

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 V& XXV No. 251, Shawwal 23, 1445 AH Thursday May 02, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Chairs meeting on law and order situation.

President Zardari orders Sindh CM to launch large-scale operation against criminals in Karachi

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.

President Zardari also asked to ensure the provi-

sion of the necessary equipment to the Sindh Police with the support of the federal government. The president, emphasizing the need to expedite work on the development projects in various areas of Sindh province said, development projects on both sides of the River Sindh should be launched.

He instructed to take support from the local leaders and the community

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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.

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

Govt striving to bring substantial changes in economy; Says govt would try to bring relief to labour class in fiscal budget

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

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Sarfaraz Bugti spends Labour Day with masses: Service delivery has to be improved for resolving issues of public, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti asserts inefficient civil servants have to mend their way; no lenience & negligence to be tolerated on their part

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that service delivery has to be improved for resolving the public issues, and in this regard, the inefficient civil servants would have to mend their way.

He asserted that no lenience and negligence would be tolerated on part of the civil servants.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of his meeting with the labourers, senior citizens, students and other poor

people on occasion of the World Labour Day on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister spent the Labour Day with them who apprised him their issues.

He issues on the sport directives to resolve most of the issues as highlighted on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that we have to improve service delivery for resolving the public issues.

He said that the poor people are facing hardships and problems. In view of

this, the officers have to create easiness for them, adding he stressed.

The Chief Minister warned that no lenience and negligence would be tolerated in performing duties by the civil servants.

He also warned that the inefficient officers and government employees have to mend their way.

He said that if the issues are resolve at local level, then the people would not be needing to come to Quetta for resolving them.

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

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir held a meeting with his British counterpart 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 defence relations", the army's media wing said.

The army chief thanked Gen Sanders, the chief of general staff (CGS) 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. The UK Army's CGS-designate also attended the event.

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 Abbass received the Minister on his arrival at the Headquarters.

Interior Minister laid floral wreath at martyrs monument and presented solute to the martyrs for their supreme sacrifice for the defence of the motherland.

The Interior Minister was briefed on the professional affairs of Pakistan Coast Guards, in which the efforts to fulfill the responsibilities of Coast Guards and prevent all kinds of smuggling, especially anti-narcotics activities.



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

Police foil terrorist attack at check post, seven officials injured

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

According to police sources, 15 terrorists attacked the Jhanghi 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.

Hasnain Haider to act as Secretary Senate

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Syed Hasnain Haider will act as Secretary Senate. An office order in this regard has also been issued by the Senate Secretariat.

Syed Hasnain Haider is the most senior officer in the Senate Secretariat, with two decades of service in the institution. His extensive experience encompasses a deep understanding of both legislative and administrative processes, making him highly qualified to step into this role.

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 Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma 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.

Govt's responsibility to resolve problems of transporters, says Ziaullah Langove

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that it is responsibility of the provincial government to resolve the issues being faced by transporters.



The Provincial Minister said that the issues of transporters would be resolved soon by speaking to the Chief Minister in this regard.

Mir Ziaullah Langove stated so while speaking to the transporters observing protest near Lakpass area on Wednesday.

The Provincial Minister Ali Madad Jatak, member Provincial Assembly, Mir Liaquat Lehri, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat were also present.

It may be mentioned here that the government delegation reached Lakpass for negotiations with the transporters lodging protest for acceptance of their demands. The transporters had also parked their Taftan route buses at Lakpass as mark of protest.

Labour Day observed in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan

Governor, CM, Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, other government functionaries issue messages marking World Labour Day; vow to protect rights of labourers in province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The International Labour Day was observed in Quetta and different other parts of Balochistan on Wednesday. Different events including rallies, demonstrations and seminars were organized by different labourer organizations and labour wings of different political parties in the province.

A seminar marking the Labour Day was organized by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Labour wing

Peoples Labour Bureau at the Quetta press club.

The provincial ministers and other dignitaries belonging to PPP participated in the seminar.

The PPP leaders and other participants also paid rich tributes to the labourers for their role in development of the country.

Similarly, a seminar was held under the auspices of Labour and Manpower Department, Government of Balochistan at the Noori Nasser Khan Cultural complex here.

The Minister Labour and Manpower and other senior officials of the department and the representatives of different labourer organizations participated in the seminar.

Similarly, a seminar marking Labour Day was also organized at the auditorium of University of Balochistan the same day.

The seminar was organized by the Joint Action Committee of University of Balochistan and All

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.

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.

