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International powers do not want stability in Pakistan: Member Türkiye Parliament

Ali Sahin says Türkiye, Pakistan can play a leading role in the region

ANKARA (INP): Ali Sahin member of Türkiye Parliament and Chairman Türk-Pak Parliamentary Friendship Group has categorically stated that International powers do not want stability in Pakistan and do not see it developed and prosper.

There are several conspiracies being hatched to weaken and divide Pakistan, this issue need to be addressed properly", said Ali Sahin who is also central leader of the current ruling Türkiye Justice and Development Party (AKP) in an interview to a selected group of journalists, along with Shabana Ayaz head of Türk Pak Women Forum was also part of the panel.

Ali Sahin got his higher education in Karachi and served in Türkiye missions in Pakistan at various ca-

pacities and has a lot wonderful memories for the country. In the interview apart from shedding light at various international issues shared his personal experience and good memories during the period he got education in Pakistan, he is found of Pakistani cuisines.

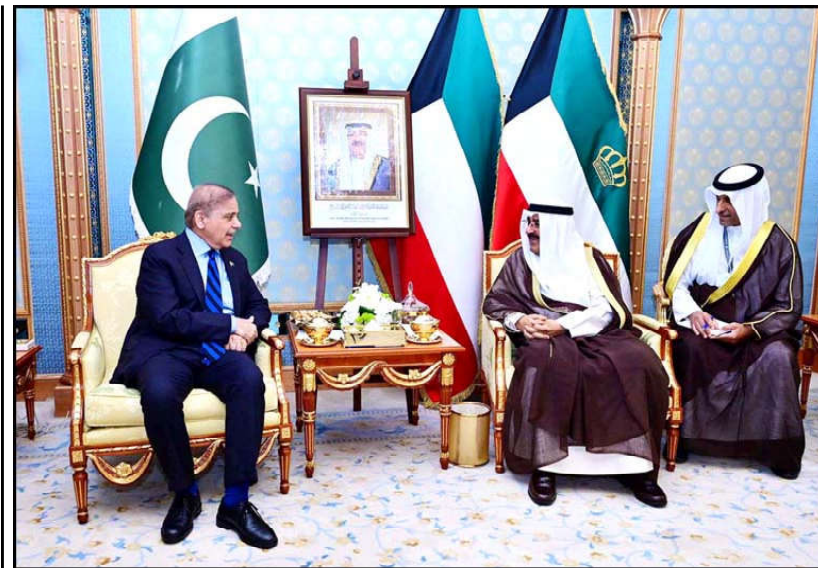
Ali Sahin said that Pakistan is situated at very important geographical position and it is very important for country to be economically stronger. Political and economic stability is crucial for Pakistan enabling to play a leading role in the region.

To a question about the current awful situation in Palestine he said "We are trying our best to bring to an end to the present horrifying situation". Türkiye

and Pakistan are two twin sons of the Islamic and they can play a leading role to culminate the reign of terror let loose by the aggressor Israel, but there exist no such mechanism at present to deal with the situation.

Continuing, he said Islamic countries are poor and have limited sources and when the western countries interfere in our problems and problems increase manifolds. He reminded the United States came to solve the problem of Afghanistan, and for almost 10 years its butchered million of people but the problem was still unsolved, "Terrorism did not culminate but increased".

He is advocate of further cementing the existing ties between two brotherly



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif speaks at a session "Redefining Global Health Agenda" of World Economic Forum's Special Meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development.

In meeting with IMF chief PM reiterates commitment to put economy back on track

PM thanks IMF chief for her support to Pakistan; Kristalina Georgieva appreciates premier for timely securing SBA last year

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday met with Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva wherein he reiterated his government's commitment to put Pakistan's economy back on track.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Special Meeting here, the prime minister said that he had directed his financial team, led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb to carry out structural reforms, ensure strict fiscal discipline and pursue prudent policies that would ensure macro-economic stability and sustained economic growth, according to a PM Office press release.

He thanked Georgieva

for supporting Pakistan in securing the USD 3 billion Standby Arrangement (SBA) from IMF last year that was about to be completed. The IMF Executive Board is expected to meet on April 29 to decide on the final tranche of USD 1.1 billion under SBA.

The IMF chief appreciated the prime minister's leadership for timely securing the SBA last year.

Both sides also discussed Pakistan entering into another IMF program to ensure that the gains made in the past year were consolidated and its economic growth trajectory remained positive.

IMF MD shared her institution's perspective on the ongoing program with Pakistan, including the review process.



LAHORE: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani addressing to Asma Jahangir conference.

FM Ishaq Dar appointed deputy prime minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has designated Minister of Foreign Affairs Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister.

The Cabinet Division had issued the notification of the appointment.

At present, the foreign minister is accompanying the prime minister on his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Dar was appointed as the country's foreign minister after the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) formed a coalition government following the February 8 elections.

Dar, 73, a chartered accountant and a seasoned politician, is also a close relative of, and close aide to, PML-



N Supremo Nawaz Sharif.

