



Told the NA 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

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training

Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

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Fiscal discipline essential for economic growth; Finance Minister



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Monday said that the country's economy was heading towards the right direction, the currency was stable, the inflation rate reached single digit and remittances and exports were all the

time high during July and August.

Responding to calling attention notices of Senator Mohsin Aziz, and Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the Senate's session about the issue of shrinking of loans, surging of debts in the private sector and the process of digitalization of FBR, the minister said that upholding fiscal discipline was a key to the economic growth, adding "Our revenue and exports would increase while borrowing would decrease if we preserve fiscal discipline".

He said that the government has allocated subsidies for the SME sector in the budget 2024-25, adding the digitization process of FBR was underway on the fast track. The Finance Minister said agriculture, and Information Technology sectors have been prioritized, while the country cannot be run through charity and everyone will have to pay tax.

The minister stressed the need for structural reforms, adding "If we succeed in reforming the state-owned enterprises and energy sector it would be the last programme of the IMF."

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



ISLAMABAD: 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. APP

Ahsan Iqbal stresses urgency of addressing climate change

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has underscored the urgency of addressing climate change impacts due to severe weather changes and losses in agricultural output, particularly in cotton crops. He was presiding over the 4th meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee and the Oversight Board on Post-Flood Reconstruction Activities in Islamabad today.

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.

The Minister said that the 2022 floods resulted in a total loss of 30 billion dollars for the country. He emphasized the importance of the collaboration between Pakistan and its development partners following the catastrophic 2022 floods. Ahsan Iqbal also underscored the need for swift and efficient implementation of projects to

rebuild affected communities and restore livelihoods. While discussing the Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project, the Minister expressed concerns about the delays in flood reconstruction efforts in Balochistan.

He emphasized the need for accelerated progress in Balochistan, which is among the most underdeveloped regions. The 400 million dollar Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project aims to assist approximately 35,100 homeowners with housing reconstruction grants to rebuild their homes according to resilience standards.

Additionally, it will also provide livelihood grants to smallholder farmers to support livestock, promote climate-smart agriculture, and enhance other productive activities.

The project also focus on restoring essential services by rehabilitating damaged community infrastructure and facilities, including water supply, irrigation, roads, and other community amenities.



President Asif Ali Zardari hosted a dinner in honour of Parliamentarians belonging to Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PMLQ), and Istehkaam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), at Aiwan-e-Sadr. (Story on page 4)

PM hosts dinner in honour of parliamentarians, says govt's efforts putting economy on growth trajectory



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: 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

VOM Report

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.

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



ISLAMABAD: 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 Insaaf (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.

Muqam blamed that PTI did massive used rescue vehicles, ambulances, government funds for yesterday PTI public gathering and forced the government employees of the province to attend the public gathering otherwise they will be fired.

CM KPK involved in the wheat scandal, chopping off the national forest in the province and no improvement and facility in the health and education sector only so called slogans and blaming to others, they added.

Naqvi condemns firing on police van in Panjgur

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday strongly condemned the incident of firing on a police mobile van in Panjgur, resulting in the martyrdom of Sub-Inspector Shakeel Ahmed. Mohsin Naqvi paid homage to Sub-Inspector Shakil Ahmed for sacrificing his life in the line of duty. He prayed for the eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed condolences with his bereaved family. APP

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

KARACHI: 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.

IMSEC aims at fostering interaction and collaboration among Pakistani and international maritime companies, policymakers, investors and stakeholders. APP

Overseas Pakistanis will be given representation in the Pakistani parliament soon: Ishaq Dar

LONDON: The Defence Day of Pakistan celebrated by overseas Pakistanis at London, UK with full fervor and enthusiasm.

In this regard a reception was held at Millenium Gloucester Hotel, London, UK. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar was the Chief Guest while the function was organized by Syed Qamar Raza, Chairman, Board of Governors, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation and co-hosted by Muhammad Naheed Randhawa, former Chairman, World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis (WCOP) which was attended by a large gathering of Pakistani community.

Addressing the reception, the Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar paid rich tributes to the brave heroes of armed forces who fought courageously and thwarted India's aggression on 6th September, 1965. He added that our brave armed forces are also fighting to combat terrorism effectively and affirmed that they will

eliminate this evil from its very roots. Ishaq Dar assured that overseas Pakistanis will be given representation in the Pakistani parliament soon by allocating special seats for them so that their problems are addressed effectively through their own representatives. He also announced launching of PIA flights to Europe to facilitate a large number of Pakistani Community there. He also appreciated Chairman, BoG, OPF for organizing the reception to commemorate Defence Day of Pakistan in a befitting manner. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Qamar Raza, Chairman, BoG, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation thanked the Deputy Prime Minister for attending the reception. He assured that he will play the role of a bridge between Government and overseas Pakistanis to restore confidence between our overseas diaspora and the Government of Pakistan. He reaffirmed his dedication to resolve all matters concerning expatriates, swiftly and on priority basis. SABAH

