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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.

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 institutions' 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.

He also addressed the modernisation of the case listing process, stating that the practice of having case lists approved by the chief justice had ended.

Now, the Registrar has been instructed to publish two-week case lists, which would aid lawyers in tracking their cases and managing schedules more effectively.

SC holds full court reference to mark beginning of new judicial year

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday held a full court reference to mark the beginning of the new judicial year.

The reference was presided by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa with other justices in attendance.

The members of the Shariat Appellate Bench, Justice Qibla Ayaz and Justice Khalid Masood, were also present on the reference.

The full court reference marks the commencement of a new judicial year, reflecting on the achievements and challenges faced by the judiciary.

Addressing the full court reference, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that the hearings of the cases of the public interest would be broadcasted live in a bid to ensure transparency.

He said that the performance of the top court due to the live broadcasting of the proceedings.

Students ring 'Bell of Hope' at Sindh Governor house for resolving their issues

KARACHI (APP): A large number of students on Monday morning visited the Sindh Governor house to ring "Bell of Hope" for solving their problems.

They met Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and informed him about their issues.

Governor Sindh on the occasion issued instructions to the concerned authorities to solve students' issues without any delay.

The students expressed their gratitude to the Governor Sindh for the steps taken to solve the urgent problems.

They said that "bell of hope" has become our hope for resolving the problems. The students also took selfies with the Governor Tessori.

Process to privatize PIA to be finalized by October: Khawaja 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.

Maritime Minister hosts networking dinner for Consul Generals ahead of IMSEC-2024

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh hosted a networking dinner ahead of the commencement of International Maritime Sustainability Exhibition & Conference Pakistan (IMSEC 2024), here.

The Consuls General of the United Kingdom, United States of America, Russia, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia and other dignitaries participated in the dinner the previous night.

The IMSEC -2024 is scheduled to be held from September 12 in Islamabad and conclude on September 14 in Karachi. It is a premier gathering designed to propel Pakistan's maritime economy into the future, promoting global and regional partnerships and facilitating investments.

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs is going to organize the event, which will feature an investor conference and an international exhibition.

Taking a jibe at Gandapur, he said that the person, who had challenged

single quality project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during its 12-year tenure. He said that for its Sunday's flopped meeting, the KP government ruthlessly used public resources and machinery to bring the people to the venue.

The minister said in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, corruption had become an order of the day as the PTI leaders were getting kickbacks openly.

Tarar questioned whether it a revolution to challenge a woman opponent leader. In fact, Gandapur and other PTI leaders vented their frustration in the wake of a lacklustre party show.

He said the designated routes for the PTI workers remained open and the administration did not put any obstacle.

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

guard of the PTI leader was also taken into custody. After the arrest of Marwat, PTI leader Shoab 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.

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.

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

misdeamour 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

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."

The Mayor mentioned that the arrangements for Rabi-ul-Awwal are acts of virtue and will be made as optimal as possible with the consultation of scholars. He also announced that a program for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) will be organized at Bagh-e-Ibn Qasim, where scholars, reciters, and intellectuals from all sects, as well as a large number of citizens, will be invited. During the meeting ulema presented various suggestions regarding municipal issues and emphasized the immediate resolution of these problems.

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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.

Commissioner Karachi reviews arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrations

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi on Monday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebrations.

The Commissioner directed that the celebrations be held with religious zeal and fervour in Karachi.

He directed the concerned officials to ensure the provision of civic facilities, security arrangement, and traffic management during the celebrations.

The meeting was attended among others by DIG Police east Ghulam Azfar Mahesar, Chief Operating Officer Water and Sewerage Corporation Asadullah Khan, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Rabia Syed, officials of Traffic Police Pakistan Rangers, Town Municipal Corporation, Executive Director Solid Waste Management Board, Chief Fire Officer, Karachi Municipal Corporation, and officials of Cantonment Boards, while Deputy Commissioner East, Shehzad Fazal Abbasi and DC south Altaf

Sario, participated via video link.

DIG Police East briefed the Commissioner on security arrangements.

Executive Director, Solid Waste Management Board, COO Water Corporation, and other officials of civic agencies briefed the Commissioner on their arrangements.

They informed that special arrangements would be made for water supply at processions and mosques.

It was decided that special cleaning and water supply arrangements would be made at mosques, processions, and venues of muhafils in consultation with Ulemas and organizers.