The appointment of four-time finance minister as foreign minister suggested a ramped up role for economics in the nation's diplomacy as the country tries to secure another International Monetary Fund Deal and shore up external financing from foreign capitals.



QUETTA: Commissioner and Administrator Quetta, Hamza Shafiqat along with officers of Metropolitan Corporation are inspecting the cleanliness drive, at Brewery road in Quetta.

PM calls upon bridging gap between Global South, North in health sector

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday while terming the global inequity in health sector as 'the first and foremost problem' called upon bridging the widening gap between the Global South and the Global North.

Expressing his views in a session of the World Economic Forum (WEF) regarding global health, the prime minister said that the Covid-19 pandemic had exposed the existing gaps largely between the Global North and Global South in terms of provision of health facilities and distribution of vaccines. He said that the climate change issue had also completely changed the landscape.

Pakistan was not responsible for any emissions in the world, he said, adding but in

the year 2022, it witnessed the worst climate triggered floods which hugely devastated the infrastructure and buildings and as consequently, they had to spend billion of rupees to rehabilitate the affected people. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that for the rehabilitation efforts, they sought costly loans.

"Can a developing country like Pakistan afford it?" he questioned and observed that for provision of health facilities, a developing country like Pakistan required resources.

"The yawning gap between the Global South and Global North should be bridged," he emphasised.

Sharing his personal experience, the prime minister said that treatment for the fatal disease like cancer was too costly for the poor population of Pakistan.

Terrorists, their financial, ideological supporters to be taken to task: CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the terrorists as well as their financial and ideological facilitators would be taken to task at every cost.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister strongly condemned the killing of two labourers in Kech. He said that the terrorists killed two innocent Pakistanis in Kech, which is condemnable.

The Chief Minister also said that when the people like us say that the nationalist separatist is terrorism, then it is said that it is a war of rights.

He said that the innocent persons were martyred after identification, which is condemnable.

The Chief Minister

maintained that the Balochistan government is standing with the bereaved families of oppressed innocent and armless labourers in the time of grief.

Meanwhile, in another statement issued here on Saturday night, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over successful operation by FC North in Hamai area.

He said that the FC saved the people from very big loss by carrying out prompt and successful operation. A terrorist was killed and three others injured in the operation carried out against terrorists, he added. He appreciated the services of FC for protection of the life and property of the masses.

He pledged to make Balochistan the land of peace by eliminating the terrorists.

Government ever ready to resolve issues of media persons: Langove

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and his cabinet is ever ready to resolve the issues being faced by media persons in the province.

He urged the journalist community to use their capabilities for betterment of the nation and country.

The Provincial Minister was speaking on the occasion of his visit to Quetta Press Club on Sunday.

During the visit, General Secretary of Quetta Press Club, Banaras Khan and other senior journalists were present. During the course of meeting, the issues being faced by media persons in Balochistan were discussed.



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove talking with senior journalists Banaras Khan and Noor Ellahi Bugti during a meeting

Hub Rally Cross event to help promote tourism & highlight positive image of Balochistan at intl. level: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the "Hub Rally Cross 2024" is a major motor sports event which can become source of attraction for the international male and female drivers and young champions. The Governor believed that such events and activities would not only help promote the tourism but would also highlight the positive image of Balochistan at the international level.

The Governor was addressing the "11th Hub Rally Cross 2024" in Hub on Sunday.

Also present on the oc-

casation were Deputy Commissioner Hub, Rohana Gul Kakar and Chief Organizer of the Rally, Shujaat Sherwani besides others. The Governor said that the terrorism sector can't be ignored in stabilizing economy of the province and country. In this regard, rehabilitation of the tourism places and sports events is very much needed for promotion of tourism industry in the province, adding he stressed. Malik Abdul Wali Khan expressed the belief that there would be positive impacts on the economic and trade activities by paying focus on the sports and tourism.

Saudi leadership declares PM Shehbaz "Man of Action" as he highlights Pak investment potential, policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was declared the "Man of Action" by the Saudi leadership in recognition of his commitment to reviving Pakistan's economy through massive reforms and foreign investment. This acknowledgment came during his busy day in Riyadh, where he met different leaders and addressed a special meeting of the World Economic Forum. The remarks were

made during separate meetings of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid Al-Falih, Minister for Finance Mohammad Al Jadaan, and Minister for Industry Bandar bin Ibrahim Alkhourayef.

During his meeting with the prime minister on the margins of the Forum, Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid Al-Falih called him a "Man of Action," recognizing his perfor-

mance and speed of work, along with his commitment to contributing to Pakistan's development and progress. This is the second time Shehbaz Sharif has earned such a distinction from foreign leadership as earlier, he was given the title of "Shehbaz Speed" by a Chinese leader to acknowledge his swift execution of development projects while serving as Punjab chief minister.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the sidelines of a special meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Pays surprise visit to different areas of Quetta city: No compromise would be made on maintaining law & order in Balochistan, says Langove

Provincial Minister for Home maintains security plan revisited after Noshki and Mach terrorism incidents

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove has categorically stated that it is topmost duty of the government to maintain law and order, and as such no compromise would be made on maintaining law and order situation in the province.

