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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Abdulrahman Jasser Al- sage to accept the invitation Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Mutairi handed over the to visit Pakistan on the Meshal Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani have accepted Minister Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's invitation to visit agreed dates. Pakistan, marking a major breakthrough in the ter, the prime minister re- Pakistan's firm determinacountry's diplomatic efforts.

In separate meetings of ambassadors of Kuwait and Qatar with the prime min-2028, 2024. ister on Sunday, they presented the letters of their respective leaders, confirming their acceptance of invitation to visit Pakistan.

In a meeting, Ambassador of Kuwait Nassar Qatar conveying the mes- cial for both the countries.

letter of the Emir of Kuwait mutually convenient dates. to the prime minister which The prime minister conveyed a message to acconveying his heartfelt cept the invitation of the gratitude to the Qatari prime minister to visit Pa-Emir, emphasized that Pakistan on the mutually kistan deeply valued its historic brotherly relations While receiving the letwith Qatar and reiterated

called his recent meeting tion to deepen mutually with the Kuwaiti Emir held beneficial cooperation beon the sidelines of World tween the two countries. Economic Forum on April He said that both sides

should start preparations Meanwhile Qatar's en- for the visit with an exvoy to Pakistan Mubarak change of delegations be-Ali Essa Al-Khater also tween the two capitals to called on the prime minisensure that the high-level visit ter and presented to him the was productive and successletter from the Emir of ful and results were benefi-



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

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

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

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

Addressing a press con-ference here on Sunday, he said that both countries support each other at different forums and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative was a big example in this regard. He said, "We are confirm-ing it with evidence that during an attack on Chinese

of General Staff (CGS) of

Iranian Armed Forces, Ma-

jor General Mohammad

Bagheri and extended deep

condolences over the sad

and unfortunate incident of

the helicopter crash on

important officials.

engineers in Besham. Afghanistan's territory had been used and it was a matter of great concern for Pa-China

He said that such threats coming from across the borders make regional security more complex. The interior minister said that it was a planned attack and was operated from Afghanistan. He said Pakistan had raised this issue with Afghanistan's Interim government and stressed them

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

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

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

China during next month was also very important. He said that China's cooperation for strengthening Pakistan's economy was crucial. He said that in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Counter-Terrorism Department was doing great work and they had developed themselves in very short span of time. Mohsin Naqvi said that

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

security to Chinese and Azmatullah Mehsud and Prime Minister's visit to other senior leaders of the TTP.

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

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



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

We are ready if PTI intends to hold talks: Yousaf Raza Gillani to control terrorists operating from there.

Affirms support for government's welfare initiatives

ISLAMABAD (INP): Acting President Yousaf Raza Gillani on Sunday said that we are ready if the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) wants to talk with us. We didn't say at any

time, we are not on the side of the government." PPP stalwart Gillani said in a media talk. "We are extending full support to the government and engaged in talks with it for joining the gov-ernment," he said. "We will take responsibility if joined the government," he further said. "We will support them in all good works," he added. Gillani said that no par-

liament bill or law will be passed without us APP adds Acting Presi-

dent Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) ter, noting that their efforts people.

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

ity basis with global support. Responding to a ques-He expressed these tion, he highlighted Pakiviews while talking to mestan has the capability to dia after laying the foundaaddress threats on the easttion stone of a reverse osern and western borders, as mosis (RO) plant here on well as terrorism and extremism with national Sunday. He highlighted that as a member of the United unity.

He said that the provi-

sion of clean water was a

global issue, which needed

to be addressed on a prior-

The Acting President said his party believed in Nations, Pakistan was committed to the Sustainable public welfare and political Development Goal (SDG) 6, which aimed to ensure dialogue and had always "availability and sustainable preferred to adopt a conciliatory approach to address management of water and sanitation for all" by 2030. national issues. He further He expressed his appreciastated that his party had tion for those working to been supporting the governprovide clean drinking wa- ment to provide relief to the

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

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

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

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

dom). fectively engaged the terror-

Minister Shehbaz Sharif on However, during intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Hussain Jahangir, age 25 years, resident of Rahim Yar Khan District, along with another terrorists

Havildar Shafiq Ullah, age: 36 years, resident of District Karak, having fought gallantly, made the

Meanwhile

PESHAWAR: Army officers carrying coffin of Captain Hussain Jahangir

who embraced martyrdom during an IBO in Hassan Khel.

Sunday paid tribute to the security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in the Hasan Khe area of Peshawar, which resulted in killing of five The prime minister brave son of the soil,

also offered his heartfelt condolence to the family members of Pakistan Army's Captain Hussain Jahangir and Havaldar

Federal Minister of Planultimate sacrifice and emning, Development, and Shafiqullah, who embraced braced Shahadat (martyr-Special Initiatives Ahsan martyrdom during the op-Iqbal said on Sunday that Prime eration. the government was not inclined towards suffocating SHAHEED PA - 61138 CAPT HUSSAIN JEHAN UNIT 7 LCB

tragic and irreparable stan, an Inter Services Pub-RAWALPINDI (APP):

COAS highlights loss of Iranian leaders truly

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed lic Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS highlighted Asim Munir, had a telephonic call with the Chief

that the loss of both the leaders and others was truly tragic and irreparable. The Army Chief on behalf of all ranks of Pakistan Army extended prayers for the departed souls and well wishes for the bereaved families.

The COAS said that May 19 which led to de-Pakistan has historic, culmise of President Ebrahim tural and brotherly ties with Raisi, Foreign Minster Iran and the Armed Forces Amir Abdollahain and other of Pakistan and Iran have always stood together. The COAS expressed

General Bagheri thanked that Late President Ebrahim the COAS for sharing grief Raisi and Late Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian and vowed to continue the cooperation between the were exceptional leaders two militaries and true friends of Paki-



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

"He said that this prin-

would send a strong mes-

sage of hope and solidarity

people who have been en-

suffering over seventy-five

years of occupation and

Media Wing said in a press

release.

