

Independent

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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 24, Zee'qad 09, 144 AH Tuesday May 30, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Futile efforts to create rift between army, people will never succeed: COAS

Nexus between internal collusive elements, external forces to create instability exposed before nation: Pakistan Army being one of strongest armies in world can't be coerced by anyone: Stresses operational preparedness for conventional, sub-conventional warfare

QUETTA (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Monday said the nexus between the internal collusive elements and external forces to create instability has amply been exposed before the people of Pakistan.

The army chief made these remarks while addressing the officers of Command & Staff College Quetta during his visit to

Quetta Garrison, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS said: "Those who are making futile efforts to drive a wedge and weaken the unbreakable bond between the people of Pakistan and its Armed Forces will never be able to succeed Insha Allah."

The Armed Forces of Pakistan remained perpetually indebted to the valiant and proud people of Pakistan

who, through the recent manifestation of their unique love for their Armed Forces across the length and breadth of the country, have given a befitting reply to the nefarious designs of the enemy and their collaborators.

The Army Chief said, "Pak Army, being one of the strongest armies of the world, with the blessings of Allah and undaunted support of proud people of

Pakistan, can neither be deterred nor coerced by anyone, Alhamdulillah."

While addressing the officers, the COAS emphasized operational preparedness for conventional, sub-conventional and 5th-generation warfare.

The COAS also visited various welfare schemes for soldiers in Quetta Garrison. He was earlier received by Commander Quetta Corps.



QUETTA: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir addressing the officers of Command & Staff College Quetta.



QUETTA: A delegation of Killia Saifullah led by Nawabzada Mohib Jogezaei meeting with Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Governor urges boosting trade, eradicating poverty

Independent Report

QUETTA: Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar of Balochistan has stated that the province cannot overlook the issues of poverty and deprivation and in this regard the traders and industrialists cannot be ignored.

During a meeting with Nawabzada Mohib Jogezaei's delegation at the Governor House in Quetta Monday, Governor Kakar expressed these views.

Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar highlighted the importance of expanding border trade and providing essential facilities and opportunities to the business community in order to effectively address the problems of poverty and deprivation in the province.

He stated that the current government is committed to promoting border

trade and increasing trade activities with Iran and Afghanistan. He emphasized that if any development project is not completed on time by the federal and provincial governments across the province, it not only prolongs public issues and difficulties but also significantly increases project costs.

Governor Balochistan Kakar emphasized the focus on enhancing border trade and facilitating business communities' access to neighboring countries' markets. He stated that our full attention is directed towards opening up new trade routes in areas such as Taftan, Chaman, Nushki, Badini, and Qamaruddin. This will not only strengthen the national economy but also lead to substantial growth in economic and trade activities in Balochistan.

Current situation not a 'big crisis for me', claims Imran Khan

Monitoring Desk

LAHORE: Amid the ongoing crackdown and mass exodus of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders after the May 9 mayhem, party chairman Imran Khan has insisted that the current political situation is not a big crisis for him.

"You think it is a big crisis for me, I don't," said the former prime minister — who was ousted last April through a vote of no-confidence — while speaking during an interview with BBC on Monday.

Speaking about the upcoming general elections in the country, Khan said his position will only be weakened if he loses the vote bank.

However, dozens of the party's bigwigs including Shireen Mazarri, Ali Zaidi and Fawad Chaudhry among others have parted ways with Khan citing attacks on the military installations as the reason.

"Firstly, we will fill in all the positions of people who have left," he said, adding, "So have younger blood, newer people coming in. They'll probably get arrested, too."

President Alvi due to arrive in Quetta on two-day visit today

Closing ceremony of 34th National Games' to be held today



QUETTA: The President, Dr. Arif Alvi is due to reach Quetta today (Tuesday) on two-day official visit.

According to the spokesman of Governor House, the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar will receive the President at the Quetta airport.

The President would participate in the closing ceremony of 34th National Games scheduled to be held in the provincial metropolis today afternoon. The Prime Minister's arrival is also expected in the closing ceremony of mega national sports event.

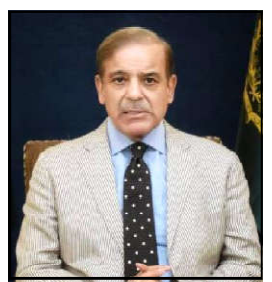
Moreover, the President would also be participating and presiding over the seminar entitled "the role of ombudsman in safeguarding public rights and good governance" to be held under the auspices of Federal Ombudsman secretariat on May 31 at the Governor House.

Imran cause of economic, political instability: PM

Stresses need to reduce dependence on imports, bring down inflation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said Imran Niazi had a role in deepening economic challenges of Pakistan as he scrapped the deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and his non-stop agitation, long marches and sit-ins caused economic and political instability.

In a tweet on the social media platform Twitter, he said, "Looks like Imran Niazi's understanding of the economy and the broader environment in which it operates is quite limited. He also conveniently forgets his own role in deepening economic challenges. From scrapping the IMF deal, he



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

has always wished Pakistan to default."