He said that all out efforts are being made to pro-

tect life and property of the masses and eliminate terrorists from the province.

The Minister Home was speaking on occasion of surprise visit to different parts of Quetta city on Sunday afternoon.

Accompanied with him were the Assistant Commissioner Quetta Sadar and Superintendent of Police Sariab, Shafiqat Janjua.

PM, Amir of Kuwait discuss bilateral ties

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday met the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Special Meeting in Riyadh and discussed bilateral ties.

The prime minister thanked His Highness the Amir for sending him a warm congratulatory letter upon his re-election.

BLA's most wanted terrorist held, makes key revelations

KARACHI, (INP): The police arrested a most wanted terrorist of Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) here in the metropolis on Sunday who has made important revelations in the preliminary investigation. According to DIG South Asad Raza, the nabbed terrorist was identified as Mehraj alias Mama who was engaged in doing reiki for BLA.

The detainee also used to convey the reports of intelligence organizations to BLA on which the defunct organization used to conduct attacks on security forces.

The DIG said that the nabbed terrorist did the reiki of convoy of armed forces and over his reports, the BLA attacked convoy martyring several security personnel.

Inquiry ordered to probe into assassination: Two more labourers gunned down by armed assailant in Kech district

Incident of killing of labourers in Kalat conspiracy to spoil law & order, says Langove

Independent Report

QUETTA: Two labourers were gunned down by some unknown armed assailants in Tump area of Kech on Sunday.

As a result, both sustained multiple bullets and succumbed to the wounds before they were shifted to the nearby hospital.

In the meantime, the armed assailants managed to flee from the scene leaving the labourers in the pool of blood. Their bodies were shifted to the hospital. The labourers belonged to Faisalabad area of Punjab. Meanwhile, the area levies and administration reached the spot and started investigations.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Noor Muhammad Dumar and Ali Madad Jattak visiting different sections of PRC Center Sariab

Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman:

Good work of welfare orgs serving humanity should be acknowledged

Independent Report
LAHORE: The delegation of Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation met Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman, today at Governor House Lahore. The delegation comprised Chairperson Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Cecilia Lazaro, founder and Executive Director of Akhuwat Foundation,

Akhuwat Foundation, Abubakar Siddique and others. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that good work of welfare organizations which are serving the humanity should be acknowledged as it motivates other people too. Governor Punjab said that those who dedicate their lives

for humanity are great. Governor Punjab while appreciating the welfare services of Amjad Saqib, head of Akhuwat Foundation, said that conferment of Ramon Magsaysay Award on him is honour for the country. He said that in Pakistan, Akhuwat, Edhi, Indus Foundation and other organizations like them are playing an important role alongside

the government in poverty alleviation and social development. Governor Punjab said that people to people contact is very important in the relations between the two countries. He said that many foreign delegations meet him and tell him that got a different perception about Pakistan from media before visiting, but they found it otherwise.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with the delegation of Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation at Governor House.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Gulam Ali meeting with people and shopkeepers during his visit to interior city Peshawar.

PTI-led KP govt not to compromise merit and rule of law. Zahid

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Zahid Chanzab, Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism and Culture, paid a surprise visit to Police Lines Manshera in his personal car without protocol wherein he went round the camp of youth coming for the ongoing new recruitments in the police force under the management of Education and Testing Evaluation Agency (ETE). He on the spot witnessed the physical test procedure and examined various stages of the new police recruitment.

some flaws relating to the police joining test, recruitment and security arrangements. He asked DPO to visit the camp for his personal supervision. He emphasized on the need to remove the bottlenecks to make all recruitment processes more transparent and further improve security arrangements there. He underlined the need to ensure that the test is based purely on merit as he said the present KP govt will ever never compromise the rule of law and merit so that the talent of our educated and talented youth is not wasted and instead merit and transparency is ensured at every cost in the recruitment and appointment process including the physical test for the Jawans joining the KP police.

Four Hindko language books awarded

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (Online): Four Hindko language books published by the Gandhara Hindko Academy, Peshawar, have been awarded by the Pakistan Writers Guild Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The decision was announced as the committee of experts constituted by the literary organization declared the best books of Urdu, Pashto and Hindko published in the year 2022. The four publications awarded included "Ghazalaan Nazmaan Terey Naam", a book of poetry by Ahmad Nadeem Awan; "Dukh Chhupawaan Kirsaa", a poetic collection by Muhammad Nawaz Sabir; "Chunni Naal Bandhi Kahaniyaan", short stories by woman writer Gul Arbab and "Matti Naal Matti" a novel by Nazeer Bhatti. It is worth mentioning here that the Abaseen Arts Council awarded four Hindko language books published.

