

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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Bizenjo asks FG to take result oriented measures for resolving financial issues of Balochistan

Says federal govt is not serious in fulfilling its commitments, then Balochistan would not be participating in the NEC meeting

Independent Report

QUETTA: The central President of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has demanded of the federal government to take result-oriented measures and give due constitutional right to the province for resolving its financial and development issues.

In a policy statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister expressed concern over what he termed the "cold attitude" of the federal government in implementation of the promises made with us in the past. It is extremely inappropriate to continue

ously ignore any federating unit and pushing it to the wall in this manner, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo remarked adding that this attitude of the federation would not be tolerated at all.

The Chief Minister said that if the federal government is not serious in fulfilling its commitments, then Balochistan would not be participating in the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting.

He said that attitude of the federal government proved that this meeting of NEC would prove to be meaningless for us. It would be useless to sit in the meeting in which deci-

sion making and implementation lacked.

Recalling Mr. Bizenjo noted with concern that the proposed schemes of the provincial government were not made part of the federal PSDP last year even. He regretfully pointed out that the funds have not been released for the development projects included in the CPEC despite issuance of the tenders.

He also said that not a single rupee was given to the province out of 10 billion rupees announced by the Prime Minister for rehabilitation of the flood affected. Thus they (flood

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QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Local Government Sardar Saleh Muhammad Bhutani presides over the meeting participated by Mir Asadullah Baloch, Naem Bazai, Malik Sikandar Advocate, Malik Naseer Shahwani, Qadir Nail, Ahmed Nawaz Baloch, Nasarullah Zeeray and Muhammad Khan Lehri.

Roosvelt Hotel given to NY local govt for 3yrs for \$220m: Kh Saad

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Sunday that a contract had been signed with the New York City government to operate the renowned Roosevelt Hotel of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) situated in New York (USA) for three years.

In a press conference held at Allama Iqbal International Airport here, he said that a revenue of US\$220 million would come to the country as a result of the agreement.

Giving details of the agreement, he said that 1025 rooms of the hotel would be handed over to the City government for three years and the initial earnings from the hotel had started pouring in.

He said that under the agreement, one-year busi-

ness was guaranteed; however, he expressed his hope that the hotel business would continue for all three years. He said that there were several issues involved in the Roosevelt case, like the hotel was at risk of being declared a landmark after which the building would be unable to be altered. However, now the danger had subsided for at least three years, he added. The minister said that earlier the hotel had been closed since the COVID-19 period, and an amount of \$25 million were being spent on the closed building and \$20 million were pending as the liability.

He said that 479 employees were working in the hotel, which was a big number and it was difficult

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NAB summons record of 22 politicians in £190m scandal probe

LAHORE (INP): In a major development, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has demanded record of 22 political leaders in illegal transfer of NCA's £190m scandal.

The NAB in a letter to excise secretaries demanded record of automobiles, properties and accounts of 22 politicians including former federal ministers and cabinet members.

The anti-graft watchdog has summoned record of the properties of Sheikh Rashid, Pervaiz Khattak, Umar Ayub, Hamad Azhar, Murad Saeed, Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Azam Swati, Ali Zaidi, Ali Ameen Gandapur, Shafiq Mehmood, Chaudhry Ghulam Sarwar, Shireen Mazari, Khalid Maqbool

Siddiqui, Farogh Naseem, Khuro Bakhtyar, Ijaz Shah and others.

The NAB has also demanded record of the vehicles in the names of 22 federal ministers and cabinet members, including details of how many cars they purchased and sold since year 2018. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has launched an investigation against PTI chief, Bushra Bibi and others for the alleged gain of hundreds of canals of land in the name of Al Qadir University Trust, which reportedly caused a loss of 190 million pounds to the national exchequer. As per the charges, the former prime minister and other accused allegedly adjusted Rs50 billion — 190 million pounds.

The police have rushed to the site and cordoned off the area, saying the killers of the scholar were being tracked down.



ANKARA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs from Ankara after completing his two day official visit of Turkiye.

Pak-Turkiye bilateral trade volume target of \$5bn very much achievable: PM

PM meets world leaders in Turkiye, discuss bilateral ties, cooperation; concludes his 2-day official visit to Turkiye, leaves for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the target of increasing bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Turkiye to \$5 billion annually over the next three years was very much achievable.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister referred to his recent visit to Turkiye where he attended the inauguration of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who had been re-elected for the third term in office.

The prime minister said that in his meetings with heads of leading Turkish business groups yester-

day, he highlighted the need for investment and trade in the fields of agriculture, energy, information technology and construction.

Exciting opportunities had emerged for collaboration especially after the historic Trade-in-Goods Agreement between Pakistan & Turkiye became operational on May 31 this year, he added.

"Was glad to find the discernible interest of the Turkish business community in building on the existing partnerships & establishing new ventures," the prime minister further noted in his tweet.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif during his recent visit to Turkiye also met with different world leaders and discussed the bilateral ties and cooperation between Pakistan and their respective countries.

The prime minister had travelled to Turkiye to join the world leaders in the inauguration ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The prime minister met former deputy prime minister of Turkiye and Chairman MHP Devlet Bahceli and conveyed his felicitations over success in the elections, PM Office Media Wing said in a press

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ISLAMABAD: Spokesman PDM Hafiz Hamdullah meeting with President PDM Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman.

Workers being illegally detained in abysmal living conditions: Imran Khan

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that his party workers are being illegally detained in jails, while alleging that they are being kept in abysmal living conditions.

He made these remarks while addressing PTI supporters virtually.

Furthermore, he once again questioned what the future of the country would be like if he were to be put

in jail and crackdown on PTI is completed.

He noted that the country was progressing economically with inflow of dollars during PTI's tenure.

The PTI chairman once again reiterated that the judiciary has been intimidated and claimed that judges are being blackmailed with audio and video tapes.

He also criticised the media for not speaking up for its freedom, similar to how it used to do during PTI's tenure.

Another milestone achieved by CAA: Direct pre-Hajj flight operation started for Medina from Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The pre-Hajj flight operation has been started direct from Quetta International Airport to Medina when the first flight carrying 145 intending pilgrims left for the holy land the other day.

With start of the direct Hajj flights to Medina, another milestone was achieved thanks to the upgradation of the main runway at the Quetta Air-

port done by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

According to the spokesman of CAA Balochistan, the journey has been made easier for the intending pilgrims from Quetta to the holy land.

He informed that the PK-747 did first night landing at the new run way of the Quetta Airport the other day night. Later, the

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Budget 2023-24: NEC to meet on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government summoned meeting of National Economic Council on Tuesday (Tomorrow) to approve economic targets and development projects of upcoming budget.

According to source finance ministry will get approval of upcoming fiscal year development plan and economic targets in NEC meeting which is summoned on June 06.

Prime minister will chair NEC meeting. Source told that federal ministers and chief ministers of four provinces will attend the meeting.

Federal government and provincial governments' development plans will be reviewed in this meeting.

2659 billion budget is proposed for new fiscal year.

There are chances of 1100 billion to be allocated for development projects.

PTI defectors announce Democrats group

LAHORE (INP): Like-minded members who left Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have announced to form a new group called 'Democrats' instead of joining any other party.

A meeting of like-minded members who parted ways with PTI was held under the chairmanship of Dr Murad Raas and Hashim Dogar, who were part of the cabinet in the Punjab government of Tehreek-e-Insaf, in which the name of the group was finalised.

It was decided in the meeting that the like-minded members will not make any contact or join Jahangir Khan Tareen group for now. The members will keep their separate identity as Democrats. The identity of the members joining the group will not be revealed. The group will not be registered in Election Commission of Pakistan either.

Dr Murad Raas, an important member of the Democrats group, said that they would make their identity as a separate group.

CPEC to pave way for peace & prosperity in Pakistan, whole region: Zia Langau

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langau has stated that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would not only pave the way for development and prosperity in Pakistan but also in the whole region.

He said that the importance of CPEC has been increased manifold due to peace and reconstruction in the region.

The Provincial Minister was speaking to the Chinese Consul General based in Karachi on Sunday.

Mir Ziaullah Langau discussed with the Chinese diplomat about the matters related to the China-Pakistan friendship and CPEC besides other matters of mutual interests.

He said that the increasing cooperation between China and Pakistan

reflects the strong relations between the two countries.

He mentioned that several projects have been completed under the CPEC while others are in the pipeline.

He said that these projects would be increased further in view of the future requirements. Referring the development of energy, road, rail infrastructure, industrial zones, technology and tourism sectors under the CPEC, the Provincial Minister said that the business activities would be boosted with completion of the projects in the country.

He also said that we would benefit from the Chinese experiences for development in different sectors.

Meanwhile, the Minister also thanked the Chinese government for donating 9,000 food packages for the flood affected people of Balochistan.



KARACHI: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau meeting with Chinese Consul General Yundong.

Gwadar HDT leader pledges to continue democratic struggle for rights of people

Problems increased after PDM Govt

Independent Report

QUETTA: The central leader of Gwadar Haq Do Tehreek and provincial General Secretary, Jamaa't-e-Islami (JI) Balochistan, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman said that Haq Do Tehreek is a peaceful and democratic movement. He said that we waged democratic struggle for securing rights and for the purpose, also staged dharna, he added.

He said that all their demands were under the country's constitution. Recalling the Tehreek's negotiations with the government over its protest, he mentioned that CM Bizenjo had arrived in Gwadar and promised to fulfill all the demands within a month.

But, it was started to

presser after he was released by the Gwadar police on the apex court orders in a murder case back in his hometown, Gwadar.

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QUETTA: Haq Do Tehreek (HDT) Leader, Maulana Hidayatur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta Press Club.

Official price list totally ignored as profiteers get free hand in metropolis

Independent Report

QUETTA: To utter surprise, the official price list of the edibles and other necessary commodities has totally been ignored in the provincial metropolis.

The essential commodities and daily used items are being sold above the officially notified price list issued by the district administration couple of months back.

Even the officially notified price list of essential commodities is also unavailable in various parts of the city.

For instance, the official price of mutton had been fixed as Rs. 1300 per kilogram while on the other hand, it is being sold @ Rs. 1900 in the open meat mar-

ket. Similarly, the beef is being sold at Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,000 PKG while its official price was fixed as Rs. 700 PKG. Moreover, the milk price was fixed by the administration @ Rs. 180 per liter but ironically it is being sold at Rs. 200 per liter. Similarly, the price of curd was fixed @ Rs. 200 PKG but it is being sold at Rs. 200 PKG with no check on the profiteering.

The official price of 20 KG bag of Ata (flour) has been fixed as Rs. 1550 (Food Dept) while it is being available in the market @ Rs. 2650. In addition to this, the official prices of different dals (mong, Mash, masoor, chana) besides white chana and rice have also been violated in the metropolis.



ZHOB: Advisor to CM for Information Mitha Khan Kakar, Mufti Abdullah Jan Kakar and others addressing the party joining ceremony.

Process of identifying suspects involved in May-9 attacks, continues: IGP

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Sunday said that the process of identifying the suspects involved in the incidents of May-9 was ongoing with regard to the nature of the crime and action was being taken according to the law.

Addressing a press conference along with CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamiyana and other senior police officers at the Central Police Office, he said that due to the false propaganda on social media, the Punjab police was

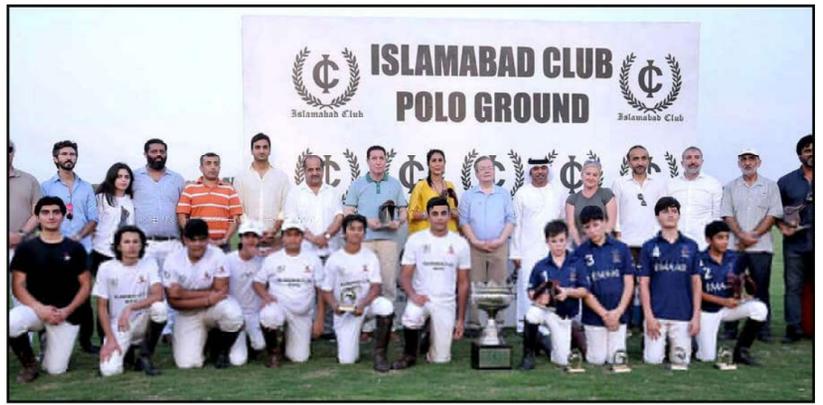
facing unnecessary criticism, but the police were doing their work within the law. He added that the help of modern technology had been taken for the arrest, identification and other legal proceedings of the accused, from which it had been revealed that the attack on sensitive facilities across Pakistan, including the attack on Jinnah House on May-9, was a complete and systematic planning at one time.

The IGP said that the May-9 attacks were clearly instigated by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lead-

ership while inciting the workers on social media. The targets were pre-set and planned at a specific central point, he asserted. It was propagated that the police had killed his people even though they had weapons, the policemen were not given weapons, he informed. They first alleged that the police had killed 40 people, then it was claimed that 25 people had been killed. "We said that if it is true then show us dead bodies but they had no answer", he maintained.

Dr. Usman Anwar

said through a multimedia presentation that a total of 215 calls were made to investigate the attack on Jinnah House on May-9, including the calls of Yasmin Rashid, Aslam Iqbal, Murad Raas and Mahmood-ul-Rashid. According to the records, 154 calls were made on 8 and 9 May while 88 calls were made in the vicinity of Rawalpindi GHQ to provoke. Similarly, 25 calls to political leadership from sensitive installations in Faisalabad were recorded, the IGP asserted.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE in Pakistan H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem AlZaabi in a group photograph with players of Islamabad Club Junior and Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club Junior teams during prize distribution ceremony after final Junior Polo Exhibition Match.



