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ISLAMABAD: A delegation of representatives from Chinese companies in Pakistan meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

ICJ orders Israel to urgently halt Rafah military operation against Palestinians

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE, Netherlands: The top United Nations court ordered Israel on Friday to immediately halt its military operations in the southern Gaza city of Rafah. While Israel is unlikely to comply with any such order, it will ratchet up the pressure on the increasingly isolated country. Criticism of Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza has been growing — even from its closest ally, the United States, which warned against an invasion of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter from fighting elsewhere. And this week alone, three

European countries announced they would recognize a Palestinian state, and the chief prosecutor for another U.N. court requested arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, along with Hamas officials. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is also under heavy pressure at home to end the war, which was triggered when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel, killing 1,200 people, most civilians, and taking some 250 captive. Thousands of Israelis have joined weekly demonstrations calling on the government to reach a deal to bring the hostages home, fearing that time is running out.

PM Shahbaz hails ruling
ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday welcomed the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on a petition filed against genocide in Palestine. The prime minister paid tributes to the courage of the 13 ICJ judges who made the decision and thanked South Africa for filing the petition. In a statement, he reiterated Pakistan's support for the Palestinians and pledged to continue fighting for their rights. He said Pakistan had extended support to the petition filed by South Africa. The prime minister called upon the United Nations Security Council and the international community to immediately implement the International Court's decision to stop the Israeli operation in Gaza. He also urged the international community to ensure the provision of humanitarian aid and relief to the people of Palestine, besides providing immediate access to the United Nations investigation commission to Gaza and Rafah.

Tarar terms economy, SIFC lifeline & redline; sees great investment in days ahead

UAE's \$10 b investment, a testament to business-friendly policies: Jam Kamal



ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday pointed out that the economy and Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) were the lifeline and redline, expressing the optimism that development process would definitely move forward in the country with great investment days ahead. "Surely, the economy

is our lifeline and redline, which is linked with the jobs of millions of people," he said, adding curtailing inflation, ensuring bright future for the youth, and enhancing exports and foreign reserves were the prime objectives of the government's policies. "These are our redlines which some disgruntled elements are trying to violate and trespass and they are surely doomed to fail," the minister said while addressing a press conference flanked by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal. Atta Tarar said that the efforts led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to woo investors were bringing positive results with the clear signs of economic stabilization. Steps were underway to create an enabling environment for the foreign investors, he added. Unfortunately, he said, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership was engaged in such steps which were against directly inimical to the national interests, thus misleading the nation at the critical juncture. "Don't be mistaken, the foreign investment will definitely come to the country and we will take all steps to ensure the welfare of the people," he said.

PM invites Chinese firm to invest in Pakistan's mining sector

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz has invited Chinese firm MCC Tongsin Resources to make investment in Mining sector of Pakistan and assured provision of all-out facilitation in this connection. The Mining and Mineral sectors have been on the priority list of Special Investment Facilitation Council and a significant headway has also been achieved in this sector. The Chinese firm MCC Tongsin Resources is a research and investment company and a part of Metallurgical Group Corporation, which has been enlisted among the major Metallurgical Construction Contractors of the world. The Chinese company expressed keen interest in enhancing its investment in Pakistan's mining and minerals sectors and also briefed the Prime Minister about its plans for investment in Mining sector of Pakistan. The visit of the Chinese company to Pakistan is aimed at cementing ties between China and Pakistan and to assure that Pakistan would ensure security of Chinese nationals, working on different development projects. China has so far made investment of more than sixty-five billion dollars in energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.



ZIARAT: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting of Governing Body of Ziarat Development Authority

Ziarat to be made beautiful tourism destination: CM assures to take practical steps for resolving issues of people of Ziarat

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that Ziarat would be developed as the beautiful tourism destination of Pakistan. He assured that practical policies would be devised for promotion of tourism in the province including Ziarat. The necessary resources would be provided for the viable projects of tourism development in Ziarat. He also assured to take practical steps for resolving the issues being faced by people of Ziarat. He announced to take all elders and political parties along for resolving public issues and development of Ziarat. The Chief Minister was addressing at the review meeting of Ziarat Development Authority (ZDA) and

tribal elders during his visit to Ziarat on Friday. The Provincial Minister, Noor Muhammad Dummer, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, other senior officials, tribal elders of Ziarat and adjoining areas were in attendance. The Chief Minister vowed to make the beautiful tourism place of the country. He on the occasion directed to the concerned to prepare Ziarat tourism project on the pattern of Galiyat. In this regard, he directed to benefit from the experiences of Galiyat Development Authority for better tourism planning. He also directed to start work for rehabilitation of the garden of the library.

