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May 9 perpetrators, facilitators will have to be punished as per Constitution, law: DG ISPR

May 9 riots not limited to army, concerns whole nation: No talks will be held with any political leader, or group which attacks its own army and indulges in propaganda; Terrorists trying to disrupt peace in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



RAWALPINDI (Online): Director General Inter-Services Public Relations, Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has disclosed that plot to kill Chinese engineers in Besham was hatched in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi Tuesday, he said the sui-

nese are engaged with CPEC-related projects and 5500 others are working on other development projects. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said it is our priority to ensure security of all Chinese nationals and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. The DG ISPR said the attack on Chinese engineers was aimed at sabotaging Pakistan-China friendship and hurt the CPEC project.

He expressed firm commitment to completely dismantle terrorist groups and ensure protection of the people. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said security forces conducted thirteen thousand one hundred and thirty-five intelligence based operations against terrorists and their facilitators.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

No way to impose governor's rule in KP, says Faisal Karim Kundi

KARACHI (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has denied imposition of the Governor's rule in the province.

Talking to media at Mazar-e-Quaid here Governor Kundi said, "We are trying to become political martyrs, but we will not allow them to become a martyr." "We are not thinking about imposing the Governor's rule in KP. When a small person sits on a big seat, he will talk in this manner," KP governor remarked.

"The law will not allow him to go back to KP, if the chief minister will attack Islamabad," Kundi said. "The chief minister would have to go to some other

place then," governor said. KP's governor alleged that the chief minister has bagged the seat after betraying the PTI's founder. "He has made the close aides of the PTI's founder as OSDs," governor said. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday warned Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari that newly sworn-in Governor Faisal Karim Kundi would not be allowed to enter KP House, in what he called a tit-for-tat move.

Speaking to a news channel, CM Gandapur said that a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader of Karachi was 'barred' from entering Sindh House.



KARACHI: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi along with others paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during his visit to Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

Commissioner, DC review city's improvement measures in district South

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi along with the Deputy Commissioner Tuesday visited different areas of South District and took stock of the city's improvement measures and later presided over the review meeting at the DC office.

While presiding over the meeting The DC South Altaf Sario about the measures to provide civic facilities DC said a digital system has been introduced for issuing domicile in the district. A Domicile Desk was also set up in the office where necessary information is being provided and applications are processed. This also fulfills the require-

ments of transparency in issuance of domicile and the citizens have been facilitated in obtaining domicile, the Commissioner was told.

On the occasion, the Commissioner also inspected the domicile desk. Naqvi was briefed and told that in view of the expected monsoon rains, an emergency plan has been made in the district to protect the citizens from rain damage. Preparations are being made to deal with the rains in the meeting. It was decided in the meeting that the deputy commissioner will hold a separate meeting with the municipal commissioners of the Municipal and Town Municipal administrations to deal with the expected rains.

PM, UAE President reaffirm resolve to enhance bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephonic conversation with President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The Prime Minister conveyed heartfelt condolences to the UAE President on the sad demise of his beloved uncle Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul as well as patience for the Royal Family to bear this irreparable loss.

The Prime Minister said that the people of Pakistan have always held the UAE Royal Family in high esteem and respect, particularly lauding the leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was a great friend of Pakistan.

PTI demands judicial commission on May 9 incidents

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday demanded the establishment of a judicial commission to investigate the events of May 9.

Talking to media, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, along with the party's central leaders including Shoaib Shaheen, said peaceful protest is fundamental right any party. They also raised questions about the whereabouts of CCTV footage of the May 9 incidents.

Barrister Gohar underscored the party's stance on the matter of the Public Accounts Committee chairman, stating that it is an internal issue to be resolved upon issuance of the notification.

Regarding a recent press conference by the DG ISPR, Barrister Gohar said, "I will read the DG ISPR's statement and then comment."

Shoaib Shaheen highlighted the alleged incidents of state terrorism, including the abduction of PTI's founder, as well as cases like Zille Shah.



President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the law and order situation and the ongoing development projects in Balochistan, Quetta.

Happy to listen people of Larkana Sindh CM chairs meeting of party workers and office bearers of all the districts of Larkana division

PPP Larkana workers demands public interest schemes

LARKANA (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday presiding over a meeting of the party workers and office bearers of all the districts of Larkana division vowed to include the important schemes of up-gradation of Trauma Center, NICVD Satellite for Kambar-Shahdaddock district, Degree College and fire tenders for Kashmir-Kandhkot district, additional funds for the towns given PHE pumping stations and Peoples Bus Service to the districts of Larkana division in the next budget.

Shah said that he was happy to listen to the people of Larkana Division who have demanded schemes of public interest such as universities, hospitals, dualization of roads, people Bus Services and fire tenders which was the manifestation of their socio-political awareness. "Chairman PPP

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strictly directed me and my cabinet to interact with the party workers at the local level to resolve their issues in consultation with the party workers that's why I am with you here today," he said and added that he has given proforma to the workers and office bearers of the party for recording their recommendations for the next development works. The meeting was held at Banquet Hall Sachal Colony, and was attended by PPP Sindh President Nisar Khuro, provincial ministers - Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, PPP Sindh General Secretary Waqar Mahdi, Khursheed Junejo, Mukesh Chawla, Dr Sohrab Sarki, Mumtaz Jakharni, MPAs, district presidents and general secretaries, all local bodies representatives and party workers in a large number. The party workers have demanded agriculture

university, up-gradation of Emergency of the teaching hospital and repair and maintenance of the roads damaged by the heavy rains/floods of 2022. Workers and local bodies representatives raised different issues for which the chief minister directed the minister concerned to note them and resolve them.

The people of the Kashmir District demanded that the work on the ongoing Girl College may be accelerated. Every town of Jacobabad and Kashmir-Kandhkot may be provided with the facility of fire tenders as the eruption of fire is a routine issue. The people of Kambar-Shahdaddock, Kandhkot-Kashmore, Jacobabad and Larkana demanded intra-district Peoples Bus Service for which the chief minister directed Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon to note the demand for bus service and resolve the issue.



LARKANA: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah interacts with party workers during a meeting of PPP Larkana Division held at local hall in Larkana.

Judges letter suo motu notice: Govt not doing anything about interference in judicial matters: SC judge

CJP during hearing says it was surprising none of the lawyers were on same page for judiciary's independence

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has adjourned for indefinite time hearing of Judges letter suo motu notice till the availability of bench.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked if any judge can do nothing then he should sit in home. Such judges should not be judge who do nothing on seeing interference. It is obligation of we judges to work for independence of judiciary. You did not take oath. I have taken oath. There can be several pressures. We are paid salary for this job. We should appreciate our heroes who faced martial law dictators. Those who have not taken oath under martial law are our heroes.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked I have been chief justice of Lahore High

Court. If some one hurls shoes on any civil judge then it is said go for compromise. Justice Jamal Mandokhail said we had called Prime Minister (PM) that he would ask who had made interference. Did he do something.