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

VOM Report

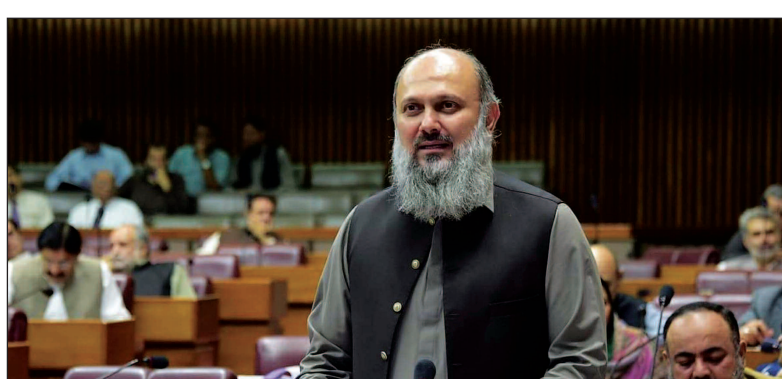
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday informed the National Assembly that the ministry was in final stage to hire a company for branding and promotion of various Pakistani products abroad especially at various new markets under commerce marketing and branding mechanism. Replying to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



culture 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 Amer-

ica, 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.

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) regularly participates in various exhibitions and during FY 2023-24 eleven trade fairs were successfully organized in Germany, he added.

The minister said TDAP has planned nine international exhibitions and two outgoing delegations for Germany for B2B engagements. TDAP regularly conducts the series of webinars and seminars for market awareness. German trade delegations have

also participated in TEXPO, FoodAg and Engineering and Healthcare exhibitions in Pakistan.

He said B2B meetings were arranged between German International Chamber and Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Responding to GSP plus status, he said Secretariat of National Compliance Centre would soon be functional which would help cope with the emerging challenges especially to textile sector.

He said a concept of National Compliance Centre mechanism was developed to address reservations of European Parliament regarding human rights, right to information and other international compliance etc.

He said the ministry was engaged with all stakeholders including provinces and we were all on the same page.

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
Editor: Muhammad Hasam
Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
Phone: + 92 51 8354964

Pakistan's IMF experience

HUMAYUN AKHTAR KHAN

In my long experience of electoral politics, there are few instances when I found the voters more consumed by gloom as they are now, their hope in the future sapped. For their economic loss, they blame the minority at the top who make all the decisions, with outside advice. Our troubles though are not of the IMF's making. They are the outcome of political choice. No one envies the government's job of tackling the hard economic conditions. It is a test for the most astute and daring – and they are trying. We are in a period of adjustment. Inevitably that leaves many people upset. Yet, adjustment must come with the promise of a better future. For over a decade, the government of Pakistan's economic policy has impoverished the people, hollowed industry and stalled agriculture. The people, especially the youth, have lost hope. We can no longer ignore the possible threat to social stability. In the six IMF deals since 2000, the government has focused on stability but not on increasing private investment or job creation. Usually, adjustment programmes aim for both. As a result, with Pakistan in and out of IMF programmes, growth rates have been flat or negative. There is a high budget deficit, low exports and a lack of jobs for the youth. Saving and investment are down. Credit to the private sector has fallen sharply. Pakistan has produced no new product for export and going up the value chain is an unrealistic hope. In fact, our main exports are still what they were two decades ago. Agriculture saw a good year, on a low base after the floods, but it has seen ten years of decline. Struggling industries are closing down. High cost of capital, power and other services inhibit private activity. Firms continue to deal with the barriers posed by poor governance. IT offers hope, but it is still small. The sector needs more public investment for quality training and infrastructure.

The biggest concern is that debt levels, especially foreign debt, have spiraled. Gross public debt is 75 per cent of GDP. Total foreign debt is 43 per cent of GDP. We are in a debt trap, borrowing to pay past debt. In fiscal 23, foreign debt servicing, interest and principal, was \$20 billion, 63 per cent of total exports and 5.5 per cent of GDP. That year, we paid foreign creditors \$4.4 billion in interest alone. In FY24, the government will pay an astounding sum of over Rs7 trillion in interest to creditors at home and abroad. The amount is over 50 per cent of total federal expense and may end up being more than the net revenue. There is nothing left to spend on human resource or infrastructure. Experts call for urgent debt management to exit the dead end in which we have landed. Despite the high debt stock, infrastructure services are way short of IT or the industry's need to boost productivity. Nor is there a fall in poverty or progress in social indicators. This is an economic policy designed to fail. With no lessons drawn, the expressed intent is to do more of the same. Each year debt servicing needs will become higher. No amount of tax measures would help. It is like a dog chasing its tail. The government's illusory hope that taxes would help avoid the IMF in the future is a pipedream. The only way to avoid more of the IMF is growth in GDP and exports. The only path present policies guarantee is one of more poverty and low GDP. Of course, fiscal stability is important. Any prudent leadership would want that, even without outside prompting. The government though takes the most inept route. It cuts growth-inducing spending and splurges on non-productive interest and subsidies. That is why we are forever stuck at the fiscal stability stage and do not transit to growth. And so, before one IMF programme ends, the government of Pakistan begins to prepare for the next one.

