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Chairs meeting on law and order situation. President Zardari orders Sindh CM to launch large-scale operation against criminals in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday urged Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to take strict actions against the criminals in Karachi, dacoits in Kacha area and the drug traffickers in close collaboration with the federal government and other provinces to ensure law and order situation in the province.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting here on security, law and order situation in Sindh Province.

The representatives of the law enforcement agencies briefed the president about the crimes in Karachi, the Kacha area, and the overall security situation of the province.

The president called for devising a system for effective monitoring of the city's all entrances and exits. Emphasizing the need to com-

plete the Karachi Safe City Project on an urgent basis, he said Police should ensure effective tracking of stolen property and take appropriate legal action in this regard.

He said all kinds of support should be provided to ensure the security of Chinese citizens. Besides, the president also stressed the need to continue the ongoing operation in the Kacha area with full force. He also directed the establishment of more Police check posts to improve the security situation of the Kacha area.

President Zardari also asked to ensure the provision of the necessary equipment to the Sindh Police with the support of the federal government. The president, emphasizing the need to expedite work on the development projects in various areas of Sindh province said, development

projects on both sides of the River Sindh should be launched.

He instructed to take support from the local leaders and the community members to solve the issues of tribal and Kacha areas. He said a system should be evolved for effective communication between Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan to prevent crimes in the country. The president, expressing concern over the spread of drugs in educational institutions, said Karachi must be made a drug-free city.

A special law can be made for conducting compulsory tests of students and establishing rehabilitation centers, he said adding that the Sindh government should create awareness about drugs among the parents. He said proposals for necessary amendments in federal anti-narcotics laws

could be made to provide jurisdiction to the police in drug cases.

Further, he said effective measures to prevent the spread of drugs in educational institutes were inevitable adding that the Police must take strict action against the drug mafia.

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, briefing the president about the overall security situation in Karachi and the rest of the province, said that after strict actions taken by the provincial government against street crimes in Karachi, and operations against dacoits in the Kacha area, the law and order situation had significantly improved.

He informed that the number of crimes had significantly reduced during the current year as compared to the previous year. The president was told

that crimes in Karachi were less than those recorded in the big cities across the world.

The Sindh CM pointed out that the law and order situation across the province was being reviewed regularly.

He said the Sindh government was ensuring the provision of necessary equipment to enhance the capacity of the Police.

Sindh Police, he said had taken important steps to control street crime besides the law enforcement agencies were also conducting operations in the Kacha areas. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui participated in the meeting. While provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah and Ziaul Hasan Linjar also attended the meeting.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacting with families of labourers at a luncheon he hosted in their honour on the occasion of Labour Day.

PM wants wealthy, businessmen, industrialists to prioritize improving conditions of labour class

Govt striving to bring substantial changes in economy; Says govt would try to bring relief to labour class in fiscal budget

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that they were fully cognizant of the value of the labourers and workers in the national economy and stressed upon the wealthy, businessmen, investors and industrialists to prioritize improving the conditions of the workers.

Addressing a gathering of labourers and workers from different sectors at his residence in connection with the observance of International Labour Day, the prime minister said that the country's economic situation was challenging but they were striving to turn it around, with collective efforts and sincerity.

He said that Pakistan would soon become a powerful country through the functioning of a fair system and on the basis of hard

work by the employers and the employees including workers.

The prime minister said that the government was striving to bring about substantial changes in the national economy and to recover billions of rupees being wasted due to corruption.

Referring to his recent visit from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other leadership desired to see Pakistan moving on the path of progress.

The Saudi business and investors' delegation would soon visit Pakistan which would increase businesses and job opportunities in the country, he added.

The prime minister said that in the upcoming fiscal budget, they would try to provide further relief to the

labour class.

Calling upon the business people and well-to-do class, the prime minister said that they should also think beyond their families and businesses and invest in certain education and health projects for the deprived classes like those established in the developed countries.

"It was not an objective behind the creation of Pakistan that there would be a difference between the rich and the poor.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah led a massive movement in which the people offered huge sacrifices. The motive was the establishment of a welfare state in which everyone would have equal opportunities to excel in life on the basis of one's capacity and ability and take the country forward," he added.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the overall security, law and order situation of the Sindh province at the Chief Minister House.

Deputy PM Dar arrives in The Gambia to represent Pakistan at 15th OIC Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that he had arrived in The Gambia to represent Pakistan at 15th Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit being held in Banjul on 4-5 May.

On his X account, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister said that earlier, he had participated with Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Riyadh.

He was received by the Gambian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Nani Juwara, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi and Ambassador of Pakistan to Senegal accredited to the Gambia Saima Maymunah Sayed, a post on X said.



BANJUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar arrives in Banjul, the Gambia for the 15th OIC Islamic summit. He received by the Gambian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Nani Juwara.

Bilawal proposes Federal Govt to privatize PIA under Public-Private Partnership

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)'s Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday proposed the Federal Government to privatize Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) under Public-Private Partnership.

Addressing a ceremony organized here at the Arts Council of Pakistan in connection with International Labour Day, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that People's Party always struggled for the rights of the labourers and the workers and will continue to do so.

He said that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Mohtama Benazir Bhutto always worked for solving the issues of the labourers and peasants and the Sindh government of Pakistan People's Party also brought amendments in the Constitution and carried out legislation in this regard.

He said that the purpose of the 18th amendment in the Constitution was to devolve several ministries and divisions from the federation to the prov-

inces, including the Employees Old Age Benefit Institution.

If Employees Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI) is devolved to the provinces, labourers and workers may be able to get more rights, Bilawal Bhutto claimed.

He said at present Sindh and Balochistan provinces are governed by his party and in view of rising inflation, the governments of both the provinces will increase the salaries of employees in the coming budget.

He said that since 2010, the Sindh government passed several Acts for the rights of labourers and worker and implementation was under process.

Bilawal Bhutto said that instead of privatizing PIA, the federal government should sell its shares through Public Private Partnership. He asked the federal government that if it wants to sell the Steel Mill, the Sindh government will buy the institution and will run in a better way under public-private partnership.

US supports Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism: State Dept

WASHINGTON (APP): The United States has once again reaffirmed its support to Pakistan in its fight against terrorism aimed at protecting its citizens and protection of human rights.

"We support Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of its citizens in a manner that promotes the rule of law and protection of human rights," US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said in a press briefing on Tuesday.

Responding to a question concerning the need to strengthen Pakistan's defence capabilities, the spokesperson highlighted "shared interests" between Islamabad and Washington.

"Our partnership with Pakistan on security issues includes, of course, a high-level counter-terrorism dialogue, funding robust counter-terrorism capacity, and building programs and supporting a series of US and Pakistan military-to-military engagements," he noted.

