

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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Complete independence impossible without economic stability: COAS

Says inimical forces impeding Pakistan's development to be failed with nation's support: Negative propaganda and social media trolls will not distract from working toward nation's prosperity and development; No instability to be tolerated in country's journey of prosperity: We are all a united team Pakistan.

RAWALPINDI (Online): Army chief Gen Syed Asim Munir has said the efforts of those who obstruct the development journey and divert attention from it will fail with the support of the people. He said this while addressing participants at the Green Pakistan Initiative Conference. He held negative propaganda and social media trolls could not divert their attention from Pakistan and working towards the

development and prosperity of its people. The COAS reaffirmed the resolve to overcome obstacles and focus on national advancement. "In today's era, complete independence without economic stability is not possible," he stressed. Furthermore, he reiterated his commitment to zero tolerance for any form of instability that could impede the nation's journey towards prosperity. "No instability will be tol-

erated in Pakistan's journey of prosperity and development," he asserted. In a call to action, the army chief urged all stakeholders to unite in rejecting negative forces and distractions, and focus on Pakistan's journey of development and stability. "Let us all reject the negative forces, focus on Pakistan journey to development and stability and forge unity besides putting Pakistan on path to development, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Pakistan committed to deepen collaboration with SCO: Kh Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Defence & Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif is leading the Pakistan delegation to Kazakhstan for the annual meeting of the Defence Ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The meeting reviewed the regional security issues, including the defence cooperation initiatives, a news release said. The Defence Minister also held meetings with the defence ministers of the friendly countries of the SCO to discuss issues of bilateral defence cooperation. Various areas of mutual interest including respective regional security, counter terrorism, Afghanistan situation and review of national

security priorities, extremist threats, border management and maritime security were also deliberated upon. Minister of Defence stated that Pakistan is deeply concerned about the escalating situation in Gaza. Pakistan has consistently advocated for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with relevant United Nations resolutions. He also said that Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the SCO platform. "I would reiterate that Pakistan takes great pride in our partnership with SCO and are fully committed to further deepening and expanding this association", said the Minister for Defence while addressing the forum.

PTI denied permission to hold Karachi power show

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi administration on Friday denied permission to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a power show at Karachi's Bagh-e-Jinnah on April 28 sources said Friday. According to sources, the police report stated that the permission to hold a public gathering was denied, in light of potential security threats and the recent surge in terrorist activities in the city. In a report to District Commissioner, the Police urged against giving permission to PTI to hold a public gathering as there are threats of a possible terrorist attack in the port city. It is important to mention here that today the Sindh High Court will hear the PTI plea seeking permission to hold power show in Karachi's Bagh-e-Jinnah.



KAZAKHSTAN: Federal Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a group photo with Defence Ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Sanctions on missile parts suppliers not to dent ties with Pakistan: US

WASHINGTON (INP): State Department says Pakistan continues to be important partner in region: Islamabad trashes US report on human rights as 'unfair and politically motivated'. The United States has made it clear that the recent sanctions imposed on companies allegedly supplying missile components to Pakistan will not dent the bilateral relations with Pakistan. The State Department emphatically declared that there's 'absolutely no' undercurrent of discord between the United States and Pakistan, despite recent sanctions. Addressing the daily news briefing in Washing-

ton on Thursday, State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel played down concerns about political tensions arising from the sanctions, saying: "Pakistan continues to be one of our most important partners in the region. There continues to be a lot of cooperation that we have with the government of Pakistan, especially in the security space and trade sector." Patel recalled that the Pakistani finance minister was in Washington last week and held consultations with members of the State Department. "This is a robust relationship, and we look to continue strengthening it," he added.

Chairman COPHC lauds MoMA's efforts at Gwadar Port, Free Zone

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Yu Bo of China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd (COPHC) called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Friday and appreciated the ministry's consistent support and efforts in facilitating the operational activities at Gwadar Port and Free Zone. The meeting comprehensively covered various developmental areas and key policy recommendations essential for enhancing the port's efficiency and competitiveness, said a press release.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir addresses during the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) Conference held in Rawalpindi.

Those behind causing loss to national economy will be held accountable: PM

Cabinet briefed on progress of PIA privatization; Extends validity of registered Afghan refugee cards to June 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the elements involved in the deep-rooted menace of corruption and criminal negligence for denting the national economy would be held accountable. Referring to the track and trace system agreement made in 2019, the prime minister said this system was nothing but a cruel joke to the nation as no improvement was seen in the sectors of tobacco, cement, sugar and fertilizer. He said the agreement was totally a fraud as even no penalty clause was included in it. Chairing a meeting of the Cabinet at the PM House, he said that he had ordered to form an inquiry committee in this regard

that will present its report within 72 hours. As regards the macro-economic indicators, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the collective performance of both incumbent and the interim governments. He said according to a recently published report on Pakistan economy, many indicators including IT export, remittances, capital market were showing positive results due to the prudent policies of the government. However, he maintained that lot of work needed to be done. The government will perform 'major surgical operation' to get rid of the deep-rooted flaws in the country's economy, he added. PM Shehbaz Sharif informed that he completed

the power sector review in four phases in which important decisions were taken to minimize power theft and line losses, and to reduce prices of the electricity. Besides, he said the government had also decided in principle to divest the Distribution Companies (DISCOs). He said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had old and obsolete systems which needed to be replaced to increase the tax to GDP ratio. He pointed out that the FBR had the potential to earn extra revenues worth hundreds of billions of rupees by implementing reforms in its system. "We have to take tough decision in larger interest of

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti attending a meeting through video link presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding climate change.

Public parking plaza to be extended further: Misuse of available resources important issue in Balochistan, says Bugti

Independent Report Hamza Shafaqat and other concerned high ups. The Chief Minister said that the public parking plaza would be extended further and it would be run under public-private partnership. He expressed displeasure over non-completion of the parking plaza and said that he has suspended the concerned Executive Engineer on non-completion of the work of parking plaza. He said that we would resolve the issues of wrong parking and traffic in Quetta city. He said that Rs. 1 million monthly are being collected from the parking. Also present on the occasion were the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad

Continued on page 2

Warrant issued for Achakzai's arrest over MPO violation, illegal occupation Monitoring Desk

QUETTA: A lower court on Friday issued a warrant for the arrest of Mahmood Khan Achakzai, the chief of the Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), over charges of illegal occupation and violation of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO). According to a private tv channel report, a judicial magistrate in Quetta issued the arrest warrant for Achakzai in connection with a case registered at the Gwalmandi police station. Reportedly a raid was carried out at the residence of Achakzai after he was pitted against Asif Ali Zardari by the opposition parties in the election for the position of president of Pakistan. Achakzai was not present at his house at the time. Following the raid, the district administration initiated a case against the PKMAP chief under different charges, including illegal occupation and violation of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).

Balochistan suffered loss of US\$ 1.6 b due to previous floods: Commitment made by world community for rehabilitation of flood affectees not fulfilled: CM

Commitment made by world community for rehabilitation of flood affectees not fulfilled: CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has regretfully pointed out that the commitments made by the world community for rehabilitation of the flood affected people of the province were not fulfilled yet. He said that Balochistan had suffered the loss of US\$ 1.6 billions due to the previous rains and floods. The province had also been suffered the most due to the climate change. The Chief Minister stated so while participating through video link in the meeting of Chief Ministers of all provinces on climate change chaired by the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Friday. Besides him, the Advisor to Chief Minister for Environment, Naseemur

Rehman and Secretary Environment, Nadeem Khan were also present. While endorsing the stance of Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah regarding formation of consultation committee, the Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti stressed that consultation of the provinces is necessary for decision and policy making about climate change so as to form the national policy and guideline for coping with the challenges of climate change. Besides, the proposed fees structure should be decided on basis of requirements of the provinces so that it is acceptable to them, he added. The Chief Minister said that the provincial government would follow the guideline to be decided with mutual consultation to cope with the challenges of climate change.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dawoodi Bohra community called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

21 persons die, 14 injured in different mishaps during rains in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: As many as 21 persons including seven women and six children died in different mishaps occurred during recent rains and flood in the province. This was stated in a report of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) shared with media on Friday. According to the report, eight persons died and five others injured due to the rains and flash flood in Chaman. Among injured persons

were included seven males, four females and three children. The PDMA report suggested that 251 houses were damaged completely while 1910 others were partially damaged. Besides, three bridges and 14 roads were also damaged due heavy rains and flash floods in the province. As per the report, 115 animals were perished. Moreover, the standing crops cultivated on 62 acres of land were also damaged in the province.

PTI senator puts forward conditions for talks with govt

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition Leader in the Senate, Shibli Faraz on Friday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is ready for conditional talks with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government. In an informal conversation with media, Shibli Faraz expressed his willingness to engage in dialogue with anyone including federal government for the betterment of Pakistan, but only if the government creates a conducive environment for talks. He emphasized that political cases must be withdrawn, and the rule of law and constitution must be upheld, demanding the release of PTI founder Imran Khan, women, and political prisoners, however, he stressed that legal cases should be pursued if they

are genuine. The PTI senator further added that the government must allow political freedom and stop political victimization. The opposition leader said that PTI held intra-party elections for the third time, but objections were raised on the party polls again. He warned that political stability cannot be achieved in such environment. Faraz lamented that there are differences and conflicting views even within the Pakistan Muslim League (N). He specifically mentioned Rana Sanaullah, who he claimed was speaking differently than others. Furthermore, Shibli Faraz emphasized that the uncertain situation regarding the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) chairmanship would soon be resolved.