K-Electric's representative informed that an uninterrupted power supply would be ensured at mosques, muhafils and procession routes. K-Electric is making special arrangements in this regard.

It was decided to deploy special staff to ensure cleaning at procession routes, venues of muhafils and mosques.

KARACHI: A health worker administers a polio vaccine.

Sindh PA 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.

Sindh Education Department to fire ghost school teachers

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Education Department has decided to fire ghost school teachers.

According to the department, 20 teachers are absconding in the Sharqi district.

Many teachers are residing abroad for years without any notice. Teachers are withdrawing their salaries sitting at home.

The provincial Education Department stated that teachers had been directed to submit their response on the matter and reveal reasons for absence.

However, ghost teachers hadn't submitted their response in the department yet. Now, the department has decided to fire these ghost teachers.

There are hundreds of schools in Sindh deprived of teachers.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Ataulah Tarar along with Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Saffron, Engineer Amir Maqam addresses important press conference at PTV Headquarters.

Efforts afoot to resolve all municipal issues before the 12th of Rabi' al-Awwal: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab while chairing a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the arrangements for Rabi' ul-Awwal, held at Bagh-e-Ibn Qasim, Clifton, emphasized that efforts will be made to resolve all municipal issues before the 12th of Rabi' al-Awwal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor Karachi said that the month of Rabi' al-Awwal is a sacred and blessed month for Muslims, during which the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was born, guiding humanity from the depths of ignorance and providing the light of guidance in the form of the Holy Quran, which continues to lead us throughout time.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that organizing the arrangements for Rabi' al-Awwal is not merely our responsibility but our honor.

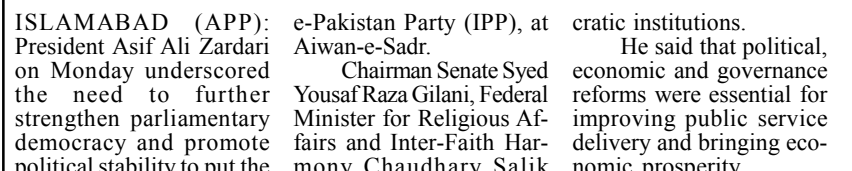
He stated that the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) serves as a beacon for us and has guided us in every aspect of life.

He urged those who truly love the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to demonstrate their love through their actions and by following the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH).

The Mayor mentioned that the arrangements for Rabi-ul-Awwal are acts of virtue and will be made as optimal as possible with the consultation of scholars. He also announced that a program for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) will be organized at Bagh-e-Ibn Qasim, where scholars, reciters, and intellectuals from all sects, as well as a large number of citizens, will be invited. During the meeting ulema presented various suggestions regarding municipal issues and emphasized the immediate resolution of these problems.

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KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing inaugural ceremony of latest online application IVY.



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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.

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single quality project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during its 12-year tenure. He said that for its Sunday's flopped meeting, the KP government ruthlessly used public resources and machinery to bring the people to the venue.

The minister said in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, corruption had become an order of the day as the PTI leaders were getting kickbacks openly.

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He said the designated routes for the PTI workers remained open and the administration did not put any obstacle.

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

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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.

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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.



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 two countries. Mr. Tariq Mehmood Jadoon Vice President FPCCI, Malik Sohail Hussain Chairman Coordination FPCCI, Mian Shaukhat Masood Fromer Vice President FPCCI, Mr. Waqas Khan Sawati Deputy Convener FPCCI Standing Committee on fair and exhibition, Managing Director UPTIB Azhar Warrach, Head Partnerships & Corporate Linkages



trade, investment and economic collaboration between the two countries.

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

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.

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 esteemed 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.

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 Rs 1.94, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.97 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 365.22 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 367.19.

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 Qudood 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 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. Bambang mayor since 2022, Guo was re-

moved from office by the Ombudsman last month for grave misconduct. She faces graft charges at a Philippine trial court and a money laundering complaint at the Department of Justice.

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.

NA told says No share of erstwhile FATA earmarked in NFC Award before merge with KPK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz on Monday informed the National Assembly that no share of erstwhile FATA was earmarked in NFC Award before merge with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Replying to a question during Question Hour, the minister said the NFC Award determines distribution of resources between Federation and four provinces which are identified under Article 1 of the Constitution and after merger of erstwhile FATA, the position remains unchanged.

