ndenemalent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 107, Zeeqad 18, 1445 AH Monday May 27, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

Emirs of Kuwait, Qatar accept PM's invitation to visit Pakistan

Ambassadors of both countries present letters to PM Shahbaz Sharif in separate meetings

Sabah and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani have accepted Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's invitation to visit Pakistan, marking a major breakthrough in the country's diplomatic ef-

In separate meetings of ambassadors of Kuwait and Qatar with the prime minister on Sunday, they presented the letters of their respective leaders, confirming their acceptance of invitation to visit Pakistan. In a meeting, Ambassa-

dor of Kuwait Nassar

to the prime minister which conveyed a message to accept the invitation of the prime minister to visit Pakistan on the mutually agreed dates.

While receiving the letter, the prime minister recalled his recent meeting with the Kuwaiti Emir held on the sidelines of World Economic Forum on April 2028, 2024

Meanwhile Qatar's en-Qatar conveying the mes-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Abdulrahman Jasser Al-Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Mutairi handed over the Meshal Al-Ahmed Al-letter of the Emir of Kuwait mutually convenient dates.

The prime minister conveying his heartfelt gratitude to the Qatari Emir, emphasized that Pa-kistan deeply valued its historic brotherly relations with Oatar and reiterated Pakistan's firm determination to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

He said that both sides should start preparations for the visit with an exvoy to Pakistan Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater also tween the two capitals to called on the prime minis- ensure that the high-level visit ter and presented to him the was productive and successletter from the Emir of ful and results were beneficial for both the countries



LAHORE: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani addressing to media after inauguration of the Zaheer ud Din RO plant at Military Accounts Coop-

We are ready if PTI intends to hold talks: Yousaf Raza Gillani

Affirms support for government's welfare initiatives

ISLAMABAD (INP): Acting President Yousaf Raza Gillani on Sunday said that we are ready if the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) wants to talk with us.

'We didn't say at any time, we are not on the side of the government," PPP stalwart Gillani said in a media talk. "We are extending full support to the government and engaged in talks with it for joining the government," he said. "We will take responsibility if joined the government," he further "We will support them in all good works,"he added.

Gillani said that no parliament bill or law will be passed without us.

APP adds Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) fer, noting that their efforts people.

would continue to support were also in service to the the government's welfare initiatives and also provide suggestions to make the upcoming budget favourable towards people, especially farmers, youths, and

labourers. views while talking to media after laying the foundation stone of a reverse osmosis (RO) plant here on Sunday. He highlighted that as a member of the United Nations, Pakistan was committed to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which aimed to ensure "availability and sustainable management of water and He expressed his appreciation for those working to

He said that the provision of clean water was a global issue, which needed to be addressed on a priority basis with global support. Responding to a ques-He expressed these fion, he highlighted Pakistan has the capability to address threats on the eastern and western borders, as well as terrorism and extremism with national

The Acting President said his party believed in public welfare and political dialogue and had always preferred to adopt a conciliatory approach to address sanitation for all" by 2030. national issues. He further stated that his party had been supporting the governprovide clean drinking wa- ment to provide relief to the

Two Pak Army soldiers embraced martyrdom, five terrorists killed in Peshawar operation

PM lauds security forces for successful operation against terrorists; Nation not to forget sacrifices of martyrs of Pakistan Army: Bilawal

ists' location.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two soldiers of Pakistan Army on Sunday embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting against terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in general area Hassan Khel, Peshawar District during which five terrorists were killed while three got injured.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, during conduct of the operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the terror-

tense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Hussain Jahangir, age 25 years, resident of Rahim Yar Khan District, along with another brave son of the soil, Havildar Shafiq Ullah, age: 36 years, resident of District Karak, having

ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat (martyr-

fought gallantly, made the

Minister Shehbaz Sharif on However, during in- Sunday paid tribute to the security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in the Hasan Khel area of Peshawar, which resulted in killing of five terrorists.

The prime minister also offered his heartfelt condolence to the family members of Pakistan Army's Captain Hussain Jahangir and Havaldar Shafiqullah, who embraced martyrdom during the op-



PESHAWAR: Army officers carrying coffin of Captain Hussain Jahangir who embraced martyrdom during an IBO in Hassan Khel.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kuwait Nassar Abdulrahman Jasser Al-Mutairi and Qatar's envoy to Pakistan Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater presenting the letters of their respective leaders to Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif confirming their

Pakistan demands Afghanistan to hand over TTP terrorists involved in Besham attack

Interior minister Mohsin Naqvi asks Afghan interim govt to act against terror network on its soil; Says Pakistan wanted good ties with Afghanistan and it was possible when Afghanistan would support Pakistan and not allow its soil to be used against Pakistan

in border areas, he said and

added that "we have a num-

gard". He said that after oc-

on Chinese in Besham, the

law-enforcement agencies in

the country jointly carried

out comprehensive investi-

LAHORE (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that Pakistan attaches high importance to its ties with China whether they are economic, political, diplomatic or security related.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, he said that both countries support each other at different forums and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative was a big example in this regard. He said, "We are confirming it with evidence that during an attack on Chinese engineers in Besham, Afghanistan's territory had been used and it was a matter of great concern for Pa- China.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff

(COAS) General Syed

Asim Munir, had a tele-

phonic call with the Chief

of General Staff (CGS) of

Iranian Armed Forces, Ma-

jor General Mohammad

Bagheri and extended deep

condolences over the sad

and unfortunate incident of

the helicopter crash on

May 19 which led to de-

mise of President Ebrahim

Raisi, Foreign Minster

Amir Abdollahain and other

that Late President Ebrahim

Raisi and Late Foreign

Minister Amir Abdollahian

were exceptional leaders

and true friends of Paki-

The COAS expressed

important officials.

tan." Support was being pro-He said that such vided to TTP-like terrorists threats coming from across the borders make regional security more complex. The interior minister said that it was a planned attack and was operated from Afghani-stan. He said Pakistan had raised this issue with Afghanistan's Interim government and stressed them to control terrorists oper-

Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan had beefed up its security at borders, adding COAS highlights loss of

Iranian leaders truly

tragic and irreparable

gation of the incident. Some accused of the incident had ating from there. been arrested, he said. He

that the government was well aware of the elements behind such incidents, which wanted to harm relations between Pakistan and

stan, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news

The COAS highlighted that the loss of both the

leaders and others was truly

tragic and irreparable. The

Army Chief on behalf of all

ranks of Pakistan Army ex-

tended prayers for the de-

parted souls and well wishes

The COAS said that

for the bereaved families.

Pakistan has historic, cul-

tural and brotherly ties with

Iran and the Armed Forces

of Pakistan and Iran have

always stood together.

General Bagheri thanked

the COAS for sharing grief

and vowed to continue the

cooperation between the

two militaries

ISLAMABAD: Former MPA Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa

Shagufta Malik presenting a bouquet to Chief Min-

ister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti while

Sacrifices of soldiers for peace unforgettable:

Mir Sarfraz Bugti grieved over

martyrdom of Army personnel

in Hassan Khel operation

sons of the motherland

have created new history

with their blood while

fighting gallantlyand the

entire nation is proud of

the sacrifice of martyrs.

said that we equally share

the grief with the be-

reaved families of the mar-

tyrs in the moment of

vincial Minister for Food,

Dummar also expressed

sorrow over the martyr-

dom of Captain Hussain

Jahangir and Havildar

Shafiqullah in the opera-

tion against terrorists in

Hassan Khel area.