The economy does not produce enough to repay loans. So, we borrow more. It is a drain on the economy when tax money that could improve lives or increase investment goes to creditors at home or abroad. There is a method to this sorry tale. Decision-makers prefer not to disturb the free ride enjoyed by some in the economy. They would rather pile debt on debt and pass the burden of staying afloat on those without a political voice. We are knowingly in a vicious cycle of debt and taxes that gets worse each year. There is no evidence of any change in policy or habit. We still plan to borrow and tax more. There is not enough stress on investment and export. Also, fiscal profligacy continues. In between two IMF programmes, the government got a huge supplementary grant for security needs and to pay subsidies to IPPs. Can such whims and fancy allow the economy to improve? Structural adjustments have pros and cons. The government has made that discussion superfluous. Its execution in our hands means adjustment for most and largesse for a few. There is a limit to this strategy. For a nuclear weapons country to amass so much debt is risky and unviable. The time for real reforms is now. It cannot wait. The government must have a growth strategy with the IMF programme its one part. In the government's narrative, the IMF programme is an end in itself. There is no known plan for paying back the debt. Rather than the erratic execution of structural reforms, our economy needs structural transformation. The latter is a long-term plan for step-by-step industrialization. Under it, the economy would produce more goods and services for export by slowly going up the value chain. The SIFC is the best institution for formulating and executing a parallel growth strategy by bringing all stakeholders on board. During a period of adjustment, the government's space for action is small. Yet, we cannot allow another three or more years of a slow economy. The danger of social instability is too high. There are essential steps the government must take. It must limit spending. Go for debt management to lower interests, revisit power policy to control subsidy, reduce DISCO losses and privatize PSEs. These steps could free up Rs1 trillion or more yearly to offer well-considered incentives to the private sector. Part money must also go to HR, R&D and infrastructure.

The writer is chair and CEO, Institute for Policy Reforms. He has a long record of public service.



Masood Lohar

The immigrant is the future

Imagine a few decades from now when most of the First World countries – especially Japan and those in Europe – are led by individuals born in places like Niger or Afghanistan.

This scenario, once unthinkable, is becoming increasingly plausible. The recent rise of leaders such as Rishi Sunak, the Indian-origin former prime minister of the United Kingdom, and Humza Yousaf, the Pakistani-origin former first minister of Scotland, symbolizes a profound demographic and political shift. These developments mark a significant reversal of the historical dynamics between colonizers and their former colonies, a shift that is set to reshape the global landscape. Countries in Europe, North America, and East Asia are grappling with aging populations. Nations like Japan, Germany, and Italy have some of the highest median ages in the world, hovering around 48 years. The United States, while somewhat younger, still has a median age of 38 years, and this figure is steadily increasing.

The trend is driven by low birth rates, increased life expectancy, and the retirement of the post-war baby boom generation. As a result, these nations are facing labour shortages, rising healthcare costs, and a shrinking working-age population. The implications are profound. Economies that were once driven by

large, productive workforces are struggling to adapt to the pressures of supporting a growing elderly population. Governments are being forced to rethink retirement ages, pension systems, and healthcare infrastructure to sustain their aging citizens.

However, the most striking consequence of this demographic shift may be the emerging leadership vacuum, as older leaders retire and fewer young people are available to take their place.

In contrast, many African and South Asian nations, which were once colonies of these aging powers, are experiencing a population boom, with median ages well below 20 years. Countries like Niger, Uganda, and Angola boast some of the youngest populations globally, with median ages around 15 years.

Pakistan, with a median age of around 22 years, also stands at a pivotal moment where its youthful population can be a tremendous asset for human capital and economic growth.

This demographic advantage presents an opportunity to harness the energy, creativity, and innovation of a young workforce. If effectively educated, skilled, and employed, this large, dynamic population could drive significant economic expansion, boost productivity, and enhance these nations' competitiveness on the global stage. However, realizing this potential requires substantial investments in education,

healthcare, and jobs creation.

As the First World ages and the Third World remains young, a new era of global leadership is on the horizon. With the median age in many African and South Asian countries set to remain low for decades, the future leaders of the First World may increasingly come from the Third World.

Migration trends already suggest this shift. Immigrants from Africa, Asia, and Latin America are becoming more prominent in the political, economic, and cultural spheres of developed nations. As these young people grow up and assume leadership roles, they bring with them diverse perspectives shaped by their experiences in the Global South.

The ascension of leaders like Sadiq Khan, the son of Pakistani immigrants who became the mayor of London, and Ahmed Aboutaleb, the Moroccan-born mayor of Rotterdam, further exemplifies this trend. This emerging trend is not just a matter of demographic inevitability; it is also an opportunity. The infusion of young, globally-minded leaders from the Third World could inject new energy into aging First World institutions. These leaders are likely to prioritize global issues such as climate change, migration, and economic inequality – areas where their backgrounds and experiences offer valuable insights.