He said at the time of merger, on a summary of SAFRON Division titled, Reports of the Committee on FATA Reforms, 2016, the Cabinet vide Case No. 51/02/2017 dated 02-03-2017, inter-alia decided that; "The NFC should be requested to consider making an allocation of 3% of the gross Federal divisible pool on annual basis for the implementation of FATA Development Plan.....".

Announcement of new NFC Award is the domain of National Finance Commission under Article 160 of the Constitution and the matter is already on the agenda of NFC, he said.

The minister said a Sub-Group under the convener of Finance Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was constituted by 9th NFC (2015-20) as well as by the 10th NFC (2020-25) exclusively to deliberate upon the development needs of erstwhile FATA. The Sub-Group has not submitted the recommendations to NFC yet, he added.

Ali Pervaiz said the Federal Cabinet, on April 2, 2019 approved, grant-in-aid to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for meeting re-current and development expenditure of ex-FATA till the announcement of new NFC Award. To another question, Ali Pervaiz said current budget deficit is being financed through domestic and external borrowing.

The borrowing by the government is primarily to finance the fiscal deficit, he said.



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

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.

Minister stresses women's empowerment through IT training at KPT Industrial Home

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, on Monday highlighted the importance of empowering women through digital skills at the inauguration of a free computer centre at the KPT Industrial Home in Keamari.

Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized the need for facilities that equip women with the skills necessary to contribute to the nation, ensuring gender equality in various domains.

The centre, established under the vision of Maritime Affairs Minister, aims to enhance the skills of women residing in Keamari and surrounding areas. During his address, he stressed that similar opportunities would be provided in the future across social, educational, and economic domains to further empower women. He also noted that KPT employs women in over 13% of its posts, setting a benchmark for women's inclusion in the workforce.

Chairman KPT, Syedain Raza Zaidi, echoed the Minister's sentiments, stating that empowering women is crucial for societal development. He highlighted that the new computer centre aims to equip women with IT skills, enhancing their employability and opening doors to new opportunities. Syedain Raza Zaidi underscored KPT's commitment to social responsibility and community development, with a focus on fostering digital competencies among women in Keamari.

The event was attended by General Managers and officials from KPT, along with prominent figures from the Keamari community, reflecting strong support for the initiative.



KARACHI: Deputy Commissioner South, Captain Retired Altaf H. Sario along with UC Secretary Asif Solangi visits Hijrat Colony Union Council (UC-10) during anti-polio immunization campaign, in Karachi.

Hafiz Naeem blames Sindh govt for power abuse in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-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 were responsible for its miserable situation.

Speaking about inflated power bills and discrimination meted out to smaller provinces in the electricity bills, the JI Emir said that the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) brought the country on the cusp of danger, adding that former PM Nawaz Sharif announced reduction in power bills alongside his daughter as if he was giving it as a charity.

SHC orders cellular companies for survey over 'poor' internet service

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday ordered cellular companies for survey over 'poor' internet services on the premises of city court.

The SHC took up the plea against 'poor' mobile phone and internet services on the Karachi City Court premises. The plea was moved by the president and the secretary general of the Karachi Bar Association. The SHC after the initial hearing on the plea, ordered cellular companies for a joint survey over complaints of 'poor' internet services and to submit the report within two weeks.

Earlier, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) shared an update on the recent internet slow-

Karsaz accident accused Natasha Danish denied bail in narcotics case

KARACHI (INP): A court in Karachi on Monday rejected the bail petition filed by Natasha Danish, the suspect in Karsaz accident case, in a narcotics case.

Earlier, a judicial magistrate-East had reserved the verdict in the case, Natasha, who has already been granted bail in the main case in lieu of a surety bond of Rs100,000, is presently in jail on judicial remand. Two cases had been registered against the suspect at Bahadurabad police station.

Two commit suicide, another shot dead in Naushahro Feroze

NAUSHAHRO FEROZE (INP): Two including a woman committed suicide, another person was shot dead while several others in different localities of Naushahro Feroze on Monday.

According to details, 15-year-old Jani Solangi s/o Nazir Solangi committed suicide by hanging him over differences with parents in village Dewan, Khan Wahan police station jurisdiction.

In village Kaman Mahessar, Kandiaro police station jurisdiction, Aneesa w/o Irfan Mahessar committed suicide by consuming toxic spray over domestic disputes.



HYDERABAD: Members of HDA Labour Union are holding protest demonstration against non-payment of their salaries, at Hyderabad press club.