Noor

Meanwhile, the Pro-

Muhammad

Mir Sarfraz Bugti

congratulation him on becoming CM.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

expressed sorrow over

martyrdom of an Army of-

ficer, Captain Hussain

Jahangir and Havildar,

Shafiqullah in an intelligence

based operation conducted

in Hassan Khel area of

ment issued here on Sun-

day, the Chief Minister said

that the sacrifices of our

brave iawans and officers

for establishing peace in

the country are unforget-

He said that the brave

In a condolence state-

Peshawar district.

release said.

said that Chinese security was very important and new standard operating procedures (SOPs) had been made in this regard and were being strictly implemented. taken to provide the best Malakand Commander China relations.

Mohsin said all possible measures were being

Prime Minister's visit to China during next month TTP. was also very important. ber of evidence in this re-He said that China's cooperation for strengthening currence of terrorist attack Pakistan's economy was crucial. He said that in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Counter-Terrorism Department was doing great work and they had developed themselves in very short an of time. Mohsin Naqvi said that

the Pakistan government had requested the interim Afghan government to arrest Bakhtiar Shah, Qari Asadullah and Khan Lala and especially TTP Ameer Noor Wali Mehsud, TTP

security to Chinese and Azmatullah Mehsud and other senior leaders of the

> He said that Pakistan wanted good ties with Afghanistan and it was possible when Afghanistan would support Pakistan and not allow its soil to be used against Paki-

National Counter-Terrorism Authority Coordinator Muhammad Tahir Rai gave detailed briefing about the investigation done related to Besham (Shangla) terrorist attack on March 26. He said entire incident was planned in Afghanistan and objective was to harm Pakistan and



FIA regional office.

calls on PM **Shehbaz Sharif**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sunday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discussed mat-

ters of mutual concern. The delegation in cluded former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Syed Naveed Qamar, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, and Sherry

Rehman. During the meeting, the participants exchanged views on the overall political situation of the country. They also discussed the upcoming budget 2024

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Minster for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Advisor to PM on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, and Law Minister Azam Nazii Tarrar also attended the meeting

Ex-MPA KP meets CM; expresses best wishes

Independent Report QUETTA: The former Member Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhaw, Ms. Shagufta Malik called on the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in Islamabad on Sunday. During the course of meeting, the former MPA congratulated Mir Sarfraz Bugti on becoming Chief Minister. He expressed best wishes for the Chief Minister and hoped that the provincial government would play it's role for bringing improvement in the good governance and establishing peace in the province.

PPP delegation | PM Shahbaz highly appreciates Norway's landmark decision to recognize Palestine

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday during a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Store conveyed his deep appreciation for Norway's landmark decision to recognize the State of Palestine.

"He said that this principled decision by Norway would send a strong message of hope and solidarity to the brave Palestinian people who have been enduring Israel's brutality and suffering over seventy-five years of occupation and oppression," PM Office Media Wing said in a press

recent ruling regarding decades

LAHORE (APP): Prime Rafah and Gaza and called for its full and effective implementation. The prime minister emphasized the importance of the two-state solution as the key to lasting peace in the Middle

Не hoped that Norway's decision would encourage other countries to follow suit, paving the way for full UN membership of State of Palestine.

In this regard, he further said that the international community needed to focus its attention towards the plight of the oppressed people of Kashmir, who had been subjected to brutal occupation and de-The prime minister nial of fundamental rights also welcomed the ICJ's for the past seven and a half

Legend actor Talat Hussain passes away KARACHI (APP): The May 26 and survived by

acting legend and renowned drama, stage and film actor Talat Hussain

and a son. The funeral prayer of



Warsi was laid to rest in a graveyard of DHA phase here on Sunday.

The legendary actor passed away at the age of 83 after a prolonged illness in the morning of

a widow, two daughers

the actor was held at Aisha Masjid, Khayaban e Ittehad, phase 8 attended by actors belonging to Pakistan showbiz industry, relatives, fans and a large number of Earlier, the Actress

Tazeen Hussain, who is the daughter of, late actor Talat Hussain had confirmed the death of her father on Sunday. Late Talat Hussain

had worked in various drama and stage plays as well as in films including Indian movie 'Souten Ki Beti' and Norwegian movie 'Importeksport '

Daily soice of Masse Independent

ICJ rebuke

Matters are not going well for Israel where world opinion regarding its murderous activities in Gaza

On Friday, days after the International Criminal Court called for arrest warrants to be issued for the Israeli prime minister and defence minister — as well as three Hamas leaders — the International Court of Justice ordered Tel Aviv to halt its bloodthirsty rampage in Rafah. The Israeli response to the world court has not been surprising, with the Zionist state calling the order "morally repugnant and disgusting"

Furthermore, Israel has continued its campaign of genocidal violence in Gaza after the court order. While Hamas has called for a cessation of hostilities across Gaza, the South African foreign minister whose country has been instrumental in the legal campaign against Tel Aviv's atrocities — while welcoming the ICJ ruling observed that Israel doesn't "care what the global community says".

The reason for Israel's criminal behaviour is that it is protected by its powerful Western friends. primarily the US and some European states. The Zionist state knows that it can literally get away with murder. Moreover, while ICJ orders are binding, it cannot enforce them. This requires cooperation of the global community, particularly its most powerful members. But the US and some others have defeated every attempt in the UN to censure Israel, which means that Tel Aviv can effectively thumb its nose at their lordships in the ICJ and ICC.

Nearly two decades after the majority of the international community agreed to the 'responsibility to protect' principle to shield vulnerable populations across the globe from violence and persecution, it appears that Palestine's people are not worthy — in the eyes of powerful global actors — of this protection.

While the efforts of South Africa and other states need to be lauded for trying to bring Israel to justice for its ongoing crimes in Gaza, more practical measures are required to stop the slaughter.

For example, all those states that have supported the bid for Palestinian statehood in the UN - over 140 countries — need to back up these symbolic gestures of solidarity with practical steps to stop Israel's genocidal campaign. One way to do this could be for these states to suspend all commercial links and arms shipments until Israel promises to respect ICJ rulings and UN resolutions.

As mentioned before in these columns, history has witnessed such a successful global movement in the international campaign against South Africa's apartheid. The OIC and Arab League, as well as friends of Palestine in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia must come together to enforce such a blockade against Israel if they are serious about ending the Gaza nightmare.

Otherwise, finely worded legal treatise, and eloquently drafted resolutions will do little to save Palestinians from the Israeli war machine.