"This is in addition to the adverse impact his politics of non-stop agitation, long marches, and dharna has had on the economy in terms of causing political instability. Even Pakistani investors would shy away from investing their capital in such an unstable environment deliberately created by Imran Niazi. The terrible events of May 9 alone have cost the economy billions of rupees & are an irrefutable endorsement of his nefarious designs. This is not to mention the plethora of corruption cases he is involved in," he noted.

He further said, "Yes, we do face the economic challenges but the doomsday scenario is past us. Sincere efforts are being made to address the challenges through economic belt-tightening and timely policy interventions. We are also working with friends and partners to bridge the financing gaps where needed."

Govt & Parliament have no friction with judiciary: Qadir



ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Accountability Irfan Qadir on Monday dispelled a notion that both the government and the Parliament were at odds with the top judiciary.

"There are some rumours that the government and the Parliament are against the Supreme Court, which are totally baseless

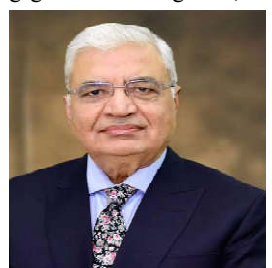
and have no reality. The government has desire to see a strong judiciary," the SAPM said while addressing a news conference.

"I want to inform the nation that the present government desires to strengthen judiciary and the Supreme Court as we have no friction against the courts, instead we are standing with the apex court."

Federal Ombudsman to arrive on 3-days visit to Quetta today

Independent Report

QUETTA: Federal Ombudsman Aijaz Ahmed Qureshi will arrive in Quetta for a three-day official visit today. During the visit, he will participate in various ceremonies and engagements. Among them, he



QUETTA: Federal Ombudsman Aijaz Ahmed Qureshi will arrive in Quetta for a three-day official visit today.

Mitha notes importance of Paki-Iran friendship for mutual benefits

Independent Report

QUETTA: Haji Mitha Khan Kakar, the Provincial Minister for Information, has stated that the Pakistan-Iran friendship is exemplary, and both sides need to play their part effectively to strengthen this friendship.

Balochistan is blessed with abundant reserves of oil and gas, and if Pakistan takes steps to import gas and oil from Iran in this regard, it will have positive impacts.

He expressed these

views during a meeting with the Director-General of Iran's Cultural House, Dr. Syed Abul Hassan Miri, and Iran's Deputy Consul General, Agha Pirloun.

During the meeting, the Iranian Consul General discussed Pakistan-Iran relations and stated that Iran has made efforts to improve relations with our beloved neighboring country, and has especially tried to provide Pakistan with cheap electricity, gas, and oil.

Rana dismisses allegations of mistreatment meted out to female prisoners

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah on Monday rejected the allegations being propagated on social media about the mistreatment being meted out to female prisoners involved in the May 9th vandalism. Talking to a private news channel, the minister said that all those accused of the Jinnah House

attack in Lahore would face legal consequences. He said the 'PTI's radicals' burnt houses, public properties, and military installations with proper planning to spread chaos and anarchy in the country. He also blamed Imran Khan and other PTI leaders for brainwashing youth in a bid to create chaos and unrest in the country.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Asadullah Baloch, Mir Naseebullah Marri and MPA Zabid Reki meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki.

British army chief arrives on 5-day 'Defence Engagement' visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The British Army's Chief of the General Staff (CGS), General Sir Patrick Sanders arrived on Monday in Pakistan for a five-day Defence Engagement visit as part of the longstanding defence cooperation agreement between the two countries.

During his visit, General Sir Patrick Sanders would meet with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Munir, alongside other Defence Engagement activities and discussions on bilateral military cooperation in response to climate change related crises would be a key focus of the visit, a news release said.

PM calls President Erdogan, felicitates on re-election

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday telephoned President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and congratulated him on his re-election and expressed best wishes for him.

Talking to President Erdogan, the PM said, "Your re-election is a recognition of your association with the people of Turkey and impeccable service."

President Erdogan won

the re-election by securing 52.16 per cent of votes against the candidate of combined opposition in the presidential election held on May 28.

In his remarks, Shehbaz Sharif said, "In the last two decades, under your leadership, Turkey made remarkable progress. I believe that under your wise and sagacious leadership Turkey will continue its journey on the path of progress and prosperity with the same pace."

'Misogynist Imran Khan's narrative of victimhood' bound to fail: Mariyam



ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyam Aurangzeb on Monday debunked another narrative of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan that the female workers of his party were being harassed in prisons, as totally baseless.

"A certified liar, who says 'men are not robots' and advocates attacks on women and young girls because of wearing short

clothes, is now cooking up a new lie to play the victim in the aftermath of public response to the May 9 tragedy," the minister said in a long thread in Urdu language on her Twitter handle. She was particularly referring to Imran Khan's statement which he made in an interview with a foreign media outlet that "If a woman is wearing very few clothes, it will have an impact on the men, unless they're robots. I mean it is common sense".