Patel's remarks come as both countries, during a meeting between US Acting Under Secretary for Political Affairs John Bass and Acting Foreign Secretary Secretary Ambassador Rahim Hayat in Islamabad, reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in the areas of trade, investment and regional security.

Hasnain Haider to act as Secretary Senate Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Syed Hasnain Haider will act as Secretary Senate. An office order in this regard has also been issued by the Senate Secretariat.

Syed Hasnain Haider is the most senior officer in the Senate Secretariat, with two decades of service in the institution. His extensive experience encompasses a deep understanding of both legislative and administrative processes, making him highly qualified to step into this role.

COAS Munir, UK army chief discuss measures to elevate defence relations

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir held a meeting with his British counterpart General Sir Patrick Sanders, where the two discussed measures to further elevate bilateral defence relations, said a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday.

In the meeting, which was also attended by CGS-designate of the UK Army General Sir Roland Walker, both sides "discussed matters of professional interest and measures to further elevate bilateral defence relations", the army's media wing said.

The army chief thanked Gen Sanders, the chief of general staff (CGS) of the UK Army, for his services in enhancing bilateral military ties and felicitated Gen Walker on his nomination as the UK Army's next CGS, the statement added.

COAS Munir and Gen Sanders also addressed the opening session of the sixth Pakistan-UK Regional Stabilisation Conference at Islamabad's National Defence



University on Tuesday, the ISPR said. The UK Army's CGS-designate also attended the event.

The conference is a flagship defence and security dialogue between Pakistan and the UK, held alternately in the two countries, the statement noted.

In connection with the conference, a 30-member UK delegation led by Standing Joint Force Commander Major General Tom Bateman was visiting Pakistan from April 29 to May 3, the ISPR said.

"During the conference, delegations from both sides will exchange perspectives on global and regional environment and its impact on national security, and regional peace and stability," it added.

Naqvi lauds coastal guards' services for controlling illegal trade, smuggling

KARACHI (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) Headquarters here on Wednesday. The Director General Pakistan Coast Guards Brigadier Ghulam Abbass received the Minister on his arrival at the Headquarters.

Interior Minister laid floral wreath at martyrs monument and presented solute to the martyrs for their supreme sacrifice for the defence of the motherland.

The Interior Minister was briefed on the professional affairs of Pakistan Coast Guards, in which the efforts to fulfill the responsibilities of Coast Guards and prevent all kinds of smuggling, especially antinarcotics activities.

Mohsin Naqvi was informed about the professional training of Pakistan

Coast Guards and the measures taken to prevent smuggling and the details of the seized drugs, alcohol and other general items, including the process of burning the seized drugs.

The Federal Minister while appreciating the professional performance of the institution, the high determination, courage and efforts of the officers and jawans of the Coast Guards, said Pakistan Coast Guards, is the only one that performs its duties simultaneously on land and sea. This is a force which has an important role not only in peace time but also in any difficult and war situation, Naqvi said. He expressed best wishes for the Pakistan Coast Guards by assuring the provision of all possible support and resources to make it more active and strong.



KARACHI: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi addressing during visit Pakistan Coast Guards Headquarters.

Governor KP felicitates Maryam Nawaz on becoming first female CM Punjab

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday met with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and congratulated her on becoming the first female Chief Minister of Punjab.

He said this during a meeting in Lahore attended by Senator Pervaz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Senior Vice Chairman of the Business Panel Khwaja

Shahzeb Akram, former president of the Mohmand Chamber of Commerce Fayaz Ali, and other officials.

They discussed matters of mutual interest, inter-provincial harmony, enhancing cooperation between the two provinces, and addressing challenges facing the national industry and economy.

Governor Ghulam Ali also proposed lifting the

ban on wheat procurement and transmission from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that it would fulfill the province's needs and alleviate the burden of expensive flour for the public. Additionally, he and prominent industrialist Khwaja Shahzeb Akram presented several important suggestions for the improvement of industrialists and the business community.



LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif at Jaati Umra.

Govt asks opposition to review name of Marwat as chairman PAC

ISLAMABAD (Online): The reservations of government of nomination of Sher Afzal Marwat as chairman Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) have come to fore. Government has sent message to opposition once again asking for review of name of Sher Afzal Marwat.

According to official sources government has given indication to bring its own candidate on the occasion of election of chairman PAC if opposition does not agree to government proposal.

Opposition will need ruling alliance cooperation for making Sher Afzal as chairman PAC. As per government sources the government enjoys majority in 29-member PAC.

Govt strongly believes in supremacy of law under constitution: Amir Muqam

PESHAWAR (INP): Federal Minister for SAFRON and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam has said that his party led government strongly believes in supremacy of law under the constitution.

This was stated by him on Wednesday while addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the Matla Bar Council Association in Swat. The ceremony was attended by party leaders, district officials and members of the legal fraternity.

Engr Amir Muqam urged the lawyers' fraternity to work towards upholding the supremacy of law and the constitution, rather than being swayed by individual interests.

Reiterating the government's commitment

to upholding the independence of the judiciary, he asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to give priority to public issues over personal agendas.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister needs to focus on improving the lives of people of the province rather engaging in power struggles in Islamabad, he added.

The federal minister expressed confidence in the strength of the central government and assured that over the next five years, Pakistan would gain control over its issues.

He highlighted the importance of collaboration between institutions and governments solely for the resolution of Pakistan's issues.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

PM's remarkable visit to Saudi Arabia

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif visited Saudi Arabia earlier this week on his first foreign visit since being elected in February. In Mecca, the Premier and his delegation met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In addition, Shahbaz Sharif held a private meeting with the Crown Prince.

What was discussed at the one-on-one meeting between the Premier and Saudi Crown Prince has not been disclosed, but it is said the two leaders agreed to strengthen ties. While the PM's visit to Saudi Arabia was for participation in the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Riyadh on special invitation of the Saudi Crown Prince, he (Shahbaz Sharif) also held crucial meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, Emir of Kuwait, Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, President Islamic Development Bank Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, Managing Director IMF, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, besides with Mr. BillGates, on sidelines of WEF. It is customary for the Premiers to visit Saudi Arabia after being sworn into office, underlying the close ties between the two countries. However, Sharif's recent visit is important for many reasons that go beyond just following a tradition. To begin with, Pakistan's current civil-military leadership is keen to persuade its partners and allies that after a turbulent period of political unrest, stability has returned to Pakistan. It is important to recognize that Pakistan is facing economic challenges. Last year, Pakistan's economy worsened to such an extent that talks about its defaulting on loans dominated headlines for several months.