Minister thanks Islamic Aid over financial support for children treatment

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has expressed his gratitude to the Islamic Aid for financially supporting treatment of patients at Children's Hospital. He was talking to Mahmoodul Hasan, head of Islamic Aid, at the University of Child Health Sciences, here on Sunday. The minister said that in the eyes of Allah, there is no greater passion than serving humanity. He said

that public private partnership creates convenience for people. May Allah accept the services of Islamic Aid for the suffering humanity, he prayed. Matters of mutual interest were discussed between the both sides. UHS Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Masood Saqib, Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Junaid Rasheed, Professor Dr. Nabila Talhat and Dr. Nasir Rana were present.

Hidayat Ullah elected as President HCBA Dera

Independent Report
DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Hidayat Ullah Malana has won the slot of President in High Court Bar Association (HCBA) Dera elections 2024-25. According to unofficial results, Sardar Hashmat ur Rehman and Sardar Zaizar Khan Miankhel group won the HCBA elections-2024-25 with huge margin and their presidential candidate Hidayat Ullah Malana won the slot for the fourth consecutive term.

CM KP expresses grief over loss of precious life in rain-related incidents

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur has expressed his heartfelt grief and sorrow over the death of five people in a rain related incident here on Sunday. In message, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families. The Chief Minister expressed his best wishes

for the speedy recovery of those injured in these accidents. The Chief Minister has also announced financial assistance to the affected families and directed the concerned authorities to take necessary action in this regard. Timely relief should be ensured to the affected families, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur said. He said, best medical care should be provided to the injured.

PIDE hosts talks on "Sustainable Fiscal Reforms"

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (Online): The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted a public lecture on "Sustainable Fiscal Reforms: International Experience and Applications for Pakistan," featuring Arturo Herrera Gutierrez, Global Director for Governance at the World Bank, as the keynote speaker.

At the core of his presentation, Arturo Herrera Gutierrez emphasized the urgent need for sustainable fiscal reforms in Pakistan. Drawing from international experiences, he highlighted the criticality of establishing a stable and sustainable debt path as a cornerstone for Pakistan's economic future, ensuring fiscal sustainability requires a comprehensive long-term strategy, not just balancing budgets annually. These measures are critical for building credibility and securing access to financial markets. The World Banker emphasized the need to maintain consistency over time to avoid the economic problems of the past. He brought to the attention the resurgence of debt distress globally, particularly post-COVID-19, necessitating a re-evaluation of fiscal sustainability approaches. His presentation mentioned countries with gross public debt issues; notably, countries like the US, Canada, Japan, and Pakistan, which have debt-

to-GDP ratios exceeding 75%. Japan, with a debt ratio of 252% of GDP and a low interest rate of 0.88%, contrasts sharply with Greece, which faces a higher interest rate of 3.55% despite a lower debt ratio of 168%. This indicates that the debt-to-GDP ratio is significant, but the sustainability of fiscal finances also sends a critical signal to the market, impacting interest rates. During the lecture, Gutierrez imparted critical insights on sustainable fiscal policies across the globe, focusing specifically on how these strategies can be adapted to Pakistan's economic context. In contrast, the PIDE team proposed a nuanced

perspective, asserting that Pakistan's economic woes transcend simple accounting measures. They advocate for comprehensive healing rather than superficial fixes. Placing growth at the center of its reform agenda, PIDE emphasizes prioritizing economic expansion over mere revenue accumulation. They advocate for allowing the economy to flourish before imposing additional taxes, suggesting a re-regulation to facilitate transactions and stimulate economic activity, ultimately leading to improved revenue generation by default. PIDE also emphasized that the crux of the issue lies more in expenditure.

International News

Biden takes Trump to task at White House correspondents' dinner as Gaza protesters rally outside

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden poked fun at himself but took sharp aim at his election rival Donald Trump on Saturday at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner, as protesters outside demonstrated against Israel's military offensive in Gaza. A long list of VIP guests, including journalists and celebrities from Chris Pine to Molly Ringwald, arrived in black-tie attire as more than 100 protesters confronted attendees in front of the Washington Hilton

hotel chanting "shame on you" and other slogans. Inside, the topic of Gaza was far from the lips of Biden and the evening's comedian, Colin Jost of "Saturday Night Live," who roasted Biden for his age and occasional stumble on the Airforce One stairs. "I would like to point out it's after 10:00pm, Sleepy Joe is still awake, while Donald Trump has spent the past week falling asleep in court every morning," Jost joked, referring to the former president's appearances at his New York hush money trial last week. Amid some self-mock-

ery and ribbing of the press, the 81-year-old president took sharp-elbowed jabs at his 77-year-old presumptive November election rival, quipping that "age is the only thing we have in common. My vice president actually endorsed me." Both Jost and Biden struck a more serious tone in addressing what many Americans feel is a politically fraught moment, with Biden telling attendees Trump's rhetoric was a danger particularly after the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, and that "the stakes couldn't be higher."