Nawaz Sharif set to lead PML-N again

LAHORE (INP) - Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is set take the reins of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz once again, former interior minister Rana Sanaullah announced on Friday. His declaration followed a crucial meeting of the PML-N Punjab chapter where party members and office-bearers unanimously passed a resolution to make Nawaz Sharif the president of the PML-N. "Mian Nawaz Sharif ceased to be the president of the PML-N as the result of a controversial judicial order. All obstacles of suppression are over and he stands vindicated. The PML-N will move forward under his leadership," Sanaullah asserted during a media interaction. "Mian Nawaz Sharif has been requested to reas-

sume the charge of the PML-N." Sanaullah said that the former prime minister had been forcibly separated from the party in 2017. He said that while [incumbent PML-N president] Shehbaz Sharif was attempting to rescue the country from economic crises day and night, Nawaz Sharif assuming the leadership role within the party would help overcome shortcomings and weaknesses. Sanaullah, who was flanked by party leaders Javed Latif and Khurram Dastgir, said that the PML-N was a democratic and political party, adding that "there's no hindrance in expressing opinions within the PML-N". He further said that the PML-N would present its political manifesto to the people of Pakistan in next few weeks.



QUETTA: Former Caretaker Minister Khurram Shahzad and Sardar Qurban Jozgejai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Rain fury triggers floods in Balochistan, causes extensive damage

QUETTA (INP): Torrential rains accompanied by thunder and lightning wreaked havoc across various districts of Balochistan once again, reported on Friday.

According to administrative sources, torrential rains submerged large swathes of land, collapsed numerous mud houses and other installations in Chaghi and damaged more than 50 houses in border areas near Taftan.

Administrative sources said that the border city of Taftan bore the brunt of the heavy downpour, with significant damage inflicted upon homes and other structures.

The majority of the city found itself submerged as a result of the floodwaters. The local administra-

tion has initiated the rescue operation to relocate the flood-affected families.

In Chaghi district, Thursday night's floods washed away homes while agricultural fields have been inundated with extensive damage to crops.

Furthermore, stormy winds also paralysed life in Dalbandin city, causing several shop signboards to topple while low-lying areas in Dorban were inundated by rising waters.

The Met Office had already forecasted a new round of rain system from April 25 and said that the westerly wave to extend its grip over most parts of the country by April 26.

As per the weather report, the rainfall is anticipated to continue until

April 27 in Balochistan areas including Noushki, Pishin, Harnai, Zhob, Barkhan, Gwadar, Kech, Awaran, Chaghi, Kharan, Kalat, Mastung, Jhal Magsi, Naseerabad, Sibbi, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Loralai, Qilla Saifullah, Qila Abdullah, Quetta, Ziarat, Shirani, and Musa Khel are expected to receive rainfall.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has cautioned citizens against unnecessary travel as the country braces for another bout of rainfall.

The NDMA emphasized that the expected rain this week could lead to flash floods and landslides, particularly in low-lying and mountainous areas.



QUETTA: Members of Sunni Tehreek (PST) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Quetta press club.

Lightning kills three in Mansehra

MANSEHRA (INP): Three including a child were killed when lightning struck Katalo Kerry area of Oghi on Friday, rescue sources said.

According to details, heavy rain followed by hailstorm lashed different areas and lightning fell over three people. As a result, Muhammad Shafique 28, Ahmed Umer 40, and 10-year-old Shakeel Umer were killed.

The rescue teams reached the scene and shifted the bodies to hospital.

SCHOOL OF INFANTRY & TACTICS, QUETTA CANTONMENT

Following quotations are invited upto 10 May 2024 at 1000 hours out of Special Annual Training Grant FY 2023/24. The firm will be liable to pay all taxes i.e. GST, IT and BST:-

- Repair/Maint of Short Rg 1,2,3,4 & 5.
- Purchase of Fur & misc items for YO's Tac-3 (New Building).
- Renovation/ uplift of Halls (Etikhar Auditorium, Ayub Hall, Akhtar Malik Hall and Shabir Sharif Hall).
- Repair/maint of Abid Majeed Sports Complex (AMSC).
- Contact: 0333-0532545.

TENDER NOTICE

The Director General Local Government & Rural Development Balochistan Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following objects. Tender Fee +1 (Green Challan) Rs. 1000/-

S.No.	Name of Objects	Bid Security
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF DIVISIONAL & DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT DISTRICT KILLA ABDULLAH TSE-232404394603	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: (a) The bidder must have completed three assignments of similar nature of work in last 3 years. (b) Registration with PEC (c) Registration with relevant taxation departments. (d) Audit report of 3 years. (e) General and Personal Experience. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of amount specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment (non refundable) bidding document fee (amount mentioned above) through Green Challan. In account of C03870/If Others please specify (The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 13/05/2024, during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 13/05/2024 till 11:00 AM at the office of the under-signed. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM. S Address: Directorate General Balochistan Local Government & Rural Development Western bypass road Quetta

Director Technical North Local Government & Rural Development Balochistan Quetta

PRQ No. 1999/26-04-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

The STATIONERY AND PRINTING invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232404399501 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GO Tender Fee Rs. 2000/-

S.No.	Class of Objects	Bid Security
1	ICT Equipment (Network, surveillance devices, storage devices, Office Equipment) (Total Item(s) Count: 5)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth 2,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 3,000,000 PKR in 2 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. Must agree to serve the Contract within the stipulated time period. At-Least 3 Nos of Plates each size and 1(one) liter plate Developer. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 15 May, 2024 till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Block # 09, Room # 1, Press Building, Civil Secretariat, Zhargoon Road Quetta

Phone no: 0819201881 Email: govt.press1970@gmail.com

CONTROLLER GOVERNMENT PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT

PRQ No. 1995/26-04-2024
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Babar Azam points finger on batting after another defeat

LAHORE (INP): National team captain Babar Azam voiced his disappointment as Pakistan succumbed to yet another defeat against New Zealand in the ongoing series.

Addressing the media following the fourth match at Gaddafi Stadium, Azam squarely attributed the loss to the team's batting performance, stressing that the inability to notch up runs proved to be their Achilles' heel.

Azam conceded that despite a commendable effort in restricting New Zealand, Pakistan faltered in their batting innings, failing to muster the necessary momentum to chase down the target. Reflecting on the missed opportunity, he acknowledged the team's failure to capitalize on crucial middle overs, lamenting their inability to reach the attainable target of 179 runs.

Regarding the team dynamics and the infusion of young talent, Azam commended the efforts of the budding bowlers while acknowledging the necessity for squad alterations due to injuries. Despite the setbacks, Azam remains optimistic about the team's potential to bounce back and deliver stronger performances in the remainder of the series.

Misuse of available...

Continued from page 1 plaza.

He said that we have plan to build a hotel on roof of the parking plaza.

The Chief Minister said that the people of Balochistan have complete right to lead good life.

He stressed that the cooperation of citizens and media is required for resolving the issues.

Every individual has to fulfill one's responsibility to resolve the issues besides betterment of the city, adding he stressed further.

Referring the cleanliness, he said that the situation of cleanliness would be improved and issues of sewerage would be resolved in Quetta.

He announced that the rent of government properties would be increased.

The meeting of the cabinet was held at the PM House under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The cabinet directed to ensure transparency in the privatization of PIA.

Meanwhile, the Secretary Aviation, briefing on the recent measures taken to improve the facilities at Pakistan's airports, particularly Lahore and Karachi, informed that the service counters at the airports had been increased and further improvement of the facilities was in progress.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the federal cabinet approved the establishment of an additional special court in Makran Division to deal with anti-narcotics cases in Balochistan province.

The jurisdiction of this special court will extend to the districts of Panjur, Kech, Gwadar, Hub and



SUJAWAL: Doctors examine patient at free medical camp establish by Pakistan Navy at Jangu Jalbani, District Sujawal, Sindh.

Aleem Khan told NA NHA's flood damaged portion's repair to be completed by Dec

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan Friday informed the National Assembly that the restoration of the old national highway, damaged by floods, is scheduled to be finished by December 2024.

Replying to a calling attention notice in the House, he said that an amount of Rs 500 million has been approved in the financial year 2023-24, for repair of flood-damaged highways.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister PPP Mir Changez Khan Jamali and MPA Mir Muhammad Khan Lehri meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

SIC second largest party in NA, ECP tells NA secretariat

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday officially informed the National Assembly (NA) Secretariat that Sunni

Alliance Council (SIC) is the second largest party in National Assembly.

As per details, ECP officially notified the National Assembly Secretariat regarding the party positions in NA. According to the ECP report, Sunni Alliance Council (SIC) has total 82 members including 49 from Punjab and 33 independent candidates after PTI-backed candidate joined the SIC, making it the second-largest party in the National Assembly.

Sunni Ittehad Council with 82 members (including 49 from Punjab and 33 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), PPP 71, MQM 21, JUI 11, PML-Q 5, PPP 4 and MWM, PKMAP, BNP.

PMAP, BAP PML-Z each have one member. The Election Commission has clarified that no specific seats have been allocated to the Sunni Ittehad Council.

The National Assembly Secretariat had requested the Election Com-

The China the emerging power

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: "There's a lot of hype in certain countries, especially the U.S. and even certain Western countries about China's so-called overcapacity," said host Mushahid Hussain Sayed, chairman of Pakistan's Senate Defense Committee on CGTN's show Global South Voices. The fourth episode debunks the "China overcapacity" myth, revealing the protectionist mindset behind such accusations with guests from Malaysia, Pakistan, China and Norway joining the show.

Recently, U.S. politicians and media have sensationalized the concept of "overcapacity" in China, particularly focusing on the expansion of Chinese manufacturing in new sectors like electric vehicles (EVs), lithium-ion batteries, and solar panels. This narrative suggests that Western anxiety about their competitiveness in these industries is driving them to label China's growing industries as overcapacity to hinder their progress.

Aqdas Afzal, associate professor of Economics at Habib University, Karachi, pointed out that it is the fear of China's rise and the yearning for

Those behind causing loss....

Continued from page 1 the country and we will fully monitor the implementation phase," the prime minister remarked.

As regards, privatization of the State Owned Entities (SOEs), the prime minister assured that the process would be done without delay and in a transparent manner.

