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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmed Al-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 efforts.

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, Ambassador of Kuwait Nassar

Abdulrahman Jasser Al-Mutairi handed over the letter of the Emir of Kuwait 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 envoy to Pakistan Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater also called on the prime minister and presented to him the letter from the Emir of Qatar conveying the mes-

sage to accept the invitation to visit Pakistan on the mutually convenient dates.

The prime minister conveying his heartfelt gratitude to the Qatari Emir, emphasized that Pakistan deeply valued its historic brotherly relations with Qatar 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 exchange of delegations between the two capitals to ensure that the high-level visit was productive and successful and results were beneficial for both the countries.



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 acceptance of invitation to visit Pakistan

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

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-

kistan."

He said that such 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 Afghanistan. He said Pakistan had raised this issue with Afghanistan's Interim government and stressed them to control terrorists operating from there.

Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan had beefed up its security at borders, adding that the government was well aware of the elements behind such incidents, which wanted to harm relations between Pakistan and China.

Support was being provided to TTP-like terrorists in border areas, he said and added that "we have a number of evidence in this regard". He said that after occurrence of terrorist attack on Chinese in Besham, the law-enforcement agencies in the country jointly carried out comprehensive investigation of the incident. Some accused of the incident had been arrested, he said. He said that Chinese security was very important and new standard operating procedures (SOPs) had been made in this regard and were being strictly implemented.

Mohsin said all possible measures were being taken to provide the best

security to Chinese and Prime Minister's visit to China during next month was also very important. He said that China's cooperation for strengthening 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 span 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 Malakand Commander

Azmatullah Mehsud and other senior leaders of the TTP.

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 Pakistan.

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



LAHORE: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani addressing to media after inauguration of the Zaheer ud Din RO plant at Military Accounts Cooperative Housing Society.

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 said. "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 Gillani has said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP)

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

He expressed these 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 sanitation for all" by 2030.

He expressed his appreciation for those working to provide clean drinking water, noting that their efforts

were also in service to the state.

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 question, he highlighted Pakistan has the capability to address threats on the eastern and western borders, as well as terrorism and extremism with national unity.

The Acting President said his party believed in public welfare and political dialogue and had always preferred to adopt a conciliatory approach to address national issues. He further stated that his party had been supporting the government to provide relief to the people.

COAS highlights loss of Iranian leaders truly tragic and irreparable

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, had a telephonic call with the Chief of General Staff (CGS) of Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Mohammad Bagheri and extended deep condolences over the sad and unfortunate incident of the helicopter crash on May 19 which led to demise of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian and other important officials.

The COAS expressed that Late President Ebrahim Raisi and Late Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian were exceptional leaders and true friends of Pakistan, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

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 extended prayers for the departed souls and well wishes for the bereaved families.

The COAS said that Pakistan has historic, cultural 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 Pakhtunkhwa Shagufta Malik presenting a bouquet to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti while congratulating him on becoming CM.

Sacrifices of soldiers for peace unforgettable: Mir Sarfraz Bugti grieved over martyrdom of Army personnel in Hassan Khel operation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed sorrow over martyrdom of an Army officer, Captain Hussain Jahangir and Havildar, Shafiqullah in an intelligence based operation conducted in Hassan Khel area of Peshawar district.

In a condolence statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that the sacrifices of our brave jawans and officers for establishing peace in the country are unforgettable.

He said that the brave

sons of the motherland have created new history with their blood while fighting gallantly and the entire nation is proud of the sacrifice of martyrs.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that we equally share the grief with the bereaved families of the martyrs in the moment of grief.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Food, Noor Muhammad Durrani also expressed sorrow over the martyrdom of Captain Hussain Jahangir and Havildar Shafiqullah in the operation against terrorists in Hassan Khel area.



LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi addressing a Press conference at FIA regional office.

PPP delegation 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 matters of mutual concern.

The delegation included 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 2024-25.

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

Ex-MPA KP meets CM; expresses best wishes

Independent Report

QUETTA: The former Member Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 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 its role for bringing improvement in the good governance and establishing peace in the province.

