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Unless parliament is strong, others will become powerful: CJP Isa

Says solution to this matter will start from legislation; Any party pushing the judiciary towards a certain path is also akin to interference; Justice Shah says high courts, judiciary need to be empowered.

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday said that "others" will become powerful till Parliament becomes strong, as the Supreme Court resumed the suo motu hearing pertaining to allegations of spy agencies' interference in judicial affairs.

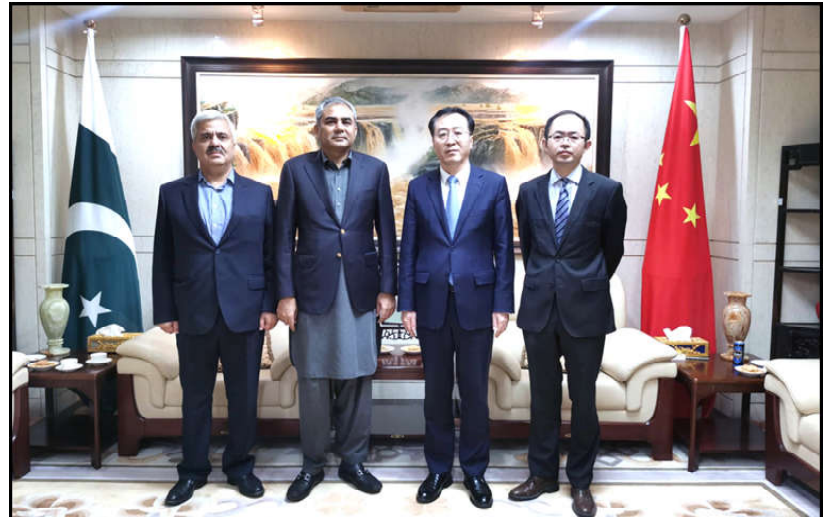
A six-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, resumed the hearing of the suo motu case on the Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges' letter accusing agencies meddling in judicial matters.

The bench comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Athar

Minallah, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan. On March 25, six judges of IHC had demanded CJP Isa to convene a judicial convention to consider the matter of alleged interference of intelligence operatives in the judicial functions or "intimidation" of judges in a manner that undermined the independence of the judiciary.

The six IHC judges — Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, Justice Tariq Mahmood Jehangiri, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan and Justice Saman Rifat Imtiaz — had written a letter to the chief justice, who is also chairman of the

Supreme Judicial Council (SJC). Seeking guidance from the council on "interference" of the spy agencies in courts' affairs, the judges wrote: "We are writing to seek guidance from the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) with regard to the duty of a judge to report and respond to actions on part of members of the executive, including operatives of intelligence agencies, that seek to interfere with discharge of his/her official functions and qualify as intimidation, as well as the duty to report any such actions that come to his/her attention in relation to colleagues and/or members of the courts that the High Court supervises."



KARACHI: Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi in a group photo with Yang Yundong, Consul General, Zhang Hao, Deputy Consul General of the People's Republic of China, during his visit to Chinese Consulate Karachi.

Interior Minister commends Pakistan Rangers Sindh for maintaining law and order

KARACHI (APP): Minister for Interior, Syed Mohsin Naqvi Tuesday commended the pivotal role played by Pakistan Rangers Sindh in upholding law and order and their concerted efforts in thwarting terrorism.

He lauded their extensive operations targeting criminal elements in riverine regions and combating various crimes across the province during a visit to the Pakistan Rangers Sindh headquarters, said a news release issued here.

The minister, reiterating his unwavering commitment, affirmed the

government's resolve to ensure peace in Sindh, with a particular focus on Karachi. During the visit, Naqvi received a comprehensive briefing on Pakistan Rangers Sindh's operational readiness, ongoing initiatives in riverine areas, and the law and order situation in Karachi.

Director General Pakistan Rangers Sindh, Major General Azhar Waqas, extended a warm welcome to the minister upon his arrival at the headquarters.

The minister paid tributes and offered prayers at the martyrs' monument (Yadgar-e-Shuhada).

Sharjeel assures resolution of journalists issues

Independent Report
KARACHI: The delegations of the Sindh Newspapers Society and the Larkana Press Club held separate meetings with

A delegation from the Sindh Newspapers Society met Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon in Karachi and briefed him about the challenges en-



countered by media workers and institutions. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon assured the delegation of the Sindh Newspapers Society that the issues would be addressed. He emphasized that the Pakistan People's Party and the Sindh Government have always championed freedom of expression, under the vision of Shaheed Bibi, President Asif Ali Zardari, and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Sindh government has been safeguarding the rights of journalists.

He stated that the Sindh government is giving particular emphasis to the issues faced by journalist organizations, media entities, and workers.

World celebrates International Labour Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Labour Day would be celebrated on 1 May with a renewed commitment to upholding workers' rights.

Various public and private organizations host conferences, seminars, marches, walks to honor the ultimate sacrifices of laborers.

However, May 1st was included as a public holiday in the Cabinet Division circular listing all gazetted holidays for the year 2024 and the schools would remain close on this occasion.

Pakistan, Qatar agree to further solidify parliamentary relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday emphasized the need to further solidify existing fraternal bond between Pakistan and Qatar through expanding parliamentary cooperation, besides deepening ties in other socio-economic sectors.

He expressed these views in his meeting with Ambassador of Qatar Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khatir who called on him at Parliament House.

Google to establish 50 smart schools in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Google for Education team, alongside its local partner Tech Valley, recently convened with the Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to present forthcoming plans for Pakistan's education sector.

According to the details, 50 Smart schools in Islamabad will be equipped with 30,000 Google for Education IDs which includes features, powered by AI, like practice sets and a suite of digital tools for enhanced collaboration and productivity.

Minister for generating more revenue to make KoFHA viable authority

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Tuesday directed the Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority for taking steps to increase its revenue and make it a viable authority.

The federal minister issued this directive during his visit to Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority. Secretary Maritime Affairs Iram Anjum Khan and other officers were also present on this occasion. The federal minister was warmly received by the Managing Director Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed SI (M) on arrival at the KoFHA. MD Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed briefed the minister regarding ongoing, proposed as well as future projects of the authority.

Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed informed the minister that a proposal for the formation of Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority Board has already been forwarded to the Prime Minister so that the authority could be made more functional.

He said that floating piers would be imported to expand the jetty, which will increase the income of the authority. In order to facilitate small boats to reach easily at the jetty, Floating Pier is needed while the auction hall will be made as per international standards, the minister was told in the briefing. The federal minister was informed that KoFHA has also planned to lease out its 24 acres land for 30 years for establishing "Sea Food Factories" which will increase revenue of the authority. Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed informed that a boundary wall will also be constructed outside of the authority to make it more secure while provincial government.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of education department at CM House.