During the hearing of the petitions filed in SC seeking investigation into the allegations leveled by six judges of Islamabad High Court in connection with interference in the affairs of judiciary, Justice Athar Minallah remarked there is interference in the judiciary at present too. The letter from six judges is fact. See it. In this situation what will be the concept of fear. Government including attorney general is accepting interference. 6 Judges wrote joint letter.



LARKANA: Sindh Minister for Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah addressing during a meeting of PPP Larkana Division held at local hall in Larkana.

President for dialogue with all political forces in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said that certain quarters did not want stability in Balochistan and in the country and for the future of the province, they would talk to all the political forces in the province.

The president was given a briefing on the law and order and the progress on different ongoing development projects in the province.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Governor Balochistan Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, provincial ministers and senior federal and provincial authorities, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the president underscored the need to eliminate smuggling which was causing damage to the national economy and observed that there was a deep link between terrorism and narcot-

ics smuggling. He also stressed upon an effective mechanism for provision of job opportunities to the people living at the border areas. In the meeting, it was decided to commence consultations regarding adopting a joint national narrative against terrorism. The president directed the law enforcement agencies to continue their efforts against terrorists. He said that they were fully cognizant of the backwardness and the frail economic situation of the residents of the province, adding that the province lacked health facilities when compared with other provinces. President Zardari also suggested that for the training of youth in the nursing and other sectors, system of Sindh government could be emulated, besides seeking its services in the health sector as well. He opined that both the provinces could evolve a joint strategy for cooperation in different sectors of public welfare.



German CG calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): The German Consul General (CG) to Karachi Rudiegr Lotz called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House on Tuesday.

They discussed the bilateral relations, investment, trade promotion and other issues of mutual interests.

The Sindh Governor said that Pak-German bilateral relations span over decades, which were getting stronger with the passage of time.

He further said that German investment will improve the infrastructure in the province. Tessori said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) will be supportive and helpful for foreign investment in the country. The German Consul General said that German investors were keenly interested in investing, especially in the energy sector.

Reforms being introduced in multiple sectors to transform Pak: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that the country standing at the crossroads was going through transformation and

country's economy was on the right track and all the indicators were positive.

The minister said that international organizations including financial journals had confirmed that the fig-



various reforms were being introduced in multiple sectors. Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb and Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar here he said that the

ures about the economic stability were correct.

He said after coming into power, steps were taken by the government to reduce its expenses and privatization of loss-making public sector entities was part of that plan.

Malkani says: Development of education sector, top priority of Govt

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister of Universities and Boards Muhammad Ali Malkani said that the first priority of the Sindh government is to develop the education sector on better lines, because development without education is not possible. Many new projects are underway and soon you will see a pleasant change.

He was speaking at the launch of the magazine of the Alumni Association Government College University Hyderabad (Karachi Chapter) and the function in honor of dig-

nitaries. The history of Government College is over 100 years old. This educational institution has produced rare gems for Politics, Journalism, Bureaucracy, Film Television, Judiciary, Sports, Medicine and other fields, who have achieved the highest position in their respective fields.

Among them are the former Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Abdullah Shah, former Prime Minister Raja Parvez Ashraf, former Governor of State Bank Dr. Ishrat Hussain, several chief secretaries of the province, several ministers.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

President Zardari's crucial visit to Quetta

President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Quetta on a three-day visit to Balochistan on Monday. The newly sworn-in Governor Balochistan Shaikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, provincial ministers and parliamentarians received the president at the airport.

Needless to mention here is that it is the maiden visit of President Zardari to Balochistan after taking over his office.

During the visit, the President was briefed about overall law and order situation in Balochistan. In addition to this, he was also apprised of development projects in the province.

On first leg of his visit, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and provincial ministers called on President Zardari at the CM House. The provincial ministers included Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jattak, Mir Zahoor Buledi, Sardar Abdur Rehman Kethran, Mir Saleem Khosa, Sardarzada Faisal Jamali, Gazala Gola and Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, a member of the provincial assembly and senior PPP leader. At the dinner hosted at the CM House, flanked by CM Bugti and Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, President Zardari reaffirmed the government's commitment to Balochistan's prosperity terming it as a "priority". Accentuating the province's "special importance" due to its mineral resources and coastline, the president reassured that Balochistan's barren lands will be made capable of increased agricultural production. The President Zardari stated the federal government was committed to prioritize development and prosperity in Balochistan. He said that the province was important to the country due to its abundant mineral resources and extensive coastline. The President pledged efforts to increase agricultural production by irrigating barren lands in Balochistan. He also mentioned the 18th amendment in the country's constitution that empowered provinces and its importance in promoting national development.

Zardari also talked about Balochistan's untapped potential in the oil and gas sector. He stated that modern extraction methods were needed to harness the resources for economic growth.

The President pledged support for low-income families through programmes like the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) for the country's least developed and sparsely populated province. He vowed to expand such initiatives to ensure "broader coverage".

Zardari also assured the attendees that maximum efforts would be undertaken for the province's development. He pledged support to the Balochistan government in "creating" development opportunities for its people.

The President also echoed Bugti's statement on the importance of political dialogue in resolving Balochistan's issues.

It may be mentioned here that CM Bugti detailed the significance of Balochistan for the country. Addressing the President, the CM noted that it was the first visit by a President in a long time.

The CM mentioned issues plaguing Zardari's first term as the country's president. He also talked about how granting political autonomy to all four provinces was important in resolving interprovincial issues, especially of Balochistan.

Extra baggage

Naeem Sadiq

Undisputedly, the most important, most versatile and most indispensable person in a government office is the naib qasid, often the only moving component of an inert piece of machinery. He is the critical hub, an integral element of a governance system designed for a colonial era. He not only knows the location but also the contents of files and papers that drive and define a government. Naib qasids carry files from one office to another, perform house-keeping, ask visitors to wait, serve tea to their masters, and search, shelve, lose, find, misplace or retrieve files and records — depending upon their mood and motivation.

Using the 'right to information' law, our research, which is spread over a sample of 15 well-known and highly esteemed government organisations, such as National Savings, the Benazir Income Support Programme, the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), the Supreme Court and the Wafaqi Mohtasib, yields startling results. First, 23 per cent of the entire government of Pakistan consists of just one category of individuals — often called 'qasids', 'naib qasids' or 'daftaris'. As per the data provided under the right to information law, the Supreme Court (SC) tops this list with 283 (34pc) qasids and naib qasids, out of a total of 833 regular and contingent employees. Another prominent mention is BISP, that employs 473 qasids out of a total of 2,356 employees. Such governance through naib qasids would be inconceivable in any developed country, where officials must perform their own chores.

The study gets yet more overwhelming as it reveals that the employees designated as upper division clerks, lower division clerks or stenotypists constitute 26.8pc of the entire government of Pakistan. Although most offices have acquired computers and most senior officers have obtained laptops (at taxpayers' expense), there is no let-up in the demand or number of UDCs and LDCs. One wonders why emails, used by the rest of the world for the last 30 years, are still not an accepted form of official correspondence. Have low skills and high status become our biggest hindrance to progress? Should the conditions of employment not specify that every bureaucrat must carry his own briefcase, drive his own (private) car, clean his own table, receive, respond and file his own mail electronically, make his own tea, etc.?