Opposition will need ruling alliance cooperation for making Sher Afzal as chairman PAC. As per government sources the majority in 29-member PAC. Sher Afzal Marwat cannot become chairman PAC with the support of 4 members of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

Best programme to be launched for welfare of labourers, says Umrani

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Labour and Manpower, Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani has stated that the best programme would be launched for welfare of the people especially labourers in Balochistan under leadership of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

He was addressing the ceremony held marking the World Labourers Day here on Wednesday.

Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani said that he is participating in the Labour Day as a labourer.

He said that it is because of the hard work of labourers due to which the country progresses.

He said that the Peoples Party is the party of labourers. He said that founder of PPP Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had introduced labour policy in the country.

He said that as Advisor he assures that the rights of labourers would be protected by all means.

He also assured that the Labour and Manpower would play its due role for provision of rights to the labourers.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Herat

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.

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.



QUETTA: Balochistan Minister, Mir Sadiq Umrani addresses participants during ceremony organized by Peoples Labour Bureau Balochistan on the occasion of International Labour Day

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President Zardari pledges commitment to upholding labourers' dignity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated the commitment to upholding the dignity of labourers and paid tribute to their historic struggle.

"This day serves as a reminder for all of us to safeguard labourers' rights, and work for their social protection, fair wages, and safe working conditions," the president said in a message on the observance of International Labour Day.

On this day, the president said, they deeply acknowledged and appreciated the contributions of their workers who had played a commendable role in the country's development.

He said today, the International Labour Day was being observed to pay tribute to their workers and labourers whose tireless efforts had driven the country's socio-economic development.

The president said the theme for this year's International Labour Day was to ensure workplace safety and health amidst climate change.

"The labourers and the working class in Pakistan are facing unprecedented challenges, such as inflation, rising cost of living, unemployment, and the adverse impacts of climate change," a press release quoted the president as

saying.

In order to ameliorate the lot of working classes, the president said, it was highly essential to initiate measures for their welfare by providing adequate wages, safe working conditions, health coverage and educational facilities to their children.

"The state also has a crucial role to play in protecting the rights of workers, implementing and enforcing policies to end labour exploitation, protect their rights, and provide social support," he observed.

The president called upon the employers to adopt fair wage practices, take steps for worker safety and health and ensure the provision of necessary training and protective equipment to labourers working in hazardous environments.

The president expressed the hope that the federal and provincial governments would also play their role to protect the rights of labourers, take steps to eliminate exploitative practices and implement social security programs for them.

"Let's pledge to create a conducive environment for workers in Pakistan where they are valued and respected," he added.



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



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti issuing directives on applications of people

Punjab, KP leading National Table Tennis League

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were dominating the Prime Minister Talent Hunt Youth National Table Tennis League here at the Rodham Hall of Pakistan Sports Complex. This six-day event features talented players from all over the country competing against each other.

The closing ceremony and awards presentation would be held on May 3. Mohib Rehman, the league's brand ambassador and an international table tennis player from Balochistan, has lauded the initiative as a vital platform for discovering new talent.

The league was a joint effort between the Higher Education Commission and Government College University Lahore. "We are thankful to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for his Talent Hunt Youth Program," expressed Mohib, who was also a PhD scholar.

"This program not only promotes sports but also provides athletes with opportunities to progress, ultimately strengthening our national teams. It empowers young men and women to strive for future representation of our country."

The Higher Education Commission was hosting competitions throughout Baluchistan, showcasing the region's wealth of talent.

Mohib stressed the importance of more opportunities through the Prime Minister Talent Hunt Youth Program, as players from Baluchistan are eager to participate in the national league.

"The Prime Minister Talent Hunt Program is praiseworthy. It boosts the morale of our youth and supports their development. The more programs like this we have, the more exceptional athletes we will discover across all sports," he said.



QUETTA: Member Balochistan Assembly Mir Liaquat Lehri addressing a rally organized at Quetta Railway Station on the occasion of International Labour Day.

PM Shahbaz wants wealthy...

Continued from page 1

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. "It was not an objective behind the creation of Pakistan that there would be a difference between the rich and the poor.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah led a massive movement in which the people offered huge sacrifices. The motive was the establishment of a welfare state in which everyone would have equal opportunities to excel in life on the basis of one's capacity and ability and take the country forward," he added.

The prime minister reiterated that they were striving to end corruption and promised that all the organs of government and other state institutions, with their collective efforts, would carve a niche for Pakistan among the comity of nations.

He said that the labourers and workers worked hard in the most difficult conditions and helped their employers generate their businesses. Both were like the wheels of the same carriage and their work led to progress and prosperity of the nation and country.

He said if the workers were deprived of their due rights, a country could not achieve progress.