CM approves policy to upgrade all primary schools to bring 4.1 m out-of-school children to schools

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over an important meeting regarding bringing back 4.1 million out-of-school children to schools directed the School Education Department to implement a policy of gradually upgrading all primary schools to post-primary schools and develop a connection with cluster schools to retain children and prevent the drop-out ratio from increasing.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by Minister of Education Syed Sardar Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary of School Education Zahid Abbasi, and other concerned officers.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) published a report in January 2024, which stated that there are 26.2 million children out of school in Pakistan. Sindh's share in this number came out to be 7.63 million children, which

is a very alarming situation. In response to this, Education Minister Sardar Shah quoted the latest figures from the Ministry of Education (Federal Government), he said there are 4.1 million children out of school in Sindh.

The education minister further informed the Chief Minister that there are a total of 14,208,257 children in Sindh, out of which 10,204,647 are receiving education in government, private, Madrasah, Sindh Education Foundation, and other institutions, while 4.1 million are out-of-school. Breaking down the numbers, he stated that 4.5 million children attended government schools, 3.9 million attended private schools, and 840,000 children attended Sindh Education Foundation. Additionally, 500,000 children attended Madrasahs, and 500,000 attended federal/Army/Naval schools. The Chief Minister has stated that in 2019, UNICEF Sindh conducted a

sample study to determine the reasons behind children not attending school in the province. The results of the study revealed that children between the ages of 5 and 16 were out of school for several reasons. These included 20 per cent of households living in poverty, 16 per cent of families not giving importance to education, 15 per cent of girls' schools not being available, 14 per cent of schools being too far away, 13 per cent of children engaging in livelihoods, 13 per cent of nearby educational institutes lacking appropriate infrastructure, and eight per cent of cultural barriers towards girls' education.

During a meeting, Education Minister Sardar Shah informed the Chief Minister that there were 36,234 primary schools and 4,730 post-primary schools, which resulted in a 54 per cent drop-out rate for children at the post-primary level.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh chairing meeting regarding shipping companies regulations with business communities and other officials at PNSC.

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One killed, 6 injured in cylinder blast in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): One person was killed and six others injured in a cylinder blast near Sindh Madressatul Islam in Karachi on Tuesday.

According to a private news channel, the blast occurred due to a gas leakage in the shop, leading to the collapse of its roof.

Rescue 1122 was currently conducting an operation to extract the body of a person from the debris.

The deceased has been identified as Zulfikar, while among the injured are 35-year-old Rafiq, 50-year-old Ishaq, 23-year-old Aftab, 25-year-old Adnan, and 25-year-old Azad sustained injuries in the blast.

NAB clears Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in LNG case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday gave a clean chit to former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, ex-finance minister Miftah Ismail and others in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) reference.

The development comes after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) withdrew the graft reference against the former premier, who has since long been calling for abolishing the anti-corruption watchdog over political victimization.

PM satisfied as \$1.1 bln final IMF tranche to bring in economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, expressing satisfaction over the disbursement of \$1.1 billion final tranche by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), hoped that it would help bring economic stability to the country.

On Monday, the IMF Executive Board completed the second review under the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan, allowing for an immediate disbursement of around \$1.1 billion, bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to around \$3 billion. The IMF and Pakistan had reached the Staff Level

Agreement on the second and final review on March 20, 2024 for the remaining \$1.1 billion.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that in 2016, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif had completed the IMF program in his tenure, and the current one was the second SBA nearing completion.

Highlighting the significance of the IMF program to save Pakistan from economic default, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the bitter and tough decisions were coming to fruition in the form of economic stability.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs for Pakistan after participating in a special meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Bilawal affirms PPP's dedication to labour empowerment, social justice

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, reaffirmed the founding vision of the Party - Roti, Kapra Aur Makaan, on the International Labour Day, with a conviction that the prosperity of Pakistan is interwoven with the welfare and dignity of its labour force.

He in a message on International Labour Day, paid homage to the martyrs of Chicago.

He also paid glowing tribute to Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for the latter's pioneering efforts in enshrining labour rights through the first-ever Labour Policy in 1972, laying the groundwork for equitable representation and empowerment.

Bilawal highlighted that as the then Prime Minister, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto restored the trade union rights un-

justly seized by a dictator from the workers. "Shaheed Bibi tirelessly endeavored to expand job opportunities for the underprivileged, fostering employment growth even during her brief tenures in government," he pointed out.

Reflecting on President Asif Ali Zardari's previous tenure, he proudly recalled the launch of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) and Benazir Employees Stock Option Scheme (BESOS), a testament to the party's unwavering commitment to fostering economic prosperity and opportunity for all.

Among the progress made by the PPP, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari praised his party's governments in Sindh for leading initiatives like the Labour Policy, Benazir Mazdoor Card scheme, and building flats for labourers.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) MNAs, Ejaz Khan Jakhri and Syed Naveed Qamar called on PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Govt to block mobile phone SIMs of over 500,000 non-filers

Tax watchdog makes public the names of 506,671 non-filers; Cellphone SIMs of these individuals can be blocked at any time.

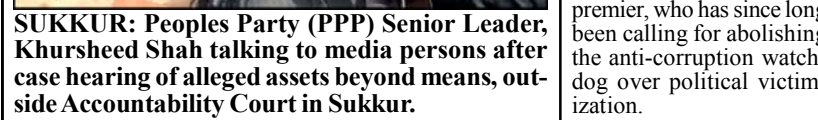
ISLAMABAD (Agencies): In a robust action against non-filers amid the prevailing financial crisis being faced by the cash-strapped country, the government on Tuesday directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the telecom companies to block mobile phone SIMs of over 500,000 non-filers.

In a statement, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) said: "In exercise of the powers conferred under section 114B of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, the FBR is pleased to issue this Income Tax General Order (ITGO) to disable the mobile phone SIMs in respect of following persons who

are not appearing on active taxpayer list but are liable to file the Income Tax Return for Tax Year 2023 under the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

The development came a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hinted at undertaking "massive economic reforms" at the special meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Speaking at the closing plenary of a special meeting of the WEF, the premier vowed to introduce deep-rooted reforms and adopt meaningful austerity to steer the country out of the economic crisis.



SUKKUR: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Khursheed Shah talking to media persons after case hearing of alleged assets beyond means, outside Accountability Court in Sukkur.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

All this talk

It is still early days, but there have been several small developments over the past week that, it is hoped, may add up to something bigger in the coming future.

The ice between the government and opposition benches, which began to show signs of a thaw last week, seems to have melted some more over the weekend, and the two factions are apparently in agreement that negotiations can help break the current deadlock. However, it is also becoming clear that there will be some major stumbling blocks.

For one, the PTI clearly does not know what it wants. Over the weekend, its leaders issued conflicting statements regarding whom they want to parley with and what their preconditions are for the talks. It would appear that the party is still seeking a settlement with the establishment, while some of the conditions it has set for the dialogue seem like a very long shot.

There will be progress only when the two factions can differentiate between dialogue and surrender. For example, the PTI may feel it has a moral right to demand its 'stolen' seats back from the government, but it cannot expect the latter to simply hand over its leverage in such a manner. The party ought to realise that any talks will only take place within the existing power configuration, even if its legitimacy is up for debate. Its other demand — the release of imprisoned leaders, including Imran Khan — is reasonable and, in fact, the government should consider facilitating this at the earliest.

