

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 122 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Saturday May 25, 2024, Zeeqad 16, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



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

ICJ orders Israel to urgently halt Rafah military operation against Palestinians

Monitoring Desk

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

European countries announced they would recognize a Palestinian state, and the chief prosecutor for another U.N. court requested arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, along with Hamas officials.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is also under heavy pressure at home to end the war, which was triggered when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel, killing 1,200 people, most civilians, and taking some 250 captive. Thousands of Israelis have joined weekly demonstrations calling on the government to reach a deal to bring the hostages home, fearing that time is running out.

PM Shahbaz hails ruling

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday welcomed the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on a petition filed against genocide in Palestine.

The prime minister paid tributes to the courage of the 13 ICJ judges who made the decision and thanked South Africa for filing the petition.

In a statement, he reiterated Pakistan's support for the Palestinians and pledged to continue fighting for their rights. He said Pakistan had extended support to the petition filed by South Africa.

The prime minister called upon the United Nations Security Council and the international community to immediately implement the International Court's decision to stop the Israeli operation in Gaza. He also urged the international community to ensure the provision of humanitarian aid and relief to the people of Palestine, besides providing immediate access to the United Nations investigation commission to Gaza and Rafah.

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

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



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

is our lifeline and redline, which is linked with the jobs of millions of people," he said, adding curtailing inflation, ensuring bright future for the youth, and enhancing exports and foreign reserves were the prime objectives of the government's policies.

"These are our redlines, which some disgruntled elements are trying to violate and trespass and they are surely doomed to fail," the minister said while addressing a press conference flanked by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal.

Attar Tarar said that the efforts led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to woo investors were bringing positive results with the clear signs of economic stabilization. Steps were underway to create an enabling environment for the foreign investors, he added.

Unfortunately, he said, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership was engaged in such steps which were against directly inimical to the national interests, thus misleading the nation at the critical juncture. "Don't be mistaken, the foreign investment will definitely come to the country and we will take all steps to ensure the welfare of the people," he said.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz has invited Chinese firm MCC Tongsin Resources to make investment in Mining sector of Pakistan and assured provision of all-out facilitation in this connection. The Mining and Mineral sectors have been on the priority list of Special Investment Facilitation Council and a significant headway has also been achieved in this sector.

The Chinese firm MCC Tongsin Resources is a research and investment company and a part of Metallurgical Group Corporation, which has been enlisted among the major Metallurgical Construction Contractors of the world.

The Chinese company expressed keen interest in enhancing its investment in Pakistan's mining and minerals sectors and also briefed the Prime Minister about its plans for investment in Mining sector of Pakistan.

The visit of the Chinese company to Pakistan is aimed at cementing ties between China and Pakistan and to assure that Pakistan would ensure security of Chinese nationals, working on different development projects.

China has so far made investment of more than sixty-five billion dollars in energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday rejected the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court upholding its earlier ruling that had endorsed the Indian government's unilateral decision of revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution through legislation in 2019.

"We reject the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court just as we had rejected the earlier order of December 11, 2023. Two verdicts fail to recognize the internationally recognized disputed nature of Jammu and Kashmir," Indian Supreme Court judgments cannot distract the international community's attention from the gross and systemic human rights violation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her

weekly press briefing. She said the Kashmiris had an inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Security Council's resolutions.

India has no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of disputed territory against the will of parties in the dispute - Kashmiris and Pakistan, she added. The spokesperson welcomed the announcement by Ireland, Spain and Norway to recognise the Palestine state, following a similar announcement by Bahamas, Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados, and called it a milestone in the decades-old quest of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination.

She said that the Gaza genocide and dire humanitarian situation underlined the urgency of the establishment of an independent Palestine state with Quds Al-Sharif as the capital.

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

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

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

Attorney General (AG) said the state has not failed yet. We are tracing through CDR. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked "you are saying state has not failed."

Recovering the missing person is compulsion of state otherwise there is failure of state. The failure of state are mere words and its results.

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

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

The court further remarked law and situation deteriorates too. Police walas are beaten and their uniforms are torn. Now the recovery of this man is left behind.

We will settle some things. Now the statement of sector commander will be recorded in missing persons case. Police officer will record statement and write zimmi.

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



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

Dar emphasizes uniform high quality medical education in Pak

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

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

The deputy prime minister emphasized the important responsibility of the committee to address the gaps in medical education in the country. Highlighting the importance of nurturing a conducive environment for medical students to excel and contribute meaningfully to the healthcare sector, Ishaq Dar stressed that the world-class quality of medical education should be

ensured in all the provinces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Khalid meets Malala

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui had a meet with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai here on Friday.

Provincial ministers for education and British Council representatives were also present, said a press release.



MULTAN: Acting President, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani exchanging views with Ch. Abdul Waheed Arain, Former MPA during meeting held at Circuit House in Multan.

KP Govt presents Rs 1754b surplus budget 2024-25; proposes 10pc increase in salaries, pensions

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance Aftab Alam on Friday presented Rs 1754 billion annual budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 with a surplus of Rs 100 billion.

The government has projected Rs 1,654 billion expenses, said the minister during budget speech in the assembly here, adding that as per the instructions of the Chief Minister Ali Ameen Gandapur the budget 2024-25 mainly focused on social protection, peace, employment opportunities, and economic development.

The government has proposed 10 percent increase in both salaries and pension of the government employees and increase minimum wage from Rs 32000 to 36000.

While giving details of the budget 2024-25, he said that the KP government anticipated receiving a total 1754 billion under different heads during the fiscal year 2024-25 including 1212.036 billion from the federal government under Federal Tax Assignment, one percent of

divisible pool on war on terror, Straight Transfer under the head of royalties and surcharge on oil and gas, wind-fall levy and net hydro profit. He said that the KP province considerably improve its income during the last few years and had chalked out a mobilization plan and fixed a target of achieving Rs 93.5 billion revenue for the fiscal year 2024-25. He said the KP government has decided to improve tax net instead of increasing the taxes and for the

purpose several steps have taken including reforms in sales tax, property tax, tobacco tax, cess and other taxes.