The next mind-boggling segment of employees — 22.7pc of government — sadly comprises chowkidars and private security guards. National Savings, with 1,270 security guards, champions this class, followed by Pakistan Post's 754 guards and BISP's 386 chowkidars. There is also no guilt for cruelty on the part of our esteemed organisations who engage guards through private security companies, not registering them with the EOBI and paying them less than half the minimum legal wage for performing 12-hour duty each day. From this, we can conclude that 72.5pc of the entire government of Pakistan consists of three categories of employees: qasids/ naib qasids, UDCs/ LDCs, and guards/ chowkidars. Like ministers, many are inducted on consider-

ations of 'relative', 'friend', 'party', 'clan', etc. Must we not ponder why Pakistan Railways operates with 315 employees per train, as opposed to the Indian Railways' 53, and Japan Railway's 5.9? Why does the SC operate with 833 employees and its British counterpart with 64 employees for around the same number of judges? It is time to admit that only by shedding 70pc of our government workforce will Pakistan see progress.

There are at least two main approaches to reducing the size of this mountain — firstly, by using technology to perform all those functions that can enhance efficiency and convenience. National Savings' latest software, which requires no citizen to visit a savings centre and to automatically receive profits in a designated bank, is a brilliant example. Resultantly, National Savings can potentially cut down 70pc of its employees and branches. The other approach is to eliminate all that is redundant or ceremonial. Almost all commissions and bureaus (NCHR, NCRC, NCSW, etc.) can be closed and their functions performed by their parent ministries.

Numerous ministries such as health, human rights, religious affairs and overseas Pakistanis could be merged and renamed the 'Ministry for Health & Population'. In this manner, Pakistan could reduce the total number of ministries (and logically the ministers) from 32 to 10. These two approaches ought to be identically emulated by the defence services as well as the provincial governments. Our governance system is dysfunctional and bloated. It exists only to preserve the luxuries of an extractive class. Its dismantling is a prerequisite for the progress of Pakistan.

The Iranian story

Tasneem Noorani

A few days after the triumphant arrival of Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran in February 1979, four Pakistani students were having a meal in a suburban restaurant when they were surrounded by Kalashnikov-bearing Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who were inexperienced and more nervous than the students. They were like this because the Shah's ruthless regime had ensured that no one, other than state functionaries, possessed a weapon.

As one of the four students, I recalled the incident at the time of the visit of the Iranian president to Pakistan recently. I was studying in an institution set up by the Harvard Business School, on the request of the Shah, to give Iranians a modern business education in their own country.

The public was so happy when the Shah fled that shops selling sweets and ran empty. People, delirious with joy, were out on the streets displaying currency notes with the Shah's picture torn out. Young people were shouting "Shah raft" (the Shah's left). APCs and tanks, looted from abandoned cantonments, were being driven on the streets of Tehran by euphoric teenagers.

The four of us, all raised in a Western-oriented, English-medium environment, were confused. We felt sympathy for the citizens of Iran, who had been taken over by the mullahs. We felt fortunate to be citizens of Pakistan, where despite all our democratic shenanigans (Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was on trial but had not been hanged yet), we still had a tolerant government. There was nothing equivalent to Iran's secret service Savak, which had its fleet of 'Vigos' to 'fix' and eliminate dissidents.

Khomeini's arrival heralded the curbing of civil liberties. For instance, women, many of whom were used to wearing tight jeans and short skirts in public, could now no longer leave their homes without hijab. Our sympathies were with our Western-oriented class fellows, most of whom had to flee the country. We felt Iran was in for the long grind at the hands of an inexperienced and dogmatic clergy.

Forty-five years later, after watching the Iranian armed forces take on the biggest bully in the region, Israel, and scaring it into backing off through guts, technology and a very well thought-out military manoeuvre, I am compelled to change my mind.

The Iranians have shown that they value their self-respect and beliefs more than their worldly comforts. They have not blinked in 45 years against the most dominant country in the world — the US — and its allies, despite having undergone isolation and economic deprivation, and the harassment of Iranian citizens.

Because of their grit and national pride, they have become a self-reliant and proud nation with their own, indigenous industry, both commercial and military. Their military prowess, despite facing sanctions, is creditable. A photo in the media showing their military high command sitting at the feet of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, when he congratulated them on the Israeli operation, felt unreal to a Pakistani.

Despite a domineering Islamic regime, the Iranians' pride in their culture and history is supreme. The Iranian new year Nouroze, which is basically a Zoroastrian festival, is still the most important event in the Iranian calendar. The country closes down for

three weeks to celebrate it. The celebration of two Eids is hardly notable in this context.

The Islamic government greatly respects citizens' privacy (chador and chardiwari) and believes in the principle that what you do inside your home is your business. I asked an Iranian friend about this contradiction in the perceived harshness of the regime. He said that during the Shah's time, "we used to drink publicly and pray privately; now we pray publicly and drink privately".

People who have travelled to Iran recently talk about a clean and developed country, with good roads, an efficient and modern railway system and huge modern shopping malls. Their literacy level is 89 per cent compared to our 58pc; their expenditure on education is 23pc of the budget, while we spend 11.5pc; on health, they spend 23pc, while we spend 4.3pc. These figures indicate that they prioritise human development. True, Iran has its problems, including corruption, but it still ranks 24 on the Global Corruption Index, while we are at 133rd position.

It is depressing to compare ourselves with our other neighbours too. India and Bangladesh are way ahead of us, economically and in human development indices. Even Afghanistan seems to be better than us in the context of law and order. On the economic front, their currency is stronger and stabler than ours. Four Pakistan rupees is equal to one Afghani. The reasons for the continued decline of Pakistan are many, but the primary one for me is that the people who control power are not made accountable. While I felt proud as a Pakistani 45 years ago, I am not sure I do anymore.

Commerce News



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Japanese businessmen and investors led by Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM assures resolution of issues facing Japanese businessmen within week

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, while calling for enhanced Pakistan-Japan trade and investment cooperation, assured that the government would resolve the issues facing Japanese businessmen within a week through mutual collaboration.

The prime minister, in the meeting with a delegation of Japanese companies and business figures in Pakistan led by Japanese Ambassador

Wada Mitsuhiro, said a committee had been formed to resolve the issues confronting the Japanese firms to promote their business activities in the country.

He told the delegation that the Japanese companies should exploit Pakistan's existing immense potential for investment in the industry of electric vehicles.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that being time-tested friends, the trade relations between

Pakistan and Japan spanned over decades.

He said it was high time both countries promoted trade and investment ties in multiple sectors, reiterating the resolution of problems facing Japanese industrialists and traders.

The delegation members expressed confidence in the Government of Pakistan's pro-business policies and measures to promote investment.

The Japanese

ambassador apprised the prime minister of the upcoming visit of a 20-member delegation of renowned Japanese firms which would prove to be a milestone in enhancing the bilateral trade and investment.