The implications of this demographic shift are profound. The future world order could see a re-

sal of traditional power dynamics, with the Global South, particularly Africa and South Asia, providing the leadership for a rapidly changing world. As developed nations become more dependent on immigrant populations to sustain their economies and political systems, the influence of the Global South will only grow.

This new generation of leaders will need to navigate a complex world where old certainties no longer hold. The challenges of aging populations, youth unemployment, migration, and global inequality will require innovative solutions and a willingness to rethink outdated paradigms. As the First World grays and the Third World remains youthful, the global stage is set for a dramatic shift in leadership. The leaders of tomorrow may hail from regions that today are often overlooked in the corridors of power.

This shift promises to bring new voices and fresh perspectives to the global conversation, potentially heralding a more inclusive and equitable world order – one where the legacy of colonization is transformed, as former colonies rise to guide the world's future.

The writer is an expert on climate change and sustainable development and the founder of the CliftonUrban Forest. He tweets/posts @masoodlohar and can be reached at: mlohar@gmail.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

Pakistan

It was partly to press these demands that one section of the All-India Muslim League cooperated with the statutory commission sent by the British Government under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon in 1927.

The other section of the League, which boycotted the Simon Commission for its all-White character, cooperated with the Nehru Committee, appointed by the All-Parties Conference, to draft a constitution for India. The Nehru Report had an extremely anti-Muslim bias and the Congress leadership's refusal to amend it disillusioned even the moderate Muslims.

ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL
Several leaders and thinkers, having insight into the Hindu-Muslim question proposed separation of Muslim India. However, the most lucid exposition of the inner feeling of the Muslim community was given by Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) in his Presidential Address at the All-India Muslim League Session at Allahabad in 1930. He suggested that for the healthy develop-

ment of Islam in South-Asia, it was essential to have a separate Muslim state at least in the Muslim majority regions of the north-west. Later on, in his correspondence with Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he included the Muslim majority areas in the north-east also in his proposed Muslim state.

Three years after his Allahabad Address, a group of Muslim students at Cambridge, headed by Chaudhry Rehmat Ali, issued a pamphlet, Now or Never, in which drawing letters from the names of the Muslim majority regions, they gave the nomenclature of "Pakistan" to the proposed State. Very few even among the Muslims welcomed the idea at the time. It was to take a decade for the Muslims to embrace the demand for a separate Muslim state.

Meanwhile, three Round Table Conferences were convened in London during 1930-32, to resolve the Indian constitutional problem.

The Hindu and Muslim leaders, who were invited to these conferences,

could not draw up an agreed formula and the British Government had to announce a 'Communal Award' which was incorporated in the Government of India Act of 1935. Before the elections under this Act, the All-India Muslim League, which had remained dormant for some time, was reorganized by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had returned to India in 1934, after an absence of nearly five years in England.

The Muslim League could not win a majority of Muslim seats since it had not yet been effectively reorganized. However, it had the satisfaction that the performance of the Indian National Congress in the Muslim constituencies was bad. After the elections, the attitude of the Congress leadership was arrogant and domineering. The classic example was its refusal to form a coalition government with the Muslim League in the United Provinces. Instead, it asked the League leaders to dissolve their parliamentary party in the Provincial Assembly and join the Congress. Another important

Congress move after the 1937 elections was its Muslim mass contact movement to persuade the Muslims to join the Congress and not the Muslim League. One of its leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru, even declared that there were only two forces in India, the British and the Congress. All this did not go unchallenged.

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah countered that there was a third force in South-Asia constituting the Muslims. The All-India Muslim League, under his gifted leadership, gradually and skillfully started organising the Muslims on one platform.

The 1930s witnessed awareness among the Muslims of their separate identity and their anxiety to preserve it within separate territorial boundaries. An important element that brought this simmering Muslim nationalism in the open was the character of the Congress rule in the Muslim minority provinces during 1937-39.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Nicole Kidman on taking Naomi Watts' permission to star in 'The Perfect Couple'?

Nicole Kidman is featured opposite Liev Schreiber's in new Netflix limited series



Nicole Kidman has recently made shocking revelation about her friend Naomi Watts.

Speaking with Entertainment Weekly, Kidman shared she took her friend Watts' permission to star as Liev

Schreiber's wife in The Perfect Couple. Kidman and Schreiber mentioned that the former consulted Watts before signing on opposite Schreiber as his onscreen wife in the new Netflix limited series.

During the interview, Schreiber initiated the conversation by sharing that "he'd heard a story" where Kidman "asked Naomi first if it was OK" to be romantically involved with him in the show, to which Kidman responded, "Of course!"

For the unversed, Watts was in a relationship with Schreiber, 56, between 2005 and 2016. Schreiber however praised Kidman's response and remarked, "Isn't that amazing?" "That's how close they are," men-

tioned the Spotlight actor.

In another interview with the same outlet at the Toronto International Film Festival, Watts shared her side of the story regarding The Perfect Couple's casting process.