Nathigali and Galiyat. He announced to make amendment in the rules for inclusion of Chief Secretary and Chairman Municipal Committee Ziarat in the governing body of ZDA. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister visited the Quaid-e-Azam Library in Ziarat the same day. During the visit, he appreciated the project of rehabilitation and repair of the old library. He praised performance of former Deputy Commissioner for repair, renovation and rehabilitation of the library and announced to give excellence award to him. He also directed to start work for rehabilitation of the garden of the library.

Governor concerned about increasing incidents of street crimes in Quetta, other districts

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has expressed deep concern over the increasing incidents of street crimes in Quetta city and different other districts of the province. The Governor has directed to the police and other law enforcement agencies to take solid measures to remove the complaints about occurrence of the street crimes. He asserted that no negligence would be tolerated in maintaining law and order and protection

Flight from Kyrgyzstan carrying 172 Pak students lands in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): A special flight carrying Pakistani students from Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, landed at the Quetta airport on late Thursday night. According to details, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-6264 carrying 172 students from Bishkek reached Quetta on Thursday. Sources said that 80 students belong to Balochistan while 92 belong to other provinces. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and others welcomed the students on their return. Families of students were also present in large numbers at airport.



QUETTA: DS Civil Services Academy Shabana Sultan presenting a souvenir to Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kalachar

CM expresses anger over complains of extortion at check posts of police & Levies

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed anger over the alleged complains of extortion at the check posts of police and Levies in the province. On the issue, taking immediate action, the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove issued letter to the Additional Chief Secretary Home to take action. The Minister asserted that no extortion would be tolerated at the check posts of Police and Levies. He mentioned that the Chief Minister has directed to take stern action against the complains about extortion expressing anger. He warned that stern action would be taken against those involved in the extortion. He said that the Police and Levies are responsible for protection of the life and property of the people. He said that we may be informed about any complain in this regard as action would be taken against those involved.

Abdul Wali Khan posted as Chairman PRCS Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: Abdul Wali Khan Ghibzai has been appointed as the Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Balochistan. This was announced in an official statement issued here on Friday. According to the notification, appointment of Abdul Wali Khan as Chairman PRCS Balochistan has been made by the Governor for three years' term.

Pakistan rejects Indian SC orders failing to recognise J&K's disputed status: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday rejected the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court upholding its earlier ruling that had endorsed the Indian government's unilateral decision of revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution through legislation in 2019. "We reject the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court just as we had rejected the earlier order of December 11, 2023. Two verdicts fail to recognize the internationally recognized disputed nature of Jammu and Kashmir... Indian Supreme Court judgments cannot distract the international community's attention from the gross and systemic human rights violation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir." Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing. She said the Kashmiris had an inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Security Council's resolutions. India has no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of disputed territory against the will of parties in the dispute - Kashmiris and Pakistan, she added. The spokesperson welcomed the announcement by Ireland, Spain and Norway to recognise the Palestine state, following a similar announcement by Bahamas, Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados, and called it a milestone in the decades-old quest of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination. She said that the Gaza genocide and dire humanitarian situation underlined the urgency of the establishment of an independent Palestine state with Quds Al-Sharif as the capital.



QUETTA: A delegation led by central leader Majlis Wahadat Muslimen Pakistan Allama Maqsood Ali Domki meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Gwadar port to boost economic activities in Balochistan: Chairman GPA

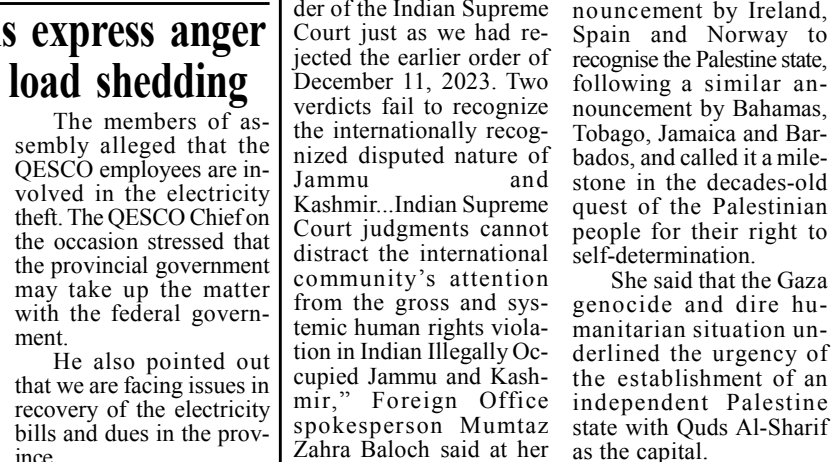
QUETTA (APP): Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Mir Pasand Khan Buledia on Friday said that Gwadar Port was central project of CPEC, and would accelerate economic development in Balochistan, improving the economic conditions of the people and boosting the national economy. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, directed to remove obstacles in Gwadar Port and related projects, expedite the pace of work, and resolve issues related to the federal government through dialogue. The chairman said that Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti was serious about the early activation of Gwadar Port and wanted speedy progress. He desired that Gwadar Port Authority would become functional as soon as possible to attract national and international investors to Balochistan. The chairman stated that they have presented their stance on the Gwadar Shipyard master plan on the relevant forum and, in that regard, the Chief Minister Balochistan had sought a report from the Gwadar administration officials.

