

DAILY MIRROR

Quetta
Karachi

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Friday, September, 13, 2024

Rabi-Al-Awwal, 08, 1446

JUI-F chief questions military chief extensions, seeks same privileges for parliamentarians

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman has strongly criticised the practice of granting extensions to military officials, calling it a "flawed" policy that should apply equally to parliamentarians.

Addressing the National Assembly, he recalled how past military extensions were pushed through under pressure and questioned why such a privilege is not extended to lawmakers.

Rehman condemned the current judicial system as "outdated," urging the government to collaborate with the opposition on judicial reforms.

He stressed that courts have become political entities, with some supporting one faction and others backing another.

Rehman also called for reforms that

would make the judiciary impartial and restore public trust in the system.

Highlighting ongoing police protests in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Rehman warned that if law enforcement agencies stopped fulfilling their duties, it would severely impact the country's security.

He further criticised the extension process, particularly within the military and judiciary, stating that if this practice continues, parliament should be given the same rights. Rehman also addressed the issue of judicial case backlogs, pointing out that over 60,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court, and proposed the creation of separate courts to handle constitutional matters. Rehman concluded by stressing the need to modernise Pakistan's judicial system, which he argued still operates under British-era laws, and urged that parliament be made supreme.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif exchanging views with Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco, visiting Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) during meeting held in Islamabad

PM praises friendly nations' support as Pakistan finally included in IMF board agenda

IMF board to meet on September 25 to discuss approval of \$7bn bailout agreement reached with Pakistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has finally added Pakistan's new 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to the agenda for its Executive Board meetings scheduled for September 25, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif heaping praise on friendly nations for extending all-out support to help Islamabad secure the bailout package.

In a statement issued today, the global lender said its executive board would meet on September 25 to discuss the approval of \$7 billion EFF agreement reached with Pakistan. "Islamabad is implementing the terms of the 37-month agreement," it added.

Islamabad and the global lender reached an agreement on the 37-month loan programme in July. The IMF has said the programme was subject to approval from its executive board and obtaining "timely confirmation of necessary

financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners".

Islamabad has to secure external financing of \$2 billion from bilateral and commercial lenders within the ongoing week.

According to insiders, Pakistan already owes \$5 billion to Saudi Arabia in the form of cash deposits. It must be noted that Pakistan also holds \$4 billion in deposits from China and \$3 billion from the UAE.

These amounts are separate from an additional \$4.5 billion in commercial loans, including those from China, sources quoted the ministry officials as saying. Top official sources confirmed to The News that Pakistan would have to dispatch its signed Letter of Intent (LoI) to the IMF's Executive Board with a request to consider approval of \$7 billion under 37 months EFF with the written commitment that the Government of Pakistan would comply with all agreed condition of the Fund programme.

Secretary General IMO calls on the Prime Minister

INP

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco Thursday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The prime minister warmly welcomed Secretary General Velasco and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening collaboration with the IMO.

He underlined Pakistan's desire for expanding fisheries and maritime trade, exploring offshore resources, promoting coastal tourism, and fostering a sustainable shipbreaking industry.

The prime minister said that his government was prioritizing the blue economy as a central pillar of its economic development strategy.

He highlighted the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in attracting investments and introducing modern technologies to advance fisheries and the shipbreaking sector. The prime minister hoped that through these efforts and with the support of IMO and international partners, Pakistan's visibility on the maritime map of the world would be further enhanced.

State Bank of Pakistan slashes policy rate by 200 BPS

INP

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reduced its policy rate by 200 basis points to 17.5% on Thursday, as headline and core inflation saw a sharper-than-expected decline over the last two months.

The rate cut will be effective from September 13, 2024.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the SBP attributed this decision to falling global oil and food prices and a delay in the anticipated increase in administered energy prices.

The central bank, however, warned of potential risks tied to global economic volatility and domestic energy adjustments, urging a cautious approach to future monetary policies.

Inflation fell to 9.6% year-on-year in August, down from 12.6% in June.

Core inflation also dropped to 11.9%, reflecting improved supplies of food commodities and a reduction in domestic demand.

The MPC expects inflation to continue its downward trend but noted that risks remain, particularly related to the timing and scale of adjustments in energy tariffs and the course of global commodity prices.

The SBP's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$9.5 billion as of September 6, despite weak inflows and continued debt repayments.

Remittance inflows and a rebound in exports helped keep the current account deficit contained at \$0.2 billion in July 2024.

Cabinet meeting approves Balochistan Prosecution Act 2024

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday presided over the provincial cabinet meeting and approved the Balochistan Prosecution Act (BPA) 2024. The Balochistan cabinet has finalized the recommendations for the appointment of vice chancellors of the two universities of the province under consensus.

The cabinet meeting made

decision that interview would be conducted for the appointment of Vice Chancellor of Lasbela University.

The Cabinet also gave the option to the employees of federal levies to merge with the provincial levies and to nominate a family member for employment to the employees nearing retirement.

The provincial cabinet approved the renewal and change in the advisory council of Balochistan Revenue Authority.