CS emphasizes need to ensure facilities for Zaireen

QUETTA (APP): Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili on Monday emphasized the need to provide utmost ease and facilitation to ensure a peaceful journey for Zaireen.

The chief secretary, while presiding over a high-level meeting to review arrangements for Zaireen travelling to Iran via Pak-Iran border Taftan, said that dedicated efforts are underway to offer comprehensive facilities.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Saleh Nasar, Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail ur Rehman, Commissioner Rakhshan Division, and other senior

administration officials participated in the meeting.

The meeting decided to improve security measures for the Zaireen traveling between Pakistan and Iran. Speaking on the occasion, the chief secretary of the province directed the concerned officials to ensure the provision of better facilities for the Zaireen.

"Steps should be taken to ensure the peaceful journey of the Zaireen," Uqaili directed the officials. Various proposals were given by concerned commissioners and administration officials with regard to the improvement of the facilities for zaireen.

Post retirement benefits of Chief Secretaries quashed

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Divisional Bench of Balochistan High Court, comprising Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar and Justice Shaukat Ali Rakhshani, has issued a notification declaring retirement benefits of former Chief Secretaries as null and void. On Monday, a two-member bench, including Justice Hashim Kakar, issued a written decision in response to a constitutional petition regarding retirement benefits.

Former Chief Secretaries were previously granted the facility of free accommodation in government rest houses in Balochistan, Karachi, and Islamabad. They were also provided the convenience of protocol services and drops. Additionally, former Chief Secretaries received a monthly allowance for house rent, a driver, and a monthly allocation of 250 liters of petrol.

However, the recent decision by the Divisional Bench of the Balochistan High Court has invalidated these retirement benefits. This development marks a significant change in the entitlements and privileges previously enjoyed by former Chief Secretaries after retirement.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Combating Inflation

Addressing the pressing issue of inflation and its impact on the poor, Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar of Balochistan has shed light on the factors aggravating the difficulties faced by the underprivileged. In particular, he has emphasized the role of hoarding, smuggling, and the need for cooperation from the All Pakistan Flour Mills Association in resolving these challenges. Such candid statements from the Governor not only reflect the severity of the situation but also highlight the importance of collaboration in finding effective solutions.

Inflation, especially when coupled with the hoarding of essential commodities such as wheat and flour, has a devastating effect on the lives of ordinary people, particularly those living below the poverty line. As Governor Kakar rightly points out, this dire situation necessitates the involvement of key stakeholders, including the chairpersons and officials of the All Pakistan Flour Mills Association. These individuals possess the power to alleviate the suffering of the impoverished by ensuring the unrestricted transportation of goods at the interprovincial level. The commitment of the association's representatives to cooperate with federal and provincial authorities is a step in the right direction.

During a recent meeting with the chairpersons and officials of the All Pakistan Flour Mills Association, Governor Kakar demonstrated his determination to address the underlying issues. By engaging with representatives from all four provinces, he recognized the importance of a collective effort to combat the crisis at hand. This inclusive approach showcases a commitment to cross-regional cooperation and signifies a positive shift towards resolving food security challenges.

The Governor's acknowledgement of the link between food security and nutrition highlights the holistic nature of the problem. Providing standardized and nutritious food to the people is not only an essential component of addressing their immediate needs but also a vital aspect of ensuring their long-term well-being. By advocating for policy-making at the national level and emphasizing the necessity of a strong economic system, Governor Kakar underscores the interconnectedness of various sectors and the importance of considering the broader implications of our actions.

To truly address the challenges faced by the poor, it is imperative that all stakeholders work together. The government, private sector, and civil society must collaborate to tackle issues of hoarding, smuggling, and food security. Only through collective action can we hope to create a more equitable society and provide a brighter future for all. As citizens, we must hold our leaders accountable and support initiatives aimed at combating inflation and ensuring access to essential commodities. By doing so, we contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and prosperous society.

Prison expressions



Huma Yusuf

On a hill in Johannesburg, in the remnants of what used to be a prison block for detainees awaiting trial, a flame of democracy now burns perpetually. This is Constitution Hill, the site of the country's supreme constitutional court, which was established in 1993 as part of South Africa's first post-apartheid constitution. Standing before that flame last week while receiving news from home, I enjoyed a glimmer of hope.

This is not, of course, to compare PTI's defecting leadership and spurned supporters with the leaders of the passive resistance and anti-apartheid movements. But it is to say that democracy, however flawed, is always preferable to authoritarianism. And that strong-arm tactics are, in the long run, often galvanising.

Constitution Hill rests on the site of Johannesburg's oldest prison, where both Nelson Mandela and Gandhi were incarcerated. In the 1950s and 1960s, the facility overflowed with political prisoners, Asians and black Africans thrown in detention for defying pass laws (the requirement for non-white South Africans to carry appropriate documentation to enter white-only areas). The prison is now a museum.

Visitors can tour the old prison, hearing harrowing accounts — including from previous prisoners — of the overcrowded, disease-ridden cells. The museum's narratives do not shy away from detailed descriptions of the daily humiliations

that prisoners endured, including being stripped and monitored in toilets. Nor do they censor the accounts of torture — the lashings, sexual abuse and indefinite detention in isolation cells, airless containers just over an arm-span long. My response was visceral — nausea, dizziness.

