

Independent

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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 Istehkam-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.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses at the dinner hosted in honour of the Parliamentarians of Coalition parties of the government

Govt's efforts putting economy on growth trajectory: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hosted a dinner in honour of parliamentarians from various political parties, expressing gratitude for their cooperation in the government affairs.

He highlighted the slowdown in inflation to 9.6% in August 2024, citing it as a testament to the government's effective economic measures.

"The economic experts are forecasting further decline in the inflation rate during the current month which is a good news for the nation", he said, recalling that in 2018, they had left the government with a single digit inflation rate.

The prime minister attributed the economic progress to the efforts initiated by his last government in April 2022, to save the country from default. The economic team's efforts had not only stabilized the economy but also put it on a growth trajectory.

The dinner was attended by the members of National Assembly and Senate belonging to the government's allied parties.

The prime minister said while assuming the responsibilities as Khadim-e-Pakistan, he had promised to the

people that he would ease their problems at all costs.

Now the positive results of economic reforms had started reaching the people, he said adding that it was not possible to achieve the goal of the country's development without making the life of the common man easier. As regards the power tariffs, the prime minister said the government was taking measures to provide maximum relief to the low-income segments of the society.

He said that the process of right sizing and downsizing in the government offices had been started to reduce the expenditures.

The prime minister, while stressing the need for political stability and continuity in policies, said that everybody should have to get together to steer the country out of the economic quagmire.

He also condemned the inappropriate language used by the leaders of a political parties last night.

He said terrorism had almost been eliminated from the country under the leadership of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, but unfortunately it was resurging in some parts of the country. He, however, vowed to uproot the menace again.

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 Attaulah Tarar on Monday said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's abusive outburst against woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangiani public rally clearly showed his misdemeanour 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 accord 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.

The KP CM should have talked about the strategy to eradicate terrorism from the province, but he indulged in mudslinging as per his party's tradition, Tarar said.

The minister said that Maryam Nawaz had never bowed before any tyrant or oppressor, and did face fake cases bravely, besides imprisonment.

He pointed out that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had a record of not carrying out even a single quality project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during its 12-year tenure.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari attending a dinner held in honour of Parliamentarians belonging to different political parties at President House.

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 the 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.

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."

PTI leaders Barrister Gohar, 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.

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.

NAB withdraws new Toshakhana case against Imran, 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.

The NAB prosecutor stated that following the restoration of amendments, the case is no longer within NAB's jurisdiction.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

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 Nawan 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.



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

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."

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.



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

Senate body approves 'Cannabis Control & Regulatory Authority bill

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Senator Kamil Ali Agha chaired the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology held today at Parliament House.

The Senate Committee unanimously passed the bill titled "The Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024." The Committee had detailed deliberations and passed the bill with amendments, including the inclusion of two members of the Senate, one of whom is a woman, as members of the Board of Governors of the authority, along with amendments to other clauses of the bill.

Chairman PCSIR, Dr. Syed Hussain Abidi, stated that the bill aimed to ensure public health by regulating the cultivation and manufac-

turing of cannabis and to generate revenue by utilizing the economic potential of the cannabis industry. He highlighted that cannabis can be used for industrial and medicinal purposes and has an economic potential of 4 to 6 billion dollars. Senator Musadik Masood Malik asserted that cannabis use could be limited to medicinal use and that necessary safeguards should be in place to curb the abusive use of cannabis.

In attendance were Senators Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan, Jan Muhammad, Husna Bano, Musadik Masood Malik, Nasir Mehmood, Syed Shibli Faraz, Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology Sajid Baloch, Acting Secretary for the Ministry of Defence Ashfaq Kiyani.

Process to privatize PIA to be finalized by October: Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Asif, informed the National Assembly on Monday that the privatization process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will be finalized by the end of October.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding the prolonged closure of Hyderabad airport for commercial flights, he said that reopening PIA flights on this route is not financially feasible. He explained that PIA currently faces a debt burden of Rs. 800 billion, and routes that are not financially viable cannot be operated. Responding to a question, he said that the government has no objection if a private airline wanted to operate from Hyderabad airport.

