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

President orders completing Karachi Safe City project "on a war footing", Northern Bypass fencing

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

in the province. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting here on security, law and order situation in Sindh Province. The representatives of the law enforcement agencies briefed the president about the crimes in Karachi, the Kacha area, and the overall security situation of the province.

The president called for devising a system for effective monitoring of the city's all entrances and exits. Emphasizing the need to complete the Karachi Safe City Project on an urgent basis, he said Police should ensure effective tracking of stolen property and take appropriate legal action in this regard. He said

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



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



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

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

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir held a meeting with his British counterpart

defence relations", the army's media wing said. The army chief thanked Gen Sanders, the chief of general staff (CGS)



General Sir Patrick Sanders, where the two discussed measures to further elevate bilateral defence relations, said a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday. In the meeting, which was also attended by CGS-designate of the UK Army General Sir Roland Walker, both sides "discussed matters of professional interest and measures to further elevate bilateral

of the UK Army, for his services in enhancing bilateral military ties and felicitated Gen Walker on his nomination as the UK Army's next CGS, the statement added.

COAS Munir and Gen Sanders also addressed the opening session of the sixth Pakistan-UK Regional Stabilisation Conference at Islamabad's National Defence University on Tuesday, the ISPR said.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori presenting a shield to Indonesian Consul General Dr. Juncoro Hadiningrat at governor house Karachi.

Nasir Shah for ensuring safety measures for workers in coal mines

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Energy, Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Wednesday, directed to take safety measures at mines for ensuring protection of mine workers.

to the workers and dispensaries, health staff and ambulances should be kept active and on alert to cater health needs of the workers as well as deal with any emergency situation.

The minister, while talking to various delegations here on the occasion of International Labour Day, said that miners working in the coal mines were the backbone of the industry and all the concerned companies must ensure the safety of the coal mine workers, said a statement issued here.

He said that the government was determined to protect the rights of the workers as it believed that development of Pakistan lies in the prosperity of the workers. The services of workers for development and prosperity of the province could not be undervalued as working class is the backbone of any country or society, he said and warned that any negligence as to safety of mine workers' lives would not be tolerated.

Labourers play pivotal role in country's economy: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Wednesday said that labourers play a pivotal role in the country's economic development, providing them legitimate rights was government's top priority.

In his message on the occasion of Labour Day, Sindh Governor said that the labourers put their blood and sweat to keep the wheel of the economy moving.

He said there were efforts of the workers behind the economic development of developed countries.

To achieve the development and prosperity of the country, ideal relations between employer and employee are essential, the Governor added.

The governor said the government was trying to ensure all possible efforts in that regard. He said that on Labor Day, we should resolve that the workers get their rightful place at every level.

Fazal expresses solidarity with Palestinians

LAHORE (INP) - JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman stressed the need for focusing on the Palestine issue, expressing solidarity with the Palestinians.

Addressing the National Palestine Conference on Sunday, the JUI-F chief highlighted that the United Nations and the Islamic world must advocate for the freedom of Palestine.

Fazlur Rehman extended a warm welcome to distinguished guests from Palestine who attended the event.

He highlighted the historical context, stating that Israel's presence as a state lacks historical precedence, and condemned the UN's recognition of Israel.

Referring to the founder of Pakistan's initial opposition to Israel, he underlined the significance of the Al-Aqsa Mosque to the Muslim Ummah.

Also, Fazlur Rehman condemned alleged war crimes committed by Israel, implicating Europe and America, and charged the US for its historical actions. He also condemned the use of atomic bombs and human rights violations in Guantanamo Bay.

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

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

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

He said that Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto always worked for solving the issues of the labourers and peasants and the Sindh government of Pakistan People's Party also brought

amendments in the Constitution and carried out legislation in this regard.

He said that the purpose of the 18th amendment in the Constitution was to devolve several ministries and divisions from the federation to the provinces, including the Employees Old Age Benefit Institution.

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

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



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing function organized with International Labour Day at Arts Council.

Govt committed for economic stability of labourers, workers: CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said the provincial government was working hard for the economic stability of the labourers and also ensuring the provision of education and health facilities to their children.

Greeting the workers in his message on the occasion of 1st May Day, the Chief Minister said that the

workers are the wheels of the country's economy.

Shah said that our workers have played an important role in the development and prosperity of the country.

The CM said that the provincial government was planning to launch a program for the uplift of the industrial as well as agricultural labourers, farmers and women workers.