Quetta police official kills man accused of blasphemy while in custody

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: A Quetta police officer killed a man being held in custody on suspicion of blasphemy charges, police officials said on Thursday.

Quetta Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Muhammad Baloch said that the police officer accused of the killing had been arrested.

The officer had accessed a police station where a man accused of blasphemy was being held by pretending he was his relative before opening fire on him.

The man accused of blasphemy had been taken into custody earlier in the week and moved to a more heavily fortified station due to an enraged mob demanding that he be handed over to them.

At the time, protesters belonging to the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and other religious parties had blocked traffic on the western bypass by placing burning tyres on the road and staged rallies in several parts of the provincial capital.

They later hurled a hand grenade at the Kharotabad police station, which exploded outside the police station.

No human loss was reported in the attack.

"We have registered an FIR (first information report) against the blasphemy suspect and arrested him soon after receiving information about the incident," a senior police officer said.

According to the complaint, a resident of Kharotabad used objectionable words against the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). His alleged phone conversation was viral on social media, triggering sharp criticism and protests.

PTI MNAs arrested from Parliament premises produced in National Assembly

INP



ISLAMABAD: Ten PTI MNAs arrested from the Parliament House's premises in a late-night raid earlier this week were presented in the National Assembly on Thursday after their production orders were issued.

Just after 3am on Tuesday, plainclothesmen had stormed the Parliament House — disconnec-t-ting the power supply and barging into the building's Ser-vices Branch — to whisk away at least 10 PTI legislators.

In light of the subsequent outcry by the PTI in the NA, Sadiq suspended five security staff for four months and transferred five officials of the Capital Development Authority — serving in the assembly on deputation — for disconnecting the building's power during the 'raid'.

A four-member committee headed by Add-i-tional Secretary Ifikhar Ahmad has been constituted to probe security arrangements and the "unauthorised move-ments" in the parliament.

A day ago, Sadiq had issued production orders for the MNAs in police custody — namely Sher Afzal Marwat (NA-41), Malik Amir Dogar (NA-49), Ahmed Chattha (NA-66), Zain Qureshi (NA-50), Sheikh Waqas Akram (NA-109), Zubair Khan Wazir (NA-42), Awais Haider Jakhar (NA-182), Syed Shah Ahad Ali Shah (NA-33), Nasim Ali Shah (NA-39) and Yousuf Khan Khattak (NA-36).

Subsequently, the Islamabad police presented them in the NA today amid high security.

IHC seeks federal govt's clarification on Imran Khan's possible military trial

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday sought clarification from the federal government over the prospects of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's military trial over his alleged involvement in the May 9 riots which witnessed military installations being vandalised following his arrest in a graft case last year.

"The PTI founder is a civilian [and] the military trial of a civilian is a matter of concern for the petitioner as well as the court," IHC's Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb said while hearing Khan's plea filed under Article 199 of the Constitution on September 3 amid speculations hinting at his trial in a military court.

Blue economy need of hour to bring stability in national economy: Ishaq Dar

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar has said blue economy is need of hour and the efforts are underway for revival of national economy.

"Pakistan will continue to work with International Maritime Organization (IMO), he said this while addressing 'International Maritime Business and Finance Conference' here Thursday.

He went on to say the interests of all are common regarding maritime affairs. Government is taking steps to harmonize fishing sector to modern times requirements.

Holding maritime conference was must., he said adding Pakistan blue economy can play vital role for development of the country at international level. Steps must be taken for development of blue economy.

Fishing sector has assumed vital signifi-

cance under SIFC, he added.

We are facilitating local and international investors., he said adding we will encourage investors for investment in maritime industry.

Economic stability will come to Pakistan due to blue economy and job opportunities will be created.

It is imperative to make ship making industry compatible with modern technology, he stressed.

Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco emphasized measures for protecting maritime environment and ensuring a sustainable working of maritime sector.

He said international maritime organization is not just about protecting the maritime environment but also aims at evolving such safety protocols which are necessary to continue the international maritime trade in a sustainable manner.

IMO chief stresses maritime environment protection

APP

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco has extended all out cooperation to Pakistan for harnessing its maritime trade and ship recycling potential.

He was addressing 'International Maritime Business and Finance Conference' in Islamabad on Thursday. The Secretary General emphasized measures for protecting maritime environment and ensuring a sustainable working of maritime sector.

He said international maritime organization is not just about protecting the maritime environment but also aims at evolving such safety protocols which are necessary

to continue the international maritime trade in a sustainable manner.

The Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization is on a three-day visit to Pakistan during which he will also attend an International Maritime Sustainability Exhibition in Karachi.

This is the first ever visit to Pakistan by a Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization. The visit will afford an opportunity for Pakistan and the Organization to enhance collaboration in maritime sector and blue economy. Addressing the conference, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar reiterated Pakistan's commitment to environmental sustainability.



QUETTA: CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti Chairing a Provincial Cabinet Meeting.

International community silence on Gaza situation is a question mark: FO

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said silence of international community on Gaza situation is a question mark.

