health units in Jaffarabad. He said that many BHUs are non-functional in his district as such they should be made functional. On the point of order raised by the MPA Asadullah Baloch, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti endorsed his point and said that we would call the high ups of Pakistan Coast Guard. Besides, he added that we would also call the Leader of Opposition and Mir Asadullah Baloch on the matter.

President, PM strongly condemn attack on police mobile van in Panjgur

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have strongly condemned the attack on police mobile van in Panjgur which resulted in death of Sub-Inspector Shakeel Ahmed.

In their separate messages on Monday, the President and PM expressed deep grief over the martyrdom of a police official in firing the incident.

They paid tribute to the martyred sub-inspector, praying for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

President Zardari and PM Shehbaz said, "The whole nation stands by the soldiers sacrificing their lives in the fight against terrorism. This war will continue till the elimination of this scourge in toto."

PM hails heroic action of gatekeeper Madad Ali

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tribute to Madad Ali, a gatekeeper who risked his life to prevent a major accident involving the Shalimar Express at a railway crossing near Nawab Shah railway station.

Madad Ali saved lives of hundreds of people by risking his own life, the prime minister said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

The prime minister lauded Madad Ali's bravery, saying, "he put his life on the line to save countless others."

He emphasized that Madad Ali's selfless spirit is an inspiration to all, saying, "We can all learn from his altruistic passion." The entire nation is proud of you, Madad Ali, the prime minister added.

Governor Balochistan says Our policy makers & engineers can play key role in tackling challenges of natural disasters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that we have to adopt preventive and safety measures for saving huge amount of budget on the reconstruction. He stressed that we should pay attention on building flexible infrastructure instead of reconstructions, which may face the natural disasters.

In this regard, our policy makers and engineers can play key role.

The Governor said that we also had skills and resources besides having services of talented engineers. Therefore, such memorable towers and excellent buildings should be built in the

provincial metropolis so that we may attract tourists from all over the world. However, we need vision and strong intention to perform this task.

The Governor was speaking to the Provincial Minister for Communication and Works, Saleem Ahmed Khosa, who called on him here on Monday.

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that it is an unfortunate that our province mostly remains in the grip of natural disasters such as earthquake, floods, drought, etc.

As a result of which, these calamities cause loss of human lives on one hand, while these also causes damages to the basic infrastructure.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Bench composition would help predict case outcomes in past: Chief Justice Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has remarked that previously the composition of a bench could often predict the outcome of a case.

Chief Justice Isa addressed a full-court reference at the Supreme Court of Pakistan to mark the start of the new judicial year. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah was absent due to being abroad. Shariat Appellate Bench members Justices Qibla Ayaz and Khalid Masood attended the reference.

In his speech, Chief Justice Isa emphasised the importance of evaluating institution's performance on such occasions. He noted that he would

complete one year as chief justice in nine days. He said he had introduced the live broadcasting of Supreme Court proceedings, starting with the Practice and Procedure Act case, which was heard by the full court.

Following this, the authority initially held by the chief justice was delegated to a panel of three judges.

Chief Justice Isa discussed the elimination of biases in case assignments, stating that previously, it was possible to predict a case outcome based on the bench's composition.

He mentioned that he no longer knew which judge would hear a case beside him, which he believed was a shift towards more impartial proceedings.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

More 'austerity'

Ever since returning to power, the Shehbaz Sharif government has been pushing an austerity narrative like all previous dispensations. This narrative is mostly built around the announcement of superficial measures and is not backed by concrete policy. Recently, it has notified certain cost-cutting measures. The so-called austerity package contains some cosmetic measures, such as a temporary ban on purchase of cars, machinery and equipment, as well as suspension of publicly-funded medical treatment abroad and "non-essential" foreign visits by federal government functionaries.

If you believe these measures will actually be implemented or slash the burgeoning current expenditures of the government, you are mistaken. These will not even scratch the surface. Such measures are no more than a publicity stunt aimed at appeasing angry voters. In addition to these measures, the government has decided to restructure and right-size the federal ministries and their attached departments to reduce costs. The cabinet has decided to abolish 150,000 jobs, outsource handyman jobs and get rid of surplus employees by offering them a severance package. These steps are said to be part of the ongoing exercise to cut the size of the federal government, complete the devolution agenda set by the 18th Amendment and save significant costs. Again, this is not the first time a government has announced to abolish redundant posts and outsource odd jobs to the private sector. We should keep our fingers crossed and hope that these decisions will get implemented. However, the reduction in the number of federal employees will not make much difference without wide-ranging reforms to cut the perks of the higher bureaucracy through monetisation of various unlimited benefits enjoyed by them. With debt servicing constituting more than half of the federal budget expenditure, it has become imperative for the government to reduce its wasteful spending to slash its widening fiscal deficit and reduce its reliance on borrowings for financing its spending. However, the budget for the current year does not contain anything to indicate that the authorities are serious about cutting wasteful expenditure.

Consequently, according to a report in this paper, the domestic debt of the central government increased by Rs537bn in July pushing total public debt to Rs69.6tr from Rs68.914tr, reflecting the surging expenditure of the state machinery. The rapid increase in public debt does not support the austerity narrative of the government either.

Real austerity involves hard choices. There is no evidence to show that our politicians are ready to make these choices, at least not as yet. With Pakistan going through one of its worst economic and financial crises, the real austerity reforms cannot be put on hold for a very long time. The government will have to deal with these problems and execute actual reforms sooner or later.