Labor Day observed across northern Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Labor Day was observed on Wednesday in Sukkur with a renewed pledge to work for the welfare and protection of rights of the working class. Trade unionists held rallies and meetings all over the northern Sindh to pay homage to the heroes of Chicago, USA who rendered their lives for the rights of labourers in 1886.

Labour Unions of the Sukkur Electric Power Supply Company (SEPCO), Pakistan Railways, Workers Welfare Fund, Home Based Workers Association and other Trade Unions held separate rallies in Clock tower, Jinnah Chowk, Minara Road and others areas. The participants paid tribute to the martyrs of Chicago. Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan while addressing the gathering, urged the workers to promote brotherhood, unity and congenial atmosphere in the mills to boost production.



KARACHI: Members of National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) are holding protest demonstration as they are presenting tribute to martyrs of Chicago on the occasion of International Labour Day, at Saddar Zaibunnisa Street in Karachi.

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

Says we will hold national labor conference for taking practical measures for uplift of laborers

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

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

efforts and sincerity. He said that Pakistan would soon become a powerful country through the functioning of a fair system and on the basis of hard work by the employers and the employees including workers.

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Herat, Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Wednesday strongly condemned yesterday's heinous terrorist attack at a mosque in Herat, Afghanistan, resulting in loss of lives and injuries.

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

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

smuggling, especially narcotics activities.

Mohsin Naqvi was informed about the professional training of Pakistan Coast Guards and the measures taken to prevent smuggling and the details of the seized drugs, alcohol and other general items, including the process of burning the seized drugs. The Federal Minister while appreciating the professional performance of the institution, the high determination, courage and efforts of the officers and jawans of the Coast Guards, said Pakistan Coast Guards, is the only one that performs its duties simultaneously on land and sea.

The people and government of Pakistan extend their heartfelt condolences to the people of Afghanistan.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families in this hour of grief, a Foreign Office statement said.

"Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including despicable attacks on places of worship", it added.

Govt asks opposition to review name of Marwat as chairman PAC

ISLAMABAD (Online): The reservations of government over nomination of Sher Afzal Marwat as chairman Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) have come to fore.



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

Government has sent message to opposition once again asking for review of name of Sher Afzal Marwat.

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

Sindh Info Minister reiterates commitment to Labour rights

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Wednesday, said that the Sindh government firmly believes in maintaining the principles of social justice and equality and it is committed to creating an environment where every worker has the right to live a dignified life.

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

Opposition will need ruling alliance cooperation for making Sher Afzal as chairman PAC.

As per government sources the government enjoys majority in 29-member PAC. Sher Afzal Marwat cannot become chairman PAC with the support of 4 members of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). According to parliamentary sources at least 15 votes are must for becoming chairman PAC.

The Minister, in his message on Labour Day, paid tribute to the workers who work tirelessly day and night to advance national development and mentioned that Labour Day highlights not only the sacrifices of workers but also the importance of their rights and welfare. PPP is determined for the rights of workers according to the vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and it has taken several measures for fair wages and job security for the workers, Memon said adding that the provincial government set a minimum wage of 32,000 under the reform program for laborers and started reforming labor laws as well.

Under the Workers' Welfare Board, the Government of Sindh arranged health and death grants for workers as well as dowry for their daughters, he added. The credit for establishing labor colonies for providing shelter to workers goes to the PPP Sindh government while eradication of child Labour and bonded Labour.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

PM's remarkable visit to Saudi Arabia

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif visited Saudi Arabia earlier this week on his first foreign visit since being elected in February.

What was discussed at the one-on-one meeting between the Premier and Saudi Crown Prince has not been disclosed, but it is said the two leaders agreed to strengthen ties.

During the recent talks, Riyadh may have urged Pakistan to restore monetary stability through an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

People returning to their homelands after toiling abroad for a lifetime offer myriad reasons. The most romantic, or maybe outright crazy, in this regard came from a fellow Pakistani.

Going mangoes

Shahzad Sharjeel

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

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

More on poets later. Let us, for the moment, bask in the mango's superiority and trample the grapes some more.

Can the grape partisans cite one admonition, from a reputable source, of irreverence towards it, that is, in its natural state, not the processed, aged, and bottled variety?

People returning to their homelands after toiling abroad for a lifetime offer myriad reasons. The most romantic, or maybe outright crazy, in this regard came from a fellow Pakistani.

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

An unsuspecting social media user recently posted about 12 mango varieties and their corresponding growing regions in the Indian states.

The writer is guilty of being extremely parochial when it comes to mangoes and Sindh's status as at least the first among-equals in Pakistan's mango-growing areas.