During the recent talks, Riyadh may have urged Pakistan to restore monetary stability through an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to gauge its commitment to stabilization and reform. There are signs that Pakistan has succeeded in both areas to initiate talks with Saudi Arabia about future investment. It has successfully concluded its current agreement with the IMF and plans to initiate talks with the organization for a longer program. Similarly, there has been a noticeable decline in political turmoil in Pakistan following the elections and installation of a new government. These developments are backed by the economic reforms that the country initiated over the last year. During his previous tenure as prime minister (April 2022-August 2023), Sharif took steps to privatize huge loss-making state-owned enterprises like Pakistan International Airlines. Under the outgoing interim government, the reform process took modest strides and is currently gaining momentum under the current administration. This continuity of policy over the last couple of years has perhaps convinced the Saudi leadership that Pakistan will not only protect its investments, but also become a stable partner.

Pakistan's policy approach may have begun to pay dividends. After Sharif met the Crown Prince, Riyadh committed to accelerating the initial round of a \$5 billion investment package that had been previously discussed but was not materialized, in part because of the political unrest in Pakistan. In addition, the Crown Prince has agreed to travel to Pakistan on invitation of the Premier Shahbaz. Several significant initiatives will probably be launched during that visit. This may include the long-discussed Saudi involvement in the Reko Diq mining project and the commencement of construction on a \$10-billion oil refinery at Gwadar Port. Sharif may have requested the Saudis for a new oil subsidy during his recent visit.

Going mangoes

Shahzad Sharjeel

The idiom is 'going bananas', but just because we are accused of becoming such a republic, we need not limit ourselves to clichés and should coin a proverb in keeping with the indigenous 'king of fruits'.

Other than grapes, it is difficult to imagine another fruit except for mango that whips up such deep emotions of attachment, longing, and partisanship bordering on chauvinism, at least in the South Asian context.

Grapes have an undue 'spiritual' advantage, while mangoes, to the best of my knowledge, have not caught any distiller's fancy so far. Apart from their fermented transcendence into the imagination of poets, grapes do not have a leg to stand on when it comes to any comparison, even with Langra, a variety of mango whose very name means lame.

More on poets later. Let us, for the moment, bask in the mango's superiority and trample the grapes some more. What do they offer? White and black, seeded and seedless types, and only about 10 popular varieties. Mangos, on the other hand, offer hundreds of commercially grown varieties worldwide.

Can the grape partisans cite one admonition, from a reputable source, of irreverence towards it, that is, in its natural state, not the processed, aged, and bottled variety? Mango has a giant like Mirza Ghalib advocating for it. He declared those devoid of a taste for it 'jackasses'.

People returning to their homelands after toiling abroad for a lifetime offer myriad reasons. The most romantic, or maybe outright crazy, in this regard came from a fellow Pakistani. Asked what caused his return, he quipped, "Mangoes,

monsoon, and madness." Notice the sequence? Some of us have our priorities straight, or twisted, depending on your POV.

An unsuspecting social media user recently posted about 12 mango varieties and their corresponding growing regions in the Indian states. Spain has a tradition of a tomato fight, but it is in a festive, playful realm, whereas this 'sacrilege' committed by a well-meaning but ill-prepared mango influencer caused a tsunami — the PTI does not have a monopoly over apologetic reactions — of indignation. Starting from 'how dare you restrict the royal lineage of the mango to a dozen or so offspring', to taking exception to one's state being bracketed with an adjacent mango-growing territory, it was reprimand galore. While some Maharashtra commentators graciously accepted the co-ownership of Alphonso with Karanatak, others fiercely objected to every Alphonso being called 'Hapus' and advised unsuspecting buyers to check the GI tags and scan the barcode to protect against the pretenders.

The writer is guilty of being extremely parochial when it comes to mangoes and Sindh's status as at least the first-among-equals in Pakistan's mango-growing areas. An office lunch almost turned into a fruit fight when an otherwise intelligent and wise colleague suggested that 'Chausa' was superior to Sindhri. What prevented a lunge across the table was the fact that the family of the gent in question had migrated from UP to KP, and the latter's lack of competition with mango-growing Sindh and Punjab made him a somewhat less suspicious dissenter. However, what saved everyone in the cafeteria from a ha-

rangue on the Sindhri's superiority was, instead, a mango fact-check. The correct name is not 'Chausa,' but 'Chausa'. The mango variety is named after its place of origin in Bihar.

The stunned silence had to be broken by a consolation admission that our Punjab has its own excellent varieties of mangoes like Anwar Ratol. However, the fact that the name sounds like a popular disinfectant was too good a jibe to miss. The origins of the variety in the district of Rataul, UP, were left out to soften the blow.

While the madness abounded, the monsoon roared outside; only mangoes could have saved the situation. As luck would have it, the sole dessert on offer that afternoon was perfectly cut cubes of mango. As everybody shovelled in the sweet treat, someone suggested it tasted like Banginapalli. The sense of relief at the suggestion that it was none of the suspected and debated varieties was palpable as stout backs slumped into siesta postures in the cafeteria chairs. The variety's origins in the Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, were left out as a peace offering.

The ghus kar marenge (hot pursuit) refrain needs to be retransmitted to aam kay aam, futhion kay daam (a win-win) aspiration. Maybe, it is time for a new round of mango diplomacy.

After all, Akbar Allahabadi's Langra walked all the way to Allama Iqbal's table in Lahore. Regardless of the result of the Indian elections, crates of our best mangoes should be sent to both Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi and wherever the Aam Aadmi Party leader happens to be. -- Courtesy Dawn

Roll on, Columbia

Mahir Ali

Much to the consternation of the pat-h-e-tically insipid Biden administration as well as its rabidly right-wing Republican opposition, student protests over the unfolding genocide in Gaza have been spreading throughout the US. They offer hope, which has been in short supply. At the same time, for the Zionist right they unintentionally serve as a distraction from the very atrocities that enrage most of the protesters. The main story is still unfolding in a starving Gaza, just as it was five or six decades ago in a beleaguered but unbending Vietnam.

That does not, of course, render it irrelevant or even peripheral. The vast demonstrations demanding an end to American apartheid in the 1960s and the subsequent mobilisations against the Vietnam War challenged both state and federal administrations, and contributed to the end of that horrific conflict in 1975.

In the preceding years, it wasn't uncommon for those involved in the resistance to be derided as pinks, reds or communist dupes, in a reflection of the recent McCarthyist era. These days the charge is antisemitism. That weapon, too, is hardly new. It has been deployed over the decades against anyone who questioned Israel's predilection for ethnic supremacism. What's relatively unusual is the extent to which young Jewish Americans are revolting against their nation's attachment to the Zionist state that most of their parents' generation embraced.