The prime minister opined that due to price hikes and inflation, life for the common man had become hard.

The prices of petroleum products had been reduced but it could not be a substitute for the daily price

Morocco announces scholarships for Pakistani students

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has said that the Moroccan Agency of International Cooperation (AMCI) has announced scholarships for Pakistani students.

The HEC in a statement issued on Wednesday said that AMCI has announced scholarships for students in Pakistan to study undergraduate, master's and PhD in the country's public institutions for the academic year 2024-25.

The last date for submission of online application at HEC portal was May 10 (Friday).

"It is advised in applicant's own interest to read all instructions carefully and submit a complete online application on HEC portal without waiting for the deadline," said the HEC on X. It was further stated that application's hard copies were not required by HEC at this stage of the application process.

The students who were eligible to apply to this scholarship should be Pakistani or Azad Jammu and Kashmir national or permanent resident of Pakistan or AJK.

Pakistan represented at Abu Dhabi Int'l Book Fair

ABU DHABI (APP): Pakistan's literary works and artists continued to attract audience at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair held at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre where a stall of Pakistani books displays the literary work of Pakistani authors.

A panel discussion titled "Capturing Diverse Realities: Dreaming Many Dreams" focusing on the

enduring legacy of Pakistani drama, particularly led by Pakistan Television was also held at the event, according to a press statement issued on Wednesday.

Esteemed panelists at the event included Amna Mufti, Urdu Playwright & Novelist, Shazia Ali Khan, UAE Based Urdu Film Screenplay Writer. The panel was moderated by Mahwash Ajaz, Writer, Journalist, and Psychologist.

Labour Day observed in Quetta and other parts

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All Pakistan Workers Confederation took out the rally at Sariab road while PREM Union took out the rally at Railway Station.

Demonstration was also held under the auspices of PREM Union outside the Railway Station.

The speakers and participants paid rich tributes to those killed in Chicago in 1886 while waging struggle for the rights of labourers.

The labourers' representatives highlighted the issues being faced by the labourers at large. They demanded of the government to resolve the issues of workers paying immediate attention to them.

They also demanded to increase the wages and salaries of the workers in proportion with the inflation.

Meanwhile, the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, provincial ministers, deputy speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola and other government functionaries paid tributes to the labourers in their messages issued on occasion of the Labour Day.

They vowed to protect rights of the labourers in province.

APP adds: Like other parts of the globe, international labour day was observed across the country on Wednesday to pay homage and glowing tributes to the sacrifices of 1886 Chicago workers who sacrificed their lives for demanding eight hours duty a day.

People gathered at roads and streets to renew

their pledge sending a message to employers to provide proper wages and healthy environment under this year's theme of "ensuring labourers' safety and health at work place."

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and labour organizations jointly held a rally on the International Labour Day, honouring workers worldwide and paying homage to the martyrs of Chicago. The event, organized by PPP Lahore, saw prominent figures, including PPP Lahore President Chaudhry Aslam Gill, Mian Khalid Mahmood, and Robina Jameel, among others, addressing the gathering.

Hari Welfare Association has taken out a massive rally from Allah Wala Chowk to Press Club Nawabshah to mark International Labour Day. Participants carried 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.

President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated the commitment to upholding the dignity of labourers and paid tribute to their historic struggle. "This day serves as a reminder for all of us to safeguard labourers' rights, and work for their social protection, fair wages, and safe working conditions," the president said in a message on the observance of International Labour Day on May 1.

On this day, the president said, they deeply acknowledged and appreci-

PPP Senator terms working class backbone of country's development

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan People's Party's central leader and Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan said that the labourers were the backbone of the country's development and without the protection of their dignity and rights, the dream of development and prosperity cannot be fulfilled.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday on the occasion of the "International Labour Day," he said that the International Labour Day highlights the importance and key role of the working class in national development.

He paid tribute to the hardworking workers and said that the welfare and protection of the workers was one of the top priorities of any state because the role of the working class is of key importance in the development and prosperity of the country.

He said that the workers were the backbone of national development and added that everyone should play a due role in providing Honorable and attractive employment opportunities to working people in the country.

Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan delegation visits Beijing

BEIJING (INP): A delegation comprising over 15 participants from the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECOSF) including Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan visited Beijing.

The delegation representing the ECOSF, an intergovernmental organization for scientific and technological cooperation was here for a two-week international training course from April 15 to 29, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

The training, sponsored by China's National New Energy Vehicle Technology Innovation Center, aims to enhance the participants' understanding of China's NEV industry and explore potential cooperation in the field of sustainable energy.

