

Independent

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 103, Zeeqad 14, 1445 AH Thursday May 23, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

Provincial cabinet constitutes committee to sort out issue of federal levies in Balochistan

Cabinet approves establishment of Forensic Science Agency, Women Police Station in Sibi & Pharmacy Council besides approving bills for prevention of early age marriage and domestic violence against women; Education of Qura'an declared compulsory for Muslim students

Independent Report
The Balochistan cabinet has approved to bring the federal levies force in the administrative structure of Balochistan levies force and constituted a committee to decide future of the federal levies and the related matters.
The committee would be headed by the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove with provincial ministers Sadar Sarfraz Domki, Noor Muhammad Dumar and Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran.
The cabinet also ac-

corded approval to the establishment of Forensic Science Agency and Women Police Station in Sibi.
Besides, the cabinet approved bills for prevention of the early age marriages and domestic violence against women.
In addition to this, the cabinet approved formation of Balochistan Pharmacy Council and increase in the renewal and issuance fees of the private security companies in the province.
This and similar other information were shared by the spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind while briefing the me-

dia persons about the decisions made in the provincial cabinet here at the CM's secretariat on Wednesday.
The two-day meeting of cabinet was chaired by the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.
About the cabinet meeting, the spokesman of provincial government informed that the cabinet meeting remain continued for two days. During the course of meeting, some 30 points were discussed and important decisions made on different administration matters and about public interest.
Shahid Rind said that

the cabinet laid emphasis on improving governance in education and health sectors agreeing to bring about reforms in the province.
He said that the cabinet members emphasized in the cabinet meeting that improvement in service delivery is necessary particularly in health and education sectors.
In this connection, the cabinet has directed to provincial ministers of Education and Health to prepare comprehensive recommendations for improvement in their respective departments.
He said that while the cabinet approved the bills

about prevention of early age marriages and elimination of domestic violence, there was also discussion on the matter of federal levies in the province.
In this regard, the cabinet approved to form a committee headed by the Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove on the matter of federal levies in the province.
Moreover, the cabinet declared it compulsory for the Muslim students to get Qura'an education.
While on the other hand, the cabinet supported the constitutional bill regarding increase in the seats of Balochistan.



TEHRAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Acting President of Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Mokhbar and offers condolence over the sad demise of Iranian President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his companions.

Pakistan firmly upholds one-China principle: President

President Zardari's remarks on One-China principle, highly appreciable: Wang Wenbin

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated that Pakistan firmly adhered to the one-China principle as the country always chooses to stand on the right side of history.
"Pakistanis people loved China as 'there is no conditionality between us,'" the president remarked in an interview with the Chinese media published on Wednesday, marking the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.
This was the first such interaction of President Zardari with any foreign media after being re-elected

for the second time in March.
Recalling the rapport between the previous leaders of the two countries, Zardari said, "My late father-in-law, Pakistan's former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto told the nation to look East, to look towards China."
President Zardari, who had visited China nine times during his first term as Pakistani president, reaffirmed Pakistan's stance of upholding the one-China principle, rejecting any form of "Taiwan independence."
"Taiwan is part of China. There's no other way," the president said,

adding that Pakistan will always stand with China and safeguard China's core interests.
Commenting on the development of Gwadar Port, a starting point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Zardari said a lot of work had been done at the Gwadar Port since the launch of the CPEC 11 years ago, noting that the Port would always welcome investors from all over the world.
Zardari said Pakistan is encouraging more schools to adopt the Chinese language into their compulsory curriculum.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing Provincial Cabinet meeting

29 terrorists killed in operations along Pak-Afghan border since April 21: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces, in addition to other areas along Pakistan-Afghanistan border, are conducting effective operations in general area Sambaza in Zhob District of Balochistan, since April 21, that helped in neutralising 29 terrorists successfully in the past one month.
According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday, "Off late, Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist incidents orchestrated from Afghan soil, wherein, terrorists from Afghanistan attempt to infiltrate through Pakistan-Afghanistan Border and target Security Forces as well as the innocent civilians."
In the same series of

operations, during an intelligence based operation on May 14, Major Babar Khan also embraced, Shahadat, while fighting gallantly.
"Pakistan's Security Forces are determined and remain committed to secure the borders and ensure safety of its citizens against the scourge of terrorism," the ISPR said.
It added that Pakistan has consistently been asking Interim Afghan Government to ensure effective border management on their side of border.
"Interim Afghan Government is expected to fulfill its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for perpetuating acts of terrorism against Pakistan," the ISPR said.