LAHORE: Youngsters are swing in water Spill ways, to cool off during high temperature, in Provincial Capital.

Sheikh Rashid says: Politics loses direction, 'minus-plus' formula to create more instability

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Muslim League chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that politics in Pakistan is now direction-less as no one has idea who will set it right and get benefit of it.

Ahmed wrote on his Twitter handle that the minus-plus formula would also fail as it would create more instability. September could prove cruel (for politicians) and something unexpected could happen. Mr Rashid said 20 days were important and the result could be out during this period.

He was of the view that turning the disqualified into qualified and forming a party out of them would not be an easy task. Mr Rashid said that Pakistan's politics was direction-less at the time. He said no one had the idea that who would set it right and get benefit out of it.

PDM had not only

suffered from internal splits but had also not been able to face public, the former interior minister said. "The main target of people's hatred is the Nawaz-League, PML-N's politics was neither alive nor dead now. They have dug their own grave," he said.

The former federal minister said that Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan won't make any difference in politics. "Rest is the best for him (Nawaz Sharif)," he added. "If the political issues are not resolved, the economy would not stand on its own feet and become self-reliant," the AML chief said. Inflation is 50 percent higher, factories are closed, export remittances and foreign exchange reserves are depleting rapidly, he added.

The AML chief said that the price of wheat and LNG decreased by 100 percent in the world but increased by 100pc in Pakistan, adding the economy had collapsed.

Punjab police to challenge Yasmin's release order

LAHORE (INP): Resenting an anti-terrorism court's release order of PTI leader Dr Yasmin Rashid, the Punjab police on Sunday vowed to challenge the ATC decision absolving the former Punjab health minister of her role in the arson attack on the Jinnah House on May 9.

The Punjab police in its tweet wrote: "Dr Yasmin Rashid or any other person involved in May 9 incidents will be brought to justice. The investigation of the Jinnah House attack is being conducted on the scientific grounds. The Punjab police is going to challenge the verdict of the court issued on Dr Yasmin's remand request. The verdict by the ATC was issued without giving opportunity to the police to provide evidence on the basis of forensic analysis. It's the prerogative of police to investigate cases. It is not fair to create a definite opinion about the people involved in a case."

Gwadar HDT..

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oppose the demands instead of meeting them, he recalled.

He went on to charge that a nationalist party compelled the government not to meet our demands.

Thus, they staged protest sit-in in compulsion on October 27, 2022, adding he recalled. On that, the nationalist party had threatened the government not to hold dialogue with the Haq Do Tehreek, otherwise it would end its support to the federal and provincial governments, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman charged.

He questioned that when the negotiations could be made with the "angry" Balochs then why not with those accepting the state. He charged that those sitting in the provincial assembly are busy in looting the province.

He said that impression is being given that all is well in the province, which is not fair.

He said that he was imprisoned for four and half months, but did not give up.

He also said that we would be resuming our activities under the Haq Do Tehreek in Gwadar in few days.

Direct..

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same flight took off for Medina from Quetta carrying 145 intending pilgrims.

Earlier, PK-6133 and 6137 flights left for Medina carrying some 300 intending pilgrims, he mentioned adding that it was a very pleasant experience to land at the new runway of the Airport at night.

It was made possible because of the 12,000 feet long runway which was upgraded by CAA recently, the spokesman of CAA mentioned.

He said that the modern airfield lighting system CAT-II ensures operations at the new runway in all weather conditions.

PPP bags 155, JI 130 seats after KMC special seats election completes

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party has bagged 155 seats in the city council after election on reserved seats completed.

Jamaat Islami has been second largest group with 130 seats in Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's city council.

The PTI has been distanced third with 62 seats and PML-N have 14 seats in the house, while JUI have four city council seats and TLP one.

People's Party won 34 seats reserved for women, while Jamaat Islami bagged 29 special seats, PTI bagged 14 women seats, PML-N and JUI won three seats each. On June 16, the Returning Officers will announce the results whereas the successful candidates will take oath on June 19.

The PPP won five reserved seats for youth, JI four seats, PTI two seats and the PML-N grabbed one seat reserved for youth.

In election for labourer's special seats, the PPP bagged five seats, JI four, PTI two and PML-N one seat. Moreover, in elec-

tion for minorities special seats, the PPP bagged five seats, JI four, PTI two and PML-N one seat.

Jamaat Islami and PPP bagged one seat each from two seats of the city council reserved for disabled persons and transgender categories.

The PPP overall won 51 special seats in the house, while JI bagged 43 seats, PTI grabbed 20 seats and PML-N six seats.

The total number of seats in the City Council is 371 and the magic number required to win the mayor's office is 186 members of the house.

The election of mayor and deputy mayor will take place on June 15 while the nomination paper can be submitted by June 9-10.

The ECP schedule stated that the Returning Officer will check the nomination papers on June 11 and the finalized list of candidates will be released on June 14.

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Bizenjo asks FG to..

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the province after consideration in the upcoming NEC session.

He said that if the federal government assured to give priority to the province's projects in NEC meeting, then we would ponder upon attending it. Otherwise, we would not be attending the vital session, he asserted.

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that the province is facing severe financial hardships, and as such we are unable to prepare a balanced budget for the next financial year.

He said that the ally parties having representation in the federal cabinet have also been asked to take up the financial and other issues at the federal cabinet and other concerned forums. He said that Balochistan guarantees bright and stable future of Pakistan, as such it is necessary to give due importance to it. Mere tall claims and hollow slogans can not change fate of the country, he maintained.

Roosvelt Hotel..

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for the hotel to terminate them from jobs due to the US labour laws. However, now after the agreement, this number would be decreased to 77 at the end of the contract period, he added. He thanked the New York city government for its cooperation.

Regarding the outsourcing of the airports, the minister said that three international airports including Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad were being outsourced and made it clear that outsourcing did not mean privatisation.

He said that only operation of the airports would be outsourced and not the land or property. As a result of the arrangement, new contractors would develop, improve and operate the airports, and after completion of the agreement period, the contractors would handed over it to the government again.

He said that the current administration had put it on the track and soon agreements would be signed with the best international airport operators. A credible company, International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank, had been given the task of outsourcing the airports as no Pakistani company had the experience in this regard.

He said that several airports including Madina

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1450 children killed in IIOJK since 1989; report

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, a refugee organization, here on Sunday issued a report on the occasion of "International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression" claiming 1450 children and teenagers have been martyred by Indian armed forces in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) since 1989 till now. From 1989 to 2003, 930 children were martyred and at least 530 more by 2023, the report said.

The report added that at least 35 minors were martyred in tear gas shells

and pellet gun attacks, while the rest were martyred by direct bullet fire besides tortures and fake encounters.

While mentioning particular cases, the report said a 14 year old Tufail Mattu was shot with pellet gun while playing whereas 10,000 civilians were hit by lethal pellet fire during the 2016 mass protests after the execution of famous freedom fighter Burhan Wani while 5 years old Bareena and 8 years old Zafeer who were on their way to the petrol pump with their father were brutally killed.

"The worst proof of Indian brutality is Insha Mushtaq, a 17-year-old girl who still lives with a disfigured face and blind eyes," the report said.

The report further disclosed that Hiba Nisar, 2 year was also a victim of pellet gun while in 2010, Sameer Ahmed, 9 was beaten to death by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) when he was on the way to his friend's house to play carom.

In 2016, Nasir Shafi (11 years) was attacked with a pellet gun and his body was found in the bushes the next day.

Canadian airline announces flights to Pakistan

OTTAWA (INP): A Canadian airline — Zara Airways — announced operating direct flights from Toronto to three major cities in Pakistan in August.

The airline will operate three weekly flights from Toronto to Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore.

The airline will use two Boeing 777 aircraft initially.

The airline said it was seeking a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Canadian government before it can start operations. "We are excited to offer direct flights between Canada and Pakistan," Bhakari said at a news conference in Karachi.

Over 40,000 Pakistani pilgrims safely arrive in S. Arabia via 158 flights

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): Over 40,000 Pakistani intending pilgrims have safely arrived in Saudi Arabia through 158 flights, joining millions of Muslims worldwide on a spiritual journey. Out of the total number, 13,095 Pakistani pilgrims have arrived in Makkah after completing an eight-day stay in Madinah, while the remaining pilgrims have been accommodated in Madinah Munawarah.

Additionally, these figures encompass 1,000 hajj pilgrims who have arrived in Saudi Arabia through 18 hajj group operators operating under the private hajj scheme.

Muhammad Umar Butt, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Religious Affairs, stated that the ministry's monitoring team has successfully conducted assessments of 12 hajj group operators (HGOs).

Umar Butt mentioned that preparations are underway to distribute coupon for sacrificial animal to the pilgrims at their accommodations. Additionally, he stated that a total of 522 Moavineen, including a medical mission, are currently present in Saudi Arabia to provide comprehensive assistance.



QUETTA: Haq Do Tehreek (HDT) Leader, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman expressing solidarity with Mama Qadeer during his visit to missing persons camp in front of Quetta Press Club.

Sherry Rehman expresses full solidarity with families of martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman Sunday strongly condemned the violent incidents of 9th May terming it as 'a black stain on Pakistan's history and expressed full solidarity with families of martyrs.

The whole nation stands with armed forces and those who insulted the martyrs deserve the worst punishment", she said while talking to PTV news channel.

The vandalism of the civil properties and defence installations on May 9 has exposed the wicked face of Imran Niazi and the government would have zero tolerance by taking strict action against attackers, she added.

The minister said that it was our priority to look after the families of those Shuhada who sacrificed their lives for Pakistan, adding that all rioters and culprits involved in any state and anti-army activities would be dealt with the iron hand.

The entire nation is proud of its valiant martyrs who displayed the spirit of patriotism in testing times throughout the history, she added. The martyrs of Pakistan are our real heroes and a great asset, whose sacrifices should be remembered and appreciated by the nation, she mentioned.

Pak-Turkiye..

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leave. At the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister attended his inauguration ceremony in Ankara on June 3.

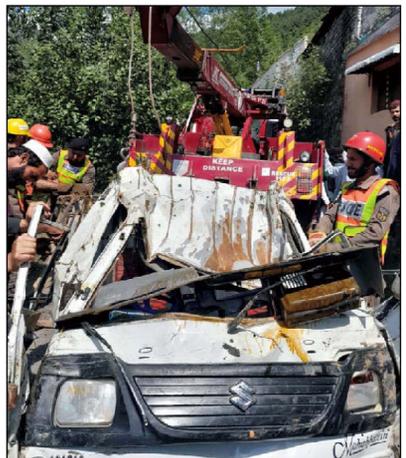
During his stay, the prime minister also held interaction with world leaders and discussed bilateral ties and cooperation in diverse fields between Pakistan and their respective countries.

He also held meetings with various delegations of business and trade companies and entities of Turkey and discussed prospects of vast business and investment potential that existed between the two brotherly countries in various sectors.

The prime minister's visit was a reaffirmation of the deep-rooted fraternal ties between Pakistan and Turkey.

The prime minister conveyed warm felicitations on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan to President Erdogan on his re-election as President of Turkey on May 28.

"Pakistan-Turkiye relationship is deeply embedded in commonalities of faith, culture and history, and strengthened by mutual trust and convergence of views on regional and global matters. Frequent leadership level exchanges are a defining feature of the eternal bonds of friendship between the two countries," Foreign Office Spokesperson in the earlier statement had said.



ABBOTTABAD: Rescue 1122 officials are busy rescue operation after traffic accident due to over speeding, located on Harnoi area in Abbottabad.



Federal Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarrar attended the closing ceremony of first ever 3 day teacher training workshop for law faculty members "Designing and Teaching Effective Law Courses for Legal Academics" as a Chief Guest.

Pakistan must begin journey of reducing plastic waste: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the occasion of World Environment Day 2023, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said that the consequences of plastic pollution are intense and long term, as it irreversibly damages our environment and threatens the very fabric of life on earth, from the highest mountains to the deepest ocean trenches. Under this year's theme 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution', centered around addressing the grave concern of plastic under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, Minister Rehman urged a call for action as plastic production is set to triple by 2060 if "business-as-usual" continues, according to a statement issued here.

The Minister shared the 7R's Action Agenda which marks the country's commitment to combat plastic pollution and initiate its journey towards reducing plastic waste. The Agenda includes encouraging conscious choices to minimize plastic consumption ("Reduce"), promoting the redesign of plastic products and manufacturing processes to minimize environmental impact ("Redesign"), emphasizing the extension of product lifespans and reducing reliance on single-use plastics through reusing ("Re-use"), advocating for effective recycling practices to recycle plastic waste into new materials and alleviate pressure on landfills and oceans ("Recycle"), and highlighting the shared responsibility of individuals, busi-

nesses, and communities in managing plastic waste and promoting sustainable practices ("Responsibility"). The Minister also acknowledges the significance of scientific research and innovation ("Research") in developing cost-effective and sustainable solutions to combat plastic pollution. Furthermore, the Minister stresses the importance of providing support and resources, particularly to developing nations, in their fight against the global challenge of plastic pollution ("Resource").

The Minister said that plastic waste finds its way into our soil and waterways, and each year, an estimated 3.3 million tonnes of plastics are wasted in Pakistan, equal to the height of two K-2 mountains.



ISLAMABAD: Spectators watching final of Junior Polo Exhibition Match played between Islamabad Club Junior and Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club Junior teams at Islamabad Club Polo Ground.

PMDC decides to hold MDCAT exam on Aug 27

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has decided to hold the Medical and Dental Admission Examination (MDCAT) on August 27, 2023.

The decision was made in the council meeting chaired by President PM&DC Dr Rizwan Taj. The council decided that the syllabus of the MDCAT will remain the same as last year's exam.