The government has decreased the sales tax ratio on different online services in the budget, adding that the tax has reduced on hotels from eight percent to six percent and bound the hotels to use Restaurant Invoice Management System. Similarly, fixed sales tax rate has been proposed for wedding halls.



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

Ahsan Iqbal terms CPEC a transformative force in region

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

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

The minister and Vice Chairman National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Li Chunlin jointly chaired the 13th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Li Chunlin praised the Pakistani minister of planning for his deep commitment to CPEC and his active role in promoting it.

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

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

In the JCC meeting, the Pakistan side appreciated the vision of Chinese

leadership to upgrade the second phase of CPEC with the inclusion of these new corridors which are in harmony with Pakistan's SE framework.

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

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



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



PESHAWAR: KP Finance Minister, Aftab Alam presents the proposed Rs 1754bn Provincial Fiscal Budget 2024-25 with a surplus of Rs 100bn at KP Assembly.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

IMF's unease

The first round of 'engagement' between Pakistan and the IMF over the former's request for a larger and longer programme appears to have concluded — with some bumps still visible. Both sides are believed to have reached an understanding on the reform measures that Islamabad must include in the budget for the next financial year and get approved by parliament before an agreement on a new bailout facility is signed.

A report in this paper has quoted a government official as saying that the IMF mission is leaving the country without announcing a formal staff-level agreement, because the "Fund wants a stamp of approval from parliament for the reforms and policy actions [to be implemented as 'prior actions' for the new programme] given the unpredictable political environment".

This is not a new condition in Pakistan's context, nor is it surprising, considering the endless political instability roiling the country. The IMF had recently noted that high political uncertainty and the resurgence of social tensions could undermine economic stabilisation.

"Downside risks remain exceptionally high. While the new government has indicated its intention to continue the [Stand-by Arrangement's] policies, political uncertainty remains significant," the IMF had said in its staff report on the conclusion of the second and final review of the \$3bn SBA. It added that "the resurgence in social tensions reflecting the complex political scene and high cost of living could weigh on policy and reform implementation".

Despite its concerns that the political situation might create obstacles in the way of parliamentary approval of the new budget, the IMF has also expressed its confidence in the present political administration. "The return of the outgoing government to power after the elections means continued commitment to the reform agenda agreed at the time of the SBA. This not only means a higher likelihood for the continuity of reforms but also political stability for the next five years. The current coalition government consists of almost the same political parties, which despite heavy political cost implemented all the actions committed under the [Extended Fund Facility] programme and approved all the prior actions under the SBA," it said.

It is thus anticipated that the Fund will conclude a new loan latest by early July. However, a new arrangement is the least of the common man's problems. The real issue for most is the additional financial burden in the shape of new levies — such as a hike in the petroleum levy, an increase in indirect taxes, more taxes on salaries — and enhanced energy prices that they will have to bear as the cost of the new loan. Going by the just-concluded engagement with the IMF mission, it is clear that the next phase of economic stabilisation will be very tough for most of the population.

Imagination in education

Aqsa Zainab

Imagination is not an escape from reality or simply a tool of fantasy among creative types. It influences how we perceive reality and even re-shape it. As such, it is not necessarily opposite to reason. The two can complement each other to offer deeper insights. Thoughtful, innovative works in science, social studies, language, and even mathematics can all benefit from imaginative thinking. Imagination must not be confined to curriculum discussions on arts and crafts or restricted to preschool and elementary school years. Its relevance must be taken seriously across all levels of education.

Perhaps it's symptomatic of our modern times that we have become accustomed to viewing reason and imagination as dichotomous to each other. Moreover, each is often attributed solely to a self-contained individual, whose origin is further reduced to neurological functions of the brain. We seem to have moved away from a holistic way of perceiving and relating to the world. In Greek and Roman thought, creative spirits inspired philosophers and poets alike. Carl Jung tried to break out of modern individualism by proposing the notion of a collective unconscious. Within irfan, or Muslim mystical thought, imagination was viewed as a faculty of perception and intellect that enabled the discovery of new horizons, even allowing one to attain truth and certainty. Reason and imagination were not dichotomous as such.

In Henry Corbin's reading of Muslim esoteric traditions, one's ability to tap into the higher realms also depended on one's himma, or power of the heart. Various wayfaring manu-

als also indicate that the mystic teacher would prescribe the initiate to engage in rigorous spiritual exercises in order to control the inner powers of imagination and discern divine inspirations from distracting whispers. In contrast, it seems that we have reduced imagination to just manipulating ideas creatively and expressing oneself creatively. And creative pedagogies keep on stimulating the imaginative powers of children without helping them learn how to handle these powers. For comparison, one might consider the pedagogies of Muslim and Japanese traditional calligraphy that approach the work of art and the heart of the artist as interconnected components of a holistic experience involving self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-transformation.

Yet even in its reductive modern sense, imagination today is often relegated to early years of education. Beyond elementary school, there is only lingering space for imagination as found in the subjects of humanities. In contrast, math, science, and even social studies increasingly rely on analytical reasoning skills. Thus the demarcation between imagination and reason gets more rigidified. Perhaps this is partly why students find math and science challenging in upper school as these subjects no longer involve the whole self, if they ever did in previous years. Even preschool environments operate under immense pressure to rapidly meet narrow academic benchmarks, for children must pass highly competitive entrance tests and interviews for school admissions. Imagination thereby gets stifled.

Exceptions exist, even in upper school, where an individual

teacher or curricular component may adopt an interdisciplinary or holistic approach to a topic. So students may discover the patterns and beauty of trigonometry in the cosmos, delving into not only quantitative but also qualitative aspects. They might explore how innovative scientists use analogies and visualisation to come up with new theories. In social studies, it requires imaginative abilities to grasp the interconnectedness of all life forms within an ecological framework. Perhaps students might also glean some lessons from the complicated biographies of math and science geniuses of the past century, who spoke of tapping into the transpersonal horizons of knowledge and creativity, and yet also the toll it took on their well-being.

It is said that knowledge points to what exists, while imagination points to what could be. The external senses perceive the manifest, while imagination reveals the sublime. Imagination facilitates abstract thinking, allowing one to move beyond the world of images. With imagination one can also empathise and walk in another person's shoes. But here is the challenge for educators. Imagination isn't that simple or straightforward to teach, if it can be taught at all. It's likely that whatever we try to teach directly or indirectly will only scratch the surface, representing a mere fraction of the boundless imaginative potential within human beings.

