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Chairs meeting on law and order situation. President Zardari orders Sindh CM to launch large-scale operation against criminals in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday urged Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to take strict actions against the criminals in Karachi, dacoits in Kacha area and the drug traffickers in close collaboration with the federal government and other provinces to ensure law and order situation in the province.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting here on security, law and order situation in Sindh Province.

The representatives of the law enforcement agencies briefed the president about the crimes in Karachi, the Kacha area, and the overall security situation of the province.

The president called for devising a system for effective monitoring of the city's all entrances and exits. Emphasizing the need to com-

plete the Karachi Safe City Project on an urgent basis, he said Police should ensure effective tracking of stolen property and take appropriate legal action in this regard.

He said all kinds of support should be provided to ensure the security of Chinese citizens. Besides, the president also stressed the need to continue the ongoing operation in the Kacha area with full force. He also directed the establishment of more Police check posts to improve the security situation of the Kacha area.

President Zardari also asked to ensure the provision of the necessary equipment to the Sindh Police with the support of the federal government. The president, emphasizing the need to expedite work on the development projects in various areas of Sindh province said, development

projects on both sides of the River Sindh should be launched.

He instructed to take support from the local leaders and the community members to solve the issues of tribal and Kacha areas. He said a system should be evolved for effective communication between Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan to prevent crimes in the country. The president, expressing concern over the spread of drugs in educational institutions, said Karachi must be made a drug-free city.

A special law can be made for conducting compulsory tests of students and establishing rehabilitation centers, he said adding that the Sindh government should create awareness about drugs among the parents. He said proposals for necessary amendments in federal anti-narcotics laws

could be made to provide jurisdiction to the police in drug cases.

Further, he said effective measures to prevent the spread of drugs in educational institutes were inevitable adding that the Police must take strict action against the drug mafia.

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, briefing the president about the overall security situation in Karachi and the rest of the province, said that after strict actions taken by the provincial government against street crimes in Karachi, and operations against dacoits in the Kacha area, the law and order situation had significantly improved.

He informed that the number of crimes had significantly reduced during the current year as compared to the previous year. The president was told

that crimes in Karachi were less than those recorded in the big cities across the world.

The Sindh CM pointed out that the law and order situation across the province was being reviewed regularly.

He said the Sindh government was ensuring the provision of necessary equipment to enhance the capacity of the Police.

Sindh Police, he said had taken important steps to control street crime besides the law enforcement agencies were also conducting operations in the Kacha areas. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui participated in the meeting. While provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah and Ziaul Hasan Linjar also attended the meeting.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacting with families of labourers at a luncheon he hosted in their honour on the occasion of Labour Day.

PM wants wealthy, businessmen, industrialists to prioritize improving conditions of labour class

Govt striving to bring substantial changes in economy; Says govt would try to bring relief to labour class in fiscal budget

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that they were fully cognizant of the value of the labourers and workers in the national economy and stressed upon the wealthy, businessmen, investors and industrialists to prioritize improving the conditions of the workers.

Addressing a gathering of labourers and workers from different sectors at his residence in connection with the observance of International Labour Day, the prime minister said that the country's economic situation was challenging but they were striving to turn it around, with collective efforts and sincerity.

He said that Pakistan would soon become a powerful country through the functioning of a fair system and on the basis of hard

work by the employers and the employees including workers.

The prime minister said that the government was striving to bring about substantial changes in the national economy and to recover billions of rupees being wasted due to corruption.

Referring to his recent visit from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other leadership desired to see Pakistan moving on the path of progress.

The Saudi business and investors' delegation would soon visit Pakistan which would increase businesses and job opportunities in the country, he added.

The prime minister said that in the upcoming fiscal budget, they would try to provide further relief to the

labour class.

Calling upon the business people and well-to-do class, the prime minister said that they should also think beyond their families and businesses and invest in certain education and health projects for the deprived classes like those established in the developed countries.

"It was not an objective behind the creation of Pakistan that there would be a difference between the rich and the poor.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah led a massive movement in which the people offered huge sacrifices. The motive was the establishment of a welfare state in which everyone would have equal opportunities to excel in life on the basis of one's capacity and ability and take the country forward," he added.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the overall security, law and order situation of the Sindh province at the Chief Minister House.

Govt's responsibility to resolve problems of transporters, says Ziaullah Langove

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that it is responsibility of the provincial government to resolve the issues being faced by transporters.



The Provincial Minister said that the issues of transporters would be resolved soon by speaking to the Chief Minister in this regard.

Mir Ziaullah Langove stated so while speaking to the transporters observing protest near Lakpass area on Wednesday.

The Provincial Minister Ali Madad Jatak, member Provincial Assembly, Mir Liaquat Lehri, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat were also present.

It may be mentioned here that the government delegation reached Lakpass for negotiations with the transporters lodging protest for acceptance of their demands.

The transporters had also parked their Taftan route buses at Lakpass as mark of protest.

Police foil terrorist attack at check post, seven officials injured

DERA GHAZI KHAN (APP): Police foiled a terrorist attack at Hazrat Omer Farooq (Jhanghi) check post on Wednesday in which seven police officials sustained injuries.

According to police sources, 15 terrorists attacked the Jhanghi police checkpoint with rocket launchers, hand grenades, and laser light guns in an attempt to take control of the checkpoint. However, police officials, under the leadership of Incharge Check Post Sub-Inspector Mohiuddin, retaliated and forced the terrorists to flee due to heavy retaliatory fire by the police.

As a result of the retaliation, seven police officials were injured including Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Imran, Constables Muhammad Amir, Ashiq Zain, Rehmat Ullah, Sanaullah and Elite Force officials Tariq and Shahid Manzoor while the terrorists managed to escape.

The injured officials were shifted to the hospital.

COAS Munir, UK army chief discuss measures to elevate defence relations

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir held a meeting with his British counterpart General Sir Patrick Sanders, where the two discussed measures to further elevate bilateral defence relations, said a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday.

In the meeting, which was also attended by CGS-designate of the UK Army General Sir Roland Walker, both sides "discussed matters of professional interest and measures to further elevate bilateral defence relations", the army's media wing said.

The army chief thanked Gen Sanders, the chief of general staff (CGS) of the UK Army, for his services in enhancing bilateral military ties and felicitated Gen Walker on his nomination as the UK Army's next CGS, the statement added.

COAS Munir and Gen Sanders also addressed the opening session of the sixth Pakistan-UK Regional Stabilisation Conference at Islamabad's National Defence University on Tuesday, the ISPR said. The UK Army's CGS-designate also attended the event.

The conference is a flagship defence and security dialogue between Pakistan and the UK, held alternately in the two countries, the statement noted.

In connection with the conference, a 30-member UK delegation led by Standing Joint Force Commander Major General Tom Bateman was visiting Pakistan from April 29 to May 3, the ISPR said.