The delegation members viewed that a special focus on investment and pro-business policies of Prime Minister Shehbaz-led government would help enhance the confidence of foreign investors.

Finance Minister says: Prudent economic governance boosts investor's confidence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday said that the country's economic indicators were going in the right direction and had increased the confidence of foreign investors in the economic governance of Pakistan. Investors from the European Union and America, including Saudi Arabia, had reached Pakistan and they were meeting us and the talks were going on, the minister said.

He said this while addressing the press conference along with

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Minister for Law, Azam Nazeer Tarar. Aurangzeb said the recent visit of a delegation of Saudi's investors to Pakistan was also a part of pave way for this economic cooperation.

The minister said that export-led growth, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and excess to capital were the priority of the government. The senator said that due to the prudent economic policies of the government and the progress in the economic indicators, foreign

investors were ready to invest in Pakistan.

The minister said that all the economic indicators were going positive in the country's economy, which was the proof of progress of the country's economy.

He said that current account surplus was going on in macroeconomic indicators positive.

The minister said that the foreign reserve was stable at \$15 billion and it would increase further, adding that the current tax to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio was 9% which would be increased to 13%.

Pakistan, Kazakhstan discuss collaboration in IT sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin on Tuesday discussed collaboration in the field of IT and Telecommunication between the two countries. During the meeting, the minister expressed Pakistan's interest in strengthening ties with Kazakhstan in the IT and telecom sector.

She proposed the formation of a joint working group between the two countries to facilitate

connections between tech companies from both sides, said a news release.

Shaza Fatima also suggested initiating technology transfer and IT experts' exchange programs between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. Highlighting the investment opportunities in Pakistan's IT and Telecommunication sector, she invited Kazakhstan tech companies to consider investing in this promising sector. Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin affirmed his country's commitment to increasing cooperation with Pakistan in the IT and Telecom sector.



ISLAMABAD: Head of Pakistan for Onic, Omer Bin Tariq and Muntaqa Peracha, CEO Foodpanda sign an agreement for the integration of Foodpanda on Onic's digital platform to jointly develop a comprehensive ecosystem for enhancing the digital lifestyle of customers during ceremony held in Islamabad on Tuesday. President and Group CEO PTCL and Ufone 4G, Hatem Bamatraf and Fahad Sheikh, Head of Partnership and Acquisition Foodpanda also witnessed the signing ceremony.

SECP proposes enhanced disclosures for Shariah Stock Screening of listed companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has proposed amendments to the Fourth Schedule of the Companies Act, 2017.

These amendments enhance the list of disclosures made in financial statements of listed companies for Shariah stock screening shares, according to a press release issued here on Tuesday. Listed companies will be required to provide crucial information about their subsidiary companies for Shariah stock screening purposes to align the regulatory framework with market needs for a fair trading environment.

Additionally, the language of the Fourth Schedule has been simplified to bring clarity to the Shariah stock screening of shares to include in Islamic indices maintained by the Pakistan Stock Exchange. The proposed revisions have resulted from SECP's engagements with stakeholders during a series of Islamic finance sessions. The changes are aimed at enhancing transparency, fostering investor confidence and aiding in informed decision-making.

Pak dairy, beef sectors need to be transformed through precision farming

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's dairy and beef sectors need to be transformed through precision farming to bring the country at par with the other developed nations of the world.

This was the upshot of the industry experts' input shared at an event that marked the partnership between Cloud Agri Pakistan, with NASNA, an Australian livestock company, one of the leading exporters in live animals, and Denkavit Netherlands, the Dutch global leader in feed for young animals with over 90 years of knowledge and

experience in the field of young animals' feed solutions.

The experts were of the view that Pakistan being the 4th largest milk producer in the world and major sub-sectors of agriculture, contributing, along with livestock, over 60 percent of value-added agriculture and 11.7 percent of the total GDP, the country's dairy sector faces persistent challenges that hinders its optimal potential. With a population of 240 million people to meet their protein and dairy needs, Pakistan's dairy and beef industry is largely under-

performing, which requires huge efforts to improve it, they added.

Dr. Rana Shaukat Hussain, CEO of Cloud Agri Pakistan & Global Business Director of Cloud Agri Group, said, "By joining forces with NASNA and Denkavit, we are not only facilitating the introduction of superior livestock and nutrition solutions but also fostering a platform for knowledge exchange and the implementation of international best practices to Pakistan dairy and beef farmers." The collaboration, he said, is poised to bring

unprecedented benefits to the Pakistani dairy and beef sector. NASNA will serve as the exclusive provider of high-quality Australian dairy and beef animals, while Denkavit will supply state-of-the-art calf rearing solutions to meet the diverse needs of Pakistani livestock farmers. By supplying superior cattle breeds from Australia and introducing advanced calf nutrition solutions, the partnership aims to elevate Pakistan's dairy and livestock sectors to global standards going forward. This strategic alignment is set to empower local farmers and

stakeholders with the tools and knowledge necessary to enhance the production, improve animal health, and drive overall industry advancement, he maintained. Ms. Henry Fokel de Vries, Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan, hoped that partnership between Dutch and Pakistani company Cloud Agri will lead to developing the Pakistani livestock sector on modern lines. She said over 50 Dutch companies are operating in Pakistan, including in the dairy and agriculture sectors.

She assured her full support for Pakistani and

Maryam chairs P&D meeting, reviews development projects

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a comprehensive meeting of Planning and Development Board to review special development projects and health related initiatives, here on Tuesday.

The CM directed to complete 33 development projects on time. "We should work day in and day out for the timely completion of these projects, especially those related to health" she remarked.

The CM directed to complete the first phase of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Lahore within one

year, besides opening the OPD of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology in Sargodha by December 2025.

Earlier, the CM was briefed that seven mega projects in the health sector are under completion in the province at a cost of Rs 145 billion. She was also apprised that the first phase of construction and rehabilitation of rural and primary health centers will be completed in October, while revamping of major hospitals will be done by June.

The meeting was briefed by the authorities

concerned that five expressways on important routes in Punjab will be constructed at a cost of Rs 176 billion. The construction and expansion of Multan-Vehari Road, Chicha Watani-Chowk Azam, Sahiwal-Samanadari, Bahawalpur-Jhangra, and Faisalabad-Chinot-Sargodha Road were also reviewed.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to designate a single complaint number for all departments. She was briefed that the construction of a 204-bed three-storey Safe City.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the first meeting of Health Insurance Working Group Sub-Committee.

LHC seeks reply from govt on petition seeking fixation of new price of wheat

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought reply from federal government on miscellaneous petition seeking fixation of new price of wheat.

A two members bench of LHC presided over by Justice Baqar Ali Najafi took up the petition filed by advocate Bilal Ahmad for hearing Tuesday.

Advocate Bilal Ahmad has taken plea in the petition that government imported 35 lac tons wheat despite availability of 40 lac metric tons wheat in the country.

The step of importing wheat by federal government caused loss to the tune of 1 billion dollars to national kitty.