However, we can become more aware of the deeper possibilities of imagination and more cautious regarding the separation of imagination from reason. -- Courtesy Dawn

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Pakistan is burning up. And so is much of its neighbourhood. The Indo-Gangetic plain, spanning the breadth of the subcontinent, is currently the hottest place on the planet. Extremely high temperatures are not unusual in these parts for this time of year, but the swing from the exceptionally wet and cool weather of a few weeks ago is hard to ignore. One can only hope that the next extreme is not a monsoon like 2022.

Then again, hope should not be the only fall-back plan. It is not as if global warming is an unknown phenomenon, or that most people are unfamiliar with the lexicon of climate change. There are many, in fact, who whip out terms such as 'mitigation', 'adaptation' and 'resilient development' at will. And 'experts' are said to be working in tandem with donors, governments and businesses to usher us towards a 'just transition' away from fossil fuels.

Pakistan's quota of experts has increased markedly since the 2022 floods. They gather increasingly regularly at conferences on climate change, both at home and abroad. Consultants are hired and reports written. But virtually nothing changes.

The global political economy continues to be structured around what Swedish scholar-activist Andreas Malm calls 'fossil capital'. For 200 years, coal and then oil have functioned as the ultimate global commodities, and the struggle to control them still shapes world politics. The continuing centrality of fossil capital makes a mockery of the notion that the rich and powerful are interested in reducing carbon emissions sufficiently to prevent the planet from becoming uninhabitable for

Hot capital

humans.

The Indo-Gangetic plain is one of the regions which will experience widespread desertification if the current rate of heating continues. Yet Western governments and corporations who milked the benefits of colonial-era expropriation, continue to disproportionately emit carbon to the detriment of South Asia's working masses. The Gulf states and rapidly growing East Asian economies like China, too, are producing and guzzling oil. They may not be as big contributors to the rule of fossil capital as Western imperialist powers but any meaningful analysis of our present and future must include the growing role of the powers of the 'East'.

The history and ongoing evolution of fossil capital is absent from the mainstream debate on climate change, let alone the policy prescriptions about so-called resilient development. Yes, Pakistani 'experts' do bring up the question of climate financing and the historic responsibility of Western emitters, but there is much silence on domestic economic policy, and particularly the nexus of state and class power that presides over ecologically destructive 'development' with no end in sight.

Take the minor but illustrative murmurs about government plans to tax solar power. The private market for solar panels has exploded lately; even katchi abadi residents and small farmers unable to access the formal power grid have bought relatively cheap panels and batteries to meet some electricity needs. The rumoured tax on solar power consumers provoked an uproar and was subsequently played down by the authorities. But to the extent that there was any truth to the rumours,

they reflected the rigged game which is state — and IMF-dictated — policy; on the one hand is the unaddressed and decades-old IPP scandal, and on the other, the fleeing of working class and white-collar salaried populations through indirect taxes to meet revenue obligations.

More generally, Pakistan's political economy is centred around real estate, oil and coal-fired power, big infrastructure (especially roads and bridges), and logistics. Demand is consumption-driven, differentiated across class brackets (expensive imported goods and entertainment for the rich; cheap consumer durables for the mass). Trade dominates manufacturing, mostly in the black.

The establishment is top dog, all other state and private profiteers competing for its largesse. There is no respite for vulnerable ecosystems, no matter which combination of landlords, real estate moguls, traders and manufacturers sit in government with Big Brother hovering over them. The core areas continue to be 'developed' intensively, which makes them progressively hotter, while the peripheries are expropriated and turned into 'tourist havens', making them hotter too.

Pakistani capitalism is a never-ending disaster story with even the rich diaspora providing a stream of hot capital for real estate, absent the slightest concern for future generations of working people. But then, fossil capital has never been characterised by foresight or humanity. Profit and power rule while most of the world's people and ecosystems burn. We will need more than lip service for the tide to turn. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Jam Kamal invites Korean companies to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Pakistan, Park Kijun Friday called on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and discussed strategize on boosting bilateral trade and investment.

Jam Kamal Khan extended an open invitation to Korean companies, urging them to explore and invest in Pakistan's commercial and strategic projects.

He emphasized that over the past three months, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's top priorities have focused on enhancing business connectivity and simplifying the process of doing business in Pakistan, said a press release issued

here.

He briefed the Korean envoy on government's proactive measures in stabilizing the economy, which he believes are making Pakistan an increasingly attractive destination for foreign investment.

Ambassador Park Kijun expressed a strong desire to collaborate closely with Pakistan to enhance trade volumes and explore new business opportunities.

Minister Khan assured the ambassador that the government stands ready to promptly resolve any problems to ensure smooth and efficient operations for foreign businesses in Pakistan.

Additionally, Jam Kamal Khan invited Korean investors to capitalize on upcoming privatization opportunities within various government departments. This move aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of increasing private sector involvement in the economy to improve efficiency and service delivery.

Key sectors highlighted for potential investment included energy, port and shipping, fisheries, and agriculture—areas deemed critical for Pakistan's economic development and offering substantial opportunities for international investors.

During the meeting, the minister also briefed the

ambassador on the successful holding of the recent Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Forum 2024 which was attended by the top investors from Saudi Arabia.

He informed the ambassador that Pakistan can organise a similar match-making event for the big Korean conglomerates and investors wishing to invest in Pakistan.

In conclusion, Jam Kamal Khan reiterated the government's commitment to making business operations in Pakistan more accessible and reliable.

He expressed optimism Pakistan is now progressing towards a phase of prosperity and growth.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Industry production and food security Rana Tanveer chaired high level meeting regarding supply chain and prices of fertilizer.

Businessmen should support & cooperate in advancing mandate of SAARC: Golam

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: "Urge the business community of SAARC member states to support and cooperate in advancing the mandate of SAARC and its initiatives," said Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General, SAARC.