PM meets Turkish VP, FM, Emir of Qatar

TEHRAN (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met Vice President of Turkey Cevdet Yilmaz and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan at a commemorative ceremony organised in honour of late Iranian President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his companions.
During their meeting, both sides discussed the bilateral and other issues of mutual interests, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.
They also agreed to further enhance the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkey in diverse fields.
Separately, the prime minister also met with Emir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.
Similar sentiments were expressed during the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Emir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Meets Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei PM expresses unwavering solidarity with Iran at time of national tragedy

TEHRAN (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met the Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and expressed condolences on the tragic death of Iranian President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his companions.
The prime minister underlined that President Raisi was a visionary leader who manifested steadfast dedication to serving his country and people.
Recalling late President Raisi's recent visit to Pakistan in April 2024, the prime minister highlighted his commendable role in further strengthening of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.
Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed solidarity with the Iranian brethren and sisters at the critical juncture in history and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the bonds of friend-

ship and brotherhood with the Government and the people of brotherly Iran.
He expressed the resolve to continue the vision of late president for strengthening of the bilateral relationship and trade between the two countries.
He said that President Raisi's contributions for the unity of Muslim Ummah as well as for the besieged people of Gaza would be etched in history.
The prime minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar.
Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that they appreciated the sentiments of the Government and the people of Pakistan in the critical time and expressed gratitude to them.

Tarar lauds Intl organizations' support to strengthen electoral process in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday that the cooperation of international organizations to strengthen the electoral process in Pakistan was commendable.
During a meeting with the United Nations Electoral Needs Assessment Mission, the minister appreciated the services rendered by the mission for the transparency of electoral process in Pakistan.
In the meeting, provision of technical support to Election Commission of

Pakistan through UNDP Election Support Programme, fake news, misinformation and other important issues were discussed.
"Election campaigns in Pakistan have changed in the digital age," the minister said adding the rise of social media had given a new shape to political engagement. In the present digital era, where the way for digital-based strategies was being paved, there were also challenges of fake news, misinformation and disinformation.

Reshuffling of senior civil bureaucracy continues in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The reshuffling of senior civil bureaucracy is continued as administrative secretaries of three more departments were replaced in the province.
According to an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department, the Secretary Communication and Works Department, Kambar Dashti has been transferred and

posted as senior Member Board of Revenue while Secretary Planning, Planning and development, Lal Jan Jaffar has been posted as Secretary C&W.
Similarly, Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan has been transferred and posted as the Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs and Saleh Muhammad Baloch, who was awaiting posting orders, has been posted as the Secretary Health.



TEHRAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of Islamic Revolution.

Central, provincial govts taking steps to ensure good governance: Governor

Mandokhail exhorts PML-N parliamentarians to keep close & effective rapport with masses of their constituencies

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated it is our responsibility to fulfill promises made with the people and meet their expectations and adding exhorted the parliamentarians of PML-N to keep close and effective coordination with people of their respective constituencies every time and under every circumstances so that they are well acquainted about their issues and resolve them timely.
The Governor was speaking to a delegation of the provincial ministers and members of provincial assembly who called on him under leadership of the

Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai here at the Governor's House on Wednesday.
The Governor stressed that the time has come to serve the masses by the elected representatives.
He urged all the elected representatives to serve the masses with dedication and high spirit.
He said that the federal and provincial governments are taking serious steps for ensuring good governance and stabilization of the economic system.
These initiatives would bear positive results very soon, adding he believed.
He said that the democracy revolves around the service and welfare of people so as to protect their basic rights and honour.



QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan and President National Party MPA Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and a delegation of SST Forum meeting with Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani



KARACHI: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani talking to media persons during his visit at Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Bruised PTI demands judicial probe into attack on Raof Hasan

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded formation of a judicial commission to investigate the attack on party's Information Secretary Raof Hasan.
The PTI information secretary was attacked on Tuesday afternoon by unidentified transgender persons with a blade in Islamabad's G-7 area. He suffered a cut in the face.
Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub said an attempt was made to kill party's spokesperson.
"We reject the FIR launched by the Islamabad police. Why the sections of terrorism are not included in the FIR," questioned Ayub.

Dialogue only way to solve problems, says Gilani

KARACHI (INP): Acting president and Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani says dialogue is the only way to solve the problems.
He expressed these views during his visit to the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to pay homage to the Father of the Nation on Wednesday.
The acting president laid a floral wreath and offered feteiha.
He also recorded his impressions in the visitors' book placed at the mausoleum. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah was also present on the occasion.
Speaking to the media, the acting president said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a true and genuine leader of the Sub-Continent and our youth should be aware of the fact that he (Quaid) was the true leader and he had created Pakistan therefore we should not be running after a 'black cat in a dark room'.

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Speaker & Deputy Speaker BA visit Iranian Consulate for condolences

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola visited the Iranian Consulate here on Wednesday.
During the visit, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker expressed condolence on the second consecutive day, Wednesday over the sad

demise of Iranian President and his companions in the Helicopter crash at the Iranian Consulate.
The Chie Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and other personalities belonging to different walks of life have already visited the Iranian Consulate for offering condolence and feteiha for the departed souls of those died in the Helicopter crash.
It may be mentioned here that the process of condolence remained continued on second consecutive day, Wednesday over the sad

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Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Bulldozed bill

Why is the Punjab government so keen on imposing dangerous legislation that would be unacceptable to any self-respecting society?

Where once the party was championing the people and their voices, it is now devising new means to silence them. It has been said before but needs to be stressed again: this new law will likely come back to bite it.

In a demonstration held after the Monday session of the Punjab Assembly, the Lahore Press Club president recalled that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had joined the protests when the PTI had been attempting to strengthen Peca to make it more effective in suppressing public criticism.

Was her earlier position based merely on political expediency? Has her party considered what the consequences of such a law would be in case it once again runs afoul of the powers that be?

Defamation is a societal problem, not something that concerns the Punjab government alone. The journalists' community had merely asked the Punjab government for a week to reconsider the law and arrive at a consensus.

Preparing for crises

Naveen Hussain

If the society you live in was about to experience catastrophe or collapse due to climate change, rising geopolitical tensions and all-out war, or growing inequality leading to civil unrest, what would you do to protect yourself and your family?

A Karachiite of my acquaintance owns a small farm which has previously been used for weekends in the country. He fears that with rising inequality and hunger, civil unrest will increase.

Homesteading is an off-grid, self-reliant lifestyle. His farm is well stocked with fruit and vegetables, and he rears a few chickens and other animals. Solar panels provide electricity, and he has a water bore for clean drinking water.

Adapting our lifestyles to survive is human nature, and yet popular culture depicts homesteaders as eccentric and possibly extremist. The Good Life, a popular BBC comedy, which aired in the 1970s, depicted a couple who gave up corporate life to start homesteading in their middle-class suburban house.

Not everyone owns a farm they can retreat to. Most city dwellers live in urban settings like apart-

ment blocks. These people are more likely to be 'preppers' rather than homesteaders. Preppers stockpile essentials against inevitable economic and climate crises.

Covid-19 was the first time that most people born into a globalised world experienced a truly global supply chain disruption. People in Europe began stockpiling dry pasta while those in Asia stockpiled rice.

Online prepper guides and videos focus on the US and Australia, which are now regularly subject to large uncontrolled forest fires or hurricanes and require emergency evacuation from their homes.