Pride and prejudice

Zarrar Khuhro

For 15 years India put all its Bangladeshi eggs in a Hasina Wajid-shaped basket and, by extension, in her autocratically-led Awami League. No matter how rigged the elections held under the ousted ruler of Bangladesh were and no matter how repressive her rule became, the Modi government was always the first to offer support and succour. India has always been keen to assert its influence over smaller states in South Asia (hegemony is heady) and with a seemingly secure and strong Hasina firmly in their camp, strategic planners in New Delhi could be forgiven for thinking that Bangladesh would remain a firm ally for many years to come. After all, a friendly or subservient Bangladesh is critical to keeping India's perpetually restive north-eastern states in control, not to mention securing a decent return on Indian investments and lines of credit to Dhaka itself.

And then, in the space of just a few weeks, a prized asset turned into something of a liability when massive student-led protests forced Hasina to flee Dhaka and seek refuge in India.

Now the former prime minister has become a sticking point in relations between India and Bangladesh, where the protesters quite rightly accuse India of propping up Hasina's autocratic rule and harbouring suspicions that she may attempt to stage a comeback with the help of New Delhi or will, at the very least, try and destabilise the interim setup.

This suspicion is not eased by the fact that Hasina also refuses to stay silent: from her shelter in India, she has called for "justice," demanding that those involved in "terror acts" be "investigated and punished."

It was quite a stunning display of chutzpah from a woman whose security forces reportedly gunned down hundreds of protesters and who was forced to flee after close aides and family members finally convinced her that the game was over.

This raised hackles in Dhaka; Muhammad Yunus, the head of Bangladesh's interim government, called allowing Hasina to speak an "unfriendly gesture" on the part of India and said that Delhi should at the very least keep her quiet until Dhaka formally asks for her extradition. "She has been given shelter there, and she is campaigning from there," said Yunus, who added that "she has to be brought back, or else the people of Bangladesh won't be at peace. The kind of atrocities she has committed, she has to be tried in front of everyone here."

But quite apart from New Delhi's own arrogance, the BJP's toxic use of religious nationalism (used with great success domestically) spread through both social media and mainstream Indian media, is also proving to be a major stumbling block in developing good relations with the new Bangladesh.

Even as the revolution was unfolding, Indian channels and social media dubbed it an 'Islamist' uprising while laughably also accusing Pakistan of playing a part in or-estrating it. A narrative was developed that Hindus in Bangladesh are being systematically targeted and India's massive fake news machine swung into action, using old and out-of-context videos to paint a few isolated incidents as a nationwide pogrom.

Trained to hate Muslims regardless of their country of origin's ties with India, these rabid social media cadres would routinely target

Bangladesh with fake news and vitriol even when Hasina was in power. Nor was the disdain limited to social media warriors; Home Minister Amit Shah routinely referred to Bangladeshi migrants as 'termites' and the Indian Border Security Force was notorious for targeting Bangladeshis.

Thus, even as In-dian ties with Hasina flourished, a sense of resentment began to be fostered among the Bangladeshi people who saw India not only side with their oppressor, but also target and belittle them regularly in its p r o - p a g a n d a re-ut-pai-g-ns. As a result, long before the revolution, an 'In-dia out' campaign was already underway in Bangladesh, calling for a boycott of Indian products to protest "India's relentless meddling in Bangladesh's domestic affairs."

The campaign evoked an earlier such movement in the Maldives, which has traditionally remained in the Indian orbit. Here too we see that the new leadership was bold enough to strike a new path in its foreign policy, moving away from dominance by India to a more balanced approach.

Nepal, another small state that — simply by dint of relative size and strength — should easily be in the Indian orbit has also sparked a new feud with its giant neighbour over the issuance of bank notes that show disputed territory as part of Nepal.

One cannot change geography and all three of these states will have to do business with India regardless of their inclinations, but New Delhi would do well to recognise that while hate and derision may provide domestic dividends, they are not effective foreign policy tools. - Courtesy Dawn

The generalists

Adeel Wahid

"[A] Calcutta clerk in the mid-nineteenth-century Public Works Department of the colonial government would need little formal retraining for service in the contemporary CDA", observes Mathew Hull in his book, Government of Paper — The Materiality of Bureaucracy in Urban Pakistan, published in 2012. As Hull puts it, the "normative formal procedure for handling communication and files has changed little over the last hundred years".

Our bureaucratic practices are stuck in the past. But that is not all. The entire bureaucratic framework seems defective, afflicted with major design flaws. Broadly, it is an inheritance from the British colonial system, aping the governance structure put in place by those who bore deep antipathy towards the "uncultured" locals. Dogs and Indians were not allowed in many places.

From recruitment to retirement, our bureaucratic system just does not make sense. The bureaucrats are generalists. They take exams in a varied number of subjects. During the entire process, there is immense focus on form, and little on substance. Margins, headlines, diagrams, spacing, different colour markers and pens — all this is of major concern. Meanwhile, the subjects that are rote-learned rarely have anything to do with the offices that the candidates eventually occupy. This run-up is not a preparation for the job, but a test of nerves for surviving an archaic exam process. It all boils down to cracking the code, mastering how to write in an absolutely bland passive voice, in rigid and archaic English, probably not written or spoken anywhere else, other than in the postcolonial

subcontinent.

From this gruelling process, only a few emerge successful. Almost all who put themselves through this ordeal choose this path because it ensures a life of relative dignity, with protection against the heavy-handedness of those with disproportionate power. Hull, in his book, refers to one seemingly powerful bureaucrat who confesses: "You know, when you have a big post, it doesn't mean you get anything done. It just means that you and your friends don't have any personal problems".

During the training process, again, the focus remains on form and not substance. To create that wedge between the bureaucrat and those he would govern, a bureaucrat is taught to dress a particular way, act and speak with a particular sense of authority. Training is not primarily focused on honing skills regarding what needs to be done, or inculcating an ethos of public service. It is about transforming a bureaucrat into a being who envies himself entirely distinct from the common man, for whom the bureaucrat is encouraged to develop a sense of disdain. In the initial postings, a bureaucrat is equipped with guards, four-wheelers and colonial-era mansions, with massive walls, away from the residences of ordinary people.