This was stated by Hon'ble Ambassador Golam Sarwar, Secretary General SAARC during his maiden visit to Pakistan

striving to unlock the full potential of SAARC. Expressing concern, Mr. Sarwar stated that since the last SAARC summit held in 2014, no major events at the government level have taken place to overcome the procedural issues of SAARC Apex bodies. This lack of activity has impacted all the Apex and recognized bodies of SAARC. Excellency, called for a renewed and dedicated



effort to overcome the longstanding challenges that have impeded SAARC's progress. He emphasized that the organization's future success hinges on member states putting aside political differences and focusing on regional cooperation.

BOI Minister to visit Kuwait to enhance bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation headed by Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan will visit Kuwait by end of current month for boosting investment in Pakistan.

The Pakistani delegation is expected to have meetings with Prime Minister of Kuwait and Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Power and Petroleum while Trade Minister of Kuwait will host, said a news re-

lease issued here on Friday.

Trade and business activities between the two countries will also be finalized and the visit to Kuwait will be made more useful in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Commerce.

Abdul Aleem Khan presided over the important consultation meeting regarding the visit to Kuwait in which the necessary issues were finalized.

The minister said that during his visit to Kuwait,

there will be progress in providing employment to more workforce from Pakistan, especially health professionals and skilled labor, as well as taking the business community into confidence and the private sector.

"Pakistan will increase cooperation through taking on board Pakistan's export companies for dairy farming, meat products, rice and other food items to move forward through accelerated measures", he added.

SBP injects over Rs241b into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan, Friday, injected Rs241.350 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on May 24, 2024 for tenors of 7 and 28 days.

IPRI, OGDCL enter in collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Friday entered into a collaboration with the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), wherein the latter came up with an Endowment of Economic Security Chair.

The kick-off ceremony was attended by Chairman Board of OGDCL Zafar Masood and CEO Bank of Punjab Ahmed Hayat Lak, CEO/Director OGDCL, and

senior officials of the industry, said a press release issued here.

President IPRI, Dr Raza Muhammad and Dr Anel Salman, Chair Economic Security IPRI, presented their welcome remarks and apprised the delegates of their think tank's profile, and how it has made inroads in the world of research.

The Endowment of Economic Security Chair at IPRI is for a period of three years, and it will be known as 'IPRI-OGDCL Chair'.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairing 49th Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee meeting.

Chief Collector Customs Appraisal interacts with SCCI members

SIALKOT (APP): Chief Collector Customs Appraisal (Punjab) Lahore Saima Shehzad, along with Collector Customs Sialkot Saima Aftab, visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Friday for foster cooperation of the business community and addressing customs-related challenges to bolster regional trade.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice

President Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and Dr. Mariam Nouman, president of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCCI), welcomed the officials. In a meeting held at the SCCI Auditorium, the SCCI president apprised Chief Collector Saima Shehzad of the hurdles confronting local businesses. Highlighting Sialkot's pivotal role as an export hub, he emphasised

the city's contribution to foreign exchange earnings and national economic prosperity. President Malik lauded SCCI's pioneering efforts in fostering a culture of export promotion and community development. Notable initiatives spearheaded by the SCCI, including the establishment of Sialkot Dry Port, Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), and AirSial, were hailed as milestones in the city's progress.

Governor Punjab resolves to get the country out of difficulties together

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

He was talking to the media on the occasion of the visit of senior Party leader Dr. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan at the residence of PPP District President Sardar Ashar Hayat Khan in Hassanabdal on Friday. On this occasion,

former National Assembly candidate Sardar Zulfikar Hayat Khan, Party leaders and a large number of dignitaries from the city were also present.

On this occasion, the Governor mingled with the workers and listened to their problems. Tight security arrangements were made on the Governor's arrival.

Punjab govt appoints judges in special courts, LHC told

LAHORE (Online): Punjab government has filed notification in Lahore High Court (LHC) regarding appointments of judges in special court.

The court gave time of 15 days to federal government for appointment of judges.

Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan heard the case of appointment of judges in special courts of Punjab Friday.

Advocate General (AG) Punjab presented the notification regarding appointment of judges in LHC.

The court gave 15 days time to federal government for appointment of judges.

CJ LHC appreciated positive role of AG Punjab.

He remarked all are respectable for us. You

have shown good attitude. AG Punjab told the court judges in all Special courts of Anti Terrorism have been appointed in Punjab.

He further told two judges have been appointed in anti corruption and one each in service tribunal and consumer court. If appointment has to be made anywhere it will soon be made, he added.

During the hearing of the case federal government sought more time. Counsel for federal government said approval for appointment of judges will be obtained in the meeting of federal government. The CJ LHC remarked now Punjab government has made appointment of judges but federal government has sought time for 15 days.

Two killed, one injured in Katlang firing

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people were killed when unknown assailants fired at them in Anwar Khan Killay of Katlang Tehsil in Mardan District on Friday.

Police said the incident took place in the vicinity of Jabbar police station where two people identified as Sattar Khan and Afsar were killed by the firing of unknown assailants.

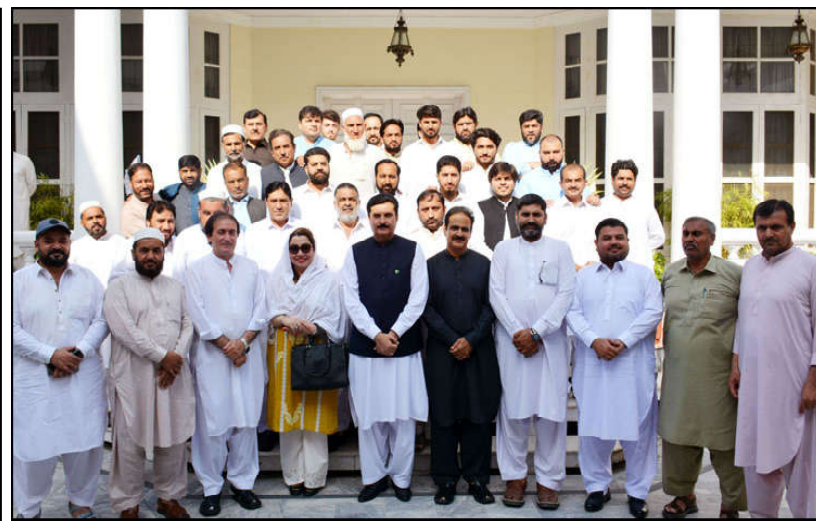
Another unknown man also sustained bullet injuries in the firing. The officials of Rescue 1122 shifted the dead and injured to DHQ Hospital.