Nuclear deterrence

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Monday May 27, 2024

Fifty years ago, in May 1974, India detonated its first nuclear device, call- nuclear dimension could ing it Operation Smiling Buddha. While the world remained largely silent, Pakistan's foreign minister declared Pakistan would "never submit to nuclear blackmail" or "accept Indian hegemony over the subcontinent". Earlier, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had expressed the resolve that if India ever built a nuclear weapon, Pakistan would 'eat grass', but build one of its own. Given India's role in dismembering the Pakistan has to rely on country in 1971, the Pakiimperative to restore the conventional capabilities, power equilibrium by nuclear capability to deter further Indian aggres-

In 1998, South Asia became nuclearised. On May 11, 1998, India tested its nuclear devices. Given the significant conventional asymmetry, Pakistan followed suit on May 28 as it could not remain vulnerable. Its nuclear tests restored the strategic balance and reestablished nuclear deterrence, which essentially sures to reduce the danmeans deterring an adversary from conventional or nuclear aggression due to concerns that there would be retaliation that could eventually lead to mutual assured destruction.

are political weapons, ideally not intended for war-fighting. Their main purpose is to deter wars. Since 1998, South Asia has not seen a major war, primarily due to nuclear deterrence. However, nuclear deterrence could not prevent confrontations below the nuclear overhang — for instance, clashes in Kargil in 1999, troops mobilisation in 2001-2, and Indian aggression in Balakot in

sumed the proportions of scribes, is that the risk of kinetic confrontations escalating into the India's aggressive doctrines like Cold Start, Pakistan opted for a fullspectrum deterrence posture, while remaining within the ambit of credible minimum deterrence to deter all aggression from tactical to strategic

That said, nuclear cea to deter all forms of aggression and resolve our conflict with India. other instruments of nastani leadership found it tional power, including to tackle threats on its borders. Political stability, economic strength, and public support for defence also enhance deterovertly rence. Diplomacy, too, has an important role. Both countries agreed in 1988 not to attack each other's nuclear facilities. There is also an agreement to prevent airspace

violations (1991). The Vajpayee-Sharif meeting in Lahore in 1999 introduced several confidence-building meager of nuclear warfare. An agreement was reached on advance notification of missile testing in 2005. In 2006, both sides agreed to reduce the risk of nuclear accidents Nuclear weapons unauthorised use of

nuclear weapons. Given the dangers of a nuclear conflagration, both countries have, directly or indirectly, engaged in discussions on how to maintain strategic stability in South Asia. In nuclear parlance, strategic stability is often defined as removing incentives for the use of nuclear weapons or for sis situations, enhance engaging in a nuclear arms race.

Another view of 2019. While none of strategic stability, to threat perceptions. these confrontations as- which Pakistan sub- Courtesy Dawn

a major war, owing to nuclear discourse cannot nuclear deterrence, the be segregated from regional geopolitics. US-India nuclear cooperation has created an environnot be ignored. With ment of discrimination and imbalance in South Asia, which can be destabilising. Strategic stability requires that there should be no armed conflict or unresolved dispute or even grave mutual grievances, which could lead to instability

or a wider war. The need deterrence is not a pana- re-gional adversaries to show nuclear res-traint responsibility, nuclear safe--ty and security, and effective command and control cannot be over-emphasis--ed. India's accidental firing of a BrahMos missile into Pakistan and its failure to inform Pakistan well in time could have easily escalated matters. Nuclear arms must never fall into unauthorised or the wrong hands. Equally important, the leadership must eschew irresponsible rhetoric and brandishing of nuclear weapons (Diwali fireworks, 'qatal ki raat').

Emerging technologies, particularly AI, multirole drones, hypersonic missiles, and cyberspace, could also adversely affect nuclear deterrence and strategic stability. Of particular danger are lethal autonomous weapons that can search and engage tarthe gets without human inter-

International negotiations have made little progress towards evolving an international regime that could minimise the dangers of emerging technologies.

It is of utmost importance that India and Pakistan engage in meaningful dialogue to avert risks of escalation in criunderstanding of each other's nuclear postures, and address mutual

Reality bites

Muna Khan One of my high school

teachers, an American Marie middle-aged man, used to poke fun at us for being clueless. He would often reference student protests in the 1960s as great examples of attempts to disrupt the system. Students were unafraid of consequences, he'd say and after any example from that time, he'd add "I know, I was there". Because he worried about our disconnect with the world, he talked to us about apartheid in South Africa — how boycotts can make a difference on all levels and why it should matter to all of us. I remember him making me feel proud of my passport for recognising South Africa and Israel. We celebrated years later when Nelson Mandela was released in 1990. We were there, now clued in, and would go on to witness the country move to post-apartheid reconciliation. witnessing

something similar, which I can't yet put a name on for fear I'll be woefully wrong. So, I'm calling it a shift from 'don't care about the world' to 'I'm not drinking X because it supports Israel's war on Gaza'. It's inspiring. Generation \bar{Z} is re-

lentless. They recently upped the ante last month with Blockout 2024, a digital boycott of celebrities for their silence on Gaza.

This began on May 6 on the day of the Met Gala in New York, an annual fashion fundraiser where a ticket costs \$75,000, and garners a lot of media attention. Social media was filled with images of the red carpet amid the violence in Gaza. It was a strange juxtaposition and did not go down well. Influencer

cake', a reference to phrase which demonstrates an insensitivity to the challenges faced by the poor, or in this case. the Palestinians. It was

tone deaf. Social media users responded by calling for escape it. News about a digital guillotine of ce- celebrities — actors, lebrities and influencers for their silence on Gaza. The distinction must be made between simply unfollowing and blocking; the latter has an impact as the audience blocks seeing any content from the celebrity. It threatens their brand and potential to earn more. This year's Met Gala

occurred against a backdrop of genocide and famine in Palestine, and global unrest and food insecurity. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, between the third quarters of 2020 and 2022, median global inflation soared from 1.9 per cent to 8.8pc. To watch singer Camilla Cabello walk the red carpet carrying a \$22,000 purse made of ice is mind-boggling. That is a little over six million Pakistani rupees — for a block of ice with some flowers in it.

Celebrities and influencers are, to borrow from Karl Marx, today's opiate of the He masses. criticising religion in the 19th century when he on the BDS list so it has held it responsible for distracting people from reality. Celebrities don't just distract, they control. It is materialism at its

In the West, celebrities have been successful in promoting a pro-Israel narrative, one that is so firmly cemented that Pakistani artists trying to make it big in Hollywood, for example, have been tight-lipped and am hopeful I will wit-since Oct 7. This in-ness a shift in how Pales-Haley Kalil's TikTok cludes award recipients tine is seen and dealt with video received a lot of of the Oscar, Grammy's,

images from the gala lip- success. And Malala synched to 'let them eat Yousafzai too, who despite many clarifications Antoinette's and statements on X denouncing Israel and calling for a ceasefire, was not spared the 'digitine'.

We've all gone down a celebrity-induced rabbit hole but in our defence, we can't people, sports Prince influencers, Harry, Heeramandi takes up too much

The real problem, of course, is the system that continues to separate the haves and have nots. Celebri-ties join the ranks of Big Tech, Big Banks, Big Money, Big Real Estate, Big Armies, Big Mafias at the top of a tier that controls wealth and power. Generation Z sees how this plays out in Palestine and wants to break this unjust system that allows for internet personalities to succeed by virtue of living on the internet.