The bureaucrats are not, in any meaningful way, beholden to the public. They are responsive only to their superiors, the politicians in power and obviously the men in uniform, thereby perpetuating a governance structure, which is by the elite, for the elite. With years, as the bureaucrats are elevated, the generalist credentials are, at best,

marginally helpful in running the various important ministries, whose backbone they form. The cabinet takes its decisions on the basis of reports and summaries prepared by the bureaucrats and their underlings. They are often thick in bureaucratic speak, and thin on substance. Major decisions, of monumental importance, are taken on the basis of whatever level of understanding these generalists are able to develop.

Worse, these generalists do not stick around in one place for long enough to develop any in-depth understanding with regards to any one subject area. With every new government, and even in periods of relative political stability, the bureaucrats keep rotating. One day, a bureaucrat might be dabbling in agricultural policy, the next, he might be charting out the future course of higher education in Pakistan. And then, each bureaucrat may have his or her own style, understanding, and approach to the subject matter. As secretaries, at the helm, these bureaucrats get to exercise major influence in decision-making.

Not surprisingly, then, there is little consistency in policy. The random flip-flop from one course of action to another is extremely damaging. Even though the files stack up, gathering dust in nooks and corners, guarded from the public, the ministries are unable to develop any substantial institutional knowledge. Each bureaucrat gets to make his own mistakes, all over again.

The discourse, therefore, that ties all issues to the lack of integrity of those in power is overly simplistic. There has to be a focus on our design flaws. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

NA told Commerce Ministry in final stage to hire company for branding Pakistani products abroad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday informed the National Assembly that the ministry was in final stage to hire a company for branding and promotion of various Pakistani products abroad especially at various new markets under commerce marketing and branding mechanism.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that around 20 foreign chefs who participated at the food exhibition recently held at Karachi, also appreciated promotion of Pakistani mangoes. He said this year mangoes' export not only witnessed sharp increase but there also were visible difference in its value addition. He said during the current year, Pakistani mangoes were marketed across the world as a mangoes' diplomacy. For the first time,

all Pakistani missions organized special one or two-day events featuring mangoes diplomacy, he said and added that 100-300 people including ambassadors were invited to these events for promotion of Pakistani mangoes and products prepared from it.

However, he said that American and European countries have some certain quality compliance requirement process as these were included in perishable items, he added.

Regarding date, Jam Kamal said that Pakistan has huge potential of various varieties of date at Khairpur and some other areas including Balochistan. Soon after, assuming a charge of the Ministry of Commerce, a plan has been chalked out by the Horticulture Department in order to reach out to the farmers so value additions of various products including date besides international

compliances could be enhanced.

The minister said that the Trade Development Authority did remarkable job in last 8-9 months especially in agricultural sector under trade diplomacy. The commerce ministry organized a food exhibition at Karachi in which over 850 delegates participated. Some 150 delegates were from European countries, China, South America, German and Africa, he added.

Jam Kamal said around 6000 business to business (B2B) agreements were signed during the exhibition.

Pakistan exports to Germany were around \$ 2 billion plus and import stood around \$ 700 million, he added.

He said we have taken various initiatives to further enhance our trade with Germany and German Trade Minister also visited Pakistan.

Rupee sheds 14 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 14 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.85 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.56.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.85 and Rs 280.35 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs 1.37 to close at Rs 308.21 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.58, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.94, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.97 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs365.22 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs367.19.



trade, investment and economic collaboration between the two countries.

The MoU was signed by the President FPCCI Mr. Atif Iqbal Sheikh & CEO UPTIB Tajmool Hussain. The MoU was signed at a simple ceremony held at the FPCCI Capital Of-



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visiting Artisans at work exhibition in the Federal Capital.

FPCCI & UPTIB sign MOU for strengthening economic ties between business communities

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) & UK-Pakistan Trade & Investment Board (UPTIB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strengthening economic ties between the business communities of Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The agreement marks a significant step towards enhancing

economic ties between the business communities of Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The agreement marks a significant step towards enhancing

Aramco has not commissioned any site in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gas & Oil Pakistan Ltd (GO) Chief Operating Officer Zeeshan Tayyeb on Monday clarified that "no Aramco site has been commissioned anywhere in Pakistan so far. In a statement, Tayyeb said that a formal announcement will be made in this regard at an appropriate time. GO said it has issued the clarification in response to the misleading picture and news circulating on social media. GO a business partner of the Saudi oil giant Aramco, in Pakistan, has said that no site has been commissioned and the picture is of some other site outside Pakistan.

FWCCI demands reduction in interest rate

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI) has demanded reduction in the interest rate by 4 percent for improving the working of small and medium women enterprises as well as large businesses. In a statement here on Monday, President FWCCI Robina Amjad said that inflation figures have been reduced to single digit. Hence, it has become imperative that immediate steps should be taken to reduce the bank interest rates by 4 percent in the forthcoming monetary policy.

Forte AI launches revolutionary App to search job worldwide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Finland's renowned IT company, Forte AI, has developed a revolutionary App powered by artificial intelligence (AI) designed to help the global workforce search for suitable jobs worldwide.

This App will be available to both the public and companies by the end of December this year, enabling job seekers to upload their CVs and companies to post their profiles. Users can find suitable jobs or services based on individual qualifications.

This initiative was launched to make global employment more accessible, keeping pace with

modern demands and enabling individuals and companies to benefit from a streamlined hiring process.