PPP delegation | PM Shahbaz highly appreciates calls on PM Norway's landmark decision **Shehbaz Sharif** to recognize Palestine ISLAMABAD (APP): A

delegation of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sunday called on Prime Minis Minister Muhammad ter Muhammad Shehbaz Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday Sharif and discussed mat during a telephonic converters of mutual concern. sation with Prime Minister The delegation in of Norway Jonas Gahr

cluded former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf appreciation for Norway's Sved Naveed Qamar, Chief landmark decision to recog-Minister Sindh Syed nize the State of Palestine. Murad Ali Shah, and Sherry Rehman cipled decision by Norway

During the meeting, the participants exchanged views on the overall politito the brave Palestinian cal situation of the country They also discussed the upcoming budget 2024 during Israel's brutality and

MUZAFFARABAD: Refugees protesting against

Deputy Prime Minis-Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir for the sake ter and Foreign Minister of independence by raising the flags of Pakistan Ishaq Dar, Minster for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Advisor to PM on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, and Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarrar also attended the

meeting. ISLAMABAD (APP): the country from the risks Aleem to attend associated with misinformatwo-day int'l Regarding Pakistan's Youm-e-Takbir, observed conference in Tajikistan from

May 29

ISLAMABĂD (APP) Federal Minister for Communications, Privatisation and Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan will visit Tajikistan to represent Pakistan in a Two-Day International Regional Conference under "Road to Tien Shan". Pakistan,

China, India, Armenia, Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan are included in this international conference on May 29 and 30, while the heads of important international financial and investment institutions will also participate, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

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

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

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

Legend actor Talat Hussain passes away

KARACHI (APP): The May 26 and survived by a widow, two daughers

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

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

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

acting legend and renowned drama, stage and and a son. film actor Talat Hussain





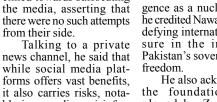




illness in the morning of



passed away at the age of 83 after a prolonged



Media suffocation, not

intended: Ahsan Iqbal

tion

bly in spreading misinformation that can sow chaos in society. He said the government's aim to mitigate these risks and ensure that social media was used

and Kashmir at Azadi Chowk.

He further noted the importance of consulting stakeholders to formulate laws aimed at addressing the challenges posed by social media. He stressed that such laws must be in the interest of all to safeguard

on May 28 to commemorate the country's emergence as a nuclear power, he credited Nawaz Sharif for defying international pressure in the interest of

Pakistan's sovereignty and He also acknowledged the foundational role

nuclear program.

presidency, to be contested Nawaz Sharif, would

take place. He expressed the party's collective sentiment to address the perceived in-

Sharif

He said that the general council meeting of PML-N would be held in Lahore on the historic May 28, where the election for the party's

Besides

played by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Pakistan's

justice done to Nawaz

esponsibly

Page 02

is concerned.

Daily A oice of Masse

Independent

ICJ rebuke

Matters are not going well for Israel where world

opinion regarding its murderous activities in Gaza

OPINION

Nuclear deterrence

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Fifty years ago, in May risk of kinetic confrontations escalating into the 1974, India detonated its first nuclear device, call- nuclear dimension could ing it Operation Smiling India's aggressive doc-Buddha. While the world remained largely silent, trines like Cold Start, Pakistan opted for a full-Pakistan's foreign minister declared Pakistan spectrum deterrence posture, while remaining would "never submit to within the ambit of crednuclear blackmail" or "accept Indian hegemony ible minimum deterrence over the subcontinent". to deter all aggression from tactical to strategic Earlier, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had expressed the relevel.

That said, nuclear solve that if India ever built a nuclear weapon, cea to deter all forms of Pakistan would 'eat grass', but build one of aggression and resolve its own. Given India's our conflict with India. role in dismembering the Pakistan has to rely on other instruments of nacountry in 1971, the Pakistani leadership found it tional power, including imperative to restore the conventional capabilities, power equilibrium by to tackle threats on its nuclear capability to deborders. Political stability,

fence also enhance deterovertly rence. Diplomacy, too, has an important role. Both countries agreed in 1988 not to attack each other's nuclear facilities. There is also an agreement to prevent airspace violations (1991). The Vajpayee-Sharif

meeting in Lahore in 1999 introduced several confidence-building mearence, which essentially sures to reduce the danger of nuclear warfare. An agreement was reached on advance notification of missile testing in 2005. In 2006, both sides agreed to reduce the risk of nuclear accidents or Nuclear weapons unauthorised use of

nuclear weapons.

Given the dangers of ideally not intended for war-fighting. Their main purpose is to deter wars. Since 1998, South Asia has not seen a major war, primarily due to nuclear deterrence. However, nuclear deterrence could not prevent confrontations below the nuclear overhang — for instance, clashes in Kargil in 1999, engaging in a nuclear troops mobilisation in arms race. 2001-2, and Indian ag-

gression in Balakot in Another view of 2019. While none of strategic stability, to threat perceptions.

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

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

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

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

tance that India and Pakistan engage in meaningful dialogue to avert risks of escalation in crinuclear weapons or for sis situations, enhance understanding of each other's nuclear postures, and address mutual

these confrontations as- which Pakistan sub- Courtesy Dawn

Daily Independent

Reality bites

This year's Met Gala

Celebrities and

He

In the West, celeb-

was

masses.

Muna Khan

One of my high school teachers, an American Marie middle-aged man, used to poke fun at us for bestrates an insensitivity to ing clueless. He would the challenges faced by often reference student the poor, or in this case, protests in the 1960s as the Palestinians. It was great examples of attone deaf. tempts to disrupt the system. Students were unafraid of consequences, he'd say and lebrities and influencers after any example from for their silence on Gaza. that time, he'd add "I know, I was there". Be-The distinction must be made between simply cause he worried about unfollowing and blockour disconnect with the ing; the latter has an imworld, he talked to us pact as the audience about apartheid in South blocks seeing any con-Africa — how boycotts tent from the celebrity. It can make a difference on threatens their brand all levels and why it and potential to earn should matter to all of more. us. I remember him mak-

ing me feel proud of my occurred against a backpassport for not drop of genocide and recognising South Africa famine in Palestine, and and Israel. We celglobal unrest and food ebrated years later when insecurity. According to Nelson Mandela was rethe Council on Foreign leased in 1990. We were Relations, between the there, now clued in, and third quarters of 2020 and would go on to witness 2022, median global inflathe country move to tion soared from 1.9 per post-apartheid reconcilicent to 8.8pc. To watch singer Camilla Cabello

I'm witnessing walk the red carpet carsomething similar, which rying a \$22,000 purse made of ice is mind-bog-I can't yet put a name on for fear I'll be woefully gling. That is a little over wrong. So, I'm calling it six million Pakistani rua shift from 'don't care pees — for a block of ice about the world' to 'I'm with some flowers in it. not drinking X because it supports Israel's war influencers are, to boron Gaza'. It's inspiring. row from Karl Marx,

ation.