Watts disclosed that Kidman did indeed check in with her prior to signing the contract alongside Schreiber. "We always check in, we're besties," Watts told the outlet about her 30-year-friendship with Kidman.

Watts stated, "That was very kind of her to do that." The actress further said she's "desperate to watch The Perfect Couple because everyone is raving about it." "I'm very much looking forward to it. I have seen the trailer. It looks fantastic," she added.

Tech

Apple launches iPhone 16 with AI software



CUPERTINO: Apple on Monday unveiled its artificial intelligence-boosted iPhone 16, showing off the long-awaited phone.

"The next generation of iPhone has been designed for Apple Intelligence from the ground up. It marks the beginning of an exciting new era," Chief Executive Tim Cook said at a product launch.

Apple and technology companies around the world are racing to add AI to products, and phones are expected to be one of the most important battlegrounds. The Cupertino, California-based company also is betting the AI

feature will drive consumers to upgrade amid a slowdown in iPhone sales.

Apple Intelligence, the company's AI software, will be used to improve its personal assistant as well as enhancing features such as understanding and identifying objects captured by the phone camera.

"Apple Intelligence marks the start of a new era for Siri and makes it more natural, more contextually relevant and more personal to you," said Apple's software engineering chief, Craig Federighi.

A test version of Apple Intelligence will be available in English as spoken in the US next month. It will be available for other localised versions of English in December, with versions in languages including Chinese, French, Japanese and Spanish next year.

The iPhone 16 will use the new A18 chip and have an aluminum back, as well as a new customisable button that can be used for camera controls. The iPhone 16 will start at \$799 and the iPhone 16 Plus will start at \$899.

Health

Women with liver cancer less likely than men to receive liver transplant

Women with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) are less likely to receive a deceased-donor liver transplant (DDLT) and more likely to die while wait-listed than men, according to a study published online Sept. 4 in JAMA Surgery.

David C. Cron, M.D., from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and colleagues examined whether there are sex- or size-based disparities in access to DDLT.

The analysis included 31,725 U.S. adult wait-listed liver transplant candidates receiving exception scores for HCC (Jan. 1, 2010, to

March 2, 2023).

The researchers found that compared with men, women had a lower one-year cumulative incidence of DDLT (50.8 versus 54.0 percent) and a higher one-year cumulative incidence of death or delisting for health deterioration (16.2 versus 15.0 percent).

Compared with men, women had a lower incidence of DDLT after adjustment, but without accounting for size (subdistribution hazard ratio [SHR], 0.92; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.89 to 0.95), as well as a higher incidence of death or delisting (SHR, 1.06; 95 per-

cent CI, 1.00 to 1.13). When adjusting for height and weight, there was no association seen between female sex and incidence of DDLT or death or delisting, overall, but short women (<166 cm) were still less likely to undergo a transplant (SHR, 0.93; 95 percent CI, 0.88 to 0.99).

"These findings suggest that for liver transplant candidates wait-listed with exception scores, additional changes to allocation policy are needed to resolve the sex disparity, including solutions to improve access to livers for smaller candidates," the authors write.



پاکستان کی طرف

اسلام آباد

پاور سیکٹر کے گزشتہ قرض میں مزید 100 ارب روپے اضافہ، آئی ایم ایف کو تشویش

ایم ایف کے قرضوں کے لیے بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) نے پاکستان کے لیے 100 ارب روپے کے قرضوں کے لیے بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) کو تشویش کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ پاور سیکٹر کے گزشتہ قرضوں میں مزید 100 ارب روپے کے قرضوں کے لیے بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) کو تشویش کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ پاور سیکٹر کے گزشتہ قرضوں میں مزید 100 ارب روپے کے قرضوں کے لیے بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) کو تشویش کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

منگل 10 ستمبر 2024ء



اسلام آباد، وزیر اطلاعات و شرعیات عطا اللہ تارڑ انجینئر امیر مقام پریس کانفرنس کر رہے ہیں

رؤف حسن اور بھارتی تجزیہ نگار کی پاکستان مخالف گفتگو بے نقاب

لوگ پولیس کے بجائے اب فوج کے سامنے کھڑے، احتجاجی بارود ٹوک جاری، میں لندن کے دورے کا منصوبہ بنا رہا ہوں، رؤف حسن انعام پورے نے کہا۔ رؤف حسن نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

چیف جسٹس کا مدت ملازمت میں توسیع لینے سے انکار

پہلے ہی دیکھ کر ہی بتا دیا جاتا تھا کہ جس کا فیصلہ کیا ہوگا، اب تو مجھے خود بھی معلوم نہیں ہوتا کہ میرے ہاں کیا ہے۔ جسٹس نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

اسلام آباد، دستگی کیسز بھرنے لگے، 24 گھنٹے میں 7 مریض رپورٹ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) وفاقی دارالحکومت میں دستگی کیسز بھرنے لگے۔ 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران مزید 7 مریض رپورٹ ہو گئے۔ 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران مزید 7 مریض رپورٹ ہو گئے۔ 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران مزید 7 مریض رپورٹ ہو گئے۔