"During the conference, delegations from both sides will exchange perspectives on global and regional environment and its impact on national security, and regional peace and stability," it added.

Naqvi lauds coastal guards' services for controlling illegal trade, smuggling

KARACHI (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) Headquarters here on Wednesday. The Director General Pakistan Coast Guards Brigadier Ghulam Abbass received the Minister on his arrival at the Headquarters.

Interior Minister laid floral wreath at martyrs monument and presented solute to the martyrs for their supreme sacrifice for the defence of the motherland.

The Interior Minister was briefed on the professional affairs of Pakistan Coast Guards, in which the efforts to fulfill the responsibilities of Coast Guards and prevent all kinds of smuggling, especially antinarcotics activities.

Mohsin Naqvi was informed about the professional training of Pakistan Coast Guards and the measures taken to prevent smuggling and the details of the seized drugs, alcohol and other general items, including the process of burning the seized drugs.

The Federal Minister while appreciating the professional performance of the institution, the high determination, courage and efforts of the officers and jawans of the Coast Guards, said Pakistan Coast Guards, is the only one that performs its duties simultaneously on land and sea. This is a force which has an important role not only in peace time but also in any difficult and war situation, Naqvi said. He expressed best wishes for the Pakistan Coast Guards by assuring the provision of all possible support and resources to make it more active and strong.



KARACHI: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi addressing during visit Pakistan Coast Guards Headquarters.

Bilawal proposes Federal Govt to privatize PIA under Public-Private Partnership

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)'s Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday proposed the Federal Government to privatize Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) under Public-Private Partnership.

Addressing a ceremony organized here at the Arts Council of Pakistan in connection with International Labour Day, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that People's Party always struggled for the rights of the labourers and the workers and will continue to do so.

He said that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto always worked for solving the issues of the labourers and peasants and the Sindh government of Pakistan People's Party also brought amendments in the Constitution and carried out legislation in this regard.

He said that the purpose of the 18th amendment in the Constitution was to devolve several ministries and divisions from the federation to the provinces, including the Employees Old Age Benefit Institution.

If Employees Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI) is devolved to the provinces, labourers and workers may be able to get more rights, Bilawal Bhutto claimed.

He said at present Sindh and Balochistan provinces are governed by his party and in view of rising inflation, the governments of both the provinces will increase the salaries of employees in the coming budget.

He said that since 2010, the Sindh government passed several Acts for the rights of labourers and worker and implementation was under process.

Bilawal Bhutto said that instead of privatizing PIA, the federal government should sell its shares through Public Private Partnership. He asked the federal government that if it wants to sell the Steel Mill, the Sindh government will buy the institution and will run in a better way under public-private partnership.

Govt asks opposition to review name of Marwat PAC

ISLAMABAD (Online): The reservations of government over nomination of Sher Afzal Marwat as chairman Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) have come to fore.

Government has sent message to opposition once again asking for review of name of Sher Afzal Marwat.

According to official sources government has given indication to bring its own candidate on the occasion of election of chairman PAC if opposition does not agree to government proposal.

Opposition will need ruling alliance cooperation for making Sher Afzal as chairman PAC. As per government sources the government enjoys majority in 29-member PAC. Sher Afzal Marwat cannot become chairman PAC with the support of 4 members of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

Sarfaraz Bugti spends Labour Day with masses: Service delivery has to be improved for resolving issues of public: CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that service delivery has to be improved for resolving the public issues, and in this regard, the inefficient civil servants would have to mend their way.

He asserted that no lenience and negligence would be tolerated on part of the civil servants.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of his meeting with the labourers, senior citizens, students and other poor

people on occasion of the World Labour Day on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister spent the Labour Day with them who apprised him their issues.

He issues on the sport directives to resolve most of the issues as highlighted on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that we have to improve service delivery for resolving the public issues.

He said that the poor people are facing hardships

and problems. In view of this, the officers have to create easiness for them, adding he stressed.

The Chief Minister warned that no lenience and negligence would be tolerated in performing duties by the civil servants.

He also warned that the inefficient officers and government employees have to mend their way.

He said that if the issues are resolve at local level, then the people would not be needing to come to Quetta for resolving them.



QUETTA: Students briefed Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti about their problems

Labour Day observed in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The International Labour Day was observed in Quetta and different other parts of Balochistan on Wednesday. Different events including rallies, demonstrations and seminars were organized by different labourer organizations and labour wings of different political parties in the province.

A seminar marking the Labour Day was organized by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Labour wing Peoples Labour Bureau at the Quetta press club.

The provincial ministers and other dignitaries belonging to PPP participated in the seminar.

The PPP leaders and other participants also

paid rich tributes to the labourers for their role in development of the country.

Similarly, a seminar was held under the auspices of Labour and Manpower Department, Government of Balochistan at the Noori Naseer Khan Cultural complex here.

The Minister Labour and Manpower and other senior officials of the department and the representatives of different labourer organizations participated in the seminar.

The Minister Labour and Manpower were also taken out by the All Pakistan Workers Confederation and PREM Union in the metropolis.

All Pakistan Workers Confederation took out the rally at Sariab road while PREM Union took out the rally at Railway Station.

Demonstration was also held under the auspices of PREM Union outside the Railway Station.

Committee of University of Balochistan and All Balochistan Labour Federation. The office bearers of JAC of UoB, Professor Kaleemullah Baraich and others as well as leaders of Balochistan Labour Federation including Sultan Khan and others participated in the seminar.

Besides, rallies were also taken out by the All Pakistan Workers Confederation and PREM Union in the metropolis.

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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

PM's remarkable visit to Saudi Arabia

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif visited Saudi Arabia earlier this week on his first foreign visit since being elected in February. In Mecca, the Premier and his delegation met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In addition, Shahbaz Sharif held a private meeting with the Crown Prince.

What was discussed at the one-on-one meeting between the Premier and Saudi Crown Prince has not been disclosed, but it is said the two leaders agreed to strengthen ties. While the PM's visit to Saudi Arabia was for participation in the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Riyadh on special invitation of the Saudi Crown Prince, he (Shahbaz Sharif) also held crucial meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, Emir of Kuwait, Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, President Islamic Development Bank Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, Managing Director IMF, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, besides with Mr. Bill Gates, on sidelines of WEF. It is customary for the Premiers to visit Saudi Arabia after being sworn into office, underlying the close ties between the two countries. However, Sharif's recent visit is important for many reasons that go beyond just following a tradition. To begin with, Pakistan's current civil-military leadership is keen to persuade its partners and allies that after a turbulent period of political unrest, stability has returned to Pakistan. It is important to recognize that Pakistan is facing economic challenges. Last year, Pakistan's economy worsened to such an extent that talks about its defaulting on loans dominated headlines for several months.