Jabbar police have started an investigation into the incident after registering a case.

Eradication of dengue mosquito priority: DC Attock

ATTOCK (APP): Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza Friday said that people should ensure the implementation of the code of conduct issued by the Punjab government to eradicate the dengue mosquito so that this epidemic can be effectively controlled.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting in connection with the anti-dengue campaign at DC Office Attock.



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

Minister promises peace, order across province

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has affirmed that peace and order are being maintained throughout the province.

Chairing the 5th meeting of the Sub-Cabinet Committee on Law and Order on Friday, on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, he emphasised the ongoing actions against drug dealers, kite-making factories, and electricity thieves.

During the meeting, which was held at the Interior Department on

KP Governor visits Mufti Mehmood

MARKAZ TO MEET JUI LEADERSHIP

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Friday visited Mufti Mehmood Markaz and met with JUI Senator, Moulana Atta-ur-Rehman.

The governor was accompanied by Provincial President PPP, Najamuddin and former federal minister, Sajid Hussain Turi. JUI Secretary General Moulana Ata-ul-Haq Darwais and City Mayor, Haji Zubair Ali was also present on the occasion.

Secretary Health says: Doctors issues to be resolved on priority

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Health Punjab, Ali Jan Khan on Friday stated that all issues faced by doctors would be resolved on a priority basis. He said that under the Sehat Sahulat Programme (SSP) it is the doctors' right to receive their share, saying that once the renovation of Nishtar Hospital is completed, it will wear a new look.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation from the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) during his visit to Nishtar Hospital.

Dr Zulfqarnain Haider, the Vice President of the PMA and others informed him that the doctors of Nishtar Hospital have not yet received their share, while the Director of Finance and his staff are keeping 43 pc of the share, which is against the rules. Similarly, a visit by the University of Health Sciences to the departments of Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, Dermatology, and Nephrology has not yet taken place due to delays in approval.

Heat wave grips Larkana Division

LARKANA (APP): The entire city of Larkana and its surroundings remained in grip of severe heat on Friday, forcing the people to remain indoors.

The Met Office Larkana recorded 50 Degree Celsius as maximum temperature, but it has feel 52 temperature. The severe heat has affected the daily business adversely and the prices of ice and cold drinks have soared tremendously and traffic flow were slow and people's stay at homes. Mayor Larkana established cold drinking water stalls in different areas of the city.

Governor KP chairs senate meeting of UoS

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi here Friday chaired the 13th Senate meeting of University of Swabi (UoS) that discussed various matters including financial resource plan and age relaxation.

The meeting among others was attended by Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi, Vice Chancellor (UoS), Dr. Nasir Jamal and concerned officials.

The meeting discussed matters including approval of minutes presented in last senate meeting besides deliberating the reservations regarding financial resource plan of the university.

Meeting also discussed report about amendments that was presented in the meeting after getting approval from syndicate. Participants of the meeting also pondered matters including age relaxation for appointment and abolishing of certain allowances.

Addressing the meeting, KP Governor suggested deciding a time frame for preparation of senate minutes and said that approval of minutes should be delayed.

He also stressed to devise a proper mechanism and policy relating to age relaxation.



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

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Friday that the Punjab Cabinet had given approval to take legal action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder and other leaders for adopting hatred narrative against state institutions.

Addressing a press conference here, she said the country's development and prosperity was the top priority of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz.

She said, "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf promotes hatred on social media in an organized way." Azma said that hatred was being promoted through a propaganda started from Adiala Jail.

She further said that in the 8th meeting of Punjab Cabinet presided over by Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, a number of development works had been approved.

She said that Punjab Cabinet had paid tribute to the Punjab CM for reducing inflation to a great extent which helped in mitigating the sufferings of common man.

Azma Bokhari said that prices of rice, ghee, flour had reduced while rates of cement, gas cylinder and transport fares had also gone down. She said that Pakistani rupee also got stable against dollar.



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

International News

Biden woos Kenya's President Ruto with key state visit

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden is rolling out the red carpet Thursday for his Kenyan counterpart William Ruto with a diplomatic-heavy state visit and a lavish White House dinner with all the trimmings. It is the first state visit to Washington by an African leader in more than 15 years.

As Biden seeks to counter geopolitical headwinds across the continent, he will formally ask Congress to grant Kenya the status of "major non-Nato ally," according to a senior administration official. The label officially confers military and diplomatic privileges on the countries—currently 18 around the world—that

are so designated, albeit without any formal security guarantees.

Kenya would become the first sub-Saharan African nation on the list.

"Democracy is obviously on the back foot globally and we see Kenya as an important, stable democracy in East Africa," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hence the pomp and circumstance that awaits Ruto on Thursday—a day after he met with Biden at the White House—during a visit expected to touch on the issue of global peace and security, and notably an upcoming role for Kenya in a mission to restore order to chaos-torn Haiti.

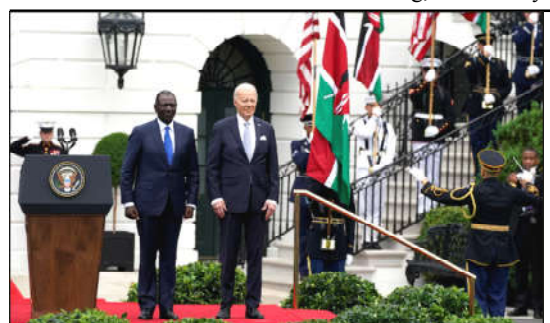
Ruto will first be received with military honors in the morning, followed by

a bilateral meeting with Biden, then a joint press conference, before a gala dinner featuring the two first ladies.

Distinguished guests will gather in a vast pavilion on the White House lawn, where tables will be adorned with African orchids and American roses.

On the menu: Heirloom tomato soup, fruitwood-smoked beef short ribs and butter-poached lobster, with banana ganache for dessert.