Meanwhile, the Federal Cabinet was informed on Friday that the privatization process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was on track and several companies were taking keen interest in the airlines.

Federal Secretary for Privatization briefing the cabinet regarding the recent progress of PIA's privatization process, told that the advertisements inviting expressions of interest were published in national and international newspapers on April 2, with the last date being May 3, and so far several companies had expressed keen interest in PIA.

Labella.

The cabinet directed that judges of good repute be appointed in the special court and the prosecution process be made more effective.

On the recommendation of SAFRON, the cabinet approved the extension of the validity of Proof of Registration (POR) cards of Afghan refugees from April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. The cabinet was told that with this extension, POR card holders will be able to avail schools, bank accounts and other facilities in Pakistan.

These POR card holders will be repatriated in the third phase of the program of repatriating illegal foreign nationals residing in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the first phase of repatriating the foreign residents living in Pakistan without any identity documents is in progress. The meeting was further told that the consultation with all stakeholders regarding the drone policy for the use of drone technology in the agriculture sector was in the final stages and will soon be presented to the cabinet for approval.

The cabinet approved the appointment of four ex-officio members of the Board of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP).

The cabinet also approved the decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases on April 18, 2024.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232404399663 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Divisional Forest Officer, Harnai invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.

S.No	Name of Works	Est/Cost
1	Construction of Eco Tourism Hut at Harnai	3,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 2,100,000 PKR Amount in subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 09 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 09 May, 2024 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Harnai Phone no: 0833520468 Email: dfoharnai@gmail.com

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, HARNAI

PRQ No. 1983/25-04-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

The Directorate of Education (Schools) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232404399491 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Educational Lab Equipment (Total Item(s) Count: 241)	3%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR. 80,000,000 Million each in Previous 3 Years. Accumulated Turn over of at least PKR. 100,000,000 Million in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. The bidder must have functional corporate office having Ptdl phone No. in Balochistan. Last 3 year audit report. All supply order must be obtained through BPPRA bidding process under proper TSE NO. Related to Government Department (2021-2023). Qualified bidder must provide sample of quoted items. Affidavit on stamp paper Rs. 100/= Duly notified to the effect that the bidder has submitted correct & Complete information along with the bid/offer. If any document/information is found forged/engineered/fake/bogus at any stage, the bidder may be declared as blacklisted in accordance with law & performance guarantee & Payment. Validity 30-06-24 with a code me06 Medical Equipment/Science Equipment valid Having Specialized relative Code and meet project cost limit Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 09 May, 2024 till 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Directorate of Education (Schools) Balochistan Brevary Road Quetta

Phone no: 0819202102 Email: programdirectoremis@gmail.com

Director of Education Balochistan Quetta

PRQ No. 1988/25-04-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

PM directs formation of committee for consultation with provinces on carbon credits policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday directed formation of a committee for consultation with the provinces for policy making on guiding principles for carbon credits. He was chairing the third meeting of Pakistan Council for Climate Change. The federal and provincial governments would work together for making policies regarding climate change, he said.

"Our challenges regarding climate change are increasing with every passing day," he said, adding without the consultation of provinces, there was no question of policy making of any kind on the issue.

The participants discussed in detail policy guidelines for foreign trading in carbon credits. He instructed that a policy draft should be presented in the next meeting of the Council after consultation with the provinces. The chief ministers of the four provinces expressed their viewpoint regarding policy making and gave recommendations.

The prime minister directed that the provinces and other stakeholders should be taken into confidence regarding the important policy draft on climate change. He said Pakistan was one of the countries badly suffered from the adverse effects of climate change. It was gravely affected by the rains in 2022 and the floods caused by them.

As a servant of Pakistan, he said, he worked for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected and fought the case of Pakistan all across the world regarding climate change.

He said Ahsan Iqbal and Sherry Rehman and all the relevant institutions and ministries took important steps to take Pakistan out of that difficult time and to build infrastructure in the country regarding climate change. He said he and the Pakistani nation were thankful to the friendly countries and the international community particularly Secretary General of the United Nations for coming to the aid of affected Pakistanis.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the third meeting of Pakistan Climate Change Council.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting Public Facilitation Center.

Saudi Arabia's Umrah and Ziyarah Forum focuses on innovative ways to enhance pilgrim experience

ISLAMABAD (APP): Umrah and Ziyarah Forum concluded at the King Salman International Convention Center in Madinah. During the three-day event, participants discussed ways to foster collaborations, enhance the pilgrim experience and improve the services provided for pilgrims.

The agenda for the forum, organized by the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in partnership with the Pilgrim Experience Program, included six discussion sessions and 24 workshops led by 29 experts and specialists.

The topics they covered included services for pilgrims and other visitors, advancements in air travel services for pilgrims, financial systems in the Umrah and ziyarah sectors, and development opportunities in housing and hospitality services, Arab News reported.

Other discussions focused on services at ports, the automation of operations, ways to improve the efficiency of workers, and the important role of services provided for visitors at holy sites and throughout their journeys in Makkah and Madinah.

One of the key topics was air travel services, with discussions about the growth in flight numbers and the need to provide a comprehensive range of services throughout pilgrims' journeys beyond those purely focusing on their rituals. For example, participants highlighted plans for the expansion of Madinah Airport to better accommodate the increasing numbers of pilgrims and other visitors arriving there.

Another discussion examined financial services in the Umrah and ziyarah sector, and explored the options for international money transfers, ways to develop financial procedures, and innovative digital solutions for processing transactions.

Other topics included development opportunities in housing and hospitality services, during which speakers emphasized the importance of transparency and the need for full compliance by service providers with the terms of their contracts.

The minister inspected various counters of the PFC and appreciated the staff for serving the citizens. He directed the authorities to provide comfortable chairs to the applicants coming for driving licenses. Naqvi met the citizens who came to the PFC and asked about the solution to the problems.

Citizens welcomed the announcement of keeping the Police Service Center open 24 hours and thanked Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Inspector General Police Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi gave a briefing about PFC to the minister.

Mohsin Naqvi visits Police Facilitation center, directs 24 hour service for citizens

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday visited a Police Facilitation Center (PFC) in Islamabad's F-6 sector to inspect the counters made for the convenience of the citizens.

Mohsin Naqvi directed the officials to keep the PFC open for 24 hours for the convenience of the citizens. He said that the citizens should be able to avail the services at facility centers at any time according to their convenience.

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the PFC and appreciated the staff for serving the citizens. He directed the authorities to provide comfortable chairs to the applicants coming for driving licenses. Naqvi met the citizens who came to the PFC and asked about the solution to the problems.

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Lahore-Paris rally to highlight the positive image of Pak: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Friday said that the Lahore Paris Rally would play a vital role in highlighting the positive image of Pakistan.

He said this while reviewing the arrangements of the Lahore-Paris rally 2024 during a meeting with the Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism and Development Corporation (PTDC) and the organizers of the rally.

The main objective of the meeting was to devise a strategy for the event's success. At the same time, security arrangements, logistics support and cooperation with international partners were discussed in detail in the meeting.

The Lahore-Paris rally, which will begin on August 26, will travel through 12 countries from Pakistan to France and will pass through major countries like Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

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MPs highlight critical issues from their respective areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lawmakers in the National Assembly raised various critical issues from their respective areas on Friday and called upon the government to take action to address them.

During a point of order, Mian Ghous Muhammad highlighted that approximately Rs. 20 billion is payable to sugarcane growers by sugar mills. He said that in Punjab, there is a law mandating mills to pay interest to farmers if payments are delayed.

He expressed concern that mill owners are not meeting their obligations and urged the government to ensure prompt payment to the growers.

Muhammad Iqbal Khan asked the government to address law and order challenges in his area, urging the federal government to enhance security measures and take care of the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Khalid Ahmed highlighted similar concerns about law and order in his constituency, appealing for federal intervention to improve the situation.

Agha Rafiullah Syed expressed disappointment over the absence of ministers in the house and said that government representatives must be present to address public concerns raised by members.

He stressed the importance of government representatives being available in the National Assembly to respond to the issues and queries brought forth by legislators on behalf of their constituents.

Riaz Fatyana acknowledged the Speaker's directive to ensure ministerial presence and requested assistance from the Interior Ministry to facilitate Umrah visits for National Assembly members.

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CDA organizes E-Katchari to facilitate residents

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Estate Wing of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Friday organized an E-Katchari to facilitate the residents of the federal capital.

The E-Katchari was organized on the special instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in which the online complaints of the citizens were received while considering the problems related to the Estate Wing in the sectoral and non-sectoral areas, said a news release.



ISLAMABAD: Moroccan Ambassador to Pakistan Muhammad Karmoune meet Pakistan Fed. Secy.

Ashrafi re-elected member of Muslim World League's Supreme Council

ISLAMABAD (APP): Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and International Tazim-e-Haramain Sharifain Council Secretary General, has been re-elected as a member of the Supreme Council of Muslim World League.

With a longstanding commitment to the upliftment of Islamic values and the welfare of Muslim communities worldwide, Ashrafi has consistently been at the forefront of advocating for unity and cooperation within the Muslim world. Ashrafi's re-election to the prestigious Supreme Council reaffirms his influential role in shaping the discourse surrounding contemporary Islamic issues.

Throughout his tenure, Ashrafi has demonstrated remarkable leadership in promoting interfaith harmony, countering extremism, and fostering dialogue among diverse Muslim sects.

Art exhibition highlighting "Echoes of Earth" on May 4

ISLAMABAD (APP): Theatre Wallay will feature an art exhibition, titled "Echoes of the Earth", a celebration of climate consciousness on May 4 at Bhattai Auditorium in Islamabad.

The exhibition supported by the US Mission in Pakistan in partnership with Pakistan-US Alumni Network orchestrated a transformative writing workshop aimed at cultivating the talents of aspiring writers to tackle pressing climate issues, said a statement issued by Theatre Wallay here Friday.