Journalist Nasrullah succumbs to injuries

KARACHI (INP): A journalist of a Sindhi newspaper known for his bold reporting against feudal lords and waderas, who was seriously injured in a gun attack a few days ago, succumbed to his wounds at a hospital in Karachi on Friday morning. Journalist Nasrullah Gadani was left fighting for his life after he suffered serious gunshot wounds in the attack by unidentified assailants near Mirpur Mathelo in Ghotki district on Tuesday last.

Speaker BA, Ministers & MPs express anger over issue of long-time power load shedding

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, provincial ministers and members of provincial assembly have expressed their anguish over the long-time electricity load shedding in the province. They urged the Chief Executive Officer of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) and other high ups to reduce the duration of power load shedding particularly in Naseerabad and Makran Divisions. The Speaker, provincial ministers and members of provincial assembly were in meeting with the CEO and other senior high ups of QESCO who was summoned in the Speaker's chamber of assembly on Friday afternoon. The Speaker had summoned the QESCO Chief on the issue of electricity load shedding in the province as the issue was raised in the session of assembly the other day. The members of assembly pointed out towards the issue of load shedding when the mercury is reaching to 50 degree Celsius. They said that the people are enraged over the issue. They urged the QESCO to provide electricity to the people in severe hot weather as their representatives can't face them due to the electricity crisis. The members of assembly alleged that the QESCO employees are involved in the electricity theft. The QESCO Chief on the occasion stressed that the provincial government may take up the matter with the federal government. He also pointed out that we are facing issues in recovery of the electricity bills and dues in the province.



QUETTA: In light of rolling of Provincial Assembly, the Chief Executive Officer QESCO briefed Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and MPs about load-shedding

Governor Punjab resolves to get the country out of difficulties together

ATTOCK (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan Friday said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was a democratic party and it would not do any unconstitutional work. Together we would get Pakistan out of its problems by giving a gift in the form of University of Attock, he said and

added that the workers were determined to make PPP stronger in Punjab. He was talking to the media on the occasion of the visit of senior Party leader Dr. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan at the residence of PPP District President Sardar Ashar Hayat Khan in Hassanabdal on Friday. On this occasion,

Punjab govt appoints judges in special courts, LHC told

LAHORE (Online): Punjab government has filed notification in Lahore High Court (LHC) regarding appointments of judges in special court. The court gave time of 15 days to federal government for appointment of judges. Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan heard the case of appointment of judges in special courts of Punjab Friday. Advocate General (AG) Punjab presented the notification regarding appointment of judges in LHC. The court gave 15 days time to federal government for appointment of judges. CJ LHC appreciated positive role of AG Punjab. He remarked all are respectable for us. You

have shown good attitude. AG Punjab told the court judges in all Special courts of Anti Terrorism have been appointed in Punjab. He further told two judges have been appointed in anti corruption and one each in service tribunal and consumer court. If appointment has to be made anywhere it will soon be made, he added. During the hearing of the case federal government sought more time. Counsel for federal government said approval for appointment of judges will be obtained in the meeting of federal government. The CJ LHC remarked now Punjab government has made appointment of judges but federal government has sought time for 15 days.

Two killed, one injured in Katlang firing

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people were killed when unknown assailants fired at them in Anwar Khan Killay of Katlang Tehsil in Mardan District on Friday. Police said the incident took place in the vicinity of Jabbar police station where two people identified as Sattar Khan and Afsar were killed by the firing of unknown assailants. Another unknown man also sustained bullet injuries in the firing. The officials of Rescue 1122 shifted the dead and injured to DHQ Hospital. Jabbar police have started an investigation into the incident after registering a case.

Eradication of dengue mosquito priority: DC Attock

ATTOCK (APP): Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza Friday said that people should ensure the implementation of the code of conduct issued by the Punjab government to eradicate the dengue mosquito so that this epidemic can be effectively controlled. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting in connection with the anti-dengue campaign at DC Office Attock.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with delegation of elected representative Local Government led by ANP Leader Samar Bilour.