US President Joe Biden, US First Lady Jill Biden, host Colin Jost and Kelly O'Donnell attend the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington, US.

Russian missiles pound power plants in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian missiles pounded power facilities in central and western Ukraine on Saturday, increasing pressure on the ailing energy system as the country faces a shortage of air defences despite a breakthrough in US military aid. The airstrike, carried out with ballistic missiles and cruise missiles fired by Russian strategic bombers based in the Arctic Circle, was the fourth large-scale aerial assault targeting the power system since March 22. "The enemy again massively shelled Ukrainian energy facilities," said DTEK, Ukraine's largest private electricity company, adding that four of its six thermal power plants had suffered damage. Rescuers battled to

put out fires at several energy facilities in the western regions of Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk, which border Nato members Poland and Romania. After strikes on energy facilities in the central Dnipropetrovsk region, running water supplies were disrupted in President Volodymyr Zelensky's hometown of Kryvyi Rih, officials said. Ukrainian air defences brought down 21 of the 34 incoming missiles, the commander of the air force said in a statement. None of the facilities hit was identified by name, a security measure intended to prevent Russia quickly assessing the impact of its strikes. Russia denies targeting civilians, but says the Ukrainian energy system is a legitimate military target.



A Palestinian child salvages objects from the debris of a house destroyed by overnight Israeli bombardment in Rafah area of southern Gaza Strip.

Aid flotilla for Gaza blocked in Turkiye

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: A "Free-dom Flotilla" aimed at delivering aid to Gaza was blocked in Turkiye on Saturday after being denied use of two of its ships, which organisers blamed on Israeli pressure. A coalition of NGOs and other associations said it was unable to set sail after the West African country of Guinea-Bissau withdrew its flagged vessels.

20 Cambodian soldiers killed in ammunition base explosion

Monitoring Desk
PHNOM PENH: Twenty Cambodian soldiers were killed in an ammunition explosion at an army base on Saturday. The blast at the army base in Kampong Speu province, to the west of Phnom Penh, also wounded several soldiers, with the army saying that an entire truck of munitions had exploded. "I am deeply shocked to receive the news of the ammunition explosion incident," Prime Minister Hun Manet said in a statement

on Facebook, expressing his "deepest condolences" to the families of those killed. It was not immediately clear what had caused the explosion. Pictures on social media showed a destroyed one-storey building wreathed in smoke, with residents of a nearby village also sharing images online of broken windows. Other images showed what appeared to be civilians, including a child in diapers with cuts and gashes being treated in hospital.

Kyiv's top general says fighting in east Ukraine worsens, troops fall back

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Fighting in eastern Ukraine has worsened and Kyiv's troops have fallen back to new positions in at least three places along the front, Ukraine's top general said on Sunday. Russian troops have been steadily advancing in the east, with the focal point of fighting near the town of Chasiv Yar and northwest of Avdiivka, which Russian forces captured in February. Oleksandr Syrskyi said on Telegram that his troops had taken up new positions west of the villages of Berdychi and Semenivka, both north of Avdiivka.

Abbas says only US can halt Israel's attack on Rafah, expected in days

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Sunday only the United States could stop Israel attacking the border city of Rafah in Gaza, adding that the assault, which he expects within days, could force much of the Palestinian population to flee the enclave. "We call on the United States of America to ask Israel to not carry on the Rafah attack. America is the only country able to prevent Israel from committing this crime," Abbas told a special meeting of the World Economic Forum in the Saudi capital Riyadh. Israel, which has threatened for weeks to launch an all-out assault on the neighbourhood saying its goal is to destroy Hamas' remaining battalions there, stepped up airstrikes on Rafah last week.

Western countries, including Israel's closest ally the United States, have pleaded with it to hold back from attacking the southern city, which abuts the Egyptian border and is sheltering more than a million Palestinians who fled Israel's seven-month long assault on much of the rest of Gaza. "What will happen in the coming few days is what Israel will do with attacking Rafah because all the Palestinians from Gaza are gathered there," Abbas said, adding that only a "small strike" on Rafah would force the Palestinian population to flee the Gaza Strip. "The biggest catastrophe in the Palestinian people's history would then happen." Abbas reiterated that he rejects the displacement of Palestinians into Jordan and Egypt and said he is concerned that once Israel completes its operations in Gaza.

UK ship sets sail for Gaza to help in building of aid jetty

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: A British ship to house hundreds of US troops building a jetty to boost aid deliveries to Gaza has set sail from Cyprus, a UK defence source said on Saturday. Royal Navy support ship Cardigan Bay will assist the international effort to construct the temporary floating pier, which is set to be completed early next month, the Pentagon said. The pier will initially facilitate the delivery of 90 truckloads of international aid a day into Gaza, rising

to up to 150 truckloads once fully operational, according to US estimates. The aid will be pre-screened in Cyprus and delivered directly to Gaza via the pier off the coast or via Ashdod port, which Israel has said it will open to aid vessels. "It is critical we establish more routes for vital humanitarian aid to reach the people of Gaza and the UK continues to take a leading role in the delivery of support," Defence Secretary Grant Shapps said.

