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Clarifies party's instance on speculations 'BAP will not be dissolved under any circumstances, as it remains robust and resilient': CM Bizenjo

Independent Report
QUETTA: Balochistan Awami Party's President, CM Balochistan, Abdul Qadoos Bizenjo, on Sunday engaged in a media dialogue, addressing various issues and clarifying the party's stance.

He emphasized that the Balochistan Awami Party will not be dissolved under any circumstances, as it remains robust and resilient. He assured that the party welcomes anyone who wishes to join, and their doors are open to all.

During the discussion, Abdul Qadoos Bizenjo expressed respect for all political parties and their leaders, including former President Asif Ali Zardari, acknowledging their contributions to provincial and national politics. He highlighted the significant achievements of the Balochistan Awami Party in pursuing its objectives and bringing prosperity to the province.

The Chief Minister mentioned that his government has made historic decisions in a short span of time to address critical issues.

Initiatives such as the establishment of the Reko-Diq Mining Project, resolving long-standing problems of electricity and water in Gwadar, protecting the rights of fishermen, providing job security to contract employees in educational institutions, and organizing local elections in a peaceful environment were highlighted as noteworthy accomplishments.

Furthermore, Abdul Qadoos Bizenjo emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring food security by timely and targeted procurement of wheat, providing relief to flood-affected families during Ramadan by distributing a month's ration to a hundred thousand eligible households, and presenting a balanced and people-friendly budget for the year 2022-23.



QUETTA: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qaddus Bizenjo. Senators Muhammad Abdul Qadir and Kohda Babar are also present

Erdogan claims victory in Turkey's presidential election

Final official results have yet to be released; PM Shehbaz congratulates Erdogan, looks keenly forward to deepening strategic partnership between both countries.

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: President Tayyip Erdogan claimed victory in Turkey's presidential election on Sunday, a win that would steer his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.

Addressing supporters, Erdogan said voters had given him the responsibility to rule for the next five years. "The only winner is Turkey," he said, addressing cheering supporters from atop a bus in Istanbul.

Final official results have yet to be released. There was no immediate response to Erdogan's victory speech from his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu. The election had been seen as one of the most consequential yet for Turkey, with the opposition believing it had a strong chance of unseating Erdogan after his popularity was hit by a



cost-of-living crisis.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Erdogan ahead of the final official results, saying that he was "one of few world leaders whose politics has been anchored in public service."

"He has been a pillar of strength for the oppressed Muslims and a fervent voice for their inalienable rights. His presidential victory and that of AKP in parliamentary elections is

significant in so many ways, reflecting the trust and confidence of the Turkish people in his dynamic leadership.

"The bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkiye will continue to stay on an upward trajectory. I keenly look forward to working with him to further deepen our strategic partnership in line with the excellent brotherhood between our two peoples," Shehbaz tweeted.

Youm-e-Takbeer, a day of nation's remarkable journey towards credible minimum deterrence: PM

Armed forces pay rich tribute to brilliant scientists, engineers on Youm-e-Takbeer: ISPR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that Youm-e-Takbeer was not just a day but a story of the nation's challenging and remarkable journey towards establishing credible minimum deterrence.

The prime minister on his Twitter handle said that on that day, Pakistan set a redline for its defence and laid down rules of the game for peace and stability in the region. "On the Silver Jubilee of Youm-e-Takbeer, I pay rich tributes to the political & military leadership, scientists, engineers and all those who remained associated with our nuclear

programme," he said in a tweet as the nation celebrates the 25th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer on Sunday. The prime minister further said that their hard work, commitment and determination made it possible for the people to guard their independence from any physical threat.

"The day represents how the consensus between all elements of national power achieved what once looked like an uphill task," he posted in a tweet.

ship, his leader Mian Nawaz Sharif firmly rejected the policy of stick and carrot and made sure that the country became nuclear. "All along, our armed forces remained a guardian & protector of the programme in the face of malign intentions of our enemies," he said.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The armed forces on Sunday paid rich tribute to the brilliant minds who conceived and achieved credible minimum nuclear deterrence accomplishment under daunting challenges.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), "the armed forces salute the scientists and

engineers who turned the impossible into a reality. Long Live Pakistan."

It said the complete Pakistan nation celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Youm-e-Takbeer and commemorated the remarkable achievement of establishing Credible Minimum Deterrence. "This achievement has reshaped the power dynamics in our region," it added.

On the silver jubilee of the conduct of nuclear tests by Pakistan marking the historic day of Youm-e-Takbeer, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) salutes the resolve of the entire Pakistani nation.

According to the PAF spokesperson, on 28 May

1998, Pakistan demonstrated its nuclear capability by conducting nuclear explosions in response to provocative Indian nuclear tests.

The Pakistan Air Force played a crucial role in safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation during this time by transporting the nuclear device and sensitive equipment to the test site through its C-130 aircraft whereas its fighter jets provided aerial cover prior and during the tests. The PAF's fighter aircraft remained on high alert and the pilots were ready to intercept any hostile aircraft that might have threatened Pakistan's sovereignty.

Intelligence agencies unearth PTI's plan to malign govt, LAEs: Rana Sanaulah

FAISALABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah on Saturday said the intelligence agencies had intercepted a telephonic conversation about a staged police attack on one of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s leaders, killing its occupants, and then blaming law enforcement agencies for the act.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference here late night, the minister said the second plan revealed in the intercepted audio involved staging incidents of firing and disgracing women with the intention of portraying it as the work of intelligence and law enforcement agencies and also highlighting it as a human right issue at

international level. He said as the matter was of huge importance he thought it necessary to apprise the nation as the orchestrated event was planned for tonight (Saturday night). However, he added, the timely action from the intelligence agencies foiled the nefarious design, resulting in the exposure of the plot even before its execution.

He further said that the intended purpose of the orchestrated event was to generate controversy surrounding the legal actions taken after May 9 vandalism and to present these staged plays as grave human rights violations and state oppression through international media.

Khawaja Asif says Nawaz Sharif made country's defence invincible by achieving nuclear deterrence

SIALKOT (APP): Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Sunday said 25 years ago on May 28th, Pakistan became a nuclear power and our leader, former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, made the country's defence invincible by detonating nuclear weapons. "Our defence has become very strong due to achieving nuclear deterrence," he expressed while addressing the ninth convocation of a private college in Sialkot as the chief guest.

Khawaja Asif said that it was a matter of pride that the daughters of our nation were going ahead to start their working life after com-

pleting their educational degrees. "I heartily congratulate all these daughters and their parents for their success. I do and pray that May Allah bless them with many successes in the future," the Minister said. He said that it should not be the goal to get only BA, MA degree, adding, "but I advise all students to get a purposeful education because only getting a purposeful education can help us to move forward. We can deal with the challenges we are facing."