The inaccessibility of key central leaders is contributing to the confusion within the PTI's ranks, which will continue to make any talks with it next to impossible. Any negotiation needs to be publicly sanctioned by the PTI founder, even if he does not participate in it himself. Otherwise, it would mean nothing in the eyes of the party's zealots.

Lastly and most importantly, it would be most disappointing if the PTI repeats the mistake of turning to the establishment instead of negotiating directly with its rivals — something which it is shockingly still not averse to. It is an unfortunate reality of Pakistan's power politics that every party wants to engage directly with the security establishment.

However, there is an opportunity right now for democratic forces to retake the legislative domain as long as they agree to respect each other. Regardless of how many seats it believes it won, the PTI does not represent every citizen of Pakistan.

The other parties are equally legitimate stakeholders in the country's political future, and it must give them due consideration. The PTI need only look at how the PDM fared in the Feb 8 elections to realise how sour non-political 'solutions' to political problems can become.

Ending conflicts

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Business gurus, often deemed unwise, gave very wise advice to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Karachi: end conflicts with the PTI and India. These tiffs are the biggest internal and external drains on national energy, curbing our progress. The one with the PTI has polarised society and major institutions and impeded their work. The one with India has contributed to our isolation and wasted scarce resources on defence. There are also the Baloch and Taliban conflicts. Arguably, the shadow of the establishment hovers over all. Three of the issues need a peaceful end; the Taliban a forceful one.

But can they be ended? The PTI, PML-N, PPP and the powers that be must first gather in a room for truth and reconciliation and admit their roles in fanning political instability that causes all our social, economic, security and external issues. The elephant in the room must fulfil its earlier promises to eschew politics.

The PTI, PML-N and PPP must then sign charters of democracy and governance. In the charter of democracy, they must accept that the 2018 and 2024 polls were rigged; agree never to seek the establishment's aid again; see each other as rivals and not enemies; accept each other's mandate; eschew political victimisation via fake cases against rivals; and make institutions independent.

They must also agree on a time frame for early polls, and come to an agreement on legal changes before they are held to make them credible and agree on a power-sharing formula under which all three

get a piece of the pie to compensate for both the 2018 and 2024 alleged rigging. An example of this could be an agreement for two of them to form a federal coalition after the polls to ensure political stability, with the third one leading or being in the Punjab set-up, depending on their numbers.

The charter of governance must commit to ending misrule, especially of the economic variety. All three parties must publicly accept their own input in the economic mess and admit that the cited six per cent growth under the PML-N and PTI was not accurate. Most critically, they must accept that their top leaders are not the best ones to rule at the moment, given how bad our economic status is. They must agree to appoint competent cabinets with experts in key posts for the next five to 10 years, while the top leaders run their parties, like the Gandhi family has since Rajiv Gandhi's death.

While this charter will cover all areas, I focus on the three other conflicts. On the Taliban, all three, especially the PTI, must agree that talks are futile, use China's influence to wean Kabul away from the TTP, and deploy force if the latter still don't end terrorism. On Balochistan, they should agree to give nationalists their due share, end disappearances, ensure development and hold talks with the insurgents to put down their arms. On India, the three must agree on trade and peace, recognising that it holds the aces. Our only small leverage is that the world still doesn't accept India's claims on occupied Kashmir with a pact with Pakistan and the

Kashmiris.

Will the four forces accept this plan broadly? The PTI, lacking other viable paths, may do so as the dubious case against it might then end and it may lead the centre and/ or Punjab set-up. But it too must eschew populism; end its polarising politics of calling the PPP and PML-N chors, while filling its own ranks with some dubious elements; and agree to work with the parties. Perhaps one can conjecture that in such a scenario, the PPP may agree as it won't lose Sindh and may be in coalition in the centre too. But the PML-N may be unwilling to lose power. However, if the others agree, it may not have an option. A piece of the pie may mollify it further.

Finally, what will it take to reduce the establishment's shadow? This is the biggest hurdle. A concerted pushback from political parties, internal ranks, media, civil society, allied states and businesses will help, as would an end to internal and external tensions, political parties working together for progress, and greater military professionalism.

Asif Zardari who pushed reconciliation in his National Assembly speech can nudge all parties to talk as president, while using his vaunted reconciliation skills.

All four must see that conflicts and political illegitimacy are pushing us fast towards doom.

Nevertheless, all this is a short-term remedy. Ultimately, new non-elitist parties must emerge. But the path to electoral democracy first may lead later to that end. -- Courtesy Dawn

Tectonic shifts

Bina Shah

When I was a teenager, the world was divided between the First World and Third World, terms first defined by the French anthropologist Alfred Sauvy in 1952. The First World was the affluent developed world, the industrialised nations of North America, Europe and Australia: stable and democratic, life held infinite satisfaction for its citizens.

On the other hand, the Third World, where I lived, was characterised as poor, illiterate, underdeveloped, violent and insecure. The Second World was made up of the Soviet Union and the countries aligned with it, but it was more familiarly known either as 'the enemy' or 'those Communists'. We paid little attention to it even when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, bringing the Second World right to the doorstep of the Third.

We were told that the First/ Third World had more to do with economics than politics, but the two seemed inseparable when it came to the power the First World wielded over the Third. First World countries used a lot of influence and money to keep them away from the clutches of the Soviet Union. Building on the foundations that colonialism and imperialism had laid for them in the previous two centuries, the First World gained free access to the Third World's economic markets, influence on their education systems and a cultural dominance that warped young people's self-esteem and pride in their own identity.

The First World rewarded those Third World countries for their loyalty with generous foreign aid, favourable trade deals, and unending support for their

governments, no matter how corrupt or undemocratic. Indeed, the First World coined the term 'banana republic' to describe some of these Third World countries, even as they propped up their autocrats and encouraged them to function as the polar opposite of Western liberalism for half a century.

By the 1990s, the world had benefited from 20 to 30 years of decolonial studies and Marxist economics, Edward Said's powerful work on Orientalism and Gayatri Spivak's on subalternity, the liberation theologies of South America and the anti-apartheid movement of South Africa. The term 'Third World' began to give way to the 'Global South', somewhat due to political correctness but mostly out of their own loathing for an appellation that symbolised dysfunction and underdevelopment.

The Global South is made up of Latin America, Africa and Asia. Yet some countries in it began to achieve economic industrialisation: India, China, Brazil. Today, the inclusion of very rich countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia as well as tiny Costa Rica and prosperous Malaysia raises the question of whether the 'Global South' term is now stretched beyond usefulness, too racialised, or even simply obsolete?

Not so, according to political researchers Nour Dados and Raewyn Connell. In their eyes, "the use of the phrase Global South marks a shift from a central focus on development or cultural difference toward an emphasis on geopolitical relations of power". Former colonies aligned as countries whose interests clashed with industrialised powers in the West and the Communist bloc, thus

ignoring Cold War divisions of the '50s and '60s. Today, the Global South is more than just "a metaphor for underdevelopment". Instead, it references "an entire history of colonialism, neoimperialism, and differential economic and social change through which large inequalities in living standards, life expectancy and access to resources are maintained".