Entertainers will include country music star Brad Paisley and a gospel choir. The White House has promised partnership announcements in health and the battle against climate change, as well as private sector investment.



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

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

TUNIS: Hundreds of people demonstrated in Tunis on Sunday in support of President Kais Saied amid widespread criticism at home and abroad after a wave of arrests that included journalists, activists and lawyers.

The European Union, France and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern at

the arrests and at a police raid on the headquarters of the bar association this month in which two lawyers critical of the president were detained.

Police this month arrested 10 people, including journalists, lawyers and officials of civil society groups, in what was described as crackdown by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Vietnam votes in public security minister as president

BANGKOK: Vietnam's rubber-stamp parliament voted in public security minister To Lam as the country's new president on Wednesday, after a major anti-corruption campaign forced his predecessor to resign.

Thousands of people—including several senior government and business leaders—have been caught up in the Southeast Asian country's "blazing furnace" crackdown on graft, led by Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

Analysts have said that Lam, who is deputy head of the steering committee on anti-corruption, has weaponised its investigations to take down his political rivals.

In his first remarks as president, Lam said he was "determined to fight corruption and negative phenomena".



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

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

NOUMEA: Police reinforcements in New Caledonia will stay as long as needed, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday after viewing areas devastated by deadly riots triggered by a contested electoral reform in the French-ruled Pacific island.

Macron's hastily arranged visit comes after six people were killed in riots that have left a trail of looted shops, torched cars and businesses since they began more than a week ago.

"In the coming hours and days, massive new operations will be scheduled where necessary, and republican order in its entirety will be re-established because there is no other choice," Macron said during a meeting with political and business leaders in the territory's capital Noumea. Roads across the island remained blocked by protester barricades, and residents shared advice on social media on safe routes to find food, petrol and medicine.

Russia says IS behind deadly Moscow concert hall attack

MOSCOW: Russia on Friday said for the first time that the militant Islamic State group coordinated the March concert hall assault in Moscow, the country's deadliest terror attack in two decades.

IS has claimed responsibility on multiple occasions for the March 22 attack which killed over 140 people, but Moscow has repeatedly tried to link Ukraine and the West to the attack. FSB chief Alexander Bortnikov was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti news agency that "preparations, the financing.

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

TORONTO: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday said Canada is "prepared to recognise the state of Palestine at the right time—not necessarily as the last step along the path." Trudeau's statement came in response to a challenge from New Democratic Party (NDP) MP and foreign affairs critic Heather McPherson in the House of Commons, as she urged him to "take a stand" on the matter.

"We urgently need to build a credible path toward lasting peace. We oppose efforts by the Netanyahu government to reject a two-state solution.

At the same time, Hamas, a terrorist group, currently controls areas in Gaza and has not laid down its arms or released its hostages," Trudeau added. The debate in the House of Commons was sparked by recent decisions from Norway, Ireland, and Spain to recognise Pales-tine, prompting Canadian lawmakers to discuss the issue. Several Liberal MPs have urged Prime Minister Trudeau to follow suit and the call within Canada's Parliament for formal recognition of a Palestinian state is growing.

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

NEW YORK: The Israeli military said Thursday it has completed a two-day operation in the occupied West Bank that the Palestinian Health Ministry says killed 12 Palestinians and wounded 25.

Rippling tensions from the Israel-Hamas war were also felt in the Red Sea, where a missile splashed down in the water near the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Thursday, but caused no damage, and in Lebanon, where state-run National News Agency says an Israeli drone strike killed one person and wounded three school students who were passing nearby in a bus.

More than 400 people have been killed in Lebanon since Israel and Hezbollah began exchanging fire the day after the latest war in Gaza began.

Norway, Ireland and Spain said Wednesday they were recognizing a Palestinian state, a move welcomed by Palestinians as an affirmation of their decades-long quest while Israel recalled its ambassadors to the three countries.

It was the second blow to Israel's international reputation this week after the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said he would seek arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense minister.

The International Court of Justice is also considering allegations of genocide that Israel has strenuously denied.

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

WASHINGTON: The United States is expected to announce an additional \$275 million in military aid for Ukraine on Friday as Kyiv struggles to hold off advances by Russian troops in the Kharkiv region, two U.S. officials say.

This will be the fourth installment of military aid for Ukraine since Congress passed a long-delayed foreign aid bill late last month and comes as the Biden administration has pledged to keep weapons flowing regularly and to get them to the front lines as quickly as possible.

The package includes high mobility artillery rocket systems, or HIMARS, as well 155 mm and 105 mm high-demand artillery rounds, according to the two U.S. officials. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide

details of the aid package before the public announcement.

It follows a monthly gathering Monday of about 50 defense leaders from Europe and elsewhere who meet regularly to coordinate getting more military aid to Ukraine. At this latest meeting, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Ukraine was in a "moment of challenge" due to Russia's new onslaught on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. He pledged to keep weapons moving "week after week."

Russia has sought to take advantage of Ukrainian shortages in manpower and weapons while the war-torn country waits for the arrival of more U.S. assistance, which was delayed for months in Congress. Ukrainian forces have been pushed backward in places, while Russia has pounded its power grid and civilian areas.

PM for efforts to protect Markhor, other species for sustainable future

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the country observed the first International Day of the Markhor on Friday (May 24), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called for the efforts to protect the national animal of Pakistan and other species which enrich the planet's biodiversity.

The prime minister, in his message to the nation, said, "Let us work together to protect not only the Markhor but also all species that enrich our planet's biodiversity. By doing so, we secure a sustainable future for generations to come."

He called upon all Pakistanis and the international community to reaffirm their commitment to environmental conservation.

"Today, as we celebrate the first International Day of the Markhor, the

national animal of Pakistan, we take pride in the majestic creature that symbolizes our rich natural heritage," he remarked.

The prime minister said that the Markhor, with its unique corkscrew-shaped horns, represented Pakistan's commitment to preserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance. He said the day, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on May 2, 2024, acknowledged the nation's efforts and successes in wildlife conservation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the significant increase in the Markhor population over the past decade was a testament to Pakistan's dedication to protecting its natural environment.

He said that the country's conservation programmes, supported by

local communities and guided by scientific research, had shown that with collective effort, the decline of endangered species could be reversed.