ISLAMABAD: PM coordinator on health, Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad is being briefed regarding Sehat Sahulat programme in State Life Corporation Islamabad, Federal Secretary for Health, Mr. Nadeem Mehbub is also accompanying him.

Chairman PRCS engages in humanitarian collaboration with ambassador of Morocco

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, held a courtesy meeting with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco in Pakistan, Mohammed Karmoune here on Friday. This meeting that took place at the Embassy of Morocco marked a crucial moment in the humanitarian relationship between Pakistan and Morocco.

The meeting provided a platform for both parties to deliberate on matters of mutual interest, particularly focusing on humanitarian aid and disaster management. Chairman Laghari emphasized the substantial partnership between the two nations in addressing humanitarian challenges.

During the discussions, Chairman Laghari provided insights into the ongoing programs and projects of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, emphasizing the organization's commitment to serving vulnerable communities nationwide. He underscored the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in effectively addressing humanitarian crises, expressing gratitude for Morocco's past participation in PRCS-organized events such as the International Donors Conference.

IRSA releases 113,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 113,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 178,100 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1448.73 feet and was 34.73 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 30,800 cusecs and 5,000 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: People are taking picture with joker at Pakistan Monument during pleasant weather, in the Federal Capital.

No political prisoner in country at present: Senator Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) in the Senate Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui on Friday said there was no political prisoner in the country at present while the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder was behind the bars for being convicted in various cases.

Taking part in the debate on the presidential address in the Upper House, Senator Siddiqui said in past the PML-N leadership had to face imprisonment in fake cases, but its government did not want to pursue the politics of revenge.

He extended an olive branch to the opposition parties, saying that if the PTI could hold negotiations with its traditional political rivals then why it could not sit on the table with the government for the sake of the country.

"The opposition should hold talks with the treasury benches for resolving critical issues and crises of the country. It should pinpoint problems and issues of national interest, and also suggest their solutions.

At the same, they should bear criticism with open hearts as it is part of debate and discourse and political norms," he added.

Senator Siddiqui condemned intimidation of the judiciary in the past and also in the prevailing time.

PNCA, IFWA to organize a special puppet show

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), in collaboration with the International Foreign Women Association Islamabad, will organize a Puppet Show for foreigners and the general public on April 28. The activity will be held at PNCA Auditorium. The family puppet show will be performed in English, featuring 20 minutes performance followed by the presentation. The puppet theatre PNCA will showcase the skills of its puppeteers featuring vibrant costumed puppets and will present puppet folk tales.

IPRI, ILA Italy ink MoU on cooperation in Intl law development

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Italian Branch of the International Law Association (ILA Italy) and the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) Friday signed a General Agreement for Cooperation to promote cooperation, information exchange and academic programs between the two institutions, and facilitate collaboration in research and analysis on international law. The agreement outlines various forms of cooperation, including mutual research programs, exchange of publications and materials.

The agreement aims to enhance the scientific and academic level of both institutions, promote friendship and understanding between the Italian and Pakistani academics and policymakers, and facilitate collaboration in research and analysis on international law. The agreement outlines various forms of cooperation, including mutual research programs, exchange of publications and materials.

This strategic alliance marks a significant step towards leveraging complementary expertise and resources to address pressing international legal challenges and advance innovative solutions, a news release said issued here.

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ICT admin conducts operation against encroachments, illegal activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Industrial Area, Farwa Batool accompanied by the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) conducted anti-encroachment operation at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and removed all illegal encroachments around the hospital.

Talking to APP, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration Spokesman, Dr Abdullah Tabassum said that on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, the authority was conducting extensive operations targeting illegal gas cylinder filling activities in the G-8 area. Four LPG

In a recent operation conducted at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), he said the AC removed all illegal encroachments and structures blocking public pathways were demolished in the area. The AC also inspected the canteens and tuck shops of the hospital, focusing on cleanliness standards, pricing, and the use of plastic bags. After these inspections, she issued fines totaling Rs 23,000 for various violations and warned businesses to comply with regulations.

In another part of the operation, Dr Abdullah said the district administration teams targeted illegal gas cylinder filling activities in the G-8 area. Four LPG

shops in the area were found in the unlawful canning of gas cylinders, posing a safety risk. These shops were immediately sealed to prevent further illegal activity, he said.

He said the Islamabad administration's efforts were part of a broader campaign to crack down on various violations in the city. Daily operations were being carried out to combat encroachments, rising prices, and professional begging, he added.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the residents and businesses to adhere to city regulations to avoid penalties and contribute to a safer, cleaner Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Students of Mehergarh's youth leaders visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

Punjab Governor says: Character building imperative for promotion of tolerance

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balaigh-ur-Rehman has said that the teachers should concentrate on character building of their students as it is imperative to promote tolerance and brotherhood in society.

Addressing the 4th convocation of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) here on Friday, he said that the Islam has made education compulsory for every individual as it boosts the hidden abilities and capabilities of the people. However, without character building, the education is not beneficial.

He said that the education without ethics has no value and we must focus on the character building of the younger

generation to stabilize the economy by promoting our Islamic values.

He urged the students to focus on their study and create leadership ability as they would have to lead the nation in their practical life.

He also advised them to always follow truthfulness as it is the only key of success in this world and hereafter.

He said that Nawaz Sharif during his tenure promoted education by establishing new universities as he believed that Pakistan could only make progress through education. The developed nations always emphasized on promotion of education but unfortunately a government came in the near past reduced education budget in Pakistan, he added. He said that the

technology has totally changed the global scenario. Hence, our scientists should accelerate their efforts to introduce new inventions so that we could compete with rest of the world.

He said that the government has set its priority to eliminate corruption from every sphere of life as it was the root cause of crises and no nation could attain progress and prosperity goals without eradicating corruption. Earlier, GCWUF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zill-e-Huma Nazli presented welcome address and highlighted achieved of her university. On this occasion, the governor Punjab also conferred degrees to the university graduates in addition to decorating the position holders with medals.



LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with organizers of the Lahore to Paris Rally.

Bilawal wants students to have access to all facilities: Zulfiqar Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives, Sindh, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah has said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari wanted our libraries to be modern and equipped with the latest books, where students in Sindh could have access to all facilities.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Directorate of Public Libraries, Sindh here Friday.

DG Libraries Sindh Ejaz Sheikh while briefing the minister, said that there were currently 44 public libraries in all six divisions of Sindh and due to a large number of students and book readers, the libraries needed to be expanded.

He said that due to no recruitment since 2013, 419 out of 645 posts from

grade 1 to 19 were still vacant, so the Directorate of Public Libraries was facing a severe staff shortage.

He briefed that for the convenience of the readers, more than 100 million books were available on the e-library portal, from where readers can study their favorite books at any time and from anywhere.

The provincial minister said, our intentions are good and firm and I will soon visit all libraries to review public facilities and modern books. He warned that any kind of falsehood, wrong briefing, or excuse related to public interest would not be tolerated.

On this occasion, DG Libraries Sindh Ejaz Sheikh, Directors of Libraries Muhammad Arshad Patoli, Gulam Sarwar Channer, Bashir Baloch, Shabbir Leghari.



LAHORE: Country Director World Food Program Coco Ushiyama meeting with Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzaib.

MoU was signed between Punjab Police, KIPS education system

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said that providing better opportunities to the children of police employees for higher education in the best institutions is among top priorities of the department.

He expressed while speaking at the MoU signing ceremony held at the Central Police Office, here on Friday. He said Punjab Police signed several MoUs with the renowned educational institutions in the last one year and scholarships worth Rs 850 million had been given to police personnel for the education expenses of their children.

He said that an MoU had been signed with a private organization (KIPS

education system) to facilitate children of police employees in best quality education in schools and colleges and preparation of various academic tests such as MDCAT and others, under which the children of police officers will be able to complete their educational journey in the best educational institutions without any problem. He said that according to the MoU, children of police force will get special discounts in schools, colleges, evening coaching, test preparation, key academy and various tests such as MDCAT, etc. Children of police martyrs will get free admission, 100pc discount in education expenses, 50pc discount in admission, and monthly tuition fees for children of serving and deceased employees.



FAISALABAD: Governor of Punjab, Muhammad Balaigh Ur Rehman awarding degrees among the successful students during the 4th Convocation of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF).

Governor KP says Research in health sector vital for healthy society, rooting out diseases

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Gulam Ali said that research in the health sector is very important for a healthy society and rooting out diseases.

Addressing at the Global Conference on Health Research-2024 in Rehman Medical Institute (RMI) as special guest here Friday, he paid tribute to the management committee of RMI for organizing the World Conference on

Research in the field of medicine. The Governor said in order to deal with global medical challenges in the world, modern research in the health sector has to be promoted.

Rehman Medical Institute has undoubtedly done a great job on research to improve the field of medicine in this region, Haji Gulam Ali said and added that the RMI was a renowned medical institution of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which was popular all over the

country.

"I also advise the young medical students to make a name for themselves in research in the medical field. I hope that this conference will prove to be very useful for the improvement of the medical field," said Haji Gulam Ali.

The Governor welcomed the researchers from Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Qatar and other countries participating in the conference to come to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Opponents must compete with Punjab CM on basis of performance: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that opponents should compete with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on the basis of performance instead of using inappropriate language.

She said this while reacting to a statement of Barrister Saif here on Friday. Azma Bukhari said that the 'Fitna' party was matching in telling lies and using inappropriate

language. She said Barrister Saif must control his tongue, adding that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf could not digest the performance of the Punjab Chief Minister. She said, "The Punjab CM believes in taking practical steps and she is creating ease for the people of Punjab."

Azma said that the CM was taking steps for the welfare of the people without any discrimination.

CM's aide directs steps to prevent domestic violence against women

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Mashal Azam Yousafzai has directed the social welfare department to take steps to prevent women from domestic violence and shift the shelter home of district Khyber to an appropriate place in Landikotal.