"We strongly condemn the attacks on the al-Mawasi humanitarian zone in Khan Younis in Gaza ' Human rights violations by India in Occupied Kashmir are not acceptable. Global community should play effective role for resolution of Kashmir issue, this was said by , Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch on Thursday here in her weekly press briefing.

She held consultation is underway with Australia on the issue of Hassan Askari. US embassy has assured the private journalists will not need any additional documents in connection with US visa.

Removing the name of Hassan Askari from ECL is mandate of interior ministry, she added.

"The Khan Younis carnage without prior warning and in defiance of basic protections demonstrates a disregard for human life and Israel's genocidal designs against the Palestinian people," the FO spokesperson added.

Pakistan strongly condemns the airstrikes by Israeli occupation forces on the Al-Mawasi humanitarian zone in Khan Younis, Gaza on 10 September 2024, which claimed the lives of 40 civilians. Executed in an area designated as a safe zone

for displaced persons by the Israeli occupation forces themselves, constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

The carnage in Khan Yunis, without prior warning and in defiance of basic protections, demonstrates a disregard for human life and Israel's genocidal designs against the Palestinian people. The targeting of individuals seeking refuge in a designated safe zone represents a gross breach of international humanitarian law which necessitates the protection of civilian populations and humanitarian zones.

We call on the UN Security Council to play its role in preventing Israeli occupation forces from continuing with their genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people and holding them accountable for their war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We strongly condemn the recent decision by the Delhi High Court to uphold the Indian decision to proscribe several political parties, advocating the rights of the Kashmiri people. Banning of indigenous

political parties is part of India's relentless campaign to subjugate the Kashmiri people, stifle dissent, and consolidate its occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Parties that advocate the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being silenced under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) — a law that

has increasingly been used as a tool for repression of the Kashmiri people.

Indian judiciary's role in legitimizing these actions follows recent decisions sanctioning the suppression of legitimate political voices in Jammu and Kashmir. Last year, the Indian Supreme Court upheld the illegal and unilateral acts of 2019 in IIOJK.

We urge India to remove the ban on all political parties illegally outlawed in IIOJK; respect the rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people; release all political prisoners and human rights defenders; and faithfully implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

Regarding SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) meeting in Islamabad she said the Ministerial Council was working on its agenda.

"Ministerial level officials, including deputy ministers, are participating in the SCO trade ministers meeting," she noted. "The future of South Asia lies in peace. Pakistan considers SCO as an important organisation. The organisation can play an important role in development and security," Ms Baloch continued.

The spokesperson said the secretary general of the International Maritime Organisation was on a visit to Pakistan. He acknowledged the high standards of maritime security of Pakistan, she stated.

Member APNS

Daily Mirror

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For MEM Publications (Pvt) Ltd, 4-A Model Town Hali Road Quetta Cantt.
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Lakki police protest

THE protest sit-in by hundreds of police personnel in KP's Lakki Marwat district entered its third day on Wednesday, with no sign of an amicable resolution.

The law enforcers have taken to the streets to protest rising militancy in their district, and surrounding regions. They say they feel vulnerable, and want the counterterrorism drive in the area to be led by them, instead of the military. Police officers from surrounding districts, including Bannu, D.I. Khan and Tank, have joined their protesting colleagues, while political parties, tribesmen and civil society groups have also expressed solidarity with them. Efforts by the local administration to end the impasse have failed, and traffic between this part of KP and the rest of the country has been suspended.

The policemen's concerns are not without merit. According to figures published recently, KP experienced 29 terrorist attacks in August alone, in which 25 lives were lost. Lakki Marwat and its surrounding districts have been particularly affected by terrorism, with most of those targeted being police personnel, security men and government officials.

Therefore, if policemen have come out on the roads to protest, it shows that the state of law and order in the area is clearly a matter of grave concern. If police morale is low and law enforcers have to publicly air their grievances, it reflects a failure of the administration and the security forces to crush militancy in the affected areas. It is also significant that the local civilians are backing the policemen's demands.

Unfortunately, the KP administration and security forces seem too consumed with political matters to address the issue of militancy with the seriousness and urgency it deserves. Police personnel are on the front line in the campaign against militancy, and their concerns cannot be dismissed. As the protesting law enforcers have demanded, they should be empowered to deal with terrorist groups.

The fact is that it requires a combined effort involving the police, Counter-Terrorism Department, intelligence agencies and the military to wipe out the terrorist menace before the matter gets out of hand. As they negotiate with the protesting policemen, members of the administration must keep their concerns — as well as those of the local civilians, who pay a high price whenever there are kinetic operations — in mind to evolve a dynamic and effective CT plan. Both the KP government and security forces must lend a sympathetic ear to these demands, as the province cannot expect a demoralised police force to deal with the militant threat. Let the police lead CT efforts, backed by the military where required, so that terrorist groups are cleared from the areas. And after kinetic operations to uproot terrorist groups, the civilian administration needs to implement the 'build' phase successfully.

By Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

Private sector engagement

PAKISTAN'S battle against climate change cannot be fought without support from the private sector. The private sector and the government in Pakistan have dramatically different ways of working. Yet, they, like two sides of the same coin, coexist and can create an ecosystem for each other's climate action.