The council directed all provincial secretaries to start preparing for the said exam. The decision was made keeping in view the larger interest of students.

Last year, almost 204,259 students appeared in exams while this year 210,000 students are likely to appear in the exams.

Medical universities from all four provinces and the federal capital will again conduct the exams as per the

provincial curriculum. The council emphasized that prior to exams all stakeholders will be taken on board like public medical universities' examination departments to ensure the secrecy of exams.

The MDCAT paper difficult index will also be taken into consideration for ease of students without compromising merit to ensure that all provinces conduct exams without any trouble to students.

It was decided that the NUMS will be the admitting university responsible for admissions in all armed forces-administered medical and dental colleges and institutes.

The NUMS admission test will be considered at par with the national MDCAT to be applicable only for admission in all armed forces-administered medical and dental colleges.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters swimming to get some relief from hot weather at Rawal Lake spill way stream.

Experts advise public to monitor blood pressure regularly

ISLAMABAD (INP): Health experts on Sunday advised the public to monitor their blood pressure (hypertension) regularly which silently can be deadly and lead to a host of serious problems, including heart attack, heart failure and stroke.

Talking to PTV news channel, Renowned Cardiologist Dr. Azhar Mahmood Kayani explained that stress plays a major role in developing the condition, either by temporarily increasing your blood pressure or by leading you toward unhealthy coping strategies, such as smoking. If a person's blood pressure is higher than 180/120 mm Hg and experienc-

ing signs of possible organ damage such as chest pain, shortness of breath, back pain, numbness/weakness, change in vision or difficulty speaking, do not wait to see the doctor, he added.

Hypertension is a chronic disease characterized by high blood pressure, he said, adding, it is one of the main risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

He also underlined the need of creating awareness among the people about the use of healthy diet care, and prevention in order to control the spread of the disease. Screening is also a quick and painless process and you get the results immediately, he added.

AIOU stands tall in global ranking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) ranked 1st among 66 Pakistani universities in recent Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 (THE's Rankings) in SGD-4 (quality education).

According to the details, SGD-4 measures universities' contribution to early years and lifelong learning, their pedagogy research, and their commitment to inclusive education.

Globally, AIOU ranked 25th among 1304 international universities in this category being the only university from Pakistan to make it into the top 25 global universities.

Keeping in view last year's rankings, AIOU jumped to 1 from 20th in Pakistan and 25th from 400-600 in this year's rankings.

Facilities to deliver Zamzam to Hajj pilgrims unveiled

ISLAMABAD (APP): Facilities have been unveiled to make Zamzam water accessible to Muslim pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) where thousands of people are arriving ahead of the Hajj pilgrimage due later this month.

The KSA Al Zamazamah Company has mobilised its human resources and set up nine field centres operating around the clock to deliver Zamzam right to residences of pilgrims in the holy city of Makkah.

"The field service centres are working around the clock in Makkah and the holy places manned by over 950 employees overseen by a group of supervisors and centre managers," said Rayan Zamazmi, the deputy supervisor of the season works.

IRSA releases 158,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 158,700 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 188,500 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarela Dam was 1426.06 feet and was 28.06 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 59,200 cusecs and 60,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1131.70 feet, 81.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 60,600 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively.

Saudi Arabia announces comprehensive Hajj operational plan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Saudi authorities have unveiled their plans for the largest organizational operation in the history of the Hajj season.

The meticulously crafted operational plan, which took a year to develop, aligns with the government agency's strategic goals for 2024, centered on the visionary Vision 2030 initiative, according to Saudi media.

In an announcement by Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Sudais, the president of the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques, it was revealed that a record-breaking 14,000 staff members, along with numerous volunteers, will be deployed in the Two Holy Mosques to cater to the millions of wor-

shippers participating in the pilgrimage.

Dr. Al-Sudais emphasized that this year's Hajj season would focus on achieving the government agency's strategic goals for 2024, aligning with Vision 2030. With the COVID-19 pandemic coming to an end, the authorities are expecting a significant number of pilgrims. Volunteering opportunities will be abundant, and 300,000 copies of the Qur'an will be distributed between the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. The plan also includes more than 35,000 hours of Qur'an recitation and memorization teaching workshops, as well as round-the-clock scientific and orientation broadcasts in 10 languages.

Pak envoy deeply saddened by tragic loss of lives in China's Sichuan province

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on Sunday extended his deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the loss of lives in a landslide in Sichuan province of China.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, he said in a statement.

At least 14 people were killed and five others missing as a result of a landslide in China's southwest Sichuan province on

Sunday morning. The landslide occurred at around 6am on Sunday morning in a mountainous area near Leshan city in the south of the province.

More than 180 rescue workers have been dispatched to the site, with search and rescue operations still ongoing.

The Leshan city was hit by heavy rain over the two days before the incident, weather tracking data indicated.



ISLAMABAD: A view of fire extinguisher install bed shop keeper outside his shop at H-9 Sunday Bazar as after fire in weekly Sunday Bazar shop-keepers are taking care by their own.

31000 Sikhs vote in Sydney Amid Hindutva threats, venue cancellations to stop Khalistan Referendum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Over 31,000 Sikhs voted for Khalistan Referendum in Sydney amid stiff resistance from the Indian government and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal campaign to stop Sikhs from holding the third phase of the referendum in Australia.

The Sydney phase of Khalistan Referendum was organised to mark the anniversary of the 1984 Operation Blue Star Amritsar Genocide when Indian authorities killed thousands of Sikhs during a bloody attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib (popularly known as the Golden Temple).

Thousands of Sikh men and women queued outside Shaheed General Shabeg Singh Khalistan Referendum Voting Centre on Sterling Road, Michinbury, from 9am and cast their votes till 5pm under the supervision of independent Punjab Referendum Commission which is overseeing the worldwide referendum voting, commissioned by Pro-Khalistan separatist group, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

Two weeks before Khalistan Referendum voting in Sydney, PM Modi was in Australia where he met the Australian gov't authorities and urged them to stop Sikhs from going ahead with voting but the Australian gov't told Modi that the whole Canberra respected India's position it was not in position to stop its own citizens from expressing their legal and democratic right. Pro-Khalistan Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) booked Khalistan Referendum voting at four different venues but all venues ended up cancelling the booking citing security and organisational issues as Hindutva groups, backed by the Indian gov't, raised false alarms of potential violence between Sikh and Hindutva groups with the centres. Large-sized banners and posters hung outside the venue with the following slogans: "Khalistan Referendum Australia, Shimla Capital secession of Punjab from India"; "1984 Sikh Genocide, 100+ Sikhs burnt alive in furnaces by India's Hindu mobs"; "Khalistan Rerendum."



ISLAMABAD: Workers working on 9th Avenue Flyover at IJP Road during development work in the city.

Law Minister emphasises need for professional education of lawyers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on Sunday emphasized the need for life-long education among members of the legal profession through the provision of continued professional education. The minister expressed these views while attending the closing ceremony of the first-ever 3-day teacher training workshop for law faculty members "Designing and Teaching Effective Law Courses for Legal Academics" as a Chief Guest. The workshop was the outcome of a collaboration between the Directorate of Legal Education (DLE), the Pakistan Bar Council, the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law and the LUMS Learning Institute.

workshop comprised active learning sessions focused on course structure, methods of instruction and assessment, along with substantive sessions on both private and public law.

Usama Malik, Director, Directorate of Legal Education, PBC and Dr Sadaf Aziz, Dean Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law was present at the occasion. Senior Judges from the Lahore High Court attended the event including Justice Ali Baqir Najafi, Justice Jawad Hassan and Justice Asim Hafeez.

Senior members of the Pakistan Bar Council including Ahsan Bhoon and Hassan Raza Pasha also graced the occasion. The law minister appreciated the intent and design of the workshop and the collective experience and expertise of the participants.

He spoke about the renewed efforts of the Pakistan Bar Council and the Directorate of Legal Educa-

tion headed by Usama Malik to ensure conformity with Legal Education Rules 2015 and the standards established by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in Pakistan Bar Council v.

Federation of Pakistan reported as 2019 SCMR, 389 where it was emphasized that the "Provision of good quality legal education is inextricably linked with the dispensation of justice that the Bar is responsible for ensuring". Recent directives to ensure a non-practising allowance for law instructors and the crackdown on sub-standard law colleges are some of the mechanisms for ensuring such standard setting. Moreover, former President Supreme Court Bar Association Ahsan Bhoon and Chairman Executive Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council Hassan Raza Pasha also praised the initiative taken by Usama Malik and Dr Sadaf Aziz to uplift the standard of law faculty members.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change Senator Scemez Ezedi in a group photograph with participants during a cleanliness drive at the Shahdara Margalla Hills National Park to commemorate World Environment Day on June 5th.

Speaker NA to inaugurate 2-day seminar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) and the Federal Ministry of Law and Justice have collaborated to organize a momentous two-day event, titled "Reclaiming the Space: Reading the Constitution from Women's Perspective" scheduled to be commenced on Monday (5 June).

The seminar is to mark the first-ever initiative in Pakistan's 75-year history to examine, analyze and deliberate upon the constitution from a woman's perspective.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf would inaugurate this seminar as the chief guest. The Speaker will also deliver a keynote speech to inaugurate this seminar for empowering women through the Constitution.

The inaugural session of the seminar would comprise on a series of accentuated roundtables under the themes of Language of the Constitution, Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Women's Representation and Political/Electoral Participation.

The roundtable Sessions will be chaired by Members of Parliament, including Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Dr. Nafisa Shah, Eng Rukhsana Zubart and Ms. Shaista Perwaiz Malik, respectively.

Implement service provider agreement for private cheme Hujjaj

ISLAMABAD (APP): The high-level monitoring team, responsible for overseeing the arrangements for Hajj conducted by hajj group organizers, has made a firm commitment to ensure the provision of facilities to private scheme hujjaj in accordance with the service provider agreement signed between the Hajj group organizers and the ministry.

During an interview with APP, Arshad Farid, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, who is in charge of the monitoring cell, stated that the ministry's monitoring team has effectively conducted assessments

of 12 hajj group organizers. In the upcoming 20 days, a total of 75,000 intending pilgrims from the private hajj scheme will arrive in Saudi Arabia. It is noteworthy that, up until now, no complaints have been received from any private pilgrims.

Call for youth to play role for religious tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Calling the youth for playing a role for the promotion and protection of religious tourism in Pakistan, Gandhara Chair at the University of Wah Dr Nadeem Omer Tarar said that Pakistan had huge potential for religious tourism and attracted religious minorities both from home and abroad.

"Pakistan is a predominantly Muslim country but we have footprints of major religions of the world and historical worship places of Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism making a vast historical canvas of this land."

"Pakistan being a Muslim country is also the custodian of all of these religions," said Dr Tarar in an interview with APP.

"When we talk about all the religious minorities in Pakistan, the less information we have is about Buddhists."

We had Hindus and Christians on the minister level but this constitutional minority of Buddhists could not get the proper representation compared to the other minorities, he

added. "It is very important for these minorities to visit and perform religious rituals in their sacred places. The teachings of Budha make it mandatory for the followers to visit their places as they serve as a spiritual center for them," Dr Tarar said, who is also working for Gandhara Resource Center at Taxila.

"Potential in religious tourism is like 'if there is a smoke there is a fire', so we have the smoke and it must be ignited into the fire. We have the sacred places and our Archaeology and Aukaf departments have well preserved them at some level."

"All we need is to realize this potential to grow our economy."

"There is a dire need to educate the masses to play a role in this sector of the economy which needs to be explored and maintained." "The awareness cannot be created merely through lectures, but the media should play its role in making films, writing stories, and short film festivals having stories and information about Buddhists who visit Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A view of dilapidated fountain on a green belt at Aabpara Chowk, as needs to attention for concern authority, in Federal Capital.

Police gets approval of college for quality education to cops' children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police on Sunday have got approval for the establishment of Islamabad Police Shuhada Model College at Police Line Headquarters under the administrative control of Federal Directorate of Education (FDE).

A piece of land will be provided by Islamabad Police for the College which would have multi-faceted role to provide free quality education from Pre-School to Intermediate (HSSC) level with modern early child education and STEM Hybrid learning facility. It would also run a parallel stream of skills/TVET education by offering Matric-tech and Inter-tech programs, police said.

Minister for Interior Rana Sanaulah Khan and Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain have taken special interest for this initiative and termed it as a step to pay immense tribute to the sacrifices rendered by Martyrs. The admissions against the available slots shall have a priority for children of Shuhada followed by the children of Islamabad police personnel and others. The status of the college will be elevated to residential cadet college jointly managed by FDE and Islamabad police after a specified period of time having demonstrated quality repute and subject to the viability assessed by both FDE and Islamabad police.

Monday June 05, 2023

Advancing Balochistan's Development Through PPP

In a recent meeting led by Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili, the Executive Committee of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Authority made significant strides in bolstering Balochistan's development. The approval of a new project in line with the PPP mode signals a proactive approach towards addressing crucial areas of growth and progress.

One of the key approved projects focuses on the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, with a specific emphasis on establishing a state-of-the-art Center of Excellence Hub in Hub, Balochistan. This initiative, operated by the esteemed private institution ZABTEC, aims to offer training in over 18 different trades to approximately 2,700 students over the next three years. By bridging the skills gap and equipping individuals with relevant expertise, this endeavor will contribute to empowering the local workforce and enhancing employability prospects.

Furthermore, the meeting directed the Lasbella Industrial and Economic Development Authority (LIEDA) to expedite efforts in launching HUB SEZ Phase-II. The PPP Authority has received proposals to promote various industries within this phase, underscoring the government's commitment to fostering economic growth and development. Additionally, the progress made on SEZ Phase-I under the federal and provincial Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) was acknowledged, reflecting the dedication to executing comprehensive plans for industrial expansion.