In an exclusive interview with APP, Forte AI's founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO), Jan Kristian Valkonen, said, "Our goal is to empower the global workforce. In today's fast-paced digital era, finding jobs and accessing qualified workers has become increasingly challenging."

He explained that the Forte AI App offers a comprehensive solution to these challenges, benefiting job seekers, students, companies, and freelancers.



LAHORE: Punjab Poultry Association President, Tariq Javed addresses to media persons during press conference, at Lahore press club.

MCCI calls for cutting down interest rate by 4 pc in Sept monetary policy

MULTAN (APP): The Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) appealed to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the government to urgently review the current economic conditions before announcing the new monetary policy.

With inflation rates having dropped to 10 pc, it is necessary to reduce the bank interest rates by at least 4 pc (400 basis points) to facilitate economic recovery, it said.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Mian Rashid

Iqbal emphasized that reducing interest rates is crucial for several reasons. Low interest rates will immediately attract investment from businesses, leading to job creation across the country and economic growth, he said and added that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large companies are the backbone of the economy.

An immediate reduction in interest rates will provide them with financial stability so they can invest and achieve long-term stability, Mian Rashid Iqbal noted.

Governor says: Ulema's role pivotal in upholding peace in society

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan on Monday termed the role of Ulemas as pivotal in upholding peace in the society. He underlined the need of increased responsibilities particularly in countering the hostile agenda to sabotage interfaith harmony in the country.

The governor remarked this during his visit to Madrasa Taleem ul Quran where he met with the Molana Ashraf Ali, the head of the madrasa.

He appreciated the role of the madrasa with respect to the Khatam e Nabuwat (The Finality of

the Prophethood) SAW. He said the historic madrasa has been engaged in the service of religion since the establishment of Pakistan. He presented a special tribute to the services of Maulana Ashraf Ali.

The governor said Pakistan is the only country that came into being in the name of Allah and His Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). He stressed for joint efforts to defeat the notorious designs of the enemy of the peace in the country.

"We all have to thwart the plans of the enemies together", he said.

Later, talking to the media, Governor Sardar

Salim reiterated his commitment to serving the people. Responding to a question, he said that the doors of Governor House are open for CM KPK.

"I will ask Ali Amin Gandapur to refrain from spreading unrest", he said adding that politics couldn't be run by aggressive slogans.

"Politics can't be run by raising Mola Jutt slogans", he said and asked the KPK CM to avoid irresponsible behavior.

The governor condemned Gandapur's statement regarding journalists saying it an 'irresponsible' statement.



RAWALPINDI: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider addressing to the media at Madrasa Taleem ul Qur'an Raja Bazar.

CM, Nawaz visit Ravi Sapphire Bay, review construction work

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, along with PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, visited Ravi Sapphire Bay, a suburb of Sheikhupura on Monday.

The CM visited the sites of River Training Works and Barrage, and reviewed the construction work at Sapphire Bay. She also inspected the cofferdam site, said a handout issued here.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed displeasure on public complaint of forcefully taking their land, and directed the authorities concerned to conduct a third party audit of the matter. She directed

to shift the slums coming in the project to suitable places, and agreed to a proposal to form a special team for monitoring the construction quality.

The CM directed to hire world's best professional consultants for Ravi River City project to ensure best construction quality in Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) project. The CM and PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif were briefed in detail about the River Training Work Development Plan.

RUDA CEO Imran Amin said that 46 km channelization would be done in three phases on both sides of River Ravi, 36

percent of the area would be reserved for forests and greenery in the project. He added that 46-km long three-way road would be constructed from Siphen to Hudayara Drain, and 03 barrages would also be constructed in the Ravi River Front Project.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Special Assistant Rashid Nasrullah accompanied the Chief Minister. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Housing Asadullah Khan, Commissioner Zaid Bin Maqsood, CEO Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) Imran Amin and other relevant officers were also present.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewing the current situation of weather at PDMA Head Office.

KPJA completes series of capacity building training for paralegal staff

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy Peshawar (KPJA) has completed a series of training programmes, aimed at enhancing the professional skills and capacity uplift of Paralegal Staff of district judiciary including Stamp Vendors, Petition Writers, Oath Commissioners and Notary Public.

The inaugural session of the last one day training for Stamp Vendors held at the Academy, with Director General, Mr. Jehanzeb Shinwari, as the chief guest.

Dean Faculty, Mr. Zia-Ur-Rehman, Senior Director Administration, Mr.

Dost Mohammad Khan, Senior Director Research & Publication, Dr. Qazi Attaullah and other officers and Directors of the Academy were also present on the occasion.

In his welcome address, Director General, KPJA, emphasized that the objective of this one-day training was to strengthen the justice sector by boosting the professional capabilities of Paralegal staff (Stamp Vendors).

He highlighted the essential role of Stamp Vendors in the preparation of documents and documentary evidence required by the courts.

Salman Rafique visits PDMA head office

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee for Disaster Management, Khawaja Salman Rafique, on Monday visited the PDMA Head Office.

He reviewed the current weather situation as well as the rescue and relief efforts in the flood-affected areas. The PDMA director gave a briefing to the provincial minister on the relief activities in these areas. During the briefing, it was mentioned that the water flow in all the rivers and canals of Punjab is normal.

One killed, two injured in separate incidents

ATTOCK (APP): A man was killed while two others were critically injured in separate incidents across Attock district on Monday.

According to police sources, in the first incident, a 46-year-old man named Tariq Mehmood was shot dead in Peerzai village. Police reported that he was approached by two masked assailants while walking near his home and was shot multiple times.

Health minister pays surprise visit to Children's Hospital

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Monday paid a surprise visit to the Children's Hospital, Lahore.

He visited the emergency, cardiology, outpatient department (OPD), operating theaters, and other sections of the hospital, inspecting the sanitation and medical facilities. Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Child Health Sciences, Prof.