The minister said that in the present era, getting purposeful education including IT was very important because development was not possible without it.

Bilawal greets nation on silver jubilee of country's nuclear tests

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended greetings to the nation on the silver jubilee of the country's nuclear tests and saluted all the people, including scientists, who played their role in making Pakistan the first nuclear nation in the Islamic world.

According to the statement issued by media cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP said that the nuclear programme of the country is indeed a great gift of the Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to the nation.

He said that the first elected Prime Minister of the country, Shaheed Bhutto, had said that if we have to eat grass, we will do so, but we will make Pakistan a nuclear power at any cost.

"Making Pakistan a nuclear power was the mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto," he added.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto shielded and advanced the country's nuclear programme as Prime Minister.



LAHORE: PML-N Senior Vice President and Chief organizer Maryam Nawaz addressing a public gathering on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer at Liberty Roundabout.

Nawaz's decision of atomic explosion made country's defence stronger: Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz on Sunday said that the unwavering commitment and dedication of Nawaz Sharif towards the nation made the country's defence more stronger by making atomic explosions on May 28, 1998.

Addressing a public gathering organised by the PML-N to celebrate 25th Youm-e-Takbeer, Maryam Nawaz paid glowing tributes to the political leadership, scientists and armed forces for playing role for making the country's defence undeterred. She said that the then leadership led by Nawaz Sharif took daring step to

give a befitting response to India's atomic explosions. She added that then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif refused to take any pressure by international forces including billions of US dollars offer to stop the atomic explosions.

Maryam Nawaz said that whenever Nawaz Sharif was given a chance to serve the nation, he took the country towards progress and prosperity as he launched various mega projects including Motorways, Metro bus, Orange Line Metro Train. Load-shedding was eliminated through generation of more than upto 12,000 megawatt electricity while peace was restored in Karachi.

Two earthquakes rattle parts of country, three children injured

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Three children were injured in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Battagram district after two earthquakes jolted parts of the country on Sunday, officials said.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the first earthquake of magnitude 6.0 — with its epicentre being the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border region — struck at 10:50am, at a depth of 223km.

The second earthquake of magnitude 4.7 was reported at 5:57pm. Its epicentre was near Jalalabad in Afghanistan and struck at a depth of 15km, PDM said.

Tremors were felt in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. While no casualties were reported, three children were injured in the Hado area of Batkol in Battagram.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Najeebullah Khan Achakzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Gwadar port receives Afghan-transit wheat shipment



GWADAR: The MV Keno, a maritime vessel from Australia, has anchored at the Gwadar Port, carrying forty thousand metric tons of wheat. This wheat shipment is destined for transit through Afghanistan. Gwadar Port will serve as the gateway for transporting wheat to Afghanistan via road.

Marriyum says: Youm-e-Takbeer declaration of Pakistan's invincible defence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Aurangzeb said on Sunday that Youm-e-Takbeer was the declaration that Pakistan's defence was invincible.

Thanking Almighty Allah, the minister congratulated all Pakistanis at home and abroad and thanked all friends and benefactors, she said in a tweet.

"This day is the day of no compromise on the patriotism, bravery, insight and national interest by (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif," she maintained.

The minister saluted the entire team including the scientists who sacrificed for the country and made the defence invincible for future generations 25 years ago.

4 children drown in Khairpur fish pond

KHAIRPUR (APP): Four little girls drowned in a fish pond at Tandi Masti's Mian Waris Ujjan village near Khairpur on Sunday, a private TV channel reported.

The dead were identified as five-year-old Dania, 10-year-old Suhana, five-year-old Ravina, and six-year-old Muskan.

Families of the deceased said the girls were playing near the pond when they slipped and fell into it.

Imran reveals Sanaulah's 'plot to cover up horror stories'

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has lambasted Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah for trying to terrorise the nation by revealing a sham plot against women to "cover up horror stories about to break in the media."

In his tweet on Sunday, the former prime minister uploaded a clip from the press conference of Sanaulah in which he talked about intercepting a

phone call. The conversation was about an alleged plot to stage rape and blame law enforcement officials for the heinous crime to get global backing for human rights violation.

Imran wrote in his tweet that "if there were any doubts about women being mistreated in jails, this press conference from this certified criminal should remove all such doubts."



QUETTA: Bishop of Karachi and Balochistan along with the Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawan Pakistan take part in a rally in favor of Pak Army on behalf of the Methodist Church.

Rally held to show solidarity with Pak-Army

QUETTA (APP): Tribal and political leader Hamza Khan Nasir on Sunday said that the Pakistan Army was our red line and the people who attacked military and national installations on May 9 and desecrated martyrs' memorials did not deserve any concession.

Action should be taken against such persons ac-

ording to the law, the Pakistan Army and other security agencies have sacrificed their lives for the establishment of law and order in the country and the end of terrorism, he added. He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the rally held in favour of the Pakistan Army here.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Celebrating silver jubilee of Youm-e-Takbeer

It is great to see the whole nation observing Youm-e-Takbeer with national zeal and fervour to commemorate the historic nuclear tests at Chagai, Balochistan, the same day of May 28, in 1998. On this day, Pakistan became the seventh nuclear power of the world with a demonstration of nuclear capabilities and the first in the Muslim world after conducting nuclear tests at Chagai in Balochistan on 28th May 1998 as a response to India's nuclear bomb tests on 11th and 13th May of the same year at Pokhran in the Rajasthan state of India.

Undoubtedly, the successful tests made Pakistan's defense invincible. Different programmes and ceremonies were arranged to mark the celebrations of the historic day. Special prayers were offered in the morning for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan, the supremacy of the constitution, and the eradication of terrorism.

In his message on Youm-e-Takbeer, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said the nation would have to move ahead with the same spirit to attain economic sovereignty and self-dependence.

He expressed the determination that with unity, hard work and staunch faith, we would turn Pakistan into an economic power.

The Prime Minister said twenty-five years ago today, the people of Pakistan announced the invincibility of their defence by detonating five nuclear explosions in response to India's nuclear explosions.

Moreover, the armed Forces of Pakistan have paid a rich tribute to the brilliant minds that conceived and achieved this accomplishment under daunting challenges.

In a statement, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said entire Pakistani nation celebrates the Silver Jubilee of Youm-e-Takbir today and commemorates the remarkable achievement of establishing Credible Minimum Deterrence.

The program was started though with limited resources but insurmountable will and passion to ensure that the country becomes a sovereign and strong state unable to be bullied by the hostile powers.

Dreams of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as well as the nation came true in 1998 when the then Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif stood firm against all threats to include Pakistan in the nuclear club by detonating device at Chagai. It was the will and determination of our nation and the leadership that removed all hurdles on way to achieving this milestone.