During the recent talks, Riyadh may have urged Pakistan to restore monetary stability through an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to gauge its commitment to stabilization and reform. There are signs that Pakistan has succeeded in both areas to initiate talks with Saudi Arabia about future investment. It has successfully concluded its current agreement with the IMF and plans to initiate talks with the organization for a longer program. Similarly, there has been a noticeable decline in political turmoil in Pakistan following the elections and installation of a new government. These developments are backed by the economic reforms that the country initiated over the last year. During his previous tenure as prime minister (April 2022-August 2023), Sharif took steps to privatize huge loss-making state-owned enterprises like Pakistan International Airlines. Under the outgoing interim government, the reform process took modest strides and is currently gaining momentum under the current administration. This continuity of policy over the last couple of years has perhaps convinced the Saudi leadership that Pakistan will not only protect its investments, but also become a stable partner.

Pakistan's policy approach may have begun to pay dividends. After Sharif met the Crown Prince, Riyadh committed to accelerating the initial round of a \$5 billion investment package that had been previously discussed but was not materialized, in part because of the political unrest in Pakistan. In addition, the Crown Prince has agreed to travel to Pakistan on invitation of the Premier Shahbaz. Several significant initiatives will probably be launched during that visit. This may include the long-discussed Saudi involvement in the Reko Diq mining project and the commencement of construction on a \$10-billion oil refinery at Gwadar Port. Sharif may have requested the Saudis for a new oil subsidy during his recent visit.

Going mangoes

Shahzad Sharjeel

The idiom is 'going bananas', but just because we are accused of becoming such a republic, we need not limit ourselves to clichés and should coin a proverb in keeping with the indigenous 'king of fruits'.

Other than grapes, it is difficult to imagine another fruit except for mango that whips up such deep emotions of attachment, longing, and partisanship bordering on chauvinism, at least in the South Asian context.

Grapes have an undue 'spiritual' advantage, while mangoes, to the best of my knowledge, have not caught any distiller's fancy so far. Apart from their fermented transcendence into the imagination of poets, grapes do not have a leg to stand on when it comes to any comparison, even with Langra, a variety of mango whose very name means lame.

More on poets later. Let us, for the moment, bask in the mango's superiority and trample the grapes some more. What do they offer? White and black, seeded and seedless types, and only about 10 popular varieties. Mangos, on the other hand, offer hundreds of commercially grown varieties worldwide.

Can the grape partisans cite one admonition, from a reputable source, of irreverence towards it, that is, in its natural state, not the processed, aged, and bottled variety? Mango has a giant like Mirza Ghalib advocating for it. He declared those devoid of a taste for it 'jackasses'.

People returning to their homelands after toiling abroad for a lifetime offer myriad reasons. The most romantic, or maybe outright crazy, in this regard came from a fellow Pakistani. Asked what caused his return, he quipped, "Mangoes,

monsoon, and madness." Notice the sequence? Some of us have our priorities straight, or twisted, depending on your POV.

An unsuspecting social media user recently posted about 12 mango varieties and their corresponding growing regions in the Indian states. Spain has a tradition of a tomato fight, but it is in a festive, playful realm, whereas this 'sacrilege' committed by a well-meaning but ill-prepared mango influencer caused a tsunami — the PTI does not have a monopoly over apologetic reactions — of indignation. Starting from 'how dare you restrict the royal lineage of the mango to a dozen or so offspring', to taking exception to one's state being bracketed with an adjacent mango-growing territory, it was reprimand galore. While some Maharashtra commentators graciously accepted the co-ownership of Alphonso with Karanatak, others fiercely objected to every Alphonso being called 'Hapus' and advised unsuspecting buyers to check the GI tags and scan the barcode to protect against the pretenders.

The writer is guilty of being extremely parochial when it comes to mangoes and Sindh's status as at least the first among-equals in Pakistan's mango-growing areas. An office lunch almost turned into a fruit fight when an otherwise intelligent and wise colleague suggested that 'Chausa' was superior to Sindhri. What prevented a lunge across the table was the fact that the family of the gent in question had migrated from UP to KP, and the latter's lack of competition with mango-growing Sindh and Punjab made him a somewhat less suspicious dissenter. However, what saved everyone in the cafeteria from a ha-

rangue on the Sindhri's superiority was, instead, a mango fact-check. The correct name is not 'Chausa,' but 'Chausa'. The mango variety is named after its place of origin in Bihar.

The stunned silence had to be broken by a consolation admission that our Punjab has its own excellent varieties of mangoes like Anwar Ratol. However, the fact that the name sounds like a popular disinfectant was too good a jibe to miss. The origins of the variety in the district of Rataul, UP, were left out to soften the blow.

While the madman roared outside; only mangoes could have saved the situation. As luck would have it, the sole dessert on offer that afternoon was perfectly cut cubes of mango. As everybody shovelled in the sweet treat, someone suggested it tasted like Banginapalli. The sense of relief at the suggestion that it was none of the suspected and debated varieties was palpable as stout backs slumped into siesta postures in the cafeteria chairs. The variety's origins in the Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, were left out as a peace offering.

The ghus kar marenge (hot pursuit) refrain needs to be retransmitted to aam kay aam, futhion kay daam (a win-win) aspiration. Maybe, it is time for a new round of mango diplomacy.

After all, Akbar Allahabadi's Langra walked all the way to Allama Iqbal's table in Lahore. Regardless of the result of the Indian elections, crates of our best mangoes should be sent to both Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi and wherever the Aam Aadmi Party leader happens to be. -- Courtesy Dawn

Roll on, Columbia

Mahir Ali

Much to the consternation of the pat-h-e-tically insipid Biden administration as well as its rabidly right-wing Republican opposition, student protests over the unfolding genocide in Gaza have been spreading throughout the US. They offer hope, which has been in short supply. At the same time, for the Zionist right they unintentionally serve as a distraction from the very atrocities that enrage most of the protesters. The main story is still unfolding in a starving Gaza, just as it was five or six decades ago in a beleaguered but unbending Vietnam.

That does not, of course, render it irrelevant or even peripheral. The vast demonstrations demanding an end to American apartheid in the 1960s and the subsequent mobilisations against the Vietnam War challenged both state and federal administrations, and contributed to the end of that horrific conflict in 1975.

In the preceding years, it wasn't uncommon for those involved in the resistance to be derided as pinkos, reds or communist dupes, in a reflection of the recent McCarthyist era. These days the charge is antisemitism. That weapon, too, is hardly new. It has been deployed over the decades against anyone who questioned Israel's predilection for ethnic supremacism. What's relatively unusual is the extent to which young Jewish Americans are revolting against their nation's attachment to the Zionist state that most of their parents' generation embraced.