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-h-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 grueling 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 responsible 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.



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

OEC sends skilled workforce to Bahrain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) would export the skilled labour to Kingdom of Bahrain. An official source told APP here on Monday, he said that OEC already sending the workforce to Gulf States and Europe and all these workers are playing vital role for boosting the national economy.

He said that our es-

teemed client Bahrain Fiber Glass (BFG) in Bahrain required a Pakistani Workforce in the Kingdom of Bahrain who meet the prescribed qualifications and experience as trimmers 4, trimming complex product matrix certificate or diploma in the relevant field, at least 02-years of experience, 140-150 BD salary, accommodation+ Overtime.

Carpenter (Pattern Assembly), finishing carpenter, High School Certificate or Diploma in the

Relevant Field at least 02-Years of experience and salary 140-150 BD with free accommodation + Overtime. A number of skilled workers required in the field of Laminator & Panels Production, vacuum, infusion, process High School Certificate or Diploma in the Relevant Field, at least 02-Years of experience and salary 140-150 BD accommodation + Overtime, Preferred ITI (any trade) Diploma (2 years), Food Allowance will not be provided by the Company.

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, en-

abling 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.

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 trade, investment and economic collaboration between the two countries.

The MoU was signed by the President FPCCI Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh & CEO UPTIB Tajmul Hussain. The MOU was signed at a simple ceremony held at the FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad. Mr. Tariq Mehmood Jadoon Vice President FPCCI, Malik Sohail Hussain Chairman Coordination FPCCI, Mian Shaikh Masood Fromer Vice President FPCCI, Mr. Waqas Khan Sawati Deputy Convener FPCCI Standing Committee on fair and exhibition, Managing Director UPTIB Azhar Warraich, Head Partnerships & Corporate Linkages UPTIB Nauman Rasool are also present on this occasion.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Bivi Jan D/o Banaras Khan R/o Amlaila PO Havelian Tehsil Havelian District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 564397/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-08-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 24-09-2024. (sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Zohra Jan D/o Muhammad Sadique Abbasi R/o Kareem Abad Banda Pir Khan Tehsil & District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 93906/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-08-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 24-09-2024. (sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Muhammad Shah Nawaz S/o Karram Elahi R/o Klarkhatar PO Sherwan Tehsil & District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 300074/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-08-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 24-09-2024. (sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Gohar Rehman S/o Roshan Din R/o Butt Kanala Tarnawal Tehsil & District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 265558/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-08-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 24-09-2024. (sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

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.

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.

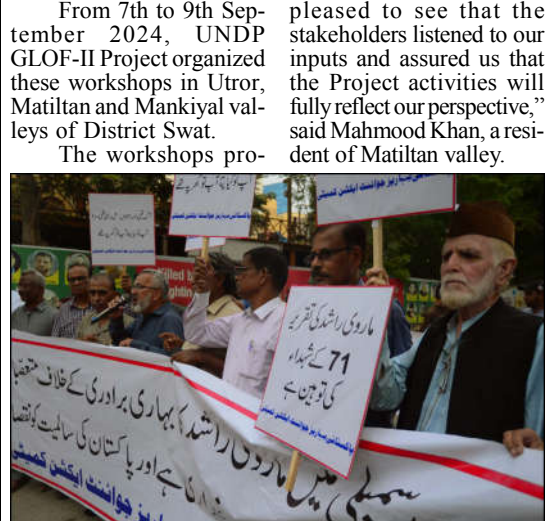
From 7th to 9th September 2024, UNDP GLOF-II Project organized these workshops in Utrot, Matiltan and Mankiyal valleys of District Swat.

The workshops provided 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.

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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.



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.

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.

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.

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

NIGERIA: 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

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 based on the re-

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.

There was no immediate comment from Israel, which typically does not comment on specific reports of strikes in Syria.

Since the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians and soldiers, Israel

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.

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

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.

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 Bamban 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 unrattled and evaded most questions, saying death threats and ongoing criminal cases constrained her from responding.