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

rangue on the Sindhri's superiority was, instead, a mango fact-check. The correct name is not 'Chausa,' but 'Chausa'.

The stunned silence had to be broken by a consolation admission that our Punjab has its own excellent varieties of mangoes like Anwar Ratol.

While the madman roared outside; only mangoes could have saved the situation. As luck would have it, the sole dessert on offer that afternoon was perfectly cut cubes of mango.

The ghus kar marenge (hot pursuit) refrain needs to be retransmitted to aam kay aam, futhion kay daam (a win-win) aspiration.

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

Roll on, Columbia

Mahir Ali

Much to the consternation of the pat-h-e-tically insipid Biden administration as well as its rabidly right-wing Republican opposition, student protests over the unfolding genocide in Gaza have been spreading throughout the US.

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

In the preceding years, it wasn't uncommon for those involved in the resistance to be derided as pinkos, reds or communist dupes, in a reflection of the recent McCarthyist era.

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

put of Jewish immigrants from Europe. They also enriched America's political landscape, reflected lately in both Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer and independent senator Bernie Sanders.

There is evidence that many young Jews won't be fooled by the 'hasbara' narratives that entrapped their elders or the fantasy that Zionism is an essential component of Jewish identity.

Something has changed, though, in the past couple of decades in the US and Israel. No US president has been unfriendly towards Israel, but some have challenged its excesses.

Almost a century ago, Americans who mili-

tated against the death of democracy in Spain in the 1930s were categorised as 'pre-mature anti-fascists'. They were rarely accepted into mainstream politics even during the Soviet alliance during World War II.

That has occasionally been disrupted in decades gone by. But perhaps never so potentially as in recent months.

Woody Guthrie had the river, rather than the university, in mind when he wrote more than 80 years ago, "Roll on, Columbia, roll on/ Your power is turning our darkness to dawn".

When "Life's longing for itself" is being strangled in Gaza or anywhere else, surely it is incumbent upon anyone with a humanitarian impulse to resist it.

Commerce News

Shaza Fatima holds virtual meeting with Asia Internet Coalition team

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

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

AIC's membership includes Facebook, Google, Apple, Amazon, X, Yahoo, LinkedIn, and others.

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

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

Shaza Fatima said that work is going on different policies.

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

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



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

Privatization Minister expresses resolve to facilitate labor

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

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

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

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

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

Mega Cotton Seminar held in Bahawalpur

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

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

Asian markets track Wall St down as Fed loosens

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian stocks sank in holiday-thinned trade Wednesday, tracking a sharp sell-off on Wall Street after fresh US data dealt another blow to hopes the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 shopkeepers fined over profiteering

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

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

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

Computation of tender docs ISRA University, PEC jointly host event

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

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

visionary efforts in establishing ISRA University.

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

Pak academics sow seeds of cross-border agricultural coop.

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

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

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

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

disease expert at the plant protection department.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We support Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of its citizens in a manner that promotes the rule of law and protection of human rights," US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said in a press briefing on Tuesday. Responding to a question concerning the need to strengthen Pakistan's defence capabilities, the spokesperson highlighted "shared interests" between Islamabad and Washington.

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

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

Last week, the US State Department, in its "2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices" had underscored the lack of necessary measures by Pakistan with regard to addressing human rights abuses in the country.

The report, lamenting sufficient and credible steps to identify and punish officials who may have committed human rights abuses, underscored extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, torture and cases of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by the govern-

ment or its agents along with harsh and life-threatening prison conditions, arbitrary detention and political prisoners. The Foreign Office, however, had termed the State Department's report "unfair, based on inaccurate information and completely divorced from the ground reality".

Complaining that these use a domestic social lens to judge human rights in other countries in a politically biased manner, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said: "The US State Department's annual exercises of preparing such unsolicited reports lack objectivity and remain inherently flawed in their methodology." Washington expects accountability from India. Separately, the US State Department spokesperson, while responding to a query referring to The Washington Post's report regarding Indian government's involvement in planning the assassination of against Sikh activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.



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

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

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

On his X account, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister said that earlier, he had participated with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the World Economic Forum (WEF) in

Mian Iftikhar elected president ANP KP

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

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

Other elected provincial office-bearers include Shahi Khan Shirani (VP-I), Qasim Ali Khan (VP-II), Salahuddin Khan (VP-III), and Iram Fatima has been elected as vice president (women).

MQM delegation meets President Asif Ali Zardari

KARACHI (APP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) delegation led by Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on President Asif Ali Zardari here at CM House on Wednesday.