The basic needs of the prepper relate to water, food, and energy. They stockpile bottled water, tinned foods, dry rice, batteries, candles, matches, first aid equipment and essential medication. They have backup torches, solar-powered lamps, and a solar panel charger for mobile devices.

You may be sur-

prised to discover that your neighbours in Pakistan are also prepping. I have met families in ground floor apartments who have installed solar panels on their patios. Those who cannot install solar are ensuring they have portable, affordable solar lanterns.

Climate shocks, rising geopolitical tensions, and a global cost-of-living crisis mean many people cannot afford to stockpile essentials. As rising prices force the middle class to devolve into the working poor, they become as vulnerable as the unemployed.

We need community leaders within neighbourhoods and apartment blocks to build trust and put disaster provision plans in place now. It will be too late after a disaster strikes.

Our species thrived because we lived in communities. Homesteading succeeds when the fruits of your labour are shared with labourers and other homesteaders.

Unusual trifecta

Mahir Ali

There appears to be no reliable source for the quote that there are decades when nothing happens and weeks when decades happen, commonly (and possibly apocryphally) attributed to Vladimir Lenin.

The likelihood that Iran's president and foreign minister had perished in a helicopter crash alongside seven others seemed obvious long before Tehran officially acknowledged the tragedy and announced five days of mourning.

Ebrahim Raisi, elected president in 2021 on a low turnout, and his foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, were guests in Islamabad last month after a period of tensions between the two countries and an exchange of hostilities targeting purported militants on both sides of the Balochistan border.

Iran has lately stood

official description in Tehran, although segments of Iranian media were talking about a crash early on, and the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, tried to reassure the nation that the consequences would not be disruptive long before official sources admitted that there were no survivors.

Raisi will be succeeded by his unelected first vice president, Mohammad Mokhber, in an interim capacity, with fresh presidential elections due within 50 days. There is no reason to expect the pattern will be any different from the recent past, with the clerical hierarchy effectively picking the favoured candidate while offering the mirage of a democratic contest.

With Khamenei now 85, Raisi was considered a contender for the top job. The former is the second supreme leader since 1979. When Ruhollah Khomeini died 10 years later, the Khaleej Times put out a special edition. The only picture we could find of Khomeini with a foreign leader featured Yasser Arafat soon after the revolution.

Iran has lately stood

out as the only significant Middle Eastern power to meaningfully rage against the genocide in Gaza, but its motivations are suspect. Raisi had been implicated for decades in the repression that has stood out as a key characteristic of the regime that smothered the best aspects of the rebellion against the Pahlavi monarchy 45 years ago.

Iran might have been a very different country had the US not conspired seven decades ago to turn it into an Israel-friendly Middle Eastern satellite. Today, it is determined to defend Israel, with Joe Biden denying any 'equivalence' posited by the ICC between Hamas and the Zionist regime, notwithstanding their deadly inclinations.

WikiLeaks exposed the brutal absurdity of America's military endeavours in places where it has no right to be, which is why the Trump and Biden administrations have conspired to permanently silence him.

The ICC's endeavour has been condemned by Hamas, Israel and Biden. That alone suggests it might be worthy, even though the prosecutor's request is yet to be processed by the judges. It is, of course, highly unlikely that either the Israeli or the Hamas leadership will ever find itself in the dock at The Hague, but pushing this genocidal conflict in the direction of accountability just might bring it to a halt.

Commerce News



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Gemstones.

Gold rates dip by Rs 300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 300 and was sold at Rs 248,200 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs 248,500 on the last trading day.

PM for steps to grant industrial status to gems, precious stones sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the relevant authorities to take the required steps for granting the industrial status to the gems and precious stones sector of the country.

He said that most of the country's areas particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were rich with immense natural resources which needed to be fully exploited.

The participants of the meeting were told that a strategy was being formulated to promote investment in the fields of gems and rare stone.

Musadik Malik says: Govt. to enhance indigenous production of petroleum products

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik said on Wednesday that the government will enhance the indigenous production of petroleum products, including gas and crude oil.

Addressing an energy symposium, he said that the government has put blocks for bidding and is actively trying to attract global players in exploration activities.