But as we transition from a unipolar to a multipolar world, political scientist John Ikenberry envisions a Global North, a Global South, and a Global East, led by China and Russia. The Global South, in this scenario, is more passive and lacks leadership, and both the Global North and Global East compete for its loyalty and cooperation.

Still, when South Africa took Israel to the International Court of Justice on charges of genocide in Gaza, many Global South countries rallied behind the cause of ending the conflict in Gaza and getting Israel to face international law for its alleged war crimes. South Africa's historic defeat of apartheid gave the accusers' case moral as well as legal weight. Instead of just backing Palestine in places like the ICJ and the UN, the Global South was now taking direct action against Israel in those very forums. This marks a powerful change in the way these countries align and negotiate global conflicts. In politics, sometimes language reflects these changes and sometimes it is a precursor or even an instigator of change. Like the movement of tectonic plates that creates earthquakes on the higher ends of the Richter scale, the deliberate use of the term 'Global South' will instigate a major shift towards a world where global justice must prevail. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pak-UK agree to enhance cooperation in key socio-economic areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Development Director of the British High Commission in Pakistan Ms. Jo Moir on Tuesday agreed for enhancing the cooperation between Pakistan and Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) in key areas for the socio-economic development.

In a meeting with Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, she also assured her full support in exploring innovative green financing instruments to address climate change and support social sector initiatives in collaboration

with the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The team leader of the FCDO Rizwan Azam and senior officials from the Ministry of Economic Affairs also attended the meeting, said a press release.

Ms. Jo Moir also outlined areas where the UK's expertise in public administration could be utilized for strengthening the capacity of Pakistan's bureaucratic system.

The Development Director thanked the minister for the strong partnership and collaborative efforts addressing issues such as

poverty reduction, climate change, financing instruments and the strengthening of financial management and accountability.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Economic Affairs reiterated the commitment of the government to ongoing cooperation with the FCDO for the socio-economic development of the country.

He expressed his gratitude to the Development Director of the British High Commission in Pakistan for the continued support and assistance provided to the people of Pakistan.

Rupee gains 08 paise against US dollar

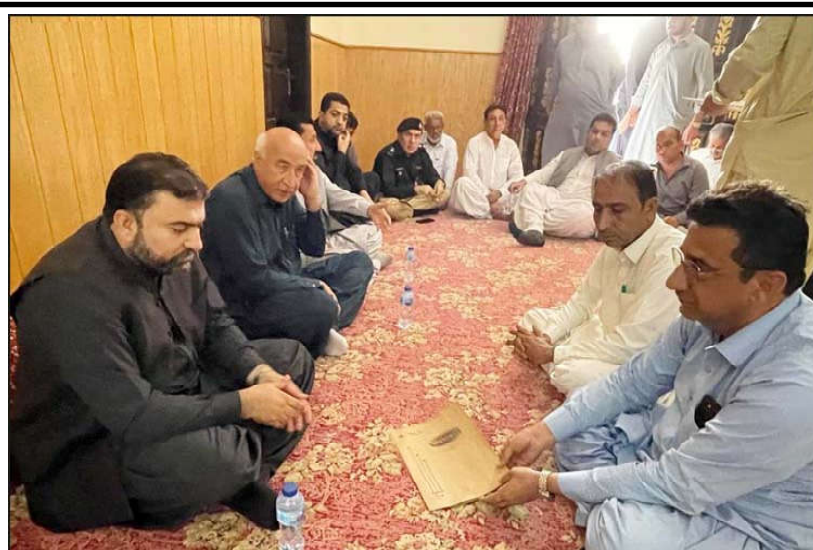
ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.31 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.39.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.35 and Rs 280 respectively.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 592 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, shedding 592.49 points, negative change of 0.83 percent, closing at 71,102.55 points against 71,695.03 points the previous trading day.

A total of 560,552,783 shares valuing Rs 25,730 billion were traded during the day as compared to 613,314,754 shares valuing Rs 26,314 billion the last day.



TURBAT: A delegation of Anjum-e-Tajir District Kech meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Pakistan, Malaysia resolve to harness economic potential, take bilateral ties to new heights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Tuesday reiterated their commitment to strengthen bilateral ties and strategic partnership through enhanced cooperation in trade, defense, tourism and other sectors.

Following their meeting on the sidelines of the Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh, both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim

engaged in a conversation on social media platform X, with both agreeing to build on their discussion.

"As we agreed during our meeting, there is a huge untapped potential to scale up the cooperation in the different sectors of the economy. Our current level of bilateral trade relations doesn't match the excellent ties between our two brotherly countries," Prime Minister Shehbaz wrote in

response to his Malaysian counterpart's post.

Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim said that in their meeting, they had expressed their commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation and strategic partnership, including enhancing trade relations which currently stood at US\$1.4 billion. Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed his pleasure as both sides committed to unpacking the true potential and taking the Pakistan.

Industries Minister directs to withdraw recent urea price hike

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a move to protect the interests of farmers, Federal Minister for Industry and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Tuesday directed the fertilizer companies to immediately reverse the recent increase in urea prices.

He said while chairing an emergency meeting with representatives of fertilizer companies, including Fauji Fertilizer Company, Engro Fertilizer Private Limited, and Fatima Fertilizer Company, to discuss the sudden price hike.

Secretary Industry and Production Wasim Ajmal Chaudhry also

attended the meeting, according to a news release issued here.

The minister has rejected the fertilizer companies' justification for the price increase, citing no change in production costs. He emphasized that the government's top priority is to protect farmers' interests and ensure the uninterrupted supply of urea during the upcoming Kharif season.

The minister highlighted that the government has decided to import 200,000 metric tons of urea. He directed all provinces to stop hoarding and illegal profiteering of urea fertilizer.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Jo Moir, Development Director, British High Commission, Pakistan calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema.



FAISALABAD: Farmer busy in cutting wheat crop with the help of tractor in his field.

Envoy encourages RAK businessmen to explore Pak investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Tuesday said that Pakistan was situated at the crossroads of South and Central Asia offering multiple connectivity and investment opportunities.

The ambassador, in a meeting with Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi at Al Dhait Palace, encouraged the RAK's business community in to explore these opportunities, said a press release received here. On

behalf of Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Ambassador Tirmizi conveyed warm regards and best wishes to the RAK Ruler.

He applauded the visionary leadership of the Ruler for the amazing development taking place in RAK. Tirmizi underlined the importance of historic linkages existing between Pakistan and the Emirates. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi said that Pakistan was very close to his heart and that the country had a great future.

Experts demand moderation in tax system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at the pre-budget stakeholder consultation on Tuesday demanded the government to ensure moderation in tax system and cumbersome regulatory steps for macroeconomic stability in Pakistan.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) with the support of the Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMIT) programme funded by Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office organised the stakeholder pre-budget consultation titled "Optimizing Revenue and Public

Spending for Inclusive Growth Pre-Budget Consultative workshop" at a local hotel in Lahore.

In her welcome remarks, Naghameh Tehniat Jerral, Governance Adviser and Tax Lead - REMIT said that UK is a close partner of Pakistan in its development journey with key ambition to make the latter achieve its economic potential.