The training workshop was led by leading Chinese experts in the field of electric vehicles (EVs) who delivered insightful sessions and lectures on various important topics such as electric vehicle policies, drivetrain technologies, battery technologies,

smart manufacturing, autonomous driving, and charging and battery swapping infrastructure, among others.

Participants also gained valuable insights through their visits to Launch Design (a global leader in turn-key solutions for electric vehicles), Baidu Autonomous Driving Center, Great Wall Motors Manufacturing Facility, Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology, Lithium Ion Battery Assembling and Energy Hub's battery swapping station.

As representatives of the ECO Member States, the delegation presented a comprehensive electric mobility market analysis and delivered tailored approaches for achieving the region's electric mobility targets.

"One of the most impressive aspects was the level of innovation evident in Chinese automakers, particularly in reducing manufacturing time from 48 months to less than 24 months."

Engr. Khalil Raza, a seasoned Pakistani professional with expertise in sustainable energy, told Gwadar Pro.



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

Service delivery has to be...

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He regretfully pointed out that the poor people are trapped in unnecessary complexities, which is sorrowful.

He said that most of the issues of people must be resolved by the officers at local level being their topmost responsibility.

He stressed that we have to improve the governance as our institutions would be made effective by improving governance. He also asserted that the anti-public attitude of the civil officers is intolerable and as such the issues of every citizen must be resolved by giving them due respect.

President Zardari orders ...

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members to solve the issues of tribal and Kacha areas. He said a system should be evolved for effective communication between Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan to prevent crimes in the country.

The president, expressing concern over the spread of drugs in educational institutions, said Karachi must be made a drug-free city.

A special law can be made for conducting compulsory tests of students and establishing rehabilitation centers, he said adding that the Sindh government should create awareness about drugs among the parents. He said proposals for necessary amendments in federal anti-narcotics laws could be made to provide jurisdiction to the police in drug cases.

Further, he said effective measures to prevent the spread of drugs in educational institutes were inevitable adding that the Police must take strict action against the drug mafia.

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, briefing the president about the overall security situation in Karachi and the rest of the province, said that after strict actions taken by the

provincial government against street crimes in Karachi, and operations against dacoits in the Kacha area, the law and order situation had significantly improved.

He informed that the number of crimes had significantly reduced during the current year as compared to the previous year.

The president was told that crimes in Karachi were less than those recorded in the big cities across the world.

The Sindh CM pointed out that the law and order situation across the province was being reviewed regularly.

He said the Sindh government was ensuring the provision of necessary equipment to enhance the capacity of the Police.

Sindh Police, he said had taken important steps to control street crime besides the law enforcement agencies were also conducting operations in the Kacha areas.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui participated in the meeting. While provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah and Ziaul Hasan Linjar also attended the meeting.



QUETTA: Balochistan Labour Federation leader, Haji Ramzan Achakzai addresses to participants during ceremony organized by BLF on the occasion of International Labour Day, held in Quetta.

Human Rights Council of Pak playing important role in highlighting Kashmir issue: Saghar

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter Convener, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar has said that the Human Rights Council of Pakistan has been continuously playing important role in highlighting the Kashmir dispute.

Mehmood Ahmad Saghar expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the Council led by its Chairman Jamshed Hussain at the APHC-AJK office, said a press release here on Wednesday.

The APHC-AJK convener said that the Human Rights Council of Pakistan had always been at the forefront of highlighting the Kashmir dispute at the social and diplomatic levels.

He added the Council is committed to supporting the Kashmiris' inalienable right to self-determination.

On the occasion, Mehmood Ahmad Saghar and other Hurriyat leaders

including Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Imtiaz Wani, and Syed Ijaz Rahmani told the delegation that the Modi-led Indian government was following the Israeli policy of brutalizing innocent Kashmiris in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

They maintained that Kashmir was an internationally recognized disputed territory and the United Nations has recognized the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris through several Security Council resolutions.

Jamshed Hussain, the Chairman of the Human Rights Council of Pakistan, said that the Kashmiri people were offering unprecedented sacrifices to get their motherland freed from India's illegal occupation.

The Modi government cannot weaken the Kashmiris' spirit of freedom by resorting to massacres, arrests, and unjustified restrictions, he added.



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

Labourers deserve special attention from all sections of society: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Engr Amir Muqam has said that labourers deserved special attention not only from the government but also from all the concerned sections of the society.

In his message on International Labour Day, the Federal Minister said that it was imperative to take steps to protect workers' rights by strictly enforcing labour laws.