Generation Z is retoday's opiate of the lentless. They recently upped the ante last month with Blockout 2024, a digital boycott of distracting people from reality. Celebrities don't celebrities for their silence on Gaza.

This began on May just distract, they con-6 on the day of the Met trol. It is materialism at its Gala in New York, an angrossest nual fashion fundraiser where a ticket costs rities have been suc-\$75,000, and garners a lot cessful in promoting a of media attention. Social pro-Israel narrative, one media was filled with imthat is so firmly cemented ages of the red carpet that Pakistani artists tryamid the violence in Gaza. ing to make it big in Hol-It was a strange juxtapolywood, for example, sition and did not go down well. Influencer Haley Kalil's TikTok cludes award recipients tine is seen and dealt with video received a lot of of the Oscar, Grammy's, backlash as she posted as well as big Marvel cies. -- Courtesy Dawn

images from the gala lip- success. And Malala synched to 'let them eat Yousafzai too, who despite many clarifications cake', a reference to Antoinette's and statements on X dephrase which demonnouncing Israel and call-

not spared the 'digitine'. We've all gone down a celebrity-induced rabbit hole but in Social media users our defence, we can't responded by calling for escape it. News about a digital guillotine of ce- celebrities — actors, people, sports Prince influencers, Harry, Heeramandi takes up too much space.

ing for a ceasefire, was

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

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

It is wrong to disparage this moment as internet activism with no impact. We should be supporting our children boycotting brands incriticising religion in the stead of saying X is not 19th century when he on the BDS list so it has held it responsible for no meaning. Every action counts fundraising, lobbying, blocking, boycotting because they are all attempts to reclaim power. Clicks and likes and engagement feed the news and celebrity machinery. Depriving them of their oxygen is a powerful action

I was there and saw a post-apartheid world have been tight-lipped since Oct 7. This in-ness a shift in how Pales-- by people and poli-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

as

while

The

economic strength, and ter further Indian aggrespublic support for de-In 1998, South Asia became nuclearised. On May 11, 1998, India tested its nuclear devices. Given the significant conventional asymmetry, Pakistan followed suit on May 28 as it could not remain vulnerable. Its nuclear tests restored the

strategic balance and reestablished nuclear determeans deterring an adversary from conventional or nuclear aggression due to concerns that there would be retaliation

that could eventually lead to mutual assured destruction.

are political weapons,

a nuclear conflagration, both countries have, directly or indirectly, engaged in discussions on how to maintain strategic stability in South Asia. In nuclear parlance, strategic stability is often defined as removing incentives for the use of

Commerce News

Kirmani discusses

Pakistan's regional exports increase 20.61% in 10 months

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

including countries Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$3,655.483 million, which is 14.24 per cent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$25,669.182 million during July-April (2023-24)," State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. China tops the list of countries in terms of Lanka rose by 35.83 Pakistan's exports to its percent to \$326.995 million neighbouring, leaving from \$240.732. The

Awais Leghari.

and expert staff of health

behind other countries such exports to India increased Bangladesh and to \$1.376 million from \$0.250 million in the Afghanistan. Pakistan carried out its previous year.

border trade with the farther Exports to Nepal decreased by 1.38 per cent neighbour Sri Lanka, India, to \$2.420 million from 2.454 Nepal, and Maldives. Pakistan's exports to China million while to Maldives increased by 13.90 cent to witnessed an increase of "The country's 37.68 per cent to \$7.671 million from 6.783 exports to the regional \$2,341.089 million in ten million, it added. On the months of this year from other hand, the imports \$1,700.303 million last year from seven regional countries exports were to \$10,925.280 million during Afghanistan witnessed a nominal decline of 0.54 the period under review as percent from \$435.954 compared to \$8,617.786

million to \$433.567 million. million during last year, showing an increase of 26.77 country's exports to Bangladesh also per cent. The imports from decreased by 15.82 percent China during July-April to \$542.165 million this 2023-24 were recorded at \$10,648.334 million against year from \$644.104 whereas exports to Sri the \$8,343.937 million during July-April 2022-23. showing an increase of 26.61 per cent during the period.

farmers issues with recorded **Federal minister** at LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on

items.

Sunday met Federal Minister for Water and Power Awais Leghari. According to а handout issued here, during

the meeting provision of uninterrupted electricity to farmers of Punjab and other facilities came under

discussion.

participate assured the Punjab in London Tech agriculture minister that his Week expo possible support to Punjab expenses.

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

PFC to

caretaker federal minister June 10, 2024. for National Food Security Chairing the PFC Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik Board of Directors meeting said on Sunday that here, he said the event promotion of new and hioffers a significant tech hybrid seed varieties of platform to showcase the diverse and high-quality various crops under publicprivate partnership could range of Pakistani furniture revolutionize the agriculture products to a global audience.By presenting at London Tech Week, he added, the PFC aims to sector of Pakistan. He highlight the craftsmanship and innovation inherent in furniture Pakistan's industry, seeking to

added that industryacademia synergy was also need of the hour to achieve this goal, citing that Guard Agricultural Research and Services (GARS) was a best captivate potential buvers platform in the private and partners from around sector for industryacademia linkages to

forge

promote high quality hitech hybrid seeds of rice and other crops. He expressed these

views in a meeting with Pakistan Hi-Tech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) furniture on a global scale. Chairman Shahzad Ali

Kirmani also apprised the federal minister about the progress on Punjab Chief Minister's Transforming Punjab Agriculture Plan under

is also a former dean of

postgraduate studies at

Forman Christian College

University, appreciated

their research efforts and

emphasized for industry-

academia linkage arrangements with the

GARS such as collaboration

in research and development

of new seed varieties;

internship programmes and

employment opportunities

for young talented graduates

of school of life sciences, FCC. He added that the

GARS was also good

platform for exploring disease

resistant high yield new seed

varieties. Later, Dr Kasur

along with other leading

researchers also visited the

rice production facilities and

rice quality laboratory and

lauded state of the art

technology employed for

ultra modern research.