Pakistan's financial needs for climate action are very high. Projected climate disasters, environmental degradation, and air pollution can cause GDP to fall by at least seven per cent.

For this, Pakistan will need \$152 billion for adaptation and \$196bn for decarbonisation by 2030, as projected by the Climate Change and Development Report of the World Bank. None of the growth rate projections can promise this. The new \$7bn Extended Fund Facility with the IMF aims to support Pakistan's efforts in achieving macroeconomic stability. It does not set any targets for economic growth rate nor for investments in climate resilience.

Realising that the financial gap cannot be filled with additional borrowing, various government ministries have frantically moved to augment their capacity to access international climate finance (IFC). To achieve scale, the government sector will need to learn how to leverage private sector financing as equity. While the policy documents often mention private sector engagement, they fail in operationalising the ways and means of working.

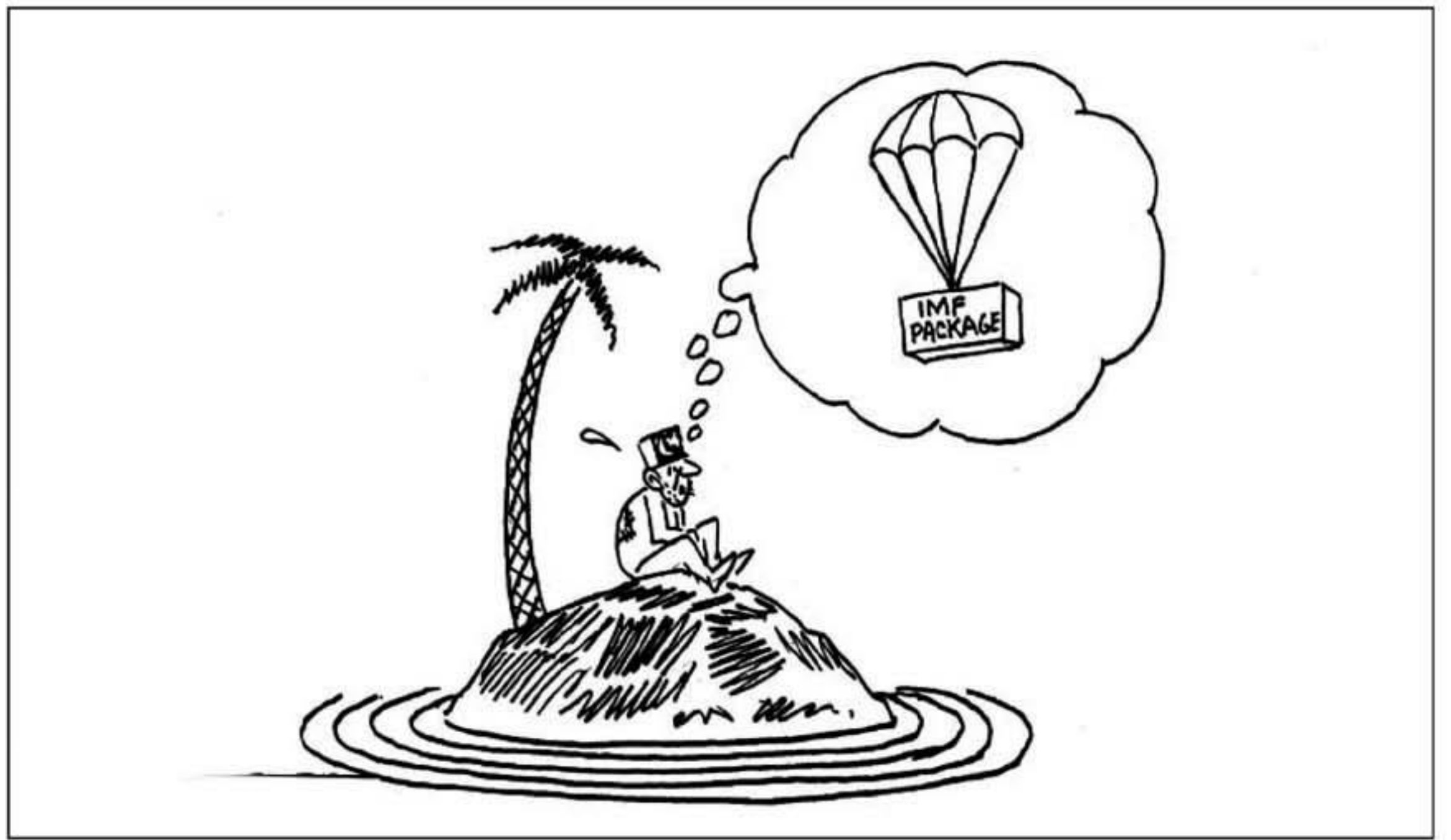
A cursory look at the Rules of Business that govern the mandates and functions of all government divisions, reveals that engagement with the private sector is not mentioned for the ministries of climate, economic affairs, finance, and planning, the key ministries dealing with the climate economy. The only reference to the private sector in the Rules of Business for these ministries is related to the Public-Private Partnership Authority (P3A), housed at the Planning Commission.