SSWMB starts fumigation campaign under Rabi-ul-Awal cleanliness plan

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), in collaboration with Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), has launched fumigation spray campaign in the metropolis, in connection with cleanliness arrangements for 12 Rabi-ul-Awal.

The SSWMB will carry out the fumigation campaign on main arteries and areas particularly in vicinity of Masjid and Imambargahs and on routes of Milad processions, Managing Director SSWMB informed in a statement issued on Monday.

He said that all sanitary staff will be provided new uniform on the occasion.

Two robbers tortured to death

KARACHI (INP): The citizens caught and beaten two robbers to death near Korangi No 5, in Awami Colony police station jurisdiction on Sunday-Monday night.

According to details, two robbers looted a citizen at gunpoint and injured him over resistance.

The robbers were caught by the citizens while fleeing and brutally tortured by enraged mob leaving them critically injured.

The injured robbers were shifted to hospital where they succumbed to their wounds.

One among the killed robber was identified as Asghar while identity of other was yet to be ascertained.

Commissioner, DC inaugurates polio campaign

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder, along with Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shahrriyar Gul Memon, inaugurated the seven-day special anti-polio campaign by administering polio drops to children at Government Dispensary Linepar Nawabshah.

On this occasion, Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder said that the presence of polio virus in different districts of the province is a threat to the health of children, so the special anti-polio campaign should be made successful. The Commissioner directed the district administration to ensure the supervision of polio teams during the special anti-polio campaign.

Commissioner instructed the Health Department officials and polio teams to utilize all their resources to achieve the target during the special anti-polio campaign so that all children under the age of five can be saved from lifelong disability by administering polio drops. Commissioner appealed to the parents to cooperate with the polio teams visiting their homes during the special anti-polio campaign and provide proof of responsible citizenship by administering polio drops to their children.

On this occasion, District Health Officer Dr. Asadullah Dahri said that during the special anti-polio campaign to be held from September 9 to 15 in the district, 1192 teams have been formed to administer polio drops to more than 420,000 children in the district. Later, Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder, along with Deputy Commissioner Shahrriyar Gul Memon, visited the Railway Station Nawabshah, Six Mile Road, Rural Health Center Daur, Railway Station Daur, Daur Bypass, T-More.



LARKANA: Commissioner Larkana Division, Ghulam Mustafa Phul administers polio drops to children during the launching ceremony of Polio Eradication Campaign at Waris Dino Mashi village in Larkana.

Mayor assures of cleanliness, street lights for celebratory events of Rabiul Awal

HYDERABAD (APP): The Mayor of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) Kashir Ali Shoro has said Rabiul Awal is a very important and religiously significant month for Muslims because the Almighty sent his beloved Prophet (PBUH) on earth to introduce humans to Islam.

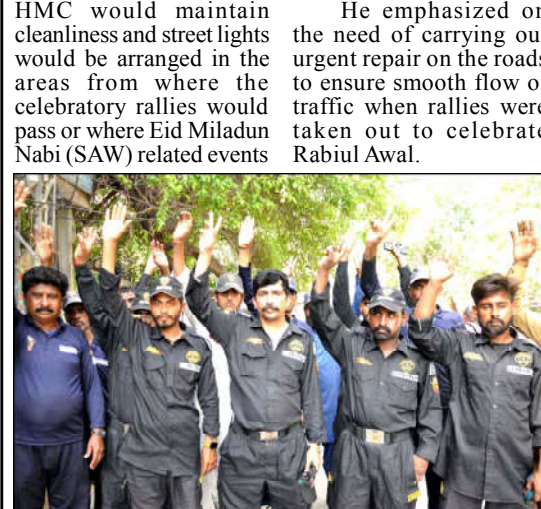
Addressing a meeting at his office here on Monday, attended by organizers of various groups arranging Eid Miladun Nabi related events and activities, the mayor assured that the HMC would play its part to ensure that the month's celebrations are not affected by any civic issues.

He added that the HMC would maintain cleanliness and street lights would be arranged in the areas from where the celebratory rallies would pass or where Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) related events

would be held. Shoro assured the organizers that all the issues which were pointed out by them during the meeting would be addressed on priority. "We will make sure that the arrangements related issues are addressed before 12th Rabiul Awal," he said.