Pakistan has the beneficial youth population, ideal location at the heart of fastest growing markets, six million diaspora and women potential to play a substantial growth in the economic growth, she

added. She mentioned that World Bank in its report indicated that Pakistan economy could go beyond \$5 trillion by 2057 with correct interventions and reforms in its economic system.

Ms. Jerral said in global race for trade and investment, Pakistan is lagging behind since past three decades, whereas revenue mobilization is also one of the challenges faced by the country amid small tax revenue being collected which was half of the total potential.

She claimed that tax collection was insufficient as compared to the

population of Pakistan. Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, Team Lead - REMIT briefed the participants on REMIT which was an FCDO-funded programme based on reforms in the economy of Pakistan with the objective to bring macroeconomic stability.

The main areas of focus of the programme included revenue, investment, improving and enhancing trade of Pakistan, he added. "The purpose of the dialogue is to come up with recommendations and solutions to provide guideline to the government for corrective

measures. REMIT has the edge that it can lead the policy recommendations to the highest level forum," he said.

Dr. Wasif Ali Memon, Chairman, Sindh Revenue Board said that political will was very important to implement reforms and taxation measures then no change can happen in the system. He added that do retrospection of its conduct during the process of seeking International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s program as it had avoided some 25th so far.

"With a tax-to-GDP ratio below double figures,

Kyrgyz Honorary Consul calls on Punjab Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Honorary Consul Kyrgyzstan Mehr Kashif Younis called on Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman here at Governor House on Tuesday.

In the meeting, issues of mutual interest and promotion of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan were discussed. Kyrgyzstan Consul's Advisor Dr Waqar Ullah Chaudhry was also present.

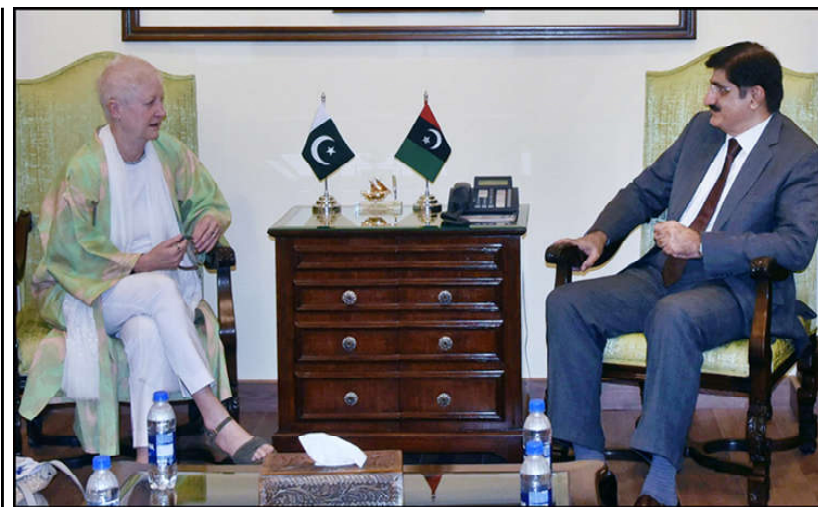
The Governor congratulated Mehr Kashif Younis on his appointment as Honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan and hoped that he would play an active role in promoting relations

between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan in trade, education and other fields. He said his appointment signifies a milestone in diplomatic relations which underscores the importance of fostering closer ties and cooperation particularly in the realm of trade and commerce.

He said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the relations with Kyrgyzstan, and emphasized the importance of enhancing trade relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, highlighting the untapped potential that exists. He said that people-to-people contact is very important in promoting bilateral

cooperation. The Governor said that there are vast opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education, agriculture and technology. He said that there should be exchanges of delegations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan in the field of higher education.

Mehr Kashif Younis expressed his commitment to leveraging his new role to bolster bilateral trade and economic ties. He said that the Pak-Kyrgyzstan Investment Conference is scheduled to be held in Lahore next month to promote trade between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Ambassador of European Union, Dr. Riina Kionka at CM House.

Minister ensures transparency in SSC examinations

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Tuesday asserted that transparency will be ensured at all costs in the ongoing matric examinations, with stringent action against those attempting to compromise the examination system.

Addressing Press Conference at Ittla Cell

Information Department over concerns raised on social media regarding paper leaks in the matric exams, Faisal Tarakai said that prompt action has been taken against individuals involved, resulting in the suspension of 12 individuals for leaking papers.

He said that strict measures will be imposed on examination halls where complaints are received.

ANF recovers 76 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 76 kg drugs, 580 liters liquor and arrested 15 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 1.4 kg Ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Lahore Airport.

PHC suspends ECP's summon notice issued to KP CM in assets' case

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court comprising Justice SM Attiq Shah and Justice Shakeel Ahmed on Tuesday suspended the suo moto notice of the Election Commission of Pakistan related to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur's assets case.

The court issued a notice to ECP seeking a reply for issuing a summon notice to Ali Amin for an explanation of his previous years' statements related to assets.

The petitioner's counsel contended that it was no longer the authority of ECP to ask for the previous year's assets' details.

Minister to Launch NourishMaa Program

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The launch was decided in a meeting chaired by Minister Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah on Tuesday. The NourishMaa campaign will be launched at KP in mid-May to disseminate the efforts in the province. A delegation of Nutrition International, led by Dr Irfan Deputy country director and Imtiaz Ali Shah program Manager Kp met minister health in his office.

Dr Irfan while briefing the minister told that the Maternal Nutrition Campaign (NourishMaa), aligned with the Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy 2022, is a collaborative effort between Nutrition International, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSR&C), Provincial Departments of Health (DoH), and key Stakeholders such as the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) and the Society of Obstetrics and Gynecologists Pakistan (SOGP). The NourishMaa Campaign aims to "improve the knowledge and capacity of Health Care Providers (HCPs) and Key Opinion Leaders (KOL) to advance maternal Nutrition interventions in Pakistan".



LAHORE: Honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan, Mehr Kashif Younis, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

UAJKVC condemns India's demographic engineering in Occupied Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): In a stern denunciation of India's actions in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir, Vice Chancellor of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), Prof. Dr Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, has highlighted India's employment of tactics akin to those of Israel to alter the demographic composition of Muslim majority areas.

Speaking at the 5th Inter-University English Debate Competition, Prof. Abbasi emphasized the grave implications of India's actions, labelling them as violations of international law and an assault on the right to self-determination.

Addressing participants of the debate competition jointly organized by UAJK and Jammu Kashmir Liberation Commission (JKLC), Prof. Abbasi stressed the parallels between India and Israel's attempts to manipulate population ratios in disputed territories to sway the outcome of future plebiscites.

He underscored the competition's role in raising awareness among the youth about the Kashmir issue, emphasizing the importance of understanding it from its true perspective.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora addressing a ceremony organized in connection with International Labour Day.

Murtaza Abbasi visits residence of martyr's family, offers condolence

HARIPUR (APP): Following the instruction of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, former federal minister and provincial general secretary of the Pakistan Muslim League-N, Murtaza Javid Abbasi on Tuesday visited the residence of martyr's family of Customs Constable Ziad Jadoon on Tuesday, and offered condolence.