Senators first held Guo in contempt in July and ordered her arrest for failing to appear at a hearing. Law enforcers later found out she left the Philippines in July, going to Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. Bamban mayor since 2022, Guo was re-

quired 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 Afghan 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.

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Federal govt sponsoring 101 PSDP projects worth Rs 947.5 bln in KP: NA told

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday apprised the National Assembly that at present 101 PSDP projects, being sponsored and executed by various Federal Ministries/Departments over the past two years. The minister said there was no specific share of provinces including AJ&K and GB for investment in development projects by the Federal Government. After the 18th amendment, the provinces got around 58.5 per cent share while the centre has only 42.5 per cent share in revenue, he added. He said the federal government has very limited space to sponsor various development projects. He said PML-N government during its 2013-18 tenure, enhanced the development budget up to Rs 1000 billion adding that record development projects worth Rs 3200 billion were completed during the said period. Pakistan's economy was among top 5 emerging economies of the world, he

added. However, a U-turn in 2018 had ruined the country's economy which was growing at 6 per cent, he added.

The minister said the main purpose of public sector investment under the Federal PSDP, after the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, was to provide funding for large scale strategic projects of national interest.

However, he said the Federal Government also invested under developed regions to bring them at par with other areas of the country, reduce poverty and empower the marginalized segment of the society.

To another question the minister said the Federal Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy has been approved by the Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on 17th April 2024.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Engr Amir Muqam chairs a meeting of representatives of different NGOs.

BISP to empower adolescent girls through SOPRAN project

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) held its first National Steering Committee meeting on the Adolescent Girls' Nutrition project on Monday.

The meeting, presided over by Director General BISP (NSER/CCT), Naveed Akbar, was organized to discuss the SOPRAN project, which leverages social protection initiatives to improve adolescent girls' nutrition and empowers them as change agents in their communities.

The key stakeholders present included represen-

tatives from GIZ, Nutrition International, CERP, provincial Departments of Education, Health, and Food Authorities, along with other national and international partners.

In his opening remarks, Naveed Akbar emphasized the critical importance of addressing the widespread malnutrition among adolescent girls in Pakistan.

With over 50 per cent of girls affected by anemia and a significant portion suffering from other micronutrient deficiencies, this initiative is timely and essential.

Five day anti-polio drive begins with target to reach over 0.4 mln children

ISLAMABAD (APP): A five-day anti-polio vaccination campaign was launched in the Federal Capital on Monday, with the goal of vaccinating the 421,455 children.

The campaign was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, who personally administered the first dose to a child during the ceremony, said the spokesperson of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration.

The main objective of the campaign is to reach every child and protect the community from the threat of polio. Over the next five days, teams will conduct door to door visit across the city to ensure no child is

left behind. Before the inauguration, an anti-polio meeting was held under the chairmanship of DC Islamabad, which was attended by the District Health Officer (DHO) and the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) East.

The meeting reviewed plans and preparations for the campaign, including security arrangements for the vaccination teams.

The campaign will run from September 9 to September 13, during which vaccination teams will go door-to-door to reach every household. Any children missed during this period will be vaccinated from September 14 to September 15.

Dr. Shahida flays Gandapur's remarks against female journalists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Dr. Shahida Rehmani, on Monday, strongly condemned the inappropriate language used by Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, regarding female journalists. In a statement, she said that respect for women is essential, regardless of their profession or background. She asserted that such derogatory remarks toward women will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Dr. Rehmani further criticized Gandapur's behavior, stating that his offensive comments reflect poorly on his upbringing and expressing her strong disapproval of his conduct.

Muqam holds meeting with NGOs working for welfare of Afghan refugee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Engr Amir Muqam on Monday held meeting with representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working for the welfare of Afghan Refugees.

Chairing meeting, he said that today's meeting was aimed to strengthen working coordination between Ministry and Non-Governmental Organizations, said a press release.

"Our priority must be to provide assistance and help to maximum people," he said.