To some extent, residual right-wing antipathy towards Jews springs from the left-wing inclinations of many of their intellectuals. American science and culture would have considerably been diminished without the in-

put of Jewish immigrants from Europe. They also enriched America's political landscape, reflected lately in both Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer and independent senator Bernie Sanders. Schumer attracted the headlines when, as the highest-ranking Jew in American politics, he mildly denounced the inclinations of the Likud-led regime in Israel and called for an election to replace Benjamin Netanyahu. That contributed to the Demo-c-r-a-tic effort to focus resentment on the current Israeli PM and his despicable regime, instead of accurately recognising Israel's consistent drift towards dispossession and potential genocide ever since the Nakba.

There is evidence that many young Jews won't be fooled by the 'hasbara' narratives that entrapped their elders or the fantasy that Zionism is an essential component of Jewish identity. As many of them have recognised, after their exposure to anti-Zionist Jews and Palestinians at university, the essence of Jewish experience embodies a concept of humanity that Netanyahu and his acolytes fail to recognise. That poses a problem for Zionism's biggest assets — its useful idiots in the US, a category that ranges from the president to most legislators and much of the bureaucracy.

Something has changed, though, in the past couple of decades in the US and Israel. No US president has been unfriendly towards Israel, but some have challenged its excesses. All of them have known that Israeli militarism relies on US beneficence. That remains intact even as Biden administration pretends to challenge Israeli excesses while supplying the weapons required to perpetrate the atrocities.

Almost a century ago, Americans who mili-

tated against the death of democracy in Spain in the 1930s were categorised as 'pre-mature anti-fascists'. They were rarely accepted into mainstream politics even during the Soviet alliance during World War II. The McCarthyism that descended after that war, disproportionately targeting Jews, violated every principle that the US purports to worship. Since then at least, free speech has been a right reserved for adherents to the officially sanctioned mainstream.

That has occasionally been disrupted in decades gone by. But perhaps never so potentially as in recent months. Despite Netanyahu and Biden's best efforts, the frequently nonsensical claim of antisemitism no longer carries much weight.

Woody Guthrie had the river, rather than the university, in mind when he wrote more than 80 years ago, "Roll on, Columbia, roll on/ Your power is turning our darkness to dawn". Some 20 years later, his spiritual descendant Bob Dylan reminded "mothers and fathers throughout the land" not to "criticise what you can't understand" because "your sons and your daughters are beyond your command". That echoes, in a way, the early 20th-century Lebanese poet Kahlil Gibran's well-known warning: "Your children are not your children./ They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself."

When "Life's longing for itself" is being strangled in Gaza or anywhere else, surely it is incumbent upon anyone with a humanitarian impulse to resist it. Whether or not the rebellion across US campuses achieves its aims, gratitude is owed to those who tried. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Shaza Fatima holds virtual meeting with Asia Internet Coalition team

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja held virtual meeting with Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) member companies' representatives led by its Managing Director Jeff Paine.

The meeting discussed matters related to digitalisation, responsible use of social media platforms, digital rights and e-safety in details said a news release.

AIC's membership includes Facebook, Google, Apple, Amazon, X, Yahoo,

LinkedIn, and others. While talking to AIC's member companies representatives, Minister of State for IT & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that steps underway for the digitalization in the country, adding that the government is committed for the digital transformation.

She said that under the vision of the prime minister of Pakistan private sector is being fully supported. Public-Private dialogue platform will be launched very soon, she added.

Shaza Fatima said that work is going on different policies.

She said that government is focused on the development of the youth and their capacity building by equipping them with digital skills.

Shaza Fatima said that responsible use of social medial platforms is utmost necessary. The meeting was also attended by Additional Secretary MoITT, Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim.



ABBOTTABAD: Assistant Commissioner Sana Fatima Checking prices, during a surprise visit to Shops.

Privatization Minister expresses resolve to facilitate labor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday reiterated the firm commitment of the government to take appropriate measures to provide maximum facilities to the labor force in the country and to include them in the national mainstream.

In his message on World Labor Day, the Minister said that he salutes the high morale of every hard worker, laborer, and skilled person who is serving this

country. One who is performing his duties even in the most difficult situations is praiseworthy and we must acknowledge such services not only on 1st May but every day, he remarked.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that there is no doubt our labor community has a great share in the country's economic system and keeps it alive and active.

The Minister expressed his good wishes for every laborer living in this country and prayed for their success.

Mega Cotton Seminar held in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Under the auspices of the Agriculture Department (Extension), Government of Punjab, the mega cotton seminar was held here in Bahawalpur.

The seminar was organized to shed light on the importance of cotton sowing. It was attended by the Secretary, the Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab, Saqib Ali Aateel, Member National Assembly and former provincial minister, Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar and others.

Asian markets track Wall St down as Fed looms

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian stocks sank in holiday-thinned trade Wednesday, tracking a sharp sell-off on Wall Street after fresh US data dealt another blow to hopes the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this year. The reading on labour costs followed a string of recent reports out of Washington suggesting the central bank's battle against inflation has some way to go, even with borrowing costs at two-decade highs.



Minister for State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a virtual meeting with members of Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) in Islamabad.

Efforts underway to ensure availability of wheat at reasonable prices: Zahir

Independent Report DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Food Zahir Shah Toru on Wednesday said that all out efforts were being made to ensure the availability of wheat for the people at the lowest and reasonable price.

He expressed these views while talking to the media during his visit to Dera Ismail Khan wherein he also visited a Food department's godown of National Logistic Sell situated on Daraban road.

He said the timely and better planning of the provincial government for wheat procurement would

benefit the government treasury as well as farmers. "Our farmers are hard working and their rights will be safeguarded," he assured and added that provision of all facilities to the farmers would be ensured.

The province produces 150,000 metric tons of wheat against its requirement of 5,000,000 metric tons, he mentioned. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to purchase 600,000 metric tons out of which around 300,000 metric tons would be purchased directly from local growers at a rate of wheat at 3,900 rupees per 40 kilograms.

20 shopkeepers fined over profiteering

SARGODHA (APP): The price control magistrates imposed Rs 93,000 fine on 20 shopkeepers over profiteering and arrested an accused for violating the law in the district on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the district administration said price control magistrates inspected 276 shops in different markets and bazaars, and found 20 of them involved in profiteering and overcharging.

The magistrates imposed fine on them and also arrested a shopkeeper for violating the law.

Computation of tender docs ISRA University, PEC jointly host event

HYDERABAD (APP): Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, graced a seminar as the "Chief Guest" of the event, co-hosted by ISRA University and the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), focused on the intricate topic of Computation of Tender Documents in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.

During the event, President Chamber Farooq Shaikhani extended his gratitude to Professor Dr. Asadullah Qazi for his

visionary efforts in establishing ISRA University.

He highlighted the university's notable achievements, citing its ranking at 86th in Pakistan and its commendable score of 68 points in research subjects worldwide. Shaikhani emphasized that contemporary education should transcend mere job acquisition, advocating instead for a curriculum and teaching methodologies that foster entrepreneurial mindsets among today's youth. He articulated that the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping global dynamics.

