

QUETTA VOICE

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Political parties putting aside differences jointly running govt: Bilawal

Imprudent comments by politicians about Lt Gen Faiz Hameed 'very inappropriate': ISPR

ISLAMABAD: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) took exception to the "imprudent comments" made by the country's senior politicians about Peshawar Corps Commander Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, terming them "very inappropriate".

In a statement, the military's media affairs wing said the Peshawar Corps was an "illustrious formation" of the army and was spearheading the national war against terrorism for over two decades.

"One of the most competent and professional officers is entrusted with the responsibility to lead this prestigious formation. Imprudent comments made by important senior politicians recently about [the] Peshawar Corps commander are very inappropriate," the ISPR said.

It added that such statements undermined the honour and the morale of the institution and its leadership.

"It is expected that the senior political leadership of [the] country refrains from passing objectionable remarks against the institution, whose brave officers and men are constantly putting their lives on the line to guard the integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan," the statement concluded.

Speaking to the media shortly after the press release was issued, ISPR Director General (DG) Major General Babar Iftikhar reiterated that "many statements" were made in the last few days by the country's politicians and termed them "highly inappropriate".

Maj Gen Iftikhar said



that the institution was showing "tolerance and restraint and requesting that the army is not dragged into politics".

He said the army was fulfilling important responsibilities for ensuring security on the country's western, eastern, and northern borders, while also taking measures for internal security. "We, as an institution, have nothing to do with the political

situation of the country," he said.

The army's spokesperson also said that the appointment of the next army chief should not be made "controversial" by turning it a topic of debate. He said the procedure for the appointment of the army chief had been outlined in the Constitution, adding that it would take place in accordance with the law.

The DG ISPR said that there was no chance of anyone being able to cause rifts within the army.

"It must be clarified that there is no problem with fair criticism", the military spokesperson said, lamenting that social media was being used to create propaganda instead of mere criticism. Web Desk



Govt wants to retrieve economy, hold elections in next phase: Asif



ISLAMABAD: Attorney General of Pakistan, Asthar Ausaf Ali, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Govt wants to retrieve economy, hold elections in next phase: Asif

LONDON: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Thursday said that economic reforms are government's top priority and elections will be held after economic situation of the country improves.

Talking to media persons, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Asif said that if it was in his control he would bring Nawaz Sharif back the coming day but the decision about his return will be taken by the party leadership.

He further said that Imran Khan's anti-America narrative is worthless and Arif Alvi, Omar Sarfaraz Cheema and Qasim Suri violated the constitution of the country.

The minister said that he is a political workers and does not believe in arrest of opponents.

We will not act like Imran Khan under any circumstances and now everything will be as per law and constitution, he added.

It merits mention that during a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, it was agreed that there is no possibility of early elections in the country and general elections will be held only after the completion of electoral reforms.

It was also agreed that all parties related to the economic issues would be taken into confidence. INP

Blast kills a child, injured another in Chaman

Sardar Muhammad Khondai

A blast has killed a child and injured another in Chaman, Pakistan's neighboring city with



Afghanistan on Thursday. Police sources said an explosive device went off in the Rehman Kahol area of Chaman. The kids hit the planted explosive material with a stone when it caused the explosion.

The injured child was rushed to civil hospital Chaman for medical treatment. Police and levies reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway. Police cordoned off the area to probe into the incident.

FIA decides not to further pursue money laundering case against PM Shehbaz

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday has decided not to further pursue money laundering case against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Hamza Shahbaz and others.

As per details, the court has included the petition of FIA prosecution team in the record.

However, the court has decided to continue the trial despite the agency's decision and has directed PM Shehbaz Sharif, CM Hamza Shahbaz and other accused to appear before the court on May 14.