Young people have understood the power they hold in their hands that enables celebrities to profit. And they're reclaiming it with this Blockout

It is wrong to disparage this moment as internet activism with no impact. We should be supporting our children boycotting brands instead of saying X is not no meaning. Every accounts fundraising, lobbying, blocking, boycotting because they are all attempts to reclaim power. Clicks and likes and engagement feed the news and celebrity machinery. Depriving them of their

I was there and saw a post-apartheid world by people and polibacklash as she posted as well as big Marvel cies. -- Courtesy Dawn

oxygen is a powerful ac-

Commerce News

Pakistan's regional exports increase 20.61% in 10 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 20.61 per cent in the first ten months of the financial year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year.

including countries Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$3,655.483 million, which is 14.24 per cent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$25,669.182 million during July-April (2023-24)," State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. China tops the list of behind other countries such Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives. Pakistan's exports to China witnessed an increase of months of this year from \$1,700.303 million last year exports while Afghanistan witnessed a percent from \$435.954 million to \$433.567 million.

country's exports to Bangladesh also decreased by 15.82 percent to \$542.165 million this year from \$644.104 whereas exports to Sri countries in terms of Lanka rose by 35.83 Pakistan's exports to its percent to \$326.995 million neighbouring, leaving from \$240.732. The

exports to India increased to \$1.376 million from \$0.250 million in the Pakistan carried out its previous year.

decreased by 1.38 per cent to \$2.420 million from 2.454 million while to Maldives increased by 13.90 cent to "The country's 37.68 per cent to \$7.671 million from 6.783 exports to the regional \$2,341.089 million in ten million, it added. On the other hand, the imports from seven regional countries recorded \$10,925.280 million during nominal decline of 0.54 the period under review as compared to \$8,617.786 million during last year, showing an increase of 26.77 per cent. The imports from China during July-April 2023-24 were recorded at \$10,648.334 million against the \$8,343.937 million during July-April 2022-23.

per cent during the period. PFC to participate in London Tech Week expo

showing an increase of 26.61

AHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq said on Sunday that PFC would participate in the five-day international London Tech Week expo, commencing on June 10, 2024.

Chairing the PFC Board of Directors meeting here, he said the event offers a significant platform to showcase the diverse and high-quality range of Pakistani furniture products to a global audience.By presenting at London Tech Week, he added, the PFC aims to highlight the craftsmanship and innovation inherent in furniture Pakistan's industry, seeking to captivate potential buvers and partners from around the world.

opportunity for PFC to explore new export markets, international business relationships, and enhance the visibility of Pakistani furniture on a global scale.

The expo serves as an



LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Sunday met Federal Minister for Water and

Power Awais Leghari. According to handout issued here, during the meeting provision of uninterrupted electricity to farmers of Punjab and other facilities came under

assured the Punjab agriculture minister that his possible support to Punjab expenses.

Agriculture department in this regard.

Kirmani also apprised the federal minister about the progress on Punjab Chief Minister's Transforming Punjab Agriculture Plan under which tube-wells were being shifted to solar

He said that hefty amount of Rs 12 billion Federal Minister had been allocated for shifting tube-wells to solar energy and this would help ministry would extend all in saving electricity

Call for promoting new hi-tech hybrid seeds

sector for industryacademia linkages to promote high quality hitech hybrid seeds of rice and other crops.

Chairman Shahzad Ali

is also a former dean of postgraduate studies at Forman Christian College University, appreciated their research efforts and emphasized for industryacademia linkage arrangements with the GARS such as collaboration in research and development of new seed varieties; internship programmes and employment opportunities for young talented graduates of school of life sciences, FCC. He added that the GARS was also good platform for exploring disease resistant high yield new seed varieties. Later, Dr Kasur along with other leading researchers also visited the rice production facilities and rice quality laboratory and lauded state of the art technology employed for

Govt to ensure affordable, quality food to public: Bilal

Says bakery product prices set to fall after bread reduction in Punjab

Food Minister Bilal Yasin has said that all possible measures are being taken to provide affordable and quality food items to the public.

Presiding over an important meeting to reduce the prices of bakery items here on Sunday, he said that the government will ensure the reduction in the prices of bakery products.

Food Secretary Punjab, DG Food Authority, DG Industries and Deputy Commissioner Lahore participated in the meeting. Bakery

Association Oil, Gas Conference Pakistan-2024

set for May 29 ISLAMABAD (APP): The Oil and Gas Conference Pakistan (OGCP-2024), aimed at showcasing Pakistan's potential in the energy sector, focusing on advancements domestic production, exploration, and sustainable practices, is set to take place here on May 29. The event, organized by Energy Update in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) and the Oil and Regulatory Gas

Authority (OGRA)

LAHORE (APP): Punjab representatives of 21 famous bakery brands also reduce prices till Monday, participated in the May 27.

> decreased by 30 to 48 percent in 2 months.

"The prices of roti and naan have been reduced and we'll ensure that the prices of bakery products are also reduced.

Bilal Yasin took prices of bakery products in the stakeholders' meeting. He said that on the request of bakery

given time to voluntarily

meeting.

Bilal Yasın asked tne
The food minister bakery owners to Bilal Yasin asked the said that the prices of wheat, flour and fine have prices of their products and biscuit brands. On Monday, May 27, the final reduction of prices in bakery items will be determined in a meeting with the administration.

The food minister said that the administration suggestions for an will ensure the availability immediate reduction in the of bakery products at low prices across Punjab. He added that the prices of 60 products made from wheat should be reduced owners, they have been systematically.

Agriculture backbone of country, says Saqib Ali

KHANEWAL (APP): Secretary Agriculture South Punjab, Saqib Ali Ateel, said that agriculture was the backbone of our economy and Pakistan's future is linked with agriculture. He expressed these views during his visit to the early cotton MNH Sultan fields at Chaudhry Imtiaz Farm at Adhiwala on Sunday.

He added that Punjab holds special importance as approximately 70 percent of the country's total cotton production comes from Punjab. He said that the

cotton not only kept the wheel of the national textile industry running but also generates foreign exchange through its export. Mr Saqib further said that the agricultural staff was always present in the field to guide farmers. He advised farmers to irrigate crops according to the needs and weather conditions. On this occasion, Deputy District Officer Agriculture Extension Rana Habib-ur-Rehman, Assistant Director Agriculture Dr. Khalid, Inspector Khurram Nawazish Muhammad Ramzan.



Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani meeting with Federal Minister for Water and Power Sardar Awais Leghari.

Pakistan to export female nursing staff to Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (INP): The already working in the Corporation (OEC), an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, would export around 100 female nursing staff to a health firm in Malaysia.

According to an

official, the demand for

female nursing staff in

Malaysia was increasing

with the passage of time

due to the highly qualified

and expert staff of health

Overseas Employment different hospitals in Malaysia.

He said that OEC had already announced the application from job seekers to apply for Malaysia and prescribed qualifications and experience.

He informed me that 100 nurses were required for ICU with a diploma in nursing, a bachelor of science in nursing, or a post-RN from a recognized

LAHORE (APP): Former Malik here. Dr Kasur, who caretaker federal minister for National Food Security Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik said on Sunday that promotion of new and hitech hybrid seed varieties of various crops under publicprivate partnership could revolutionize the agriculture sector of Pakistan. He added that industryacademia synergy was also need of the hour to achieve this goal, citing that Guard Agricultural Research and Services (GARS) was a best platform in the private

He expressed these views in a meeting with Pakistan Hi-Tech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) ultra modern research.

Consultation with all stakeholders on Defamation Bill is important: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: A Joint Action Committee of Journalist' Organizations called on Saleem Haider Khan at (AEMAND), Governor House, Lahore comprised representatives of CPNE, PBA, PFUJ, APNS, Association of Electronic Media Editors Broad Press Club/Secretary Shahid, Former President Murtaza

Advisor to the Chief

Minister KP on Sports and

Youth Affairs Syed Fakhar

Jihan Sunday expressed his

commitment to promoting

sports in the province and

providing facilities and

infrastructure to support

views while addressing as the chief guest at the final

match of the Inter-

Departmental Cricket

Tournament organized by

the Sports Department.

The Advisor announced

competitions and events

would be held in the Hazara

sports

more

He expressed these

athletes in every sport.