Minister promises peace, order across province

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has affirmed that peace and order are being maintained throughout the province. Chairing the 5th meeting of the Sub-Cabinet Committee on Law and Order on Friday, on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, he emphasised the ongoing actions against drug dealers, kite-making factories, and electricity thieves. During the meeting, which was held at the Interior Department on

KP Governor visits Mufti Mehmood

Markaz to meet JUI leadership PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Friday visited Mufti Mehmood Markaz and met with JUI Senator, Moulana Atta-ur-Rehman. The governor was accompanied by Provincial President PPP, Najamuddin and former federal minister, Sajid Hussain Turi. JUI Secretary General Moulana Ata-ul-Haq Darwain and City Mayor, Haji Zubair Ali was also present on the occasion.

Secretary Health says: Doctors issues to be resolved on priority

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Health Punjab, Ali Jan Khan on Friday stated that all issues faced by doctors would be resolved on a priority basis. He said that under the Sehat Sahulat Programme (SSP) it is the doctors' right to receive their share, saying that once the renovation of Nishtar Hospital is completed, it will wear a new look. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation from the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) during his visit to Nishtar Hospital.

Heat wave grips Larkana Division

LARKANA (APP): The entire city of Larkana and its surroundings remained in grip of severe heat on Friday, forcing the people to remain indoors. The Met Office Larkana recorded 50 Degree Celsius as maximum temperature, but it has feel 52 temperature. The severe heat has affected the daily business adversely and the prices of ice and cold drinks have soared tremendously and traffic flow were slow and people's stay at homes. Mayor Larkana established cold drinking water stalls in different areas of the city.

Governor KP chairs senate meeting of UoS

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi here Friday chaired the 13th Senate meeting of University of Swabi (UoS) that discussed various matters including financial resource plan and age relaxation. The meeting among others was attended by Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi, Vice Chancellor (UoS), Dr. Nasir Jamal and concerned officials. The meeting discussed matters including approval of minutes presented in last senate meeting besides deliberating the reservations regarding financial resource plan of the university. Meeting also discussed report about amendments that was presented in the meeting after getting approval from syndicate. Participants of the meeting also pondered matters including age relaxation for appointment and abolishing of certain allowances. Addressing the meeting, KP Governor suggested deciding a time frame for preparation of senate minutes and said that approval of minutes should be delayed. He also stressed to devise a proper mechanism and policy relating to age relaxation.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari addressing a Press conference at DGPR.

Azma Bokhari says: Country's development top priority of PML-N

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Friday that the Punjab Cabinet had given approval to take legal action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder and other leaders for adopting hatred narrative against state institutions. Addressing a press conference here, she said the country's development and prosperity was the top priority of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. She said, "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf promotes hatred on social media in an organized way." Azma said that hatred was being promoted through a propaganda started from Adiala Jail. She further said that in the 8th meeting of Punjab Cabinet presided over by Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, a number of development works had been approved. She said that Punjab Cabinet had paid tribute to the Punjab CM for reducing inflation to a great extent which helped in mitigating the sufferings of common man. Azma Bokhari said that prices of rice, ghee, flour had reduced while rates of cement, gas cylinder and transport fares had also gone down. She said that Pakistani rupee also got stable against dollar.



KARACHI: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against the killing of Journalist, Nasrullah at Karachi press club.

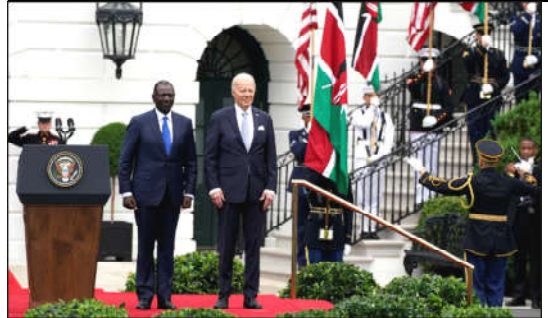
International News

Biden woos Kenya's President Ruto with key state visit

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden is rolling out the red carpet Thursday for his Kenyan counterpart William Ruto with a diplomatically-heavy state visit and a lavish White House dinner with all the trimmings. It is the first state visit to Washington by an African leader in more than 15 years. As Biden seeks to counter geopolitical headwinds across the continent, he will formally ask Congress to grant Kenya the status of "major non-Nato ally," according to a senior administration official. The label officially confers military and diplomatic privileges on the countries—currently 18 around the world—that

are so designated, albeit without any formal security guarantees. Kenya would become the first sub-Saharan African nation on the list. "Democracy is obviously on the back foot globally and we see Kenya as an important, stable democracy in East Africa," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Hence the pomp and circumstance that awaits Ruto on Thursday—a day after he met with Biden at the White House—during a visit expected to touch on the issue of global peace and security, and notably an upcoming role for Kenya in a mission to restore order to chaos-torn Haiti. Ruto will first be received with military honors in the morning, followed by

a bilateral meeting with Biden, then a joint press conference, before a gala dinner featuring the two first ladies. Distinguished guests will gather in a vast pavilion on the White House lawn, where tables will be adorned with African orchids and American roses. On the menu: Heirloom tomato soup, fruitwood-smoked beef short ribs and butter-poached lobster, with banana ganache for dessert. Entertainers will include country music star Brad Paisley and a gospel choir. The White House has promised partnership announcements in health and the battle against climate change, as well as private sector investment.