The order directs both PML-N leaders to ensure their attendance on the next hearing for indictment. Shehbaz Sharif had termed the allegations of money laundering and kickback as baseless. Daily Mail's lawyer had confessed to not having enough evidence during the proceedings in British court, he added. INP

EU ban on PIA flights to be lifted soon

KARACHI: The ban imposed by the European Union on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight operations is expected to be lifted next month as European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) team is set to visit Pakistan at the end of May, sources said on Thursday. PIA was restricted from flying to EU states, the US and the UK last year in July after the EASA suspended the national airline's authorisation to operate flights to EU member states. INP

Cholera outbreak: Number of patients rises to 1650 in Dera Bugti

Faiq Ali Bugti
Aziz Marri

DERA BUGTI: The number of patients rises to 1650 in Balochistan's resource-rich Dera Bugti district in the aftermath of the cholera outbreak. "150 fresh patients admitted to government-run hospitals", Dr. Azam Bugti, the District Health Officer (DHO) Dera Bugti told Quetta Voice via telephone.



to make sure timely release of the amount to support the people.

The district administration has declared an emergency in all government-run hospitals to tackle the situation and make sure timely treatment for the patients. Hospitals remained crammed with patients and their attendants in the district.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo approved the release of an additional amount of Rs.300 million to address the issue of water shortage in the area. The CM has directed the finance department

A doctor is checking a patient in Balochistan's Dera Bugti district after the outbreak of cholera. Photo provided by Faiq Ali Bugti.

CM directs secretaries health and PHE to reach Dera Bugti

CM Bizenjo has also directed the Secretary of Health and Secretary of Public Health Engineering (PHE) to reach Dera Bugti to personally monitor the situation and review the arrangements, an official handout issued on Thursday said.

"Secretaries should stay in the district till a solution to the problem", the CM directed.

The cholera outbreak in the Pir Koh area of Dera Bugti has claimed four lives including a child. "Contaminated water has caused water-borne diseases", Dr. Azam Bugti mentioned. He said an emergency has been declared in the district to cope with the situation.

People outside Pir Koh hospital in Dera Bugti after the outbreak of cholera. Photo: Faiq Ali Bugti

Pir Koh, a mountainous village that houses 35,000 people

ous village, which houses more than 35,000 people. The government was providing water from 12 kilometers away by the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL). Crude oil surfaced within the water facility of the OGDCL, Azam Bugti informed. This caused the outbreak of cholera and caused various water-borne diseases.

The number of government doctors in the Pir Koh is currently 4 and 17 paramedics.

"Government of Balochistan has provided only 9 doctors in Dera Bugti", the DHO revealed.

People of the area had also staged a protest demonstration the other day to mount pressure on the provincial government to make sure provision of clean drinking water. "We are providing gas to the entire country but deprived of drinking water", Muhammad Baksh Bugti, one of the protesters said.



ISLAMABAD: Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz talking to the media persons after her hearing at High Court in Federal Capital.

Political parties putting aside differences jointly running govt: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the representatives of various political parties putting aside the differences for sake of national interest were jointly running the government. He said such situations are created when a country and its people face severe crises.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Thursday, he said that we are in a very unique situation, there is a crisis at every front. He said that the situation was worse than that assumed. The situation in Pakistan is at crisis point; there should be no two views about it.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that every institution of ours had been made controversial due to a selected man. The harm that Imran Khan and his former government have caused to the constitution, democracy and institutions are before everyone. The former PM abrogated the constitution and attacked democracy. Former PM, deputy speaker and the President on the nights of April 3rd, April 9th and 10th till today are abrogating the constitution and refusing to follow it. How can this National Assembly, the Parliament ignore such an attack? Our constitution has been torn like a piece of paper in the past as well. He said, "We believe that on the nights of April 3rd, April 9th and 10th till today, the constitution is being attacked. It is the position of the Pakistan Peoples Party which has been presented before the united government, this House must form a high level parliamentary commission or committee to investigate the events leading up to April 3rd, post-April 3rd on the night of April 9th and April 10th and after that, including the game we see in Punjab. I am saying that we should take the attack seriously, make a commission to investigate who was involved in this unconstitutional and undemocratic attack." He said that as far as April 3rd is concerned, the Supreme Court clearly termed it unconstitutional in its decision. The people of Pakistan expect accountability of the former government abrogating the constitution while trying to escape a democratic process. INP

"Do your politics, never malign Pak Army": Dr. Ruqia suggests some politicians

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Senior politician, Captain (R) Dr. Ruqia Hashmi has suggested some politicians "do your politics and stop maligning Pak Army for political gains". "This is unacceptable and no compromise would be made on the integrity of national institutions", she said in a statement issued to the press here on Thursday.