Since there is no explicit bar, each ministry could have pursued its own focus and terms of engagement with the private sector for climate-related interventions. This void has persisted in their recent initiatives that include setting up climate finance-specific units. This is a practice that is broadly followed by those provincial governments that have approved climate policies and are setting up climate units aimed at accessing IFC. The P3A sits in a remarkable position to help climate-proof development projects. The Board of Investment is perhaps the only institution that is specifically charged to attract both local and foreign investment by providing a conducive environment for business operations. It has undergone several reforms since 2013, a year after the climate change policy was first approved. The BoI is mandat-

ed to improve the business environment and ease of doing business. Housed at the Prime Minister's Office, none of its initiatives were aimed at climate-smart investments or engaging them to leverage international climate finance. Clearly, the highest level of political support is desperately needed.

Likewise, the P3A was established to provide an enabling legal and regulatory framework for developing and implementing public-private partnership transactions. According to the Planning Commission's Manual for Development Projects 2024, neither the legislation nor the subsequent procedures for P3A's functioning have embedded climate priorities. In India, its counterpart is located in the economic affairs department, supporting the integration of climate considerations by prioritising infrastructural resilience, and strengthening national infrastructure and monetisation pipelines, both aimed at leveraging private sector investments. As an arm of the Planning Commission, the P3A Pakistan sits in a remarkable position to help climate-proof public sector development programmes. The commerce ministry does not feature in Pakistan's climate change parlance, even if it is grappling with Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms that will potentially affect the country's three foremost formal private sector forums: the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI), Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), and Pakistan Business Council (PBC). The ministry is the focal agency for all.

Pakistan's private sector broadly falls in three categories. First, large business houses, including the approximately 200-member-strong OICCI, representing the interests of foreign investors, and the 96-member PBC. Both have undertaken preliminary studies on SDGs, climate change, and gender participation. Because of their size, and alignment with international standards, they attract IFC and similar investors. In the government's lexicon, however, they are often approached for CSR resources, instead of long-term partnership for climate action. Second, the FPCCI is an association of 277 trade bodies, 72 chambers, 28 women's chambers, 15 chambers of small traders, and 156 all-Pakistan trade associations, apparently including some SMEs. The FPCCI's governance, a relic of the Ayub era of back-door permits and concessions, impairs its ability to play a significant role in promoting climate resilience through initiatives and advocacy efforts, particularly for transparently informing climate-related policies. It can potentially spearhead collaboration with national and international organisations to promote climate resilience and for adopting the Environmental, Social, and Governance framework.



By F.S. Aijazuddin

'Lambooo' Nayar

NO one stood taller among the pique of Indian political columnists than Kuldip 'Lambooo' Nayar. Ironically, he received that nickname from the shortest of Indian prime ministers — Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Born in Sialkot, Nayar lived a long life, dying in New Delhi in 2018 at the age of 95. He had a career crammed brimful with history. Initially an Urdu press reporter, he served as editor of The Statesman, saw prison during Mrs Indira Gandhi's Emergency (1975-77), became Indian high commissioner to Great Britain in 1990, and sat in his country's Rajya Sabha in August 1997. His syndicated columns appeared in over 80 newspapers.

Just before his death, he compiled pen portraits of Leaders and Icons from Jinnah to Modi (2019). (He felt tempted to rename his book 'Heroes, Neros, and Zeros'.) That slim volume included his recollections of Indian and Pakistani leaders — M.K. Gandhi to N. Modi, and from M.A. Jinnah to Z.A. Bhutto. He knew them all — perhaps, only too well.

Nayar's personal 'trysts with destiny' began early. In 1945, as a young student, he heard M.A. Jinnah speak to a sparse audience in Lahore. Nayar asked him whether after independence, Hindus and Muslims might be 'at each other's throats'. Jinnah disagreed, countering that the two new nations would live in amity, like postwar Germany and France.

Nayar's personal 'trysts with destiny' began early.

On Jan 30, 1948, he walked in Birla House, the scene of Gandhi's assassination, noticing "a few drops of blood glistening in the receding light".

He interviewed K. Abdul Ghaffar Khan — the Frontier Gandhi — who startled Nayar by asking him pointedly: "Kya aap log baniya hotay ho?" (Are you Indians still traders?)

In February 1999, he travelled to Lahore in PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's peace bus yatra from Amritsar to Lahore. An advocate of Indo-Pak amity, he renewed his commitment each year by lighting a peace candle on Wagah border on Aug 14-15.

Nayar had unbridled admiration for Jawaharlal Nehru's commitment to democracy and secularism. He thought less of Indira Gandhi, and even less so after being imprisoned by her for his abrasive articles. Nayar could see that Sanjay Gandhi held sway over her. He asked Sanjay how long did he think he and his mother could get away with their authoritarian tactics? Sanjay replied: "In my scheme of things, there were to be no elections for three to four decades."