To some extent, residual right-wing antipathy towards Jews springs from the left-wing inclinations of many of their intellectuals. American science and culture would have considerably been diminished without the in-

put of Jewish immigrants from Europe. They also enriched America's political landscape, reflected lately in both Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer and independent senator Bernie Sanders. Schumer attracted the headlines when, as the highest-ranking Jew in American politics, he mildly denounced the inclinations of the Likud-led regime in Israel and called for an election to replace Benjamin Netanyahu. That contributed to the Demo-c-r-a-tic effort to focus resentment on the current Israeli PM and his despicable regime, instead of accurately recognising Israel's consistent drift towards dispossession and potential genocide ever since the Nakba.

There is evidence that many young Jews won't be fooled by the 'hasbara' narratives that entrapped their elders or the fantasy that Zionism is an essential component of Jewish identity. As many of them have recognised, after their exposure to anti-Zionist Jews and Palestinians at university, the essence of Jewish experience embodies a concept of humanity that Netanyahu and his acolytes fail to recognise. That poses a problem for Zionism's biggest assets — its useful idiots in the US, a category that ranges from the president to most legislators and much of the bureaucracy.

Something has changed, though, in the past couple of decades in the US and Israel. No US president has been unfriendly towards Israel, but some have challenged its excesses. All of them have known that Israeli militarism relies on US beneficence. That remains intact even as Biden administration pretends to challenge Israeli excesses while supplying the weapons required to perpetrate the atrocities.

Almost a century ago, Americans who mili-

tated against the death of democracy in Spain in the 1930s were categorised as 'pre-mature anti-fascists'. They were rarely accepted into mainstream politics even during the Soviet alliance during World War II. The McCarthyism that descended after that war, disproportionately targeting Jews, violated every principle that the US purports to worship. Since then at least, free speech has been a right reserved for adherents to the officially sanctioned mainstream.

That has occasionally been disrupted in decades gone by. But perhaps never so potentially as in recent months. Despite Netanyahu and Biden's best efforts, the frequently nonsensical claim of antisemitism no longer carries much weight.

Woody Guthrie had the river, rather than the university, in mind when he wrote more than 80 years ago, "Roll on, Columbia, roll on/ Your power is turning our darkness to dawn". Some 20 years later, his spiritual descendant Bob Dylan reminded "mothers and fathers throughout the land" not to "criticise what you can't understand" because "your sons and your daughters are beyond your command". That echoes, in a way, the early 20th-century Lebanese poet Kahlil Gibran's well-known warning: "Your children are not your children./ They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself."

When "Life's longing for itself" is being strangled in Gaza or anywhere else, surely it is incumbent upon anyone with a humanitarian impulse to resist it. Whether or not the rebellion across US campuses achieves its aims, gratitude is owed to those who tried. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Shaza Fatima holds virtual meeting with Asia Internet Coalition team

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja held virtual meeting with Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) member companies' representatives led by its Managing Director Jeff Paine.

The meeting discussed matters related to digitalisation, responsible use of social media platforms, digital rights and e-safety in details said a news release.

AIC's membership includes Facebook, Google, Apple, Amazon, X, Yahoo,

LinkedIn, and others. While talking to AIC's member companies representatives, Minister of State for IT & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that steps underway for the digitalization in the country, adding that the government is committed for the digital transformation.

She said that under the vision of the prime minister of Pakistan private sector is being fully supported. Public-Private dialogue platform will be launched very soon, she added.

Shaza Fatima said that work is going on different policies.

She said that government is focused on the development of the youth and their capacity building by equipping them with digital skills.

Shaza Fatima said that responsible use of social medial platforms is utmost necessary. The meeting was also attended by Additional Secretary MoITT, Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim.



ABBOTTABAD: Assistant Commissioner Sana Fatima Checking prices, during a surprise visit to Shops.

Privatization Minister expresses resolve to facilitate labor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday reiterated the firm commitment of the government to take appropriate measures to provide maximum facilities to the labor force in the country and to include them in the national mainstream.

In his message on World Labor Day, the Minister said that he salutes the high morale of every hard worker, laborer, and skilled person who is serving this

country. One who is performing his duties even in the most difficult situations is praiseworthy and we must acknowledge such services not only on 1st May but every day, he remarked.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that there is no doubt our labor community has a great share in the country's economic system and keeps it alive and active.

The Minister expressed his good wishes for every laborer living in this country and prayed for their success.

Mega Cotton Seminar held in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Under the auspices of the Agriculture Department (Extension), Government of Punjab, the mega cotton seminar was held here in Bahawalpur.

The seminar was organized to shed light on the importance of cotton sowing. It was attended by the Secretary, the Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab, Saqib Ali Aateel, Member National Assembly and former provincial minister, Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar and others.

Asian markets track Wall St down as Fed looms

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian stocks sank in holiday-thinned trade Wednesday, tracking a sharp sell-off on Wall Street after fresh US data dealt another blow to hopes the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this year. The reading on labour costs followed a string of recent reports out of Washington suggesting the central bank's battle against inflation has some way to go, even with borrowing costs at two-decade highs.



Minister for State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a virtual meeting with members of Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) in Islamabad.

Efforts underway to ensure availability of wheat at reasonable prices: Zahir

Independent Report DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Food Zahir Shah Toru on Wednesday said that all out efforts were being made to ensure the availability of wheat for the people at the lowest and reasonable price.

He expressed these views while talking to the media during his visit to Dera Ismail Khan wherein he also visited a Food department's godown of National Logistic Sell situated on Daraban road.

He said the timely and better planning of the provincial government for wheat procurement would

benefit the government treasury as well as farmers. "Our farmers are hard working and their rights will be safeguarded," he assured and added that provision of all facilities to the farmers would be ensured.

The province produces 150,000 metric tons of wheat against its requirement of 5,000,000 metric tons, he mentioned. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to purchase 600,000 metric tons out of which around 300,000 metric tons would be purchased directly from local growers at a rate of wheat at 3,900 rupees per 40 kilograms.

20 shopkeepers fined over profiteering

SARGODHA (APP): The price control magistrates imposed Rs 93,000 fine on 20 shopkeepers over profiteering and arrested an accused for violating the law in the district on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the district administration said price control magistrates inspected 276 shops in different markets and bazaars, and found 20 of them involved in profiteering and overcharging.

The magistrates imposed fine on them and also arrested a shopkeeper for violating the law.