Thai foreign minister resigns after losing deputy PM post

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Thai Foreign Minister Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara has resigned, the government said on Sunday, after losing the position of deputy prime minister in a cabinet reshuffle. Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has received Parnpree's resignation letter, government spokesperson Chai Wacharonke told Reuters.

China confronts Japanese politicians in disputed East China Sea area

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's coast guard confronted Japanese lawmakers in waters claimed by both countries in the East China Sea, China's embassy in Tokyo and Japanese media said on Sunday, the latest in a series of maritime disputes involving China and its neighbours. Chinese vessels took unspecified law enforcement measures, the embassy said in a statement, adding that it had lodged solemn representations for what it called "infringement and provocation" by Japan near tiny, uninhabited islands that Beijing calls the

Diaoyu and Tokyo calls the Senkaku. The Japanese group, including former Defense Minister Tomomi Inada, was on an inspection mission organised by the city of Ishigaki in Okinawa prefecture, according to the Chinese embassy and Japanese public broadcaster NHK. Japan and China have repeatedly faced off around the Japan-administered islands. China also has escalating run-ins with the Philippine navy in disputed areas of the South China Sea, where Beijing's expansive maritime claims conflict with those of a number of Southeast Asia nations.

Thousands rally in Australian capitals to demand gender violence justice

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Violence against women is an "epidemic" in Australia, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Saturday, as thousands attended rallies in Sydney and other major Australian cities urging tougher laws on gendered violence. The rallies were spurred by a wave of violence against women that the government says has seen a woman killed every four days this year. The rallies also followed a mass stabbing in Sydney this month that killed six people, including five women.

PM, Saudi ministers discuss investment, business prospects in Pakistan

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday held separate meetings with Saudi Arabia's Minister for Investment Khalid Al-Falih, Minister for Finance Mohammad Al Jadaan and Minister for Industry Bandar bin Ibrahim Alkhourayef and discussed matters of mutual interest.

During the meetings, the Saudi minister for Investment declared the prime minister the "Prime Minister of Action" and said "We all are aware of your performance and speed of work."

He said the prime minister was taking forward the mission of progress of Pakistan and they all were with him. "Your mission is our mission," he remarked.

Saudi minister for finance said that a delegation of Saudi investors would soon visit Pakistan. Pakistan was priority for their investment and Saudi Arabia would continue to fully cooperate in the fields of agriculture, information technology and energy.

He said Pakistanis in the past, played a prominent role in the progress of

Saudi Arabia in different fields. During the meeting between the prime minister and the Saudi finance minister, it was agreed that Saudi Arabia would further explore opportunities of investment in Pakistan. The Saudi finance minister reaffirmed the support of Saudi Arabia in the economic progress of Pakistan said "progress of Pakistan is progress of Saudi Arabia".

He said Saudi Arabia took difficult decisions for reforms at the government level regarding its Vision 2030.

The prime minister also met the Saudi Minister for Industry. The Saudi minister for industry expressed keen interest for collaboration with Pakistan in the fields of agriculture, mining, information technology and other areas and informed about the progress made in this regard. The Saudi minister said he was in contact with the Saudi private companies regarding investment in Pakistan and the representatives of these companies would soon visit Pakistan.



RIYADH: Saudi Minister for Finance H.E. Mohammad Al Jadaan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of a Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addressing at 37th Convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU).

Foolproof security arrangements made: Seven-day special anti-polio campaign commences in 30 districts of Balochistan today

EOC Coordinator says over 2.395 million children below five years of age to be administered anti-polio drops; around 10,000 teams formed

Independent Report
QUETTA: The seven-day anti-polio campaign is scheduled to be commenced in 30 districts of Balochistan province today (Monday).

For the purpose, around 10,000 teams have been formed for vaccinating children against polio virus in the province. These are included 8,000 mobile teams besides 837 fixed sites and 541 transit points.

It may be mentioned here two polio cases were reported from Balochistan this year after gap of three years. The cases were reported from Dera Bugti and Chaman.

According to the Coordinator of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication Balochistan, Syed Zahid Shah, all the necessary arrangements have been made for immunization of the children in the targeted districts of the province.

The districts which are not included in the campaign are: Awaran, Washuk, Kohlu, Musakhail and Surab. Except these districts, the campaign is being launched in the other 30 districts of the province.

According to EOC Coordinator, the anti-polio campaign is being launched in view of the recent cases reported in the province.

The EOC Coordinator informed that more than 2.395 million children below five years of age would be administered anti-polio vaccine during the campaign.

The EOC coordinator said that foolproof security arrangements have been made for the upcoming immunization campaign in the province.

He urged the parents, civil society and other segments of the society to extend wholehearted cooperation to make the anti-polio campaign successful.