U.S. President Joe Biden welcomes Kenyan President William Ruto during an official White House State Arrival ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, U.S.

Hundreds of Tunisian president's supporters protest against 'foreign interference'

Monitoring Desk TUNIS: Hundreds of people demonstrated in Tunis on Sunday in support of President Kais Saied amid widespread criticism at home and abroad after a wave of arrests that included journalists, activists and lawyers. The European Union, France and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern at

the arrests and at a police raid on the headquarters of the bar association this month in which two lawyers critical of the president were detained. Police this month arrested 10 people, including journalists, lawyers and officials of civil society groups, in what was described as crackdown by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Vietnam votes in public security minister as president

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Vietnam's rubber-stamp parliament voted in public security minister To Lam as the country's new president on Wednesday, after a major anti-corruption campaign forced his predecessor to resign. Thousands of people — including several senior government and business leaders — have been caught up in the Southeast Asian country's "blazing furnace" crackdown on graft, led by Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong. Analysts have said that Lam, who is deputy head of the steering committee on anti-corruption, has weaponised its investigations to take down his political rivals. In his first remarks as president, Lam said he was "determined to fight corruption and negative phenomena".



Delegates attend a ruling on South Africa's request to order a halt to Israel's Rafah offensive in Gaza as part of a larger case accusing Israel of genocide at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Macron says extra security to stay in riot-hit New Caledonia as long as needed

Monitoring Desk NOUMEA: Police reinforcements in New Caledonia will stay as long as needed, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday after viewing areas devastated by deadly riots triggered by a contested electoral reform in the French-ruled Pacific island. Macron's hastily arranged visit comes after six people were killed in riots that have left a trail of looted shops, torched cars and businesses since they began more than a week ago. "In the coming hours and days, massive new operations will be scheduled where necessary, and republican order in its entirety will be re-established because there is no other choice," Macron said during a meeting with political and business leaders in the territory's capital Noumea. Roads across the island remained blocked by protester barricades, and residents shared advice on social media on safe routes to find food, petrol and medicine.

Trudeau signals Canada's readiness to recognise Palestine 'at the right time'

Monitoring Desk TORONTO: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday said Canada is "prepared to recognise the state of Palestine at the right time — not necessarily as the last step along the path." Trudeau's statement came in response to a challenge from New Democratic Party (NDP) MP and foreign affairs critic Heather McPherson in the House of Commons, as she urged him to "take a stand" on the matter. "We urgently need to build a credible path toward lasting peace. We oppose efforts by the Netanyahu government to reject a two-state solution. At the same time, Hamas, a terrorist group, currently controls areas in Gaza and has not laid down its arms or released its hostages," Trudeau added. The debate in the House of Commons was sparked by recent decisions from Norway, Ireland, and Spain to recognise Pales-tine, prompting Canadian lawmakers to discuss the issue. Several Liberal MPs have urged Prime Minister Trudeau to follow suit and the call within Canada's Parliament for formal recognition of a Palestinian state is growing.

Russia says IS behind deadly Moscow concert hall attack

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia on Friday said for the first time that the militant Islamic State group coordinated the March concert hall assault in Moscow, the country's deadliest terror attack in two decades. IS has claimed responsibility on multiple occasions for the March 22 attack which killed over 140 people, but Moscow has repeatedly tried to link Ukraine and the West to the attack. FSB chief Alexander Bortnikov was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti news agency that "preparations, the financing.

Thai hospital says 20 people from Singapore Airlines flight remain in intensive care

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Twenty people who were aboard a Singapore Airlines flight that hit severe turbulence and diverted to Bangkok for an emergency landing on Tuesday remain in intensive care, a hospital official said on Thursday. Of the 40 people on the flight still under treatment, 22 patients have spinal cord injuries and six have brain and skull injuries.