راولپنڈی، شہزاد خان ملک عمر بچوں کو کھانا کھانے دے رہا ہے

علی امین گنڈاپور نے ناکام جلسے کا غصہ مریم نواز، پاک فوج پر نکالا، وفاقی وزراء

علی امین گنڈاپور نے ناکام جلسے کا غصہ مریم نواز، پاک فوج پر نکالا، وفاقی وزراء کو نشانہ بنایا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔



اسلام آباد، پی ایف کے سربراہ چوہدری شجاعت سے مسلم لیگ ق کے صدر ابراہیم خان ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

آئی ایم ایف ایگزیکٹو بورڈ کا کیلنڈر جاری، پاکستان شامل نہیں

اسلام آباد (خبر) آئی ایم ایف ایگزیکٹو بورڈ کا کیلنڈر جاری کیا گیا ہے۔ پاکستان کو اس کیلنڈر میں شامل نہیں کیا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

پی ٹی آئی رہنماؤں کی تحلیف 9 مئی

پی ٹی آئی رہنماؤں کی تحلیف 9 مئی کو منعقد ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

غزہ، اسرائیلی بمباری، ڈی ڈی ڈی رائیٹر شہر کی دفاع اہل خانہ سمیت شہید، شام پر فضائی حملے 5 جہاز بخت

غزہ، اسرائیلی بمباری، ڈی ڈی ڈی رائیٹر شہر کی دفاع اہل خانہ سمیت شہید، شام پر فضائی حملے 5 جہاز بخت۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

علی امین گنڈاپور دوسرا 9 مئی کرنا چاہتے ہیں، فیصل کنڈی

علی امین گنڈاپور دوسرا 9 مئی کرنا چاہتے ہیں، فیصل کنڈی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

شاہراہ نیشنل کی ناقص تعمیر کارٹولس، کرپشن اور بددیانتی برداشت نہیں کریں گے، وزیراعظم آزاد کشمیر

شاہراہ نیشنل کی ناقص تعمیر کارٹولس، کرپشن اور بددیانتی برداشت نہیں کریں گے، وزیراعظم آزاد کشمیر۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

ہم نے ہر ظلم کو ختم کرنے کی پیمانی سے برداشت کیا، عالیہ مزہر

ہم نے ہر ظلم کو ختم کرنے کی پیمانی سے برداشت کیا، عالیہ مزہر۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

اپنے لیڈر بورڈ پر کارکردگیاں خواجہ آصف کا علی امین کو پیش

اپنے لیڈر بورڈ پر کارکردگیاں خواجہ آصف کا علی امین کو پیش۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

حکومت پھر 9 مئی کا پلان بنایا تھا، سیر مشرف

حکومت پھر 9 مئی کا پلان بنایا تھا، سیر مشرف۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

ریاست پر حملہ کر نیوالوں کیساتھ مذاکرات کا سوال ہی پیدا نہیں ہوتا، اسحاق ڈار

ریاست پر حملہ کر نیوالوں کیساتھ مذاکرات کا سوال ہی پیدا نہیں ہوتا، اسحاق ڈار۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

کرپٹی میں 384 میگاواٹ کے وڈ پاور پلانٹس کی تعمیر اور تھمب ٹھیک

کرپٹی میں 384 میگاواٹ کے وڈ پاور پلانٹس کی تعمیر اور تھمب ٹھیک۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

رواں سال مون سون بارشوں کے باعث پنجاب میں 123 شہری جاں بحق اور 317 زخمی

رواں سال مون سون بارشوں کے باعث پنجاب میں 123 شہری جاں بحق اور 317 زخمی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے خلاف بے نقاب گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔



لبنان کے شہر خرام میں اسرائیلی فضائی حملوں میں تباہ و برباد ہوئی عمارت دیکھی جاتی ہے



شاہراہ نیشنل کی ناقص تعمیر کارٹولس، کرپشن اور بددیانتی برداشت نہیں کریں گے، وزیراعظم آزاد کشمیر

President Zardari underscores the need to further strengthen parliamentary democracy & promote political stability

Emphasizes the need to forge political unity to steer the country out of its political, economic & security challenges

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has 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.

President Asif Ali Zardari 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 (PML-Q), and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday. Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Chaudhry 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 Prime Minister and Senator Anwarul-Haq Kakar, President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan, and senior political leadership of the country attended the dinner.

Speaking on the occasion, President Asif Ali 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.



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.

Romina terms water conservation critical for Pakistan's economic sustainability

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that Pakistan faces mounting pressure on its water resources due to climate change impacts, population growth, and inefficient usage urging ever citizen to recognize the urgent need to conserve water at all levels. Chairing a high-level meeting regarding the 'Recharge Pakistan Programme' initiative here on Monday, she said, "While the riverine water flows and shifting rainfall patterns have become increasingly unpredictable and declining in the country because of exacerbating fallouts of global warming, conserving available water resources to meet domestic, industrial and agricultural needs is of the critical importance for the country's economic sustainability."