Junaid Rashid, and Managing Director of Children's Hospital, Prof. Tipu Sultan, briefed the Provincial Health Minister in this regard.

The minister stated that sanitation and medical services had been reviewed across various departments of the Children's Hospital, Lahore. He emphasized that efforts were being made to provide better treatment facilities to patients in government hospitals.

PU awards 10 PhD degrees

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab University (PU) has awarded PhD degrees to its ten scholars after approval of their thesis in various disciplines. According to spokesperson, Muhammad Amer Raza S/o Abdul Qudoos was awarded PhD degree in the subject of Communication Studies. Similarly, Asma Majeed D/o Abdul Majeed in the subject of Gender Studies, Hasnat Ahmad S/o Ghazanfar Ali in Gender Studies, Sadia Bashir D/o Bashir Ahmed in Mathematics, Nasira Rafi D/o Muhammad Rafi Ullah Awan in Molecular Biology.

UNDP's GLOF-II project to tackle Climate Change challenges in Swat

PESHAWAR (APP): UNDP Pakistan's Scaling Up of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) Risk Reduction Project (GLOF-II Project) recently held a series of Stakeholders' Communication and Coordination Workshops.

According to a press release issued here on Monday, these workshops brought together community members and representatives from various government departments, including PDMA, OFWM, Forest, SWC, and other relevant officials at the district or tehsil level.

From 7th to 9th September 2024, UNDP GLOF-II Project organized these workshops in Utrot, Matiltan and Mankiyal valleys of District Swat.

The workshops pro-

vided a platform to identify and address potential communication and coordination challenges that may arise during the Project's implementation in these areas. The primary objective of these workshops was to cement clear and effective communication and coordination among all stakeholders involved in the project, ensuring that community members are well-informed and actively engaged throughout the Project's duration.

"This workshop gave us the opportunity to voice our concerns. We were pleased to see that the stakeholders listened to our inputs and assured us that the Project activities will fully reflect our perspective," said Mahmood Khan, a resident of Matiltan valley.



KARACHI: Members of Pakistan Biharis Joint Action Committee are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club.

President PFUJW, GS VJAP denounce KP CM allegations against journalists

PESHAWAR (APP): President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Workers (PFUJW) and senior journalist Shamim Shahid and General Secretary of Video Journalists' Association Peshawar (VJAP) on Monday denounced the allegations of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur against the journalists. In a statement issued here, Shamim Shahid strongly condemned the language of KP CM against

the journalists during Sangiani rally and said that unfortunately, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's leadership have forgotten all the political and social values, adding that Ali Amin Gandapur was no longer a political worker or a common man but a Chief Minister and he should be mindful of his language.

Shamim said that the allegations leveled against the journalists were very inappropriate.

International News

China's Xi, Spain's Sanchez seek to ease EU-China trade disputes

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday urged visiting Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to play a "constructive role" in improving strained ties between Beijing and the European Union.

Sanchez for his part said he hoped the EU could avoid a trade war with China even as Brussels weighs imposing tariffs on China-manufactured electric vehicles.

In their meeting, Xi also talked up deepening commercial ties between China and Spain in sectors such as artificial intelligence, digital economy, new energy and other high-tech fields.

The Chinese leader said Beijing wanted to work with Brussels to further develop a China-EU relationship where the two maintain their indepen-

dence and autonomy but also succeed together and bring benefit to the world, a Chinese readout said.

"It is hoped Spain will continue to play a constructive role in this regard," Xi added.

Sanchez responded: "Spain wants to work constructively so that relations between the two are closer, richer and more balanced."

Beijing in June said that frictions with the EU over its plans to impose tariffs of up to 36.3% on its electric vehicles (EVs) could trigger a trade conflict, days after China announced a retaliatory anti-dumping probe into European pork imports.

China in August then raised the stakes by opening an investigation into the 27-strong bloc's dairy subsidies.

Prior to meeting Xi, Sanchez told business

events Spain would work for a negotiated consensus to the EV dispute within the World Trade Organization and that a "trade war would benefit no one," a government source said.

Spain in 2023 exported \$1.5 billion worth of the pork products that China will investigate, Chinese customs data showed, dwarfing the outbound shipments from second- and third-ranking the Netherlands and Denmark.

Spain also sold just under \$50 million worth of targeted dairy products to China last year.

But in a promising sign for Spain's pork producers, a separate source with direct access to Xi's meeting with Sanchez said the two leaders had "found harmony and understanding," when asked about possible curbs on Spain's outbound pork shipments.



Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and China's President Xi Jinping meet at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China.

At least 48 killed in Nigerian fuel truck explosion

MONROVIA: At least 48 people were killed in a fuel tanker truck explosion following a collision with another vehicle in north-central Nigeria, the state's disaster management agency said.

The State Emergency Management Agency in north-central Niger state said the fuel truck collided with a truck carrying travellers and cattle. Several other vehicles were also caught

up in the accident, it said.

The agency's spokesperson Hussaini Ibrahim put the death toll at 48 and officials were still trying to clear the scene of the incident.

Nigeria's state-owned firm NNPC Ltd last week hiked the price of gasoline by at least 39%, the second major increase in more than a year but shortages have continued, forcing motorists to queue for hours in the country's major cities and towns.

Forty-seven inmates escape from Liberian prison

MONROVIA: Forty-seven inmates have escaped from a maximum security prison in Liberia's Margibi County, a rural area east of the West African country's capital Monrovia, the justice ministry said on Monday.

Initial investigations suggested the inmates had managed to escape at the weekend because of a breach in the prison's security system, the ministry said.

"The Ministry of Justice is deeply concerned about this incident and is taking all necessary measures to ensure the recapture of the escaped inmates," it said in a statement.