Agriculture department in

this regard.

power.

hi-tech hybrid seeds

quality food items to the which tube-wells were public. being shifted to solar Presiding over an important meeting to He said that hefty reduce the prices of bakerv amount of Rs 12 billion items here on Sunday, he Federal Minister had been allocated for said that the government shifting tube-wells to solar will ensure the reduction in energy and this would help the prices of bakery ministry would extend all in saving electricity products.

Food Secretary Punjab, DG Food Call for promoting new Authority, DG Industries and Deputy Commissioner Lahore participated in the meeting. Bakerv Association LAHORE (APP): Former Malik here. Dr Kasur, who

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Food Bilal Yaseen presides over the meeting of stakeholders regarding reduction in Bakery

Food Minister Bilal Yasin

has said that all possible

measures are being taken to

provide affordable and

and **Oil**, Gas Conference Pakistan-2024

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab representatives of 21 famous bakery brands also participated in the May 27.

Govt to ensure affordable,

quality food to public: Bilal

Says bakery product prices set to

fall after bread reduction in Punjab

said that the prices of voluntarily reduce the wheat, flour and fine have prices of their products decreased by 30 to 48 percent in 2 months. "The prices of roti and naan have been reduced and we'll ensure that the

prices of bakery products are also reduced. Bilal Yasin took suggestions for an will ensure the availability immediate reduction in the of bakery products at low prices of bakery products in the stakeholders' meeting. He said that on the request of bakerv owners, they have been systematically.

given time to voluntarily Bilal Yasin asked the

meeting. Bilal Yasın asked the The food minister bakery owners to and biscuit brands. On Monday, May 27, the final reduction of prices in bakery items will be determined in a meeting with the administration.

The food minister said that the administration prices across Punjab. He added that the prices of 60 products made from wheat should be reduced

Agriculture backbone of country, says **Saqib** Ali

KHANEWAL (APP): cotton not only kept the Secretary Agriculture South Punjab, Saqib Ali wheel of the national textile industry running but also Ateel, said that agriculture generates foreign exchange was the backbone of our through its export. Mr Saqib economy and Pakistan's further said that the future is linked with agricultural staff was always agriculture. He expressed present in the field to guide these views during his visit farmers. He advised farmers to the early cotton MNH to irrigate crops according to the needs and weather Sultan fields at Chaudhry Imtiaz Farm at Adhiwala on Sunday. He added that Punjab

conditions. On this occasion, Deputy District Officer Agriculture Extension Rana holds special importance as Habib-ur-Rehman, Assistant approximately 70 percent of Director Agriculture Dr. Khalid, Inspector Khurram the country's total cotton production comes from

Nawazish Raza. Muhammad Ramzan.

Overseas Employment different hospitals in Corporation (OEČ), an Malaysia. attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human application from job Resource Development, seekers to apply for would export around 100 Malaysia and prescribed

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Agriculture and

Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani meeting

with Federal Minister for Water and Power Sardar

Pakistan to export

female nursing staff to a qualifications health firm in Malaysia. experience. He informed me that According to an 100 nurses were required official, the demand for female nursing staff in for ICU with a diploma in Malaysia was increasing nursing, a bachelor of with the passage of time science in nursing, or a due to the highly qualified post-RN from a recognized

institution



female nursing staff

the world. and

The expo serves as an opportunity for PFC to explore new export markets, international business relationships, and enhance the visibility of Pakistani

ndependent

Monday May 27, 2024

the

for

Captain

of their dear homeland.

Chief

MULTAN

mangoes,

depicting

monuments

Standing out as a land of in this area.

exquisite

and

fine quality cotton, aromatic and tasty

craftsmanship, the South

Punjab region also enjoys

rich cultural heritage that

the people cherish and

keep close to their hearts.

Dubbed as the treasure trove of cultural

and historic heritage in

defamation bill in the next

CM pays tribute

to martyred

military

personnel

Consultation with all stakeholders on Defamation **Bill is important: Governor**

Independent Report LAHORE: A Joint Action Committee of Journalist' Organizations called on Punjab Governor, Sardar and News Directors Saleem Haider Khan at (AEMAND), Governor House, Lahore comprised representatives of CPNE, PBA, PFUJ, APNS, Association of Electronic Media Editors Broad Ansari President Lahore in the meeting. General Press Club/Secretary Secretary PPP Central Press Club/Secretary PFUJ, Senior Vice Punjab, Hasan Murtaza. President of APNS Imtinan former MPA Makhdoom Shahid, Former President Murtaza

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

Mehmood,

Syed Fakhar expresses commitment to promotion of sports in the province

Advisor to the Chief Minister KP on Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakhar Jihan Sunday expressed his commitment to promoting sports in the province and providing facilities and infrastructure to support athletes in every sport.

He expressed these views while addressing as the chief guest at the final match of the Inter-Departmental Cricket Tournament organized by the Sports Department. The Advisor announced more sports that competitions and events would be held in the Hazara

LAHORE (APP): Punjab ABBOTTABAD (APP): region, including shooting Chief Minister Maryam competitions for police and

Nawaz Sharif paid tribute other departments. to the great sacrifice of He emphasized that martyred Captain Hussain the provincial government Jahangir and martyred is dedicated to providing Havaldar Shafique Ullah in sports facilities and an operation against infrastructure across the terrorists in Peshawar's province and is committed suburban area Hassan Khel to supporting athletes, The chief minister offered whom he described as the condolences and expressed assets of the province. The her heartfelt sympathies Advisor praised the with the martyred family tournament as a great members. She said, initiative for promoting 'Martyred sports and providing a Hussain Jahangir and healthy recreational activity martyred Havaldar Shafique for government officials. He expressed his hope to bring Ullah laid down their precious lives for the sake international cricket to the



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

PML-N govt to make country prosperous

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

324 kg drugs in arrested 15 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that 27 kg ice was recovered from

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

recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Islamabad Airport.

In two separate operations in Balochistan.