President Ziaul Haq was also less to none in taking forward the nuclear program initiated by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and despite all reservations, the nation could not ignore his contribution.

The nation is also indebted to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder of Pakistan's nuclear programme and also pays rich tributes to Benazir Bhutto Shaheed who, as an opposition leader backed prime minister Nawaz Sharif's decision of nuclear tests in 1998. The armed forces of the country had rendered valuable services for the country's nuclear programme which had been a golden chapter in its history. Credit of the indigenous nuclear programme also goes to Dr Abdul Qadir Khan, (Mohsin e Pakistan), all scientists, engineers and other individuals who contributed to Pakistan's atomic programme. The mountains of Chagai still echoed with the same resolve, and Balochistan province still bore distinction with regard to defence of the country.

Forever young



Muna Khan

I don't know how old I was, or where I was, when I read Are You There God? It's Me Margaret by Judy Blume but I do remember feeling understood. The novel's protagonist, Margaret, moves to a new town and is keen to fit in; she joins a 'secret club' where the 12-year-old girls talk about things like crushes, their developing bodies and getting their first periods. But there's also pressure for Margaret, an interfaith child, to choose which parent's religion to follow. She's too nervous to admit to her friends she talks to God about her fears and concerns, and her crushes. "Are you there, God? It's me, Margaret. I just did an exercise to help me grow. Have you thought about it, God? About my growing, I mean," she asks.

While I did not speak to God, like many kids who grew up reading Blume, I could relate to Margaret, even though she was a white girl in suburban US. Margaret was grappling with a host of issues that adolescence brings — feelings of inadequacy, not feeling seen or heard, not knowing who to talk about puberty.

I was reminded of all these forgotten feelings in the documentary Forever Judy Blume available to stream in Pakistan. The beloved author, now 85, has written 29 books and sold 90 million copies in 39 languages. Her work is finding a resurgence of sorts as a few of her books are being adapted to the big and small screen.

Blume is "one of the most frequently challenged authors of the 21st century", writes The Guardian; her books have been targeted for removal since the 1980s, including earlier in March in a Florida school. And it's easy to understand why because she talks about puberty and sex to the very people who had no one to turn to. This made conservatives and parents (not always the same) very uncomfortable. While it is normal for teens to be curious about sexuality, conservatives see it as the source of all evil and doom, irrespective of one's nationality or religion. But Blume understood what young folks were going through and tried to help them through this awkward phase with stories wherein they saw themselves — and felt normal.

The power of any storytelling is its endurance. I don't know how long a copy of Forever had been passed around in a paper bag at my school before I got it. It was like a rite of passage — in this case a story about first love and a first relationship. It helped youngsters find their place in the world. Blume says she wrote the book for her daughter who asked why she couldn't read stories about young intimate relationships where no one dies. Compare this to romances in Pakistan where someone has to be beaten up or killed for honour or slut shamed.

Blume knew growing up was a serious matter but didn't talk down to her readers. It is no wonder to learn that she became an unofficial agony aunt and confidante of sorts for the thousands of children who wrote to her and she often wrote back to some of them. At one point, Blume was getting 2,000 letters a month. She

has kept them in her garage and reads through many in the documentary. It is the most poignant part of Judy Blume Forever because you see just how comfortable kids were to tell her their secrets, feelings of confusion, isolation and other serious problems they faced. Blume responded to many in a non-judgmental, caring manner.

All parents can learn from Blume's advocacy for children; to see things from their perspective, to let them read books they want without fear of them turning away; to let them grow into their weird wonderful selves. And especially talk to them about adolescence and puberty in an honest manner that ensures they grow up to have healthy relationships.

My experience, based on conversations with university students, is that such topics are deemed too taboo to discuss openly, or worse, cloaked in shame. This leads to increased frustration, feelings of isolation, and a terrible understanding of intimacy. According to a 2014 study in the Journal of Early Adolescence, many teens watch porn out of curiosity and a lack of understanding about sexuality. There's plenty of research to show how watching porn can be disruptive to 'normal' activities like sports, even socialising, and worse, it can desensitise boys, who may seek more aggressive pornographic images.

Wouldn't it be better to take the reins and hold healthy conversations about puberty with your older kids so they feel less alone and less insecure about fitting in? The Blume documentary offers some insight into how those conversations can be held in her usual candour style of storytelling. — Courtesy Dawn

Economic architecture



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

The US is having second thoughts about the Washington Consensus it had evolved in the 1990s. At that time, the Cold War with the Soviet Union had just ended, and the world had moved into the phase of globalisation and interdependence. It seemed then that the Western governance model of liberal democracy and market economies had prevailed. The Washington Consensus proposed a policy prescription of 'deregulation, privatisation, and free trade' as a recipe for the economic modernisation of a globalised order. Nearly three decades later, the US is questioning the assumptions underlying the Washington Consensus. Speaking at the Brookings Institution last month, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan explained how no assumption had delivered the desired results for the US, and had, instead, benefited China. Sullivan argued that the first assumption: 'markets know best' undermined the US industrial base as manufacturing and supply chains of strategic goods moved overseas to China along with jobs.

The second assumption, 'all growth was good growth', distracted the US from critical areas of economy such as infrastructure and semiconductors. The third assumption, 'economic integration would make nations more responsible', had also not worked well because China, according to Sullivan, was using its economic wealth to nurture its military ambitions.

The US now wants to replace the Washington

Consensus with a new international economic architecture, some features of which were identified by Sullivan: the US would rebuild its industrial base, especially for semiconductors and green technologies; work with 'like-minded' partners to build a cutting-edge technological base; remodel trade policies to develop diversified supply chains (to reduce reliance on China-centred supply chains); and transition towards clean energy and a digital economy. It also wants to create an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative by mobilising investments in emerging economies. Clearly, alongside the Indo-Pacific Strategy to contain China, the US wants to re-establish its primacy in global trade and finance.

And yet, indications are that the US is not seeking to 'decouple' its economy from that of China, but only 'de-risking' it to the extent that its national security does not face challenges from China's dominance of the world economy. Speaking at the Johns Hopkins University last month, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen confirmed that US President Joe Biden believes that China and the US can manage their economic ties "responsibly".

China is disturbed about America's protectionist measures against Chinese firms and its attempts to replace the prevailing international economic order with its hegemonic rules. However, Beijing's reaction has been moderate as it wants to continue its peaceful rise to achieve the centenary goal of making China a fully developed society by 2049. At the G20 Bali summit last November, Chinese President Xi Jinping called for "a more inclusive, universally beneficial and resilient global development". This message has resonated. Indonesia's president

cautioned that "we must not let the world fall into another Cold War". The French president expressed the hope of working with China in the "spirit of mutual respect, equality and reciprocity". The IMF managing director counselled against allowing protectionism "to take root" and the "world to drift into separate blocs".