On the occasion the mayor formed a 3-member committee to spearhead the exercise of cleanliness and lighting during the month. Meanwhile, Chairman Traffic and Road Safety Foundation Javed Iqbal, who is also an honorary secretary of District Traffic Management Board, pointed out that 14 important roads in the city were damaged during the recent rainfall.

He emphasized on the need of carrying out urgent repair on the roads to ensure smooth flow of traffic when rallies were taken out to celebrate Rabiul Awal.



HYDERABAD: Private Security Guards are holding protest demonstration against non-payment of their salaries, at Hyderabad press club.

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.

Flight makes emergency landing at airport after passenger dies mid-flight

KARACHI (INP): An international flight on Monday made an emergency landing at the Jinnah International Airport Karachi after a passenger's health worsened mid-air.

As per details, the flight was going to Dhaka from Sharjah, when the health of the passenger worsened. The flight pilot sought permission for an emergency landing at the Karachi airport from the ATC.

After getting clearance, the flight made an emergency landing at the Karachi airport. The medical team of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) during the checkup found the passenger was already dead, the sources said.

Police arrests car lifter in injured condition

HYDERABAD (APP): The SITE police arrested a suspected car lifter in injured condition in an encounter on Hyderabad-Tando Muhammad Khan road and recovered a stolen car from his possession.

Police spokesman Awais Rajput informed on Monday that the SITE police were engaged in an exchange of fire with four suspects travelling in a car.

According to him, one of the suspects was hit by a bullet in his leg while three of his associates escaped.

He said that the injured suspect Haji Khan Brohi was later rounded up and shifted to Liaquat University Hospital.

Cloudy weather, light rain forecast for Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Monday predicted hot and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, partly cloudy weather with chances of light rain or drizzle is predicted at isolated places of the coastal areas including Karachi.

Mainly, hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.

Three new arrivals at Karachi Zoo

KARACHI (APP): A pair of African lions at the Karachi Zoo have given birth to three cubs and an electric train have been introduced to the zoo, and the historical Mughal Garden has been renovated.

The Mayor stated that efforts are underway to provide recreational facilities for people of all ages so that the entire family can enjoy their visit. Additionally, special facilities will be provided for researchers and students studying animals and birds, allowing them to conduct observations and experiments more effectively.

adding new animals and enhancing recreational facilities. Recently, modern features like Fun land, and an electric train have been introduced to the zoo, and the historical Mughal Garden has been renovated.

All three cubs and their mother are healthy and are currently housed in a special enclosure for their protection. After eight weeks, the cubs will be moved to regular enclosures where visitors can see them up close. Meanwhile, in a statement on Monday, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab reaffirmed his commitment to further improve the Karachi Zoo, including

DC Sukkur urges parents to get their children vaccinated

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr MB Raja Dharejo has urged parents to get their children aged up to five years vaccinated against polio virus during the current drive in the district.

He expressed these views while inaugurating a seven day anti-polio drive across the district by administering anti-polio drops to children here on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner Sukkur said that parents must get administered polio vaccine to their children to eradicate polio.

He said that polio was a crippling disease which would be eradicated from the area by making collective efforts for making the anti-polio drives successful adding that everyone should play his role for the success of the polio drive.

He called the parents to cooperate with district administration and polio teams. He emphasized the collective effort to achieve a polio-free future.



HYDERABAD: Lady Health workers administering polio drops to child student to kicks off nationwide Polio Eradication Programme 2024 at local private school.

Department of sports Nawabshah organises divisional Inter Hockey series

HYDERABAD (APP): On the occasion of Defence Day, the Department of Sports, Shaheed Benazirabad, organized a spectacular match of the Divisional Inter-Hockey Series among the hockey teams of Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, and Naushahro Feroze at the Hockey Stadium Nawabshah.

Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder participated as a special guest at the prize distribution ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder said that sports activities are essential for a healthy society, which will promote sports and have a positive impact on the health of our young generation. He further said that the Sports Department should also organize regional sports competitions so that better opportunities can be provided to the young generation and regional sports can also be promoted.

The important match of the Divisional Inter-District Hockey Series was played between the teams of Shaheed Benazirabad and Sanghar, which was won by the Shaheed Benazirabad hockey team with a score of 12-0 in the final match. On this occasion, Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder and District Sports Officer Abdul Rahim Rajput distributed the Winner Trophy and cash to the Shaheed Benazirabad team, Runner-up Trophy and cash to the Naushahro Feroze team, and Third Position Trophy and cash to the Sanghar team.