South Punjab - a treasure trove of culture, heritage

ANF recovers

KPFood Authority conducts major operation against adulteration mafia

PESHAWAR (APP): The further action under the officials of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food safety teams conducted raids in Swabi, Nowshera, Malakand and Mardan, spokesperson Food Authority told media men here on Šunday.

The inspection team

seized 800 liters of fake

drinks from a vehicle at the

blockade on Swabi's

Spokesman said. On

fake drinks were recovered

from a vehicle in Nowshera

and taken into official

custody, spokesperson

said. Heavy fines imposed

Jehangira

National News

Food Safety Act initiated, the spokesman said.

Page 03

He said that on inspection of food items businesses in Sakhakot Bazaar of Malakand Division, 200 liters of milk was destroyed as it was found to be substandard. Mardan Food Safety Team checked in Takhtbhai Bazar, inspected samples of different food items Road, from a mobile food testing receiving secret information, 1200 liters of lab, the spokesperson informed.

Bad Oil destroyed on the spot, 80 kg of prohibited and expired items were seized, fines were also imposed, spokesperson said.



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

medical facilities to people of Sargodha district would be ensured. He said that as Sargodha was deprived of funds during the previous government, now

According to archaeologist and Director Pakistan, South Punjab had been the cradle of (Retd) Punjab Archaeology Department Saleem ul Haq, the site is Indus Valley Civilization and a home to remains of ancient Buddhist site at being excavated these days Mound Dillu Roy in Dera by a team led by Dr. Rafiq Ghazi Khan. Under the Mughal and comprising influence of Islamic Saleem ul Haq and other empires, Islamic experts.

International News

Ganweriwala

eminent archaeologist Dr.

Rafiq Mughal during a

architecture and the way Excavations Ganweriwala resumed in of life, the monuments Islamic March 2024 after a gap of of ancient civilizations showed it was a mature embossed on it.

(APP): architecture were aplenty four decades since its exist around 200-300 Harappan site and we discovery archaeologists attribute while another site at Remaining off the human eye for a long time, remains of Indus Valley this delay to unavailability of water, lack of funding, Civilization in Cholistan road access and manpower desert of Bahawalpur at at Ganweriwala to dig out were remains of settlements discovered by country's believed to be the third largest of Indus Valley Civilization between Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, belonging to an era survey spanning over four years from 1974 to 1977. of 2600 BC to

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

He said some remains from Ganweriwala in 1975 Hellenistic

as kilometer from each other cannot rule out possibility of finding remains of early period in case of deeper excavation," Saleem Ul Kundwala was at least 100 kilometres away from Ganweriwala, having ruins from mature and late report on excavation at Harappan periods. Ganweriwala would be "Remains from two sites finalized by the end June denote mature Harappan 2024. Mound Dillu Roy, period and early Harappan another site excavated at period." The archaeologist the boundary of Rajanpur said that Mature and Dera Ghazi Khan Harappan period was an era when the civilization was at the zenith of its evolutionary development in 2600 BC, some 4600 years ago that later started declining - a process that was a masterpiece of culminated in 1950 BC and typical Gandharan style is described as late Harappan period.

districts by Director Archaeology South Muhammad Hassan a few years back revealed that it was Buddhists site and among 1370 small artifacts small figure of lion, a clay female statue and seals The surface finds with one having a figure

province soon

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

be allocated in the Minister's upcoming budget after which better provision of

the government was releasing funds for the development of the district, which would provide water and sewage

nine operations RAWALPINDI (APP) of the government. He said funds for the Kidney Center in Sargodha would Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover 324 kg drugs and

30 more Gazans killed as Israeli strikes continue

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

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

ment.

Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party

leader Rishi Sunak lays a brick during a bricklay-

At least 9 dead in Texas.

Oklahoma and Arkansas

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

Staffordshire, Britain.

Monitoring Desk

AUSTIN: Powerful storms

killed at least nine people

and left a wide trail of de-

struction Sunday across

Texas, Oklahoma and Ar-

deaths were in Texas, near

the Oklahoma border,

where a tornado Saturday

night plowed through a ru-

ral area near a mobile home

in the coming week nego-tiations will open based on rael on Friday to immedinew proposals led by the ately halt its military asmediators, Egypt and Qatar, and with active US sault on Rafah, where it says it is trying to root out involvement," the source Hamas fighters. said. Hamas did not imme-Court of Justice, or World diately comment on the status of talks.

Court, has no means to en-Since the crisis in force its emergency ruling Gaza unfolded more than in a case brought by South seven months ago, media-Africa, which accused Istors have struggled to serael of genocide. cure a breakthrough, with But the case was a Israel seeking the release of

stark sign of Israel's gloprisoners held by Hamas bal isolation, particularly and the latter seeking the since it began its offensive against Rafah this release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel and month against the pleas of its closest ally, the United an end to the bombard-States.

Israeli bombings have Bombings have conleft a total of 35,903 Paltinued in Gaza despite the mediation and despite estinians dead in Gaza and 80,420 injured. judges at the top United

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

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Six newborn babies have died after a fire tore through a children's hospital in the Indian capital. with people charging into the blaze to rescue the infants police said on Sunday. "All ing workshop at Cannock College, in Cannock, the 12 newborn babies were rescued from the hospital

tory.

day

ter

with the help of other people," senior police officer Surendra Choudhary said in a statement, but adding that when they reached medical attention, six were dead.

"Legal action is being taken against the owner of the hospital," Choudhary said. He did not give further details on how the children died. In addition to the six who died, another baby among the 12 brought out of the suffocating fumes was dead before the fire began. Choudhary said,

without elaborating further. The fire broke out late Saturday in the New Born Baby Care hospital in Delhi's Vivek Vihar area. Delhi Fire Department Director Atul Garg said 14 fire trucks were sent to battle the blaze he told the Press Trust of India

(PTI) news agency.

FAIPEI: Taiwan's new ken and blood flowing". president said on Sunday he was still ready to work with China, despite this

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

drills, China vowed that he said at an event in what it described as "inde- Taipei.