The critical difference in the economic diplomacy of the US and China is that while the US wants to work with "like-minded" countries to protect critical technologies and supply chains, China wants an inclusive world economic order. Its Global Development Initiative engages over 100 countries and international organisations to provide funding for projects in the developing world. It has also launched a Global Security Initiative to champion the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes.

One silver lining of the two exclusive thoughts on what the new global economic architecture should look like is that Biden and Xi have agreed to maintain bilateral communication. Their high-level officials met in January 2023 to exchange views on the macroeconomic situation, supply chains and the climate. Despite tensions over the downing of a Chinese high-altitude balloon by the US in February 2023, both sides wish to stay connected. It would be important for the minders of Pakistan's economy to closely watch the evolving global economic architecture. A welcome development is that neither the US nor China are ready to decouple their economies given their enormous economic interdependence. Pakistan has important economic linkages with both states. It makes perfect sense for it to maintain strong ties, pivoted on its economic interests, with both superpowers. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

"E-commerce drives Pakistan's furniture industry growth: CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Furniture Council, Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Sunday said that the e-commerce sector in Pakistan continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, with furniture manufacturers and retailers experiencing a significant boost in sales. Speaking to a delegation of Furniture Manufacturers led by Nabeel Arain he said through online marketplaces and home decor websites, manufacturers have been able to expand their reach and tap into new markets,

leading to a surge in demand for Pakistani furniture, said a press release.

Kashif said the furniture industry in Pakistan has been experiencing steady growth over the past few years with a large population, increasing urbanization, and a growing middle class, which are all positive symptoms for the furniture market.

He said additionally the rise in disposable income and changing lifestyles have contributed to the increased demand for modern and stylish furniture.

Real estate and construction activities in Pakistan have also fueled the demand for furniture adding that as more housing projects, commercial buildings, and offices are being developed, the need for furnishing and interior design services has risen.

This presents opportunities for furniture manufacturers, retailers, and interior design companies, he said.

Kashif Ashfaq said, however, there are also some challenges faced by the furniture industry in Pakistan which include a lack of skilled labor.

Anjum Nisar stresses for exploring untapped trade potential in SAARC region

LAHORE (INP): Chairman FPCCI's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Mian Anjum Nisar has said the intra-trade among SAARC countries continues to remain in the low range of just 5% of the total trade of the region while this trade in NAFTA region is over 40%, 68% in EU and 27% in ASEAN, laying emphasis on exploring the vast untapped trade potential in SAARC region.

After taking charge as new Vice President of

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), he said that South Asia with its diversified resources and skilled workforce has tremendous potential to be the fastest-growing exporting region to the globe.

Anjum Nisar said that other regional associations like EU, ASIAN, NAFTA are doing very well and they are getting regional benefits but it's still unfortunate for us, that we couldn't utilise SAARC till now.



KARACHI: Youngsters gather surround the goats at Peoples Churangi as such scene will be seen common for the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha in Provincial Capital.

Chairman SECP calls on Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Akif Saeed Sunday called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Chairman SECP and Mohammad Ishaq Dar discussed the arrangements of the first international conference on the Islamic Capital Market to be held in Islamabad from tomorrow, said a press release.

WCCI Sargodha holds event

SARGODHA (APP): The Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries Sargodha on Sunday organized an event regarding women empowerment.

The purpose of the event was to highlight problems and issues faced by the women and the role of the woman chamber to resolve their issues.

In this regard, the women chamber was imparting skills to women for running their businesses and enable them to earn themselves and their families.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman SECP Mr. Akif Saeed called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division.

Direct flights between Karachi, Kuala Lumpur soon, says Malaysian HC

PESHAWAR (APP): Malaysian High Commissioner (HC) to Pakistan Mohammad Azhar Mazlan has said that the direct flight between Kuala Lumpur and Karachi would be started soon to strengthen the economic and people to people contacts between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Mohammad Azhar Mazlan said this during the meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Minister for Industries,

Commerce and Technical Education, Mr Adnan Jalil here in the HC of Malaysia at Islamabad, the other day, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

He said, "After the restoration of direct air flight connectivity will make economic, trade and social integration between both countries stronger and more sustainable. Similarly, bilateral cooperation and development in the field of tourism between both friendly countries will also increase."

The ambassador said, "Direct flights are currently operating between Lahore and Malaysia and in the near future, direct flights will be extended to other countries." "Various sectors including direct flights between Malaysia and Pakistan were affected due to Covid-19, which will be restored once again." The Malaysian envoy said, "The current development of Malaysia is due to the long and medium economic plan.

Oil imports from Russia; a ray of hope for cheaper fuel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fluctuating global oil prices, devaluation of the currency, taxation on oil imports and very low local oil exploration put a heavy strain on the fragile economy of a country like Pakistan which heavily relies on oil import for power generation industrial production and transportation.

The soaring prices of petroleum products have a trickle-down effect on each and every segment of society from a daily wage to a farmer, and from a government servant to a businessman.

When petroleum prices are increased, the cost of transportation rises, taking the rates of daily-use items to a new height, thus affecting

the buying power of consumers which has already gone down a lot in recent years.

Similarly, the majority being run on oil, the power plants generate high-cost electricity which ultimately put a burden not only on consumers but also affects industrial production costs bringing a new wave of inflation.

Recognizing the magnitude of this challenge, the incumbent government took some measures to alleviate the impact such as providing subsidies to public transportation and food producers. However, it was clear that these measures alone were insufficient to fully mitigate the effects of the price hike. Then, in a

game-changing move, the government struck a deal with one of the biggest oil exporters, Russia, not only to alleviate people's suffering but also to stimulate national economic growth and expansion. The deal aims at ensuring a continuous supply of crude oil from Russia at discounted rates.

"The first shipment of discounted oil from Russia is on its way and is expected to dock at the Karachi Port sometime in May," this encouraging news was shared by State Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, during a press conference here on May 18. In April, he informed the media that Pakistan had placed its initial order for discounted Russian oil as part

of a signed deal with Moscow.

The announcement of the agreement provided a ray of hope for the masses, who had been grappling with inflation and increased oil prices since the ouster of Nawaz Sharif from the government in July 2017.

The development also started off debates with some arguing that importing crude oil from Russia would not benefit Pakistan due to the lack of refineries here, but they were unaware that the petroleum ministry and the Prime Minister (PM) office had already addressed this issue.

On April 29, after confirming Pakistan's first order of discounted Russian crude oil on April 20, Dr

Musadik revealed that PM Shehbaz Sharif had approved the construction of an oil refinery worth \$10 to \$14 billion.