She issued these directives during her visit to the Directorate of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment here on Friday. She directed steps

to prevent domestic violence and provide free legal help to women victims of domestic violence. CM's advisor also sought a report about the working of non-governmental organizations and directed them to stop further cooperation with those that are non-functional.

She highlighted the priorities of the government to help drug addicts and said that a grand operation would be started very soon for their rehabilitation.

LHC CJ meets HCBA Multan delegation

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the High Court Bar Association (HCBA) Multan, led by President Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla, met Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan on Friday.

The delegation also included Secretary-General Syed Anees Mehdi and Senior Advocate Malik Masroor Haider Usman.

The delegation extended an invitation to the chief justice to visit the High Court Bar Association Multan at the earliest. The leaders of the lawyers apprised the chief justice of the issues faced by the bar associations in the Multan division and discussed matters of mutual interest. They praised the initiatives taken by the chief justice for the convenience of lawyers and litigants and offered suggestions for the welfare of the bar associations. President of the High Court Bar Association Multan requested the chief justice to increase the number of judges at the LHC's Multan Bench, as the current shortage was causing a backlog of cases. He also suggested that lawyers from the Multan bar be considered for appointment as judges in the LHC.

What injustice this laborers work on May 01 and we enjoy holiday: LHC

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has adjourned till next week hearing of petitions seeking court's order for eradication of smog.

During the hearing of the case, Justice Shahid Karim remarked it is beyond my comprehension that these deputy commissioners (DCs) do what. If Deputy Commissioner (DC) of a district wants to do something then revolution will come.

The petitions came up for hearing before Justice Shahid Karim of LHC here Friday.

The counsel for LDA requested that directives be issued to all DCs that procedure be evolved for destroying plastic bag.

The court remarked earlier they took the shopping bags from their homes. These bags should

be taken from home now too. If DC of a district wants to do something then revolution will come. I don't understand these deputy commissioners do what.

He further remarked DC is very powerful. He should only come outside and see what was going on.

The court directed Judicial commission to take action and impose fine of Rs 1 lac for wasting water in housing societies for the sake of conservation of water.

The court also directed to start cleanliness awareness campaign with the children of schools.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked the home is not only that where we live but the entire country is our home. The children should start cleanliness campaign with their parents on the occasion of labor day on May 01.



LAHORE: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Ms. Henny Fokel de Vries meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

KP Health Minister launches anti-polio campaign targeting over 4.4 million children

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Provincial Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah inaugurated the anti-polio vaccination campaign on Friday by administering polio drops to children in Peshawar.

Over 4.423 million children will be vaccinated in the campaign, which will be carried out in two phases. The first phase runs from April 29 to May 3; covering 14 complete districts and eight partial districts for polio eradication. The second phase runs from May 2 to May 6, targeting polio eradication in five districts. During both phases, more than 4.423 million children under the age of five will

receive polio drops.

According to official figures, 21,000 polio teams and 33,000 security personnel have been deployed for the campaign. No polio cases have been reported this year, compared to four cases in 2023. The minister urged parents to protect their children from lifelong disability by vaccinating them.

He emphasized the involvement of community members, scholars, local dignitaries, political leaders, and paediatricians in the polio eradication efforts. He also noted that in developed countries, people take their children to vaccination centres themselves.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Aurora in a group photo with Canadian High Commissioner after meeting.

UAF to ink MoU with Ethiopian universities

FAISALABAD (APP): Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula has stressed the need for joint efforts for promotion of agriculture sector and said that University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) would soon ink Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Ethiopian universities.

He was addressing a meeting held with UAF Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan to discuss the area of academic and research cooperation.

He said that UAF would sign MoU with two agricultural universities of Ethiopia to benefit from each other's experiences in

the field of education and research. A student exchange program was also agreed upon, he added.

He said that UAF is recognized all over the world and its ongoing educational and research programs are worth mentioning. Hence, joint efforts will be implemented through an agreement, he added. Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that the University of Agriculture has established excellent relations with the universities of different countries from all over the continent by benefiting from each other's experiences to solve agricultural problems and improve agriculture.

ANF recovers 90 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 90 kg drugs and arrested eight accused, said ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that 5.3 kg lce was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Lahore Airport.

22 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah at Islamabad Airport. 630 grams heroin was recovered from a

parcel booked for the UK at a courier office in Bahria Town, Rawalpindi.

32 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel sent to UK at the courier office in Lahore.

In another operation at a courier office in Rawalpindi, 8 grams weed were recovered from a parcel sent from the UK.

22.8 kg hashish was recovered from Dera Ismail Khan. The spokesman said that in two operations in Islamabad, 34.8 kg hashish and 4 kg heroin were recovered.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique in a group photo with British delegation at King Edward Medical University.

Kite Flying: From cultural festival to deadly sport

LAHORE (APP): Kite flying is a celebration of the spring season (Basant) which marks the benevolent intervening period between the receding winter and the advancing summer. Once a solace to hearts, kite-flying has turned into a scourge due to human deaths caused by the use of multi-layered heavy string (foreign twine) coated in synthetic materials over the past decades.

Kite flying (commonly known as Patang Bazi) is held between the second and fourth week of February

every year. With the advent of February, a new life is breathed into the world of nature and the impact on the physical world is perceptible in many ways. Be it the mating of birds, sprouting of new vegetation in the mustard fields or human yearning for sport and festivity, the month of February liberate the spirit and kite flying is its expression.

Kite flying, once celebrated as a festive occasion, had all the ingredients of a festival with a family reunion, music, dance on drum beat,

old rivalries on kite battles and traditional food. It provided the human soul the occasion to welcome the warmth in nature and human relationships. Lahore, Gujranwala and Kasur were once considered centers of kite flying while the preparations started months in advance as people got hold of the best 'daur' or 'manjha' (abrasive twine) and hordes of kites. The 'daur' or 'manjha' is a cotton thread coated with crushed glass materials to make it slash other twine.

The kite-flying



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Gulam Ali addressing at the Global Conference on Health Research-2024 in Rehman Medical Institute (RMI) Hayatabad.

Intellectual Property Rights crucial in achieving SDG: Jam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan Friday emphasized the vital role of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights in driving innovation, creativity and ultimately achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country.

The minister reaffirmed the governments resolve to prioritize the development of a robust national Intellectual Property (IP) framework that fosters innovation and creativity for ensuring equitable access to the benefits of IP, especially for marginalized communities.

Addressing Seminar organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) to commemorate World Intellectual Property Day 2024, the minister said that Pakistan was blessed with huge natural resources and need to channelize these resources and streamline the direction.

This day holds special significance as we reflect on the crucial role of Intellectual Property in fostering innovation, creativity and ultimately achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he added.

The theme of the event was IP and SDGs: Building our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity as the event was also attended by the senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce, IPO and businessmen and academia.

Jam Kamal said that government will promote partnerships and collaborations between government, industry, academia, and civil society to drive innovation and entrepreneurship, with a strong emphasis on technologies and solutions that support the achievement of the SDGs.

The minister stressed the need to focus on leveraging IP as a strategic tool to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and said that the Ministry of Commerce was committed

to advancing policies that strengthen the IP ecosystem, particularly in relation to sustainable development.

The government was also intended to invest in capacity-building initiatives to enhance awareness and understanding of IP Rights among entrepreneurs, researchers and innovators for enabling them to leverage IP effectively for sustainable development, he added.

He said that the country was passing through challenging time and stressed the need for bringing more innovation to enhance the competitiveness of local products to capture international markets and to enhance exports from the country.

The minister lauded IPO-Pakistan and the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the commemoration of this important day and expressed the commitment to promote IP Rights and raising awareness.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan addressing on the occasion of "World IP Day Seminar 2024" organized by IPO-Pakistan in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce (ICCI).

Bridge the gap between academia and industry is our big mission: Khalid

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Ms. Qurat ul Ain Vice President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), met Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Federal Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. She apprised the FM about gap between academia and industry, research and cooperation, technical education, and other issues.

Education reiterated the government's dedication to revolutionizing the education sector in Pakistan. By implementing comprehensive strategies and fostering collaboration with key stakeholders, the Ministry aims to create a brighter future for the nation's youth. He further said that bridge the gap between academia and industry is our big mission. In this case will be providing cutting-edge IT skills to the

youth, so that ensuring their relevance in the ever-evolving job market. Minister Siddiqui further said that the industry and universities should work together to solve the country's problems through research and cooperation, he said that people with technical education and technical experience are in demand all over the world. He said that the government is paying special attention to vocational education.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Ms. Qurat ul Ain Vice President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) exchanging the views on the gap between industry and academia, skill development, manpower and other issues.

Pak, US hold 7th TIFA meeting to strengthen trade and investment ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 7th Inter-Sessional meeting of the Pakistan-United States (US) Trade and Investment Framework (TIFA) was held here on Friday and discussed ways to strengthen trade ties between the two nations.

Federal Secretary Ministry of Commerce Muhammad Sauleh Ahmad Faruqi leading the Pakistani delegation and Assistant US Trade Representative (USTR), Brenden Lynch, heading the US delegation, said a news release.

During the meeting, both sides engaged in constructive discussions on a range of trade and investment-related matters, including agriculture, digital trade,

intellectual property protection and enforcement, labor rights, good regulatory practices, and women's economic empowerment.

The US side welcomed Pakistan's progress on market access for US beef, while Pakistan appreciated US support for facilitating market access for its mangoes and fresh dates. Both countries expressed their commitment to removing barriers for additional agricultural products on a reciprocal basis.

The importance of protecting and enforcing intellectual property (IP) was also recognized, with the US appreciating Pakistan's recent efforts to improve IP enforcement, it added.

50pc cut in subsidy of BRT service likely: CM's aide

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to KP CM on Finance, Muzamil Aslam has hinted at 50 percent cut in the subsidy of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and rationalization of the fares of the BRT service to the extent to put no unnecessary burden on its commuters.

