

Province's development link with maintenance of law & order: KP Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): In a separate meeting, Chief Engineer PESCO, Akhtar Hamid Khan, also discussed electricity supply and load shedding with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor's House. The Governor directed the PESCO chief to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and minimize load shedding.

The Governor praised the role of the Frontier Constabulary in security and law and order, emphasizing that development and prosperity rely on peace. He acknowledged the sacrifices of security forces, FC, and police in the fight against terrorism.



PESHAWAR: Police personnel's showing recovered artifacts to a media here at Police Line.

All Pakistan University Libraries Convention held at Bahria University

KARACHI (APP): The librarians of universities of the country in their 1st All Pakistan University Libraries Convention, have emphasized on development and upgradation of libraries according to the needs of the digital age.

They also highlighted the role of university libraries for enlightening young generations by providing conducive atmosphere and latest literature. The convention was held in the Bahria University, Karachi in collaboration with all the professional associations of librarians including Pakistan Federation of Library

16 dead, 1,549 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 16 people were killed and 1,549 others injured in 1,434 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 655 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 894 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

Four killed in Bahawalpur road accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Four people, including three children were killed in a road accident on the Sutlej River bridge in Bahawalpur on Friday. According to rescue officials, the incident occurred after a speeding trailer hit a motorcycle. As a result, four people, including three children, got injured in the same accident. The rescue officials promptly responded to the accident, and the bodies of the deceased and injured have been transferred to the hospital.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain bidding farewell to pilgrims at Allama Iqbal International Airport.

KP assembly passes over Rs1360.37bn surplus budget for eight months of FY 2023-24

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly on Friday passed a surplus budget of Rs1,360.37 billion for 11 months of the fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 including the last eight months of the interim government and the last two months of the current elected government.

The budget included Rs 1,059.276 billion in ongoing expenses and Rs 301.094 billion in development expenses. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Inflation in Punjab reduces from 37 to 17 percent: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari on Friday said that inflation in Punjab had reduced from 37 to 17 percent. Addressing a press conference here she said that during two months the price of 20 kg flour bag had reduced by Rs 1,000.

She said that it had been a big challenge for the Punjab government to control price hike during the holy month of Ramadan but sincere effort was made to control it through 'Ramazan Nigheban Package'.

She said today she

Opposition decries hurriedly called session of KP Assembly

PESHAWAR (APP): The opposition members in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly here Friday criticized government and protested the hurriedly called session of the assembly. The session was chaired by Speaker KP Assembly, Babar Salim Swati.

Criticizing government for ignoring the rules and procedures to call the session, they termed the holding of session unconstitutional. They said that it is impossible for members of remote areas to attend the session that was summoned hurriedly and contravening existing rules.

KP CM outlines measures for province development, prosperity

Independent Report DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday said the government was committed to improving law and order situation and overcoming the energy crisis.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that the provincial government was going to present a budget soon and the allocations of funds would be made according to priorities.

He said the government's first priority was related to the



Commandant Frontier Constabulary Moazzam Jah Ansari calls on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor's House Peshawar.

Secretary Human Rights Dept calls for setting up district level offices

HYDERABAD (APP): Secretary Sindh Human Rights Department Tehseen Fatima has said the role of police and district administration is pivotal for implementing human rights and creating awareness among the people about such rights. She said this while chairing a meeting at Shahbaz Hall of Shahbaz Building here on Friday. She said that the meeting discussed the rights issues, the procedure for registering complaints and the plan of setting up the department's offices at the district level.

The Secretary underlined the need to curb child

International News

Israel strikes Rafah as talks yield no breakthrough

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli tanks and warplanes bombarded areas of Rafah on Thursday, Palestinian residents said, after President Joe Biden said the United States would withhold weapons from Israel if its forces mount a major invasion of the southern Gaza city.

A senior Israeli official said that the latest round of indirect negotiations in Cairo to halt hostilities had ended and Israel would proceed with its operation in Rafah and other parts of the Gaza Strip as planned.

Israel has submitted to mediators its reservations about a Hamas proposal for a prisoners' release deal and the Israeli delegation was returning from the Egyptian capital, the official added.

In Gaza, Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad said their fighters fired anti-tank rockets and mortars at Israeli tanks massed on the eastern outskirts of the city.

Residents and medics in Rafah said an Israeli attack by a mosque killed at least three people and wounded others in the eastern Brazilian neighbourhood.

On the city's eastern edge, residents said a helicopter opened fire, while drones hovered above houses in several areas, some close to rooftops.

Israel claims Hamas fighters are hiding in Rafah, where the population has been swelled by hundreds of thousands of Gazans seeking refuge from bombardments elsewhere in the coastal enclave, and it needs to eliminate them for its own security.

One of the displaced, Mohammad Abder-Rahman, said he feared the Israeli bombardments pre-empted an invasion of the city.

Ceasefire talks in Egypt's capital made some headway, but no deal was reached, according to two Egyptian security sources.

The Hamas delegation left for Doha for consultations, blaming Israel for the lack of agreement so far.

Israel has said it is open to a truce, but has rejected demands for an end to bombing as it has vowed to demolish Hamas.

Biden, who says Israel has not produced a convincing plan to safeguard civilians in Rafah, issued his starkest warning yet against a full ground invasion.

"I made it clear that if they go into Rafah, ... I'm not supplying the weapons," Biden told CNN in an interview on Wednesday.