Pak academics sow seeds of cross-border agricultural coop.

BEIJING (APP): Hafiz Muhammad Usman, a post-doctoral fellow at Guizhou University, felt a sense of gratitude that he could introduce the advanced agricultural technologies he learnt in China to his motherland Pakistan.

Since 2017, Guizhou University has initiated the "Ph.D. Village Chief" program, and invited doctoral students, postgraduates and undergraduates to join the agricultural activities and apply their achievements in scientific research to agricultural development in rural areas, particularly in their hometowns. This year, it was the

first time the university invited foreigners to take part in the "Ph.D. Village Chief" program, attracting five post-doctoral fellows from Pakistan and India, according to Wang Yong, professor and deputy director of the department of plant protection in the College of Agriculture, Guizhou University, Xinhua reported.

Usman came to study in China in 2017 and gained his doctor's degree at Huazhong Agricultural University in central China's Hubei Province. He decided to continue to carry out post-doctoral research at Guizhou University in 2023, and now serves as a fungal

disease expert at the plant protection department.

The key researches carried out by the College of Agriculture of Guizhou University are the creation of green pesticides, the continuous control of crop diseases and pests, as well as quality and safety management of agricultural products. Pepper is one of the major agricultural produces in Guizhou. Over the past few years, pepper production had been affected as plant pathogens developed resistance to fungicides. Usman and other members of the research team took samples across the province and carried out experiments to find effective chemical

alternatives to control drug-resistant fungal populations and increase pepper yields.

In January this year, he went back to Pakistan for the winter vacation. During the one-and-a-half-month he spent back at home, he visited local agricultural departments and some villages. He discovered that local farmers hardly mastered the technologies to deal with plant diseases and pests. He then organized three seminars with the support of local agricultural research institutes, sharing with more than 500 local farmers sustainable methods to control plant diseases.

Besides seminars, he also walked into the fields and taught farmers on-site methods to recognize pests and diseases as well as to prepare pesticides in the correct proportion.

Maqsood Ahmed, also a postdoctoral fellow and member of the "Ph.D. Village Chief" program at Guizhou University, hails from a major agricultural province of Pakistan, which mainly produces cereals and fruits, including maize, wheat, mango and banana. During the winter vacation, Ahmed visited the agricultural department in his hometown and learnt about problems affecting local agricultural development.

CM KP emphasizes importance of hardworking class for societal progress, prosperity

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday emphasized the importance of honoring the dignity and rights of the hardworking class for societal progress and prosperity.

underscored that the prosperity and protection of workers are integral to any state's priorities, as they are the backbone of national advancement. He stressed the importance of providing dignified employment opportunities for workers by integrating industrial training institutions and industries, further stating that the current provincial government recognizes the pivotal role of the labor class in the country's progress.

commitment from all sectors of society to address the welfare and issues facing workers, ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes. It is essential for all stakeholders to collectively work towards the betterment of the labor force and address their concerns effectively. He said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government pledges to protect the rights of workers, give them their due place, and take pragmatic steps to resolve their issues effectively.



LAHORE: Women from different labour organization participating in rally outside Press Club on the occasion of International Labour Day.

Kundi says:

PPP always represents workers, deprived class

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that his party always represented the workers and deprived class.

poor people due to his pro-poor vision. The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was also an attempt to end the deprivation of the poor, Faisal Kundi mentioned.

In a statement issued here in connection with the World Labour Day, Kundi said the provision of necessities like 'bread, cloth and house' to the workers was the initial step towards the rights of the working class.

"Whenever the PPP gets power, it increases the wages of the workers," he said and added the credit for increasing the salaries, pensions, and benefits of government employees also goes to his party.

He said that PPP founder leader Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto even today lives in the hearts of

"Even today, our coalition government was making efforts to eliminate poverty and get rid of economic challenges.

4th burnt child expires in hospital

FAISALABAD (APP): The fourth burnt female child has also expired in the hospital here on Wednesday while her father is in serious condition.

Her two sisters and one brother had already died on the spot due to fire incident in the area of Mansoorabad police station here on Tuesday night.

Two killed in separate road mishaps

KHANEWAL (APP): A minor girl among two killed while three injured in separate road accidents reported in the city on Wednesday.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, Rehman Gull s/o Imam Gull resident of Village 54/10-R was going to city on motorcycle along with his 6-year old daughter Bisma Gull, 10-year old Mominia Gull and 9-year old Umair Rehman.

All of a sudden, a speeding mini van collided with the motorcycle near Mouza Raheem Shah.

Resultantly, Bisma Gull died at the spot while the other three members sustained injuries.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman conferred tamgha e Imtiaz on senior journalist, well-known anchor, Iftikhar Ahmed on behalf of the President of Pakistan in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of media at Governor House.

CM aide asks KPCTA, KVDA to facilitate tourists of Chilam Josh Festival

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister on Tourism and Culture Zahid Chanzeb has directed the relevant departments to make proper arrangements to celebrate the upcoming Chilam Josh Festival in a befitting manner in the scenic Kalash Valley in Lower Chitral begins from May 13.

Authority, Tourism Police, district administration and other relevant quarters should make proper arrangements to facilitate the tourists during the spectacular event," Zahid Chanzeb said while chairing a meeting.

KPCTA Director General Barkatullah Marwat, Kalakh Valley Development Authority director General Minhasuddin and other officials attended the meeting as well.

CAP marks 16 years of heritage preservation

LAHORE (APP): The Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP) commemorated its 16th anniversary with a grand celebration at the National History Museum, underscoring its steadfast dedication to preserving the rich heritage of Pakistan.

commitment to capturing the diverse narratives that shape Pakistan's collective memory. With over 5,000 oral histories and 600,000 images in its digital archive, the CAP has curated a treasure trove of invaluable resources for researchers, students, and the public.

Founded in 2007, the CAP has been at the forefront of safeguarding the nation's history, culture, and identity through its innovative initiatives. The CAP's pioneering oral history program, launched in 2008, stands as a testament to its

A notable highlight of CAP's legacy is the National History Museum (NHM) Lahore, Pakistan's first digital interactive museum inaugurated in partnership with the Parks and Horticulture Authority and the Government of Punjab.

Two abducted from Wah

WAH (APP): Two teenage persons among them a girl was abducted in two different incidents in various parts of Wah on Wednesday.

In the first incident, 14 years old Zia Shahfeeq was abducted by unknown persons in the limits of Wah Saddar Police station while 16 years old Maryium Bibi was abducted by four persons among them two women in the same police station limits. Wah Saddar Police registered two different abduction cases and launched further investigation.

FIA arrests three FESCO officers on overbilling

FAISALABAD (APP): FIA Faisalabad has arrested three officers of Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) on charge of their involvement in overbilling and embezzlement in company's revenue of millions of rupees. According to FIA spokesman, FESCO officer Muhammad Ameer during his appointment as Superintending Engineer made overbilling of 15.8 million units in the electricity bill of a mill whereas accused Ghulam Abbas during his appointment as Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) and accused Shafiq Ahmad.