Computation of tender docs ISRA University, PEC jointly host event

HYDERABAD (APP): Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, graced a seminar as the "Chief Guest" of the event, co-hosted by ISRA University and the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), focused on the intricate topic of Computation of Tender Documents in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.

During the event, President Chamber Farooq Shaikhani extended his gratitude to Professor Dr. Asadullah Qazi for his

visionary efforts in establishing ISRA University.

He highlighted the university's notable achievements, citing its ranking at 86th in Pakistan and its commendable score of 68 points in research subjects worldwide. Shaikhani emphasized that contemporary education should transcend mere job acquisition, advocating instead for a curriculum and teaching methodologies that foster entrepreneurial mindsets among today's youth. He articulated that the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping global dynamics.

Pak academics sow seeds of cross-border agricultural coop.

BEIJING (APP): Hafiz Muhammad Usman, a post-doctoral fellow at Guizhou University, felt a sense of gratitude that he could introduce the advanced agricultural technologies he learnt in China to his motherland Pakistan.

Since 2017, Guizhou University has initiated the "Ph.D. Village Chief" program, and invited doctoral students, postgraduates and undergraduates to join the agricultural activities and apply their achievements in scientific research to agricultural development in rural areas, particularly in their hometowns. This year, it was the

first time the university invited foreigners to take part in the "Ph.D. Village Chief" program, attracting five post-doctoral fellows from Pakistan and India, according to Wang Yong, professor and deputy director of the department of plant protection in the College of Agriculture, Guizhou University, Xinhua reported.

Usman came to study in China in 2017 and gained his doctor's degree at Huazhong Agricultural University in central China's Hubei Province. He decided to continue to carry out post-doctoral research at Guizhou University in 2023, and now serves as a fungal

disease expert at the plant protection department.

The key researches carried out by the College of Agriculture of Guizhou University are the creation of green pesticides, the continuous control of crop diseases and pests, as well as quality and safety management of agricultural products. Pepper is one of the major agricultural produces in Guizhou. Over the past few years, pepper production had been affected as plant pathogens developed resistance to fungicides. Usman and other members of the research team took samples across the province and carried out experiments to find effective chemical

alternatives to control drug-resistant fungal populations and increase pepper yields.

In January this year, he went back to Pakistan for the winter vacation. During the one-and-a-half-month, he visited local agricultural departments and some villages. He discovered that local farmers hardly mastered the technologies to deal with plant diseases and pests. He then organized three seminars with the support of local agricultural research institutes, sharing with more than 500 local farmers sustainable methods to control plant diseases.

Besides seminars, he also walked into the fields and taught farmers on-site methods to recognize pests and diseases as well as to prepare pesticides in the correct proportion.

Maqsood Ahmed, also a postdoctoral fellow and member of the "Ph.D. Village Chief" program at Guizhou University, hails from a major agricultural province of Pakistan, which mainly produces cereals and fruits, including maize, wheat, mango and banana. During the winter vacation, Ahmed visited the agricultural department in his hometown and learnt about problems affecting local agricultural development.

CM KP emphasizes importance of hardworking class for societal progress, prosperity

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday emphasized the importance of honoring the dignity and rights of the hardworking class for societal progress and prosperity.

In a message on the occasion of International Labour Day, he highlighted the pivotal role of the labour force in national development and emphasized the need to ensure their well-being and rights protection.

He said that the day calls for a renewed commitment from all sectors of society to address the welfare and issues facing workers, ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes. It is essential for all stakeholders to collectively work towards the betterment of the labor force and address their concerns effectively. He said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government pledges to protect the rights of workers, give them their due place, and take pragmatic steps to resolve their issues effectively.



LAHORE: Women from different labour organization participating in rally outside Press Club on the occasion of International Labour Day.

Kundi says:

PPP always represents workers, deprived class

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that his party always represented the workers and deprived class.

In a statement issued here in connection with the World Labour Day, Kundi said the provision of necessities like 'bread, cloth and house' to the workers was the initial step towards the rights of the working class.

He said that PPP founder leader Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto even today lives in the hearts of

poor people due to his pro-poor vision. The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was also an attempt to end the deprivation of the poor, Faisal Kundi mentioned.

"Whenever the PPP gets power, it increases the wages of the workers," he said and added the credit for increasing the salaries, pensions, and benefits of government employees also goes to his party.

"Even today, our coalition government was making efforts to eliminate poverty and get rid of economic challenges.

4th burnt child expires in hospital

FAISALABAD (APP): The fourth burnt female child has also expired in the hospital here on Wednesday while her father is in serious condition.

Her two sisters and one brother had already died on the spot due to fire incident in the area of Mansoorabad police station here on Tuesday night.

Two killed in separate road mishaps

KHANEWAL (APP): A minor girl among two killed while three injured in separate road accidents reported in the city on Wednesday.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, Rehman Gull s/o Imam Gull resident of Village 54/10-R was going to city on motorcycle along with his 6-year old daughter Bisma Gull, 10-year old Mominia Gull and 9-year old Umair Rehman.

All of a sudden, a speeding mini van collided with the motorcycle near Mouza Raheem Shah. Resultantly, Bisma Gull died at the spot while the other three members sustained injuries.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman conferred tamgha e Imtiaz on senior journalist, well-known anchor, Iftikhar Ahmed on behalf of the President of Pakistan in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of media at Governor House.

CM aide asks KPCTA, KVDA to facilitate tourists of Chilam Josh Festival

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister on Tourism and Culture Zahid Chanzeb has directed the relevant departments to make proper arrangements to celebrate the upcoming Chilam Josh Festival in a befitting manner in the scenic Kalash Valley in Lower Chitral begins from May 13.

"The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, Kalash Valley Development Authority, Tourism Police, district administration and other relevant quarters should make proper arrangements to facilitate the tourists during the spectacular event," Zahid Chanzeb said while chairing a meeting.

KPCTA Director General Barkatullah Marwat, Kalash Valley Development Authority director General Minhasuddin and other officials attended the meeting as well.

CAP marks 16 years of heritage preservation

LAHORE (APP): The Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP) commemorated its 16th anniversary with a grand celebration at the National History Museum, underscoring its steadfast dedication to preserving the rich heritage of Pakistan.

Founded in 2007, the CAP has been at the forefront of safeguarding the nation's history, culture, and identity through its innovative initiatives. The CAP's pioneering oral history program, launched in 2008, stands as a testament to its

commitment to capturing the diverse narratives that shape Pakistan's collective memory. With over 5,000 oral histories and 600,000 images in its digital archive, the CAP has curated a treasure trove of invaluable resources for researchers, students, and the public.