Kuldip describes Z.A. Bhutto as "brilliant, audacious, and adventurous [but] arrogant". Bhutto asked Nayar, now that he had met Indira, Sheikh Mujib and himself, did he not agree that he (Bhutto) "deserved to be prime minister of the subcontinent?" At Shimla, Nayar insists, "Bhutto had accepted the ceasefire line as an international border, meaning thereby that Pakistan would retain the territory it held in Kashmir (called Azad Kashmir), and India the rest of the Valley, Jammu and Ladakh". (PM Modi's subsequent abrogation of Article 370 had early roots.)

Nayar's plethora of Pakistani friends included Faiz Ahmed Faiz whose verses (if not his recitation) he admired. Nayar believed that Faiz's "humanity was his religion". He asked Faiz who was his favourite singer. To his surprise, Faiz did not say Iqbal Bano nor Noor Jehan. He opted for Nayyara Noor.

On one of his trips to Lahore, Kuldip Nayar asked to meet Noor Jehan. He was taken to a film studio in Model Town. Not recognising her at first (he remembered her as the Baby Noor Jehan of her Bombay days), he began by asking how many songs had she sung. Her witty response? "Na hi gaano ka shumaar hai, aur na hi gunahon ka" (Neither can I re-member the number of records, nor count the number of sins I have committed).

Nayar met Nawaz Sharif during his exile in Jeddah. He did not accept Sharif's assertion that he knew nothing about Kargil. (Nayar drew a comparison with Bhutto's denial about prior knowledge of the 1965 war.)

After Sharif's ouster, Nayar interviewed A.B. Vajpayee. Vajpayee told him: "Nawaz Sharif sacrificed himself for us." Referring to the back-channel talks between R.K. Mishra and Niaz Naik, Vajpayee added:

"We were almost there." Years later, PM Manmohan Singh expressed the same regret over the failure of the S.K. Lambah/Tariq Aziz talks.

Like many others, Nayar commented on Sonia Gandhi's use of Manmohan Singh as her "stalking horse". He too noticed "how unhappy Manmohan Singh looked when occupying the chair ahead of Sonia Gandhi, his benefactor". After Nayar's death in 2018, his ashes crossed Wagah border where he had lit candles each year, and then were immersed by co-peaceniks in the river Ravi.

Before his death, Nayar predicted that PM Modi "is not likely to take any initiative on Pakistan". Neither then, nor it would appear ever again in PM Modi's political lifetime.

DAILY MIRROR

I will soon give call, nation should remain ready for street movement, protection of freedom: Imran Khan

ONLINE

RAWALPINDI: PTI founder Imran Khan has said the entire nation should remain ready for protection of freedom and street movement as he would soon give call.

He said this while talking to journalists on the occasion of hearing of Ali-Qadir Trust case in Adiala jail Rawalpindi Thursday.

Termining Ali Amin Gandapur talk about the journalists in-appropriate Imran Khan said what Gandapur said about journalists he should not have said. The journalists are waging crusade under what pressure they are working.

When the journalists diverted attention of Imran Khan to Ali Amin Gandapur remarks about media men he said he stands with every word of Gandapur speech but it was not in his knowledge Gandapur has talked some thing about journalists.

When he was informed in detail about what Gandapur said about jour-

nalists in public meeting, Imran replied you have told all about his talk. I am saying journalists are waging jihad. Ali Amin Gandapur should not have said so.

When asked your party leadership has regretted over the statement of Ali Amin Gandapur will he too regret, Imran Khan said I am saying for third time you are waging jihad and Ali Amin Gandapur should not have said so.

He said he and Bushra Bibi in jail due to Hummayun Dilawar. Whichever bench decides case against him they bestow favors on it. Land worth billion of rupees was given to Hummayun Dilawar as gift. KP anti corruption is having all evidence against him. Now FIA has filed case against KP anti corruption.

Mohsin Naqvi targeted us more than others and subjected us to unprecedented tyranny and injustice.

Police tortured Zillay Shah to death and threw his body on road. But they lodged FIR against me. In return of his cruelties against us Mohsin

Naqvi was made interior minister and chairman PCB.

Qazi Faez Isa provided protection to those involved in injustices against us. Qazi Faez Isa snatched electoral symbol bat from us and he did not hear our human rights petition.

Former commissioner Rawalpindi had held chief justice and election commission responsible for election rigging. Now chief justice will be imposed again.

Yahya Khan had deceived Awami League and Mujib ur Rehman to save his power. Today this is being done too for the sake of personal interest. Supreme Court was the only institution which was safe and now they are attacking upon it too. They have halted Nawaz Sharif by browbeating him. Otherwise he would have fled abroad far ago.

Wife and daughter of Saad Ullah Baloch have been lifted. They are not ashamed of it. They intruded into assemblies and arrested the parliamentarians. It has not been done ever before so. My wife is too in jail illegally.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in a meeting with Dr. Amal Mandokhel DHO Quetta.