Education emerged as a paramount concern during the meeting, with a briefing from the Taaleem Foundation on the work plan and progress of the Kharaan Technical Training Center. The government's assurance in removing obstacles hindering the foundation's activities highlights their commitment to creating an enabling environment for quality education. It was heartening to learn that full-scale academic activities at the center will commence from August, signaling the government's emphasis on providing educational opportunities that equip the youth with the skills needed to excel in their chosen fields.

The gathering also addressed the decision to entrust the operation of the Green Bus Service in Quetta to a private company, underscoring the government's focus on modern transportation facilities for the city's residents. The Chief Secretary's directive to expedite the implementation of this project highlights the administration's dedication to providing convenient and efficient public transportation services. The Secretary of Transport's comprehensive work plan, to be presented in the upcoming two weeks, further demonstrates their commitment to swift and effective execution.

The commendable efforts of Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili and the Executive Committee of the Public-Private Partnership Authority must be acknowledged. Their vision, supported by relevant officials, signifies a proactive and collaborative approach towards achieving Balochistan's developmental goals. These initiatives, spanning education, industry, and transportation sectors, will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in improving the lives of the province's residents.

It is crucial to recognize the significance of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable development. The successful implementation of these projects will not only create job opportunities but also strengthen the economy and improve the overall quality of life for the people of Balochistan. It is imperative for the government and relevant stakeholders to continue their collaborative efforts and ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of these initiatives.

By harnessing the potential of public-private partnerships, Balochistan can chart a path towards progress, prosperity, and inclusive growth. The commitment demonstrated during this meeting sets a positive precedent for future endeavors. It is through such concerted efforts that we can build a thriving Balochistan, where opportunities abound, and the aspirations of its people are realized.



Muhammad Amir Rana

The May 9 riots will keep haunting the country's political landscape for a long time. The investigation into what transpired and led to riots and acts of sabotage following the PTI chief's arrest requires time, an objective and scientific analysis, and detachment from any political prejudices. As the aftermath of the tragedy is still unfolding, a better approach will be to also scrutinise similar incidents that happened in the recent past and how the state dealt with them.

A foremost and recent case is that of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan, a religious-political group that took the politics of vandalism to new heights. Just two years earlier, the TLP had taken to the roads and streets of the major cities

to force the government to implement its commitment regarding the expulsion of the French ambassador from the country. The police and paramilitary forces failed to control the fanatic elements. Hard-pressed by the TLP 'onslaught', the government decided to remove the names of several TLP leaders, including Saad Rizvi, from a terrorism watch list, and to annul the group's proscribed status. Before granting legitimacy to the group, the government had banned the TLP, declaring it an internal security threat and a bad omen for Pakistan's international image.

Interestingly, Imran Khan's government had inked an agreement with the TLP, providing it relief. The security institutions were evidently on board in making the decision, as the TLP leaders claimed in their public sermons. During his tenure, the PTI chief considered religious organisations like the TLP his real opposition and tried hard to establish the religious credentials of his own party through religious sloganeering and a few half-baked policy initiatives. He was a direct witness to how

the state had tolerated religious groups. Despite these groups' involvement in acts of sabotage and attacks on security forces, and giving a bad name to the country, they were not completely abandoned.

Perhaps this factor contributed to the construction of Khan's political strategy. Initially the blue-eyed boy of the establishment and willing to serve it even after his expulsion from the government, he might have thought that TLP-styled vandalism could force it to initiate a dialogue with him. If this was the case, he committed a blunder. He ignored that although the PTI was using a 'religious touch' for political purposes as all other political parties did in the past, it did not transform his party into a religious group that the establishment would trust.

Ironically, when he took his aggressive stance to an extreme, almost all banned organisations and the TLP took to the streets to protest. The TLP announced a 'save Pakistan' march against the PTI, while an alliance of sectarian and banned organisations, the Difa-i-

Pakistan Council, became active overnight against the PTI and announced a one-agenda movement to preempt 'conspiracies' allegedly hatched by politicians to hurt the country's 'national interest'.

These religious groups have political usage for the state, and the latter uses them as it wants, and in return, these groups gain breathing space to save their political economy. These groups never compromise on their narratives based on religious hatred, and ultimately nurture extremism. While exploiting the power of their toxic narratives, they remain in search of avenues where they can become independent. This is like a game, which has been going on for decades, and it is the design of the state that the institutions cannot go against religious groups after a certain limit. It is different from political parties as the latter can share power with the establishment to a certain extent. Economy, governance and foreign relations are so interlinked that eventually disagreement surfaces between the civilian governments and the establishment.

The PTI head could not evaluate the inherent distinctions between the TLP and TTP and took his anti-establishment narrative to a level at par with Khadim Rizvi's religious hatred-based narrative. The state institutions had lifted the ban on the TLP, but were a ban to be imposed on the PTI it would be a long struggle for the party to gain legitimacy in the eyes of the establishment. After using a minimum level of vandalism, almost all mainstream political parties have reached the consensus that a peaceful struggle and dialogue are the way out for the survival of the national political landscape. Political parties have learned the art of dealing with the establishment and hardly go against it. If unavoidable clashes erupt, the political elites are clever enough to make a deal at a certain level to protect their interests.

In their predictions of a post-PTI political landscape, a factor that worries some analysts is the youth associated with the party. Though several aspects are to be considered, young PTI supporters may behave like the political workers of nationalist parties and the PPP.

Except for a few exceptions, they will not be inclined to join the TTP or TLP. PTI's support base is diverse, and not limited to the salaried or middle class anymore; low-income groups' support may be divided among political parties and religious groups, but a 'delusional' class exists.

Political haze and self-censorship may halt one from thinking clearly, but the PTI may not have been completely ousted from future political projections. The party did what it did and cannot reverse what is happening to it now. The establishment will not forgive the May 9 incidents, but Khan should analyse why a mainstream political party cannot capture the turf of a religious group. Religious groups are entrenched in the construct of the power elite, which is using them for several purposes. The turf for political parties is different. The politics of hate cannot be justified, but popular political parties use religious, ethnic and racial rhetoric for political gains. However, if they fail to deliver, they fail the party, but religious and other divisions continue to exist. -- Courtesy Dawn

Sacrificing their today for nation's tomorrow



Abdul Shakoor Khan

Living nations are always alive to safeguard their territories and people with security forces standing undeterred against all odds coming in the line of duty and many laying down their lives for the secure future of people.

They, either in the form of Regular Armed forces, paramilitary, or within the police force, sacrifice their today for the nation's tomorrow sometimes leaving behind painful tales of grief and agony. Such tales are all around within each security force as heirs often recall and commemorate their dear ones who were no more with them but left behind a legacy of commitment, courage, and valor.

"My brother's young children do not know that their father is no longer in this world, so they keep

asking when baba (father) will bring our toys," said Muhammad Akbar, whose brother Sepoy Muhammad Hayat embraced martyrdom in a bomb blast attack in Kachchi district of Balochistan.

Muhammad Akbar says his brother had promised toys with his children on return from historic Sibi Mela but way back home aboard the Balochistan Constabulary vehicle, he and his colleagues were targeted at Kambri Bridge in Bolan area of the Kachchi district.

"It is incredibly difficult for me to describe to Hayat's kids what happened to their father and how long they had to wait for him," Mohammad Akbar sobbed in agony.

Nine personnel of Balochistan Constabulary were killed and ten were injured in this tragic incident. These officials had gone to Sibi for security and other duties in the Sibi Mela.

Valiant police martyr Mohammad Hayat, hailing from Mastung district joined police at a time when many incidents of hitting security forces were rampant across the province and his is not the

only tale of police warriors who were laying down their lives to secure the people.

"Neither fear of death nor tough police job deterred them from continuing their professional commitments," Balochistan government spokesperson Babar Yusufzai said.

Paying homage to the martyrs of armed forces and personnel of law enforcement agencies, he said: "The government values them much more."

"We always remember them individually and nationwide," he said and mentioned celebrating Youm-e-Takrem Shuhada-e-Pakistan to commemorate the sacrifices of valiant sons of the motherland.

"It is due to such sacrifices that Balochistan is now on the road to prosperity and development. The undeterred commitment of our forces has finally ended up 'no go areas' in Balochistan."

To restore durable peace in Balochistan, a large number of officers and officials of police had laid down their lives.

According to Police Spokesman Muhammad

Aslam Khan as many as 1004 personnel and high-ranking officers of Police embraced martyrdom in the line of duty including one DIG, three SSPs, one SP, 21 DSPs, and 23 Inspectors.

"Being Police Chief, I belong to the families of martyrs and they belong to me. Shuhada-e-Pakistan are our heroes whose sacrifices can never be allowed to be demeaned or undermined by anyone," said Inspector General (IG) Balochistan Police Abdul Khaliq Shaikh.

"Martyrs wrote the history of our defense with their blood. A nation cannot forget their sacrifices. They are alive in the heavens and in our hearts," Khaliq Shaikh said.

"Entire nation expresses solidarity with the martyrs and their families." Therefore, the Balochistan government, in recognition of their services, has approved an increase in compensation amount by amending the Police and Levies Martyrs Compensation Policy. Now, the compensation for Shaheed Sepoy, Head Constable, ASI, SI, and Inspector (Grade 1 to 16)

has been increased from Rs three million to Rs10 million, and for Shaheed ASP and DSP (Grade 17) has been increased from Rs five million to Rs15 million.

Similarly, compensation for Police and Levies officers of grades 18 and 19 has been increased from Rs nine million to Rs20 million and that for martyred police officers of grades 20 to 22 it been increased from Rs10 million to Rs20 million besides other material compensations.

"Although money cannot be a substitute for human lives yet it brings some respite to the grieving families," said the IGP.

"Caring for the families of martyrs is our supreme responsibility and we always salute them as our saviors."

Reiterating the government's commitment

to continue supporting the armed forces, they praised the efforts of the military and law enforcement institutions in defending the country's people and borders.

"We are proud of our forces who laid down their lives for their motherland. Their sacrifices for restoration of durable peace would be remembered for long," they remarked.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi also spoke highly of the great sacrifices rendered by Province's security forces.

"Matchless sacrifice of law enforcers to secure the nation's future will not go in vain," Dr Buledi said. "It is only due to their sacrifices that people live in peace. They are our real heroes and actual heroes and living nations never forget their martyrs."

"As our soldiers sacrifice their lives on the war front, it is the shared responsibility of the whole nation to stand united against saboteurs and curb the menace of terrorism and lawlessness," he added.

Perils of punditry



Abbas Nasir

If the government decides to call for elections just a few days shy of the current parliament's term-end, the caretaker administration will have 90 days in which to complete the process, and if the term is completed, then in 60 days. This would translate into elections in the first half of either October or November.

My own bet would be November as that would give more time to the government coalition parties and their backers to get a tighter grasp on the process. Two important offices will change hands in September. The president's term ends on Sept 9 and the chief justice of Pakistan's seven days later, on the 16th.

Despite President Arif Alvi's quick ascent earlier this week to legislation passed by parliament to expand the scope of reviews in the Supreme Court verdicts in suo motu cases, the government and its powerful allies would not have forgotten his foot-dragging on other pieces of legislation passed by parliament on multiple occasions.

While after the elections the new parliament will elect a new president, for now the powers that be may be far more comfortable with their own long-term protégé, the Senate chairman, who seems also to have been adopted by the PML-N-led coalition government.

The other change will be in the office of the chief justice of Pakistan as Justice Qazi Faez Isa takes over from the soon-to-re-

tire incumbent chief justice. Government figures have been critical of the latter as they perceive a softer approach on his part towards the PTI.

This criticism appears to partially stem from the Supreme Court judgement in the floor-crossing case in the election of Hamza Shehbaz as Punjab chief minister where even eminent lawyers said the Constitution was being rewritten rather than interpreted.

The court ruled that the legislators voting against the party whip would not only lose their assembly membership, as the Constitution mandated, but also that their vote would not count. Ergo, Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi was reinstated as the provincial chief executive.

Many political commentators attribute the current crisis in the country to that judgement. Government ministers were outraged, claiming bias. This perception might have been reinforced by the forming of benches, as the Supreme Court rules empower the CJP to do, following seemingly inexplicable criteria that excluded some of the most senior and respected judges from hearing cases of political significance.

It is now clear that every impediment, legal or otherwise, will be placed in the path of the PTI and its leader going forward. The party and its leader, perhaps under the false impression of substantial support in key institutions, may have grossly overplayed their hand on May 9. Who knows what they'd been led to believe by utterly over-the-top YouTubers, over-egging the pudding for more followers, views and the consequent monetary windfall. Or had insiders misread the mood within and sold an utterly fictional scenario? Whatever the case, a strategy devised on

a false premise failed and the paycheck has been severe.

It is assumed that any legal bar on the party, or more significantly, on its leader will end up in the superior judiciary and, therefore, it would be better when, in the view of the government and its backers, the formation of more neutral and balanced benches is likely.

However, those placing too much hope in the set-up beyond mid-September would do well to remember that all of the judges excluded from hearing cases in recent months, including the senior puisne judge, are fiercely independent and strong-minded. So, the cases before them would have to be watertight to get a favourable verdict.

All of the above factors must be among the variables going into the matrix as decision-makers prepare their plans for the next elections and, equally important, 'the before and after' scenarios. The PTI seems to be collapsing like a house of cards.

Its supporters argue with justification that their fanatical support base across the country can't be ignored or disenfranchised. But they should also consider that it is equally true that a party network and organisational structure is what delivers that support to the polling stations and translates into votes.