During the visit, Murtaza Abbasi conveyed his condolence and extended all forms of support to the members of bereaved family.

He also offered prayers at the martyr's

grave and laid a floral wreath in honor of his sacrifices. On behalf of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Murtaza Abbasi delivered a message expressing solidarity and support to the family in their time of loss.

Assuring cooperation from the federal government, Abbasi pledged to provide a martyr's package to the heirs of the constable including educational support for his children.

He emphasized that every Pakistani acknowledges and respects the sacrifices made by the martyrs.

UAF arranges Besakhi Mela

FAISALABAD (APP): University of Agriculture Faisalabad arranged Besakhi Mela "Wheat Harvesting Festival" to highlight the culture of wheat harvesting and apprising the farming community with latest trends of harvesting.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan inaugurated the Mela sponsored by Senior Tutor Office and Directorate of Farms, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Speaking on the inaugural ceremony, Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that adaptation of modern trends was prerequisite to make agriculture a profitable business. He said that use of latest technologies would help in improving economic condition of the farming community as well as meet the wheat requirement for the growing population.

He said that last year, 35,000 UAF students in collaboration with Agriculture Department Punjab visited various villages across the province to make the farmers aware of modern trends in wheat sowing. He said that the UAF in collaboration with Washington State University was also working on high-yielding

Labours play vital role in national economy: Swati

PESHAWAR (APP): Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Salim Swati on the eve of Labour Day said that labours play vital role in the national economy.

He said that observing International Labour Day acknowledges their contribution to the nation's progress and prosperity.

Speaker Swati emphasized that the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) has mandated that labour dues be paid before his sweat dries, thus underscoring the recognition of laborers' status and economic rights in Islam.

He stated that

workers, regardless of literacy, are pivotal to the advancement of any society or nation, playing a key role in its development.

Highlighting the efforts of the past Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government towards the welfare and prosperity of laborers, Swati assured that the current government will continue this legacy.

He reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding the rights of workers and providing maximum relief to the labour class amid the prevailing challenging circumstances.

International News

Top UN court rejects Nicaragua's request for Germany to halt aid to Israel

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: The top U.N. court rejected on Tuesday a request by Nicaragua to order Germany to halt military and other aid to Israel and renew funding to the U.N. aid agency in Gaza.

The International Court of Justice said that legal conditions for making such an order weren't met and ruled against the request in a 15-1 vote, effectively siding with Germany, which told judges that it's barely exporting any arms to Israel.

"Based on the factual information and legal arguments presented by the parties, the court concludes that, as present, the circumstances are not such as to require the exercise of its

power ... to indicate provisional measures," said Nawaf Salam, the court's president.

However, the 16-judge panel declined to throw out the case altogether, as Germany had requested.

The court will still hear arguments from both sides on the merits of Nicaragua's case, which alleges that, by giving support to Israel, Germany failed to prevent genocide in Gaza. The case will likely take months or years.

Salam said that the court, which earlier this year ordered Israel to allow more humanitarian supplies into Gaza, "remains deeply concerned about the catastrophic living conditions of the Palestinians in the

Gaza Strip, in particular in view of the prolonged and widespread deprivation of food and other basic necessities to which they have been subjected."

He added that the court "considers it particularly important to remind all states of their international obligations relating to the transfer of arms to parties to an armed conflict, in order to avoid the risk that such arms might be used" to violate international law.

The reading of the decision lasted less than 20 minutes.

The German Foreign Office welcomed the ruling in a post on X.

"Germany is not a party to the conflict in the Middle East — on the con-

trary: we are working day and night for a two-state solution," the ministry said. "We are the largest donor of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

"We are working to ensure that aid reaches the people in Gaza."

But it added that Israel has the right to defend itself and said more than 100 hostages are still being held by Hamas, "which is abusing the people of Gaza as shields."

The court noted that Germany had granted only four export licenses to Israel for weapons of war since the start of the conflict, two for training ammunition and one for test purposes, as well as one consignment of "3,000 portable anti-tank weapons."



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Jordan's King Abdullah II and Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein in Amman, Jordan, in this handout image released by Royal Hashemite Court (RHC).



Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla meet with patient Jo Irons during a visit to the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre in London, Britain.

King Charles III resumes public duties as he fights cancer

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: King Charles III on Tuesday reportedly told fellow cancer patients "I'm well", as he carried out his first official public engagement since being diagnosed with the condition.

The British head of state appeared relaxed as he and his wife Queen Camilla met patients and staff at the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre in central London.

He talked to patients receiving chemotherapy at a day unit, including 60-year-old Asha Millen, who has bone marrow cancer.

"I said, 'How are you?' and he said, 'I'm well,'" she told reporters afterwards.

Another patient, Lesley Woodbridge, 63, said the king sympathised with her and added: "I've got to have my treatment this afternoon as well."

US, Mexico to clamp down on illegal immigration, leaders say

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States and Mexico plan to clamp down on illegal immigration at their shared border, leaders from both countries said on Monday, vowing to disrupt irregular crossings that have reached record levels in recent years. In a phone conversation on Sunday, U.S. President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said their administrations

would soon take steps to decrease illegal crossings while also addressing the economic and security problems that cause people to migrate.

"In the short term, the two leaders ordered their national security teams to work together to immediately implement concrete measures to significantly reduce irregular border crossings while protecting human rights," the leaders said in a joint statement. Biden, a

Democrat seeking another four-year term in the Nov. 5 election, has toughened his approach to border security in recent months as immigration has emerged as a top concern among voting-age Americans.

Republicans, including Biden's opponent, former President Donald Trump, have criticized the president for rolling back restrictive Trump-era border policies and failing to stem higher levels of illegal crossings.

Gunman kills 6 in attack on Afghan mosque

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: A gunman stormed a mosque in western Afghanistan and killed six people, a government spokesman said on Tuesday, with local residents claiming the Shia community had been targeted.

Interior ministry spokesman Abdul Mateen Qani said that "an unknown armed person shot at civilian worshippers in a mosque" in Herat province's Guzara district

on Monday at around 9pm (4:30pm GMT). "Six civilians were martyred and one civilian was injured," he wrote on social media platform X early Tuesday morning. Locals said the mosque served the minority Shia community in a district just south of the provincial capital of Herat city, and the imam and a three-year-old child were among those killed. They also said a team of three gunmen staged the attack.

UAE firm stops work in Iraq after deadly strike

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: An Emirati-owned firm suspended operations at a gas complex in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region on Monday after a drone strike that killed four people last week.

The Khor Mor complex, owned by Dana Gas, was hit several times in recent years, but Friday's attack was the first deadly incident.

French charity boycotts Olympic torch relay over Coca-Cola

Monitoring Desk
MARSEILLE: A French environmental charity said it had turned down the chance to take part in the torch relay ahead of the Paris Olympics over the role of Coca-Cola as a major sponsor. "Clean My Calanques", an NGO in Marseille which specialises in beach cleaning, received funding from the 2024 Paris Olympics organising committee for its work educating school children. But it announced

on Monday that it would not take part in the torch relay which will begin in Marseille on May 8, thanks in part to financing from premium Olympics sponsor Coca-Cola.