"Pakistan, as a committed signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), proudly announced its significant elevation to CITES Category I. This elevation is a testament to the nation's unwavering dedication to wildlife conservation and the sustainable management of our natural resources."

He said that the country's exclusive legislation, the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012, underscored its commitment to responsible trade practices and the well-being of endangered species.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed along with Ambassadors of African Countries to Pakistan cutting cake during the celebration of Africa Day at ICCI Chamber House.

BISP supports disadvantaged segments irrespective of political affiliation: Rubina Khalid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid Friday said that the BISP was providing financial assistance to all poor and deserving people irrespective of any political affiliation.

"This money is the right of the poor people, and it is our responsibility to ensure that funds are provided to deserving women in a dignified and transparent manner", she said during her visit to the BISP payment centers in Swabi.

The objective of Rubina Khalid's visit to Swabi was to review the distribution process of payments to deserving women and to assess the necessary arrangements and facilities provided to the beneficiaries, said a

news release issued here.

During her visit, she directly interacted with the beneficiaries of the BISP and listened to their concerns.

Addressing the women, she advised them to visit the payment center only after receiving a message from the BISP official number 8171.

Rubina Khalid announced that the total amount received in this installment of the stipend is Rs. 10,500.

She instructed the beneficiaries to ensure they count and collect the full amount and to ask for a bank receipt.

In case of any deductions, she urged them to immediately file a complaint with the BISP helpline at 0800-26477.

Giving instructions to the staff, Rubina Khalid

emphasized that senior citizens and women with small children should be given priority.

She instructed the staff to inform the beneficiaries of their exact amount while issuing tokens.

Later, Rubina Khalid visited the BISP office in Swabi. She directed the staff to clean the office and improve the arrangements for deserving women.

She reminded the staff that this program is associated with the name of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and should not be misused.

Speaking to a media representative, Chairperson BISP stated that more than 9.5 million families are benefiting from this program. The survey process for identifying eligible families is underway.

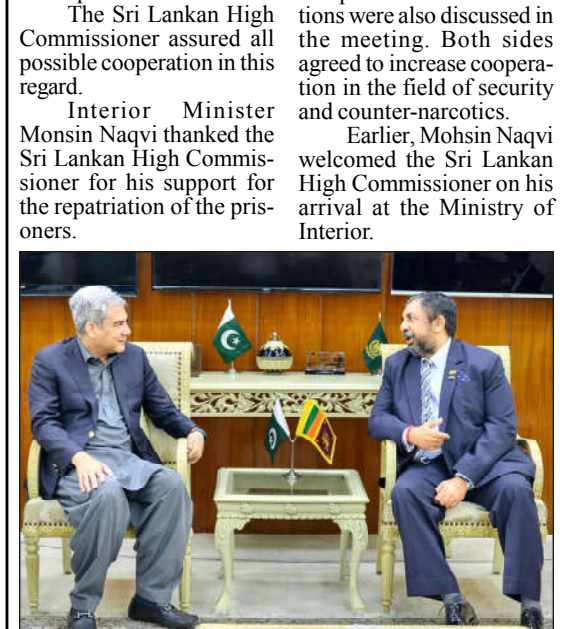
43 Pakistani prisoners in Sri Lanka to return home

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

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Sri Lankan High Commissioner Admiral Ravindra C Wijegunaratne.

Romina says: Pak leading world in community-based Markhor conservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Friday announced that Pakistan was the leading world in community-based conservation of Markhor and other wild goats and sheep that were thriving in population across the northern region of the country.

Addressing a press conference, flanked by Inspector General of Forest, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Ghulam Qadir Shah on the occasion of International Markhor Day, the PM's Coordinator mentioned that the country along with the rest of the world was celebrating its national animal's day under the ambit of the United Nations to raise awareness on its conservation and significance in the ecology.

Romina Khurshid said the United Nations



ISLAMABAD: A view of closed Jinnah avenue due to Ghaza sit protest (Dharna) at D-Chowk in the Federal Capital.

Laghari visits Kuwait RCS headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General KRCS Abdul Rehman Al Aoun and board members.

During the visit, Chairman Laghari engaged in discussions with the senior officials of KRCS, focusing on strengthening bilateral humanitarian relations and addressing the current humanitarian challenges in the region. In his remarks, Chairman Laghari highlighted Kuwait's steadfast support during times of peace and crises. He emphasized the historic and enduring partnership with KRCS.

Dr. Hilal Mused Al-Sayer along with Deputy Chairman Dr Anwar Abdullah Al Hasawi, Secretary General Ms. Maha Barjas Hamoud Al Barjas,

NIH issues advisory on heatwave

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) has issued an advisory regarding the rising intensity of heatwaves and the associated risk of sunstroke across the country.

The advisory highlights the increasing impact of climate change due to global warming, reported a private news channel on Friday.

According to the NIH, the risks and effects of heatwaves are on the rise, with an expected increase in morbidity and mortality due to heatstroke.

The Institute stresses the importance of immediate measures to combat heatstroke, particularly by avoiding direct sunlight.

The advisory emphasizes that preventing dehydration is crucial in avoiding complications from heatstroke. Additionally, the NIH warned that extreme heat can also lead to typhoid fever.

The NIH urges the public to take these warnings seriously and adopt measures to protect themselves during the heatwave.

Islamabad Police distribute water among the citizens in extreme hot weather

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to the details, following the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police is utilizing all available resources to provide citizens with every possible assistance and travel facilities, a public relations officer said.

He said that the SSP Traffic Muhammad Sarfraz Virk directed the officials to promote community policing and improve public-police relations.

In this regard, the Islamabad Traffic Police are ensuring the provision of water at various locations

in Islamabad for citizens traveling in extreme hot weather. This is to ensure that citizens can travel safely and comfortably to their destinations despite the hot weather.

On this occasion, SSP Traffic said that the purpose of this initiative is to

protect the lives and property of citizens, ensure safe travel, promote community policing, and bridge the gap between the police and the public.

Citizens have greatly appreciated this initiative by the Islamabad Traffic Police and have also thanked the IG Islamabad and his team.



supported by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, he added.