All minorities across Pakistan celebrating their festivals with complete freedom: Ramesh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs of Punjab Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora has said that the Constitution of Pakistan gives complete freedom to the followers of all religions living in the beloved country and in the eyes of the Constitution, every person is living in Pakistan without discrimination.

other's happiness and this is the message of the Prophets, Messengers and Saints sent by Allah who taught love, goodness, brotherhood, tolerance and also suffered for it.

The beauty of Pakistan is that the people living here are free to practice their beliefs and religious rituals as demonstrated recently by the festivals of Easter, Ramadan, Eid, Holi and Baisakhi. People of all religions share in each

He expressed these views while addressing the gathering of Christian community at Harvest Life Church in Christian town Sialkot as chief guest. Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora said that Mr. Isa Allahi salam and Imam Hussain gave the message of standing firm in the face of oppression, which can be called the end of injustice and oppression from the society.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing President, Faryal Talpur cutting her birthday cake along with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PPP Chairman and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, First Lady held at Bilawal House.

Stern action being taken against encroachments established at drainage nullahs in Quetta: DC

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad has stated that stern action is being taken against the encroachments established on drainage nullahs located in different parts of Quetta city.

The Deputy Commissioner led the local administration and Metropolitan Corporation's team against the encroachments.

He said that the rain water is passing through the roads and streets besides affecting the houses just because of the encroachments established and occupations made on the nullahs in city.

During the crackdown, several houses and shops were demolished, which built on the drainage nullah.

The Deputy Commissioner was supervising the crackdown against encroachments established in the drainage nullahs in Pashtoonabad here the other day.

The drainage nullah was closed due to the encroachments there.

Imran grants permission for Fawad Ch's return to PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former minister Fawad Chaudhry is expected to rejoin Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as the party founder Imran Khan has granted permission for his return sources said on Sunday. Well-placed sources in the PTI confirmed that former premier Imran Khan granted permission for Fawad Chaudhry's return to party. The PTI sources also said a meeting between former chairman of the party Imran Khan and his former cabinet member Fawad Chaudhry is also expected next week in the Adiala Jail.

Envoy Masood calls for recognition of Palestinians' right to self-determination

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan has underlined the urgent need for a ceasefire in Palestine, calling for immediate humanitarian assistance and the recognition of Palestinians' right to self-determination.

dedication to both medical excellence and community service, which has illuminated the positive essence of Pakistan and its people.

He expressed these remarks while addressing the Spring meeting of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) in the U.S. state of Illinois.

The Ambassador expressed gratitude to President Asif Mohiuddin and Chair Sajid Mehmood for the opportunity to address the esteemed gathering.

In a passionate speech to over 570 attendees, Ambassador Masood Khan underscored the invaluable contributions of the Pakistani diaspora, particularly physicians, in the United States. He commended the APPNA for its relentless

The Ambassador outlined the burgeoning bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and the United States in healthcare. He disclosed pivotal decisions made during recent high-level health dialogues, including the proposal to establish a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) branch in Pakistan for enhanced disease surveillance.

Emphasizing the substantial investments made by Pakistani-American doctors in various sectors of healthcare, Masood Khan urged for expanded investment in Pakistan, citing promising prospects in telemedicine, pharmaceuticals, and IT. He highlighted Pakistan's burgeoning IT industry, boasting 192 million mobile phone users and 135 million broadband subscribers, which has positioned the country as a cost-effective destination for IT investments. Encouraging confidence in Pakistan as a favorable investment destination, Ambassador Khan reiterated the enduring bond between the Pakistani diaspora and the United States, describing it as a resilient asset for both nations.

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Zia visits Trauma center; inquires about health of injured local cricket players of Kalat

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove visited the Trauma Center located adjacent to the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital here on Sunday afternoon.

belonging to a local cricket club of Kalat were brought to Quetta for treatment.

During the visit, the Minister for Home inquired about health of the local cricketers injured in wall collapse in Kalat on Saturday. It may be mentioned here that four cricketers

They were admitted in the Trauma Center and provided medical treatment.

One of them was discharged after providing necessary medical treatment. However, three were still admitted in the Trauma Center.

Mir Ziaullah Langove expressed sorrow over the incident with the families of injured players.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that PML-N came into power in most critical situation and now it was trying to drag out Pakistan from the crisis.

PML-N had track record of delivering to the nation, he added.

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Pak Zaireen attend annual Urs at Dargah Hazrat Amir Khusro

NEW DELHI (APP): The Charge d' Affaires of Pakistan to India Saad Ahmad Warraich, laid the traditional chhadar on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan at the shrine of the famous mystic saint, Hazrat Amir Khusro, in New Delhi on Sunday. A group of 70 Pakistani Zaireen visiting India to participate in the 720 Urs celebrations of Hazrat Amir Khusro were also present on the occasion. The Charge d' Affaires and the Pakistani Zaireen were welcomed at the Dargah by Sajjadah Nasheen Dewan Tahir Nizami. After laying the traditional chhadar at the shrine, the participants offered dua and prayed for Pakistan's progress and prosperity. The Charge d' Affaires and Zaireen also paid obeisance at the Dargah of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia (RA), located in the same compound. The Sajjadah Nasheen also performed the dastaarbandi (traditional turban) of the Charge d' Affaires and group leader of the Zaireen.