One of the museum's final rooms took my breath away, however. Instead of artefacts recalling prison horrors, one cell resembles a modern art museum; it is replete with figurines, sculptures and abstract imaginings. The annotation explained that on Sundays, prison officials would inspect communal cells in the prison, and that inmates would prepare for these visits by fashioning decorations and curios out of the few objects they could claim: their blankets, shreds of toilet paper, leftover soap bars. The prisoners with the most imaginative creations would win privileges for the week — an extra slice of bread, a taste of dry cake.

Although motivated by the transactional, the prison art is a celebration of the enduring humanity of inmates. Two former prisoners created the objects on display, recalling the creations of their peers. There are blankets reshaped into blooming flowers and bouncing rabbits, improvised paper mâché figures in gentle embraces but also in the throes of despair, and charming cattle carved from soap. Incarcerated, abused, dehumanised, the inmates of Number Four jail managed to reclaim beauty and free expression, and survive.

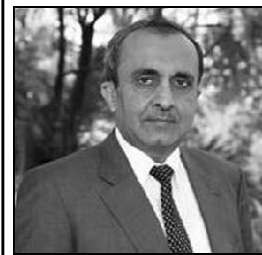
The objects I saw reminded me of the recourse to art sought by Ahmed Rabbani, a former prisoner at Guantánamo Bay, whose prison artwork recently inspired an exhibition at Karachi's Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Rabbani was mistakenly identified

by the US as a terrorist, and remained in detention for 20 years without facing formal charges. A story about him in these pages described how he made paintings to cope with the humiliations and torture that defined his incarceration — images that were seized by the US military on the basis that they threatened national security.

Why dwell on prison art at this political juncture in Pakistan? It is clear that a crackdown is upon us. A political party is being systematically dismantled, its former leadership silenced, its supporters hounded with the threat of military trials, their treatment a chilling warning to all those who may critique the security establishment too openly. The government and much of the media are complicit, for fear of their own eradication. Who could blame those who choose to retreat from political life or any form of public activism?

And this is where art plays a key role in keeping democratic ideals alive. We have been in such dark times before — more overtly oppressive with a military man at the helm. It is no coincidence that the 1980s were a golden era of Pakistani art: thoughtful television, resistance theatre and dance, subversive fine art, political satire, long-form journalism. The PTI has not been a champion of Pakistani arts, preferring to glorify Turkish soap operas. But in this next difficult era, artists and dreamers will have to play a part in rehabilitating public perceptions of democracy, and expanding the notion of politics beyond anti-authoritarianism to encompass inclusion, freedom of faith and climate justice. As Constitution Hill suggests, celebrating humanity and keeping ideals alive may be our route to an enduring democracy. -- Courtesy Dawn

Superbug threat



Jamil Ahmad

The spectre of global public health emergencies, as we saw in the case of Covid-19, is lurking in the shadows of the current climate and environmental crisis. One such emergency is the rise of antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, which could push world economies into a spin again, with similarly disastrous consequences as the recent pandemic. The WHO considers AMR to be among the top 10 threats to global health.

At a time when the world is concerned with slow progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, thanks to financial problems caused by climate and conflict, AMR, if not checked, can hit global GDP with a loss of \$3.4 trillion by 2030, according to World Bank estimates. Worsening the woes of the Global South, it is set to push another 24 million people below the poverty line as healthcare costs spike and productivity reduces. Driven mostly by the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials, AMR leads to drug-resistant pathogens. As the current generation of antibiotics becomes ineffective, costs of treatment are rising, putting a heavier burden on patients and the weak healthcare systems in poor countries. Up to 5m deaths annually are associated with AMR, mostly in developing countries.

Scientific research on the origin, drivers and spread of AMR shows that the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials are not the only reasons for the emergence of drug-resistant pathogens. Other drivers include lack of access to clean water, poor healthcare systems, and the weak enforcement of the law to control biological and chemical pollution emanating from pharmaceutical and other industries.

When damaged and degraded, nature becomes, simultaneously, a driver and multiplier of risk. Several international and national health emergencies in recent times have their origins in the human-induced degradation of nature. Pollution and waste are destroying ecosystems, irreversibly in many cases, and are a leading cause of the spread of numerous diseases afflicting humans. Outbreaks of zoonotic diseases — those that jump from wildlife to human populations — like avian flu, foot-and-mouth disease, Ebola, Covid-19, and monkeypox, are linked to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

Over 70 per cent of all antimicrobials in the world are administered to animals raised for food. Such a heavy intake is also leading to drug-resistant infections in both animals and humans.

Scientific insights into the origin and drivers of pandemics and other threats to public health re-emphasise the inextricable and growing links between the environment and health. Initially, AMR was probed with a focus on human health and agriculture, but a fresh line of research takes a close look at the environmental dimension of AMR. UNEP's recent report — Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening environmental action in the one-health response to antimicrobial resistance — reveals strong evidence that environmental degradation due to pollution and waste exacerbates the development, spread and transmission of AMR; by the same token, a healthy environment can serve as a safeguard against AMR.