The basic objectives of the program are to equip the participants with the knowledge and information about Chinese success in different fields, acquaint them with the Chinese model of development and shared prosperity, and provide them guidelines as to how they can suggest a way forward to Pakistani policymakers in line with the Chinese way of thinking.

The fellowship is a four-month long duration programme to be divided into two parts.

AIERD, Arid Agriculture University launch "China Fellowship 2024"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Institute of Civilization Research and Development (AIERD), in collaboration with Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University has launched the Understanding China Fellowship Programme 2024 for the youth intending and aspiring to understand China.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), AIERD, Shakeel Ahmed Ramay told APP that under the fellowship experts on China from Pakistani and Chinese universities and think tanks would deliver lectures and conduct workshops to train the participants.

The program was



ISLAMABAD: Visitors are looking handmade items on Indonesia stall during Asian African Culture Night at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

Senator Shibli says: Govt responsible for operation to demolish PTI central secretariat

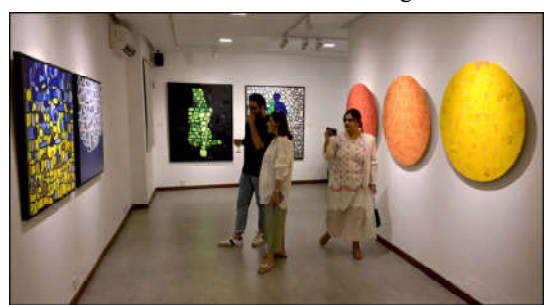
ISLAMABAD (Online): Opposition leader in Senate Shibli Faraz has strongly condemned CDA operation to demolish PTI central secretariat, held government responsible and demanded of immediate release of PTI arrested workers.

Shibli Faraz opposition leader said in Senate he came to know on Friday in session that finance committee of house has been established in consultation

with opposition leader. This is a sheer lie and wrong.

Law minister is making offensive on judiciary now a days, he added. A wave of fascism has come in the country.

He said PTI central office was demolished in the darkness of night. Party workers were lathi charged. Government side cannot erase the love of people for Imran Khan from their hearts through use of force.



ISLAMABAD: Visitor viewing painting during exhibition "Archipelago of the Self" at Tanzara Gallery.

IFA's late night action; 6510 kg fake pickle, 155kg tainted spices destroyed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) on Thursday night raided at a pickle and spice unit in the Industrial area of the Federal Capital, and sealed it while recovering 6510 kilograms of fake pickles and 155 kilograms of tainted spices.

Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations of IFA, Dr. Tahira Saddique, said that the IFA accompanied by food safety teams (FSTs) raided at late night in the pickle unit and destroyed a large quantity of contaminated food products.

She said that the inspection revealed rotten vegetables stored uncovered and treated with chemicals. The team also discovered fungus, insects, and flies infesting the pickles. The unit was using

banned colours to adulterate spices and selling these items in attractive packaging, misleading consumers.

Dr. Tahira emphasized the importance of food safety and promised strict action against those who compromise the quality of food. She urged the public to support the IFA in identifying and eliminating such practices in their neighborhoods. This raid underscored the IFA's commitment to ensuring safe and healthy food for the residents of Islamabad, she added.

On the occasion, she warned that the sale of substandard and harmful food items was a criminal offense under the law and strict action would be taken against the violators.

ECP imposes ban on officer transfers for PK-22 by-Polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has imposed a ban on the posting and transfer of government officers within Bajaur district to ensure free, fair and transparent upcoming by-elections in PK-22, Bajaur IV, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a notification, the ban will remain in effect until the names of returned candidates are published. Additionally, the ECP has prohibited government functionaries or elected representatives, including local government officials, from announcing any development schemes for constituencies where bye-elections are underway until July 11, 2024.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors are looking handmade items on Indonesia stall during Asian African Culture Night at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

PTI leader Aamir sent to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has sent PTI leader Aamir Mughal to jail on judicial remand.

Aamir Mughal was arrested during operation against encroachments outside PTI office.

Aamir Mughal was presented before the ATC Islamabad led by judge Abul Hasanat Muhammad Zulqarnain.

On being inquired by the court the investigating officer told that rod has to be recovered from Aamir Mughal.

Judge Abul Hasanat Muhammad Zulqarnain remarked when Aamir Mughal has been caught then has the rod to be recovered.

Comedian Rangeela remembered on death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 19th death anniversary of comedian, film actor, singer and director, Rangeela was observed on Friday.

Rangeela's real name was Muhammad Saeed Khan. He was born in Parachinar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 1937.

In 1957, Rangeela started his cinematic journey with the film "Jati", marking the start of a remarkable career that soared to great heights.

He received eleven Nigar Awards and Pride of Performance in recognition of his services.

Rangeela died on this day in 2005, at the age of 68.

ECP employees to get three salaries as bonus

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decided to give three salaries as bonus to its officers and employees.

According to letters dispatched to the provincial election commissioners, the ECP has informed that employees and officers will get three basic salaries as bonus. Those who are facing departmental inquiries and moved to services tribunals or judiciary will not be eligible for the bonus, the ECP letter stated.

The ECP has already given two salary bonuses to its employees in March after conducting the general elections in February.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam talking to media on International Markhor Day.

1546 accused arrested; cash, valuables worth Rs 165mn recovered during one month

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police carried out an extensive crackdown against criminal elements in the federal capital during the last month to maintain peace and tranquility, a public relations officer said. He said that, in this regard the Operations Division Islamabad arrested a total of 1,546 accused involved in different criminal activities, and recovered cash and valuables worth over Rs 165.25 million, including vehicles and motorcycles, from their possession.

Additionally, 291 accused involved in property crimes such as theft, robbery, burglary, vehicle and motorcycle theft, and vehicle tampering were arrested. Police teams also recovered cash and valuables worth over Rs 165.25 million, including vehicles and motorcycles, from their possession.

The Islamabad Police Operations Division also carried out extensive operations against those possessing illegal weapons, and arrested 277 accused and recovered 15 rifles, 5 carbines, 231 pistols, and 55 daggers from their possession. Similarly, during various operations against professional beggars and their facilitators throughout the city, 775 men, women, children, and transgender individuals were arrested.