Faheem Khawaja, an Economics professor, believed that the current government's efforts to obtain Russian oil would play a significant role in putting the country back on track. He emphasized the pivotal role energy, especially petroleum products, play in fostering socio-economic development in any country and regarded Pakistan's decision to turn to Russia for meeting its oil demands as a much-needed step and a victory for the present regime. Shahzad Paracha, a business reporter and analyst.

Textile sector's revival to boost export oriented activities in country

FAISALABAD (APP): Amidst ongoing economic recession and population hovering around 230 million, the country direly needs to promote revenue-earning sectors like agriculture and textile industry.

As Pakistan is in urgent need of foreign exchange to stabilize its economy, textile promotion and subsequently enhancing exports of agriculture and textile item can help a lot in employment generation as well as socio-economic uplift of the people.

Once known as the backbone of the national economy, the textile sector of Pakistan in recent

decades declined due to multiple reasons including global and domestic inflation, rise in cost coupled with the inability of industrialists to upgrade their units and produce innovative products.

There was a time when Pakistan was the second most dependent country on textile with respect to exports after Bangladesh due to high global demand and availability of raw material in abundance but these exports witnessed a prominent decline in recent years. The share of textile exports also declined to 45 percent of the total exports of the country from 65 percent.



LAHORE: Peoples busy in purchasing vegetables from Wahdat road model Bazar.

Naqvi assures LHC Bar delegation to resolve their problems on priority basis

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation headed by the President Lahore High Court Bar Association Rana Intizar Hussain met with the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM Office in which the delegation apprised him about the problems being faced by the lawyers community. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi assured to resolve the problems of lawyers community on preferential basis.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that treatment facilities in the hospital will be improved being established for the lawyers community. Mohsin Naqvi remarked that he will himself visit the hospital soon. Mohsin Naqvi stated that we will review to build a parking plaza outside Aiwan-e- Adal to resolve traffic and parking problems.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi directed Deputy Commissioner to allocate a land for the parking plaza and assured that we will do whatever we can for the lawyers community. The delegation comprised Senior Vice President Asif Amin Goraya, Vice President Nadeem Anjum Khan, Vice President Model Town



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Batistan Khalid Khurshid Khan meeting with the injured persons of Shounter Astore incident at DHQ Astore.

IGP says: Police protection centers playing key role in society

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Sunday said that police protection centers were role models for other provinces as these were guarantors of protection of the rights of all the deprived sections, including transgenders, who become victims of social injustice.

Addressing a one-day interactive session and workshop here, he said that protection centers was a project of Punjab police to help women suffering from domestic violence, violation of women's rights, women suffering from insecurity, homeless children, special persons with mental disabilities, who have been suffering from social problems.

Nine killed, 1,142 injured in 1,094 accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least nine people were killed while 1,142 injured in 1,094 accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

A spokesman for Rescue 1122 on Sunday said 561 drivers, 42 underage drivers, 133 pedestrians and 457 passengers were among the victims of these traffic crashes.

CTP wipes out encroachment during operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): On the special directives of DIG Traffic Punjab Mirza Faran Baig, City Traffic Police (CTP) jointly with Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi conducted a grand operation against encroachment aiming to maintain traffic flow.



PESHAWAR: Former Governor KP Zafar Iqbal Jhagara, Former Chief Minister Pir Sabir Shah and Provincial President PKMAP Muhammad Ali meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

CM KP felicitates nation on eve of Youm-e-Takbeer

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer (Day of Greatness), conveyed his felicitations to the entire nation, highlighting the significance of the day.

In a message issued here on Sunday, the chief minister said that May 28 was not only a day of pride and honor for Pakistan but for the entire Muslim Ummah. It marks the day when Pakistan emerged as the seventh nuclear power in the world and the first in the Islamic world, he added. This day elevated Pakistan and its people to new heights of pride, said Azam Khan.

The chief minister emphasized the importance of Pakistan's nuclear capability in the country's current global standing. The esteemed position and stature Pakistan holds today in the world is largely due to its nuclear capability, he said. May 28 will forever be remembered as one of the most important days in Pakistan's history, the chief minister affirmed. While Pakistan faces numerous social and economic challenges today, we take immense pride in being an atomic power, Azam Khan added. The chief minister expressed his appreciation for all individuals and institutions involved in Pakistan's nuclear program, recognizing their significant role in achieving this milestone. Now, it is our responsibility to not only maintain this international prestige and honor but also lead the country towards further success, he added.

Govt to provide relief to people in upcoming budget: KP Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that the country is facing a serious financial crisis at the moment, adding the policies of the previous government have brought the financial affairs of the province to the verge of collapse. Talking to former chief ministers, Chairman Quami Watan Party (QWP), Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, Pir Sabir Shah, provincial chairman QWP Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, provincial president Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP), Mohammad Ali, former Governor, Iqbal Zafar Jhagra and others at

Governor's House, he said that the current caretaker government and the federal government despite economic crisis are sincere to provide relief to the people of the province at newly merged districts in the upcoming annual budget. Meanwhile, a 60-member delegation of the business community comprising presidents and other officials of Waziristan, Bajaur, Dir, Swat chambers of commerce also met with the Governor and discussed various economic, social issues including, tax levies in the newly merged districts and former provincially administered tribal area (Pata).



HYDERABAD: Members of Pakistan Zindabad Peoples Welfare Organization are holding rally in support of Pakistan Armed Forces, at Hyderabad press club.

S. Punjab in need of more health facilities, improved infrastructure

MULTAN (APP): Health and education are considered to be the two major factors for putting a country on the path of progress and prosperity worldwide because no country can make headways without focusing on them. The quality of life index of a country for its citizens can be gauged from the quality of education and health being provided and how much the subsequent government is spending on these two sectors.

Punjab being the biggest province in term of population, needs more health facilities to cater its growing population. Its southern part is home to 32 percent (34.7 million) people residing in three divisions including Multan, Bahawalpur and DG Khan, where a large number of people dwell in rural areas. Besides Tertiary Care Teaching Hospitals in major cities, it has District Headquarter, Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals, Basic Health Units (BHUs), Rural Health Centres (RHCs) and dispensaries to cater its rural population. Multan being the centre of South Punjab, has Nishtar Hospital, the biggest health facility with 1700 beds, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi Institute of Cardiology (CPEIC), Children Complex, Multan

Institute of Kidney Diseases (MIKD), Shehbaz Sharif Hospital, Pak Italian Modern Burn Unit, Fatima Jinnah Hospital and some town hospitals in the public sector for catering patients from across the region. Patients not only from South Punjab, but Balochistan and KPK pour into Nishtar Hospital as it is the only general hospital in Multan and geographically located in the middle of the country. Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department South Punjab, Mahar Hayat Lak said that BHUs were working round the clock wherein Out Patients Department (OPD), Emergency, Preventive Services (Immunization) Ultrasound, OTP sites and schoolchildren screening services were available.