UK asks Afghan embassy to shut its doors

LONDON: The United Kingdom government has asked the Afghan embassy to shut down its diplomatic mission, it emerged on Sunday. The decision was communicated to Zalmi Rassoul, Afghanistan's ambassador to the UK.

In a statement, Mr Rassoul said, "The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in London is scheduled to officially close and will cease its operations on September 27, 2024, at the official request of the host country." "This decision has been made based on the re-

quirements of the host country's authorities. We thank and appreciate all colleagues, citizens, and related institutions who have sincerely cooperated with the Afghan Embassy in London during this period."

The closure follows a recent announcement by the interim Taliban government, declaring that documents issued by 14 embassies — including the one in London — were invalid. These dozen embassies are still operated by diplomats appointed by Afghanistan's former government.

Israel orders more evacuations in Gaza after militants fire rockets

NEWS YORK: The Israeli military has ordered another evacuation of some residential areas in north-west Gaza where it says Palestinian militants fired rockets on the nearby Israeli town of Ashkelon.

The orders issued on Monday came after a rocket attack triggered air raid sirens in Ashkelon the day before.

16 killed in Israeli air strikes on central Syria

CAIRO: At least 16 people were killed late on Sunday in multiple Israeli strikes targeting the vicinity of Masyaf, a city in Syria's Hama province, Syria's state news agency reported on Monday.

Two regional intelligence sources said a major military research centre for chemical arms production located near Masyaf had been hit several times. It is believed to house a team of Iranian military experts involved in weapons production.

has escalated its strikes on Iranian-backed militia targets in Syria and has also struck Syrian army defences and some Syrian forces.

"At around 23:20 on Sunday evening, the Israeli enemy launched an air aggression from the direction of northwestern Lebanon, targeting a number of military sites in the central region (of Syria)," a military source told the SANA news agency.

"Our air defence systems confronted the aggression's missiles and shot down some of them," the source added, without providing further details.

A local health official quoted by SANA said 43 people had been injured, including several critically, in the strikes.

Philippines Senate holds ex-mayor Alice Guo in contempt a second time

MANILA: Former Philippine town mayor Alice Guo was held in contempt for a second time on Monday after refusing to answer senators' questions on suspected ties to Chinese criminal syndicates and how she escaped the country two months ago.

The 38-year-old ex-mayor of Bambang was arrested in Indonesia last week, alongside a Chinese monk and with her hair cut short in disguise according to authorities, and deported home.

Appearing in a bullet-proof vest at a Senate investigative panel, Guo looked unruffled and evaded most questions, saying death threats and ongoing criminal cases constrained her from responding.

Senators took turns to grill Guo on Monday, becoming irked and accusing her of lying that she is Filipino despite evidence obtained by the National Bureau of Investigation showing her fingerprints match Chinese national Guo Hua Ping.

"I move to cite Guo Hua Ping, also known as Alice Guo, in contempt of the Senate for testifying falsely and evasively before this committee," said Senate committee head Risa Hontiveros, whose motion was quickly passed. Asked how she escaped, Guo said she and companions left on a yacht with the help of an Asian woman she refused to name, before transferring to a larger boat. The Senate launched an investigation into Guo in May after a casino raid in Bambang uncovered what law enforcers described as scams run from a facility on land she partly owned.

Pentagon chief says a six-month temporary budget bill will have devastating effects on the military

WASHINGTON: Passage of a six-month temporary spending bill would have widespread and devastating effects on the Defense Department, Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin said in a letter to key members of Congress on Sunday.

Austin said that passing a continuing resolution that caps spending at 2024 levels, rather than taking action on the proposed 2025 budget will hurt thousands of defense programs, and damage military recruiting just as it is beginning to recover after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Asking the department to compete with (China), let alone manage conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, while under a lengthy CR, ties our hands behind our back while expecting us to be

agile and to accelerate progress," said Austin in the letter to leaders of the House and Senate appropriations committees.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson has tied up a vote this week on a bill that would keep the federal government funded for six more months. The measure aims to garner support from his more conservative GOP members by also requiring states to obtain proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or passport, when registering a person to vote.

Congress needs to approve a stop-gap spending bill before the end of the budget year on Sept. 30 to avoid a government shutdown just a few weeks before voters go to the polls and elect the next president.

Ten former top US military officials back Harris

WASHINGTON: A group of 10 retired top US military officials endorsed US Vice President Kamala Harris in a letter made public on Monday, saying she is the only presidential candidate fit to serve as the nation's commander-in-chief and calling her Republican rival Donald Trump "a danger to our national security and democracy."

The letter, signed by Retired General Larry Ellis and Retired Rear Admiral Michael Smith, among others, cited Trump's comments disparaging members of the military and his own "chaotic approach" to Afghanistan ahead of the US withdrawal, including negotiating a deal with the Taliban that allowed 5,000 of the group's fighters to return to the battlefield.

Muqam strongly flay CM KPK statement about PML-N leadership, national institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam here on Monday strongly condemned the statement of Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur about the top brass of Pakistan Muslim League as well as National Institutions.

Addressing a joint press conference with Info Minister, Amir Muqam said that CM KP badly failed to show his provincial government performance instead of that criticizing the performance of federal regime and Punjab government.

The minister highlighted that CM KP used a derogatory language about the CM Punjab Marium Nawaz which was very shameful act as public had rejected the yesterday power show of Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI).

Muqam underlined that Pakhtoon have a good norms, culture and respect of women in their customs but CM KP had violated all custom using the negative remarks about the females in the public gathering.