Four UN agencies, UNEP, FAO, WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health, have jointly developed a Global Action Plan on AMR and are promoting international collaboration for a one-health response on AMR. A funding facility provides policy advice, technical assistance, and capacity-strengthening pro-g-r-a-mmes and has supported 170 countries to finalise national AMR action plans. Linking AMR plans with environmental and climate strategies and raising public awareness — with the support of governments and health practitioners — will be key to tackling the growing threat of AMR superbugs. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Around 21% banks become Shariah-compliant: Dar



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at FBR on Budget proposals.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday said almost 21 per cent of the banks operating in the country had so far been aligned with Islamic laws due to concerted efforts of the policymakers.

Addressing Pakistan's first international conference on "Islamic Capital Markets," jointly organized by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the

Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), he said the banks converted into the Islamic system were fully satisfied and wanted to continue with it.

The minister said a strategic plan was in place to develop a vibrant Islamic financing system for which the government had already devised a "National Financial Inclusion Strategy," encompassing the essential areas in it. Ishaq Dar said

Pakistan was among one of the few countries which have a well-developed regulatory framework for the micro finance institution, adding the SECP and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had done a good job in this regard.

"Pakistan has a comprehensive system of Zakat collection and distribution at both private and public levels," he added.

He said the Islamic financial service industry worked within the

regulatory review of the SECP, consisting of Islamic institutions like Mudarabah, Islamic non-banking financial institutions, Shariah-compliant businesses and Shariah advisors.

The minister mentioned that the size of Islamic financial institutions in Pakistan was estimated to have surpassed \$42 billion in 2022; with assets and deposit standing at Rs7.2 trillion and Rs5.2 trillion, respectively.

China-Pak infrastructure construction leading to fruitful achievements

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China have always maintained the closest and strongest friendship, which is not only dependent on security affairs, but also reflects the increasingly close economic cooperation.

It was already clear at the time of the construction of the Silk Road that the steps of these two countries will continue to move forward together in economic matters.

"I have visited China at different times for the last two decades and every time, the opinion in my brain becomes stronger that there is still much room for improvement in economic

relations between China and Pakistan." Muhammad Mehdi, Chairman, Institute of International Relations and Media Research said in an article published in the Chinese media here on Monday.

He is currently in China along with Pakistan media think tank delegation that visited the office of China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), a famous company in China.

CSCEC is China's largest construction and investment group and by visiting their office, this corporation had entered the Pakistani market in 1984 long before CPEC.

And many major projects in Pakistan have been constructed by this company, which showed the quality and professionalism of this corporation.

CSCEC has built five thermal power plants in Pakistan and these projects include Jamshoro, Faisalabad, Lakhala, Kotri and Mustafa Go.

Thanks to these thermal power plants, two million watts of electricity capacity has been increased in Pakistan. Along with the construction of these thermal power plants, in the mid-1990s, this corporation completed a huge project in the Sindh province Karachi.

Minister reviews Axle Load Management Regime enforcement

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer presided over a meeting to review the steps regarding enforcement of Axle Load Management Regime (ALMR) here at Civil Secretariat on Monday.

The meeting decided to launch an awareness campaign for the Axle Load Management system to be started from July 2023. Under

this system, challan shall be made for overloading the vehicles. The minister said that Axle Load Management Regime was necessary to save the roads from deterioration and all concerned institutions and stakeholders shall be rewarded in this regard. He, while highlighting the steps regarding ALMR, said that a warning shall be instituted to the violators in the first step and then their challan would be ensured.

Gold prices decline by Rs 1,700

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,700 and was sold at Rs234,500 on Monday against its sale at Rs 236,200 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,457 to Rs. 201,046 from Rs 202,503, whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs184,29 from Rs185,628, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Returning to economic stability after betterment in political situation: Shahid

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday that the economy of country is returning to stability after improvement in political situation.

In a statement issued here, he said that political stability was vital for economic stability, which will not only improve the image and economy of the country but also advance the quality of life of people. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that

policymakers should not try to manipulate the US dollar for at least two years, which will not only reduce its value and strengthen the rupee but also attract investment and capital that has fled the country due to political turmoil. Engineering the exchange rate has eroded the confidence of local and foreign investors, stoked inflation to unprecedented levels, and pushed the country to the brink of default. Therefore, the disastrous policy should not be repeated for short-term gains, he demanded.

Increase in oil-seed production need of hour: Dr Ishtiaq

FAISALABAD (APP): Additional Director General Agriculture (Farm and Training) Dr. Ishtiaq Hasan said that increase in oil seed production was need of the hour as Pakistan was spending billions of rupees on import of edible oil to cater to its domestic needs.

Addressing a meeting at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) here on Monday,

he said that agri scientists should accelerate their efforts for introducing high-yield oil-seed crops to make Pakistan self-reliant in edible oil and other food items.