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

a tougher stance over Saudi **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The Arabia's campaign against the Houthis in Yemen, United States is expected to which has inflicted heavy lift a ban on the sale of ofcivilian casualties, and over fensive weapons to Saudi Riyadh's human rights Arabia, potentially in the record, in particular the coming weeks, The Finan-2018 killing of Washington cial Times reported on Sun-Post journalist and politi-cal opponent Jamal The newspaper re-ported that Washington has

Khashoggi. Saudi Arabia, the bigalready signalled to Saudi gest US arms customer, has Arabia that it was prepared chafed under those restricto lift the ban, citing a pertions, which froze the kind son familiar with the matof weapons sales that pre-

Soon after taking of-fice in 2021, Biden adopted vious US administrations had provided for decades.

visiting Taiwan this week **Monitoring Desk** TAIPEI: A delegation of US lawmakers led by Michael McCaul, chair of the House Foreign

Affairs Committee, is visiting Taiwan this week, the de facto U.S. day.

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

Four US vessels run aground near Gaza pier

Monitoring Desk

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

the affected vessels were now anchored on the beach near the pier and the other two were beached on the coast of Israel near Ashkelon.

Spanish minister says Gaza aggression is 'real genocide'

Monitoring Desk

defence minister said on

Saturday that the conflict

in Gaza is a "real genocide",

as relations between Israel

and Spain worsen follow-

state. Israel has strongly

rejected accusations made

against it by South Africa

at the International Court

of Justice (ICJ) that it is

committing a genocide

against Palestinians, saying

it is waging war on the

ish Defence Minister

Margarita Robles in an in-

terview with TVE state

television echoed a com-

The remark by Span-

Hamas group.

KYIV:

also described the Gaza MADRID: The Spanish conflict as a genocide.

"We cannot ignore what is happening in Gaza, which is a real genocide,' Robles said in the interview, during which she also dising Madrid's decision to recognise a Palestinian cussed the Russian invasion of Ukraine and conflicts in Africa.

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk pressed strong concern about the Sumy region. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Both Kharkiv city and warned Sunday that Sumy with about 250,000 Russia is preparing to intensify its offensive people are within about 25 kilometers (15 miles) along Ukraine's northern of the Russian border. Moscow's troops border, as the death toll rose to 14 in an aerial have in recent weeks capbomb attack on a large tured villages in the Kharkiv area as part of a

construction supplies store in the city of broad push, and analysts say they may be trying Kharkiv. The bombing of to get within artillery Kharkiv on Saturday af- range of the city. Ukraiternoon also left 43 in- nian authorities have jured and 16 missing, Kharkiv Gov. Oleh evacuated more than 11,000 people from the Syniehubov said iniregion since the start of tially after the attack. the offensive on May 10.

In a video statement Russia launched wide Kharkiv, missile and drone attacks from Zelenskyy said that on much of Ukraine dur-Russia is preparing of-fensive actions 90 kiloing the night. meters (55 miles) northsaid air defense units intercepted 31 Shahed west of Ukraine's second drones and 12 cruise mislargest city. He said that Russians "gather an-other group of troops near our border." siles launched by Russia

in the Mykolaiv, Odesa, D n i p r o p e t r o v s k , Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, He did not specify K h m e l n y t s k y i , Kirovohrad, Vinnytsia where the troops are be-ing assembled, but Ukrainian officials have ex- and Chernihiv regions.

Ukrainian officials

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

"It's just a trail of derexas, Okianoma and Ar-kansas after obliterating homes and destroying a truck stop where drivers took shelter during the lat-est deadly weather to strike the central U.S. Five of the deaths were in Tayas nase

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



Chinese Premier Li Qiang arrives to attend the trilateral summit with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts in Seoul, South Korea.

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

"jointly shoulder the important responsibility of

wards a position of peace and common prosperity,'

pendence forces" would be left "with their heads bro-

embassy said on Sun-The delegation is in Taiwan from Sunday to

around Taiwan on Thursday, just three days after Lai Ching-te was sworn in, part of an escalating campaign of intimidation by China which views the

island as part of its terri-During the two-day

Lai told reporters on Sunday that he wanted Taiwan and China to week's military drills around the self-ruled island. The drills began

Daily **Independent**, Islamabad

Monday May 27, 2024

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Sun-day announced that the government was committed to providing the youth with advanced education, digital training and equal employment opportunities to pre-pare them for future challenges

He emphasized that nations with fewer resources have surpassed Pakistan because of their political stability and continuity of policies, said a news release.

In contrast, Pakistan has suffered from internal discord and extremism due to political instability and lack of policy continuity.

The minister highlighted that visionary long-term plans like Vision 2010 and Vision 2025 were never fully implemented.

Addressing a cer-Narowal where laptops dents under the Prime abling them to propel Paki- progress, he added.

at the Ministry of SAFRON.

ing a rise in deadly

heatwaves due to global

warming in recent years and

the increasing heat during

the summer months poses

a significant risk to people's

son for the Ministry of Cli-

A media spokesper-

health.

policies.

Minister's Laptop Scheme, stan into the world's top Professor Iqbal criticized ten economies by its 100th the 2018 elections, labeling them as fraudulent and responsible for imposing an incompetent government higher education, with plans on Pakistan

This government, he said wreaked havoc on the economy, causing immense suffering for the 240 million citizens.

"The present government has realigned the chase on easy installments country's direction, bringif they do not qualify on ing stability and improvement across various sectors". Ahsan Iqbal said. Economic ties with ment. he said

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, and China are being restored, and the stock market is reaching signifies peace and brothnew heights, reflecting the confidence of both domeserhood. tic and international investors in the government's

harmony in the universe exemplify these principles Professor Iqbal high-By adopting these prinemony at University of lighted the government's ciples of organization and vision to provide a digital mutual cooperation, sociwere distributed to stu- platform to the youth, en- ety can achieve peace and

anniversary He said record funds have been allocated for to establish universities in

every district and institutions for technical education. Laptops are being distributed on merit, with options for students to pur-

ter Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. merit. The initiative aims to equip the youth with digi-**Muqam lauds IOM services** tal technology for employfor Afghan refugees in Pak While addressing the issue of intolerance and unrest in Pakistan, a country ISLAMABAD (APP): founded in the name of Is-Federal Minister for States lam, he stressed that Islam

and Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Engr. Amir The organization and Muqam Sunday said that Pakistan continued to bear the world's largest refugee burden for the past 40 years and also urged the international community to acknowledge our efforts in that regard.