"We are not going to carry a flame which is paid for by the same people who make us bend over," the founder of Clean My Calanques, Eric Akopian, told AFP. Set up in 2017.

Most of Asia swelters in extreme heatwave

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: South and Southeast Asia braced for more extreme heat on Sunday, as authorities across the region issued health warnings and residents fled to parks and air-conditioned malls for relief. A wave of exceptionally hot weather has blasted the region over the past week, sending the mercury as high as 45 degrees Celsius and forcing thousands of schools to tell students to stay home.

The Philippines announced on Sunday the suspension of in-person classes at all public schools for two days after a record-shattering day of heat in the capital Manila.

In Thailand, where at least 30 people have died of heatstroke so far this year, the meteorological department warned of "severe conditions" after temperatures in a northern province exceeded 44.1C (111.4F) on Saturday.

And in Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, India and Bangladesh, forecasters warned that temperatures could exceed 40C in the coming days as people endured searing heat and stifling humidity.

Munir Akram says Occupiers using fake news to de-legitimize freedom struggles, including in Kashmir, Palestine

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Citing Kashmir and Palestine, Pakistan has told a key UN committee that States were resorting to fake news and disinformation in situations of foreign occupation to subdue the voices of people being denied their fundamental freedoms, including the right to self-determination. "We are witnessing this today in the Gaza war and have witnessed

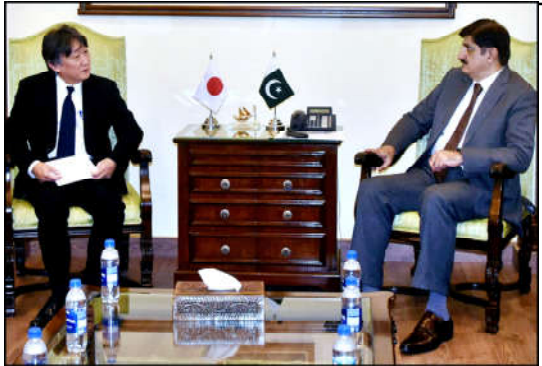
this consistently in the case of occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Ambassador Munir Akram told the Committee on Information on Monday. The committee oversees the work of the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) and provides the department with guidance on its policies, programmes and activities. The Deputy Permanent

Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, is presiding over the current session of the committee, its 46th. At the outset of his remarks, Ambassador Akram greeted his colleague, saying, "Your chairing the 46th session of the Committee on Information symbolizes Pakistan's commitment to

multilateralism and the UN's information agenda." "As a democratic and pluralistic nation-state," he said, "Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and international human rights law, including freedom of expression and access to information; to combating disinformation in all its manifestations.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chairs a meeting with Chinese enterprises working in Pakistan to discuss their challenges and recommendations for CPEC Phase II projects.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with the Consul General of Japan HATTORI Masaru at CM House.

Mohsin Naqvi visits Sukkur Passport Office & NADRA Center

SUKKUR (APP): Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi has paid a surprise visit to Passport Office and NADRA Regional Centre Sukkur here on Tuesday.



SUKKUR: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi listening to the issues of women during his visit to Sukkur's NADRA Center.

On the occasion, the Interior Minister said two new NADRA Centers will be established in Sukkur City and Rohri in three months and directed to complete the construction of the Passport office building within Six Months.

During the visit, the Interior Minister interacted with the people at passport office and inquired about issues faced by them.

The Interior Minister said steps are being taken to ensure access to Documents for the citizens at NADRA Centers.

He also vowed to make passport offices as efficient as NADRA Centres as he reviewed the arrangements made to facilitate the Public.

PTI slams fascist govt for farmers' economic murder, use of force

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lambasted the fake inept Punjab government for economic murder of farmers by destroying their livelihoods through its wrong, flawed and anti-people policies and strongly condemned the harassment and use of force against the farmers.

He noted that the farmers were coerced to sell wheat in the open market at a much lower than the officially fixed rate owing to the inept and incompetent imposed government's faulty and anti-people policies with regard to the procurement of wheat.

PTI Spokesperson, in a strongly-worded reaction over the farmers' protest against the mandate theft government's delay in procuring wheat and harassment of farmers, vehemently denounced the detention of Punjab Kisan Board head and harassment of the farmer leaders through illegal raids at their houses.

PTI Spokesperson recalled that history was a witness that whenever pirates of Jati Umra grabbed the powers, who were anti-people, they did the worst economic exploitation of the farmers of the country.

He warned the mandate thieves against shifting and placing of the burden of their worst economic policies onto the shoulders of the farmers.



HYDERABAD: Health worker administers polio-vaccine drops to a child during anti-polio immunization campaign, in Hyderabad.

DG SFA inaugurates DFTL at NED University

KARACHI (APP): Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain on Tuesday inaugurated the SFA District Food Testing Laboratory at NED University of Engineering and Technology aiming to facilitate real-time testing and experiments for students under senior faculty supervision. This initiative is marked by a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between SFA and NED University of Engineering and Technology.

He noted that a successful model had been established at Karachi University. The replication of this model across Sindh's eight universities, where food science departments exist, ensures students access fully functional, modern labs for research and testing, benefiting both their academic and professional growth. The purpose of establishing such labs is to create a long-term framework of collaboration, co-operation, and development of a strong linkage between the SFA and the Food Sciences and Technology Departments of public and private sector universities, he concluded.

DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain and Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Tufail signed on MoU. On this occasion, DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain

said that a successful model had been established at Karachi University. The replication of this model across Sindh's eight universities, where food science departments exist, ensures students access fully functional, modern labs for research and testing, benefiting both their academic and professional growth. The purpose of establishing such labs is to create a long-term framework of collaboration, co-operation, and development of a strong linkage between the SFA and the Food Sciences and Technology Departments of public and private sector universities, he concluded.

No contact with PTI founder or any leader: Rasheed

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former interior minister and Pakistan Awami Muslim League head Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed has viewed that he has no contact with the founder or any leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Speaking to reporters outside the anti-terrorism court, Rawalpindi, he said only Shibli Faraz could talk about dialogue (between the Establishment) and the PTI.

As for the slot of deputy prime minister, he said there was no such provision in the constitution of Pakistan. He taunted that "only the Jati Umra constitution offers the slot of deputy prime minister." He apprehended that Pakistan would face economic crisis in the next two months. "Industrialists are already facing tough conditions and now growers are up in arms," he said.

'I didn't leave PTI': Fawad Ch. takes a U-turn

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said that he didn't leave the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Talking to media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Rawalpindi on Tuesday, the former minister said that the incumbent government doesn't have any credibility as it is standing on the Form-47. "The government cannot even last for three months if Maulana Fazl ur Rehman and PTI join hands," the senior politician said. He added that the government was formed in result of a rigged election.

"We are passing through a difficult time and want to decrease the political temperature," Fawad said. The former minister said that he didn't narrate his story yet as he would disclose it on the right time. "I am really glad to meet all the friends today. May we all proceed towards a normal situation," he concluded.

HCCI delegation departs for Iran

HYDERABAD (APP): A three-member delegation of the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) headed by Patron-in-Chief Muhammad Ikram Rajput departed for Iran on Tuesday.