He said that Pakistan had spent Rs.300 billion on import of edible oil last year. Therefore, the scientists focus on mustard, raya and canola crops to increase their production.



MULTAN: All Pakistan Power Looms Association Chairman, Khaliq Qandeel Sindh addresses to media persons during press conference, in Multan.

Rupee sheds 26 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee witnessed 26 paise devaluation against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs285.41 against the previous day's closing of Rs285.15.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs313 and Rs316, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 12 paise to close at Rs305.99 against the last day's closing of Rs306.11, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

USAID-ERDA provides seed support to 2,800 farmers in Orakzai

PESHAWAR (APP): USAID-ERDA provided certified maize, sunflower, and red bean seeds to 2,800 farmers in District Orakzai on Monday, with the aim of improving food security in the region. The beneficiaries include 20 percent women and the under-served population. The programme has distributed improved and certified varieties of maize and red bean and hybrid sunflower for Khanif season of 2023.

The program aims to support farmers of Orakzai by providing certified and improved seeds of more productive varieties of maize, sunflower, and red beans. According to the Crop Statistic Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 2020-2021, the total cultivated area of District Orakzai is 17,908 hectares, where only 10 percent is arable and suitable for cultivation. Agriculture is mostly rain-dependent, and some parts of the plains are being irrigated by irrigation channels taken out from the Mastura River and its tributaries. Muhammad Irfan, Agriculture Officer of Orakzai district, said, "This program is an excellent opportunity for farmers to improve their crop yield and ensure food security."

KPK CM says Newly merged FATA districts needs due attention

PESHAWAR (APP): The Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan Monday said people of newly merged districts of FATA (Federal Administered Tribal Area) should bring at par with other districts to early redress their grievances. He expressed views while addressing the certificates distribution ceremony of skills development training for the youth of North Waziristan Tribal District here. Three-month skills development training program for the youth of North Waziristan was arranged by Mari

Petroleum Company in collaboration with Sarhad Rural Support Program and Sui Northern Gas under which 110 youth of North Waziristan imparted technical training in different fields. Addressing the ceremony, the Caretaker Chief Minister said that the former FATA has been merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the 25th constitutional amendment in 2018 but still the province is not getting the due shares of newly merged districts in the National Finance Commission Award. He added that the population of newly merged districts is more

than 5 million, and they must get their due shares. He said that ever since he assumed the charge as caretaker chief minister, he has been trying to resolve the issues of the merged districts and get their legitimate rights from the federal government adding that merged districts' issues have been taken up with the Prime Minister while several letters have also been written to the federal government to this end. The Chief Minister while expressing his resolve to get the due rights of the merged districts said that he will continue efforts at all levels to get the legitimate rights.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman addressing condolence reference ceremony organized to pay tribute to the services of Mumtaz Ahmad Tahir, founder and leader of Daily Aftab and central leader of APNS, at Governor House.

We have to play our role to promote positive attitudes in the society

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman was the chief guest at the condolence reference ceremony organized to pay tribute to the services of Mumtaz Ahmad Tahir, founder and leader of Daily Aftab and central leader of All Pakistan Newspapers Society, at Governor House Lahore.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that Mumtaz Ahmad Tahir (deceased) was an institution in his own right. Governor Punjab said that Mumtaz Ahmad Tahir (deceased) worked tirelessly for the development and promotion of regional newspapers from the platform of APNS. He said that the deceased always raised his voice for solving the problems of the backward and weak sections, especially the deprived sections of South Punjab. Governor Punjab said that it is very important to know the facts and research before forming an opinion about anything.

CEO WMC orders to kick off cleaning operation in Multan

MULTAN (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Waste Management Company (WMC) on Monday ordered to start cleaning operations before the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha. While addressing to a meeting, Shahid Yaqoob, directed the staff to clear all filth depots and waste bins before the feast of sacrifice. A number of bins along with collection points to be get doubled before the fast-approaching holy Muslim festival, added CEO.

PDMA, UNHCR vow to strengthen partnership in disaster risk reduction

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Monday expressed their commitment to further strengthen their partnership in disaster risk reduction and emergency response. A UNHCR delegation led by Evaluation Expert Robina Shaheen, met with PDMA Director General Janat Gul Afridi to discuss future plans and reviewed

previous interventions in response to the devastating flood of 2022. During the meeting, the UNHCR delegation engaged in productive discussions with DG PDMA, exchanging valuable insights and experiences regarding the challenges posed by the flood and the subsequent relief and recovery efforts. The discussions emphasized the importance of collaboration to address the immediate and long-term needs of affected communities.

4 dacoits arrested, weapons recovered

FAISALABAD (APP): The police arrested four dacoits and recovered weapons and other items from their possession.

Police said here on Monday that Factory Area police on a tip-off conducted raid and arrested two outlaws including Abdul Aleem and Saeed who were wanted by police in a number of dacoity, robbery and other cases.

Meanwhile, City Samsundri police raided in Chak no.470-GB and arrested two dacoits while three others managed to escape from the scene.