Candidates play an important role as well. A popular party may poll a certain percentage of votes in every constituency but every party looks for strong candidates who bring their own vote banks with them, particularly in rural and/or semi-urban constituencies. As we speak, the PTI is looking a bit vulnerable in this area. Let's see what sort of a line-up they are able to muster for the elections. -- Courtesy Dawn

Another court



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

Are constitutional courts an idea whose time has come in Pakistan? The proposal to constitute one was seriously presented in the Charter of Democracy signed by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in 2006 after the Supreme Court legitimised the 1999 military coup. The PPP, which came to power in 2008, did not make a serious effort to implement this particular aspect of the CoD. Even when almost a third of the Constitution was modified through the 18th Amendment in 2010 on the PPP's initiative, the idea of a constitutional court could not be accommodated in the package of amendments.

The PPP tried to raise the question of a constitutional court in the Senate in 2015 during the PML-N's rule, but the matter didn't seem to get very far. Recently, the prime minister's special assistant on legal reforms and accountability, while criticising the Supreme Court's performance, once again mooted the idea of a constitutional court. The main reasons for establishing a parallel constitutional court — according to him, and as quoted in the media — are that there is a 'division' among the Supreme Court judges, and the process of forming benches is reportedly 'biased', leading to 'political engineering'. The SAPM, therefore, thought that the solution for the 'division' and 'biased judgements' would be the establishment of a constitutional court. He also gave some fea-

tures of the proposed court. For example, he mentioned that the constitutional court would comprise former and 'non-controversial' chief justices, judges of the superior courts and parliamentarians who are knowledgeable about legal matters.

The idea of a constitutional court is not a novel one, and quick research shows that over 60 countries have dedicated constitutional courts functioning side by side with the apex courts which deal with regular criminal and civil cases. It makes sense especially in a country like Pakistan where the Supreme Court, like other courts in the country, is beset with a heavy pendency of cases. In fact, there is an increasing tendency to take urgent political-constitutional matters to the courts, which end up — in due time — in the Supreme Court, or the apex court opts to take suo motu notice of a matter which it considers to be of public interest. In both cases, the increasing workload of such urgent cases relegates regular criminal and civil cases to lower priority — much to the anguish and pain of the litigants. A dedicated constitutional court may help check the tendency of 'urgent' cases interfering with the sequence and pace of regular criminal and civil cases in the Supreme Court.

The idea of a constitutional court is, therefore, a worthwhile one but needs to be seriously debated not only in parliament but also in various other forums such as bar associations, civil society organisations, and the media before a decision is taken in principle. Details such as the composition, qualifications and procedure for appointing and removal of judges, etc, will also need careful consideration.

Since a constitutional amendment will almost certainly be required to establish a constitu-

tional court in the country and the current National Assembly doesn't have the required numbers to take a decision on a constitutional amendment, the matter will have to wait until the new National Assembly is elected five to six months from now. It is, therefore, difficult to understand the objective of mooted proposal at this time when several other urgent matters require the attention of both the government and opposition for resolution.

Although there is no harm in initiating a debate on the subject in society, in the context of the present unenviable state of relations between the government and parliament on one hand and the Supreme Court on the other, the proposal may be considered a political ploy to exert pressure on the apex court, which may further vitiate the environment.

Our long experience with the legislation and institutions in Pakistan indicates that unless there is a strong will and a proper mechanism for effective and faithful implementation of the law, mere legislation and the creation of new institutions will not serve any purpose. Instead, they end up further complicating the processes and burdening the public exchequer.

If the government is not satisfied with the performance of the judges who have gone through a rigorous process to rise through the ranks, have decades of experience to their credit, and whose elevation, at least in recent times, was made possible with the consent of government representatives in the judicial commission, how can they be sure that a new institutional will not invite similar complaints from them? -- Courtesy Dawn

Mohsin Naqvi says: Those occupying property, or assets of overseas Pakistanis will be dealt with iron hand

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has issued directions to the Inspector General of Police to promptly redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi has directed that the Inspector General of Police should personally monitor complaint redressal system of overseas Pakistanis.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi further directed that all Commissioners, RPOs, Deputy Commissioners and DPOs should leave no stone unturned to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis in their relevant cities.

Mohsin Naqvi directed the administrative and police officers to personally redress the

grievances of overseas Pakistanis and they should submit a report to the CM Office every month.

Mohsin Naqvi directed that relevant overseas Pakistani should be kept posted regularly on the progress being made with regard to redressal of every complaint adding that a time frame should be chalked out to resolve the problems of overseas Pakistanis residing abroad.

Mohsin Naqvi asserted that every complaint should be disposed off in a minimum span of time adding that a slow paced traditional action on a complaint being sent by a portal, telephone or by mail will not be tolerated.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that concerned officers will monitor steps being taken to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis in the CM Office as well.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi remarked that those occupying property, estate or assets of overseas Pakistanis will be dealt with an iron hand. Mohsin Naqvi said that overseas Pakistanis are ambassador of their country residing abroad and prompt redressal of their grievances is our foremost responsibility.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his deep sense of sorrow over finding dead bodies of two young brothers from a house at Millat Park. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi has sought a report about the sorrowful incident from CCPO Lahore.

Mohsin Naqvi directed to probe the sorrowful incident from every aspect and facts should be brought to light.



FAISALABAD: U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer along with U.S. Consul General Lahore William K. Makanele visits the Center for Advanced Studies at University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Apex Committee meeting CM KP to accelerate implementation of decisions

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday took notice of the delay in the implementation of the decisions of the Provincial Apex Committee Meeting held on May 24.

Now, it was decided to prepare a rapid response contingency plan to prevent untoward incidents as per the decisions made in the Apex Committee Meeting, under the Chairmanship of the Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan.

He while addressing the meeting, said that the Rapid Response Contingency Plan could not be prepared till now which has no proper justification for delaying of

the said plan.

Work on preparation of the contingency plan is going on, it will be ready soon, CCPO Syed Ashfaq Anwar informed the Chief Minister during the meeting.

CCPO said that work on the contingency plan under the leadership of the Home Department would be completed very soon. A decision was also taken in the meeting of the APEX Committee to allocate a Police Force equipped with modern equipment for the security of red zones.

The concept paper for the preparation of the Police Force will be prepared and sent to the authorities soon and the red zone will be

determined in Islamabad style, CCPO said. It was also decided to identify the important government buildings and facilities located outside the red zones.

CCPO said that identification of important government buildings is complete and arrangements are being made. It was decided to set up giant control rooms at the provincial and division levels to prevent untoward incidents. At the Peshawar level, the Giant Control Room is operational, the CCPO informed.

Likewise, the work on Red Zone Security Circle is in progress, CCPO Syed Ashfaq Anwar said.

Joint efforts needed to restore credibility of justice system: Bilal

JHELUM (INP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Sunday said that Pakistan was grappling with a "grave crisis of justice provision" and the legal fraternity should work together with the political leadership to ensure the delivery of justice to the people and restore the credibility, dignity and efficiency of the justice system.

He was talking to a delegation of Jhelum Bar Association led by its President Sheikh Ikram Advocate here.

Kayani said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made difficult but right decisions which proved to be in favour of the people with the passage of time. He acknowledged the pivotal role of the 1100 billion federal development programme in driving Pakistan's economic recovery and expressed the

confidence that by tackling the economic crisis alongside political unrest and corruption, the country would be able to overcome these challenges successfully.

He was of the view that the formation of a particular bench had tarnished the credibility of the judiciary, which also depicted double standard of justice. He further viewed that "the Chief Justice of Pakistan should put his house [Supreme Court] in order". "The media and lawyers always played a pivotal role in upholding the constitution, resorting the democracy and safeguarding the people's rights, and given the current situation of the country, the calls for collaborative efforts between the legal fraternity, political leadership and media have grown stronger," Kayani added. During the meeting, the delegation presented their issues and demands.



HYDERABAD: Former Chief Minister Sindh and senior leader Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Syed Qaim Ali Shah addressing a press Conference at Ansari House.

Foreign Experts declare PM's successful visit to Turkiya as new heights of bilateral relations

PESHAWAR (INP): International relations and political experts here Sunday termed the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the brotherly country Turkiya was highly successful that would lead bilateral relations including trade between the two brotherly countries to a new height.

They said the Prime Minister's visit to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the Turkish President was the right decision that would further cement trade, economic and bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations.

Former Ambassador, Manzoorul Haq said that the presence of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during the oath-taking ceremony of Turkish

President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his historic welcome, passed a strong message before the world that both countries have immense respect and warmth for each other besides highly valued its deep-rooted relations.

He said there was an almost commonality of views between the two countries on regional and international issues, adding International Relations Minister Erdogan had visited Pakistan several times that showed his immense love for our people. Talking to APP, Ambassador Manzoorul Haq said there was a great scope of increasing trade and economic ties in agriculture, Information technology, construction, communication and energy between both of the countries.



LAHORE: SAPM Rana Mubashir Iqbal listening to the problems of people in Khuli Kachehri at his Dera situated in Khayaban-i-Ameen.

Sindh Government to construct new hospital in Karachi: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Director General of KDA, Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said that Central Hospital Karachi will be constructed at a cost of Rs.400 crore for the citizens at Federal B Area Water Pump with the support of Sindh Government.

He added that on the vision of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto, Sindh Government is taking measures on an emergency basis for the construction and development of the city of Karachi and providing basic rights to the citizens.

He said these words while laying the foundation stone of Central Hospital Karachi the other day.

He was accompanied by Senator Waqar Mehdi, Minister of Labor and Human Resources Saeed Ghani, Secretary LG Najam Ahmad Shah,

senior leader of PPP Dr. Asim, Chief Minister Sindh Coordinator Shehbaz Memon, President District Central PPP Masroor Ahsan, General Secretary District Central Dil Muhammad, political leader Najmi Alam and MC-KMC Syed Shujaat Hussain.

Minister said that health facilities will be provided in the Central Hospital under the supervision of Pakistan Medical Association.

Central Hospital Karachi will consist of 6 floors and a basement including four towers.

In Central Hospital, a trauma center, general hospital, cardiology ward, emergency, gynae, children's emergency medical facilities will be provided to citizens on the basis of modern style.

Three youths killed in various incidents

ATTOCK (APP): As many as three youths were killed in different incidents in various parts of Attock district on Sunday, police and hospital sources said.

In the first incident, a rickshaw driver was shot killed by assassinations in broad daylight on Rawalpindi road in the limits of Fatehjang Police Station.

Police sources said that Nasir Khan, a native of Hangu district of KP was shifted in the town due to some old enmity and driving a rickshaw to earn.

On Sunday, when he was coming on his rickshaw on Rawalpindi road, three masked men riding a motorcycle intercepted him and showered bullets over him, as a result, he died on the spot. The assassins managed to escape from the scene successfully. In the second incident, a 17 years old man died while catching fish through a generator in the river Indus near Jalalia in the limits of Hazro Police station.

Process of 8,500 new promotions in police starts

LAHORE (APP): Superintendent of Police (DSP) rank. New recruitment was being started to make young people full of new blood and enthusiasm a part of the police force, he added.

The advertisement for the above recruitments would come in next few days, so young candidates should start preparing for the exam, he informed.

Dr. Usman Anwar said that there would be a technology-based written test and interview based on computer and communication skills for recruitment, which would check the skills of the youth in information technology, passion to serve the citizens.

CM seeks report over finding dead bodies of two brothers

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday expressed his deep sense of sorrow over finding dead bodies of two young brothers from a house at Millat Park.

Mohsin Naqvi sought a report about the sorrowful incident from CCPO Lahore and directed to probe the sorrowful incident from every aspect and facts should be brought to light.

The CM directed to investigate the incident in a scientific manner and all requirements of justice should be fulfilled.

Ombudsman Punjab provides over 17.2m in financial relief to plaintiffs

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has swiftly responded to public relief requests, effectively resolving the issues faced by 60 individuals across various districts. These proactive efforts have resulted in a cumulative financial relief worth Rs.1,72,38,187 being extended to those in need.

According to a statement issued by a spokesman on Sunday, the University of Mianwali, on the direction of the provincial ombudsman, has disbursed Rs.92,82,843 to 52 students, including plaintiff Muhammad

Hanzala Zubair, as outstanding amounts of their need-based scholarships. Additionally, the District Education Authority Chakwal has granted 2.2 million rupees as financial aid to complainant Haji Mehr Muhammad. In another case, the district administration Lodhran has provided employment dues worth Rs.1.9 million to Ayesha Mai, the widow of deceased Patwari Ghulam Murtaza, the spokesman added. In a separate instance, the administration of Ghazi University in Dera Ghazi Khan has refunded a security deposit amounting to Rs.17,70,824 to complainant Abdul Wahid.

Two members of criminal gang held with arms, snatched bike

KARACHI (INP): The police and Pakistan Rangers Sindh during joint action on Sunday arrested two wanted members of a criminal gang with arms, snatched bike and spare parts of the stolen bikes.

The police and Sindh Rangers on a tip-off regarding presence of wanted criminals launched joint raid in Frontier Colony of Karachi.

During operation, two members of a criminal gang identified including Musadiq alias Muzamil alias Bacha and Sanaulah alias Pehlwan alias Motta were held with a pistol, a motorcycle and spare parts of snatch bikes.

Minister takes notice of shortage of X-ray films in hospitals

RAWALPINDI (Online): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Sunday made surprise visits to Holy Family, Benazir Bhutto Hospital, DHQ and Rawalpindi Institute of Urology, and reviewed the treatment facilities and performance of doctors and paramedical staff.