Governor lauds efforts of Youth Parliament for the betterment of community

Independent Report

LAHORE: A 25-member delegation of Pakistan Youth Parliament (PMA) headed by President (PMA) Muhammad Abu Bakar met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation presented various suggestions to the Governor of Punjab regarding the improvement of the youth.

betterment of the community. Governor Punjab said that there are many positive things in the society.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the young generation is the future of the country. He appreciated the efforts of Youth Parliament for the

He said that we should appreciate the good work, but we should also keep an eye on the shortcomings in the society so that they might be rectified. Governor Punjab also awarded honorary shields to the members of Youth Parliament for their outstanding performance. The delegation presented an honorary souvenir to the Governor of Punjab on behalf of the Youth Parliament. On this occasion, the delegation also visited the Governor's House.



GILGIT: Workers of Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority and GBPWD busy in clearing blocked road of Astore after heavy rain and land sliding in the area.

Home Secretary for allocating more resources for Child Protection Bureau

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Secretary Home Punjab Noorul Ameen Mengal visited the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau in Bahawalpur. On this occasion, he said that the resources for the school located in the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau will be further increased by the Punjab government. The Secretary Home said that instructions have been issued to the Director General Child Protection and Welfare Bureau to decentralize the budget of the Child

Protection Bureau Bahawalpur. He further said that the Commissioner Bahawalpur Division and DC Bahawalpur will also be asked to help in providing more resources to the Child Protection Bureau Bahawalpur. He said that the rights of children are being protected in Bahawalpur as well as in other districts of Punjab. Noorul Ameen Mengal said that these children are our precious assets and the Punjab government will make every effort to make these children useful citizens of the society.

International News

Israeli offensive on Rafah would be 'unbearable escalation': UN chief

MONITORING DESK UNITED NATIONS: United Nations chief Antonio Guterres urged Israel not to invade southern Gaza's Rafah city, after the Israeli prime minister said an offensive would go forward regardless of a pending hostage deal with Hamas.

"would have a devastating impact on Palestinians in Gaza, with serious repercussions on the occupied West Bank and across the wider region," he added.

have ravaged the territory since the start of the war on October 7, when Hamas launched a deadly and unprecedented attack on Israel.

With the war roiling the region, international outrage mounting over the human toll, and mediators ramping up diplomatic efforts to ease the crisis and reach a truce, Guterres implored Israel not to go ahead with its operation.

"All members of the Security Council, and many other governments, have clearly expressed their opposition to such an operation. I appeal for all those with influence over Israel to do everything in their power to prevent it."

But Netanyahu has pledged to destroy Hamas, and he said the Israeli army stopping the war "before achieving all of its goals is out of the question."

"A military assault on Rafah would be an unbearable escalation, killing thousands more civilians and forcing hundreds of thousands to flee," the secretary-general told reporters.

The latest Guterres warning follows Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's promise that the Israeli army will launch a ground offensive on the Gaza Strip's far-southern city of Rafah "with or without" a truce deal being agreed with Hamas.

"We will enter Rafah and we will eliminate the Hamas battalions there with or without a deal," he told families of hostages still being held in Gaza, his office said.



Part of an expressway collapsed in south China's Guangdong Province on after heavy rains.

At least 24 people killed in south China road collapse

MONITORING DESK GUANGDONG: At least 24 people died after part of a highway collapsed due to heavy rains in southern China's Guangdong province on Wednesday, state media said.

Such an operation normally is expected for the time of year and have been linked to accelerating climate change.

Guangdong, a densely populated industrial powerhouse, has been lashed by rainstorms in recent weeks, causing severe flooding and landslides in some areas. The downpours have been much heavier than would

State news agency Xinhua said that a stretch of road between Meizhou city and Dabu county in Guangdong province caved in at around 2:10am on Wednesday (6:10pm GMT Tuesday). The incident caused 20 vehicles to become trapped and involved a total of 54 people, according to Xinhua.

Taliban are working to woo tourists to Afghanistan

MONITORING DESK KABUL: Around 30 men are crammed into a Kabul classroom, part of the debut student cohort at a Taliban-run institute training tourism and hospitality professionals.

It's a motley crew. One student is a model. Another is 17 and has no job history.

The students vary in age, education level and professional experience. They're all men — Afghan women are banned from studying beyond sixth grade — and they don't know anything about tourism or hospitality. But they are all eager to promote a different side of Afghanistan. And the Taliban are happy to help.

Afghanistan's rulers are pariahs on the global stage, largely because of their restrictions on women and girls. The economy is struggling, infrastructure is poor, and poverty is rife.



Visitors stand behind barriers while looking at military hardware at an exhibition, which displays armoured vehicles and equipment captured by the Russian army from Ukrainian forces in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict, at Victory Park open-air museum on Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow, Russia.

Russia ramps up arms production as US boosts support for Ukraine

MONITORING DESK MOSCOW: Russia's defence minister on Wednesday ordered a hike in weapons production and said deliveries needed to be faster for the war in Ukraine, a week after U.S. President Joe Biden signed off on tens of billions of dollars of new military aid for Kyiv.

according to Russian and U.S. diplomats. Biden on April 24 signed a bill into law that provides \$61 billion in additional aid to Ukraine, including an array of artillery, rocket systems, anti-tank munitions and ammunition.

Russia is gradually advancing at key points along the 1,000-km (620 mile) front line and stated that U.S. arms will not prevent victory by Moscow, but some Russian officials are concerned that the U.S. support will escalate the conflict.

President Vladimir Putin's 2022 invasion of Ukraine touched off the worst breakdown in relations between Russia and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, according to Russian and U.S. diplomats.

China, US to hold climate meetings in Washington in May

MONITORING DESK WASHINGTON: U.S. climate change diplomat John Podesta said on Tuesday he will meet his Chinese counterpart Liu Zhenmin in Washington in early May, resuming bilateral talks on climate cooperation amid simmering tensions over trade and security.

into his new role as the top U.S. climate diplomat earlier this year, replacing former Secretary of State John Kerry.

However, the envoys of the world's two biggest emitters have not yet held formal talks. Podesta told Bloomberg TV he will meet with Liu when he visits the United States.

One source familiar with the visit said Liu will be in Washington from May 8 to May 10. The source said Liu will also travel to New York.

US 'expects accountability' from India, says State Dept

MONITORING DESK WASHINGTON: The US State Department stated on Tuesday that it expects India to address the alleged involvement of senior Indian officials in assassination attempts within the United States.

"We continue to expect accountability from the government of India based on the results of the Indian inquiry committee's work, and we are regularly working with them and inquiring for additional updates," said the department's principal deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel during a news briefing in Washington.