It has been further

said in the petition Punjab government has maintained the same price which was fixed last year. The inflation has surged by 20 percent but rate for farmers was not increased.

Advocate Bilal Ahmad requested the court to order government to fix new price of wheat. Court should summon report from federal government with reference to wheat crisis.

It is pertinent to mention here that the court had called reports from government of Punjab and agriculture department Punjab in its order dated April 30. LHC while seeking reply from federal government till May 14 adjourned the hearing of the case.

ATC grants post-arrest bail to 10 accused in Jinnah House attack case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday granted post-arrest bail to 10 accused involved in the Jinnah House attack case of May 9 riots.

The court ordered the accused to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 each to avail the relief of bail.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed heard the post-arrest bail petitions of the accused and announced the verdict upon completion of arguments by the parties.

FIA arrests two on visa fraud

LAHORE (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday arrested two individuals involved in human smuggling and visa fraud, here from the city.

According to a spokesman, Human Smuggling Circle Lahore during the ongoing crackdown arrested Syed Akbar Ali Shah and Syed Ali Jan Shah from General Bus Stand.

The suspects were found to be involved in defrauding innocent citizens by offering them employment abroad and extorting millions of rupees. As many as 35 Pakistani passports were recovered from their possession and the suspects failed to provide authorities with satisfactory explanations regarding the passports. The investigation has been initiated.

Team Europe launches youth-centric program for green jobs creation in KP

PESHAWAR: The European Union (EU) and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with essential skills demanded by the job market.

The launch event held at the Vocational Training Centre of Excellence in Hayatabad established with previous European Union support, marked a significant milestone of the Team Europe Initiative on building back better to support creation of green jobs in KP province.

Through this programme, the European Union (EU) and the Government of Germany aim at transforming the vocational training landscape in KP through dedicated support to selected VET schools across the province that will be better equipped, have better trained staff and curricula better catered for the demand of the labour market, thus paving the way for economic prosperity and sustainable development.

Minister reviews health insurance program

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chaired a first working group meeting of Punjab Health Initiative Management Company (PHIMC) on health insurance, here on Tuesday. The meeting took place at the Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department (SH&ME) and brought together key stakeholders to discuss reforms and improvements in the health insurance program.

Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewed the health insurance program's progress and discussed necessary reforms. Experts shared valuable insights and recommendations, emphasizing the program's

potential for significant improvement.

Khawaja Salman Rafique expressed optimism about enhancing the health insurance program. He acknowledged past challenges faced by health insurance initiatives but reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing these issues.

The minister stressed the need to rectify any shortcomings in the health insurance program and hold accountable those who exploit it for political gains. He also highlighted the importance of strengthening government hospitals' capacity and ensuring financial sustainability for the health insurance program.



HYDERABAD: Children patients of Thalassemia being blood transfusions at Fatimid Foundation Center in connection with International Thalassemia Day.

PoG provided historic relief by reducing flour, roti prices: Bilal

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin said on Tuesday the Punjab government successfully provided a historical relief to people in 'flour and roti' prices in the province.

Presiding over a cabinet committee meeting at the Civil Secretariat, he said the price of a 20 kg bag of flour was reduced by Rs 1000 within a month and a bag of 20 kg flour was available in the market for Rs 1700 to 1800 while a bag of 10 kg for Rs 900.

Bilal Yasin claimed that 'Naan and Roti' were available across Punjab at notified prices. He said that government's full attention was focused on the relief for common man and reduced the price of Roti with a strong strategy. He said that 50 percent of population of the province lived in cities and the poor people were happy about the reduction in the flour price.

The provincial food minister said that there was a carry-forward stock of 23 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in Punjab which was enough for the next year. The provincial food minister said that during the caretaker period.

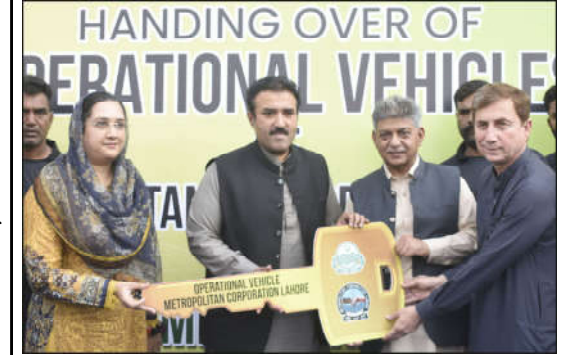
KPEC: A game-changer project delayed for two years despite tall promises of PTI leadership

PESHAWAR: Being a gateway to the Central Asia Republic (CARs) and landlocked Afghanistan, Peshawar is a unique strategic city of Pakistan where kings, invaders and monarchs had constructed roads and highways for speedy transportation and promotion of trade in a bid to prolong their rule in the subcontinent.

These invaders used the famous Khyber Pass, which is the major trade and business route connecting Pakistan and Afghanistan via Torkham border, and onward the gas rich CARs. Witnessed the

vigour of Kings Sikandar Azam, Mehmood Ghaznavi, Mughal and British army, Khyber Pass' significance has been further enhanced after construction of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on 1000 kanal land in Nowshera district.

PMNL leader and former member national assembly (MNA), Shah G Gul Afridi told APP that groundbreaking of the project had been delayed for the last two years despite tall promises by the PTI leadership and urged provincial government high ups to inaugurate the project as quickly as possible keeping in view of its enormous benefits.



LAHORE: Provincial Local Government Minister, Zeeshan Rafique giving the keys of vehicles purchased for Anti-encroachment drive in the Metropolitan Corporation of the provincial capital to Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider.

Minister for completion of development schemes on priority basis

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Communications and Works, Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bherth Tuesday directed to take the public representatives on board in district's ongoing development projects for removal of obstruction. He also directed for completion of schemes on priority basis which were hampered due to minor hurdles. He said this while presiding over a review meeting on development schemes of Rawalpindi

district, held here.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Engineer Amir Khattak also accompanied the minister.

Bherth asked public representatives to compile the details of schemes which were stopped even having major work done, in their respective constituencies.

He said the means of transportation and road network played vital role in ensuring economic development of any country.

International News

Amid Rafah evacuation order, Hamas accepts truce proposal

RAFAH: Hamas said it had accepted a proposal for a truce in the seven-month-old war in Gaza, after Israel told Palestinians in Rafah to evacuate ahead of a long-threatened invasion of the city. The Hamas announcement brought cheering crowds onto the street amid tears of happiness, chants of "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) and celebratory shooting in the air. There was no immediate official response from Israel, and its close ally the United States said it was "reviewing" Hamas's response. Hamas in a statement said that its leader Ismail Haniyeh had informed mediators Qatar and Egypt "of Hamas's approval of their proposal regarding a ceasefire agreement."

A senior Hamas official said Israel must now decide whether it accepts or

"obstructs" a truce in the Palestinian territory after seven months of war.

"The ball is now in the court of Israeli occupation, whether it will agree to the ceasefire agreement or obstruct it," the official told AFP, requesting anonymity to discuss the negotiations.