He emphasized that training sessions for private pilgrims, organized by HOAP, would be conducted regularly in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad, with the code of conduct set to be issued next week.

Ashrafi also warned against fraudulent practices by unregistered companies on social media and fake websites, advising the public to book only through officially registered quota holders or tour operators.

Additionally, he announced that, in accordance with the instructions of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman and with the efforts of Saudi Ambassador.

Addressing a press conference along with other HOAP representatives, including Saeed Ahmed Malik, Chaudhry Ehsanullah, Malik Abdul Khaliq, Chaudhry Muhammad Adil, Khalid Mahmood Bhatti, Pir Shafiq Ahmed Boudla, Shahid Manzoor, and Zeeshan Qamar, he informed that private Hajj bookings were still open, with Hajj operation set to commence on May 9, and training sessions starting from May 5.

Ashrafi urged the pilgrims to focus solely on their religious duties and

refrain from engaging in political, sectarian, or communal activities, including raising slogans or displaying images in the Haramain Sharifain.

Ashrafi further highlighted the issue of individuals engaging in political and sectarian activities during their pilgrimage, urging the Pakistani government to take action against them.

He emphasized that training sessions for private pilgrims, organized by HOAP, would be conducted regularly in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad, with the code of conduct set to be issued next week.

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PEMRA urges IHC to exclude Justice Sattar from audio leak case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has formally appealed to Justice Babar Sattar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to step aside from overseeing the audio leak case.

Najam Saqib, the son of former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, and Bushra Bibi, the spouse of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

PEMRA - a key party in the audio leak case - has filed a supplementary application before the IHC ahead of its forthcoming hearing scheduled for Monday, around the contention that Justice Sattar should recuse himself from the case due to a previous IHC bench having already addressed a similar matter.

Saqib's petition challenges a parliamentary committee's inquiry into an alleged audio recording wherein he purportedly sought a bribe for a ticket of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). On the other hand, Bushra Bibi contests an inquiry initiated by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) regarding her purported conversation.

The application underscores the importance of continuity, advocating that the bench previously involved in a related matter should continue to handle the ongoing petitions. Justice Sattar was presiding over petitions filed by

During previous hearings, Justice Sattar had directed the intelligence agencies and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to trace the origin of the leaked audio. Additionally, PEMRA was instructed not to broadcast unauthorised or leaked conversations of individuals.

Tarar links progress to education

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Sunday that Islam underlines the importance of education and cleanliness and no nation could excel without acquiring education.

Addressing a convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University held at Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan here, he said he was honoured to attend the ceremony and congratulated the students for completing their degrees. He said, "The credit goes to teachers, parents and Allama Iqbal Open University for producing such talented students."

Education and health are among top priorities of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. When he served as Punjab Chief Minister in past, he had focused on school education, restructuring of universities.

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PUC, HOAP reinforce Saudi directive: Private Hajj bookings through registered companies only

LAHORE (APP): Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and Patron-in-Chief Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday emphasized the pilgrims regarding private Hajj bookings through companies registered with the governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia reinforcing the directive from Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrh.

Addressing a press conference along with other HOAP representatives, including Saeed Ahmed Malik, Chaudhry Ehsanullah, Malik Abdul Khaliq, Chaudhry Muhammad Adil, Khalid Mahmood Bhatti, Pir Shafiq Ahmed Boudla, Shahid Manzoor, and Zeeshan Qamar, he informed that private Hajj bookings were still open, with Hajj operation set to commence on May 9, and training sessions starting from May 5.

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He emphasized that training sessions for private pilgrims, organized by HOAP, would be conducted regularly in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad, with the code of conduct set to be issued next week.

Nassem demands non-stop train from Quetta to Karachi

QUETTA (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister on Environment, Naseem ur Rehman in meeting with DS Railways demanded that the Pakistan Railways should launch a non-stop train on the route of Quetta to Karachi, in a bid to facilitate the passenger and cater the needs of the people of Balochistan.

He stressed that the railway administration should take necessary steps to run a non-stop train from Quetta to Karachi on immediate basis in order to improve the railway's network and services in Balochistan, said a press release.

He also asked for the restoration of Akbar Express from Quetta division, so that the long-standing demand of the people would be met.

Naseem ur Rehman in a meeting with DS Railways Quetta further said that Pakistan Railways should give priority to Quetta Division for providing better travel facilities to the people.

He stressed for the restoration of train service in Balochistan and early completion of on-going projects of Pakistan Railway authority which would create better business opportunities for the local people in the province.

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BEIJING: A group photo of Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi with panelists at the Pakistan Professionals and Students Forum at the Pakistan Embassy.