The minister said that NGOs should keep in mind the requirements of the present day and concentrate on the implementation of projects.

He said that the ministry would also provide all possible assistance and coordination.

The Federal Minister also said that in order to extend assistance to maximum

needy people NGOs should identify the issues currently faced and utilize the funds accordingly.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, States and Frontier Regions Zafar Hassan, Joint Secretary SAFRON Agha Waseem Ahmad and Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees Abbas Khan.

The representatives of NGOs briefed in details Federal Minister about their respective fields of working including livelihood improvement and vocational skills Training projects for Afghan Refugees and support for income generation activities, GBV, WASH, Psychosocial Support, education, and health for refugees.

They highlighted the role of NGOs in national development and humanitarian response in Pakistan.

Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam appreciated the briefing given by representatives.



ISLAMABAD: Students of International Islamic University protesting outside NPC against evictions from hostel and administrative incompetence.

OPF providing free ambulance service for transportation of Overseas's dead body

ISLAMABAD (APP): Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HD) is providing free ambulance service for transportation of the dead bodies of Overseas Pakistanis from all international airports of Pakistan to their native towns.

An official source told APP, he said that the transportation of dead body of an Overseas Pakistani is usually the contractual obligation of the employer or the company where an individual is employed.

If the employer refuses to bear the cost of transportation of dead body and the family's financial position is not good, then concerned Pakistan Mission abroad use to undertake the responsibility to transport the dead bodies.

PIA transport dead bodies of Overseas Pakistanis free of cost from where it is operating as a

result of efforts of OPF. The legal heirs may authorize a person of their confidence in that particular country to pursue the transportation of dead body case by executing an Attorney, he added.

The attorneys obtain NOC from Consulate / Embassy adding that the following information is required by OPF for transportation of dead bodies of Overseas Pakistanis including flight No, date of departure, time of arrival, contact number of person in Pakistan who coordinates with OPF officials, complete Address of deceased of native town and OPF Contact number UAN-111-040-040, he underlined.

He said that the mission of OPF was to ensure welfare of Overseas Pakistanis and their families and contribute towards their systematic rehabilitation on return, by generating sufficient resources and coordination with the stakeholders.



ISLAMABAD: National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) organized a Literacy Day Walk in collaboration with UNESCO in the Federal Capital.

Senate defers legislative business due to minister's engagement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate deferred the legislative bills due to the minister's absence in the 342nd session of the House here on Monday.

Senator Farooq Ahmed Naek moved "The Rights of Persons Arrested, Detained or under Custodial Investigation Bill, 2020" defining the rights of a person arrested, detained or under custodial investigation as well as codifying the duties of the arresting, detaining and investigating officers and providing penalties for violations thereof as reported by the Standing Committee be taken into consideration at once.

As the bill moved in the House and was supported by Senator Mohsin Aziz, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Ms Shaza Fatima Khawaja requested presiding officer Sherry Rehman that Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar had to go back home for personnel emergency and he requested that the passage of bills from Items No

14 to 23 including the bills "The Rights of Persons Arrested, Detained or under Custodial Investigation Bill, 2020", "The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2023", "The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023", "The Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) (Amendment) Bill, 2023", and "The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill, 2024" introduced by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, to be deferred till his presence in the next session.

The presiding officer Sherry Rehman deferred the bills on the request till the next private day session to be held next Monday.

Meanwhile Senator Palwasha Mohammed Zai Khan withdrew the bill introduced by her further to amend the Islamabad Capital Territory Private Educational Institutions (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2013 [The Islamabad Capital Territory Private Educational Institutions (Registration and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2024].



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairs a high-level meeting regarding 'Recharge Pakistan Programme' at the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.

Govt to introduce legislation for economic development, political stability: Talal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry on Monday said that the government would introduce legislation for the betterment of economy, political stability and eradication of terrorism. Talking to the media, he said that despite preparations for six months the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) could manage to hold just a small show near Sangiani on Sunday. The people had rejected the party as evident from the fact that it had failed to fill the small ground.