President, Association of Electronic Media Editors Punjab Governor, Sardar and News Directors Taria General Mehmood, Electronic Media Editors and News Directors, Naveed Kashif Pakistan Casters' Association, Muhammad Ansari President Lahore
Press Club/Secretary
Secretary PPP Central PFUJ, Senior Vice Punjab, Hasan Murtaza. President of APNS Imtinan former MPA Makhdoom Mehmood,

competitions for police and

the provincial government

is dedicated to providing

sports facilities and

infrastructure across the

province and is committed

to supporting athletes,

whom he described as the

assets of the province. The

Advisor praised the

tournament as a great

initiative for promoting

sports and providing a

healthy recreational activity

for government officials. He

expressed his hope to bring

international cricket to the

province soon

He emphasized that

other departments.

Syed Fakhar expresses

commitment to promotion

of sports in the province

ABBOTTABAD (APP): region, including shooting

CPNE Kazim Khan, Shehzad Saeed Cheema Muhammad Usman Vice Information Secretary Central Punjab were also present. The representatives journalistic organizations informed the Governor today. The delegation Secretary Association of Punjab about their reservations on defamation bill. Governor Puniab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that consultation with all stakeholders on the and News Directors Association, Muhammad all stakeholders on the (AEMAND). Irshad Arif President CPNE, Arshad AEMAND were present important. He said that he would try his best to bring together all stakeholders consultation on the defamation bill in the next

Monday May 27, 2024

CM pays tribute to martyred military personnel

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid tribute to the great sacrifice of martyred Captain Hussain Jahangir and martyred Havaldar Shafique Ullah in an operation against terrorists in Peshawar's suburban area Hassan Khel The chief minister offered condolences and expressed her heartfelt sympathies with the martyred family members. She said, 'Martyred Captain Hussain Jahangir and martyred Havaldar Shafique Ullah laid down their precious lives for the sake

of their dear homeland.



LAHORE: A delegation of Joint Action Committee of Journalist Organizations called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

PML-N govt to make country prosperous

Pakistan Muslim League-N MPA and Chairman District Committee for initiatives, Rana Munawar Ghous, said that PML-N federal and Punjab governments would make the country prosperous as they were taking publicfriendly steps. Talking to APP on Sunday, he said as per the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the provincial cabinet had approved a

SARGODHA (APP): of the government. He said funds for the Kidney Center in Sargodha would be allocated in the Minister's upcoming budget after which better provision of medical facilities to people of Sargodha district would be ensured. He said that as Sargodha was deprived of funds during the previous government, now the government was releasing funds for the development of the district, which would provide water and sewage Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) in Sargodha, which is a proof of public welfare initiatives where the sanitation facilities to the people in addition to medical facilities, so that people could get relief in the real

ANF recovers 324 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover 324 kg drugs and arrested 15 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that 27

kg ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Japan at a courier office in Karachi while an accused was arrested. 900 grams ice was

recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Islamabad Airport. In two separate operations in Balochistan.

KPFood Authority conducts major operation against adulteration mafia

PESHAWAR (APP): The further action under the officials of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food safety the spokesman said. He said that on teams conducted raids in inspection of food items Malakand and Mardan, businesses in Sakhakot spokesperson Bazaar of Malakand Authority told media men Division, 200 liters of milk

The inspection team seized 800 liters of fake drinks from a vehicle at the blockade on Swabi's of different food items Jehangira Road, Spokesman said. On receiving secret information, 1200 liters of fake drinks were recovered from a vehicle in Nowshera and taken into official custody, spokesperson said. Heavy fines imposed on owners of fake drinks,

here on Šunday.

lab, the spokesperson destroyed on the spot, 80 kg of prohibited and expired items were seized, fines were also imposed,

was destroyed as it was found to be substandard.

Mardan Food Safety Team

checked in Takhtbhai

Bazar, inspected samples

from a mobile food testing



KARACHI: National Trade Union Federation of Pakistan protesting for the arrest of the killers of Nasrullah Gadani.

South Punjab - a treasure trove of culture, heritage

MULTAN Standing out as a land of in this area. fine quality cotton, aromatic and tasty mangoes, exquisite and

monuments craftsmanship, the South Punjab region also enjoys rich cultural heritage that the people cherish and keep close to their hearts.

Dubbed as the treasure trove of cultural and historic heritage in Pakistan, South Punjab had been the cradle of Indus Valley Civilization and a home to remains of ancient Buddhist site at Mound Dillu Roy in Dera Ghazi Khan. Under the influence of Islamic empires, Islamic architecture and the way of life, the monuments depicting

(APP): architecture were aplenty four decades since its exist around 200-300 Harappan site and we

Remaining off the human eye for a long time, remains of Indus Valley Civilization in Cholistan desert of Bahawalpur at Ganweriwala were discovered by country's eminent archaeologist Dr. Rafiq Mughal during a survey spanning over four years from 1974 to 1977.

According to archaeologist and Director to (Retd) Punjab Archaeology Department Saleem ul Haq, the site is being excavated these days by a team led by Dr. Rafiq Mughal and comprising Saleem ul Haq and other experts. Excavations

Ganweriwala resumed in Islamic March 2024 after a gap of of ancient civilizations showed it was a mature embossed on it.

discovery archaeologists attribute while another site at this delay to unavailability of water, lack of funding, road access and manpower

at Ganweriwala to dig out

remains of settlements -

believed to be the third

largest of Indus Valley

Civilization between Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, belonging to an era

of 2600 BC "Dr. Rafiq Mughal had discovered 414 sites including Ganweriwala during survey conducted in 1976 on 400-450 kilometer area from Fort Abbas to Sindh boundary along the bed of now dried-up ancient Hakra river,"

at informed Saleem ul Haq.

Kundwala was at least 100 kilometres away from Harappan periods. "Remains from two sites period and early Harappan Harappan period was an era when the civilization was at the zenith of its evolutionary development in 2600 BC, some 4600 years ago that later started is described as late

Harappan period. He said some remains from Ganweriwala in 1975 Hellenistic

as kilometer from each other cannot rule out possibility of finding remains of early period in case of deeper excavation," Saleem Ul Ganweriwala, having ruins from mature and late report on excavation at Ganweriwala would be finalized by the end June denote mature Harappan 2024. Mound Dillu Roy, another site excavated at period." The archaeologist the boundary of Rajanpur said that Mature and Dera Ghazi Khan districts by Director Archaeology Muhammad Hassan a few years back revealed that it was Buddhists site and among 1370 small artifacts declining - a process that was a masterpiece of culminated in 1950 BC and typical Gandharan style small figure of lion, a clay female statue and seals The surface finds with one having a

International News

30 more Gazans killed as Israeli strikes continue

SKARDU: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over

the meeting of Religious Scholars during his visit.

Monitoring Desk RAFAH: Israeli forces bombed the Gaza Strip, including Rafah, on Saturday, killing at least 30 more Palestinians a day after judges at the top United Nation's court ordered Israel to "immediately halt" its offensive. Although Israel pressed on with its offensive against Hamas, mediated negotiations between the two sides are due to restart next week, an official with knowledge of the matter said.

The decision on talks was taken after the head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency met the head of the CIA and the prime minister of Qatar, said the source.

"At the end of the meeting, it was decided that

mediators, Egypt and Qatar, and with active US involvement," the source said. Hamas did not immediately comment on the status of talks.

Since the crisis in Gaza unfolded more than seven months ago, mediators have struggled to secure a breakthrough, with Israel seeking the release of prisoners held by Hamas release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel and an end to the bombard-

Bombings have continued in Gaza despite the mediation and despite judges at the top United

in the coming week nego-tiations will open based on rael on Friday to immedinew proposals led by the ately halt its military assault on Rafah, where it says it is trying to root out Hamas fighters.