The minister

reassured attendees that the government is expediting oil and gas exploration within the country and welcomes foreign companies to invest in this sector.

He said that investment processes and information regarding oil and gas exploration have been digitized and simplified to facilitate this.

He advocated for

increased utilization of Pakistan's abundant renewable energy resources, especially as the country's solar energy costs have significantly decreased.

He said that multiple policies have been formulated to boost local production after a long period.

Atif Ikram says: Govt should make border management system more active to prevent smuggling

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the government should make the border management system more active to prevent smuggling.

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ISLAMABAD: H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Park Ki Jun called on Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where five ships, Hope Island, Conti Courage, Tethis-7, Al-Thakhira and Advantage Paradise carrying Container, Palm oil, LNG and Gas oil, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Elergy Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Marathopolis and Torn Venture carrying Container and Gas oil also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

Industries Minister meets Korean envoy, discusses bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Park Ki Jun to discuss the bilateral cooperation.

The delegation from leading South Korean companies also accompanied the ambassador, said a news release issued here.

KP CM distributes scholarship certificates among 65 students

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Minister Education Endowment Fund (CMEEF) held a scholarship award distribution ceremony at Chief Minister's House Peshawar on Wednesday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur as the chief guest.

deserving and talented students for graduate and undergraduate programs. Briefing the participants about the scholarships so far awarded under Chief Minister Education Endowment Fund, it was informed that the fund was established in 2014 with seed amount of Rs. 940 million, under which, a total of 444 scholarships worth Rs. 546.47 million had been awarded till date.

and 7 PhD scholarships worth Rs. 197.47 million, have been awarded in the top universities of the world. Addressing the ceremony, the chief minister congratulated the students awarded with scholarship certificates and hoped that they would move forward with more dedication and hard work and play well at their part in making the name of the nation bright at international level. On this occasion, the chief minister announced increase in the seed amount of Endowment Fund from Rs 940 million to Rs 2.00 billion aimed at awarding more scholarships as well as supporting the orphan students in the province.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique inaugurates In-door Pharmacy at Allied Hospital-II.

DIG Operations meets business community

LAHORE (APP): DIG (Operations) Lahore Muhammad Kamran held a meeting with business community to discuss security, law and order situation of the markets and the liaison between LCCI and Police Department, here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday.

various markets participated in the meeting. In his address, LCCI President Kashif Anwar said, "We sit safely in our homes due to the presence of our law enforcement agencies." He said that the police lay down their lives to protect the citizens. He said that there is a very good relationship between the police department and the LCCI. He said that during the previous visit of DIG (Operations), few issues were discussed including police verification of employees and workers in factories and markets.

Azma expresses deep condolences to acting Iranian Consul General

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Information Azma Bokhari expressed her deep condolences to the Acting Iranian Consul General Ali Asghar Moghari on the death of the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister.

The Provincial Minister also inked condolence comments in the Guest Book at the Iranian Embassy. She said that the entire Pakistani nation is deeply grieved over the death of the Iranian President and Pakistan equally shares the grief of their Iranian brothers and sisters. "We express our deep sense of sorrow and condolence over the martyrdom of the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amr-Abdollahian."



A delegation of People Lawyers Forum District Dir meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor's House Peshawar.

Kundi vows to present province's development case at every forum

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that the province is currently facing security and economic challenges, and he will present the case for the province's development at relevant forums, including the merged districts.

He expressed these views during a study tour of the 35th Senior Management Course participants at the Governor's House in Peshawar. The participants included officers from various service groups and ministries. The Governor apprised them on his constitutional obligations, powers, and responsibilities, and answered their questions about security, higher education, law and order, Afghan refugees, and political and economic stability.

PA Deputy Speaker visits site of Arts Council

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channar on Wednesday visited the ongoing construction work of the Divisional Arts Council Bahawalpur. Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa and Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain was also present on this occasion.

Three die in separate incidents in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Three people were killed on Wednesday in separate incidents took place in different localities of Dera Ismail Khan district. According to details, a dumper fell into Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) near Saidu-wali area of Tehsil Paharpur resulting, driver descended into the canal while four other people were rescued by the local people. Later, the body of the deceased driver was also fished out by the local people.