12 Palestinians killed and 25 wounded in Israel's 2-day West Bank operation

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The Israeli military said Thursday it has completed a two-day operation in the occupied West Bank that the Palestinian Health Ministry says killed 12 Palestinians and wounded 25. Rippling tensions from the Israel-Hamas war were also felt in the Red Sea, where a missile splashed down in the water near the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Thursday, but caused no damage, and in Lebanon, where state-run National News Agency says an Israeli drone strike killed one person and wounded three school students who were passing nearby in a bus. More than 400 people have been killed in Lebanon since Israel and Hezbollah

began exchanging fire the day after the latest war in Gaza began. Norway, Ireland and Spain said Wednesday they were recognizing a Palestinian state, a move welcomed by Palestinians as an affirmation of their decades-long quest while Israel recalled its ambassadors to the three countries. It was the second blow to Israel's international reputation this week after the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said he would seek arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense minister. The International Court of Justice is also considering allegations of genocide that Israel has strenuously denied.

US will announce \$275 million more in artillery and ammunition for Ukraine, officials say

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The United States is expected to announce an additional \$275 million in military aid for Ukraine on Friday as Kyiv struggles to hold off advances by Russian troops in the Kharkiv region, two U.S. officials say. This will be the fourth installment of military aid for Ukraine since Congress passed a long-delayed foreign aid bill late last month and comes as the Biden administration has pledged to keep weapons flowing regularly and to get them to the front lines as quickly as possible. The package includes high mobility artillery rocket systems, or HIMARS, as well 155 mm and 105 mm high-demand artillery rounds, according to the two U.S. officials. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide

details of the aid package before the public announcement. It follows a monthly gathering Monday of about 50 defense leaders from Europe and elsewhere who meet regularly to coordinate getting more military aid to Ukraine. At this latest meeting, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Ukraine was in a "moment of challenge" due to Russia's new onslaught on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. He pledged to keep weapons moving "week after week." Russia has sought to take advantage of Ukrainian shortages in manpower and weapons while the war-torn country waits for the arrival of more U.S. assistance, which was delayed for months in Congress. Ukrainian forces have been pushed backward in places, while Russia has pounded its power grid and civilian areas.



Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal co-chairing the 13th JCC meeting with China in Islamabad.

Dar emphasizes uniform high quality medical education in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday underlined the need to improve the regulatory framework for medical education in Pakistan, besides establishing a coordination mechanism between medical institutions, and the public and private sectors to ensure uniform high-quality education.

He was chairing the first meeting of the Committee on Medical Education that was constituted by the prime minister earlier this week on May 20.

The deputy prime minister emphasized the important responsibility of the committee to address the gaps in medical education in the country.

Highlighting the importance of nurturing a conducive environment for medical students to excel and contribute meaningfully to the healthcare sector, Ishaq Dar stressed that the world-class quality of medical education should be ensured in all the provinces.

The committee conducted a comprehensive review of the country's medical education system, fee structure, and identified key areas for improvement and development of a strategic plan to align medical education with international standards.

It specifically focused on devising a plan to solve the issues faced by Pakistani medical students studying abroad. It also discussed strategies to support and empower medical students in their academic and professional endeavours.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Law and Justice, the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Health, Secretary Health, the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and Chairman Higher Education Commission, MNA Dr Nafeesa Shah, heads of prominent public and private medical institutions, and eminent experts from the medical community.

The committee members include key stakeholders from the medical community, the education sector, and government officials. It aims to reform the medical education across the country. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to improve healthcare standards and ensure the highest quality of medical training for future generations of healthcare professionals.

After a detailed discussion in the meeting, a sub-executive committee was constituted with Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad, National Coordinator for Health as Convener and Tariq Bajwa as Co-Convener.

The sub-committee will deliberate on the existing terms of reference (ToRs) along with additional tasks including synergies among regulatory bodies, streamlining procedures for foreign students in Pakistan and the uniformity in curricula.



ZIARAT: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti visiting Quaid-e-Azam public library.

43 Pakistani prisoners in Sri Lanka to return home

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's success on the diplomatic front will bring 43 Pakistani citizens back to their homes from Sri Lanka jails.

In a high-level meeting on Friday with the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Savijay Gunaratne, it was agreed to immediately repatriate 43 Pakistani citizens imprisoned in Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Home Affairs had been working with the Sri Lankan authorities for the past month to bring back these prisoners.

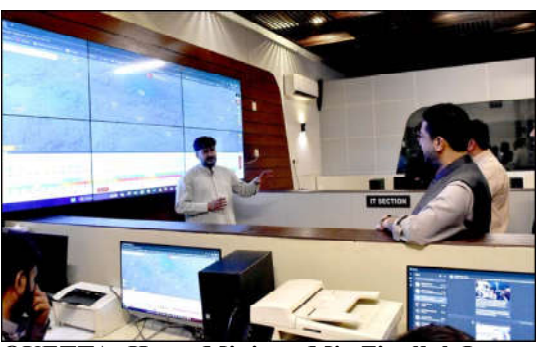
The Sri Lankan High Commissioner assured all possible cooperation in this regard.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi thanked the Sri Lankan High Commissioner for his support for the repatriation of the prisoners.