The International Court of Justice, or World Court, has no means to enforce its emergency ruling in a case brought by South Africa, which accused Israel of genocide.

But the case was a stark sign of Israel's global isolation, particularly and the latter seeking the since it began its offensive against Rafah this month against the pleas of its closest ally, the United States.

> left a total of 35,903 Palestinians dead in Gaza and 80,420 injured.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang arrives to attend the trilateral summit with his

South Korean and Japanese counterparts in Seoul, South Korea.

Taiwan's president says wants to work with China **Monitoring Desk**

ΓΑΙΡΕΙ: Taiwan's new

president said on Sunday he was still ready to work with China, despite this week's military drills around the self-ruled island.

The drills began around Taiwan on Thursday, just three days after Lai Ching-te was sworn in, part of an escalating campaign of intimidation by China which views the island as part of its terri-

pendence forces" would be left "with their heads broken and blood flowing". Lai told reporters on

Sunday that he wanted Taiwan and China to "jointly shoulder the important responsibility of regional stability"

"I also look forward to enhancing mutual understanding and reconciliation through exchanges and cooperation with China [...] and moving to-

Saudi Arabia, FT reports

Monitoring Desk

The newspaper reported that Washington has already signalled to Saudi Arabia that it was prepared to lift the ban, citing a person familiar with the mat-

Soon after taking of-fice in 2021, Biden adopted

a tougher stance over Saudi Arabia's campaign against the Houthis in Yemen, which has inflicted heavy civilian casualties, and over Riyadh's human rights record, in particular the 2018 killing of Washington

Khashoggi. Saudi Arabia, the big-

US lawmakers visiting Taiwan this week **Monitoring Desk**

TAIPEI: A delegation of

US lawmakers led by Michael McCaul, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, is visiting Taiwan this week, the de facto U.S. embassy said on Sun-

The delegation is in Taiwan from Sunday to Thursday, the American Institute in Taiwan said in a statement, a trip that comes shortly after China ended two days of war games around the island.

Four US vessels run aground near Gaza pier **Monitoring Desk**

TAMPA: Heavy seas battered the US maritime humanitarian mission to Gaza on Saturday, US Central Command (Centcom) said, with four vessels serving a floating aid delivery pier breaking free from their moorings. No injuries were reported and the aid pier remained fully functional, Centcom said in a statement adding that no US personnel would enter Gaza. Two of the affected vessels were now anchored on the beach near the pier and the other two were beached on the coast of Israel near Ashkelon.

Spanish minister says Gaza aggression is 'real genocide'

Monitoring Desk MADRID: The Spanish

defence minister said on Saturday that the conflict in Gaza is a "real genocide", as relations between Israel and Spain worsen following Madrid's decision to recognise a Palestinian state. Israel has strongly rejected accusations made against it by South Africa at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that it is committing a genocide against Palestinians, saying it is waging war on the Hamas group.

The remark by Spanish Defence Minister Margarita Robles in an interview with TVE state television echoed a comment by Spanish Deputy

also described the Gaza conflict as a genocide.

"We cannot ignore what is happening in Gaza, which is a real genocide, Robles said in the interview, during which she also discussed the Russian invasion of Ukraine and conflicts in

She also said Madrid's recognition of Palestine was not a move against Israel, adding that it was designed to help "end violence in Gaza"

"This is not against anyone, this is not against the Israeli state, this is not against the Israelis, who are people we respect," she said. Spain, along with Ireland and Norway, declared this week it would Prime Minister Yolanda recognise a Palestinian Diaz who earlier this week state on May 28.

Death toll in Kharkiv attack rises to 14 as Zelenskyy warns of Russian troop movements

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned Sunday that Russia is preparing to intensify its offensive along Ukraine's northern border, as the death toll rose to 14 in an aerial bomb attack on a large construction supplies store in the city of Kharkiv.

ternoon also left 43 in- nian authorities have jured and 16 missing, Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said initially after the attack.

Kharkiv, from Zelenskyy said that Russia is preparing of-fensive actions 90 kilometers (55 miles) northwest of Ukraine's second largest city. He said that Russians "gather an-other group of troops near our border."

He did not specify where the troops are being assembled, but Ukrai-

pressed strong concern about the Sumy region. Both Kharkiv city and Sumy with about 250,000 people are within about 25 kilometers (15 miles) of the Russian border.

Moscow's troops have in recent weeks captured villages in the Kharkiv area as part of a broad push, and analysts say they may be trying The bombing of to get within artillery Kharkiv on Saturday af-range of the city. Ukraievacuated more than 11,000 people from the region since the start of the offensive on May 10. In a video statement Russia launched wide missile and drone attacks on much of Ukraine during the night.

Ukrainian officials said air defense units intercepted 31 Shahed drones and 12 cruise missiles launched by Russia in the Mykolaiv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, K h m e l n y t s k y i , Kirovohrad, Vinnytsia nian officials have ex- and Chernihiv regions.

Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Rishi Sunak lays a brick during a bricklaying workshop at Cannock College, in Cannock, Staffordshire, Britain. At least 9 dead in Texas. Oklahoma and Arkansas

after severe weather roars **Monitoring Desk** AUSTIN: Powerful storms killed at least nine people and left a wide trail of destruction Sunday across Texas, Oklahoma and Arrexas, Okianoma and Arkansas after obliterating homes and destroying a truck stop where drivers took shelter during the latest deadly weather to strike the central U.S. Five of the deaths were in Tayas near time a result. deaths were in Texas, near the Oklahoma border, where a tornado Saturday night plowed through a rural area near a mobile home

homa, where guests at an outdoor wedding were injured. Tens of thousands of residents were without power across the region.

"It's just a trail of de-

tiple people were transported to hospitals by ambulance and helicopter in the Texas county of Denton, but they did not park, officials said. Storms immediately know the full also caused damage in Okla- extent of the injuries

Israeli bombings have 6 newborns killed in fire at children's hospital in **Delhi:** police

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Six newborn babies have died after a fire tore through a children's hospital in the Indian capital. with people charging into the blaze to rescue the infants police said on Sunday. "All the 12 newborn babies were rescued from the hospital with the help of other people," senior police officer Surendra Choudhary said in a statement, but adding that when they reached medical attention, six were dead. "Legal action is being

taken against the owner of the hospital," Choudhary said. He did not give further details on how the children died. In addition to the six who died, another baby among the 12 brought out of the suffocating fumes was dead before the fire began, Choudhary said, without elaborating further.

The fire broke out late Saturday in the New Born Baby Care hospital in Delhi's Vivek Vihar area. Delhi Fire Department Director Atul Garg said 14 fire trucks were sent to battle the blaze he told the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency.

wards a position of peace and common prosperity,' During the two-day drills, China vowed that he said at an event in what it described as "inde-US expected to lift ban on sale of offensive weapons to

WASHINGTON: The United States is expected to lift a ban on the sale of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, potentially in the coming weeks, The Financial Times reported on Sun-

Post journalist and politi-cal opponent Jamal

gest US arms customer, has chafed under those restrictions, which froze the kind of weapons sales that previous US administrations had provided for decades.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari in a meeting with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur.

Kashmir settlement according to UN resolutions stressed

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Kashmiri refugees have taken out a massive rally in Muzaffarabad, today, and appealed to the United Nations to organize a referendum in Jammu and Kashmir according to its approved resolutions.