He expressed these views while presiding over a TransPeshawar and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA) here on Friday. Besides, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KPUMA, Dr. Tariq Usman, Additional Secretary Transport and Project Director (Solarization) Provincial Energy Development Organization (PEDO), other concerned authorities also attended the meeting.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, Seaspan Beacon, SSL Brahmputra and Haj Muhammad scheduled to load/offload Container and Cement, berthed at Container Terminal and Multi-Purpose Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile another ship 'Doha' with Liquefied Natural Gas also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during the same period.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them six ships, SSL Brahmputra, Seaspan Beacon, Seacon Yokohama, Asia Liberty, Bateleur and Hansa Oslo are expected to sail on today.

SECP-IFSB workshop highlights Pak progress in Islamic Finance Dev.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three-day capacity-building workshop on Islamic Capital Markets, jointly organized by the Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) concluded on Friday, highlighting Pakistan's significant progress in developing the Islamic finance industry.

The workshop has designed to enhance the capacity of the officials of regulatory and supervisory authorities, said a news release issued here.

Chairman SECP Akif Saeed reiterated its deep commitment to support the continued development and expansion of the Islamic finance industry in Pakistan.

Referring to the historic judgment of the Federal Shariat Court and the government's commitment to transform the entire financial system in accordance with Shariah

principles, he pointed out that SECP has already accelerated its efforts and achieved considerable progress by enabling Islamic finance in all regulated sectors.

The SECP has revamped the Shariah governance framework and also issued guidelines for offering Islamic Financial Services that are enabling industry to achieve many firsts during the year.

These include Shariah certification of the first ever Shariah-compliant REIT schemes, dedicated asset management companies, Islamic income, money market, and equity funds, Islamic pension schemes, Islamic ETFs, an NBFC with buy-now pay-later platform, a stock brokerage house, and a microfinance company.

The regular issuance and listing of GOP Ijarah Sukuk through the stock market is another major breakthrough in the domestic sukuk market.

Coca-Cola invests an additional \$22m in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coca-Cola has invested \$22 million in the beverage sector, specifically in technology upgrades, capacity enhancement of its export potential, and employment for over half a million professionals along its chain.

This new investment is in addition to the \$1 billion invested in the country by the Coca-Cola System since 2008, said a news release issued here on Friday. To discuss future investments in Special Economic Zones, Iain McLaughlin, President Global Commercial Product Supply, The Coca-Cola Company, met with the Secretary Punjab Board of Investment Ehsan Bhatta.

McLaughlin reassured the Punjab government of the company's commitment to the nation's growth potential.

Secretary Bhatta praised Coca-Cola as an investment success story.

Meeting held to streamline trade between Pak-Afghan, Central Asian Republics

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting of stakeholders was held with Director Transit Directorate of Transit Trade, Arbab Qaiser to discuss measures for streamlining trade between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs).

The businessmen delegation was headed by President Frontier Custom Agents Association (FCAA), Zia-ul-Haq Sharhadi, said a press release issued here on Friday.

Others who attended the meeting included Additional Director, Dr. Wajid Ali, Deputy Director Transit Torkhem, Ms. Maliaka Ahmad, Vice President Frontier Custom Agents Association, Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, Central Chairman All Pakistan Custom Agents Association, Farooq Ahmad, former SVP SCCI, Engr Manzoor Elahi and others.

During the meeting, President FCAA, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi said APTTA 2010 has several lacunas as a result of which 70 percent of transit trade has been shifted from Karachi port to Bandar Abbas in Iran.

He also demanded revival of Goods in Transit to Afghanistan (GITA) service through lose cargo via train between Peshawar to Karachi and from Karachi to Chaman.

For this purpose, he continued, the SRO 121 be repealed for allowing GITA services through containers and lose cargo as well.

The documentation (DG) of all this cargo under GITA should be held under WeBOC at Azhakhel dry port so that custom clearing and forwarding agents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should also benefit from this trade.

Zia Sarhadi said in October 2023, Ministry of Commerce through issuing SRO 1380 imposed a ban.



LAHORE: A vendor arranges bundles of tobacco at his shop near to attract customers at Garhi Shahu.

'Transforming Punjab Agri plan to help develop farm sector on modern lines: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said that under this flagship program, 500,000 farmers would be provided interest-free loans. To ensure the transparency of this scheme, Punjab Kissan card was being issued soon. Agriculture Minister said that 7,000 tube wells would be transferred to solar system across the province. Besides, 5,000 super seeders and 2,000 rice shredders would be provided to the farmers at 60% subsidy.

In Punjab, 7,300 water courses would be improved at a cost of Rs 80 billion. Rs 2 billion would be utilized on the reorganization of the agriculture extension.

cooperation of Agriculture department and Bank of Punjab. He further said that under this flagship program, 500,000 farmers would be provided interest-free loans. To ensure the transparency of this scheme, Punjab Kissan card was being issued soon. Agriculture Minister said that 7,000 tube wells would be transferred to solar system across the province. Besides, 5,000 super seeders and 2,000 rice shredders would be provided to the farmers at 60% subsidy.

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Machinery equipment assembling grew by 70.98% in 08 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Manufacturing of machinery and equipment in the country during the first 08 months of the current financial year grew by 70.98 per cent as compared to the manufacturing of the corresponding period of the last year.

During the period from July-February, 2023-24 tractors assembling grew by 68.57 per cent as compared to the assembling of the same period last year, according to the Quantum Index of Large Scale Manufacturing

Industries released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

During the period under review, 32,211 tractors were locally assembled as against the assembling of 19,108 tractors of the same period of last year.

However, the manufacturing of heavy machinery in the country during the period under review went down by 53.11 per cent as about 113 units of heavy machinery were locally assembled as against the 241 units assembled in the same period of last year.



KARACHI: Activists of (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi, at Karachi press club.

SCCI for simplifying procedure to enhance arms, ammunition export

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq has stressed simplifying procedures and processing systems to enhance business and export of arms and ammunition from Pakistan.

He was talking to Deputy Director General Defense Export Production Organization (DEPO) Commodore Aitzaz Khalid here at SCCI on

Friday. He also demanded a state-of-the-art laboratory for checking the quality and standard of the arms and ammunition.

Speaking on the occasion, Aitzaz Khalid apprised participants about the main objectives and functions of DEPO and invited President SCCI to participate in the upcoming International Defense Exhibition and Seminar 2024 (IDEAS-2024) in Karachi.

LESCO collects over Rs 4.36m from 189 defaulters in 24 hours

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) recovered more than Rs 4.36 million from 189 dead defaulters in all the five districts- Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara- on the 207th day of its recovery campaign.

LESCO spokesman told the media here Friday that on the 207th day, SE (Superintending Engineer) Nisar Sarwar has recovered outstanding dues of Rs 0.65 million from 26 defaulters in Northern Circle; SE Umar Bilal recovered Rs 0.92 million from 64 defaulters in Eastern Circle; SE Shabbir recovered Rs 0.75 million

from 47 defaulters in Central Circle; SE Zafarullah Saanghi collected Rs 0.08 million from 07 defaulters in South Circle; SE Muhammad Hussain recovered Rs 0.28 million from 11 defaulters in Nankana Circle; SE Najamul Hassan recovered Rs 0.64 million from 09 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle; SE Jamshed Zaman collected Rs 0.40 million from 12 defaulters in Okara Circle and SE Ahmed Shahzad Chughtai recovered Rs 0.64 million from 13 defaulters in Kasur Circle.

During the 207 days, the spokesman added that the LESCO has recovered a total of Rs 2.897 billion.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Senior Leader, Dr. Farooq Sattar take keen interest in furniture during the Pakistan Interior Furniture Expo 2024 held at Expo Centre in Karachi.

FBR's data protection efforts commended by OECD assessment team

ISLAMABAD (APP): An assessment team of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) global forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes appreciated the efforts of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in upholding international commitments made for protection of exchanged data.

The assessment team of the OECD global forum on Transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes visited Pakistan from 23rd to 25th April, 2024 for onsite assessment of Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) confidentiality and data safeguards, said a news release here on Friday.

The delegation comprised of Tax Policy Advisor OECD Gudrun Jenny Jonsdottir, Technical Advisor Information Security Management OECD Jasmina Trajkovski

Ruso, Senior Architect Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Toh Ginn Shyong and Section Head Information Systems Department Mauritius Revenue Authority Ashwin Luckoo.

The assessment team held details meeting with FBR officials, led by Ms Aisha Farooq, Director General (International Taxes) which was also attended by officials of PRAL and IT Wing of FBR.

Aisha welcomed the delegation and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to exchange of information for mutual benefit as well as ensuring confidentiality and safeguard of exchanged data.

Three-day sessions were attended by the concerned officers for input and discussion of policies and Information Security Framework in place by FBR for maintaining data confidentiality.

PSX gains 771 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday gained 771.35 points, a positive change of 1.07 percent, closing at 72,742.75 points against 71,971.40 points the previous trading day.

A total of 541,144,650 shares valuing Rs 22,589 billion were traded during the day as compared to 798,527,177 shares valuing Rs 27,542 billion the last day.

Some 375 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 175 of them recorded gains and 175 sustained losses, whereas the prices of 25 remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Askari Bank Limited with 39,174,000 shares at Rs 25.16 per share, K-Electric Limited with 31,235,856 shares at Rs 4.58 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 30,155,361 shares at Rs 1.33 per share.

Nestle Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 131.74 per share price, closing at Rs 7,822.61.

Xi tells Blinken US and China should be 'partners, not rivals'

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday told top US diplomat Antony Blinken that the world's two biggest economies should be "partners, not rivals", but that there were a "number of issues" to be resolved in their relations. Blinken, in China for the second time in less than a year, met leading Chinese politicians in Beijing. US officials said he would directly raise crucial areas of difference including Russia, Taiwan and trade.

Biden last year, according to state broadcaster CCTV. "The two countries should be partners, not rivals," Xi said. "There are still a number of issues that need to be resolved, and there is still room for further efforts," the Chinese leader added. "We hope the US can also take a positive view of China's development," he added. "When this fundamental problem is solved [...] relations can truly stabilise, get better, and move forward."