The meeting was attended by national and international water conservation, climate change, flood risk management experts.

Romina Khurshid Alam stressed that water conservation was no longer a choice but a necessity for the survival and prosperity of Pakistan. Given the realisation, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is particularly committed to support policy efforts that would help Pakistan achieve water security.

She said, "The incumbent government remains committed to supporting and implementing policies and initiatives in collaboration with national and international stakeholders that promote sustainable water use, but the responsibility lies with every individual, community, and industry to act now. Together, we can ensure a water-secure future for Pakistan."

The Coordinator to PM on Climate Change said that Recharge Pakistan programme was



an important water conservation policy initiative, which would be launched on Tuesday (September 10), aims to building Pakistan's climate resilience through ecosystem-based adaptation for integrated flood risk management and conservation of excess flood water and utilize it for meeting growing water needs of domestic, industrial and agriculture sectors. She further stated that the Indus river is the country's lifeline but now experiencing catastrophic floods and droughts exacerbated by climate change.

Romina Khurshid said that the Recharge Pakistan Programme, which would be implemented by a non-governmental organization in collaboration with the climate change and environmental coordination ministry and provincial governments, was a critical intervention that would help build the country's climate resilience and water security at the same time through cost-effective ecosystem-based adaptation measures. Because, the initiative would help increase water storage and recharge through wetlands, floodplains, and hill-torrents management; promote climate-adapted community-based natural resource management and livelihoods; and forge a paradigm shift to scale up this approach, she

hoped. There was need to understand that no matter how much water was stored or conserved in any form, its efficient use was a key to sustainable water availability in the country, she added.

The PM's Coordinator emphasized, "Water is life. We cannot afford to waste it. Every drop saved today will secure a better tomorrow for our children and grandchildren. Whether it is turning off the tap when not in use, fixing leaks, or adopting water-efficient technologies, every action counts."

However, she urged all citizens to take immediate steps to conserve water in their daily lives, including reducing water usage in households by turning off taps when not in use, using water-saving appliances, and fixing leaks; encouraging farmers to adopt modern, efficient irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler systems and; supporting industrial initiatives for water recycling and minimizing waste. Romina Khurshid pointed out that climate change was reducing the availability of freshwater due to irregular rainfall and glacier melting. Highlighting the adverse impacts of water scarcity, she said that water scarcity could destabilise key sectors such as agriculture, industry, and energy, potentially leading to economic crises. However, water conservation was vital to ensure that industries and agriculture continued to thrive without overburdening water supplies, she stressed. Talking about adverse environmental impacts of inefficient use of water resources, particularly by agriculture and industrial sectors, PM's climate aide said that excessive water use and mismanagement had led to the degradation of ecosystems and pollution of water bodies. VOM Report

CJP Qazi Faez Isa dismisses any notion of extending his tenure

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa has firmly dismissed any notion of extending his tenure. During an informal discussion with journalists marking the start of the new judicial year, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa was questioned regarding a comment made by Rana Sanaulah Khan, who suggested that if the retirement age for all judges were increased, the chief justice might consider an extension.

In response, Chief Justice Isa quipped that Rana Sanaulah should be brought before him. He referenced an earlier meeting with Azam Nazeer Tarar, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, and the Attorney General for Pakistan Barrister Masnoor Usman Awan, clarifying that Sanaulah had not been present. At that meeting, the idea of extending the tenures of all chief justices was raised, but Chief Justice Isa categorically stated he would not accept such an extension for himself, even though he had no objections if it were applied to other judges.

Expressing uncertainty about his future, Chief Justice Isa added, "I don't even know if I will be alive tomorrow." When asked about the scheduling of the issue concerning a letter from six judges, he explained that it was the committee's responsibility to set a hearing date. Previously, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar had also confirmed that Chief Justice Isa had no intention of seeking an extension, dismissing repeated claims to the contrary as unfounded and unnecessary. A question was raised by a senior journalist that legislation is being made regarding the increase in the number of judges. On this, the Chief Justice said that the journalists will not talk about the fact that the approved vacancies in the Supreme Court were also vacant, why they were vacant, I have come and completed those vacancies.

The Chief Justice said that I will not give any opinion regarding the proposed legislation. Maybe tomorrow it will be challenged in the Supreme Court and then it will be said that I have already given my opinion, Farooq Hameed Naik is also a Member of Parliament, this question should be asked to him. A question was asked by a journalist that there are talks of continuing the existing arrangement in the Supreme Court. On this, the Chief Justice said that such things keep happening. The Chief Justice said that examples of America are given where it is already known how many judges are Democrats and how many are Republicans and what the decision will be, but this is not the case in Pakistan. Even he does not know what the decision will be. SABAH

Work on passport office in Wazirabad to be started after budget's allocation: NA told

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Religious Affairs, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, informed the National Assembly on Monday that work on the passport office in District Wazirabad would commence soon following the allocation of the budget.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding the absence of a passport office in District Wazirabad, he said that the Ministry of Interior had no objections to the establishment of the office but the project had been delayed due to the lack of budget allocation. APP

Govt to ensure economic, political stability via legislation: Talal Ch

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry has said that the government will ensure economic, political stability and eradication of terrorism through legislation. Interacting with media persons here on Monday, he claimed that the power show of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Sangjani failed adversely as the people had rejected the party and participation of minimum people was proof of the fact.