Earlier in the day, Israel called on Palestinians to leave eastern Rafah, amid increasing global alarm about the consequences of an Israeli ground invasion of the southern Gaza city bordering Egypt. Stephanie Dujarric, spokeswoman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, condemned the order and said it would be "impossible to carry out safely". The evacuation call followed disagreement between Israel and Hamas over the Palestinian group's demands to end the war, during weekend negotiations in Cairo. Egypt-

tian state-linked media said the talks stalled after a rocket attack claimed by Hamas's armed wing killed four Israeli soldiers on Sunday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to send ground troops into Rafah regardless of any truce, defying international concerns. Cairo's foreign ministry warned in a statement of "grave humanitarian risks" for more than one million Gazans sheltering there and urged Israel to "exercise the utmost restraint". US President Joe Biden and Netanyahu spoke and Biden restated "his clear position" against an invasion of Rafah, the White House said. It also said the Israeli premier "agreed to ensure the Kerem Shalom crossing is open for humanitarian assistance for those in need".



Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and CEO of flag carrier Emirates, kicks off the mega travel and tourism exhibition event, Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2024, in Dubai.

Emirates' CEO kicks off mega travel, tourism exhibition in Dubai

DUBAI: Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and CEO of flag carrier Emirates, has kicked off the mega travel and tourism exhibition event, Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2024, in Dubai.

A press release from the Dubai government's media office said the "leading global travel and tourism event" is being held at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from May 6-9, hosting 2,300 exhibitors from 165 countries in its "largest edition to date" and welcoming some 41,000 attendees.

"Policymakers, industry leaders, and travel professionals will gather at the event to explore the theme 'Empowering Innovation: Transforming Travel Through En-

trepreneurship". "The four-day conference agenda of ATM 2024 through May 9 will feature 200 speakers across more than 50 sessions at the DWTC," the press release said.

It added that ATM was launched in 1994 with 300 exhibitors and 7,000 trade visitors and had now established itself as a "globally renowned event integrating multiple travel sectors and verticals from leisure and luxury hospitality to corporate travel." "Exhibitor participation has increased by 26 per cent this year, with growth recorded across all event verticals," the press release said. At the inaugural event, Sheikh Ahmed said that the "massive interest" generated amongst ATM 2024 attendees reaffirmed Dubai's standing as a "major destination".

Taliban say order restored after Afghan opium poppy protests

KABUL: The Afghan Taliban said on Tuesday they have quelled protests in a northern province over security forces' attempts to eradicate opium poppy cultivation which generates income for many impoverished farmers.

Taliban authorities were holding meetings in Badakhshan, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a WhatsApp message, after several days of protests, in which two people were

killed. Mujahid said in a separate statement that a delegation from Kabul, led by the defence chief of staff, would this week travel to Badakhshan to investigate, a rare official acknowledgement of civil disturbance since the Taliban returned to power in 2021.

Since then, they have vowed to restore control over the entire war-torn nation and have at times forcefully broken up protests in urban areas.

Seven killed in attack on Russia's Belgorod region

MOSCOW: Seven people were killed and at least 35 injured in an air attack on Russia's Belgorod region, on the border with Ukraine, on Monday. A Ukrainian drone attack hit vehicles carrying workers in Russia's frontier region, killing six people and injuring 35, the governor said. "Unfortunately, as a result of an explosion, six people died at the scene from their wounds," Vyacheslav Gladkov said. He added that "35 people were wounded" in the attack near the village of Berezyovka. Gladkov said the attack hit two vans transporting employees of a nearby factory as well as a passenger vehicle.

Al Jazeera to pursue legal action 'until the end' over Israel ban

DOHA: Al Jazeera will look to pursue all possible legal action "until the end" to challenge Israel's ban on its operations there, the TV network's news director told AFP in an interview.

The Qatar-based station was taken off air in Israel after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government voted on Sunday to shut it down over its coverage of the Gaza conflict. Speaking on Monday, Al Jazeera English news director Salah Nagm said the network would "follow every legal path", adding: "If there is a possibility of challenging that decision we are going to pursue it until the end." Under a cabinet decision which Netanyahu said was "unanimous", Al Jazeera's Jerusalem offices were shuttered, its equipment confiscated and its team's accreditation

pulled. "The equipment which was confiscated, the loss that we suffered from stopping our broadcast, all of that is subject matter for legal action," Nagm said.

The Israeli government on Sunday said the order was initially valid for 45 days, with the possibility of an extension.

Hours later, screens in Israel carrying Al Jazeera's Arabic and English channels went blank, apart from a message in Hebrew saying they had "been suspended in Israel". The shutdown does not apply to the Israeli-occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip, from which Al Jazeera still broadcasts live on Israel's fighting with Hamas. Al Jazeera immediately condemned Israel's decision as "criminal", saying on social media site X that it "violates the human right to access information".



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian meets UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi.

Indian gov-owned company exporting ordinance to Israel amid ongoing genocide in Palestine

NEW DELHI (INP): In yet another example of New Delhi's complicity in the Israeli's ongoing genocidal war against Palestinians, an Indian state owned defence company exported ammunition and explosives to Tel Aviv as recently as January 2024. Indian news website The Wire citing publicly available records said that Munitions India Ltd (MIL) - a public sector enterprise under the Indian Ministry of Defence - has also been permitted to ship its products to Israel as recently as January 2024.

According to a company brochure, MIL is engaged in the "production, testing, R&D and marketing of a comprehensive range of ammunition and explosives for the army, navy, air force and paramilitary forces".

IAEA chief in Iran as concern grows in West over nuclear plan

TEHRAN: UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi arrived in Iran on Monday, where he is expected to speak at a conference and meet officials for talks on Tehran's nuclear programme. The visit comes at a time of heightened regional tensions and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) criticising Iran for lack of cooperation on inspections and other outstanding issues. News agencies reported Grossi's arrival "at the head of a delegation to participate in the

nuclear conference and negotiate with top nuclear and political officials of the country". He met with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and is scheduled to meet Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran chief Mohammad Eslami.

Grossi later said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that at his meeting with the foreign minister he proposed "concrete practical measures" with the "aim of restoring process of confidence building and increasing transparency".

Hindutva goons ruthlessly beat up Muslim trader in Karnataka state

BANGALORE (INP): In yet another hate crime against followers of Islam in India, a group of goons associated with the Hindutva outfit Bajrang Dal brutally thrashed a Muslim cattle trader in Karnataka state. According to Kashmir Media Service, the victim identified as Bande Nawaz was transporting two bulls.

Media organisations launch criticism as Israeli cabinet shuts down Al Jazeera's local offices

DOHA: International media organisations and journalists Monday condemned the decision of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet to shut down the local operations of Qatari-owned TV station Al Jazeera.

The Israeli cabinet shut down the network a day ago for as long as its

military offensive bombardment in Gaza continues, saying the outlet threatened national security.

Al Jazeera said the move was a "criminal action" and the accusation that the network threatened Israeli security was a "dangerous and ridiculous lie" that put its journalists at risk.