The arrangements for the return of Pakistani prisoners will be finalised in a few days, Mohsin Naqvi said in his statement.

The minister said that relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan have been going from strength to strength over the past seven decades. He said that Pakistan wants to further develop mutual relations in various fields with Sri Lanka. In the meeting, it was agreed to take immediate steps to return the prisoners of both countries to their country. Issues of mutual interest and the development of bilateral relations were also discussed in the meeting. Both sides agreed to increase cooperation in the field of security and counter-narcotics.

Earlier, Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the Sri Lankan High Commissioner on his arrival at the Ministry of Interior.



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango visiting control room of PDMA.

Pakistan grapples with severe heat wave, temperatures soar to 50°C in some areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): A severe heat wave continues to grip Pakistan, with temperatures expected to reach a scorching 50 degrees Celsius in some parts of Sindh, a spokesperson for Met Department said on Friday.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the plains of Punjab and Sindh were bearing the brunt of the heat, with major cities also experiencing extreme temperatures.

Dadu and Mohenjodaro in Sindh, he said were expected to be the hottest, with temperatures reaching 50°C, while Lahore is expected to sizzle at 42°C, Karachi at 34°C, and Islamabad at 41°C.

He has warned that the weather would remain hot and dry in other parts of the country, with some respite expected in the form of rain in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Kashmir.

However, Karachi is expected to experience hot and humid weather, with sea winds providing some relief throughout the day.

He said the city's residents could expect some respite from the heat, but not for long, as the Met Department predicted a third heat wave in June.

The Meteorologist said that the heat wave's micro-impacts would be felt more severely in smaller towns and cities, and urged people to take precautionary measures everywhere.

The country is experiencing its second heat wave, with the first one having occurred earlier this month.

Ahsan Iqbal terms CPEC a transformative force in region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a transformative force in the region as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), especially for Pakistan.

The minister said that CPEC will enhance cooperation and development for both countries in the fields of agriculture, industry, information technology and science.

The minister and Vice Chairman National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Li Chunlin jointly chaired the 13th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Li Chunlin praised the Pakistani minister of planning for his deep commitment to CPEC and his active role in promoting it.

Ahsan Iqbal chaired 10 of the 13th JCC meetings held so far, which is quite an honour in itself, said Li Chenlin.

Federal Minister for Privatization, Minister of Communications, Federal Minister of Information Technology, Secretary Planning, Secretary Energy, Secretary Communications, Secretary Board of Investment, and senior officials of federal and provincial ministries participated in the meeting.

In the JCC meeting, the Pakistan side appreciated the vision of Chinese leadership to upgrade the second phase of CPEC with the inclusion of these new corridors which are in harmony with Pakistan's SE framework.

Meanwhile speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal said, "We are ready to work with NDRC to finalise the scope and implementation plan on these corridors. Both sides are highly committed to this shared vision, and together, both countries have embarked on a journey of shared dreams, working hand in hand to build high-quality development projects."

Last year, Pakistan and China celebrated a decade of successful high-quality development and ever closer collaboration under CPEC, he said.

The minister stated that during the celebrations, Vice Premier He Lifeng unveiled five new corridors proposed by President Xi Jinping, including the Growth Corridor, Livelihood Enhancing Corridor, Innovation Corridor, Green Corridor, and Opening Up/Regional Connectivity Corridor.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Nawabzada Tariq Magsi and former MPA Malik Sikandar Advocate meeting with Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Minister says; Action against political party office taken in accordance with law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Azam Nazeer Tarar, informed the Senate that action against a political party office had been taken in accordance with the law and for violating building bylaws.

Responding to a point of order raised by opposition leader Shibli Faraz, he further explained that the first notice was issued to the political party in 2020 for violating building bylaws. Notices were repeatedly issued from 2020 to 2024 at six-month intervals, with the final notice given on May 10 for ongoing violations.

"In view of the last notice dated May 10, the action is in accordance with the law," the minister said.

He elaborated that he had talked to the chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), who confirmed that the process had been ongoing for the past four years due to the violations. The final notice was issued to ensure compliance with CDA directions, he added. The minister further explained that reminders were issued to the political party regarding two floors constructed without CDA approval and the misuse of a public place for parking containers.



Deputy Prime Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Chairs the First meeting of the Committee on Medical Education at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad.

Govt utilizing resources for facilitating people in Balochistan: Adviser

QUETTA (APP): Adviser on Environment and Climate Change to Chief Minister Naseem-ur Rehman Khan Mulakhel on Friday said that provincial government was utilizing all available resources to provide basic facilities to public in the respective area of province.