Aleema Khan claims system being wrapped up for chief justice's extension

INP

RAWALPINDI: Aleema Khan, sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, has alleged the government is dismantling the system to grant an extension to Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Speaking to the media outside the Adiala Jail on Thursday, she said Imran Khan told her that efforts were afoot to keep him imprisoned for long.

The government, which once attacked the Supreme Court (SC), was now attacking democracy and justice system to extend the chief justice's tenure, she quoted Khan as having said.

Aleema Khan emphasised that the public must come out to protect the system and hold peaceful protests across the country.

She added that the government was alarmed by the PTI rallies, using various tactics to stop the rallies by blocking the roads with containers.

PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja accused the state of using coercive measures, including the abduction of women, to pressurise parliamentarians for constitutional amendments.

ADC visits Govt Girls High School to review educational issues in Gwadar

APP

Quetta: On the special directive of Deputy Commissioner Hamood-ur Rehman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (Revenue) Sar Buland Khan visited Government Girls High School Kalanchi-Para area of Gwadar where he reviewed the educational issues in detail. During the visit, Sar Buland Khan observed the shortage of teachers in the school but the teachers who were present and appreciated their hard work and honesty. The Additional Deputy Commissioner heard the education related issues from the headmistresses, teachers and students during inspecting the classrooms. He also appreciated the school bags and other educational materials provided under UNICEF and assured that the district administration is taking all possible measures to improve the quality of education in the district. Sar Buland Khan also assured that no compromise would be made on quality of education.

Khawaja Asif reacts to Gandapur's statement about holding talks with Afghanistan directly

Asif sees Gandapur's statement to hold talks with Afghanistan directly tantamount to attack federation

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif reacted on Thursday to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's statement about holding talks with Afghanistan directly.

Expressing his thoughts during the National Assembly Session, Asif said: "The statement made by Gandapur to hold talks with Afghanistan directly is tantamount to attack the federation. There was a need to give such a statement."

The traditions set by NA speaker Ayaz Sadiq should be followed instead of Asad Qaiser. The situation would be in control if Asad Qaiser had upheld traditions."

"The respect is self-made, and the outsider cannot do it," he maintained.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday asked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to stage the protests but do not cross the red-line.

Expressing his thoughts, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) stalwart said: "The arrival of the police in the parliament is shameful. But there is also a need to condemn those speeches delivered along with the masked people during the public gathering."

He lashed out at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, saying,

"KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur has challenged the writ of the state and warned of attacking the state with the group of people, which is all about derailing the democracy."

Cabinet Committee emphasizes effective SOE governance for national development

APP

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises has emphasized the effective governance of SOEs to ensure their contribution to national development objectives.

The meeting was held in Islamabad today with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb in the chair.

On this occasion, the Ministry of Communications presented a proposal regarding the categorization of the National Highway Authority as an essential State-Owned Enterprise due to its involvement and its critical role in implementing government policies with significant security, social, and economic impacts.

After careful consideration, the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises approved the proposal, categorizing the NHA as an essential SOE.

It also proposed the categorization of the Pakistan Post Office Department as a strategic and essential State-Owned Enterprise.

Similarly, the Ministry of Defence Production submitted a proposal regarding the strategic categorization of Defence Production Establishments, including entities like Pakistan Ordnance Factories, Heavy Industries Taxila, Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works, National Radio Telecommunication Corporation and Telephone Industries of Pakistan.

Additionally, the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) presented a proposal for the reconstitution of the Boards of Directors of the Central Power Purchasing Agency Guarantee Ltd, Power Planning and Monitoring Company, and Power Information Technology Company.

The Ministry of Water Resources also submitted a proposal to categorize the Water and Power Development Authority as a strategic or essential SOE.

After deliberation, the Committee decided to categorize WAPDA as an essential SOE. It was further directed that WAPDA align its governing Act in consonance with the SOEs Act.

Trump says debate was 'rigged'

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump claimed without providing evidence that the debate between him and rival Kamala Harris was 'rigged'.

"It was a rigged deal, as I assumed it would be, because when you looked at the fact that they were correcting everything and not correcting with her," he said on right-wing news channel Fox News.

He also panned pop megastar Taylor Swift for endorsing Harris shortly after the debate, saying: "I was not a Taylor Swift fan... she's a very liberal person."

She seems to always endorse a Democrat, and she'll probably pay a price for it in the marketplace."

President expresses resolve to adhering to IMO regulations

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to conserving its marine ecosystems and coastal areas by addressing challenges such as sea pollution and climate change.

He was talking to the visiting Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco, who called on him in Islamabad today.

The President said that maritime pollution is a major concern for Pakistan as it is negatively affecting aquatic life, causing a decline in the growth of the country's fisheries sector. He said that Pakistan is keen on modernizing its fisheries and shipbreaking sectors under the Special Investment Facilitation Council and focusing on the blue economy is a cornerstone of country's development strategy. He said that Pakistan is taking effective steps to tackle the effects of climate change and wanted to improve its marine ecosystem. He said that IMO's assistance and expertise would be welcomed in this regard.