Smoke billows from a building which caught fire after fresh Israeli attacks in the Zaytoun neighbourhood of Gaza City.

Putin reappoints his prime minister, a technocrat who has kept a low political profile

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as the country's prime minister on Friday, a widely anticipated move to keep on a technocrat who has maintained a low political profile. Mishustin and other technocrats in the Cabinet have been credited with maintaining a relatively stable economic performance despite bruising Western sanctions for Russia's role in Ukraine. Most other Cabinet members are expected to keep their jobs, though the fate of Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu appeared uncertain.

In line with Russian law, Mishustin, 58, who held the job for the past four years, submitted his Cabinet's resignation on Tuesday when Putin began his fifth presidential term at a glittering Kremlin inauguration. Mishustin, the former head of Russia's tax service, steered clear of political statements and avoided media interviews during his previous tenure.

Several dead in protests in Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk KABUL: Several people were killed when a demonstration broke out in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday after Taliban authorities ordered houses cleared to make way for a building construction, a provincial official said.

The Taliban authorities had ordered residents to vacate the land on the road between provincial capital Jalalabad and the border with Pakistan to make way for a new customs building, said Arafat Mohajer, the head of the information and culture department for the Torkham border point.

UN to vote on resolution that would grant Palestine new rights and revive its UN membership bid

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. General Assembly is expected to vote Friday on a resolution that would grant new "rights and privileges" to Palestine and call on the Security Council to favorably reconsider its request to become the 194th member of the United Nations. The United States vetoed a widely backed council resolution on April 18 that would have paved the way for full United Nations membership for Palestine, a goal the Palestinians have long sought and Israel has worked to prevent, and U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood made clear Thursday the Biden administration is opposed to the assembly resolution.

Under the U.N. Charter, prospective members of the United Nations must be "peace-loving," and the Security Council must recommend their admission to the General Assembly for final approval. Palestine became a U.N. non-member observer state in 2012.

"We've been very clear from the beginning there is a process for obtaining full membership in the United Nations, and this effort by some of the Arab countries and the Palestinians is to try to go around that," Wood said Thursday. "We have said from the beginning the best way to ensure Palestinian full membership in the U.N. is to do that through negotiations with Israel. That remains our position." But unlike the Security Council, there are no vetoes in the 193-member General Assembly and the resolution is expected to be approved by a large majority, according to three Western diplomats.



Protesters carry a Palestinian flag during the Stop Israel demonstration against Israel's participation in the 68th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC), amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Malmo, Sweden.

India's top court releases jailed Modi opponent

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's top court on Friday ordered a jailed opponent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be released on bail, allowing him to campaign in an ongoing national election.

Arvind Kejriwal, chief minister of the capital Delhi and a key leader in an opposition alliance formed to compete against Modi in the polls, was detained in March over a long-running corruption probe.

He is among several leaders of the bloc under criminal investigation, with one of his colleagues describing his arrest the month before the election as a "political conspiracy" orchestrated by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Supreme court Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said Kejriwal could leave custody until June 1, the last day of voting in the six-week election.

Ireland and Spain could recognise Palestinian state this month

Monitoring Desk DUBLIN/LJUBLJANA: Ireland and Spain alongside various European Union member states, are considering 'recognising' a Palestinian state on the 21 of May, according to a report published by Ireland's national broadcaster.

RTE News' stated on Wednesday evening that contacts between Dublin and Madrid and between Slovenia and Malta, had "intensified with a view to the countries jointly recognising" Palestinian statehood.

The report reveals that countries have been anticipating a vote of the United Nations General Assembly, on May 10. The vote may well lead to the recognition of Palestinians as "qualified" to become a "full members of the United Nations". In a joint statement issue on the 22 of March, Spain, Ireland, Malta and Slovenia said they had 'agreed to take the first steps' towards recognising a Palestinian state. Spain and Ireland have been champions of Palestinian rights, for quite a while.

Maldives moves to mend ties with India

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: The Maldives pledged "enduring friendship" with India on Thursday ahead of a deadline for New Delhi to withdraw a troop garrison from the luxury tourist destination that has strained ties between the neighbours. Pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu won office last year while campaigning on a promise to downgrade ties with India, and has since reoriented the strategically placed archipelago nation towards Beijing.

Philippines calls for expelling Chinese diplomats as South China Sea row escalates

Monitoring Desk MANILA: The Philippines' national security adviser called on Friday for Chinese diplomats to be expelled over an alleged leak of a phone conversation with a Filipino admiral in a significant escalation of a bitter row over the South China Sea. China's embassy in Manila had orchestrated "repeated acts of engaging and dissemination of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation", with the objective of sowing discord, division and disunity, Eduardo Ano said in a statement. Those actions "should not be allowed to pass unaddressed without serious penalty", he said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian called the comments provocative and said Chinese diplomats in the Philippines had to be allowed to do their job. "China solemnly requests the Philippine side to effectively safeguard the normal performance of duties by Chinese diplomatic personnel, stop infringing and provoking, and refrain from denying the facts," Lin said at a regular press briefing in Beijing.

The office of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and the foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The two countries have been embroiled in a series of heated standoffs this past year in disputed areas of the South China Sea as the Philippines, emboldened by support from the United States and other allies, steps up activities in waters occupied by China's vast coast guard.

China has accused the Philippines of trespassing and of treachery, while Manila has scolded Beijing for what it says is a policy of aggression and dangerous manoeuvring inside.