During the visit being paid on the invitation of Iranian Government, the HCCI delegation would hold discussions with the representatives of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and Industry to enhance bilateral trade volume, a news release said.

The delegation members would brief Iranian industrialists and businessmen about investment opportunities in Pakistan.

AC for efforts to help desable persons

SUKKUR (APP): Assistant Commissioner Sukkur Sobia Falak Rao on Tuesday appealed to the people of Sukkur as well as NGOs, social workers, elected representatives, and scouts to come forward and put in every effort to make the anti-polio campaign a success.

During her visit to different areas to inspect the ongoing seven-day-long Anti-Polio Campaign, she asked the people to realize their moral and legal obligation to make the ongoing anti-polio campaign successful.

She said it was a real struggle against the crippling disease to save humanity from disability and we must do our best to eradicate the polio disease at any cost.

Govt decides to operationalize planning dept's monitoring & evaluation cell

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has announced to operationalize the Monitoring and Evaluation Cell after period of 10 years. Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said this decision has been taken on the instructions of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto. Shah said that the steps were being taken to implement the decision on immediate basis.

He said through modern technology, the ongoing development projects in Sindh would be made functional with

the help of artificial intelligence for which preparations have been completed to achieve the objectives.

He further said that Planning and Development Department will start the survey from May 1 in all districts of the province and he, along with chairman Planning and Development will supervise the survey personally.

Nasir Hussain Shah said that no one would be allowed to hinder the development of Sindh areas while the annual development schemes would also be monitored for timely completion.

Youth to avail all modern facilities in libraries of Sindh: Minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister of Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah has said that all available facilities including furniture, new books, and computers will be provided in the libraries of Sindh to facilitate the readers.

The meeting with publishers will also be held for provision of books to promote reading culture, he expressed these views while visiting Dr. Muhammad Umar Bin Dawood Pota Library Hyderabad, said a statement issued here on Tuesday.

Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah

said that Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision is to provide opportunities to youth to acquire all sciences by enhancing facilities in the libraries of Sindh.

He said that the objectives will fulfill the dream of our party head by providing all basic facilities to the young people living in the province. He took round of various parts of the library and met the students there.

On this occasion, DG Libraries Jaz Sheikh, DG Culture Munoor Mahesar and other officers were also accompanying him.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh chairing meeting at Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority.

Administration to take measures for clearing footpaths, roads of construction debris

KARACHI (APP): Karachi administration along with local bodies will take joint measures to clear roads and footpaths from construction debris in the metropolis while all the town municipal administrations will form special teams to prevent heaping up debris in their respective areas. The Town Municipal Commissioners will issue notifications, in the regard, to prevent littering on footpaths and roads in their respective areas and levy fine against the responsible persons as per law.

The decisions were taken on Tuesday in a meeting chaired by Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hasan Naqvi to take stock of urban problems and work out their solutions, said a statement issued here.

The commissioner stressed the need of concerted measures to prevent construction debris on the roads as it was obstructing traffic flow and pedestrian movement.

It was decided that the notification will clearly specify that, it is illegal to litter on footpaths and roads and one should refrain from doing so otherwise fine will be levied. It was further decided to carry out repair work on all the pedestrian bridges in the district for ensuring safe movement of people as the meeting was told that some pedestrian bridges in the district need repair.

Miscreants storm school, set papers on fire in North Waziristan

PESHAWAR (INP): Unknown miscreants stormed a school in North Waziristan and set solved examination papers on fire. According to police sources, miscreants stormed a government higher secondary school in Mir Ali, North Waziristan district of KP, and burnt the solved examination papers of ninth and 10th standard. The burnt papers were from 23 examination centres, the sources said.

Police arrest notorious dacoit

LARKANA (APP): Shikarpure district police have arrested a notorious dacoit namely Brohi Toghiani carrying head money of Rs 1.5 million from the katcha area of Madeji in the jurisdiction of Katcha police station in a targeted operation against bandits.

In this regard, DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab said that the police received information that the dacoits would enter Madeji area from Katcha area of the district with the intention of kidnapping and robbery.

As soon as the information was received, SSP Shikarpure along with the police party reached the staid place, where the dacoits opened fire on the police party.

During the encounter, the police arrested the notorious dacoit carrying head money of Rs 1.5 million.

CM, EU Ambassador discuss projects of solar panels, school constructions

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his meeting with European Union Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka discussed two new projects aimed at helping those affected by the flood. One project involves the reconstruction of school buildings damaged by the flood, while the other project aims to provide solar panels to people living off-grid.

getting mother's who are in need. The meeting was attended by Christian Raitz of EU, Chairman P&D Najam Shah and Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh.

During a meeting, the chief minister mentioned that heavy floods in 2022 had damaged 20,000 out of 40,000 school buildings, causing serious problems in imparting education to children. He expressed his intention to seek support from donor agencies to construct new school buildings.

The Ambassador assured the CM that she would discuss this matter with European authorities to help solve the issue. Another topic discussed during the meeting was the provision of solar panels to those living off-grid and in remote areas.

The CM mentioned that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto had promised to provide solar panels to those in need as part of his election manifesto. Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka expressed her support for this project and assured the CM to help achieve the objectives.

Karachi administration orders evacuation of unsafe buildings

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi administration has issued an order to vacate contaminated buildings in the city. This decision comes after identifying several areas with structures deemed unsafe and at risk of imminent collapse. The directive follows the inability to vacate 556 buildings despite being classified as hazardous. Citizens have chosen to remain in these buildings due to their living situations.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro called on PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Implementation of labour laws, protection of workers' right top priority: Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that the government fully acknowledges the significant role of labour and workers in national development.

In his message on International Labour Day, he said, "On this day, we recognize the importance of our brave and hard-working labour force in the struggle for national progress."

May 1st is celebrated across the globe, including in Pakistan, as a symbol of the protection of labour rights and the commitment to uphold them.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani underscored the government's efforts to improve the conditions for workers, focusing on the implementation of labor

laws and the protection of worker rights.

"Increasing the minimum wage for skilled and unskilled workers is crucial in alleviating the difficulties faced by our workforce. Additionally, we are taking measures to address the welfare of migrant workers," he said.

The Chairman Senate urged the nation to come together to honor the contributions of workers, highlighting their essential role in driving economic growth and fostering inclusive development.

"The dedicated workforce of Pakistan is the true engine of our development. It is through their hard work and commitment that we can achieve our goals of rapid, inclusive, and sustainable growth," he concluded.



UAE: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's envoy to the United Arab Emirates receives by Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah at Al Dhait Palace.

Commissioner visits measles-affected village: Ensures Government support and accountability

HYDERABAD (APP): Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Ahsan Ali Qureshi on Tuesday visited the village Chandra Mayo

Tando Allahyar Muhammad Ibrahim Parhiyar were also present during his visit.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner also inspected the measles ward in civil hospital Tando Allahyar where the hospital management along with the parents of the children were also present and he got information about the facilities. He directed that the children affected by the disease should be given full treatment as well as taking care of them in the best way and any kind of negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.

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