In order to mitigate the impacts of climate change, Asif Ali Zardari said that Pakistan had planted mangroves over a million acres in Sindh and also sold carbon credits in the international market. He said that further there is a plan to plant mangroves on two million acres of land. The President expressed Pakistan's strong commitment to adhering to IMO regulations and standards for maritime safety, security and environmental protection. Asif Ali Zardari said that Pakistan is looking forward to exploring potential areas for future collaboration with IMO, including technical cooperation and expertise-sharing to improve country's maritime.

'Govt sets up task forces to review civil, criminal & NAB laws'

APP

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar has said dispensation of speedy and inexpensive justice to the people is amongst the top most priorities of the present government.

Responding to a question during Question Hour in the National Assembly today, he said the government has constituted three task forces to review civil, criminal and NAB laws. Moreover, a Special Committee has been constituted to set up legal aid mechanism for the poor and vulnerable sections of society.

The Minister said his ministry is reviewing various laws to ensure inexpensive and speedy justice to the public. In this regard, the Prime Minister has constituted a Legal Reform Committee under the chairmanship of Minister for Law and Justice.

Azam Nazeer Tarar said the government is implementing several reforms and initiatives in

collaboration with the judiciary to ensure that delays are minimized and justice is served efficiently.

Responding to a Calling Attention notice, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that inclusion of Allama Iqbal Open University's students in the Prime Minister's laptop scheme

will be ensured. He, however, said the final decision in this regard has yet to be taken.

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has commended Speaker Ayaz Sadiq for setting a good tradition of creating harmony and better working relationship among lawmakers to uphold the sanctity of the Parliament.

Talking about issuance of production orders of the opposition members, he stressed the need for continuing this tradition in future.

The Minister said there is a dire need of introspection to enhance tolerance and correct mistakes of the past.

Leader of the opposition Umar Ayub also appreciated the Speaker for issuing production orders of the opposition members.

JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has called for judicial reforms to ensure speedy justice to the common people and vulnerable sections of the society.

Speaking on the floor of the House, he said the opposition should be taken on board in this regard.

Commending Speaker Ayaz Sadiq's role in issuance of production orders for the opposition members, Fazlur Rehman said collective efforts should be made to uphold the sanctity of the parliament.

The House will now meet tomorrow at 11 am.



ISLAMABAD: European Union Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB) Fran Van Daele called Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani at Parliament house.

CM Bugti Directs to Implement Demands of Artist Naseer Ahmed Soon

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has issued orders for immediate implementation of the artist Naseer Ahmed's demands who was selling his children as a protest here on Thursday. He issued these directives while meeting with artist Naseer Ahmed, who was protesting along with his children outside of the provincial assembly.

Arriving outside the Balochistan Assembly, the chief minister met with Naseer and listened to his demands. He gave instructions to take measures to implement artist's demands soon.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti also directed that complete treatment and electric chair should be provided to the artist along

with compensation.

He told Naseer that, "Your children are my children".

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said the banner of selling children was so painful that he could not even move a step forward. "I will handle the expenses of these children, it is my responsibility", he said.

Later, chief minister took the banner from the hands of the children and showed his affection with them.

On the directives of CM, Naseer Ahmed was immediately shifted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) by an ambulance. Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that Naseer Ahmed would be shifted to Karachi based hospital for further medical treatment after preliminary medical examination.

Young generation will have to play role in dealing with climate change: Ministers

APP

Quetta: Adviser for Climate Change Climate Change, Naseem-Ur-Rehman Mullakhel and Provincial Minister Education Raheela Hameed Durrani said that the young generation would have to play their role in dealing with climate change and its effects. They said Balochistan is the most affected area in terms of climate change, the young generation has to be ready to deal with these challenges.

They expressed these views as guests while addressing at a Provincial local conference of youth was organized on the topic of climate change with the support of International Water Management Institute, FAO, BRSP and Revival of Balochistan Water Resources in the provincial capital of Quetta BUITEMS University on Thursday.

Scholars working on climate change, faculty members of universities and a large number of young students participated in the event.

The aim of the seminar was to sensitize youth on climate change impacts

and challenges. Dr. Arshad Khan, Deputy Country Head of International Water Management institute, delivered a detailed lecture on water conservation, supply and better use on this occasion. In the conference, Vice Chancellor BUITEMS Dr professor Khalid Hafeez, Forest Secretary Dostain Jamaludini, Secretary religious affair Muhammad Ishaq Jamali Pro VC BUITEMS Dr. Abdul Rahman, RBWR's Yele Beekma, Dr Naeem shahwani, IWMI/Dr khair,FOA's Dr. Azam Kakar, BRSP's Abdul Qahir, IDSP's Safdar Hussain Climate Specialist Urooj Khan and Dr Aneela also attended the conference.

They shared their views on the impacts of climate change. Members of NGOs working on youth and climate also participated in the event and informed about climate change measures in Balochistan.

A panel discussion and question and answer session were also organized on this occasion. Honorary shields were also distributed among the participants at the end of the ceremony.



Balochistan Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani addresses during the Policy Dialogue on Educational Challenges: Language Barriers and Effects of Curriculum Changes on Afghan School Teachers held in Quetta.