It was a very alarming situation as the government of PTI in KPK using all the resources of the government for vested interest and party promotion campaign.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi talking with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti during Assembly session

Magsi meets Rubaba; discusses steps for women development

Independent Report
QUETTA: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women's Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi met with Provincial Secretary for Law and Provincial Affairs Law, Nawabzada Mir Zareen Khan Magsi.

During the meeting, Nawabzada Mir Zareen Khan Magsi congratulated Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on receiving the Sitara-i-Imtiaz.

Nawabzada Mir Zareen Khan Magsi discussed possible measures for the welfare of women in his constituency. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi emphasized that the role of women in society is crucial and protecting their rights is a top priority. She mentioned that programs are underway to uplift women in many districts of Balochistan. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi further stated that every possible step would be taken to address women's development and issues. She underscored that the development of women in Balochistan can only be achieved through joint efforts and cooperation.

By removing all hurdles Commissioner directs to ensure timely completion of development schemes

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat has directed to the concerned officials to ensure timely completion of the development schemes by removing all hurdles in Quetta.

In this regard, all the concerned departments should take steps with mutual cooperation and partnership.

The Commissioner Quetta was presiding over a meeting of the Coordination Committee regarding the development projects, here the other day.

Those who were present in the meeting were included Director Development, Quetta, Zahoor Ahmed, representatives and officers of the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, QESCO, Sui Southern Gas Company, PTCL, QDA, NTC, Energy department and other concerned departments.



QUETTA: Disable Sanaullah who completed PhD in IT department meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. Parliamentary Secretary Mir Barkat Rind and MPA Engr. Zamrak Khan Achakzai are also present

Siddiqui defends Peaceful Assembly law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in Senate Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui on Monday said the "Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill 2024" was aimed at safeguarding the citizens' rights. Speaking on a point of order soon after the commencement of the Senate's proceedings with Presiding Officer Sherry Rehman in the chair, he presented his arguments in the defence of the legislation passed by the House rejecting the opposition benches' criticism.

Senator Siddiqui alleged that Leader of Opposition in the Senate Shibli Faraz had passed sarcastic remarks indirectly targeting his stature.

He said that the opposition leader made some tongue-in-cheek remarks on his poetry, Urdu and linguistic style of speech at the floor of the House.

"It is not derogatory but a tribute to myself from the member. I try to circumvent remarks that may hurt any member. Shibli Faraz had appreciated my conduct of the House twice. "However, I forgo all those remarks and don't want to give any rebuttal on it," Senator Siddiqui said. He added that the Peaceful Assembly law was supported by some 60 members of five political parties, including PPP, MQM, PML-N, BAP and independents. He said every civilized country had such laws. The United Kingdom had three laws on peaceful public assembly that entailed strict penalties.



QUETTA: Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Quetta and Commissioner Quetta Division Hamzara Shafaqat presiding over a meeting regarding tax collection



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairing the 4th meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee (PSC) and the Oversight Board on Post-Flood Reconstruction Activities.

CM Bugti to be called Coast Guard officials of Hub to realize MPA's concerns

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Monday said that the Coast Guard officials of Hub would be called to realize the concerns of the members of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) regarding it.

He said this on the floor of Provincial Assembly in response of MPA Asadullah Baloch who earlier expressed his reservation regarding the Coast Guard Officials of Hub area of Lasbela district.

The Assembly Session was chaired by Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Rtd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai on Monday.

The chief minister said that the opposition would also be invited to attend the meeting in this regard.

He said that there was a request from the Speaker that the assembly should be run under rules and regulations.

The Speaker supported the proposal of the CM and said that if the members are not given a chance, then they make complaints, but I am trying to run the assembly under rules and regulations.

Parliamentary Secretary Sanjay Kumar presented a joint resolution on behalf of the minority assembly members Ravi Pooja and Patrick Sant Masih read that in the text of the resolution that people belonging to minorities in Pakistan should not only be involved in politics but also in Pakistan's forces, bureaucracy, education, apart from health.

He said that they were rendering their services for the development and prosperity of the country in various fields of life adding the the State is committed to the protection, empowerment and development of under-represented communities including religious minorities to ensure their participation in economic, political and public representation.

Sanjay Kumar said that the federal and provincial governments have allocated 5% quota for minorities in the jobs of all government and non-government organizations but the 5 percent quota reserved for the minorities in the provincial departments was not being implemented due to which the minorities were being deeply worried.

Therefore, this house recommends the government to take steps to implement the quota allocated for minorities, he said.

Later, the joint resolution was unanimously approved by law makers.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization & Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan presiding over high level meeting on NHA.

Hafiz Naeem blames Sindh govt for power abuse in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Jamaate-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Monday slammed the Sindh government for continuously neglecting Karachi.

The JI emir made these remarks in a press conference in Karachi where he accused the Sindh government of extracting all resources from Karachi and giving nothing in return.

He criticised the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) led provincial government for destroying Karachi to the hilt despite being in power for sixteen years, adding that the JI mandate was stolen in the local government elections. He said that the PPP government had not subtlet the powers, adding that all those parties ruling in Karachi.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Sardar Faisal Khan Jamali, Parliamentary Secretaries Haji Majeed Badini, Sanjay Kumar Panjwani and MPA Mir Asadullah Baloch expressing views on point or order during Balochistan Assembly session

3 killed, five injured near Neelum Valley car accident

NEELUM VALLEY (APP): Three persons were killed and five others sustained injuries in a road accident that occurred near Jabri area located at Neelum valley of Northern region, tv channels quoting rescue sources reported on Monday. According to details, a tourist car carrying passengers was heading towards Babon area when it met an accident near Jabri of Neelum valley.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said that the journalists had staged a walkout from the House in protest against the KP CM's comments against their community.

Gandapur had deeply hurt the sentiments of media persons, he added. The journalists were facing threats to their lives and well-being, and they wanted the Parliament to take a stand in their support.