Thousands of people, including children, elderly and women, participated in the rally and shouted slogans against India and in favour of freedom and Pakistan. The participants of the rally appealed to the International Court of Justice to take immediate steps to stop Indian war crimes in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They marched from Shaheed Burhan Wani Chowk to the United Nations Observer Office.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Religious Af-

fairs and Interfaith Har-

mony, Chaudhry Salik

Hussain on Sunday ex-

pressed regret over the re-

cent unrest in Sargodha fol-

lowing an alleged blas-

phemy incident.

the rally were raising slogans like "Indian usurpers leave Jammu and Kashmir", "Kashmir is ours", "Indian usurpers leave Jammu and Kashmir" and "We will take away freedom from India." The participants car-

ried banners and placards appealing to the United Nations to resolve the Kashmir dispute immediately. The slogans of "Go India Go Back" were also written on the banners. Addressing the rally,

the speakers said this gathering of refugees from occupied Jammu and Kashmir citizens Muzaffarabad rejects the Indian military occupation

The speakers de-

promptly addressing the

situation is commendable,

Salik said emphasizing that

reacting impulsively to

rumours is contrary to the

teachings of religion, which

advocate for patience and

He reminded the citi-

due process.

Minister Salik flays

blasphemy allegation

Praises law enforcement re-

sponse in Sargodha

The participants of manded of the United Nations to take immediate steps for a just solution to the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the approved resolutions of the Security Council. They rejected the Indian aggression of October 27, 1947, the illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 and the unilateral decision of the Indian Supreme Court of December 11, 2023. The speakers appealed to the international rganizations including the Inited Nations to play their role for the immediate release of All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders, journalists, human rights activists, leaders and activists of political and religious parties languishing in

Tarar grieved over demise of senior artist Talat Hussain

different jails of India.

ISLAMABAD (APP) Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Culture Attullah Tarar on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Talat Hussain, a great actor of television, film, theatre and

In a message, the Federal Minister expressed his heartfelt condolence and sympathy to the family of

He said he was deeply grieved to hear the news of the death of Talat Hussain who was a unique artist who brought life to every character with his voice and





Pakistan-led UN panel urges more help to developing countries in improving communications systems

(APP): The United Nations Committee on Information (COI) has concluded its 46th session after approving two resolutions calling for boosting aid to developing countries in building communications infrastructures, and for reaffirming the 'crucial role" of the UN Department of Global Communication (DGC) in addressing the spread of misinformation in the era of artificial intelligence.

The session was pre-

permanent representative

of Pakistan to the UN. The COI, a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, addresses public information issues, overits policies, programmes, and activities to ensure alignment with 193-member Assembly's objectives.

By one draft resolution, titled "Information in the service of humanity", the General Assembly

NATIONS Usman Jadoon, deputy disparities in information flows by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures in developing countries. It would also condemn resolutely all attacks seeing the DGC and guiding against journalists; provide support for the strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists in developing countries; and enhance regional cooperation

tries, as well as between would urge countries and developed and developing sided over by Ambassador the UN to reduce existing **ACC** decides to start drive to establish peace

Independent Report QUETTA: The Awami Action Committee has decided to start a mass public movement for establishing peace and securing rights of the

people.
The Awami Action Committee also decided to make contacts with all segments of the society including Ulemas, lawyers, traders, transporters, Tribal elders and political parties for having full public support.

The Committee was presided over by Abdul Mateen Akhunzada and

participated by political leaders belonging to different parties and other concerned. The participants discussed the protest dharna going on in Chaman besides the law and order situation in the province.

They expressed concern about the issues of law and order in different areas of the province.

They were of the view that the border should remain open at Mir Jawa, Taftan, Gabd and Raimdan so that the people may benefit from the border trade



OUETTA: Nomadic families are moving to colder areas after the heat wave has increased in Sindh. at Western Bypass in Quetta.

WEF lists best countries for tourism in 2024

among developing coun-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Economic Forum (WEF) has unveiled its much-anticipated list of the best countries for tourism in 2024, highlighting the top destinations travelers should consider for their next adventure.

The list evaluates several aspects, including infrastructure, natural resources and environment-friendly policies. The United States has been named the best country for tourism in 2024, while Spain follows closely as the second-best country for tourism.

The US stands out for its excellent infrastructure catering to the tourism market, providing a wealth of facilities for visitors.

Spain's rich cultural heritage, stunning landscapes, and lively atmosphere make it a favorite among tourists seeking a mix of history and modernity. The third place is Japan, the only Asian country to make it into the top

Staff Association (SESA) District Quetta conducted its elections for the 2024-2026 term on Saturday. The electoral battle unfolded between two panels: "Ilam Dost," symbolized by a book, and "Taleem Dost,"



symbolized by an inkpot. A total of 1705 votes were cast, with the "Ilam Dost" panel securing 995 votes, while the "Taleem Dost' panel received 710 votes.

The newly elected officials from the "Ilam Dost" panel are: President: Dr. Syed Naseer Ali Shah, General Secretary: Qudratullah Rind, Chairman: Naseeb Ur Rahman Kakar, Organizer: Zainullah Khan, Senior Vice President: Syed Siraj Agha, Junior Vice President: Muhammad Sadiq, Deputy Organizer: Munir Ahmad General Secretary (Female) Miss Ruma Pal, Office Secretary: Muhammad Anwar.

The election committee, comprising SESA's Central Chairman Nizamuddin Mengal, Haji Muhammad Hanif Bangulzai, and Haji Feroze, successfully conducted the elections and announced the results. They subsequently handed over the notification of success to Dr. Syed Naseeruddin Shah, President of the "Ilam

youth through education, skills Minister's Laptop Scheme,

> them as fraudulent and responsible for imposing an incompetent government This government, he tions for technical educa said wreaked havoc on the economy, causing immense

suffering for the 240 mil-"The present government has realigned the country's direction, bringing stability and improvement across various sectors". Ahsan Iqbal said. Economic ties with

Saudi Arabia, the United While addressing the Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, and China are being restored, and the stock market is reaching new heights, reflecting the confidence of both domeserhood. tic and international inves-The organization and tors in the government's

policies. Professor Iqbal highlighted the government's vision to provide a digital

Ahsan Iqbal says Govt committed to empower

Professor Igbal criticized

on Pakistan.

lion citizens.

Federal Minister for Plan-

ning and Development Pro-

fessor Ahsan Iqbal on Sun-

day announced that the

government was committed

to providing the youth with

advanced education, digital

training and equal employ-

ment opportunities to pre-

pare them for future chal-

nations with fewer re-

sources have surpassed Pa-

kistan because of their po-

litical stability and continu-

ity of policies, said a news

has suffered from internal

discord and extremism due

to political instability and

lack of policy continuity.

lighted that visionary long-

term plans like Vision 2010

and Vision 2025 were never

emony at University of

fully implemented.

In contrast, Pakistan

The minister high-

Addressing a cer-

He emphasized that

ten economies by its 100th anniversary.

the 2018 elections, labeling He said record funds have been allocated for higher education, with plans to establish universities in every district and institu-

Laptops are being distributed on merit, with options for students to purchase on easy installments if they do not qualify on merit. The initiative aims to equip the youth with digital technology for employ ment, he said.

issue of intolerance and unrest in Pakistan, a country founded in the name of Islam, he stressed that Islam signifies peace and broth-

harmony in the universe exemplify these principles. By adopting these principles of organization and mutual cooperation, society can achieve peace and progress, he added.