Talking to a delegation led by Chief of Mission for the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Pakistan, Ms. Mio Sato, the federal minister commended the International Organization for Migration

(IOM) for its services to was aware of the business Afghan citizen card holders activities, education, and reand the host community. lationships of Afghan refu-Chief Commissioner gees within the country. He for Afghan Refugees highlighted that many Af-

Mohammad Abbas Khan, Joint Secretary of SAFRON and other senior officials were also present zens. on the occasion.

The federal minister expressed the desire for Afghan refugees to return their country with dignity, noting that there had been no incidents of forced ex-

pulsion or harassment. He emphasized the need for screening to determine their locations and activi-He said that Pakistan the Ministry.

ghans were involved in businesses that are beneficial to both Pakistan and its citi "I will travel to Geneva in June at the invitation of the High Commissioner of UNHČR, and also planned to meet with the

DG of IOM," he added. Chief of Mission MIO Sato expressed gratitude to the minister for meeting despite the holiday and stated her intention to maintain close contact with

Madinah health centers serve 12,000 pilgrims in early Dhu Al-Qadah ISLAMABAD (APP): Over 12,000 hajj pilgrims received medical care at seasonal facilities and health centers in Madinah between the 1st and 17th of Dhu Al-Qadah, as part of the Saudi Ministry of Health's efforts to support and care for pilgrims during their

siege are nothing but a façade. According to the to give a democratic veneer

to India's military occupa-It lamented that India

Elections in Indian illegally

occupied Jammu and Kash-

mir (IIOJK) under military

ISLAMABAD (APP): the Kashmiris were fed up with the resistance movement but they would continue their struggle till taking it to its logical conclu-

> It maintained that the people of Kashmir offered sacrifices not for elections but for a United Nationssanctioned plebiscite.

The report said the August 5, 2019, illegal actions by the Modi regime show how little India cares for Kashmiris' aspirations

It said India's sole was frequently holding aim to hold elections is to election dramas in the oc- fortify its illegal occupation of HOIK the international commu- polls in IIOJK can't change the disputed nature Polls in IIOJK can in ement, it added. The report said that no way be a substitute to Kashmiris' right to self-depolls in occupied Jammu termination and Kashmiri and Kashmir were intended people want plebiscite and

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan has been experienc-the toll on people's health. He warned that the situa-the warned that the situation could be more problemheatwaves, atic and serious for children, elderly men and women risk. He said that it is imthat weak immune systems. However, individuals health problems by all pos-

official

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Ms. Mio Sato, Chief of Mission, UN - IOM,

called on Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Engr. Amir Muqam

Sensitising public about heatwave

coping measures key, climate

change ministry official

have to constantly protect ing high temperatures. Acthemselves from annoying cording to the US Centers for Disease Control and sible means, particularly by Prevention study findings, mate Change and Environ-mental Coordination, door activities during peak likely to develop heat ex-Muhammad Saleem Shaikh hot hours from 11:00 am to haustion, heat stroke or emphasised the importance 3:00 pm, the senior official other heat-related ailments

pregnant underscoring the imporwomen seem to be more at tance of adhering to the rule portant that pregnant peace. women avoid going out dur-

of law and maintaining "The reaction of enforcement agencies in quences.

phemy incident.

demned the allegations and

the subsequent disorder,

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Afsituation is commendable," fairs and Interfaith Har-Salik said emphasizing that mony, Chaudhry Salik reacting impulsively to Hussain on Sunday exrumours is contrary to the pressed regret over the reteachings of religion, which cent unrest in Sargodha foladvocate for patience and lowing an alleged blasdue process He reminded the citi-In a statement, he con-

ties

zens that Pakistan has established legal procedures to handle accusations of blasphemy and acts of hatred. He issued a stern warning against taking the law into one's own hands, noting that such actions will be



issues

cussions.

Islamabad

The Federal Ministers

They decided to

Chief Minister reached a

consensus to collectively

schedule another meeting

tomorrow for further dis-

Minister attended the Spe-

serted that he has put for-

Speaking to journalists

address these issues.

to discuss KP situation ISLAMABAD (INP): ward KP demands in Spe-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cial Investment Facilitation Chief Minister Ali Amin Council (SIFC) meeting, Gandapur held a meeting asking the federal governwith Minister for Interior ment to clear its dues to the Mohsin Naqvi and Minisprovince. ter for Energy Sardar Awais The KP chief minister

CM Gandapur calls

on Interior Minister

said that his government will not compromise on province rights and will not allow anyone to take "undue advantage"

During the apex committee's meeting, CM Gandapur said that he opposed imposition of tax on Federally Adminisand Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA). "The deadline regarding electricity dues also came under discussion," he said.

It is pertinent to men-Yesterday, the Chief tion here that on March 13 KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur held his first cial Investment Facilitation meeting with Prime Minis-Council (SIFC) meeting in ter (PM), Shehbaz Sharif belonging to rival Pakistan after SIFC's meeting, he as-Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

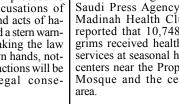


Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi calls on MNA Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah in Islamabad.

'India using sham elections in IIOJK to perpetuate its military occupation'

Minister Salik flays blasphemy allegation Praises law enforcement response in Sargodha

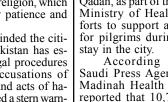
promptly addressing the



stay in the city.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service, Saudi Press Agency, the Madinah Health Cluster Sunday, said India is using reported that 10,748 pilsham elections in the occugrims received healthcare pied territory to perpetuservices at seasonal health ate its military occupation centers near the Prophet's as polls in IIOJK are meant Mosque and the central

Punjab Police and other law met with legal conse-



of avoiding unnecessary said. The heat exposure to minimize

Raja Faroog says: Pakistan, AJK share unbreakable bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan Sunday said that the people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir share an unbreakable bond, and any attempts to sow discord between them will fail.