The nation, in fact, wanted accountability of the PTI leadership for May 9 riots, besides corruption scams of 190 million pounds, Toshakhana, tsunami tree programme and the Peshawar Metro, he added.

Senator Talal said that the PTI leaders were doing politics of protests, sit-ins and violence. Its activists attacked the personnel of Islamabad Police on Sunday night and they would have to face legal action on that count.

He claimed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur only knew to play gimmicks and overplay serious issues, and condemned him for using derogatory language in his speech at the Sangiani meeting. Talal alleged that the KP government used public money and machinery for the PTI meeting instead of using the same for the uplift of the deprived people of province.

IGP Islamabad holds khuli katchery

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

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



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 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.

Police nab 3 dacoits in shopkeeper's murder case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The investigators of the Homicide Investigation Unit (HIU) of Police Station Shams Colony on Monday have successfully solved a shopkeeper's murder case by arresting three dacoits.

According to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police spokesperson, following the special directions of Inspector General (IG) of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions, the HIU police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending three wanted members of a snatcher gang.

He said the HIU arrested three suspects in connection with the murder of a shopkeeper brutally killed during a robbery in Shams Colony on resistance. The accused were identified as Usman Ali, Samar and Gul Rehman, he added.

HIU recovered snatched cash, documents, motorbike and weapons used in crime from their possession, he said.

During the preliminary interrogation, the accused confessed to being involved in numerous snatching activities in the premises of Shams Colony police stations, spokesperson said and added several cases have been filed against the suspects at Shams Colony Police Station.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), conducts a live E-Katchery session at BISP Headquarters.

NA told 20 pink buses allocated to provide free of cost pick, drop to female students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday told the National Assembly that 20 Pink Buses have been allocated to provide free of cost pick and drop facilities to female students, working women, and female teachers in Islamabad. Responding to a question during Question Hour, he said the initiative of Pink Buses has been taken to avoid drop-outs of

girl students. He said at present there were 311 operational buses at FDE Schools and Colleges to provide fetch and drop facility to the students of the federal capital. Previously 258 buses were functional and remaining were dysfunctional and parked due to either shortage of fuel fund, machinery faults or unavailability of drivers, he said.

He said it is worth mentioning here that FDE under M/o FEPT recently added 78 more buses from

dysfunctional buses to the pool of operational buses of public schools/colleges due to which the total number of operational buses have increased from 258 to 331. He said there was serious issue of shortage of funds for fuel and shortage of drivers and conductors. To cater this problem and to facilitate students and teachers, the FDE under M/o FEPT hired 200 drivers and conductors from third party through competition to provide bus service to the students.

Hot and dry weather likely in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most parts of the country during the next 24 hours. However, partly cloudy weather with rain/wind/thunderstorm is likely at isolated places in Gilgit-Baltistan, Potohar region, Kashmir and upper KP. According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. A Shallow westerly wave has approached northern/western parts of the country from Monday night.

Kundi call for action against those involved in vandalism during PTI's public meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, Monday said that the federal government should take action against those who were involved in vandalism during yesterday's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's public meeting. Speaking to the media after inauguration of 'Artisans at Work Exhibition' at Centaurus Mall, Faisal Kundi emphasized that everyone should abide constitution and law saying, "I will abide by the law as long as I am in power."

Criticizing the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, Governor KP said that the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is having more ministries contrary to the law which says that the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister cannot hold more than five ministries.

He said that the writ of state is being challenged in the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while

majority of the incidents of terrorism are happening in Chief Minister's own district. "Either the Chief Minister should have courage to take action or he may be bracketed with those who are involved in terrorism", he said.

Expressing concerns over deteriorating law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Governor KP said that the terrorism and extortion are on the rise in the province.

Considering such situation, he will ask the Prime Minister and Interior Minister to call an emergency meeting on the situation of KP soon, Faisal Kundi said.

Faisal Kundi said that the Chief Minister with a two-third majority should take a vote of confidence from the Provincial Assembly. He also called for speedy trial of the May 9 accused and said that there should be no exception for those who do not follow the constitution of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.