MQM leadership congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on assuming the office of the President of Pakistan for the second time. Dr. Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal were part of the MQM Pakistan's



KARACHI: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at governor house.

Amin Gandapur says: Mere lip service, tik tok don't work, there is need to bring reforms in Punjab police

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur has said mere lip service and tik tok don't work and need is there to introduce reforms in Punjab police.

"Tik tok can become good by wearing police uniform but the problems facing the people cannot be resolved this way. If I say something then all start criticizing me", he said this while talking to a private TV channel here Wednesday.

Punjab police had become tool in election rigging, he said adding the problems are not solved by wearing uniforms.

Punjab police had become tool in the worst election rigging.

He went on to say the economic situation in Pakistan was better during PTI previous government.

The international institutions have identified improvement in economic indicators while the performance of PDM 16 months government is before the people.

The inflation had reached the highest level of the history and they had ruined national economy.

HerMarket empowers Women to showcase their products, service: Shanzana

HYDERABAD (APP): Shanzana Memon, a leading women entrepreneur in HerMarket has said that as the world commemorates International Labour Day, a beacon of hope shines bright for women entrepreneurs globally, thanks to the groundbreaking strides made by HerMarket.

Talking to Media here on Wednesday, She said that this innovative platform is not only redefining traditional market dynamics but also unlocking unprecedented opportunities for women in business.

Since its inception, HerMarket has been a catalyst for change, fostering an ecosystem where women can thrive and succeed on their terms.

She said that by providing a digital marketplace tailored to their needs, HerMarket offers a level playing field where creativity and entrepreneurship flourish.

One of the most significant impacts of HerMarket is its role in breaking down barriers to entry for women-led businesses. Through its inclusive approach and support networks, HerMarket empowers women from diverse backgrounds to showcase their products and services to a global audience, transcending geographical boundaries.

Moreover, HerMarket is fostering collaboration and networking among women entrepreneurs, enabling them to share experiences, insights, and resources.

This collaborative spirit not only fuels innovation but also creates a supportive community where women can learn, grow, and thrive together.



SUKKUR: Peoples Party (PPP) Central Leader, Syed Khurshid Shah is listening to public issues, in Sukkur.

Google dedicates new doodle on Intl labor day

LAHORE (Online): International labor day was celebrated with enthusiasm, honor and dedication all across the world on Wednesday.

The largest search engine of the world Google has dedicated new Doodle on this occasion to pay tribute to the laborers.

Google dedicated Wednesday's Doodle to the efforts and hardwork of workers on Labour Day celebrated on May 1st every year.

In order to appreciate the role and hard work of workers across the world, Google has dedicated its latest edition of the Google logo to celebrate International Labour Day 2024. The doodle portrays the myriad tasks performed by workers which makes our lives easier every day.

Google has changed its logo. The Labour Day Doodle will appear in countries of South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, etc.

Rally held to mark Int. Labour day in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): Hari Welfare Association has taken out a massive rally from Allah Wala Chowk to Press Club Nawabshah to mark International Labour Day.

Participants held banners and placards enchanted slogans to express solidarity with Chicago Martyrs.

Addressing the rally President Hari Welfare Association Akram Khaskheli said that the economic position of labour and peasants was deteriorating and was compelling to commit suicide. He demanded Federal and Provincial Governments to fix monthly minimum wages at Rs. 70000 which was being paid to workers from 8000 to 15000 Rs per month.

President ECI stresses proactive role of Pakistan in promoting ECO tourism

SHAHRESABZ (Uzbekistan) (APP): President of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) Dr Saad S. Khan has said that Pakistan should come forward to play a proactive role in Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) with an aim to promote tourism industry.

At the special ceremony held to mark the Shahresabz, Uzbekistan as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2024 by UNESCO, ECI President visited the stalls of all ECO countries as the special guest of the host government.

Talking to APP, he spoke high of the cultural diversity of the ECO region, especially of Pakistan, under the initiative of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC).

He acknowledged the request by the Government of Pakistan to declare the city of Lahore as the ECO Tourism Capital for the year 2026 and said that member states of the ECO would shortly take a decision in this regard.

The celebrations at Shahresabz did raise the bar for any other ECO nation for the quality and diversity of festivities that the Uzbekistan government had arranged for this event, he added. He was optimistic that Pakistan would play a proactive role in the ECO, being one of three founding nations of the institution.



ISLAMABAD: Former Chairman Senate Syed Nayar Hussain Bukhari addressing during function to mark the International Labour Day at National Press Club.

Commissioner reviews progress of anti-polio drive

NAWABSHAH (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder visited different areas of the district and reviewed the progress of ongoing polio campaign.