Talking to the media in Bakot Sharif. Abbottabad. he emphasized that some miscreants, under the pretense of rights movements, have tried to spread negative propaganda driven by foreign agendas to create hatred between the people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. However, the residents

completion of IT work for of Azad Kashmir recognize 93 civil courts that they are united by an indissoluble bond through ISLAMABAD (APP) the Kalima Tavviba, add-Chairman of the Capital ing he said. Haider under-Development Authority scored that the people of (CDA), Muhammad Ali Circle Bakot, the mountain-Randhawa, directed that ous region, Murree Hills, all the IT work, including Galvat, and Azad Kashmir the video conference support each other in times room for 93 Civil Courts, of joy and sorrow. "Both should be completed at ear-Pakistan and Kashmir are liest.

Nashin Bakot Sharif Pir

Sahibzada Hussain.

ours," he declared. During his An official source told visit to Bakot Sharif. Haider APP, Muhammad Ali also paid respects at the shrine of instructed that the IT work Pir Mian Fakirullah Bakoti and other repairs be com-(RA) by offering Fateha. He menced promptly. was accompanied by Saijada

sooner than non-pregnant

CDA chief

orders swift

women, he explained.

The CDA chief said that third-party validation of the 93 civil courts should be carried out by NESPAK while the payments should

be made after the satisfaction of the judges. The official briefed that the construction expenses of the 93 Civil Courts were borne by the CDA and courts have been operational for the past one and a half years. The 93 Civil Courts

the different fields," an ofwere made operational only ficial in the CDA told APP. after the completion of the He said, "The succivil work, he said adding cessful candidates will rethat the courts were conceive a monthly stipend of structed at a cost of Rs 2

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari in a meeting with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur. **CDA** announces six month paid internship to fresh graduates ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Capital Development ments of CDA. The eligible Authority (CDA) has ancandidates must have comnounced a six-month 'CDA pleted a bachelor's degree Internship Program-2024' to fresh graduates for paid years from a government internships in various derecognized institution in the partments of the organizadisciplines including Business Administration/Mantion. "The internship proagement, Marketing and gram will start from June 2024 to provide an oppor-Computer Sciences," tunity to young graduates added. "The candidates to gain experience and start awaiting results are inelitheir professional careers in gible for the internship program," the official said He said, "The applications submitted in person will not be entertained and applications devoid of requisite information will not be Rs. 40,000 during their stay

shortlisted.

period in various depart-(04 years) in the last three 'he radio.

opment Program (SDP) voice and acting.

ed territory to nity. Elections in IIOJK are aimed at diverting people's of Kashmir. attention from the freedom

movement, it added. to give an impression that not election dramas.

Police determined to address public' issues on priority; says SDPO Industrial Area

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the SDPO Industrial Area holds a Khuli Kachehri at Faizabad masjid, a public relations

He said that the Khuli

Kachehri was attended by

early redressal of public

ances and also gave sugges-

complaints.

SDPO Industrial Area issued orders on the spot to address the issues of the participants and assured them that their suggestions will be taken into account.

He highlighted that police were determined to resolve the issues faced by



the citizens. However Khuli Kachehris were helpful in maintaining direct recitizens and senior police lationships with the pubofficials. Khuli Kachehris

are being held as per the di-rections of IGP Islamabad He asserted that better strategy on part of the across the city to ensure the police led to reduction in crime in the city. Islamabad Police are taking steps to At the outset of the control crime further. He proceedings, the particiasked the participants to pants shared their grievcooperate with the police in controlling the crime in tions to resolve them. The the city



ISLAMABAD: People taking drinking water at a filtration plant installed at Sector H-9 in the Federal Capital. billion.

US\$507.60k.

Capital women embrace E-scooter, redefine travel norms

ISLAMABAD (APP): Electric-scooters are revolutionizing urban mobility for women, by offering a sustainable solution to trafemissions and low costs. This trend reflects a wards environmentally transportation trends, reviable e-vehicles. As the city embraces this transformative trend, it moves closer to a cleaner, more

inclusive future. E-scooters are diswomen in the federal capital, providing them with the shows that Pakistan is exmeans to commute to pected to experience subclasses, offices, and other stantial growth in the comengagements without relying years. It is projected ing on time-consuming that by 2024, the revenue public transport or costly for this market will reach

ride-hailing services.

According to data from the Excise and Taxation Department, from in Islamabad, particularly May 2023 to May 2024, a (CAGR 2024-2028), retotal of 62,397 motorbikes sulting in a projected marwere registered, with 780 ket fic congestion with zero under the names of US\$1,214.00k by 2028. women. This surge in registrations among women broader global shift to- marks a notable shift in her experience with APP, friendly and economically flecting growing interest her new electric scooter. and participation in motorbike ownership. The Statista, which and the ease of reaching gathers statistics and market data on Pakistan, in its recent figures about This newfound indepen-

This growth is ex- passing long waits at bus pected to continue, with a 24.36% annual growth rate volume of Zainab, a student at Riphah University, shared

expressing satisfaction with She highlighted the convenience of charging at home destinations on time without waiting at bus stops. mantling barriers for country's growing E- dence has brought her a noting the contribution of Scooter-sharing market sense of freedom and re- e-scooters to Islamabad's lief

> journalist Farah Naz em- they emit zero tailpipe phasized the practical solution e-scooters provide for daily commutes, par- Head of the Energy Unit ticularly for women, by- at the Sustainable Devel-

along with Tuaha Adil, stops and congested traffic, saving time and money. Research Economist at the Kashif Javed, Business Development Manager of Metro E-Vehicles, highlighted the rapid tran-

of six-month internship

sition from petrol bikes to e-vehicles, noting a growing interest among people, particularly students and professionals. The conversion of traditional fuel bikes to electric scooters is also growing, he remarked. Dr. Ejaz Ahmed, a former Director of WWF,

appreciated this change, efforts towards a cleaner, Similarly, working more sustainable future, as emissions Dr. Khalid Walid,

Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME), collectively emphasized the economic and environmentally friendly advantages of electric vehicles (EVs). They pointed out the immense pressure on foreign exchange reserves due to the transportation sector's oil consumption, highlighting the potential savings and environmental benefits of adopting e-scooters. E-

tion future looks brighter and cleaner

scooters are changing how we navigate cities, empowering women, saving money, and promoting ecofriendliness. With more adopting this electric trend, the capital's transporta-

ISLAMABAD: A deserted view of Sri Nagar Highway due to extreme heat wave in Federal Capital.

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

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

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