Progress, prosperity of Balochistan, among govt's top priorities: President

QUETTA (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari reiterated that the progress and prosperity of Balochistan province and its people were among the top priorities of the incumbent government. He further resolved to put Balochistan on the path of progress and prosperity and expressed to play their due role in the stability of Pakistan. The president was addressing a banquet hosted by the Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti in his honour. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The president said that Balochistan had a unique significance owing to its mineral resources and long coastal strip. He said the world was achieving rapid progress and stressed upon exploration of natural resources in the provinces through modern techniques. He said that they would strive to turn the barren lands of the province into cultivable through the effective mechanism of irrigation so that it could produce enough yield. The 18th Amendment was adopted during their previous tenure in government which was aimed at the national development and ensuring provincial rights and which had largely benefited all provinces, he opined. The president observed that the province was gifted with oil and gas reserves but they had not incorporated the latest trends in this sector, adding there was still time to tap these natural resources for meeting the economic requirements of the country. About the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), he said that the poor, low-income and deserving families were being benefited from the package and hinted at the expansion of such programmes. The president expressed his desire to work for the progress and prosperity of the entire country and especially for Balochistan and its people. He also assured the provincial government of all out support so that it could create development opportunities for the inhabitants and also stressed upon resolution of all issues through political dialogue.



KARACHI: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Faisal Karim Kundi along with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addressing students during visit IT Marquee at Governor House.

Pakistan and China deepen collaboration on CPEC Phase-2

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday expressed the firm commitment of the government to expedite the implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for further strengthening the bilateral relations between both the countries. The minister co-chaired a meeting with the Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, Secretary Planning, Awaiz Manzoor Sumra and other senior officials from the ministry also attended the meeting, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Planning.

The discussions focused on further strengthening collaboration on projects related to energy, infrastructure, industry, food security, agriculture, and transportation within the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of deepening the longstanding friendship between the leadership of China and Pakistan and expressed the government's firm commitment to expediting the implementation of CPEC and stated that the upcoming visit of the prime minister to CPEC projects would usher in a new era of cooperation in all sectors. The minister elaborated on the core objective of CPEC: promoting cooperation in all sectors, including industry, energy, infrastructure, social development, agriculture and regional connectivity within Pakistan. He expressed a desire to enhance cooperation with China through the transfer of modern technology in various sectors, including transportation and agriculture. He emphasized Pakistan's aim to establish industrial zones for the manufacturing of electric cars in collaboration with China, leveraging Pakistan's competitive advantage to reduce overall production costs and create employment opportunities for Pakistani workers. Ahsan Iqbal also discussed the upcoming South Asian Games 2025, underlining the importance of comprehensive training programs for Pakistani athletes. He expressed a desire to collaborate with China by inviting Chinese coaches and trainers to support Pakistani athletes in their preparations. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the swift and successful implementation of CPEC Phase 2.

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Saudi investment delegation's visit significant headway in bilateral ties: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the visit of Saudi investment delegation to Islamabad was a significant headway in the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the Federal Cabinet, appreciated the federal ministers, government officers and staffers for their efforts to ensure the success of the Saudi delegation's visit, a PM Office press release said. The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Aviation, accorded approval to Air Sial to launch its flight operations for China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkiye, the United Kingdom and Kuwait. The approval was granted under the National Aviation Policy 2023 and Air Services Agreement. It also gave a nod to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding for formation of the Joint Trade Committee between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Columbia. The cabinet approved to transfer the control of Directorate General of Special Education from the Human Rights Ministry to the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. The body also endorsed the decisions of Cabinet Committee on Chinese investment projects taken in its meeting held on April 30.

KPK Governor calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visited the Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Tuesday. They together went round the IT marquee, where the students took selfies with the two Governors. Tessori on the occasion said that he wanted to put the youth on their feet through IT courses. He said that after Karachi, the courses of IT will be started in Hyderabad and other cities of the province. The Governor of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa said that all the initiatives of the Governor Sindh for public welfare were commendable. He further said that IT courses were the guarantee of a better future for the youth.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh.

Justice Khilji advises business community to settle disputes via mediation

KARACHI (APP): Managing Director Musalaha International Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR) Justice (Retd.) Arif Hussain Khilji, Tuesday, advised the business community to settle their business related and other disputes through arbitration and mediation. Justice Khilji, while speaking at a meeting during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), urged the business community to look into the possibility of resolving their disputes without a trial through MICADR which offers cost-effective and expedient mediation. Justice Khilji noted that many countries around the world have adopted out of court settlement through arbitration with Singapore taking the lead while Turkiye has resolved 3 million cases through mediation and Chinese court referred 5.1 million cases to court-recognized mediation centers. "The concept of mediation is relatively new in Pakistan but it has started picking up some pace since 2022 when the High Court of Sindh recognized MICADR as approved Alternate Dispute Resolution Center," he added. Co-Founder and Senior Manager MICADR Sarha Rasheed, while delivering a presentation to raise awareness about the services offered by MICADR, stated that a total of 2.1 million cases were pending in Pakistani courts to be heard by 3100 judges. She informed that MICADR, with its offices situated in Karachi and Islamabad, deals with several types of cases including landlord and tenant disputes, commercial disputes, insurance disputes, unfair contract terms, labor disputes, mortgage default and foreclosure, family disputes and disputes on possession of immovable property. Highlighting MICADR's contributions to ADR ecosystem, she informed that more than 130 judges.



KARACHI: Police officials show recovered stolen motorcycles, who were recovered from a residential building in Azizabad area, to media persons during press conference, at Azizabad Police Station in Karachi.

LMC Mayor forms 10 committees to resolve public matters

LARKANA (APP): Mayor Larkana Anwar Ali Lohar has formed more than 10 three-member committees on Tuesday consisting various members of the council to run the municipal corporation and provide relief to the public by supporting various departments and solving urban problems. The committees include those who review the complaints about the said sectors to develop them, take suggestions and opinions from the members of the municipal council and Union formed are General Administration, Ethical Finance and Budget, Taxation Land, Street Light, Health and Sanitation, Anti-encroachment, Development and Work, Community Development, Food Control, Garden Welfare and Women Welfare. The committees include those who review the complaints about the said sectors to develop them, take suggestions and opinions from the members of the municipal council and Union formed are General Administration, Ethical Finance and Budget, Taxation Land, Street Light, Health



QUETTA: PPP's MPAs, office bearers and workers meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti is also present.

SHC orders to remove illegal vendors, rickshaw stands from roads

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) has issued orders to remove illegal vendors and rickshaw stands established on various roads and commercial plots in Karachi. Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court, Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi, presided over a two-member bench hearing in Korangi. During the hearing, the court heard a plea against the establishment of illegal vendors and rickshaw stands in different areas. The court was informed by the counsel that illegal activities were rampant in various localities and urged for their cessation. Despite the court's directives, the police and deputy commissioner expressed their inability to dismantle the illegal vendors and rickshaw stands. Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi remarked that illegal vendors and rickshaw stands obstruct the roads and cause inconvenience to the public, emphasizing the need for their removal. The government's counsel stated that a written response from the SSP is awaited, while the reply from the deputy commissioner is pending. The court granted an extension for the submission of the deputy commissioner's response.