A notable highlight of CAP's legacy is the National History Museum (NHM) Lahore, Pakistan's first digital interactive museum inaugurated in partnership with the Parks and Horticulture Authority and the Government of Punjab.

Governor lauds efforts of Youth Parliament for the betterment of community

LAHORE: A 25-member delegation of Pakistan Youth Parliament (PMA) headed by President (PMA) Muhammad Abu Bakar met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation presented various suggestions to the Governor of Punjab regarding the improvement of the youth.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the young generation is the future of the country. He appreciated the efforts of Youth Parliament for the

betterment of the community. Governor Punjab said that there are many positive things in the society. He said that we should appreciate the good work, but we should also keep an eye on the shortcomings in the society so that they might be rectified. Governor Punjab also awarded honorary shields to the members of Youth Parliament for their outstanding performance. The delegation presented an honorary souvenir to the Governor of Punjab on behalf of the Youth Parliament. On this occasion, the delegation also visited the Governor's House.



GILGIT: Workers of Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority and GBPWD busy in clearing blocked road of Astore after heavy rain and land sliding in the area.

Home Secretary for allocating more resources for Child Protection Bureau

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Secretary Home Punjab Noorul Ameen Mengal visited the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau in Bahawalpur. On this occasion, he said that the resources for the school located in the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau will be further increased by the Punjab government. The Secretary Home said that instructions have been issued to the Director General Child Protection and Welfare Bureau to decentralize the budget of the Child

Protection Bureau Bahawalpur. He further said that the Commissioner Bahawalpur Division and DC Bahawalpur will also be asked to help in providing more resources to the Child Protection Bureau Bahawalpur. He said that the rights of children are being protected in Bahawalpur as well as in other districts of Punjab. Noorul Ameen Mengal said that these children are our precious assets and the Punjab government will make every effort to make these children useful citizens of the society.

International News

Israeli offensive on Rafah would be 'unbearable escalation': UN chief

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations chief Antonio Guterres urged Israel not to invade southern Gaza's Rafah city, after the Israeli prime minister said an offensive would go forward regardless of a pending hostage deal with Hamas.

With the war roiling the region, international outrage mounting over the human toll, and mediators ramping up diplomatic efforts to ease the crisis and reach a truce, Guterres implored Israel not to go ahead with its operation.

"A military assault on Rafah would be an unbearable escalation, killing thousands more civilians and forcing hundreds of thousands to flee," the secretary-general told reporters. Such an operation

"would have a devastating impact on Palestinians in Gaza, with serious repercussions on the occupied West Bank and across the wider region," he added.

"All members of the Security Council, and many other governments, have clearly expressed their opposition to such an operation. I appeal for all those with influence over Israel to do everything in their power to prevent it."

The latest Guterres warning follows Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's promise that the Israeli army will launch a ground offensive on the Gaza Strip's far-southern city of Rafah "with or without" a truce deal being agreed with Hamas.

Rafah has become a refuge for some 1.5 million Palestinians who have fled Israel's bombardments that

have ravaged the territory since the start of the war on October 7, when Hamas launched a deadly and unprecedented attack on Israel.

But Netanyahu has pledged to destroy Hamas, and he said the Israeli army stopping the war "before achieving all of its goals is out of the question."

"We will enter Rafah and we will eliminate the Hamas battalions there with or without a deal," he told families of hostages still being held in Gaza, his office said.

Guterres implored Israel and the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas to reach a truce "now," and reiterated his call for Israel to allow more humanitarian aid into Gaza, including through the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA.



Part of an expressway collapsed in south China's Guangdong Province on after heavy rains.

At least 24 people killed in south China road collapse

GUANGDONG: At least 24 people died after part of a highway collapsed due to heavy rains in southern China's Guangdong province on Wednesday, state media said.

Guangdong, a densely populated industrial powerhouse, has been lashed by rainstorms in recent weeks, causing severe flooding and landslides in some areas. The downpours have been much heavier than would

normally be expected for the time of year and have been linked to accelerating climate change.

State news agency Xinhua said that a stretch of road between Meizhou city and Dabu county in Guangdong province caved in at around 2:10am on Wednesday (6:10pm GMT Tuesday). The incident caused 20 vehicles to become trapped and involved a total of 54 people, according to Xinhua.

Taliban are working to woo tourists to Afghanistan

KABUL: Around 30 men are crammed into a Kabul classroom, part of the debut student cohort at a Taliban-run institute training tourism and hospitality professionals.

It's a motley crew. One student is a model. Another is 17 and has no job history.

The students vary in age, education level and professional experience. They're all men — Afghan women are banned from studying beyond sixth grade — and they don't know anything about tourism or hospitality. But they are all eager to promote a different side of Afghanistan. And the Taliban are happy to help.

Afghanistan's rulers are pariahs on the global stage, largely because of their restrictions on women and girls. The economy is struggling, infrastructure is poor, and poverty is rife.



Visitors stand behind barriers while looking at military hardware at an exhibition, which displays armoured vehicles and equipment captured by the Russian army from Ukrainian forces in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict, at Victory Park open-air museum on Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow, Russia.

Russia ramps up arms production as US boosts support for Ukraine

MOSCOW: Russia's defence minister on Wednesday ordered a hike in weapons production and said deliveries needed to be faster for the war in Ukraine, a week after U.S. President Joe Biden signed off on tens of billions of dollars of new military aid for Kyiv.

President Vladimir Putin's 2022 invasion of Ukraine touched off the worst breakdown in relations between Russia and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, according to Russian and U.S. diplomats. Biden on April 24 signed a bill into law that provides \$61 billion in additional aid to Ukraine, including an array of artillery, rocket systems, anti-tank munitions and ammunition.

Russia is gradually advancing at key points along the 1,000-km (620 mile) front line and stated that U.S. arms will not prevent victory by Moscow, but some Russian officials are concerned that the U.S. support will escalate the conflict.

Washington: The US State Department stated on Tuesday that it expects India to address the alleged involvement of senior Indian officials in assassination attempts within the United States. "We continue to expect accountability from the government of India based on the results of the India inquiry committee's work, and we are regularly working with them and inquiring for additional updates," said the department's principal deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel during a news briefing in Washington.

China, US to hold climate meetings in Washington in May

WASHINGTON: U.S. climate change diplomat John Podesta said on Tuesday he will meet his Chinese counterpart Liu Zhenmin in Washington in early May, resuming bilateral talks on climate cooperation amid simmering tensions over trade and security. This is Liu's first visit to Washington in his new role after replacing veteran climate envoy Xie Zhenhua, who stepped down due to health reasons in January.

Liu has spoken with Podesta since he stepped into his new role as the top U.S. climate diplomat earlier this year, replacing former Secretary of State John Kerry.