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

LAHORE (APP): Prime 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 release.

The prime minister also welcomed the ICJ's recent ruling regarding 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 East.

He 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 denial of fundamental rights for the past seven and a half decades.

Legend actor Talat Hussain passes away

KARACHI (APP): The acting legend and renowned drama, stage and film actor Talat Hussain

May 26 and survived by a widow, two daughters and a son.

The funeral prayer of 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 people.

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 'Souten Ki Beti' and Norwegian movie 'Importeksport'.

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

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-

ists' location.

However, during intense 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 fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).

Meanwhile Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday paid tribute to the security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in the Hassan 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 Havildar Shafiqullah, who embraced martyrdom during the operation.



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

Consultation with all stakeholders on Defamation Bill is important: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: A Joint Action Committee of Journalist Organizations called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House, Lahore today. The delegation comprised representatives of CPNE, PBA, PFUJ, APNS, Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMAND), Tariq Mehmood, General Secretary Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors, Naveed Kashif Pakistan Broad Casters' Association, Muhammad Usman Vice President AEMAND were present in the meeting. General Secretary PPP Central Punjab, Hasan Murtaza, former MPA Makhdoom Shehzad Saeed Cheema Information Secretary Central Punjab were also present. The representatives of journalistic organizations informed the Governor Punjab about their reservations on defamation bill. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that consultation with all stakeholders on the Defamation Bill is very important. He said that he would try his best to bring together all the stakeholders for consultation on the defamation bill in the next



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

SARGODHA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N MPA and Chairman District Committee for Chief Minister's initiatives, Rana Munawar Ghous, said that PML-N federal and Punjab governments would make the country prosperous as they were taking public-friendly steps. Talking to APP on Sunday, he said as per the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the provincial cabinet had approved a Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) in Sargodha, which is a proof of public welfare initiatives

of the government. He said funds for the Kidney Center in Sargodha would be allocated in the 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 facilities to the people in addition to medical facilities, so that people could get relief in the real sense.

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,

KP Food Authority conducts major operation against adulteration mafia

PESHAWAR (APP): The officials of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food safety teams conducted raids in Swabi, Nowshera, Malakand and Mardan, spokesperson Food Authority told media men here on Sunday. The inspection team seized 800 liters of fake drinks from a vehicle at the blockade on Swabi's 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, further action under the Food Safety Act initiated, the spokesman said. He said that on inspection of food items businesses in Sakhok Bazaar of Malakand Division, 200 liters of milk was destroyed as it was found to be substandard. Mardan Food Safety Team checked in Takhtbhai Bazar, inspected samples of different food items from a mobile food testing lab, the spokesperson informed. Bad Oil was destroyed on the spot, 80 kg of prohibited and expired items were seized, fines were also imposed, spokesperson said.

Syed Fakhar expresses commitment to promotion of sports in the province

ABBOTTABAD (APP): 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 athletes in every sport. He expressed these 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 that more sports competitions and events would be held in the Hazara

region, including shooting competitions for police and other departments. He emphasized that 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.

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 Shaifque 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 Shaifque Ullah laid down their precious lives for the sake of their dear homeland.

South Punjab - a treasure trove of culture, heritage

MULTAN (APP): Standing out as a land of fine quality cotton, aromatic and tasty mangoes, exquisite monuments and 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

architecture were aplenty in this area. 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 (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 at Ganweriwala resumed in March 2024 after a gap of

four decades since its discovery as archaeologists attribute 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 Mohenjodaro, 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," informed Saleem ul Haq. He said some remains of ancient civilizations

exist around 200-300 kilometer from each other while another site at Kundwala was at least 100 kilometres away from Ganweriwala, having ruins from mature and late Harappan periods. "Remains from two sites denote mature Harappan period and early Harappan period." The archaeologist said that Mature 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 declining - a process that culminated in 1950 BC and is described as late Harappan period. "The surface finds from Ganweriwala in 1975 showed it was a mature Harappan site and we cannot rule out possibility of finding remains of early period in case of deeper excavation," Saleem ul Haq said and hoped the report on excavation at Ganweriwala would be finalized by the end June 2024. Mound Dillu Roy, another site excavated at the boundary of Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan districts by Director Archaeology South Muhammad Hassan a few years back revealed that it was Buddhists site and among 1370 small artifacts was a masterpiece of typical Gandharan style small figure of lion, a clay female statue and seals with one having a Hellenistic figure embossed on it.