Senator Talal Chaudhry said that the countrymen have not interest in rallies of PTI but they instead 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 said that the politics of PTI leadership was based on protests, sit-ins and violence

as its activists attacked the personnel of Islamabad Police on Sunday night and they would have to face legal action on that count.

The PML-N leader 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 Sangjani meeting. He alleged the KP government of utilizing public money and machinery for the PTI meeting instead of using the same for the uplift of the deprived people of province. The PTI leaders would have to face the consequences for violation of the law, he added. Talal Chaudhry said that the government would not allow anyone to create chaos and hurl threats to the national institutions in the name of so-called peaceful protest. INP



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

Chairperson Rubina Khalid hosts live e-katcheri to address beneficiaries' concerns



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), conducted a live E-Katcheri session today at BISP Headquarters. During the session, Senator Rubina Khalid directly interacted with beneficiaries via BISP's official Facebook account, listening to their concerns and issuing immediate directives for the resolution of their complaints. Over the course of the one-hour live session, 34

people from across the country called in. The callers asked questions related to their enrollment in the Benazir Income Support Programme, eligibility criteria, and stipend information for the Benazir Kafalat, Taleemi Wazaif, and Nashonuma programmes. Senator Rubina Khalid addressed their queries in real time and instructed officers to resolve the issues on an urgent basis.

The Chairperson informed the callers that if, for any reason, a deserving woman is unable to withdraw her stipend on time, the amount is added to her next installment, which she can receive as a lump sum. Senator Rubina Khalid further explained that payments are currently being made under a new banking model to ensure the distribution of funds to deserving women in a dignified and transparent manner.

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

ISLAMABAD: 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 unviability of drives, he said. He said it is worth to mention 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. APP

During negotiations, no new demands were made: Hamas Spokesperson

Israeli occupation forces loot at least \$130 mln in money & gold artifacts from Palestinian homes & shops across the Gaza Strip

GAZA: Hamas Spokesperson Basim Naeem has said that according to the American officials, the news is circulating that Hamas has made new demands during the negotiations which is not true.

He said that it should be clear, the impasse in the process of negotiation is due to Netanyahu's obstinacy. The Palestinian party is still a supporter of the Security Council resolutions and the Joe Biden's Plan. He said it also appreciates all efforts for a ceasefire. Meanwhile, it should be noted that the battle of Palestinian people against occupation and colonialism did not start on Oct. 7, but started 105 years ago, including 30 years of British colonialism and 75 years of Zionist

occupation. In 1918, the Palestinian people owned 98.5% of the Palestine land and represented 92% of the population on the land of Palestine.

As per ongoing War Statistics, it is estimated that the Israeli occupation forces looted at least \$130 million in money and gold artifacts from Palestinian homes and shops across the Gaza Strip. 11,120 acres of agricultural lands across Gaza destroyed by Israel. 170 UNRWARUN facilities were damaged by the Israeli bombing and air strikes. 2,830 industrial facilities completely across Gaza were destroyed by the Israeli occupation. Over 75% of the electricity network across Gaza is damaged. SABAH

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

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

In a letter to the UNSG, Saghar highlighted the alarming deterioration of fundamental freedoms and civic space in Kashmir since India's apartheid regime led by Narendra Modi-led Indian regime stripped the territory of its special status in 2019.

He said the Indian government is suppressing dissent, targeting critics, and committing human rights violations, including excessive force, arbitrary detentions, and enforced disappearances. Saghar emphasized that the elections are a farce, lacking fairness and transparency, and are being used by India to project a facade of democracy, de-legitimize the Kashmiris' peaceful struggle for self-determination, and strengthen its control over the ter-



ritory. He urged the UNSG to persuade the Indian government to respect the Kashmiri people's fundamental human rights and resolve the Kashmir conflict peacefully. The Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party believes that these elections are unlikely to satisfy the Kashmiris' aspirations and cannot substitute for a UN-supervised plebiscite to determine their political fate. Saghar appealed to the UNSG to use his good offices to create an enabling environment for a peaceful solution to the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir reject Indian occupation and demand their universally recognized right to self-determination," the letter wrote and added "The UNSC resolutions have pledged this right to the Kashmiri people, who have been struggling for over seven decades to achieve it." India's denial of this right is contrary to its claim of being a democratic republic and a violation of the UN charter. He urged all justice-loving people to support the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, and India must be pressurized to honour its international commitments on Kashmir.

Senate Committee unanimously approves 'Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024' with Amendments

ISLAMABAD: Senator Kamil Ali Agha chaired the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology held on Monday 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 manufacturing 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. SABAH