However, the envoys of the world's two biggest emitters have not yet held formal talks. Podesta told Bloomberg TV he will meet with Liu when he visits the United States.

One source familiar with the visit said Liu will be in Washington from May 8 to May 10. The source said Liu will also travel to New York.

US 'expects accountability' from India, says State Dept

WASHINGTON: The US State Department stated on Tuesday that it expects India to address the alleged involvement of senior Indian officials in assassination attempts within the United States. "We continue to expect accountability from the government of India based on the results of the India inquiry committee's work, and we are regularly working with them and inquiring for additional updates," said the department's principal deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel during a news briefing in Washington.

UK confirms first migrants held for Rwanda deportation flights

LONDON: The UK government confirmed on Wednesday it had detained an unspecified number of migrants in recent days for deportation to Rwanda in July under its controversial new policy. It comes a week after lawmakers ended months of parliamentary wrangling and passed a law allowing some asylum seekers to be deported by declaring Rwanda to be a safe third country.

US, allies press UAE over Russia trade, sanctions

ABU DHABI: The United States, Britain and the European Union are pressing the United Arab Emirates to show it is cracking down on firms evading sanctions imposed on Russia over the war in Ukraine, according to three sources aware of the diplomatic outreach.

American, British and EU officials visited the Gulf state last week as part of a wider coordinated effort to prevent sanctioned goods from reaching Russia, a British foreign secretary spokesperson said, declining further comment. The sources said the officials asked the UAE in a series of separate meetings to share detailed trade information on its exports to Russia and on the re-export of so-called dual-use goods that have both civilian and military purposes.

Asked for comment, a

UAE official did not address whether talks had taken place but said bans on certain dual-use products "deemed essential in mitigating the conflict in Ukraine" had been issued and that preliminary data indicated there had been no export or re-export of such products so far this year.

The official did not share the preliminary data. A U.S. State Department spokesperson said a U.S. delegation had visited the UAE as part of an ongoing dialogue about transshipment trends, especially of dual-use goods that support the Russian defense industrial base. Among Western concerns is that companies in the UAE are involved in the export of computer chips, electronics, machinery and other sanctioned products to Russia that could be used to aid Moscow's military effort against Ukraine.

AstraZeneca admits its Covid vaccine 'could cause blood clots in rare cases'

ASTRAZENECA, the pharmaceutical giant which virtually became a household name during the Covid-19 pandemic, has admitted that its Covishield vaccine could cause rare side effects, including blood clots and low platelet count.

The pharma giant is being sued in a class action over claims that its vaccine, developed with the University of Oxford, caused death and serious injury in dozens of cases.

"It is admitted that the AZ vaccine can, in very rare cases, cause TTS (Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome). The causal mechanism is not known," the company said in court documents, The Telegraph reported.

Covishield was developed by the British-Swedish company in collaboration with Oxford University, and produced

by the Serum Institute of India. It was widely administered in over 150 countries.

Some studies conducted during the pandemic found the vaccine was 60 to 80 per cent effective in protecting against the novel coronavirus, according to The Independent.

But one of the complainants alleged that the vaccine caused him a permanent brain injury after he developed a blood clot, preventing him from working.

While the company has contested these claims, the court submission marks the first time it has admitted that the vaccine can cause side-effects that are characterised by blood clots and a low blood platelet count in humans. "Further, TTS can also occur in the absence of the AZ vaccine (or any vaccine).

Human Rights Council of Pak playing important role in highlighting Kashmir issue: Saghar

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter Convener, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar has said that the Human Rights Council of Pakistan has been continuously playing important role in highlighting the Kashmir dispute.

Mehmood Ahmad Saghar expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the Council led by its Chairman Jamshed Hussain at the APHC-AJK office, said a press release here on Wednesday.

The APHC-AJK convener said that the Human Rights Council of Pakistan had always been at the forefront of highlighting the Kashmir dispute at the social and diplomatic levels.

He added that the Council is committed to supporting the Kashmiris' inalienable right to self-determination.

On the occasion, Mehmood Ahmad Saghar and other Hurriyat leaders

including Sheikh Abdul Muteen, Imtiaz Wani, and Syed Ijaz Rahmani told the delegation that the Modi-led Indian government was following the Israeli policy of brutalizing innocent Kashmiris in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

They maintained that Kashmir was an internationally recognized disputed territory and the United Nations has recognized the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris through several Security Council resolutions.

Jamshed Hussain, the Chairman of the Human Rights Council of Pakistan, said that the Kashmiri people were offering unprecedented sacrifices to get their motherland freed from India's illegal occupation.

The Modi government cannot weaken the Kashmiris' spirit of freedom by resorting to massacres, arrests, and unjustified restrictions, he added.

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The Modi government cannot weaken the Kashmiris' spirit of freedom by resorting to massacres, arrests, and unjustified restrictions, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing during function to mark the International Labour Day at National Press Club.

Labourers deserve special attention from all sections of society: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Engr Amir Muqam has said that labourers deserved special attention not only from the government but also from all the concerned sections of the society.

In his message on International Labour Day, the Federal Minister said that it was imperative to take steps to protect workers' rights by strictly enforcing labour laws.

Engr Amir Muqam paid rich tributes to the working class for their important role in the country's development and assured that the federal government would take all possible measures for their

welfare.

He said that the labour force is the backbone of our country's economy.

Engr Amir Muqam said that a stronger and more prosperous labourer class would result in a developed and prosperous nation. He said that International Labour Day is not only a reminder of the struggle of workers but also an acknowledgment of their contribution towards economic development.

“Our great religion, Islam, emphasizes the principles of social justice, equity, and respect for the rights of the people,” he added.

Engr Amir Muqam said the role of the working class is of vital importance in national development and prosperity.

Abdullah Gul says: Govt must bound entrepreneurs to ensure health, safety of laborers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawan Pakistan (TJP) Mohammad Abdullah Gul on World Labor Day said that workers or laborers in the country had no rights as there was neither social security nor health policy.

In his statement here, he said the government should bound the industries, entrepreneurs and businesses to ensure health and safety of laborers at workplace.

He said the institutions and courts that deal with workers' issues are involved in collusion with factory and mill owners whereas if a case of violation of workers' rights comes to them it was either not heard or decided for a year.

Gul said that the government should bound the factory and mill owners to provide a school for the children of the workers along with the factory and a hospital for their treatment.

He said that currently the construction or real estate business was the most popular in Pakistan but these companies did not care about the welfare of the workers.

“Every year hundreds of workers lose their limbs and lives just because they do not have Safety protection equipment and even not helmets,” he said.