SKARDU: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting of Religious Scholars during his visit.

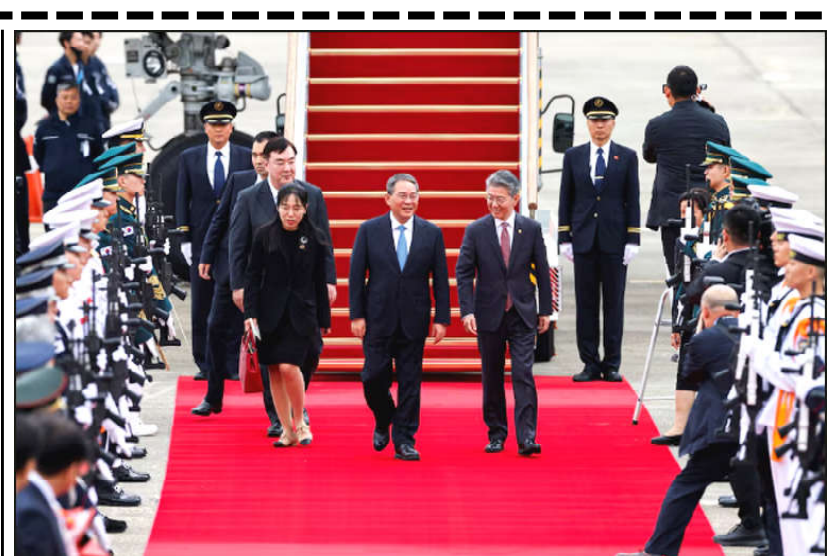
International News

30 more Gazans killed as Israeli strikes continue

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

in the coming week negotiations will open based on new proposals led by the 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 and the latter seeking the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel and an end to the bombardment. Bombings have continued in Gaza despite the mediation and despite judges at the top United

Nations court ordering Israel on Friday to immediately 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 since it began its offensive against Rafah this month against the pleas of its closest ally, the United States. Israeli bombings have 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
TAIPEI: 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 territory. "I also look forward to enhancing mutual understanding and reconciliation through exchanges and cooperation with China [...] and moving toward a position of peace and common prosperity," he said at an event in Taipei.

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 Sunday. 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 Prime Minister Yolanda Diaz who earlier this week

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 Africa. 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 recognise a Palestinian 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. The bombing of Kharkiv on Saturday afternoon also left 43 injured and 16 missing, Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniuhobov said initially after the attack. In a video statement from Kharkiv, Zelenskyy said that Russia is preparing offensive actions 90 kilometers (55 miles) north-west of Ukraine's second largest city. He said that Russians "gather another group of troops near our border." He did not specify where the troops are being assembled, but Ukrainian officials have expressed strong concern about the Somy region. Both Kharkiv city and Somy 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 to get within artillery range of the city. Ukrainian authorities have evacuated more than 11,000 people from the region since the start of the offensive on May 10. 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, Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Khmelnytskyi, Kirovohrad, Vinnytsia 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 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 Texas, near the Oklahoma border, where a tornado Saturday night plowed through a rural area near a mobile home park, officials said. Storms also caused damage in Okla-

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 debris left. The devastation is pretty severe," Cooke County Sheriff Ray Sappington told The Associated Press. Officials said multiple people were transported to hospitals by ambulance and helicopter in the Texas county of Denton, but they did not immediately know the full extent of the injuries.

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 by 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.