As far as health infrastructure in rural South Punjab is concerned, the region has 578 BHUs, 112 RHCs and 380 dispensaries. He informed that as many as 1034 ambulances were catering to the patients in rural areas in addition to ECG, Dental Unit, X-Ray Unit, MLC and TB clinics working in RHCs. Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur has also been serving masses of the area since long and 200 bedded Sardar Fateh Muhammad Khan Buzdar Institute of

Cardiology in DG Khan will also facilitate cardiac patients in future. Lak maintained that the Punjab government had injected billions of rupees for improving health infrastructure in the region especially after establishment of South Punjab Secretariat and added that modern machinery and provision of medicines were the top priority. "A healthy body carries a healthy mind and of course, health is the real wealth," the secretary commented. "Facilitation of people at their doorsteps, monitoring and evaluation of service delivery mechanism.

International News

Russia unleashes largest drone attack on Kyiv ahead of city's founding anniversary

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia unleashed waves of air strikes on Kyiv overnight in what officials said appeared to be the largest drone attack on the city since the start of the war, as the Ukrainian capital prepared to celebrate the anniversary of its founding on Sunday.

Ukraine's Air Force said it downed 52 out of the 54 Russia-launched drones, calling it a record attack with the Iranian-made 'kamikaze' drones. It was not immediately clear how many of the drones were shot over Kyiv. In what also appears to be the first deadly attack on Kyiv in May and the 14th assault this month, falling

debris killed a 41-year-old man, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. The pre-dawn attacks came on the last Sunday of May when the capital celebrates Kyiv Day, the anniversary of its official founding 1,541 years ago. The day is typically marked by street fairs, live concerts and special museum exhibitions — plans for which have been made this year too, but on a smaller scale. "The history of Ukraine is a long-standing irritant for the insecure Russians," Andriy Yermak, the head of President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's office, said on his Telegram channel. Air Force said on



Indian prime minister Narendra Modi carries a royal golden sceptre to be installed in the chair of the speaker during the start of the inaugural ceremony of the new parliament building, in New Delhi, India.

US, Saudi Arabia call for warring sides in Sudan to extend 'imperfect' cease-fire

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: The United States and Saudi Arabia called on warring sides in Sudan to extend a fragile cease-fire due to expire Monday, as weeks of fighting reached a stalemate in the capital and elsewhere in the African country.

The Sudanese army and a rival paramilitary force, battling for control of Sudan since mid-April, had agreed last week to the weeklong truce, brokered by the U.S. and the Saudis. However, the cease-fire, like others before it, did not stop the fighting in the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

In a joint statement early Sunday, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia called for an extension of the current truce which expires at 9:45 p.m. local time Monday. "While imperfect, an extension nonetheless will facilitate the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people," the statement said. The statement also urged Sudan's military government and the rival Rapid Support Forces to continue negotiations to reach an agreement on extending the cease-fire.

Iraq announces plans for \$17 billion transportation project linking Asia to Europe

Monitoring Desk
IRBIL: Iraq's prime minister on Saturday announced plans for a \$17 billion regional transportation project intended to facilitate the flow of goods from Asia to Europe.

The announcement was made at a one-day conference in Baghdad that convened transport ministers and representatives from Iraq, the Gulf countries, Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Jordan. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said the planned Development Road project would facilitate the movement of goods from the Gulf to Europe by way of the Grand Faw Port in Basra, in southern Iraq, which would be connected to Turkey, then to Europe, through a network of railways and highways. A centerpiece of the project will be the development of the Grand Faw Port and a "smart industrial city" adjacent to it, al-Sudani said. The planned project, which would involve the construction of about 1,200 km (about 745 miles) of railways and highways.

Guterres shocked by Sudan army chief's letter

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said he is "shocked" by a letter from Sudanese army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, reportedly requesting the replacement of special envoy Volker Perthes amid a brutal war with paramilitaries.

Guterres "is proud of the work done by Volker Perthes and reaffirms his full confidence in his Special Representative", a statement from UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said. "The secretary-general is shocked by the letter he received from General Al-Burhan," currently at war with his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands RSF. Neither the army nor the UN released official copies of Burhan's letter, which reportedly requested the dismissal of Perthes as Guterres' envoy to Sudan.

EgyptAir flight from Cairo blows tire during landing in Saudi Arabia

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: An EgyptAir jetliner blew out a tire but made a safe landing at its destination early Sunday in Saudi Arabia, Egypt's national carrier said. No casualties were reported. Flight MS643 took off from Cairo international airport early Sunday and one of its tires burst during landing at King Abdulaziz International Airport in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah, EgyptAir said in a statement.

US state corrects 'miscarriage of justice' done 400 years ago

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The US state of Connecticut has exonerated 12 people convicted of witchcraft in colonial America almost 400 years ago following a campaign to clear their names. Eleven of the accused witches were hanged after trials in the northeastern state of Connecticut in the mid-1600s, with one receiving a reprieve.

The statement also urged Sudan's military government and the rival Rapid Support Forces to continue negotiations to reach an agreement on extending the cease-fire. The fighting broke out in mid-April between the military and the powerful RSF. Both military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and RSF leader Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo led the 2021 coup that removed the Western-backed government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. The conflict has killed hundreds of people, wounded thousands and pushed the country to near collapse.

10 Lebanese detained in UAE to return home

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskiy asked the Ukrainian parliament to impose additional sanctions against Iran for 50 years, according to the draft resolution following the National Security and Defense Council decision. The draft includes a complete ban on trade with Iran, investments, and transferring technologies, as well as stopping Iranian transit across the Ukrainian territory, and preventing the withdrawal of Iranian assets from Ukraine. Ukraine's parliament must approve the bill for it to become law.



A woman holding a poster depicting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan waits in the queue at the Maiden's Tower, in Istanbul.

Mercenary Prigozhin says Kremlin blanking him on state media will provoke backlash

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's most powerful mercenary said on Sunday he was convinced that senior Kremlin officials had banned reporting about him on state media, cautioning that such a misleading approach would lead to a backlash from the Russian people within months. Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of the Wagner mercenary group, is the most striking member of President Vladimir Putin's circle to gain widespread notoriety in the 15-month war in Ukraine. Prigozhin, a restaurateur who quipped last week that his nickname should be "Putin's butcher" rather than "Putin's chef", took the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut earlier this month but his role in the victory was played down on state television. The 61-year-old has made a name for himself by imposing brutal discipline on his mercenaries and by using obscene language and prison slang to insult Putin's top military brass including Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. In a sign of just how far Prigozhin is perceived to have breached the taboos of Putin's Russia, state television ignored the fall of Bakhmut for 20 hours, and did not air Prigozhin's victory speech. Asked about what appeared to be a ban on coverage of him on state media, Prigozhin used a series of Russian proverbs to poke fun at those responsible.