Ahsan for identifying, bridging gaps hindering flood-resilient projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday directed all relevant ministries to identify and bridge the gaps and obstacles hindering flood-resilient projects, saying "These must be addressed with zero tolerance for delays."

Chairing the 4th meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee (PSC) and the Oversight Board on Post-Flood Reconstruction Activities, he also instructed that incomplete PC-I documents should be returned within 15 days to avoid further delays, a news release said.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Secretary Planning, Secretary Economic Affairs, Chief Secretaries of all Provinces, the Country Directors of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNDP Resident Representative, the Deputy Head of Mission of the EU and senior officials from the Planning Commission.

The agenda of the meeting was to review and follow-up on decisions made during the 3rd PSC meeting, a progress review of ongoing 4RF projects, updates on flood reconstruction and coordination efforts with UNDP, and the current status of financial pledges. In his opening remarks, the minister described the unprecedented disaster that struck Pakistan between June and August 2022, caused by a combination of torrential rains, riverine floods and urban flash floods.

He noted that one-third of the country was submerged, affecting 33 million people and displacing nearly 8 million.

The floods claimed over 1,700 lives, with one-third of the victims being children. More than half of the districts in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were declared disaster-stricken.

The 2022 floods also exposed Pakistan's extreme vulnerability to climate change, despite the country contributing less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2018, and consistently ranking among the top 10 countries most affected by climate change.

In response to the 2022 floods, the Ministry of Planning developed the Pakistan's strategic policy, known as the Resilient, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF). This framework is designed to guide the country's recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.

The 4RF outlines four key objectives: enhancing governance and institutional capacity to restore lives and livelihoods, reviving economic opportunities.

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for polio eradication Balochistan, the campaign has been kicked off in all 36 districts of the province with the resolve to reach out to each and every child to administer the anti-polio vaccine.

The EOC Coordinator Inamul Haq informed that over 11,555 teams have been formed to administer the anti-polio drops to the children after visiting from home to home and at the transit and fixed points. The teams taking part in the campaign are included 9,247 mobile, 945 fixed sites and 595 transit points.

During the campaign, more than 2.655 million children below five years of age would be administered anti-polio vaccine.

The EOC Coordinator also said that all resources are being mobilized to ensure eradication of polio virus completely.

He said that foolproof security arrangements have been made for the teams engaged in the anti-polio drive. He mentioned that in all 12 cases have been reported in first eight months of the current year in Balochistan. These polio cases have been reported from Quetta, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah, Dera Bugti, Jhal Magsi, Zhob and Kharan.

He pointed out that the polio virus has also been detected in the environment of different districts of the province during year 2023 after two and half years. He said that three children suffering from polio virus also died in the province.

The EOC coordinator feared that polio virus may spread to other districts of the province. He said that the children are unsafe due to the presence of polio virus as such parents should not pay with lives of their children and get them administered the anti-polio vaccine. In addition to this, the parents should also complete the course of immunization of their children along with the polio vaccine, the EOC coordinator pleaded. The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has already made it clear that the anti-polio campaign would be made successful mobilizing all resources in the province. He warned that stern action would be taken against those creating hurdles in the immunization campaign.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Ali Madad Jattak administering oath to newly elected cabinet of Balochistan Agriculture Officers Association

Anti-polio campaign gets underway all over Balochistan; over 2.655 mln children to be vaccinated

Independent Report
QUETTA: The anti-Polio campaign got underway in all districts of Balochistan including Quetta on Monday.

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for polio eradication Balochistan, the campaign has been kicked off in all 36 districts of the province with the resolve to reach out to each and every child to administer the anti-polio vaccine.

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Sindh PAs passes resolution in favour of 1991 water Accord

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Assembly on Monday passed a resolution and requested Federal Government to ensure implementation on Water Accord of 1991 in letter and spirit.

Pakistan People's Party MPA Nisar Khuhro moved the resolution in the House, which was unanimously adopted by the House after discussion.

He demanded of the Federal Government not to amend the Act as people of Sindh wants this IRSA Act 1992 to be implemented in letter and spirit.

UNSG urged to prevent Modi regime's election drama in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, Acting Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, has appealed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to prevent the Indian government's attempts to mislead the world by staging so-called state assembly elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In a letter to the UNSG, Saghar highlighted the alarming deterioration of fundamental freedoms and civic space in Kashmir since India's apartheid regime led by Narendra Modi-led Indian regime stripped the territory of its special status in 2019. He said the Indian government is suppressing dissent, targeting critics, and committing human rights violations, including excessive force, arbitrary detentions, and enforced disappearances.

Saghar emphasized that the elections are a farce, lacking fairness and transparency.

4.5 magnitude quake jolts Swat, surroundings

PESHAWAR (APP): Residents of Swat and nearby areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa experienced a jolt on Monday as an earthquake struck the area.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department reported that the earthquake registered a magnitude of 4.5 on the Richter scale.

The tremors were felt across Swat and its surroundings, causing momentary panic among residents.

The earthquake's depth was recorded at 151 km, with the epicenter located in the Hindu Kush Mountain range, a seismically active area known for frequent quakes.

There have been no immediate reports of significant damage or casualties. Authorities are actively assessing the situation to ensure public safety.

IRSA issue referred to relevant NA committee on Tarar's suggestion

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly's Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah on Monday referred the issue regarding the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) to the relevant committee of the House. Earlier, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar suggested the Chair to refer the issue to the committee concerned for further consideration.

Responding to a point raised by a member in the National Assembly about IRSA, he said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Muhammad Nawaz Sharif (as prime minister) had played a pivotal role in building consensus for the IRSA Accord in 1991.