He said that where government elites build hospitals for themselves, it is important to build hospitals for workers.

Abdullah Gul said that shareholding of economy is not given workers in Pakistan, the salary and per diem of the labourer is insufficient in this inflation. “He cannot fulfill the food and education of his children

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KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari in meeting with a delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) led by Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, held at CM House in Karachi.

Innovative models like GUDS critical in equipping youth with green skills for climate-resilient urbanisation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at the event ‘Re-thinking Urban Development in Pakistan: Leveraging Youth’s Potential for Sustainable Cities’ said that innovative models such as the Green Urban Development School (GUDS) play a critical role in equipping youth with the green skills required to manage urbanization in a nature-inclusive and climate-resilient manner. The Institute of Urbanism (IoU) and School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) with the support of the U.S. Embassy Islamabad launched the pilot GUDS program at two universities i.e. Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and COMSATS University

Islamabad, which enhanced knowledge of participants through mentorship, exposure visits and cross-learning opportunities with experts from DePaul University, Chicago, a news release said.

The GUDS is also providing technical and financial support to two students from each university to practically set up their action research projects that lead to green start-ups, thus, empowering youth to spearhead the transition to a sustainable future.

As the GUDS program was piloted at QAU in 2023, two grant winners have already set up their projects i.e. a composting facility and a sustainable

rooftop set-up consisting of rainwater harvesting and hydroponic farm.

Addressing participants at the concluding event of GUDS, Mr. Kelly Ryan, representing the US Embassy Islamabad said, “through programs like the Green Urban Development School, our aim is to encourage exchange of knowledge and collaboration to collectively address the challenge of climate change”. Mariyam Irfan, Managing Director of the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF), remarked, “The Green Urban Development School represents a pivotal initiative in promoting sustainable urbanization in Pakistan. By nur-

ture the green skills of our youth and empowering them to implement innovative solutions, we are not only addressing immediate environmental challenges but also shaping the leaders of tomorrow who will drive lasting change.”

Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Senior Program Fellow, IoU emphasized the need to reshape urban development paradigms through strategic partnerships, collaborative efforts, development of green skills, and equitable transitions.

Marfaa Naseem, the GUDS grant winner from QAU, said that she has harvested 48,000 liters of rainwater since installing the system in January 2024.

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MQM delegation meets President Asif Ali Zardari

KARACHI (APP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) delegation led by Federal Minister Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on President Asif Ali Zardari here at CM House on Wednesday. MQM leadership congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on assuming the office of the President of Pakistan for the second time.

Dr Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal were part of the MQM Pakistan's delegation along with party convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi were also present on the occasion.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that all the stakeholders would be taken on-board while carrying out affairs of the government.

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President Asif Ali Zardari said that all the stakeholders would be taken on-board while carrying out affairs of the government.

Security officials briefed for effective duty

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, a special briefing was held for the officers deployed on Diplomatic Enclave security duties regarding the better performance of their duties, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the SP Diplomatic Protection Unit (DPD) briefed the security officers to maintain the law and order and prevent any untoward incident.

Moreover, officers were briefed regarding duty in view of the current situation, the officers and officials on patrolling duty were informed about being alert during patrolling and keeping a watchful eye on suspicious persons, strict orders were issued regarding proper uniforms and discipline.

He further issued orders to the officers and personnel to be ready all the time and perform their duties in an effective manner.

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63 plots announced for martyrs families of Islamabad Police

ISLAMABAD: A dignified ceremony was held at the Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad in honor of the families of Islamabad Police martyrs, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi attended the ceremony as a chief guest while senior police officers including families of Islamabad Police martyrs

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Mian Iftikhar elected president ANP KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Mian Iftikhar Hussain has been elected provincial president of Awami National Party (ANP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while Syed Aqil Shah and Hussain Shah Yousafzai as vice president and general secretary respectively.

The new office bearers were elected during a meeting of the provincial council held here at Bacha Khan Markaz on Wednesday. Council and party workers from across elected the new provincial office bearers with consensus.

Other elected provin-

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Other elected provin-

BECS observed Labour Day with full zeal & zest

ISLAMABAD (APP): (BECS) Schools Hameed Khan Niazi and the partner Junior Jinh Trust distributed gifts and certificates to the students of ALP Center's who are the supportive figure of their families and have also shown dedication and commitment towards education. The main idea behind ALP Centers' initiative of DG BECS was to support and uplift these hardworking students by bridging the gap between basic education and skills learning.

Director General Basic Education Community

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Tararr commemorates Labor Day, pays tribute to Backbone of nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tararr, commemorated Labor Day with a message, acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions of workers to the prosperity of the nation.

In his address in connection with Labor Day on Wednesday, he underscored the significance of this day as a symbol of the sanctity and dignity of labor, emphasizing the pivotal role of workers in driving economic growth.

Labor Day, observed annually on May 1st, serves as a solemn reminder of the struggles endured by workers in their pursuit of basic rights and fair treatment.

The minister Tararr paid homage to those who laid down their lives in this noble endeavor, highlighting their indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to the betterment of society.

As a representative of

the government, Minister Tararr reiterated the administration's dedication to upholding the rights of all laborers across the nation. He emphasized the principles of social justice and equity, drawing upon the values espoused by Islam, which advocates for the respect and fair treatment of workers.

Throughout his address, Minister Tararr emphasized the indispensable role played by the labor force in driving the nation's progress and prosperity. He underscored the government's commitment to ensuring fair labor practices and improving the working and living standards of workers, thereby fostering an environment conducive to their well-being.

Labor Day, Minister Tararr emphasized, serves as a call to action for both individuals and collectives to prioritize the welfare of working classes.

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Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani presenting a shield to Secretary Senate, Muhammad Qasim Samad Khan on his retirement from Senate Secretariat at Parliament House Islamabad.

Alem applauds labor community's contributions

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a statement marking World Labor Day, Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment & Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, hailed the dedication of every hard worker, laborer, and skilled individual serving the nation.

He emphasized the commendable efforts of those who fulfill their duties even amidst challenging circumstances, asserting that such contributions deserve recognition not only on May 1st but every day, said a press release issued

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Over 83,000 residential flats, houses handed over to registered workers so far

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According to the date of WWF, 1430 different categories of scholarships were also offered to the children of workers including

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IIUI marks Labor Day: Panel discussion on right to education vs. Child Labor held

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Dr. Shamsa Aziz, Chairperson Department of Teacher Education briefed about the main idea behind arranging the panel

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ISLAMABAD: Smoke billows near Sabzi Mandi, endangering people's health. Lack of Waste management creates environmental pollution in the Federal Capital.