People line up in front of a bakery during a cease-fire in Khartoum.



NEW YORK: Pakistani American Diaspora gathering Times Squares to Express Solidarity with Pakistan and Pak Army.

Attack on Jinnah House and sensitive installations, assault on Pakistan: Saad Rafique

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has termed the attack on Jinnah House (Corps Commander House) and other sensitive installations as an assault on the country which was unable to be spared.

Talking to media after visiting the Jinnah House here on Sunday, he said that it was a great tragedy that a special place, having an historical background and attached to the leader of the nation Quaid-e-Azam (RA) was attacked, looted and burnt.

The minister said that several things of Quaid were preserved here including his sleeping room, piano, Achkan, pen, writing pad and cap, adding that every-

thing was burnt to ash by the miscreants led by the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He added that the place was also the house of head of soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the protection of the people and the country.

It was unfortunate that the family members of the soldiers were insulted by the miscreants and attackers, he said and added that there could be differences but, other parties, having any difference, never ever thought of even insulting or attacking on the houses or sensitive installations. Unfortunately, hatred was injected in the innocent minds of the educated youth against the in-

stitutions of the country, he regretted. Khawaja Saad said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) also faced Martial Law, but never even think of to damage or insult of the soldiers of the nation. "No nation can weaken or discourage their own army" he added. He said an army which stopped the enemy on the borders, could stop few violent people, but they dealt it with patience to protect the lives. "You have burnt the plane of a hero of the nation M.M Alam and attacked on the offices of the prestigious agency," the minister added.

He said this all was designed somewhere as the miscreants had been already guided.



Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy being briefed onboard PNS Shahjahan by Commanding Officer PNS Shahjahan during PNS Shahjahan visit to Port Langkawi, Malaysia.

PNS Shahjahan participates in LIMA expo at Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Shahjahan on Sunday visited Port Langkawi, Malaysia and participated in Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) 2023.

The visit of PN Ship is aimed to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance interoperability between participating navies, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Upon the arrival at Port Langkawi, the ship was warmly welcomed by the official of Malaysia Navy and Defence attaché of Pakistan at Malaysia.

During meetings with Malaysian officials, the Commanding Officer of the ship conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of Malaysia in general and Malaysian Navy in particular. The matters of mutual interest, bilateral collaboration and PN contribution towards regional peace and maritime security were discussed.

PNS Shahjahan participated in International Fleet Review at Langkawi which was witnessed by Malaysian Prime Minister.



LAHORE: Hurriyat Leader Mishal Malik interacting with journalists during Meet the Press event at Press club in Provincial Capital.

Balochistan Customs collected Rs 21b Custom Duty in 2022-23

QUETTA (APP): Chief Collector, Customs Balochistan, Muhammad Saleem on Sunday said that Balochistan Customs has so far collected Rs 21 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23 as Customs Duty out of the target of Rs 21.5 billion given by the Federal Board of Revenue. With the establishment of the border market in Mand, employment opportunities will be provided to the local people and the supply of fresh fruits and vegetables will benefit the people living in the border areas of the two countries, he said.

He said that all the arrangements regarding these markets have been given to the respective Deputy Commissioners who will ensure their supervision and monitoring. He said that people could purchase goods of worth from 50 to 100 dollars in these markets. He said that these markets are very useful, it will reduce the problems faced by the people of the area and increase the border trade, commercial and business activities in the area. Besides expanding trade between the two countries, facilities and opportunities will be ensured to meet the target of 5 billion dollars by increasing the current 2 billion dollars.

He said that after the inauguration of Pishin-Mand border market, the Balochistan government would develop six more joint markets at mashkel.

PUC terms May 9 black day, categorizes attackers as terrorists, national criminals

GUJRANWALA (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Sunday convened the 'Stability of Pakistan, Ulema-Mashaykh Convention' witnessing the participation of leaders from various political organizations and religious scholars representing different schools of thought.

In a joint declaration, the attendees unanimously denounced the events of May 9 as a black day for the Pakistani nation, categorizing the attackers of military, national, and civilian installations, as well as memorials of martyrs, as terrorists and national criminals.

The political and religious leadership further called upon Chief Justice of Pakistan, Umar Atta Bandial, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir to ensure the expeditious trials of the criminals and their prompt punishment.

Emphasizing the nation's desire for justice, the joint declaration expressed the need to identify and punish the guilty while ensuring the release of the innocent individuals involved.

The leaders also applauded the directives issued by Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and COAS General Syed Asim Munir, instructing authorities not to wrongfully accuse any innocent person.

PUC Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, presided over the convention, which saw the participation of prominent political and religious figures, including Maulana Muhammad Ayub Safdar, Qari Muhammad Sharif Cheema, Maulana Nouman Hashir, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi and Maulana Asadullah

Farooq, among others. In the joint declaration, the convention expressed its condemnation of the events that occurred on May 9, highlighting the premeditated nature of the tragedy.

It pointed out that a systematic campaign against the Pakistan Army and the country's security agencies had been underway for the past year, resulting in the indoctrination of the youth.

The PUC had previously demanded measures to counter this propaganda campaign, which, if implemented, could have potentially averted the May 9 events.

Historic Youm-e-Takbeer represents national unity, pride: Dummar

Independent Report

QUETTA: Senior Provincial Minister of Planning and Development, Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar, extended felicitations to the nation on the occasion of "Youm-e-Takbeer," stating that it is a day that represents national unity and the historic day of national pride. He emphasized that May 28th, 1998, when Pakistan achieved nuclear power, remains a symbol of national security, defense, and dignity. The day is a source of pride not only for the Pakistani nation but also for the entire Muslim Ummah. The message of Youm-e-Takbeer

is to unite as one for the progress, security, and happiness of the country, and not to allow anyone to hinder our path to prosperity. These sentiments were expressed by Senior Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar in his statement on Sunday, where he highlighted that this day is a significant milestone in our national life because on this day Pakistan became invincible from a military perspective, and India's pride was shattered. Youm-e-Takbeer is a day of pride for the Pakistani nation because it was the day when we made the world believe that we are a proud nation.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch unveiling the notification of Four Tyre Structure of Agriculture Department

JAC Balochistan University protests non-payment of salaries

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) University of Balochistan (UoB), Professor Dr. Kalemullah Bariach, along with the Presidents of the Employees' Association, Shah Ali Bugti, and Officers' Association, Chairman Nazir Ahmed Lahri, expressed deep regret and disappointment that despite the announcement of a disbursement of PKR 72 crore by the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Balochistan University and the Governor of Balochistan's assurance, the announced funds have not been released.