The minister took notice of the shortage of X-ray films in the city hospitals and called an emergency meeting of the health department on

Monday to review the situation and solve the problem. On the occasion Dr Jamal Nasir warned that no negligence would be tolerated in providing the treatment facilities and strict action would be taken against those found careless in their duty. He said that the doctor's and paramedical staff's protection would be ensured at any cost and patients and their families would not be allowed to take the law into their own hands.

26 teachers suspected in SW

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN (APP): Education Department's action against absentee teachers, twenty-six teachers suspended in South Waziristan, said an official of the Education Department said here on Sunday. The official said that the teachers were suspended for persistent absenteeism and the Education Department formed a committee for further action against suspended teachers. The official said that the Education Department directed the committee to submit its report within seven days.

11 dead, 1135 injured in 1065 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least eleven persons were dead and 1,135 injured in 1,065 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of this 627 people were seriously injured who were shifted to different hospitals. Whereas, 508 minor injured victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals, said a

spokesperson for Rescue-1122 on Sunday.

Further, the analysis showed that 519 drivers, 46 underage drivers, 162 pedestrians, and 465 passengers were among the victims of these road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 245 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 270 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 73 in Faisalabad with 78 victims.

Administrator South says: Improving quality of educational institutions, libraries top priorities

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Administrator DMC South Hammad ND Khan has said that libraries are mirrors of our past, living nations preserve their valuable assets so that this treasure of knowledge can be passed on to future generations. They are beneficial to the students in increasing their ability in various fields.

He expressed these

KARACHI: People attends a traditional breakfast gives Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu at Turkish Consulate General, in Provincial Capital.

thoughts on the occasion of visiting the model library in Jamshed Ahmed Khan School located in the Hijat Colony. Administrator South Hammad ND Khan said that libraries are places where people come to quench their thirst for knowledge and take the wealth of knowledge with them. In this regard, the environment of libraries must be conducive and calm for study.

Hammad ND Khan further said that in any society Education and library departments play an important role in maintaining positive and healthy traditions. Along with ongoing development work in South District, improving the quality of educational institutions and libraries is one of our priorities.



HYDERABAD: Columnist and writer Muhammad Khan Bhatti, Zulfikar Halepoto, Professor Ismail Kumhar, Zulfikar Qadri, Naz Sanai and others sit on the stage during the Birthday celebration of Muhammad Khan Bhatti, at a Local Hotel.

Pakistan a priority market for business: Naveed Qamar tells British companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Naveed Qamar has urged the UK business community in Manchester to prioritize Pakistan as a market for business expansion.

He was addressing the Manchester based business community during his official visit to the UK to attend the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' meeting, said a press release issued here by the Commerce Ministry on Sunday.

The minister highlighted the favorable business environment and abundant opportunities available in Pakistan during his speech at the event, which was attended by the business community, UK Parliamentarians, Mayors, Councillors and media representatives.

The minister acknowledged the 1.6 million-strong Pakistani

diaspora in the UK as the cornerstone of the strong UK-Pakistan relationship. The UK has become Pakistan's third-largest export partner, second-largest investment partner and third-largest source of remittances, Naveed Qamar said.

He said despite pandemic restrictions, Pakistan's exports to the UK grew by 33 percent, surpassing the US\$2 billion milestone. Exports are expected to maintain momentum, with a 10 percent growth rate in the current financial year, said the Minister. Minister Qamar thanked the UK Government for its development assistance to Pakistan. Commending the UK government, Qamar highlighted the announcement of a £1.5 billion facility to support bilateral investment and export.

He also appreciated the UK government's concessions to Pakistan on Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) facility, resulting in zero duty on over 92 percent of Pakistan's exports to the UK. Qamar provided an overview of Pakistan's policy landscape and economic performance, including increased revenue mobilization and investment promotion.

Concluding his speech, Naveed Qamar expressed the confidence in further enhancing trade and investment relations between Pakistan and the UK. He encouraged businesses from both countries to capitalize on existing opportunities and collaborate on optimal utilization strategies.

The UK businesses expressed keen interest in engaging with Pakistan for business opportunities.



JEHLAM: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy, Bilal Azhar Kayani meeting with people during an open katchery (court).

Energy transition partnerships key to phaseout coal, mobilise finances for renewable energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts on Sunday termed just energy transition partnerships key to phaseout coal and mobilise investments towards renewable energy (RE) in Pakistan.

It was the crux of a symposium on "Just Energy Transition in Pakistan" organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Network for Clean Energy Transition in Pakistan: Research and Advocacy here, a news release said.

Joint Executive Director, SDPI, Dr. Vaqar Ahmed highlighted that the current challenges slugging rapid off-take of renewable energy in Pakistan arise from inadequacy of infrastructure and grid stability. He stressed innovative decentralized energy models, micro-grids, encouraging the development of local RE industry and building storage capacity to address these challenges.

Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Michael Waldron emphasized the need to increase energy sector investments by 3-4 folds to meet SDGs.

He highlighted that "Just Energy Transition Partnerships" (JETP) can play key role by providing low-cost finance to Renewable Energy (RE), promoting investment-grade domestic policies to phase out fossil fuels, and supporting just transition for affected workers.

He further stressed prioritizing halting coal power development and retirement of existing plants and considering solutions for repurposing of coal power plants and incentivize RE solutions.

Lead Researcher, SDPI Dr. Khalid Waleed highlighted that Asian Development Bank's Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) can provide technical assistance, policy support, capacity building, and financing mechanisms.

He highlighted various factors which must be considered for effective implementation of the ETM. These include analyzing the long-term sustainability and accumulation of debt, conducting comprehensive research and data collection, establishing monitoring and evaluation frameworks, promoting knowledge sharing and learning from other countries experiences, adapting the approach to the local context, building capacity, raising public awareness, and engaging stakeholders.

Manager Program, Indus Consortium, Fiza Qureshi expressed that ADB's Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) lacks a direct communication line for all stakeholders to air their concerns. Stakeholder mapping does not consider the broader communities that are impacted by these powerplants and there is no indication of carrying out an assessment for compensating broader communities and areas.

A joint delegation of PSX, MFA calls on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint delegation of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) and Mutual Funds Association (MFA) of Pakistan called on the Federal Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The PSX was represented by its MD/CEO Farrukh Hussain and Chief Financial Officer Ahmed Ali whereas Mir Adil and Arif Qadri represented Mutual Funds, said a press release issued here Sunday.

The Finance Minister was accompanied by Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Minister of State for Finance, Tariq Bajwa, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Finance, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Revenue, Ashfaq Tola Chairman Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission (RRMC), Asim Ahmad Chairman Federal Board of Revenue and other senior officers from the Finance Ministry and Revenue Division. Governor State Bank Jameel Ahmad also

attended the meeting. During the meeting, representatives of MFA highlighted the growth of Sharia compliant mutual funds and proposed that short term Sharia compliant sukuk should be launched.

They also proposed certain measures to be taken in the upcoming budget to promote mutual funds.

Representatives of PSX highlighted the erosion of market capitalization over the last six years.

They said that the stock market was a highly documented segment and a major contributor to the national exchequer. They gave certain proposals to encourage people to invest in the stock market. The Finance Minister expressed his concerns at the erosion of PSX index. He noted that PSX was at one time one of the best performing stock markets and assured the group that their concerns would be addressed and measures would be taken to encourage investment in Pakistan.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Energy SM Tanveer address at the Karachi New MJF Lions Club ceremony.

Fiscal budget 2023-24 needed to provide relief to masses: Murtaza

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Sunday said that the federal government would provide sizable relief to the masses in the upcoming fiscal budget 2023-21.

He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering at Nawanshahr Abbottabad.

The minister further said, "We do not accept any agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that are against the interests of the people, and we will strive to control inflation and provide relief to the masses, fiscal budget 2023-24 would be people-friendly."

While criticizing PTI he said that they had ruined the country.

"In the last seventy-three years, the actions of the PTI leaders of Hazara are the real enemy of the region as the establishment

of the Hazara Electric Supply Company (HESCO) faced the most."

Murtaza Abbasi said that the funds for the projects related to the Sui gas pipeline in the region which had been approved and work had started, were stopped by the elected representatives of the PTI, proving their narrow-mindedness.

He said that the PTI leadership stopped these projects and proved their enmity with the masses but the PML-N government would once again provide funds to complete these projects and facilitate the people of district Abbottabad.

"In challenging financial conditions, when it requires three billion rupees to bring the projects of the gas pipeline to the position of 2018, I have also revived the funds for most of the projects in Galiyat and Tanawal," the minister added.

China's transport investment up 13.4 pct in first 4 months

BEIJING (APP): China's fixed-asset investment in the transport sector reported robust growth from January to April, official data shows.

The total investment in transport came in at 1.1 trillion yuan (about 140.8 billion U.S. dollars) during the period, rising 13.4 percent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Transport.

Specifically, investment in roadway development surged 29.8 percent year on year to 56 billion yuan. Investment amounting to approximately 786.1 billion yuan was channeled into road construction, an increase of 14.5 percent year on year. In April alone, transport investment grew by 13.6 percent year on year to 315 billion yuan, the data shows.

120 grams of bread at Rs 20 in Bannu

BANNU (APP): Bannu district administration on Sunday issued a declaration to set the price of 120 grams of bread at Rs 20.

A long meeting was held between the officials of the district administration and the Nanbai Association in which after mutual consultation and negotiation, a declaration was issued to set the price of 120 grams of bread at Rs 20. According to the declaration, all the bakers and hotel owners of Bannu will ensure the implementation of the instructions mentioned in the declaration and all the bakers and hotel owners are instructed to make a price list of bread in Urdu language and display it clearly in front of the shop. Legal action will be taken against those who violate it. Instructions have been issued by the district administration that all food items including Roti (naan).



HYDERABAD: President All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union Abdul Latif Nizamani addressing during the award distribution ceremony organized by All Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions, held at Labour Hall in Hyderabad.

Kashif for taking painful decisions to counter extreme temperatures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said that painful decisions must be made as extreme heat threat grows and underdeveloped countries and poor nations would be even more vulnerable as they lack of resources to mitigate against extreme temperatures. Speaking at a seminar on "How to counter growing threat of climate change", held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said extreme heat is very much one of the major extreme weather events that threaten to alter the planet permanently, said a press release.

He said the past eight years were collectively the hottest on record and Southeast Asia is currently setting heat records.

Scientists have reported that drought in the Horn of Africa has been made 100 times more likely by climate change. Extreme heat caused by climate change threatens the way of life of millions of people, he expressed.

He said that 419 million people in 57 countries were vulnerable to 1.5 C of global warming over the next few years.

He said extreme heat will affect so many aspects of life and heat-related deaths will jump up and up. Working outdoors will become even more dangerous.

Agro Dept. seals factory on manufacturing fake pesticides

BUREWALA (APP): The agricultural department's team on Sunday raided at a factory, situated at Vehari-Burewala road, which involved in manufacturing fake pesticides, fertilizer and also managed to arrest two accused.

The team also directed to seal the factory on the spot.

In line with special directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Syed Asif Hussain Shah, a special team of the agriculture department conducted a raid at Pengold factory and checked the quality of pesticides and fertilizer being manufactured at the factory.

The team found pesticides and fertilizer as fake and arrested two accused in this regard.

APBF stresses focus on small industries

LAHORE (Online): With a view to help grow the businesses the government will have to take solid measures in the upcoming Federal Budget 2023-24 to strengthen the industry, especially the SMEs, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with the small industries. The government will have to make a visible reduction in taxes in the budget to help grow the businesses, particularly the SME sector, as Pakistan needs millions of jobs annually. Mere statements will not work unless the government takes solid measures. A sizable reduction in fuel prices, a major cut in the key policy rate, regionally competitive energy rates,

quick refunds payment, and relaxation in duties & taxes are need of the hour.

These recommendations were put forward by APBF president Syed Maaz Mahmood, in a joint meeting of various trade and industrial sectors held here to review the Budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year of 2023-24, urging the finance ministry to make focus on greater relief to the documented and registered SMEs. Unveiling the budget proposals, APBF President said that the Forum has submitted comprehensive proposals for the upcoming federal budget with main objective to bring liberal investment policy.

RTA, Traffic Police return extra fares to passenger

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The team of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) and Traffic Police on the second day of an ongoing campaign against overloading and overcharging transports conducted a joint inspection of passenger vehicles on different roads of the city.

The inspection team, led by RTA Secretary Pir Khalid Qayyum along with Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Headquarters Syed Sagheer Gilani, checked several vehicles on the routes of Peshawar, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Rawalpindi, Islamabad.



CHINIOT: A farmer spreading corn for drying purpose.

Ambassador Haque says Pakistan to export more seafood, agro products thru land route to Chinese market

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on Sunday said that the Pakistani and Chinese governments were making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through Karakoram Highway to the Chinese market.

"We are working together to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through this land route to the Chinese market," he said while commenting on Pakistan's first-ever land containerized seafood cargo which successfully arrived in Xinjiang through Karakoram Highway.

As the world's second-largest consumer market, China embraces

more high-quality Pakistani products exported to it. Ambassador Haque said that facilitating trade and exports of Pakistan's high-quality products through the Khunjerab border was Pakistan and China's shared objective.

Last week, a truck loaded with cold chain containers from Pakistan arrived at Kashgar city in Northeast China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region via a cross-border land route. This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar city along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



RAWALPINDI: A man is busy in selecting and purchasing gemstone and rings from roadside vendor in the city.

NTDC completes Guddu, Shikarpur Transmission Line project

LAHORE (APP): The National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has achieved the successful replacement of a 108 km 220 kV transmission line in south region. The newly constructed Guddu-Shikarpur transmission line had been energized on June 3, 2023. The company's spokesman disclosed this to media here Sunday that the significant milestone marks a major step towards improving the power supply system in the South areas of Pakistan,

specifically Balochistan and Sindh Provinces.