UK confirms first migrants held for Rwanda deportation flights

MONITORING DESK LONDON: The UK government confirmed on Wednesday it had detained an unspecified number of migrants in recent days for deportation to Rwanda in July under its controversial new policy. It comes a week after lawmakers ended months of parliamentary wrangling and passed a law allowing some asylum seekers to be deported by declaring Rwanda to be a safe third country.

US, allies press UAE over Russia trade, sanctions

Monitoring Desk

ABU DHABI: The United States, Britain and the European Union are pressing the United Arab Emirates to show it is cracking down on firms evading sanctions imposed on Russia over the war in Ukraine, according to three sources aware of the diplomatic outreach.

UAE official did not address whether talks had taken place but said bans on certain dual-use products "deemed essential in mitigating the conflict in Ukraine" had been issued and that preliminary data indicated there had been no export or re-export of such products so far this year.

American, British and EU officials visited the Gulf state last week as part of a wider coordinated effort to prevent sanctioned goods from reaching Russia, a British foreign secretary spokesperson said, declining further comment. The sources said the officials asked the UAE in a series of separate meetings to share detailed trade information on its exports to Russia and on the re-export of so-called dual-use goods that have both civilian and military purposes.

The official did not share the preliminary data. A U.S. State Department spokesperson said a U.S. delegation had visited the UAE as part of an ongoing dialogue about transshipment trends, especially of dual-use goods that support the Russian defense industrial base. Among Western concerns is that companies in the UAE are involved in the export of computer chips, electronics, machinery and other sanctioned products to Russia that could be used to aid Moscow's military effort against Ukraine.

AstraZeneca admits its Covid vaccine 'could cause blood clots in rare cases'

Monitoring Desk

ASTRAZENECA, the pharmaceutical giant which virtually became a household name during the Covid-19 pandemic, has admitted that its Covishield vaccine could cause rare side effects, including blood clots and low platelet count.

by the Serum Institute of India. It was widely administered in over 150 countries.

The pharma giant is being sued in a class action over claims that its vaccine, developed with the University of Oxford, caused death and serious injury in dozens of cases.

Some studies conducted during the pandemic found the vaccine was 60 to 80 per cent effective in protecting against the novel coronavirus, according to The Independent.

"It is admitted that the AZ vaccine can, in very rare cases, cause TTS (Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome). The causal mechanism is not known," the company said in court documents. The Telegraph reported. Covishield was developed by the British-Swedish company in collaboration with Oxford University, and produced

But one of the complainants alleged that the vaccine caused him a permanent brain injury after he developed a blood clot, preventing him from working.

While the company has contested these claims, the court submission marks the first time it has admitted that the vaccine can cause side-effects that are characterised by blood clots and a low blood platelet count in humans. "Further, TTS can also occur in the absence of the AZ vaccine (or any vaccine).



LAHORE: Political leaders joined hands to express solidarity with the Palestinians on the occasion of the National Palestine Conference organized by the Central Jamiat Ahl Hadith Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Iqbal of the provincial capital.

US supports Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism: State Dept

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States has once again reaffirmed its support to Pakistan in its fight against terrorism aimed at protecting its citizens and protection of human rights. "We support Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of its citizens in a manner that promotes the rule of law and protection of human rights," US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said in a press briefing on Tuesday.

Responding to a question concerning the need to strengthen Pakistan's defence capabilities, the spokesperson highlighted

"shared interests" between Islamabad and Washington. "Our partnership with Pakistan on security issues includes, of course, a high-level counter-terrorism dialogue, funding robust counter-terrorism capacity, and building programs and supporting a series of US and Pakistan military-to-military engagements," he noted.

Patel's remarks come as both countries, during a meeting between US Acting Under Secretary for Political Affairs John Bass and Acting Foreign Secretary Ambassador Rahim Hayat in Islamabad, reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in the areas of trade, investment and regional security.

Last week, the US State Department, in its "2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices" had underscored the lack of necessary measures by Pakistan with regard to addressing human rights abuses in the country.

The report, lamenting sufficient and credible steps to identify and punish officials who may have committed human rights abuses, underscored extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, torture and cases of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by the government or its agents along with harsh and life-threatening prison conditions, arbitrary deten-

MQM delegation meets President

KARACHI (APP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) delegation led by Federal Minister Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on President Asif Ali Zardari here at CM House on Wednesday.

MQM leadership congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on assuming the office of the President of Pakistan for the second time.

Dr Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal were part of the MQM Pakistan's delegation along with party convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi were also present on the occasion.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that all the stakeholders would be taken on-board while carrying out affairs of the government.

MQM delegation assured the President of their all possible cooperation.

Govt strongly believes in supremacy of law under constitution: Amir Muqam

PESHAWAR (INP): Federal Minister for SAFRON and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam has said that his party led government strongly believes in supremacy of law under the constitution.

This was stated by him on Wednesday while addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the Matta Bar Council Association in Swat. The ceremony was attended by party leaders, district officials and members of the legal fraternity.

Engr Amir Muqam urged the lawyers' fraternity to work towards up-

holding the supremacy of law and the constitution, rather than being swayed by individual interests.

Reiterating the government's commitment to upholding the independence of the judiciary, he asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to give priority to public issues over personal agendas.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister needs to focus on improving the lives of people of the province rather engaging in power struggles in Islamabad, he added.

The federal minister expressed confidence in the strength of the central government and assured that over the next five years, Pakistan would gain control over its issues.

He highlighted the importance of collaboration between institutions and governments solely for the resolution of Pakistan's issues. He praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his tireless efforts to resolve the issues faced by the country and countrymen.

Engr Amir Muqam commended Army Chief General Asim Munir's role in attracting investment from around the world for the first time in Pakistan.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari in meeting with a delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) led by Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, held at CM House.

Deputy PM Dar arrives in The Gambia to represent Pak at 15th OIC Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that he had arrived in The Gambia to represent Pakistan at 15th Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit being held in Banjul on 4-5 May. On his X account, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister said that earlier, he had participated with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Riyadh.

He was received by the Gambian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Nani Juwara, Foreign Secretary

Afghan nationals repatriated so far surpass 550000

RAWALPINDI (Online): Repatriation of illegal foreign nationals from Pakistan is underway.

A large number of illegal Afghan national have been repatriated through specific border crossing points. According to statistics over 556000 illegal Afghan national have been sent back. As per official statistics, total number of illegal Afghan national who have left Pakistan till April 30, 2024 stands at 556548.



BANJUL: - Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar arrives in Banjul, the Gambia for the 15th OIC Islamic summit. He received by the Gambian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Nani Juwara.

Rights of labourers working in industrial zone to be protected, assures Hasan Zehri

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Industries, Mir Ali Hasan Zehri has categorically stated that the rights of labourers working in industrial zone of the province would be protected.