Punjab Governor says: Ibrahim Raisi great supporter of the unity of the Muslim Ummah

Independent Report LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan today visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad to extend his condolences to Iranian Ambassador, Raza Amiri Moghadam on the martyrdom of the Iranian president and his companions in a helicopter crash. He offered Fataha and prayed for the elevation of ranks of the deceased and patience to the bereaved families.

Punjab Governor, Saleem Haider Khan said that they equally share the grief of Iranian people and the government. Governor Punjab said that Ibrahim Raisi was a visionary leader. He added that Ibrahim Raisi was a great supporter of the unity of the Muslim Ummah. He said that the late Iranian president had recently made a successful visit to Pakistan in which important agreements were signed. Governor Punjab also signed the condolence book. Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghadam expressed his gratitude to the Pakistani people and government on behalf of the government and people of Iran for sharing their grief and standing with them in this difficult time.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider writing his condolence remarks during his visit to Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

New school building constructed in different rural areas with support of FFC inaugurated

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro MIRPUR MATHELO: Resident Manager of Fauji Fertilizer Company Mirpur Mathelo Brig (Retd) Muhammad Saleem Cheema, Col Shakeel Ahmed Chatha, Col Shujaat Minhas, PRO FFC Amanullah Shar and Ahmed Ali Soomro along with F.F.C. Inauguration of the new school building constructed in different rural areas with the support of FFC, the school administration and local residents appreciated the efforts of Brigadier Muhammad Saleem Cheema in relation to education. In addition to providing, pay attention to the education of boys and girls because an educated man is the foundation of an educated society, resident manager Brigadier Muhammad Saleem Cheema told reporters.

According to the details of Fauji Fertilizers Company, an industrial enterprise of district Ghotki. Resident Manager Brigadier Muhammad Saleem Cheema, along with Colonel Shujaat Minhas, PRO FFC Amanullah Shar and Ahmed Ali Soomro with the support of FFC administration.

International News

Iran's supreme leader prays for late president and others killed in helicopter crash

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader prayed Wednesday over the coffins of the country's late president, foreign minister and other officials who were killed in a helicopter crash earlier this week. Later, hundreds of thousands of people followed a procession honoring the dead down Tehran's main boulevard.

Iran's Shiite theocracy views mass demonstrations as crucial evidence of its legitimacy and the people's support. Still, Wednesday's funeral service for President Ebrahim Raisi and others saw a turnout that onlookers described as noticeably lower than the 2020 pro-

cession honoring Revolutionary Guard general Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad. Many of the participants said they came to Tehran for the ceremony from other cities and towns across the Islamic Republic, an indication of how those in Iran's capital viewed Raisi, who won the presidency in a record low turnout and later oversaw repeated crackdowns on dissent — including in the wake of the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini that sparked street protests over Iran's mandatory hijab, or headscarf. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who openly wept for Soleimani, also re-



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei performs prayer at a funeral for victims of helicopter crash that killed Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Abdollahian and others, in Tehran, Iran.

Israeli forces raze parts of Jabalia camp, hit Rafah

Monitoring Desk GAZA: Israeli forces thrust deeper into the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza on Tuesday, laying waste to residential districts with tank and air bombardments, residents said, while airstrikes killed at least five people in the southern city of Rafah.

The Israeli army used bulldozers to clear shops and property near the local market in Jabalia refugee camp, residents said, in a military operation that began almost two weeks ago. Israel said it has returned to the camp, where it had asserted to have dismantled Hamas months ago, to prevent the group from regrouping. Health authorities and Gaza Civil Emergency Service said dozens of bodies were trapped under rubble of houses and on the roads in Jabalia, but were out of reach of rescue teams.

DR Congo thwarts Kinshasa 'coup attempt': Army

Monitoring Desk KINSHASA: The DR Congo military on Sunday thwarted an attempted coup near the offices of President Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa involving "foreigners and Congolese", the army spokesperson said.