Wang also warned that the question of self-ruled Taiwan was the "first red line" that must not be crossed in China-US relations. Blinken described his talks with Wang at the Diaoyutai state guesthouse — which lasted more than five and a half hours — as "extensive and constructive". The top US diplomat will speak to journalists later on Friday at the US embassy in Beijing.



AUSTIN: Law enforcement personnel detain a pro-Palestinian protester at the University of Texas in Austin.

Pro-Palestinian US campus protests grow as police start crackdown

Monitoring Desk
LOS ANGELES: Pro-Palestinian protests spread to more college campuses in the United States on Thursday as authorities appeared to be running out of patience and police carried out large-scale arrests.

UCLA protest. "Today, UCLA joins students across the country in demanding that our universities divest from the companies which profit off of the occupation, apartheid and genocide in Palestine." More than 200 protesters were arrested on Wednesday and early Thursday at universities in Los Angeles, Boston and Austin, Texas, where a fresh rally was scheduled for Friday.

NATO chief Stoltenberg says it's 'not too late for Ukraine to prevail' against Russia

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday it was "not too late for Ukraine to prevail" against Russia as long as its allies fulfil promises to deliver more weapons.

pledges. "It is now our responsibility to turn these commitments into real deliveries of weapons and ammunition — and to do so quickly," he said.



Demonstrators clash with police as they protest against the introduction of a tourist fee for day trippers to Venice.

Egyptian delegation in Israel for talks on Gaza hostages

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: An Egyptian delegation met Israeli counterparts on Friday, looking for a way to restart talks to end the war in Gaza and return the remaining Israeli hostages, an official briefed on the meetings said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israel had no new proposals to make, although it was willing to consider a limited truce in which 33 hostages would be released by the Islamist movement Hamas, instead of the 40 previously under discussion.

China passes tariff law amid tensions with trading partners

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China passed a law on Friday strengthening its trade defence capabilities as the United States and the European Union take aim at Beijing over excess industrial capacity.

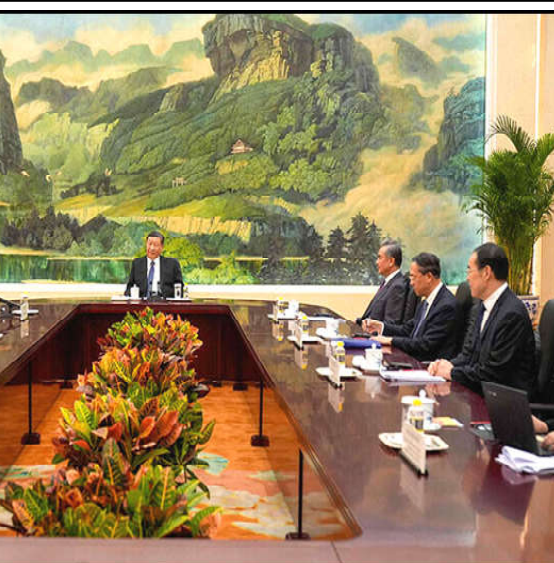
re-opened to urge those voting to turn out in "record numbers" despite the heat.

DR Congo accuses Apple of using 'blood minerals' from war-torn east

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has accused Apple of using "illegally exploited" minerals extracted from the country's embattled east in its products, lawyers representing the African country said on Thursday.

India election resumes as heatwave hits voters

Monitoring Desk
DARRANG: India's six-week election juggernaut resumed on Friday with millions of people lining up outside polling stations in parts of the country hit by a scorching heatwave.



China's President Xi Jinping holds a meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Israel intensifies Rafah airstrikes before ground assault

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: As Israel stepped up airstrikes on Rafah and planned to launch an all-out ground assault despite allies' warnings this could cause mass casualties, Palestinian authorities on Thursday asked the United Nations to conduct a probe into mass graves at Gaza hospitals.

Fire at Brazil guesthouse leaves at least 10 dead, 11 injured

Monitoring Desk
SAO PAULO: At least 10 people died and 11 were injured in the early hours of Friday morning in a major fire at a guesthouse in Brazil's southern city of Porto Alegre, said the Rio Grande do Sul state fire department, which is still searching for the missing.

Gaza baby saved from dead mother's womb dies

Monitoring Desk
RAFAH: A baby girl who was delivered from her dying mother's womb in a Gaza hospital following an Israeli airstrike has herself died after just a few days of life, the doctor who was caring for her said on Friday.

Pope will attend G7 summit to discuss AI, Italy says

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Pope Francis will attend this year's Group of Seven (G7) leaders' summit to discuss the challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Friday.



Voters stand in a queue to cast their ballot outside a polling station during the second phase of voting for the India's general election at Gashbari village in Darrang district of Assam state.

Venice launches five-euro entry fee

Monitoring Desk
VENICE: Venice launched a new scheme on Thursday to charge day-trippers for entering the historic Italian city, a world first intended to ease the pressure of mass tourism — but many residents are opposed.

Tabloid publisher says he killed stories to hide Trump's affairs

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Former National Enquirer publisher David Pecker testified at Donald Trump's criminal trial on Thursday that he worked out a deal that would allow Trump to buy the silence of a former Playboy model who said she had an affair with him, but called it off.

Ukraine's Zelenskiy calls for air defense systems as allies meet

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Friday called for additional air defense systems to be sent to Kyiv to help protect against Russian strikes, adding that a pause in US funding had helped Moscow seize the initiative.

deadlock to approve a \$61 billion aid package for Ukraine. President Joe Biden's administration quickly announced \$1 billion in artillery, air defenses and other hardware would soon be heading to Ukrainian front lines. "While we were waiting for a decision on the American support, the Russian army managed to seize the initiative on the battlefield," Zelenskiy said.

Shoigu says Russia and allies should step up military exercises in Asia

Monitoring Desk
ASTANA: Russia and its allies in Asia should expand joint military exercises as they face a direct threat from attempts by the United States to expand its security influence in the region, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Friday.

should expand the scope and geography of their military exercises, he told the meeting in the Kazakh capital Astana. His speech highlighted Russia's intention to strengthen military ties with partners in Asia and resist any erosion of its influence there despite the intense demands on its army of the war it has been fighting for more than two years in Ukraine.

UK slaps fresh sanctions on Iran after Israel attack

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The UK on Thursday joined the United States and Canada in announcing a fresh set of sanctions against Iran's drone and missile industries after its recent attack on Israel.

ment Office said the latest sanctions would target two individuals and four companies closely involved in Iran's network of drone production.

Bangladesh children sweat at home as heatwave shuts schools

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Classes are cancelled across Bangladesh due to searing heat, but high school student Mubna Akter Nur found the soaring temperatures at home left her in no state for homework.

felt terrible." Nur's mother Rumana Islam was laying down in a corner of their home after a sleepless night, coated in sweat after cooking for her family. "Last year was hot, but this year is too hot—more than ever. Just unbearable," she said.

Pakistan pushes for stopping Israeli war machine to end Palestinians' slaughter in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS (APP) - Pakistan has called on the United Nations and the world community to consider "further measures" against Israel to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to its "plausible genocide" of the Palestinian people in the besieged enclave. Speaking in the United Nations Security Council's ministerial-level debate on the Middle East situation, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, did not specify the measures but pointed out that Israel's war in Gaza has spread the conflict to adjacent regions and further escalation must be prevented. "Yet, unless Israel's war machine is stopped from further slaughter in Gaza, there is an ever-present danger that war and violence will spread and possibly engulf the entire Middle East and beyond," the Pakistani envoy said. "Today," he went on to say that the 15-member Council has "three urgent responsibilities - to halt Israel's genocidal war in Gaza; to prevent the further spread and escalation of war; and to revive the peace process towards a two-State solution to establish durable peace and security in the Middle East."

Addressing the regional ramifications of the Gaza conflict, Ambassador Jadoon cautioned against the conflict's spread to neighbouring areas such as the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Iran. He urged all parties to exercise restraint to prevent further escalation. Ambassador Jadoon also underscored the timeliness of Palestine's re-submitted application for UN membership, which, he said, is in accordance with regional initiatives advocating for a two-State solution.

Expressing disappointment over the UN Security Council veto on Algeria's draft resolution for Palestine's full UN membership, he pointed to the overwhelming support signalling Palestine's rightful place in the international community.

Ambassador Jadoon reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestine's quest for self-determination, emphasizing that UN membership is a crucial step towards rectifying historical injustices and fostering conditions for meaningful negotiations. "Pakistan," he said, was committed to a two-state settlement based on the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds as the capital of a Palestinian State.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti being briefed by Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat regarding Circular Road Parking Plaza

Pakistan has given its reaction on US listing about ballistic missile program: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch has said Pakistan has given its reaction on US listing regarding ballistic missile program and we have informed US about our reservations.

She said this during her weekly press briefing in FO here Friday.

She held President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi visited Pakistan this week. This was the first visit by an Iranian leader in seven years.

This visit provided an opportunity for the two sides to hold in-depth talks on all aspects of bilateral relations and regional and global developments. There was agreement to expand cooperation in economic, cultural and security domains and to transform the Pakistan-Iran border into a border of peace, friendship and prosperity. In this context, the two sides will promote bilateral trade; fast track negotiations on Free Trade Agreement; develop joint border markets and economic free zones; and promote connectivity including mutually beneficial relationships between the ports of Gwadar and Chabahar.

She added as expressed in the Joint Statement, Pakistan and Iran have similar views on the situation in Gaza and on Jammu and Kashmir. The leaders highlighted the need for dialogue and peaceful means to resolve the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with international law and the will of the people. On Gaza, both sides expressed support for a just, comprehensive, and durable solution based on the aspirations of the Palestinian people, as well as the return of displaced persons.