Dr. Ruqia Hashmi stated that Pak Army guarantees the stability of the country and countless military men have sacrificed their lives to defend the frontiers of the motherland. Her statement has come after some politicians have dragged the military into the political affairs of the country.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has already rejected such statements and vowed to work with the elected government for the development and prosperity of the country and nation.

"This is strange, some elements



in the opposition are trying to malign the military", Dr. Ruqia Hashmi mentioned. She urged the political leadership to put their heads together to find an amicable solution to issues concerning the country.

The senior parliamentarian stated that the entire nation stands by the armed forces and recent statements have harmed the feelings of all retired military men also.

Pakistan strongly condemns killing of Palestinian journalist

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned killing of a Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Aqleh, who was shot dead while covering an Israeli raid in the Jenin refugee camp of occupied West Bank.

In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said the government and people of Pakistan extend deepest condolences to the family of Shireen Abu Aqleh.

The spokesperson said Pakistan calls upon the international community to take urgent action to put an end to the Israeli occupation, which continues to fuel conflict, tension and instability in the region, and remains a matter of grave concern for the entire Muslim world.

He said we reaffirm our consistent and unstinted support for the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause, which has always been a defining principle of Pakistan's foreign policy. ONLINE

Senate Body discusses "National Information Technology Board Bill, 2022"

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Communication, Senator Kauda Babar chaired the meeting of the committee in Parliament House on Thursday. During the meeting, the "National Information Technology Board Bill, 2022" was discussed and it was conveyed that Bill has been lapsed owing to expiration of 90 days limit for consideration of the proposed Bill. However, the Committee expressed serious concerns over recent cyber-attack on Information Technology and Telecommunication website. Leader of the Opposition Dr. Shahzad Waseem asked the ministry about the reasons behind these kinds of attacks and preventive steps taken. INP

Photovoltaic is solution to Pakistan's energy crises: Zardari

ISLAMABAD: As electricity tariffs in Pakistan keep rising, former President Asif Ali Zardari stressed the necessity of increasing solar power generation in the country, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. "Electricity is so expensive that ordinary people cannot afford it, we should focus on solar power generation," Asif Ali Zardari said while talking to newsmen in Karachi. "Instead of setting up solar powerhouses, we should help individuals have

their own solar system in their homes and on their farmlands," Zardari suggested, adding that to this end, the government should provide soft loans to individuals.

If there is more energy than their consumption, it should be supplied to the industrial sector, he said.

Pakistan has immense potential for solar power generation, but less than 2% of the total energy consumed in the country comes from solar power plants. INP

Pakistan, US launch an initiative to strengthen higher education

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United States Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is partnering with the Pakistani government to launch a \$19 million, five-year program to improve Pakistan's higher education system and increase the employability of university graduates. This is another example of the breadth of cooperation between the United States and Pakistan as we celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations.

The program will integrate the best practices in teaching, research, governance, and sustainability to benefit 15 public Pakistani universities across the country, including five women's universities. Through this program, universities will provide students with research opportunities, soft-skills training, and support services such as career counseling. Through collaboration with industry, the program will help align academic preparation with workforce needs.



"USAID is proud to collaborate with the Higher Education Commission on this program," said USAID Mission Director Julie A. Koenen. "The Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA) will build stronger Pakistani universities that offer the education and research experiences students need to be more employable in the local market. This will prepare talented young people with the required skills to find jobs and launch their careers. It will also support the needs of industry, increase hiring and productivity, and stimulate further economic growth."