Chairman Senate Gilani vows to continue mission of masses services

MULTAN (APP): Delegations from different parts of Multan called on Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani at the local circuit house here Tuesday and felicitated him on being elected as Chairman of Senate of Pakistan. Different delegations including those representing Housing Societies, Private Schools Association besides others led by notables including Babar Shah, Habib ur Rehman Sanghera, Husnain Abbas, Dr Sattar, Fareed Khan Bangash, Imtiaz Khan, AD Khan, Malik Riaz were present at the circuit house.

Govt. to take decisions in national interests to meet energy needs: Deputy PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that Pakistan was a sovereign country and the present government would take decisions in the best national interests to meet its energy requirements and fulfill international obligations. Addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to a query regarding Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, said that the government would take the decisions in the national interests and would not allow interference into its international obligations. He also termed the Iranian President's visit to Pakistan as very productive. To another query, he replied that Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman would undertake a bilateral visit to Pakistan soon and they would receive a date in this regard, in the current month. Earlier, initial and business to business meetings had taken place which helped in finalizing the groundwork for the top Saudi leadership's visit to Pakistan, he added.

The recent Saudi delegation comprising private sector companies had termed their meetings with the Pakistani counterparts as very productive and they were very impressed with the progress made in this regard, he said, adding that the present government would facilitate such like processes in the economic sector. The deputy PM and foreign minister further said that Pakistan wanted stability and peace in the region and was desirous to have good friendly relations with all including the neighbouring country Afghanistan.



KARACHI: Jamate-Islami (JI) Karachi Interim Chief, Munam Zafar Khan along with others addresses to media persons during public press conference against the worst load-shedding by K-Electric and the possible cruel increase in power tariffs, outside Gizri K-Electric Head Office in Karachi.

District South introduces digital system for issuance of domicile

KARACHI (APP): District Administration Karachi South has introduced digital system for issuance of domicile in order to ensure transparency in the process and facilitate the citizens. The meeting also taken stock of arrangement being made to deal with any emergency situation arising from potential heavy rains. The DC South briefed that a contingency plan has been devised in view of the expected monsoon rains so that citizens could be saved from rain damage and difficulties. It was decided in the meeting that the deputy commissioner will hold separate meetings with the Municipal Commissioners and the teams of the Towns and Municipal Administration of the district to review their rain emergency plans and will take necessary measures. Earlier, Commissioner Karachi along with the Deputy Commissioner South visited different areas of the district and inspected measures taken for improvement of the city. Naqvi also inspected the domicile desk at the occasion. Deputy Commissioner South Altaf Sario briefed that digital system was fulfilling the requirements of transparency in

Govt to introduce pension reforms to lessen burden: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that the government would introduce pension reforms to lessen the burden on economy. The structural reforms in the institutions were part of government's agenda as per the vision of the Prime Minister, he said, adding that practical steps were need of hour for economic growth. The minister stated this while addressing a press conference here. He said that political and economic stability were interconnected, adding that the Parliament should also adopt the pension reforms unanimously.

UK police close Shahzad acid attack probe for finding no suspects: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The UK police have shut down a probe into a reported acid attack on former Assets Recovery Unit (ARU) head Shahzad Akbar after finding no suspects during an around six-month-long investigation, according to a media report published Tuesday. "We have explored all lines of enquiry and have not been able to identify any suspects," the report quoted a police source linked with counter-terrorism policing. Calling it an extremely complex investigation, the Hertfordshire Constabulary said, "Since November, officers have been working hard to try and trace those involved. On this occasion, we have explored all lines of enquiry and have not been able to identify any suspects. Incidents of this nature are thankfully rare in Hertfordshire and the safeguarding of any victim remains our priority. Should any new information come to light, we will act on this accordingly."

Two suspects arrested in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Karachi police and intelligence agency in a joint operation arrested two suspects allegedly affiliated with the Indian spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) from the city's Korangi area. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Korangi Hassan Sardar said that the suspects, who were trained by RAW, were involved in target killing in Pakistan. The SSP said that the arrested suspects were identified as Khawar Hussain and Jabir, who were sending target killing details and images abroad. SSP Hassan Sardar said that the suspects were receiving funds from various accounts abroad. He added that further revelations from the arrested suspects are expected as the investigation is underway. The police also recovered two hand grenades, 9mm pistols, and bullets from the RAW agents.

KU VC calls for strong collaboration between industries, universities

KARACHI (APP): Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi on Tuesday called for a strong collaboration between industries and universities said that it is essential to develop a sustainable curriculum keeping in mind the market's needs, so that students can develop their products and become part of the market. He was addressing the faculty, students, and sponsors of the eighth annual pharma career fair 2024 held at the new building of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. "The collaboration between academia and industries provides job opportunities for students.



HYDERABAD: Journalists are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police, at Hyderabad press club.

HESCO starts restoration of power lines, collapsed towers in different sites

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad Electric supply company (HESCO) has notified that electricity supply was affected in master grain due to the collapse of five towers of High tension 71, 93, 94, 95 and 96 due to thunderstorms last night. According to the HESCO Spokesman, power supply was also discontinued in 132 KV high tension line Nooriabad to Kilo kahar, Thana Bola Khan and Thana Arab Khan grid stations. He further informed that due to the collapsing of 12 towers location number 47, 60, 59, 58, 57, 56, 55, 54, 53, 52 and 61 power was affected in 11 KV city, Ahmed Khan, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy and Dohraji. General Manager (Operation) Rana Muhammad Ayoub and Chief operating officer Muhammad Roshan Otho reached the affected site to ascertain financial loss and tower restoration work. They directed complete power restoration work by adopting precautionary measures to avert any human loss.

Nawaz Sharif files acquittal plea in Toshakhana reference

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif has filed acquittal plea in Toshakhana reference. The hearing of Toshakhana vehicles reference against President Asif Ali Zardari, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Yousuf Raza Gillani took place in Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad Tuesday. Rana Muhammad Irfan appeared in the court as pleader of Nawaz Sharif and he filed acquittal plea in Toshakhana vehicles reference on behalf of his client. Prosecutor said he sends this application to NAB Headquarters.

SU to conduct semester examinations from May 20

HYDERABAD (INP): The Sindh University Jamshoro has announced that semester exams will begin on May 20. It was unanimously decided in a meeting held under chairmanship of Vice Chancellor (Merititious) Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro in the Senate Hall of the VC Secretariat. Pro Chancellor Main Campus Dr. Abdul Sattar Shah, Pro Vice-Chancellor SU Larr Campus Badin Dr. Khalil Rehman Khambati, Registrar Dr. Mushtaq Ali Jareko, Controller Muhammad Masoouq Siddiqui, Deans of different faculties and heads of academic and administrative departments were also present in the meeting.



KARACHI: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, at Liaquatabad in Karachi.