US expected to lift ban on sale of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, FT reports

Monitoring Desk
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 Sunday. 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 matter. Soon after taking office 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 Post journalist and political opponent Jamal Khashoggi. Saudi Arabia, the biggest US arms customer, has chafed under those restrictions, which froze the kind of weapons sales that previous US administrations had provided for decades.

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.



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. The participants of 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 carried 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 and citizens of Muzaffarabad rejects the Indian military occupation of Kashmir. The speakers de-

Ahsan Iqbal says Govt committed to empower youth through education, skills

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday announced that the government was committed to providing the youth with advanced education, digital training and equal employment opportunities to prepare them for future challenges. He emphasized that nations with fewer resources have surpassed Pakistan because of their political stability and continuity of policies, said a news release. In contrast, Pakistan has suffered from internal discord and extremism due to political instability and lack of policy continuity. The minister highlighted that visionary long-term plans like Vision 2010 and Vision 2025 were never fully implemented. Addressing a ceremony at University of Narowal where laptops were distributed to students under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, Professor Iqbal criticized the 2018 elections, labeling them as fraudulent and responsible for imposing an incompetent government on Pakistan. This government, he said wreaked havoc on the economy, causing immense suffering for the 240 million citizens. “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 Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, and China are being restored, and the stock market is reaching new heights, reflecting the confidence of both domestic and international investors in the government's policies. Professor Iqbal highlighted the government's vision to provide a digital platform to the youth, enabling them to propel Paki-



QUETTA: 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 Interior Minister 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 issues. 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 discussions. Yesterday, the Chief Minister attended the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) meeting in Islamabad. Speaking to journalists after SIFC's meeting, he asserted that he has put forward KP demands in Special 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 “undue 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 Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Minister Salik flays blasphemy allegation Praises law enforcement response in Sargodha

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Sunday expressed regret over the recent unrest in Sargodha following an alleged blasphemy incident. He 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 due process. He reminded the citizens that Pakistan has established legal procedures to handle accusations of blasphemy and acts of hatred. He issued a stern warning against taking the law into one's own hands, noting that such actions will be met with legal consequences. In a statement, he condemned the allegations and the subsequent disorder, underscoring the importance of adhering to the rule of law and maintaining peace. “The reaction of Punjab Police and other law enforcement agencies in



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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Culture Atullah Tarar on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Talat Hussain, a great actor of television, film, theatre and radio. In a message, the Federal Minister expressed his heartfelt condolence and sympathy to the family of the deceased. 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 acting. It 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 commended WTTC for not only empowering young 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 WTTTC Kanwal Saeed, Chairperson Commission on the Status of Women Balochistan Fauszia Shaheen, and officials from various government and non-government organizations. Women's empowerment 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.

CM grieved over death of actor Talat; pays rich tributes

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Sarfaraz 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 tributes to the late Talat Hussain and said that he was very talented artist. He said that Talat Hussain promoted 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 members.



LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naemur Rehman addressing a Press conference.

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

UNITED NATIONS (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 presided over by Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN. The COI, a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, addresses public information issues, overseeing the DGC and guiding its 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 would urge countries and the UN to reduce existing disparities in information flows by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures in developing countries. It would also condemn resolutely all attacks against journalists; provide support for the strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists in developing countries; and enhance regional cooperation among developing countries, as well as between developed and developing countries.

SESA district Quetta elections: “Ilam Dost” panel emerges victorious

QUETTA (6AM Report): The Senior Educational 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: Quadratullah Rind, Chairman: Naseeb Ur Rahman Kakar, Organizer: Zainullah Khan, Senior Vice President: Syed Siraj Agha, Junior Vice President: Muhammad Sadiq, Deputy Organizer: Munir Ahmad 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 Secretary: Zafarullah, Deputy 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 Rind, President of the “Ilam Dost” panel.

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 temperatures 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 Nawabshah, Sukkur, Shikarpur, Ghotki and Kashmore districts and Punjab's Rahim Yar Khan and Lyaquatpur. 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.

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

MAKKAH (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 Pakistani pilgrims, which 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 pilgrims.



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 Kamal 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 LHV's 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 departments.

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 dharma 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.



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