Guddu-Shikarpur Transmission Line project had been completed with total contract cost of USD \$ 13.108 million, and this transformative project addresses operational problems and system bottlenecks that plagued the previous transmission line, he claimed. This vital project would strengthen the connection between Guddu and Shikarpur, resulting in improved stability and reliability of the power transmission network.



KARACHI: Women busy in selecting and purchasing used clothes from a roadside vendor.



PESHAWAR: Sacrificial animals wait for their buyers at a make-shift sacrificial animals cattle market established for the upcoming festival Eid-ul-Azha, located on GT road in Peshawar.

Biden signs debt ceiling bill into law, averting default

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed into law a debt ceiling bill passed by Congress after weeks of wrangling, moving to avert a catastrophic, self-induced default in the world's biggest economy.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 authorises the government to extend the so-called debt ceiling to renew borrowing, keeping the bills paid.

The Treasury had warned that if the debt ceiling was blocked beyond Monday, the country would default on its \$31 trillion debt.

A default would have likely triggered market panic, huge job losses and a recession, with global implications.

In a statement on Saturday, the White House

thanked the Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress "for their partnership." In a rare Oval Office address, Biden said that the debt ceiling bill saved the country from "economic collapse."

Speaking from behind the historic Resolute Desk on live primetime television, Biden said the deal resolving the standoff between Democrats and Republicans was a compromise where "no one got everything they wanted." However, "we averted an economic crisis," he said.

Oval Office addresses have always been reserved by presidents for moments of unique national danger or importance.

Biden used the occasion to project a reassuring, calm tone. Sprinkling his speech with chuckles and smiles, he praised his op-

ponents for negotiating in good faith and promised Americans that he had never felt more optimistic.

Biden said that Congress has now preserved "the full faith and credit of the United States." But even with the House and Senate putting aside differences to finally rush through the agreement over the last week, the US economy's reputation took a hit.

Ratings agency Fitch said Friday that it is keeping the United States' "AAA" credit rating on negative watch, despite the deal.

The debt ceiling is usually an uncontroversial accounting manoeuvre approved yearly by Congress. It allows the government to keep borrowing money to pay for bills already incurred.



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a ceremony commemorating the death anniversary of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini at his mausoleum just outside Tehran, Iran.

Iran's top leader defends hard-line approach toward West

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader on Sunday defended his tough approach to the West, saying compromise would only invite further hostility from Iran's enemies and blaming recent anti-government protests on "thugs and villains."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks come amid an intensifying standoff with Western countries over Iran's nuclear program, which has made major advances in the five years since then-President Donald Trump withdrew the US from an international accord that restricted it.

Trump restored crippling sanctions on Iran that have contributed to a severe

economic crisis without forcing any concessions from its leaders. Iran has also lent support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, supplying armed drones that have wreaked havoc on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

"Some people are mistaken to think if we back down from our stances in certain cases that will cause the enemy of the U.S., the global arrogance, or Israel toward us to diminish," said Khamenei, who has the final say on all major Iranian policies. "This is a mistake."

He spoke at an annual speech marking the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, his predecessor and the founder of the Islamic Republic.

China seeks dialogue, says clash with US would be 'unbearable disaster'

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu told Asia's top security summit on Sunday that conflict with the United States would be an "unbearable disaster" but that his country sought dialogue over confrontation.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Li said the world was big enough for China and the US to grow together — remarks made days after he refused to meet his US counterpart for direct talks.

"China and the US have different systems and are different in many other ways," he said in a speech

that marked his first significant international address since he was named China's Minister of National Defence in March.

"However, this should not keep the two sides from seeking common ground and common interests to grow bilateral ties and deepen cooperation," he said.

"It is undeniable that a severe conflict or confrontation between China and the US will be an unbearable disaster for the world."

Wearing the general's uniform of the People's Liberation Army, Li made his address on the 34th anniversary of the 1989

Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Ties between Washington and Beijing are badly strained over a range of issues, including democratically governed Taiwan, territorial disputes in the South China Sea and President Joe Biden's restrictions on semiconductor chip exports.

As delegates at the summit debated the risks of accidents and miscalculations amid those tensions, the US Navy said a Chinese destroyer made "unsafe" manoeuvres near a US warship in the Taiwan Straits on Saturday, highlighting the dangers.



Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu speaks at the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

Indian authorities seek cause of deadly train crash in Odisha

Monitoring Desk
BALASORE: Desperate relatives searched Sunday for loved ones missing after India's worst train disaster in decades, and the death toll was expected to climb above 288 as authorities searched for clues to the cause.

Debris was piled high at the site of Friday night's crash near Balasore, in the eastern state of Odisha, with compartments smashed and the blood-stained wreckage of some carriages flung far from the tracks. "I saw bloodied scenes, mangled bodies and one man with a severed arm being desperately helped by his injured son," researcher Anubhav Das, 27, told AFP after surviving the crash.

There was confusion about the exact sequence of events, but reports cited railway officials as saying

that a signalling error had sent the Coromandal Express running south from Kolkata to Chennai onto a side track.

It slammed into a freight train and the wreckage derailed an express running north from India's tech hub Bengaluru to Kolkata that was also passing the site. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the crash site and injured passengers being treated in hospital and said "no one responsible" would be spared. "I pray that we get out of this sad moment as soon as possible," he told state broadcaster Doordarshan. A high school close to the crash site had been turned into a makeshift morgue, but officials said many of the bodies were so disfigured that many of the distraught families could only spot their loved ones by pieces of jewellery.

Russian governor offers to meet group holding soldiers captive

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The governor of Russia's Belgorod region said on Sunday that he was willing to meet a pro-Ukraine group of Russian partisans holding two Russian soldiers captive, as he reported a renewed flare-up of fighting near the border.

The Freedom of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps have claimed responsibility for a spate of cross-border attacks inside Russian territory, including last week when Moscow said two civilians were killed during fighting.

In a video on the Freedom of Russia's Telegram channel, a man identifying himself as the commander of the Russian Volunteer Corps said he would hand over two soldiers they were holding captive in exchange for a meeting with the governor.

Landslide in China's Sichuan province kills 14, leaves 5 missing: state media

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: A landslide in China's southwestern Sichuan province has killed 14 people and left five missing, Chinese state media outlet CCTV reported on Sunday.

The landslide occurred at around 6am on Sunday morning in a mountainous area near the Leshan city in the south of the province.

More than 180 rescue workers have been dispatched to the site, with search and rescue operations still ongoing, CCTV said.

The Leshan city was hit by heavy rain over the two days before the incident, weather tracking data indicated.

Earlier this year, at least four people were killed in a collapse at a coal mine in northern China, while the progress in the search for dozens who were missing was hampered by a massive landslide.

Chinese warship passed in 'unsafe manner' near US destroyer in Taiwan Strait

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A Chinese warship came within 150 yards (137 meters) of a U.S. destroyer in the Taiwan Strait in "an unsafe manner," U.S. military officials said, as China blamed the United States for "deliberately provoking risk" in the region.

U.S. and Canadian navies were conducting a joint exercise in the strait, which separates the island of Taiwan and China when the Chinese ship cut in front of the U.S. guided-missile

Haley says US forces 'need to align' with countries including Russia; campaign says she misspoke

Monitoring Desk
COLUMBIA: Republican presidential hopeful Nikki Haley suggested in an interview that United States forces "need to align" with non-European countries including Russia to enhance global security, a remark her campaign characterized as a gaffe.

Asked by WMUR-TV for a segment Wednesday on regions of the world to which she felt the U.S. could pay more attention, Haley — who served the Trump administration as United Nations ambassador, first said "the Arab world," saying the U.S. needs Arab countries "to kind of join with us" on opposing Iran.

"You see Saudi Arabia making deals with China, that's not good for us. We need them to be with us, and

then we need to align with others, Russia, Australia, Japan, Israel," Haley added.

"We need to start focusing on the allies that we have besides the Europeans and make sure that we have more friends — one, for our needs, so that we're not dependent on an enemy for energy or medicines or anything else, and then two, to make sure that we build those alliances so that the world is more safe."

On Saturday, Haley's campaign said the candidate misspoke when she included Russia with the other countries.

"This is completely ridiculous, she obviously misspoke," spokesman Ken Farnaso told The Associated Press on Saturday. "No one one has been tougher on Russia than Nikki Haley."

Airlines say ready to avoid repeat of summer travel chaos

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Airlines said on Sunday they are ready to avoid a repeat of last year's travel chaos, but warned that some flights could still be disrupted by controller strikes and hit out at schemes that force them to pay compensation for unavoidable delays.

"I am reasonably confident that we'll be able to get through this peak summer without too much disruption," Willie Walsh, director general of the International Air Transport Association, (IATA) said in an interview on Sunday. Airline leaders attending IATA's annual meeting in Istanbul this week remain concerned about air traffic control disruption in Europe and the United States, however. "But as far as they are concerned, they have fulfilled their obligation to get their resources in place for this summer."

7 shot, 1 fatally, in Chicago when gunfire erupts amid remembrance for man killed in car crash

Monitoring Desk
CHICAGO: A 25-year-old woman was fatally shot and six other people were wounded early Sunday when gunfire erupted in Chicago during a remembrance for a man who died in a car crash, police said.

A large group of people had gathered about 1 a.m. to mark four years since a man's fatal crash when there was an altercation and shots rang out, said Deputy Chief Adnardo Gutierrez of the Chicago

Police Department, WLS-TV reported.

Seven people were wounded and one of them, a 25-year-old woman, was pronounced dead at a hospital, he said. The six other shooting victims were hospitalized, one in critical condition.

"They were out there celebrating and then something happened and a verbal altercation occurred and somebody began shooting, or multiple people began shooting," Gutierrez said at a Sunday briefing.

Israel accuses U.N. nuclear watchdog of 'capitulating' to Iran

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the International Atomic Energy Agency on Sunday of ineffectually policing Iran's nuclear activities and suggested the U.N. watchdog risked becoming politicised and irrelevant.

The unusual criticism followed an IAEA report last week that Iran had provided a satisfactory answer on one case of suspect uranium particles and re-installed some monitoring equipment originally put in place under a now-defunct 2015 nuclear deal.

With Iran having enriched enough uranium to 60% fissile purity for two nuclear bombs, if refined further — something it denies wanting or planning — Israel has redoubled threats to launch preemptive military strikes if international diplomacy fails.

Senegal government cuts mobile internet access amid deadly rioting

Monitoring Desk
DAKAR: Senegal's government has cut access to mobile internet services in certain areas because of deadly rioting in which "hateful and subversive" messages have been posted online, it said in a statement on Sunday.

The West African country has been rocked by three days of violent protests in which 16 people have died, one of its deadliest bouts of civil unrest in decades.

Last week, the government limited access to certain messaging platforms, but many were able to bypass the outage with the use of virtual private networks that mask the location of

the user. It extended the outage on Sunday to include all data on mobile internet devices in certain areas and at certain times, the statement said.

It did not specify which areas were impacted or at what times, but five Reuters reporters across Dakar were unable to access the Internet without a wifi connection on Sunday afternoon, a time of day when protests have generally started to gather steam.

"Because of the spread of hateful and subversive messages ... mobile Internet is temporarily suspended at certain hours of the day," the statement said.

Huge fire breaks out near Iran's Mashhad

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: A huge fire broke out on Sunday at a storehouse near the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"Firefighters have been dispatched from different areas of the city," the agency said, without giving further details.

US, Saudi Arabia urge Sudan's warring parties to agree to a new cease-fire, fighting continues

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Saudi Arabia and the United States urged Sudan's warring parties Sunday to agree to and "effectively implement" a new cease-fire as fighting showed no signs of abating in the northeastern African nation. Sudan descended into chaos after fighting broke out in mid-April between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo.

For weeks, Saudi Arabia and the United States have been mediating between the warring parties. On May 21, both countries successfully brokered a temporary cease-fire agreement to help with the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid to the war-torn country. Their efforts, however, were dealt a blow when the military announced on Wednesday it would no longer participate in the cease-fire talks held in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah.

Following the

military's decision, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia said they were suspending the talks "as a result of repeated serious violations of the short-term cease-fire." President Joe Biden's administration imposed sanctions against key Sudanese defense companies run by the military and the RSF and people who "perpetuate violence" in Sudan.

In their statement on Sunday, Washington and Riyadh said they continued to engage representatives of the military and the RSF who remained in Jeddah. They urged the Sudanese warring sides to agree to and implement a new cease-fire following the latest one which expired late Saturday. The aim is to eventually establish a permanent cessation of hostilities in the war-wrecked country, they said. The statement said the discussions focused on "facilitating humanitarian assistance" and reaching an agreement on "near-term steps the parties must take" before resuming the talks.

NK leader's sister vows 2nd attempt to launch spy satellite, slams UN meeting

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed again Sunday to push for a second attempt to launch a spy satellite as she lambasted a U.N. Security Council meeting over the North's first, failed launch.

The North's attempt to put its first military spy satellite into orbit last Wednesday failed as its rocket crashed off the Korean Peninsula's western coast. An emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council was still convened at the request of the U.S., Japan and other countries to discuss the launch because it had violated council resolutions banning the North from performing any launch using ballistic technology.

On Sunday, Kim's sister and senior ruling party official, Kim Yo Jong, called the U.N.

council "a political appendage" of the United States, saying its recent meeting was convened following America's "gangster-like request."