She remarked Chairman, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Luo Zhaohui visited Pakistan from 21-25 April 2024. In Islamabad, he called on the



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad giving away laptop to an intern at DGPR Information Cell

Climate change poses severe threats to Pakistan, Balochistan: Samina

Independent Report
QUETTA: To deal with the disasters of severe and unexpected climate change, the world must decide on a common and integrated plan of action. Climate change has had severe effects in Pakistan. These views were expressed by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri in a statement on Friday.

She said that to avoid heavy rains and floods now we have to be serious and to avoid this natural calamity floods we have to put all kinds of political differences aside and make serious efforts to build dams so that our future generations could be protected from the effects of these disasters and due to the expected severe climate changes in the future.

In addition to the severe cold and hot seasons, the expected heavy rains and floods can be avoided, he said.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that climate change the major countries that caused these catastrophic changes should help the countries affected by these devastating changes, especially Pakistan in this difficult situation after the floods.

Due to climate change, this year, like last year, Pakistan is particularly affected by the recent unexpected heavy rains and flood situation in Pakistan, she said.

She said that the infrastructure of Balochistan province has been severely damaged, due to this situation, Balochistan was facing serious challenges of climate change.

She said that in the flood-affected areas, rehabilitation plans and future strategies may be focused on the consequences of climate change, potential losses should be minimized.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for C&W Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed by Secretary Qambar Dashti regarding different ongoing projects of the department



WUHAN: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf in a group photo with officials of Pakistan Navy and China shipyard during launching ceremony of 1st HANGOR Class submarine of Pakistan Navy at Shuangliu Base at Wuhan China.

Treasury benches call Opposition in Senate to unite for fighting national challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): The members of the treasury benches on Friday called the Opposition members in the Upper House of the Parliament to unite for fighting national challenges with consensus.

The Senate session started debate with the two-point agenda of tabling the copy of the President's address before both the Houses during the joint session on April 18th and the motion of thanks to extend the House's gratitude to the President for his address to the joint sitting of the Parliament.

The meeting of the Upper House of the Parliament commenced with the recitation of the verses of the sixth chapter of the Holy Quran "Al-An'am" in which the Almighty commanded the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to not associate himself with those who create divisions within the religion and proclaim that he is blessed with following of the true religion, the right path of truth and the Lord will reward them who do associate others with Him.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar moved the agenda second item of laying on the table of the House copy of the Address of the President made under clause (3) of Article 56 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the joint session of the Parliament. The Chairman Senate ruled the action against the agenda being late.

Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Senator Sherry Rehman while taking at the floor, extended her felicitations to the Chairman for holding the maiden proceedings after his charge in an exemplary manner.

"President Zardari's suggestion should be welcomed as he has invited all political parties while giving them the discretion to decide to turn a new page in the history of the nation by according unity for the national cause," she said.

The PPPP Senator underlined that her party had rendered sacrifices but never tainted the honour and prestige of the state. "PPP claims with honour that no witch hunting and political vindication done in any of its tenure," she added.

Senator Rehman queried the Opposition benches, "Do we need to start our new parliamentary year with conflicts and bitterness."



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engr. Shafiqat Ali inaugurating 132 KV Educational City NUST grid station

Bakht orders to ensure maximum facilities in livestock sector

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar on Friday ordered to ensure maximum facilities to the livestock sector including provision of treatment of animals.

In a statement issued here, he said free veterinary camps will be organized in different areas of Balochistan to provide vaccination, medicines to the livestock owners to protect the animals from infectious and non-infectious diseases. Bakht said besides meeting the country's food requirements, valuable foreign exchange can be earned by exporting surplus milk, meat and other products made from it.

He said that livestock farmers are providing all possible facilities to achieve the best production of milk and meat and boost its production.

He said a special advisory campaign has also been launched for livestock farmers so that they can benefit from the advice of veterinary doctors, livestock experts and contribute to economic development and financial stability, including increasing of meat and milk production.

Kakar said besides meeting the country's food requirements, valuable foreign exchange can be earned by exporting surplus milk, meat and other products made from it.



QUETTA: A view of accumulated rain water.

Saleem Khosa says: Putting C&W Dept on modern lines is priority

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Department, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa has stated that it is our priority to put the C&W department on modern lines providing it modern technology.

He said that development and improvement of infrastructure and prosperity of the province depends on better performance of the C&W department.

The Provincial Minister was speaking on occasion of briefing on different ongoing projects of the C&W department here on Friday.

The Secretary C&W Qambar Dashti, Chief Engineer (Design) Dr. Sajjad Baloch, Project Directors and other concerned high ups were also present.

The Project Directors briefed the meeting about their respective projects.

The Secretary said that it is topmost priority to complete the projects within stipulated time.

The Minister also stressed the need to complete the development projects well in time.

He assured to resolve the issues of funding for the projects.

PTI founder's interim bail extended in Jinnah House attack case

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan in three cases including Jinnah House attack case till May 3.

As per details, the ATC duty judge Arshad Javed heard the interim bail pleas pertaining to attack on Jinnah House and three others. The court also ordered to mark the attendance of former prime minister Imran Khan in the three cases via video link from Adiala jail.

3 women among six shot dead in Shikarpur, Kashmir

SHIKARPUR, KASHMIRE (INP): Six people including three women were killed in two separate incidents of firing in Sindh cities, reported on Friday. In the first incident, armed men shot three people including two women to death and injured another over old enmity in village Darya Khan of Shikarpur District. According to police, the incident points to the ongoing rivalry between two groups of the Bhu and Marfani clans.

To prevent further bloodshed, the police rushed to the crime scene where bodies of the victims were still lying.

Saad says Gandapur's threat to storm Islamabad a serious matter

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's threat to storm Islamabad is a very serious matter.

Saad Rafiq on social media website X (formerly Twitter) said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had been making attacks on the federal capital in the past to capture Islamabad.

"However, PTI got nothing and it resulted in creating chaos, hatred and economic destruction," he said. He said, "If the anarchists attack Islamabad to occupy it this time too, it will become impossible for them to return as rulers."

The PML-N leader said the dirty politics of violence, arson and ransacking would not work now and fascist behavior would not be tolerated anymore.

WB director, Ahsan discuss reforms in dev. projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Bank's (WB) Global Director for Governance Arturo Herrera Gutierrez on Friday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal and discussed reforms aimed at improving development projects.

During the meeting, the minister apprised the WB official that the incumbent government was taking all possible steps to modernize the completion stages of development, utilizing modern technology and methods to ensure better results.

Ahsan Iqbal said the government had made all project details available online to ensure transparency, highlighting importance of effective monitoring and performance evaluation systems to attract more and more investment in the country. "A geographic information system has been established to track project progress."

Ahsan Iqbal said experts from all sectors had been invited to join the government's efforts to bring about positive change, adding relevant experts were involved in the project review process. "This has resulted in significant progress towards achieving project goals and timelines."

Despite challenges in funding and resource allocation, the Planning minister said Pakistan had managed to save Rs 7 billion from 2013 to 2018 through effective monitoring and resource utilization.

Ahsan Iqbal said the Planning ministry had been granted autonomous status since 2013, allowing it to function as a think tank and prioritize development projects.

He said the development budget had been increased threefold since 2013, demonstrating the government's commitment to progress.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

Senate continues discussion on Presidential address

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate today commenced discussion on the Presidential address to the Joint Sitting of the Parliament.

Opening the discussion, Pakistan People's Party Senator Sherry Rehman said President Asif Ali Zardari's invitation for political reconciliation should be welcomed.

She said there is a need to do away with the politics of confrontation and turn a new page in politics in order to steer the country out of challenges.

Senator Khalil Tahir said consensus should be built on important national issues. He said the politics of anarchy and chaos must come to an end. He said the focus should be on improving economy.

Senator Ali Zafar said the treasury and opposition benches should work together on legislation. He said there should be detailed discussion on any issue, tabled for legislation, before its passage by the House.

Jam Saifullah Khan paid tributes to the sacrifices of security forces in the war on terrorism.

Senator Irfan ul Haque Siddiqui said the opposition should sit with the government to take the country forward on the path of economic development.

He said reconciliation cannot be achieved single handedly, but it requires the participation of both sides.

Irfan Siddiqui said it is the right of opposition to pinpoint the shortcomings of the government but it should be done in accordance with democratic norms.



QUETTA: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of Imran Khan and his wife, at Quetta press club.

Omar Ayub alleges raids on PTI workers homes in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition leader Omar Ayub raised serious concerns in the National Assembly regarding alleged raids on opposition homes in Punjab, accusing Punjab IG Usman Anwar of corruption and criticizing the deteriorating state of the Punjab Police Force. Speaker ordered removal of remarks concerning IG, calling for a judicial inquiry into the Bahawalnagar incident.

Expressing his dismay during the National Assembly session, Omar Ayub stated, "This is unacceptable." He highlighted the need for attention from Islamabad, emphasizing that rallies would be held here as well, asserting that no curfew is necessary in the capital. With over three crore votes, PTI faces scrutiny under Form 47. "There is an illegal Interior Minister present," Omar Ayub claimed. He advocated for medical facilities for Bushra Bibi, expressing mistrust in government hospitals. "Bushra Bibi's rights are being violated," Omar Ayub declared, demanding her immediate release. He alleged mistreatment, stating she is confined to a small room and denied proper medical treatment, with suspicions raised over the authenticity of her medical tests conducted in government hospitals.

Ghazala Gola describes win of Shahzaib Rind as victory of Pakistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker of Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola has stated that the victory of Shahzaib Rind against Indian player in karate combat fight was the movement of pride for Pakistan.

Ms. Ghazala Gola was speaking to Shahzaib Rind, who called on her in her chamber on Friday.

During the meeting, Ms. Ghazala Gola praised Shahzaib Rind on his excellent performance.

She said that the win of Shahzaib Rind is the proud moment for Balochistan and Pakistan.

She also said that Shahzaib has earned good name for the country.