He said that while talking to Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Wali Noorzai called on him at his office.

The Secretary Wali Noorzai congratulated him on taking over the portfolio of Environment.

The Environment Adviser thanked the Parliamentary Secretary and congratulated him on joining the Cabinet and taking charge of the Department of Social Welfare.

In the meeting, the importance of both departments in the development of the province was discussed and the commitment was expressed that all resources will be utilized for public service.

Later, a delegation led by socio-political leader Chaudhry Naem Karim also met the Provincial Adviser on Environment and congratulated him on taking over the portfolio of Environment.

Pakistan's border crossing with Iran at Taftan, Gabd to remain open 24/7

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar Tipu announced on Friday that Pakistan's border crossing with Iran at Taftan and Gabd will remain open 24/7 to promote business between the neighbouring countries.

Calling it a big step forward, the ambassador said it would hopefully sharply increase the flow of goods between the two countries and consequently widen economic opportunities.

Pakistan and Iran on April 24 reiterated the importance of energy cooperation and electricity trade, despite the warning of potential sanctions hinted at by the United States following the then Iranian president Seyed Ebrahim Raisi's three-day visit to Pakistan.

Agreeing to turn the common border between the two states from a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries had reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain, including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

During Raisi's visit to Pakistan, both sides had underscored the imperative of a long-term durable economic partnership and collaborative regional economic and connectivity model, particularly for socio-economic development in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan and Pakistan's Balochistan provinces.

This was stated by the Foreign Office in a 28-point joint statement, hours after the Iranian head of state had departed for Tehran from Karachi.

Digital X-Ray machines provided in 30 districts of Balochistan, says Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani

QUETTA: The Provincial Manager, TB Control Programme, Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani said that the digital and artificial intelligence based new X-Ray machines have been provided in 30 districts of the province.

According to an official press release issued here on Friday, the digital X-Ray machines have been provided in the districts with assistance of the Global Fund. Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani said that the digital machines can diagnose the TB disease by itself. The Manager TB control Programme said that the technical staff would be imparted necessary training to operate the digital X-Ray machines. It would also effectively help control the disease, he added.



LAHORE: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

All necessary measures taken for Gwadar security: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Hamood ur Rehman Friday dismissed rumors about the erection of a fence in the coastal city of Gwadar, labeling such claims as baseless. Talking to APP, Rehman categorically denied any ongoing or future plans for constructing a fence in Gwadar. The DC emphasized that the government was committed to provide all necessary facilities to the local population, ensuring their freedom of movement within the city.

He mentioned that false rumors are being spread by certain political groups, obscuring the facts from the public.

Addressing the concerns about the so-called fence, Rehman clarified that a temporary trench was dug as a security measure, which has been misrepresented as a fence by some factions for propaganda purposes. DC Gwadar further noted that before initiating work on the trench.



ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman met with deputy chairman senate Syedaal Khan Nasir and discussed overall political situation, in the Federal Capital.

Recovery of missing Ahmad Farhad case: IHC summons defence secretary, sector commander ISI in person

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned defence secretary and sector commander ISI in person in the matter of recovery of missing poet Ahmad Farhad.

The petition seeking recovery of Ahmad Farhad came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani.

Attorney General (AG) said the state has not failed yet. We are tracing through CDR.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked "you are saying state has not failed. Recovering the missing person is compulsion of state otherwise there is failure of state. The failure of state are mere words and its results.

SSP operations appeared in the court and said location has been traced. Team is present there. Police is seeking assistance from IB.

The court remarked defence secretary should make understand about ISI working by appearing on next hearing. Sector commander and how many persons work under him in ISI. Now agencies will not sit hidden any where. These police walas are sitting here only because they are answerable.

The court further remarked law and situation deteriorates too. Police walas are beaten and their uniforms are torn. Now the recovery of this man is left behind. We will settle some things. Now the statement of sector commander will be recorded in missing persons case. Police officer will record statement and write zimni.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked if the institutions are not answerable and you could not make them accountable then what will happen. You are seeking support of which agency. ISI and MI are not included.



HUB: Members of All Balochistan Transport Itehad are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police and coast guards.

Shibli slams ruling PML-N for CDA raid on PTI central office

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Shibli Faraz of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) came down hard on the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Friday, stating that a wave of fascism has swept the country due to the incumbent government's undemocratic tactics. During a Senate session chaired Deputy Chair-

man Syedaal Khan Nasir, the PTI leader spoke about the recent arrests of party leaders and a raid on party's central office in Islamabad. He denounced these actions and demanded immediate release of his colleagues. Faraz said that despite the government's attempts to suppress PTI politically.