On this occasion, the Commissioner directed officers of the health department to ensure the administering of polio vaccination to every child.

He also directed to utilize all resources for accomplishing 100% results in the anti-Polio drive. Commissioner during the visit of the different areas of union council Daulatpur checked finger marking of the children of gypsies living in roadside tents and collected information from their parents.

District Health officer Dr. Asaullah Daahri, WHO representative Dr. Aftab Ahmed and other relevant officers were also present on the occasion.

Police foil terrorist attack at check post, seven officials injured

DERA GHAZI KHAN (APP): Police foiled a terrorist attack at Hazrat Omer Farooq (Jhangji) check post on Wednesday in which seven police officials sustained injuries.

According to police sources, 15 terrorists attacked the Jhangji police checkpoint with rocket launchers, hand grenades, and laser light guns in an attempt to take control of the checkpoint. However, police officials, under the leadership of Incharge Check Post Sub-Inspector Mohiuddin, retaliated and forced the terrorists to flee due to heavy retaliatory fire by the police. As a result of the retaliation, seven police officials were injured including Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Imran, Constables Muhammad Amir, Ashiq Zain, Rehmat Ullah, Sanaullah and Elite Force officials Tariq and Shahid Manzoor while the terrorists managed to escape. The injured officials were shifted to the hospital from where the constable Shahid Manzoor was referred to Nishtar Hospital Multan due to critical injuries.



HYDERABAD: Workers of All Pakistan WAPDA Hydroelectric Workers Union hold protest on International Labor Day outside HPC.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting at Pakistan Coast Guards Headquarters in Karachi.

Commissioner review on-going polio campaign in Jamshoro, Kotri

HYDERABAD (APP): Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Ahsan Ali Qureshi visited different areas of Jamshoro and Kotri to review the polio campaign.

He strictly instructed the officials of the Health department to make every possible effort to make this campaign successful so that we could save our children from lifetime morbidity and no negligence in this regard will be tolerated.

Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Ahsan Ali Qureshi along with Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Ali Zulfiqar Memon visited the permanent transit point at Jamshoro Toll Plaza on the third day of the polio campaign and reviewed the polio campaign.

Commissioner Hyderabad took a briefing about the polio campaign from the polio workers.

Dr. Imamuddin Khoso

Hashmi calls on President CACDA

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi called on the President of China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA), Cheng Jingye in Beijing.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest and recalled earlier experiences and robust cooperation between Pakistan and China including at the United Nations (UN).

Glad to meet Ambassador Cheng Jingye, President of China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, CACDA, an old friend from @UN.

Recalling earlier experiences & robust cooperation between our two countries at the UN, Ambassador Hashmi posted on social media platform X after the meeting. Senior officials from the CACDA and the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing were present.

"Oye Chote" delivers a powerful message on Child Labor

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Arts Council Alhama organized a presentation of the play "Oye Chote" to celebrate the International Labor Day.

The event saw the esteemed presence of Punjab's Secretary of Labor and Manpower, Muhammad Naeem Ghous, who paid tribute to the resilience of all workers and acknowledged their indispensable role in society.

The drama was written by Dr. Ahmed Bilal, produced by Ayesha Bilal, and directed by Mian Ahmed, "Oye Chote" skillfully addressed the poignant issue of child labor, drawing accolades for its powerful portrayal by the talented cast. With every gripping scene, the Natak Production ignited a fervent outcry for the rights of children, exposing the dark underbelly of exploitation that stains our society.



KARACHI: Leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Arshad Soomro holding a press conference at Karachi Press Club in the Provincial Capital.

IMF's move of releasing \$1.1 bln tranche commendable: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that disbursement of \$1.1 billion tranche by International Monetary Fund's (IMF) is commendable.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said that the decision of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to keep interest rates unchanged has disappointed the business community.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that we were responsible for the devastation of the country's economy and will have to fix it as no one else was going to do it for us.

The IMF decision was a reason for satisfaction as this shows that the confidence of lender was increasing in Pakistan, which will also increase the confidence of friendly countries and other creditors, he added.

The business leader said that the IMF's move would also pave the way for a new three-year loan from the IMF as the lender was satisfied with the government's policy and financial measures.

He said that the economic condition of Pakistan was improving, inflation is also decreasing, and in these circumstances, it would have been better if the interest rate had been reduced.

However, the Central Bank was afraid that inflation could bounce back therefore the interest rate was maintained, which has disappointed the business community, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain demanded that the SBP should reduce policy rates in the following review.