PESHAWAR: Transporters are holding demonstration in support of Pakistan Armed Forces, outside Balahisar Fort in Peshawar.

Girl killed in name of 'honor'

PESHAWAR (APP): A 15-year-old girl was reportedly shot dead by her relatives for marriage against her family's will in the vicinity of Inqilab police station here. ASI Fazal Diyan told media persons that the slain was residing with her husband in Kohat. The area police received information that a girl was being secretly buried at a local graveyard.

KPCTA establishes helpline 1422 to facilitate tourists

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) has established helpline-1422 to facilitate tourists to refrain from inconveniences and miseries to make their day full with joy and entertain. A larger number of tourists are thronging from different parts of the country to enjoy recreational and scenic spots with peaceful, lovely, and pleasant

weather in KP, said a news release received here on Monday. "KP is a world's renowned paradise for tourists and the brilliant green valley is a major source of attraction and inspiration for them." The KPCTA has already constituted welcome baths, helpines, and information centers at all entry and exit points to facilitate domestic visitors and foreign dignitaries to reach their destination with comfort.

Woman shot injured by her husband

KARACHI (APP): A woman was shot injured within the premises of City Court on Monday while the accused involved was arrested from the spot.

According to SSP City Arif Aziz, victim namely Saima was shot injured by her husband identified as Sikandar over a marital dispute. Both had appeared in court for their case hearing at East Court. The victim had come with her father, a policeman, for the hearing of her case. Accused Sikandar grabbed pistol of victim's father and shot her injured during a heated exchange of words.

Equipping new generation with modern education need of hour: Javed

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Higher Education Department Punjab, Javed Akhtar Mahmood, said that it was a dire need to equip the new generation with modern education in order to make the future of the country bright. He expressed these views during a visit to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) and took briefing here on Monday. The world was heading forward very fast

in science and technology, he added. Secretary expressed anger over the non-starting of new BS courses in public colleges and snubbed DPI College and directed to start new BS programs soon. He directed education officials to teach new modern BS courses to students as per the demand of the market. Mr Javed also ordered to start construction of the BISE administrative block soon.



SARGODHA: State Minister for Industries & Production Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi addressing in an event on Golden Jubilee of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 organized by Shaheed Bhutto Foundation.

IGP says: Steps being taken for welfare of policemen

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Monday said that steps were being taken for the health and welfare of the police force. The process of health screening had been completed and now the vaccination was underway, he added. Dr. Usman Anwar said that he would increase funds for the best treatment of police employees and their families. On the direction of IG Punjab, the welfare branch of the Central Police Office had issued funds of rupees 10.4 million for the treatment of 19 police employees suffering from diseases. DIG Welfare and

Finance Punjab Ghazi Salahuddin said that in the medical financial assistance meeting which was held on May 24, the applications sent from different districts were reviewed in detail and approval was given to release 10.4 million rupees for 19 cases. According to the details, Lahore police driver constable Amir Hussain was given one million rupees for liver transplant, constable Inamullah was given one million rupees for son's bone marrow transplant. Similarly, constables Kamran Iqbal and Farhan Ali were given about 3.6 million rupees for cochlear implant surgery of their daughters.

International News

Iran supreme leader says He'd 'welcome' full diplomatic ties with Egypt; presidency websites hacked

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader said Monday he'd "welcome" the restoration of full diplomatic ties between Egypt and the Islamic Republic, raising the prospect of Cairo and Tehran normalizing relations after decades of strain. The comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei came as a series of websites linked to Iran's presidency bore the images of two leaders of an exiled opposition group Monday, with others showing the pictures of Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi crossed out. Iranian state television quoted Khamenei's comments as coming from a

meeting he held with the visiting sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq, Sultan Haitham's trip to Tehran, his first since assuming power in 2020, comes as Muscat long has served as an interlocutor between Tehran and the West. There have been growing signs of Egypt and Iran potentially restoring ties, particularly as Saudi Arabia and Iran reached a détente in March with Chinese mediation after years of tensions. Cairo relies on Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf Arab states for economic support. "We welcome this issue and have no problem in this regard," Khamenei re-

portedly said. There was no immediate reaction from Egypt to Khamenei's comments. Officials in Cairo did not respond to a request for comment. Egypt under Anwar Sadat cut ties to Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Sadat had been a close friend to the deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, welcomed him to Egypt just before his death and hosted his state funeral in 1980. The shah's remains are entombed at Cairo's Al-Rifai Mosque. Egypt's peace deal with Israel also angered Iran's theocratic government, which views Israel as its top regional enemy.



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei meets with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, center, as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi sits in Tehran, Iran.