"As a result, the faculty and staff members of Balochistan University have been deprived of their salaries for the months of April and May, exacerbating their already distressing situation."

PPP not in favour of banning political parties: Kaira

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is not in favor of banning any political party, said SAPM Qamar Zaman Kaira on Sunday.

In his interview with private Tv news channel, Qamar Zaman Kaira said the dismantling of political parties is not in favour of democracy's stability in the country. PPP stands on its principle stand against banning PTI. "Banning political parties is not the solution to the problem," Kaira said and added if PML-N is thinking of banning PTI, it is their wish.

Commenting on the May 9 violence, the SAPM said the mayhem was the result of "hate" which was being promoted by the former prime minister and PTI chief Imran Khan.

Qamar Zaman Kaira said despite reservations of the coalition partners.

Message of peace, love going to whole world from 34th National Games: Farhan

QUETTA (APP): Dr. Farhan Essa Abdullah, the chief D-Mission of the Sindh contingent participating in 34th National Games on Sunday said that message of peace and love from the ongoing National Games in Quetta was not only going to the country but also to the whole world.

He said that today, through sports, the world was becoming aware of the culture of all the provinces of Pakistan, the national heritage and the scenery of the beautiful places of Balochistan.

He said that organizing the National Games would be very helpful in the promotion and development of sports in the country from this mega event, where the discovery of new talent, young athletes were given ample opportunities to express their abilities.

There is an environment of healthy competition between athletes at the national level and mutual respect is being cultivated. The atmosphere of harmony and brotherhood has increased, he added.

While congratulating the government of

Balochistan, the Pakistan Olympic Association and all the security agencies for the successful organizing of the National Games, Dr. Farhan Essa said that in the current situation, peaceful methods and best arrangements were laudable by the Balochistan Government.

Regarding the performance of the Sindh team in the Games, he said that Pakistan's rising star Hareem Malik has made us proud by winning three gold medals for Sindh in Swimming. He said that in other sports too, the performance of our athletes has been outstanding. Sindh tops the ranking of the provinces in swimming events. The exemplary discipline shown by all the players and officials in the squad during the mega event is commendable, he noted. He said that regarding the formation of teams for the Games, he had given clear instructions to the officials of all the sports associations.

that open trials should be held for teams selection and it to be based on merit and not talented athlete should be deprived of his rights, he concluded.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Jan Muhammad Jamali, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan Imran Gichki and DG Levies Nasebullah condoling with Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran on sad demise of his son

Rising Fatalities in Coal Mines Central chairman PCMLF calls for stringent safety steps

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Central Chairman of the Pakistan Central Mines Labour Federation (PCMLF), Abdul Sattar, has expressed concern over the increasing number of fatalities in coal mines due to illegal mining activities.

He urged the government, mine owners, miners, and chief mine inspectors to fulfill their responsibilities diligently to prevent accidents in coal mines. By eliminating the contract system in coal mines, along with ensuring occupational health and safety for mine workers, incidents can be curbed while safeguarding their rights. In a conversation with journalists, Abdul Sattar, Central Chairman of the Pakistan Central Mines

Labour Federation, highlighted the immense dedication and risks undertaken by hardworking miners in coal mines. "Unfortunately, accidents in coal mines have become commonplace. The laxity in the supervision system has hindered the implementation of mine labour safety regulations, resulting in frequent incidents of gas explosions that claim the lives of impoverished workers. Therefore, I demand the government to enforce the laws pertaining to the health and safety of coal mine workers, revise the Mines Act of 1923, apply the provisions of ILO Convention-C176, and register workers in the coal mining sector with the EOBI (Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution).

Gwadar port commences direct exports to China, marking a historic milestone

Independent Report

GWADAR: In a significant development, Gwadar Port has initiated its first-ever direct shipment to the Chinese port city of Tianjin, carrying five containers of raw pharmaceutical materials. The trading company's CEO, Mr. N.L., stated that the consignment is expected to reach China within 30 days. This milestone marks a momentous achievement and a new era of enhanced trade volumes between Gwadar and

China. Gwadar Port, playing a pivotal role in Pakistan's economic corridor with China, is a key component of the approved Belt and Road Initiative. The port serves as a vital platform for deepening bilateral co-operation and facilitating two-way trade. The CEO emphasized that direct imports from Gwadar Port will contribute to expanding Pakistan's exports and improving the country's economy.



QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) Provincial President, Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel addresses during a seminar on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer (the day Pakistan conducted nuclear tests on May 28, 1998).

Security and Safety Conference held in Sibi

Independent Report

SIBI: Commissioner Sibi Division, Shahid Saleem Qureshi, chaired a conference on peace and security on Sunday. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Shabeer Ahmed Badini, Deputy Inspector General of Police Sibi Range Ali Sher Jakhhrani, Deputy Commissioner Harnai Aarif Zarkoon, District Police Officer Ziarat Akhtar Achakzai, FC Major Naveed, Colonel Kashif, Superintendent of Police Harnai Aasim Shafi, and Assistant Commissioner Ziarat Abdullah bin Aarif. During the conference,

decisions were made to enhance the safety and enjoyment of tourists. A comprehensive security assessment of the requested dam was conducted, and important decisions were taken. The conference also reviewed the traffic management plan for tourists and made significant decisions in this regard. Shahid Saleem Qureshi, directed Deputy Commissioner Harnai to contact the relevant company for the relocation of the recently damaged mobile phone tower and issued instructions to install CCTV cameras on internal and external routes within Harnai city.

CM extends heartfelt greetings to nation on Youm-e-Takbeer

'Pakistan's defense is robust and its nuclear capability is crucial for maintaining a balance of power in South Asian region'

Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo, extended heartfelt greetings to the nation on the occasion of "Youm-e-Takbeer," which is observed nationwide on May 28th to commemorate the atomic explosions that took place in Pakistan 25 years ago on May 28th, 1998.

In his message, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the armed forces and all those individuals who have dedicated their unwavering services in making the country's defense impregnable, overcoming all challenges. He stated that Pakistan's defense is robust and its nuclear capability is crucial for maintaining a balance of power in the

South Asian region. The Chief Minister emphasized that the atomic explosions of May 28th demonstrated Pakistan's ability to deter any hostile forces and ensure the security and integrity of its borders.

He praised the armed forces and the country's atomic scientists for their commendable and historic achievements, which are a

source of pride not only for the nation but also for future generations. He highlighted that Youm-e-Takbeer teaches us the lesson of selfless and altruistic service for Pakistan's progress, security, and well-being, and it instills in every Pakistani the fervor to make any sacrifices necessary for the defense and protection of the country.



ZIARAT: Commissioner Sibi Division Shahid Saleem Qureshi presiding over a meeting regarding law and order situation