She accused the U.N. council of being "discriminative and rude" because it only takes issue with the North's satellite launches while thousands of satellites launched by other countries are already operating in space. She said her country's attempt to acquire a spy satellite is a legitimate step to respond to military threats posed by the U.S. and its allies.

"(North Korea) will continue to take proactive measures to exercise all the lawful rights of a sovereign state, including the one to a military reconnaissance satellite launch," Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by state media.

Scores detained in Hong Kong on Tiananmen crackdown anniversary

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Hong Kong police searched and detained scores of people on Sunday, including those arrested for "seditious" intent, as authorities tightened security for the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Restrictions in Hong Kong have stifled what were once the largest vigils marking the anniversary of the bloody crackdown by Chinese troops on pro-democracy demonstrators, leaving cities like Taipei, London, New York and Berlin to keep the memory of June 4 alive.

Near Victoria Park, the previous site of yearly vigils, hundreds of police conducted stop and search operations, and deployed armoured vehicles and police vans.

Reuters witnesses saw more than a dozen people taken away, including activist Alexander Wong, 67, who carried a bouquet of flowers, a man who held a copy of "35th of May", a play on the Tiananmen crackdown, and an elderly

man standing alone on a street corner with a candle. "The regime wants you to forget, but you can't forget ... It (China) wants to whitewash all history," said Chris To, 51, who visited the park in a black t-shirt and was searched by police. "We need to use our bodies and word of mouth to tell others what happened."

Hong Kong activists say such police action is part of a broader campaign by China to crush dissent in the city that was promised continued freedoms for 50 years under a "one country, two systems" model when Britain handed it back in 1997. Security is significantly tighter across Hong Kong this year, with up to 6,000 police deployed, including riot and anti-terrorism officers, according to local media. Senior officials have warned people to abide by the law, but have refused to clarify if such commemoration activities are illegal under a national security law China imposed on Hong Kong in 2020 after sometimes violent mass pro-democracy protests.



Nigerians who were evacuated from Sudan arrive at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja, Nigeria.

Talha returns Rs 4.5 bln to pilgrims, implements cost-cutting measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Sunday said the ministry, taking significant measures to ease the financial burden on pilgrims, had returned an impressive sum of Rs 4.5 billion, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring the well-being of those embarking on the holy journey.

He, in a talk with APP, highlighted the efforts made by the ministry to reduce costs associated with the Hajj pilgrimage.

He disclosed that this year's expenses for the Hajj had been lowered to \$3,900 from \$5,000, presenting a substantial decrease in comparison to the previous year. However, despite this decrease, he acknowledged that the current Hajj remained the most expensive in history due to the depreciation of the Pakistani rupee and the increase in the value of the US dollar, he added.

Addressing concerns about accommodation for pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, Senator Talha emphasized that the ministry had taken steps to secure buildings at more affordable rates.

He revealed that the ministry had rented buildings between SR1,800 and SR2,300, compared to the higher rental fee of SR2,600 in 2019. Despite the significant difference in inflation rates between 2023 and 2019, the ministry managed to secure accommodations at lower prices, he maintained.

Furthermore, the minister emphasized the importance of efficient management of medicines for the pilgrims stating that more than fifty per cent of the required medicines could be obtained through donations, while the remaining medications could be purchased from pharmaceutical companies at their actual cost of production. By effectively managing these resources, the ministry could have saved a substantial amount of money allocated for the pilgrims' medications, he observed.

Regarding the pilgrims' food, Senator Talha informed that the contract was already awarded but it

could be further improved with a good menu at discounted rates providing a satisfactory dining experience for the pilgrims, while also optimizing the allocated budget.

He said in order to streamline the immigration process for the pilgrims, the Saudi government had introduced the "Road to Makkah" project at the Islamabad International Airport.

He expressed his enthusiasm for this state-of-the-art programme, which was set to benefit more than 26,000 pilgrims by allowing them to complete their immigration procedures in Islamabad, reducing waiting times in the host country.

He further confirmed that the Saudi government had plans to extend this pilgrim-friendly service to other airports, including Lahore and Karachi, in the upcoming year.

Senator Talha also highlighted the ministry's focus on training of Moavineen-e-Hujaj, who were responsible for assisting the pilgrims throughout their spiritual journey.



LAHORE: Pakistan People Party co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali along with Caretaker Provincial Ministers during meeting.

World Environment Day Global and National Action to beat plastic pollution: PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Prime Minister has directed PM House to stop using single-use plastics, which like the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, will lead the way in phasing out and restricting the use of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles in Federal Ministries, Divisions across the board.

By doing so, the government aims to establish a sustainable and responsible approach to plastic usage and waste management, ensuring the protection of the environment and the well-being of future generations.

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Promote inter-religious harmony, Masood Khan urges faith leaders

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, urged faith and community leaders to work together to promote inter-religious harmony when he met them at his residence on Saturday.

The faith leaders comprised Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs.

"The strong bonds of humanity bind us all together; While we maintain our religious beliefs and identities, we have to work collectively, as one community, for the larger national interests and projecting the true image of Pakistan," the ambassador told them, according to a press release issued by the Pakistani embassy.

"Pakistan is committed to protecting the rights of minorities and providing them with an enabling environment to contribute towards socio-economic development and nation-building process."

Termining visits of American faith leaders to Pakistan as a means of promoting people-centric diplomacy, Masood Khan invited leaders of all faiths to explore the country and to build bridges among communities.

Many of the faith leaders who were at the Ambassador's reception had visited Pakistan and shared their pleasant experiences.

Masood Khan appreciated the services of faith and community leaders, including Ilyas Masih and Raj Rathore, who he said have been making efforts not only to unite communities but also towards bringing the US and Pakistan together through people-to-people contacts and exchanges.

Ilyas Masih, President All Neighbors International, thanked the Ambassador and the Embassy of Pakistan for providing a platform to all faiths.



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan addressing a public gathering during inaugural ceremony of NADRA Registration Center Aminpur Bangla and Passport Counter in Chak No.30-JB on Narwala-Aminpur Road.

PTI's narrative about women harassment is a big conspiracy: Samina

Independent Report
QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri has termed the accusations of harassment of arrested women involved in the events of May 9 against Imran Khan and his followers as lies. She said in her newspaper statement that PTI leadership could fall so much for the sake of power, it was not expected. Using women to save your politics is a very bad move.

She completely rejected the accusations leveled against the police and prison authorities regarding the humiliation of women and violation of human rights through social media and said that all these accusations are baseless and contrary to facts.

She further said in her statement that our society cannot afford such things as the PTI members are doing. The arrested women of PTI have also denied the harassment by the police or jail

Environment Day being observed today

Independent Report
QUETTA: The World Environment Day is being observed today (Monday) in Quetta as elsewhere in the country and world.

Marking the World Environment Day, a seminar has been arranged by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Balochistan in collaboration with Pak-US Alumni Network Quetta - Balochistan chapter at the EPA office.

The theme of the seminar is: climate change, invest in our planet and challenges, in which the Parliamentary Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, Ms. Mah Jabeen Shiran would be the chief guest.



QUETTA: Eminent Leader Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani addressing the participants of seminar.

Mir Asadullah says: Balochistan produces surplus wheat for providing wheat seeds to farmers

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan has produced surplus wheat crops for providing wheat seeds for the cultivation of yield to around 100,000 farmers across the province.

"The Balochistan government has provided 400,000 sacks of wheat seeds of worth Rs 2.20 billion to the farmers of the province to achieve its cultivation target," Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch said.

He said the initiative was taken to eliminate the wheat shortage after the recent floods.

The record wheat production was possible by the grace of Allah Almighty, quality seeds, uninterrupted supply of fertilizer, and timely decisions of the government, he said.

"The government has distributed around 400,000 bags of 50-kilogram wheat free of cost due to which the province has produced more wheat than the target," Asad Baloch said.

For transparency in the distribution of wheat seeds, the chief minister's inspection team was entrusted to monitor the program.

He said that all necessary facilities were also provided to wheat growers to expand their production to make the province self-sufficient.

The minister said that the policy yielded good results and the province more than doubled its wheat production compared with last year despite the challenges posed by heavy rains and floods last year.

Meteorology predicts Eid on 29 June

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted Eid-ul-Azha on June 29 and moon sighting for the month of Zilhaj on 19 June.

According to climate data processing center moon will born on 18 June at 9:37pm.

In Pakistan, chances of 1st Zilhaj are on 19 June.

AIG approves provision of new vehicles to Rwp division

100% raise demanded in salaries of govt. employees

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary General All Pakistan Labour Federation (APLF), Abdul Sattar has demanded of the federal government to make 100 percent raise in the salaries of all government employees in the upcoming budget.

While speaking to the media persons here on Sunday, the APLF leader also demanded 50 percent raise in pension of the retired employees.

Moreover, he demanded that the minimum wage of the labourers should be fixed as Rs. 40,000 per month in the next budget besides increasing the EOBI person by 100 percent.

The prominent trade union leader regrettably pointed out that the EOBI beneficiaries are drawing Rs. 8,500 per month, which is insufficient for making their both ends meet.

Therefore, sufficient raise should be made in the EOBI pension enabling the beneficiaries to make their both ends meet, which is otherwise not possible in the existing wages, he maintained.

Speaker NA says: Incidents of May 9 weakened, disgraced country in world

GHAZI (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly and former Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on Sunday said that we all should come together for the greater interest of the country, we have responsibilities if we have a country, prosperity and freedom thrive on peace, and peace can bring improvement to the economy.

He expressed these views while talking to the media at the residence of Peer Hamid in Iarbela Ghazi, senior journalist Mehtab Khan was also present on this occasion.

The speaker said that elections should be held in October, the events of May 9 had weakened and disgraced the country in the world, the incidents should never have happened and the people of Pakistan had suffered a lot.

Raja Pervez Ashraf said that the military is our saviour who fights against terrorists and protects our borders, they are either warriors or martyrs and it is enmity with the country to stir up emotions, spread false information and conspire against our forces.

He said that this is a need of the time to promote harmony and brotherhood.

Zardari announces big public rally in Lahore

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan People Party (PPP) co-chairman and former president has announced big public political gathering in Lahore.

According to source PPP have intentions to arrange huge political public gathering in the centre of Punjab politics city Lahore.

Party district president Aslam Gul is visiting various parts of city, PPP leader said political rally date will be announced soon. On the other side former President Asif Zardari's active politics is continue in Lahore and new leaders are joining party.



MUSAKHAIL: Chairman CMIT Abdul Rehman Buzdar being briefed by Project Director about Kingri to Musa Khail road.

May-9 culprits deserve no concession: Qureshi

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Productions and Industries Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi said on Sunday that the elements involved in burning of the government properties and defence installations on May 9 deserve no concession, and strict legal action would be taken against them.

Talking to APP here, he said May 9 would always be remembered as a black day in the history of Pakistan. On that fateful day, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and activists set fire to Pakistan Army installations, corps commander's house in Lahore and the government properties under a preplanned programme.

SC practices & procedure act hearing to hold on June 8

ISLAMABAD (Online): "Supreme Court practices and procedure act" case will be heard on June 08.

Eight members larger bench with Chief Justice of Pakistan Umer Ata Bandial on chair will hear the case.

Justice Ejaz ul Ahsen, Justice Muneeb Akhter, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar are the part of this bench. Court issued notices to Attorney General, Pakistan Supreme Bar Association and others.

DG Levies visits LTC Khuzdar; reviews ongoing projects

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Director General Balochistan Levies Force, Naseebullah Kakar visited the Levies Training Center (LTC) Khuzdar on Sunday.

During the visit, he inspected the ongoing development projects in LTC. He also reviewed the pending schemes at the center.

The DG Levies was briefed in detail about the development projects. He expressed his dismay over the impending development schemes there.

He directed the concerned quarters to take steps for early completion of the development works

at the Levies Training Center. He warned that no negligence should be committed while completing the schemes. He also assured cooperation to allocate necessary funds for the impending schemes in the next budget. In addition to this, no compromise would be made on quality of work, adding he stressed.

He directed the concerned contractors to complete work on the pending schemes within a week. Otherwise, the concerned authorities would be approached to blacklist the contractors responsible of delayed work on the schemes, he asserted.



KHUZDAR: DG Levies Force Naseebullah Kakar being briefed about development schemes during his visit to Levies Training Centre.

To feature in next World Championship: International karate combat fighter Shahzaib reaches Quetta; warmly welcomed by many at Airport

CM spokesman Babar Yousazai & others receive professional karatekaz; pledges wholehearted support and facilities on behalf of provincial govt

Independent Report
QUETTA: The international professional karate combat fighter, Shahzaib Rind reached hometown on Sunday morning after winning two international league fights in United States of America (USA).

Shahzaib Rind was accorded warm welcome upon his arrival at the Quetta International Airport from Karachi.

The spokesman of Chief Minister Balochistan, Babar Khan Yousazai along with the officials of different sports and his relatives were present to receive the international karate kaz.

Shahzaib Rind had returned Karachi from USA recently where he had featured in the international fights.

While speaking to the media persons at the Quetta Airport, Shahzaib Rind mentioned that he was the only Asian athlete who had participated in the US Karate League.

He proudly noted that he won two big international fights in USA during last two months.

The professional fighter said that he has the desire to take part in the World Championship in future and expressed the hope that the provincial government would extend support to him for the purpose.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM spokesman appreciated Shahzaib Rind for brightening the name of Balochistan and country at the international level.

He said that Shahzaib has returned after winning heavy weight karate league in USA, which is a great achievement.

He assured that the provincial government would extend wholehearted support and facilities to Shahzaib so that he may continue to earn laurels for the country and province.



LAHORE: Members of Pakistan Nazriyati Party are holding protest demonstration against detention of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui by US authorities, at Lahore Press Club.