Russia hits Ukrainian military facility and Odesa port in air strikes

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia put five aircraft out of action in an attack on a military target in western Ukraine and caused a fire at the Black Sea port of Odesa in heavy air strikes early on Monday, Ukrainian officials said. Kyiv came under intense attack for the second successive night but said that most of the drones and missiles fired at the capital overnight had been shot down. Explosions rocked Kyiv again as the capital came under fire again on Monday morning. "Emergency services have responded to a call near the centre of the

capital. The attack on Kyiv continues. Don't leave the shelters!" Mayor Vitaly Klitschko wrote on the Telegram messaging app as residents ran to shelters in metro stations. The attacks were part of a new wave of increasingly frequent and intense air strikes launched by Moscow this month as Kyiv prepares to launch a counteroffensive to try to take back territory occupied by Russian forces. In a rare acknowledgement of damage suffered at a military "target", Ukraine did not name the site or sites hit in

the western region of Khmelintsiy but said work was under way to restore a runway and five aircraft were taken out of service. A large military airfield was located in the region before the war. "At the moment, work is continuing to contain fires in storage facilities for fuel and lubricants and munitions," the Khmelintsiy region governor's office said. Ukraine's military said the attack on Odesa port had caused a fire and damaged infrastructure but did not specify whether the damage threatened grain exports.

Polish president to sign Russian influence bill despite opposition protests

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland's president said on Monday he would sign off on a bill authorising a panel to investigate Russian influence despite opposition criticism it is a witch hunt against government opponents in an election year. The ruling nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party says that the liberal opposition Civic Platform (PO) party allowed Poland to become dangerously dependent on Russian fossil fuels when the PO

was in government from 2007 to 2015, raising questions about whether PO members were under Moscow's sway. PO rejects the suspicion saying it is aimed at eliminating PO leader and former prime minister Donald Tusk from the political scene ahead of elections scheduled for October or November. Opposition figures call a bill to set up an investigative commission the "Lex Tusk", using the Latin term for "law".

Israeli forces kill Palestinian officer in clashes, Wafa says

Monitoring Desk
JENIN: Israeli forces killed a Palestinian security officer during clashes in the occupied West Bank flashpoint city of Jenin on Monday, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said. The Israeli military said it was looking into the report. Earlier it said in a statement that its forces came under heavy Palestinian fire while seeking the arrest of security suspects in Jenin and returned fire at the gunmen. "With God's help ... there will be many more new settlements in northern Samaria," he said, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name. US-led peace talks aimed at establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza broke down in 2014 and show little sign of revival, and Israeli-Palestinian violence has escalated over the past year.

Fresh clashes claim 40 lives in Manipur

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Around 40 suspected militants and two police have died in fresh violence in Manipur in northeast India, an official said on Sunday, confirming comments from the state's chief minister to local media. Manipur has been on edge after an explosion of inter-ethnic violence this month killed at least 70 people and left tens of thousands displaced. The state government official, who did not wish to be named, said that Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh told reporters earlier on Sunday that security forces killed

around 40 "militants" over the last two days. "The terrorists have been using M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles and sniper guns against civilians. They came to many villages to burn down homes," local media quoted Singh as saying. "We have started taking very strong action against them with the help of the army and other security forces. We have got reports some 40 terrorists have been shot dead," Singh was quoted as saying. A military source confirmed an uptick of unrest, and said four people had been killed in the past 24 hours.

Nepal celebrates 70 years since first Everest summit

Monitoring Desk
KHUMJUNG: The sons of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa led celebrations in Nepal on Monday to mark the 70th anniversary of the historic first ascent of Everest. The scaling of the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) peak on May 29, 1953, changed mountaineering forever and made the New Zealander and his Nepalese guide household names. "In a whole lot of ways, it was not just Ed Hilary and Tenzing Norgay that reached the summit of Mount Everest.

Japan puts missile defence on alert as N.Korea warns of satellite launch

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan put its ballistic missile defences on alert on Monday and warned that it would shoot down any projectile that threatened its territory after North Korea notified Japan of a satellite launch between May 31 and June 11. North Korea says it has completed its first military spy satellite and leader Kim Jong Un has approved final preparations for the launch. Analysts say the satellite is part of a surveillance technology programme, that includes drones, aimed at improving nuclear-armed North

Korea's ability to strike targets in the event of war. "We will take destructive measures against ballistic and other missiles that are confirmed to land in our territory," Japan's defence ministry said in a statement. The ministry said it would use its Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) or Patriot Missile PAC-3 to destroy a North Korea missile. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that any North Korean missile launch would be a serious violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning its nuclear and missile activity.



Maggie Lorenz and Kevin Moch participate in a meeting of the word panel to finalize the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee words at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md.

UN agencies warn of starvation risk in Sudan, Haiti, Burkina Faso and Mali, call for urgent aid

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Two U.N. agencies warned Monday of rising food emergencies including starvation in Sudan due to the outbreak of war and in Haiti, Burkina Faso and Mali due to restricted movements of people and goods. The four countries join Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen at the highest alert levels, with communities that are already facing or projected to face starvation or otherwise risk a slide "towards catastrophic conditions."

The report by the World Food Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization calls for urgent attention to save both lives and jobs. Beyond the nine countries rating the highest level of concern, the agencies said 22 countries are identified as "hotspots" risking acute food insecurity. "Business-as-usual pathways are no longer an option in today's risk landscape if we want to achieve global food security for all, ensuring that no one is left behind," said Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General.



People take cover at metro station during a Russian rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine.