He asserted that those exploiting the labourers would have to face the music. Stern legal action would be taken against usurping rights of the labourers.

This and similar views were expressed by the Advisor Industries in a message issued on the occasion of World Labour Day observed on Wednesday.

In his message, Ali

Hasan Zehri paid tributes to the labourers of Chicago saying that their sacrifices would be remembered for centuries.

He said that the provincial government would protect the rights of labourers at every cost.

In this regard, necessary amendments would be made in the laws for protection of their rights.

Mir Ali Hasan Zehri said that at least 1,000 children of labourers would acquire higher education from prestigious educational institutions of the country, as per the vision of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Hashmi calls on President CACDA

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalid Hashmi called on the President of China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA), Cheng Jingye in Beijing.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest and recalled earlier experiences and robust cooperation between Pakistan and China including at the United Nations (UN).

Glad to meet Ambassador Cheng Jingye, President of China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, CACDA, an old friend from @UN.

Recalling earlier experiences & robust cooperation between our two countries at the UN, Ambassador Hashmi posted on social media platform X after the meeting.

President ECI stresses proactive role of Pakistan in promoting ECO tourism

SHAHRAHISABZ (Uzbekistan) (APP): President of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) Dr Saad S. Khan has said that Pakistan should come forward to play a proactive role in Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) with an aim to promote tourism industry. At the special ceremony held to mark the Shahrisabz, Uzbekistan as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2024 by UNESCO, ECI President visited the stalls of all ECO countries as the special guest of the host government.

Talking to APP, he spoke high of the cultural diversity of the ECO region, especially of Pakistan, under the initiative of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC).

He acknowledged the request by the Government of Pakistan to declare the city of Lahore as the ECO Tourism Capital for the year 2026 and said that member states of the ECO would shortly take a decision in this regard.

The celebrations at Shahrisabz did raise the bar for any other ECO nation for the quality and diversity of festivities that the Uzbekistan government had arranged for this event.

Amin Gandapur says: Mere lip service, tik tok don't work, there is need to bring reforms in Punjab police

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur has said mere lip service and tik tok don't work and need is there to introduce reforms in Punjab police.

"Tik tok can become good by wearing police uniform but the problems facing the people cannot be resolved this way. If I say something then all start criticizing me", he said this while talking to a private TV channel here Wednesday.

He went on to say the economic situation in Pakistan was better during PTI previous government. The international institutions have identified improvement in economic indicators while the performance of PDM 16 months government.



QUETTA: Director Colleges Kaleemullah Lango briefed Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Duurrani about colleges. Secretary Schools Saleh Nassar is also present

34th meeting of Board of Directors of BEEF held

Independent Report QUETTA: The 34th meeting of Board of Directors of Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) was held here the other day.

The Secretary Finance, Babar Khan presided over the meeting.

The Chief Executive of BEEF, Zikriya Khan Noorzi briefed the meeting about agenda including complete educational scholarships for children of the civil martyrs under the Benazir Bhutto Fund Scholarship Programme, educational scholarships for providing equal opportunities of education for the students belonging to all minorities as well as the transgender students besides the policies prepared for educational scholarships for topper students of all districts (matriculation and Intermediate).

The meeting approved different matters and policies.

The Chairman Board of Directors appreciated the performance of schemes of BEEF and directed to start new ones soon.

He also directed to conduct the third party evaluation soon.

BFA foils attempt to supply unhealthy chicken to Quetta

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Food Authority has failed a major attempt to supply unhealthy chicken to Quetta city.

According to the spokesperson Balochistan Food Authority was received a confidential information regarding the supply of unhealthy chicken meat worth of lacs.

According to details, the BFA officials started monitoring the allegedly hazardous chicken meat supplying from Punjab by

"Oye Chote" delivers a powerful message on Child Labor

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Arts Council Alhambra organized a presentation of the play "Oye Chote" to celebrate the International Labor Day.

The event saw the esteemed presence of Punjab's Secretary of Labor and Manpower, Muhammad Naeem Ghous, who paid tribute to the resilience of all workers and acknowledged their indispensable role in society.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing during function to mark the International Labour Day at National Press Club.

Labour Day observes to pay tribute to sacrifices of Chicago workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Like other parts of the globe, international labour day was observed across the country on Wednesday to pay homage and glowing tributes to the sacrifices of 1886 Chicago workers who sacrificed their lives for demanding eight hours duty a day.

People gathered at roads and streets to renew their pledge sending a message to employers to provide proper wages and healthy environment under this year's theme of "ensuring labourers' safety and health at work place."

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and labour organizations jointly held a rally on the International Labour Day, honouring workers worldwide and paying homage to the martyrs of Chicago. The event, organized by PPP Lahore, saw prominent figures, including PPP Lahore President Chaudhry Aslam Gill, Mian Khalid Mahmood, and Robina Jameel, among

others, addressing the gathering.

Hari Welfare Association has taken out a massive rally from Allah Wala Chowk to Press Club Nawabshah to mark International Labour Day. Participants carried banners and placards enchanted slogans to express solidarity with Chicago Martyrs.

Addressing the rally President Hari Welfare Association Akram Khaskheli said that the economic position of labour and peasants was deteriorating.

President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated the dignity of labourers and paid tribute to their historic struggle.

"This day serves as a reminder for all of us to safeguard labourers' rights, and work for their social protection, fair wages, and safe working conditions," the president said in a message on the observance of International Labour Day on May 1.

and on the basis of hard work by the employers and the employees including workers.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized the government's commitment in enhancing the quality of life and prosperity of labourers.

In a message on International Labour Day, she paid tribute to labourers worldwide, highlighting their significance in Islam and society. CM Maryam honoured women workers and the Chicago martyrs for their contributions and struggles. She stressed the importance of respecting labour rights, ensuring fair wages, protection, and societal recognition. Additionally, she announced plans to enforce an 'Occupational Safety Act' for labourer protection.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said the provincial government was working hard for the economic stability of the labourers and also ensuring

the provision of education and health facilities to their children.

Greeting the workers in his message on the occasion of 1st May Day, the chief minister said that the workers are the wheels of the country's economy.

Shah said that our workers have played an important role in the development and prosperity of the country.

The CM said that the provincial government was planning to launch a program for the uplift of the industrial as well as agricultural labourers, farmers and women workers.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the government is taking effective measures for the welfare of labourers and would ensure all basic facilities to the productive segment of society.

In a message on the occasion of Labour Day, he said that workers are playing a key role in the development of the society.

Indian troops martyr eight Kashmiris in April

SRINAGAR (Online): Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred eight Kashmiris, including a young boy, during the last month of April in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those martyred five were killed in fake encounters or custody by the Indian forces' personnel in the territory.



QUETTA: Member Balochistan Assembly Maulana Hidayat Ur Rehman Baloch along with labour leaders leading a rally to mark the International Labour Day as International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 every year.