MUZAFFARABAD: Refugees protesting against Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir for the sake of independence by raising the flags of Pakistan and Kashmir at Azadi Chowk.

Empowerment of women crucial for national progress, maintains Dr. Rubaba

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to the Chief Minister for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, has emphasized the importance of empowering women, saying that it is essential for only empowering young national progress and devel-

opment. She expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of a training program organized by the Women Technical Training Centre (WTTC) in collaboration with Mercy Corps for Afghan refugee

Dr. Buledi said that women's empowerment is crucial for the country's social and economic development, and that it is our national responsibility to provide them with their due place and protection in society. She added that without the active role of women, the dream of a Bright and prosperous Pakistan cannot be fulfilled. Women's empower- tions.

ment is necessary for the social and economic development of any country, and their role is vital in ensuring the stability and prosperity of a nation. Dr. Buledi com-

mended WTTC for not women through skills training but also raising awareness about important economic and social issues. She expressed hope that the government, non-governmental organizations, and social personalities will work together to achieve this goal. At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Buledi distributed certificates among the trainees who completed the training program.

Other dignitaries present at the ceremony were included Principal WTTC Kanwal Saeed Chairperson Commission on the Status of Women Balochistan Shaheen, and officials from various government and non-government organiza-

SESA district Quetta elections: "Ilam Dost"

panel emerges victorious Dr. Naseer elected President, **Qudratullah General Secretary**

QUETTA (6AM Report): The Senior Educational

Bazai, Joint Secretary: Miss Naila, Deputy General Secretary (Female): Miss Saeeda, Junior Vice President (Female): Miss Khair-un-Nissa, Finance Secretary: Ehsanullah Khan, Vice Chairman: Riaz Ahmed Khan, Coordinator: AshrafUddin, Press Secre-



tary: Zafarullah, Deputy

Dost" panel.

CM grieved over death of actor Talat; pays rich tributes **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed grief and sorrow over the death of renowned artist. Talat Hussain.

In a condolence message issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister paid Hussain and said that he was very talented artist. He said that Talat Hussain pro moted reformative process through his positive characters in the TV dramas.

The Chief Minister also said that Talat Hussain was a worthy of love artist among the Pakistani people, who would always be remembered. He expressed heartfelt

empathy and condolence with the bereaved family

DC visits cooling stations

Independent Report SIBI: Deputy Commissioner Jahanzeb Sheikh visited various cooling stations set up by the Bright Star Development Society in different areas of the city. The cooling stations

provide citizens with cold water facilities to beat the heat and avoid heatstroke.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of awareness and precautions to avoid heatstroke and directed officials to ensure the provision of facilities to the public without any negligence.

Mercury soars to 50 celsius in five districts of Sindh, Punjab

ISLAMABAD (INP): Temperatures in some districts of Sindh and Southern Punjab reached to as high as 50 Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) on Sunday.

Maximum tempera-tures in Dadu, Qambar Shahdadkot and Jacobabad districts of Sindh and Rojhan and Rajanpur in southern Punjab soared to 50 degree Celsius. While maximum temperature recorded 49 Celsius in Sindh's Sukkur Nawabshah, Shikarpur, Ghotki and Kashmore districts and Punjab's Rahim Yar Khan and Liaquatpur. Moreover, mercury reached to 45 Celsius in Faisalabad and 44 Celsius in Lahore. Most of the districts in Sindh experiencing extremely hot weather while coastal districts of the province remain hot and humid



OUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Women Development Department Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi inspecting a class room during her visit to Women Technical Training Center Institute.

CM Gandapur calls on Interior Minister to discuss KP situation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur held a meeting with Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari in Islamabad.

During the meeting, they deliberated on the current situation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, focusing particularly on load shedding and electricity-related

The Federal Ministers and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister reached a consensus to collectively address these issues. They decided to

schedule another meeting tomorrow for further dis-Yesterday, the Chief Minister attended the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) meeting in

cial Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) meeting, asking the federal government to clear its dues to the province

The KP chief minister said that his government will not compromise on province rights and will not allow anyone to take "un-

due advantage' During the apex committee's meeting, CM Gandapur said that he opposed imposition of tax on Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA). "The deadline regarding electricity

dues also came under discussion," he said. It is pertinent to mention here that on March 13 KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur held his first meeting with Prime Minister (PM), Shehbaz Sharif belonging to rival Pakistan Speaking to journalists after SIFC's meeting, he asserted that he has put for
Speaking to journalists belonging to rival Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

JI announces national movement to uphold supremacy of constitution

Independent Report LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has announced a national movement following Eid to uphold the supremacy of the constitution and law. Speaking at a press conference in Mansoorah, following the conclusion of a two-day session of the JI Mailise Shura, he outlined a comprehensive national agenda for the

movement, crafted in consultation with the Shura. Rehman emphasized the necessity of wide-rang-

piled based on Form 45. He categorically stated that JI would never recognize a government formed through fraudulent elections, advocating for the restoration of the people's true mandate as reflected in Form 45. There is no need for the fresh election, he said

Regarding government attempts to control social media, Rehman issued a stern warning, condemning measures such as the Defamation Act aimed at stifling freedom of expression. He asing electoral reforms and the serted that the JI's movetimely completion of the ment seeks to liberate Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline people from oppressive Project. He underscored the systems, emphasizing the importance of electoral need for all individuals, intransparency, demanding cluding politicians, judges, that election results be com- generals, and bureaucrats.

Wings of Faith: 55 % Pakistani Hajj pilgrims arrive in Saudia

MUKARRAMAH (APP): A month-long pre-Hajj flight operation, started on May 9 to transport around 70,105 intending Pakistani pilgrims to the holy cities of Saudi Arabia to perform the religious obligation of Hajj under the government scheme, is continuing as per the smooth pace and announced schedule.

"By Sunday, collectively as many as 38,150

AL- Pakistani pilgrims, which APP): constitutes almost 54.35 per cent of the total, have reached Madinah and Makkah," official sources at the Pakistan Hajj Mission told APP.

By May 23, they said, 146 flights of different airlines operated from major cities of Pakistan to the Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah, airlifting 34,407 intending pil-



QUETTA: Deputy Registrar Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Quetta Amir Muhammad Rind inspecting One-Window Facilitation Desk set up at Quetta International Airport.

Secretary Health for ensuring facilities to maternal, new born

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan Saleh Muhammad Baloch emphasized that efforts should be made to ensure the provision of facilities to maternal and new born in the province and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. He said that the medical superintendents in the districts hospitals should ensure that women give birth in the presence of expert lady doctors, attendants and provide adequate pre and postnatal health care of the mother and new born.

Provincial Coordinator Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) Dr. Gul Sabeen Azam briefed the secretary about the program, said a news release issued here Sunday.

Deputy Director MNCH Dr. Samina Bugti, Finance Officer Kamil Baloch, Staff Officer Secretary Health Shaukat Baloch and IT Incharge Sikandar Zeb were present in the briefing. Dr. Gul Sabeen Azam said that the MNCH program with the support of WHO was providing training to the lady doctors, midwives and LHVs working in labor rooms, RMNH centers and gynecological departments of different districts of Balochistan, in pregnancy, postnatal and newborn care. He said that through the MNCH program, despite the limited resources, doctors, nurses, lady health workers, community midwives have been deployed in the maternity and child de-

partments. Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Bolan market main RCD Road Hub. Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com