HEC Chairman Dr. Tariq Banuri said, "HESSA is an innovative initiative expected to make notable contributions towards improving the institutional and technical capacities of its partner universities which shall impact the quality of our future scholars. I am confident that the nexus of U.S. universities with HESSA-partner higher education institutions will result in policy reforms that will benefit all universities in Pakistan."

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan needs inclusive development

Balochistan, the country's resource-rich province is lagging behind all other provinces in terms of key social indicators including education, health, sanitation, clean drinking water etc.

Track record shows, successive governments have always launched politically motivated development schemes to please their influential supporters.

Opposition's constituencies were ignored. Opposition lawmakers' constituencies remained ignored during last three-years of former chief minister, Jam Kamal Khan's government.

This is irony of fate that the mandate of the lawmakers is to frame laws since the assemblies are called legislative assemblies.

Development deficit of Balochistan is likely to be Rs. 100b

Balochistan government announced to have allocated Rs. 172 bs for the PSDP during the financial year 2021-22.

Chief Minister Qudus Bizenjo needs to put his house in order and introduce a strict financial policy to ensure completion of development projects.

Politics and the Pakistani diaspora

Historically, 'diaspora' had a very specific meaning - mostly ascribed to Jews and Armenians' dispersions around the world.

Korean, Turkish communities, among others. Moreover, these diasporic communities, contrary to the classical apolitical cases of the diaspora, maintain deep social and economic ties with their homelands and actively participate in the homeland politics.

Ottomanism. Viktor Orban is another right-wing populist politician who is extremely popular among ethnic Hungarians living abroad.

appeared that after Imran Khan's government was ousted after a successful no-confidence vote, the Pakistani diaspora had a huge meltdown.

By Adil Zahoor

model starting from late 2021 - mainly due to disagreement appointments at key positions - the former hand of patronage was pulled back, providing the then opposition the opportunity to mobilize the same electables against him.

The American question

By Faiz Rehman

Former prime minister Imran Khan's incessant mention of an American 'conspiracy' to dislodge his government has caused unease in Washington.

imports. It should bring up and cultivate Pakistan's workforce (trained in English and Western values) for cheap imports and outsourcing.

For Pakistan, making a pivot from its Western alliances to make a statement will make matters worse; and the time is not right for this experiment.

The ugly era of hatred

believe that had Sanders been the Democratic candidate against Trump instead of Hillary Clinton in the election previous to the most recent one, he could well have won it by taking the seats in key states.

can say we have a two-party system in the country. There are those who like and would vote once again for Imran Khan and there are those who dislike him and would not do so.

harm the attack in Saudi Arabia has caused to the nation as a whole and simply because we would surely like to appear before the world as a nation of human beings able to handle affairs with acumen and tact rather than viciousness, vindictiveness and the ugly hatred that can be seen scattered all over social media apps like Twitter.

By Kamila Hyat

already happening. The youth, like those everywhere in the world, are most vulnerable to cult-like following and behaviour which emulates their leaders.

A planet in peril

By Robert Hunziker

The planet is wheezing, coughing and sputtering because of vicious attacks by worldwide droughts aided and abetted by global warming at only 1.2C above baseline.

On a worldwide basis, drought's impact on water reservoirs on every continent is chilling.

previous event, but whose duration (and partly their spatial extent) will be much greater than any event observed in the last 250 years.



Significance of Strong School Culture

Strong school culture guarantees quality education, which enables students to compete on national and international levels. Teachers, parents, society, and students' close coordination ensure a strong school culture.

On one hand, the teacher is the second prominent and so-called backbone of the education system. On the other hand, parents and community are the assisting aspects in the school culture.

By and large, such progressive culture provides a testimonial sense of identity to all connecting factors. This kind of mutual identity cement the elements of commitment among all participants to look towards high horizons instead of self-interests.

Same as the student always opts to the path of escapism instead of asking the instructor. More importantly, the parent's contribution is just equal to zero-sum addition.

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