UK's ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells says she was 'too trusting'

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Former British Post Office boss Paula Vennells sobbed on Wednesday after telling a public inquiry the wrongful conviction of hundreds of postmasters had been caused by errors not conspiracy, and if anything she had been "too trusting" of others. More than 700 local post office branch managers, who were often at the heart of small communities, were convicted between 1999 and 2015.

Palestinian state is recognized by several European countries

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Norway, Ireland and Spain have recognized a Palestinian state in a historic move. Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said on Wednesday it was coordinated with Spain and Norway, "an historic and important day for ... Palestine."

The recognitions mark a significant accomplishment for the Palestinians, who believe it confers international legitimacy on their struggle, especially amid international outrage over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Here's more on how and why the new European announcements could be important. Ireland, Norway and Spain have recognized a Palestinian state. Several other European countries have in the past weeks indicated that they plan to make the recognition, arguing a two-state solution is essential for lasting peace in the region. European countries are recognizing a Palestinian state. While dozens of countries have recognized a Palestinian state, none of the major Western powers has done so. The decisions from Norway, Ireland and Spain may generate momentum.

Protesters interrupt Blinken's testimony over Israel policy

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken faced criticism from the right and left over Israel policy in Congress on Tuesday, with Republicans accusing the Biden administration of failing Israel and Democrats saying it's doing too little to help civilians in Gaza. Furious protesters interrupted Blinken as he began his testimony before the Democratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There was shouting that he has "blood on his hands," and Blinken flinched from a protester who approached him from behind waving a sign that said "criminal" before security officers carried her out of the room. Blinken reiterated the support of President Joe Biden's administration for Israel, but insisted it was focused on easing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"In the Middle East, we're standing with Israel in its efforts to ensure what happened on October 7 never happens again, as we do everything we can to bring an end to the terrible human suffering in Gaza and prevent the conflict from spreading," he said. Blinken was scheduled to appear later on Tuesday before the Senate appropriations subcommittee that oversees diplomatic and foreign aid spending. He returns to Capitol Hill on Wednesday for two more rounds of testimony at hearings of the Republican-led House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and a House appropriations subcommittee. Republicans criticized Biden for saying this month that he would delay a shipment of bombs to Israel and consider withholding others if Israeli forces launched a major invasion of Rafah.



Palestinians evacuate Kamal Adwan hospital following an Israeli strike in Beit Lahia, the northern Gaza Strip.

German defence minister not ready to compromise on 2025 budget demand

Monitoring Desk LITHUANIA: German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said on Wednesday he was not prepared to lower his demands for the 2025 defence budget or accept a compromise right now. Speaking during a visit to the Pabrade training ground in Lithuania, he told reporters he would neither disclose his negotiating strategy in talks with the finance minister nor send any signal whether he saw room for compromise.

Germany has for years been criticized for spending too little on defence, effectively relying on the United States to underpin its security despite being Europe's biggest economy.

Death of Iran's president has delayed talks with IAEA, Grossi says

Monitoring Desk HELSINKI: The deaths of Iran's president and foreign minister in a helicopter crash have caused a pause in the UN nuclear watchdog's talks with Tehran over improving cooperation with the agency, the watchdog's chief Rafael Grossi told Reuters on Wednesday.

"They are in a mourning period which I need to respect," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Grossi said in Helsinki, where he spoke at a nuclear conference.

US pushes for G7 response to China's industrial overcapacity

Monitoring Desk FRANKFURT: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Tuesday that the United States and Europe needed to respond to China's industrial overcapacity in a "strategic and united way" to keep manufacturers viable on both sides of the Atlantic.

Yellen told reporters during a visit to Frankfurt that G7 finance ministers shared US concerns about Chinese efforts to dominate clean energy industries, but did not need "detailed coordination" on trade actions following the imposition of steep US tariffs on Chinese goods. "But I do think that the concerns about China's strategy are shared and all I'm suggesting is that given that many countries share this concern, it's more forceful to communicate to China as a group," Yellen said.