Engr Amir Muqam paid rich tributes to the working class for their important role in the country's development and assured that the federal government would take all possible measures for their

welfare.

He said that the labour force is the backbone of our country's economy. Engr Amir Muqam said that a stronger and more prosperous labourer class would result in a developed and prosperous nation. He said that International Labour Day is not only a reminder of the struggle of workers but also an acknowledgment of their contribution towards economic development.

"Our great religion, Islam, emphasizes the principles of social justice, equity, and respect for the rights of the people," he added.

Engr Amir Muqam said the role of the working class is of vital importance in national development and prosperity.

Abdullah Gul says: Govt must bound entrepreneurs to ensure health, safety of laborers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawanan Pakistan (TJP) Mohammad Abdullah Gul on World Labor Day said that workers or laborers in the country had no rights as there was neither social security nor health policy.

In his statement here, he said the government should bound the industries, entrepreneurs and businesses to ensure health and safety of laborers at workplace.

He said the institutions and courts that deal with workers' issues are involved in collusion with factory and mill owners whereas if a case of violation of workers' rights comes to them it was either not heard or decided for a year.

Gul said that the government should bound the factory and mill owners to provide a school for the children

of the workers along with the factory and a hospital for their treatment.

He said that currently the construction or real estate business was the most popular in Pakistan but these companies did not care about the welfare of the workers.

"Every year hundreds of workers lose their limbs and lives just because they do not have Safety protection equipment and even not helmets," he said.

He said that where government elites build hospitals for themselves, it is important to build hospitals for workers.

Abdullah Gul said that shareholding of economy is not given workers in Pakistan, the salary and per diem of the labourer is insufficient in this inflation. "He cannot fulfill the food and education of his children



ISLAMABAD: CDALabour Union General Secretary Chaudhry Yaseen leading a rally on the occasion of International Labour Day.

Innovative models like GUDS critical in equipping youth with green skills for climate-resilient urbanisation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at the event 'Re-thinking Urban Development in Pakistan: Leveraging Youth's Potential for Sustainable Cities' said that innovative models such as the Green Urban Development School (GUDS) play a critical role in equipping youth with the green skills required to manage urbanization in a nature-inclusive and climate-resilient manner. The Institute of Urbanism (IoU) and School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) with the support of the U.S. Embassy Islamabad launched the pilot GUDS program at two universities i.e. Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and COMSATS University

Islamabad, which enhanced knowledge of participants through mentorship, exposure visits and cross-learning opportunities with experts from DePaul University, Chicago, a news release said.

The GUDS is also providing technical and financial support to two students from each university to practically set up their action research projects that lead to green start-ups, thus, empowering youth to spearhead the transition to a sustainable future.

As the GUDS program was piloted at QAU in 2023, two grant winners have already set up their projects i.e. a composting facility and a sustainable

rooftop set-up consisting of rainwater harvesting and hydroponic farm.

Addressing participants at the concluding event of GUDS, Mr. Kelly Ryan, representing the US Embassy Islamabad said, "through programs like the Green Urban Development School, our aim is to encourage exchange of knowledge and collaboration to collectively address the challenge of climate change".

Mariyam Irfan, Managing Director of the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF), remarked, "The Green Urban Development School represents a pivotal initiative in promoting sustainable urbanization in Pakistan. By nur-

turing the green skills of our youth and empowering them to implement innovative solutions, we are not only addressing immediate environmental challenges but also shaping the leaders of tomorrow who will drive lasting change".

Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Senior Program Fellow, IoU emphasized the need to reshape urban development paradigms through strategic partnerships, collaborative efforts, development of green skills, and equitable transitions.

Marfaa Naseem, the GUDS grant winner from QAU, said that she has harvested 48,000 liters of rainwater since installing the system in January 2024.

Pak tourism symposium & expo on 27-28 May

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in partnership with World Bank Group has planned to organize Pakistan Tourism Symposium and Expo as a high level event of tourism industry from 27 to 28 May at Serena Hotel Islamabad.

According to official sources, this tourism symposium will be a two-day event focused on the theme of Building National Economy Through Tourism.

On this occasion, a tourism expo will also be organized to showcase Pakistan's rich tourism potential and create G2G, B2B and G2B linkages among the industry stakeholders.

Security officials briefed for effective duty

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, a special briefing was held for the officers deployed on Diplomatic Enclave security duties regarding the better performance of their duties, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the SP Diplomatic Protection Unit (DPD) briefed the security officers to maintain the law and order and prevent any untoward incident.

Moreover, officers were briefed regarding duty in view of the current situation, the officers and officials on patrolling duty were informed about being alert during patrolling and keeping a watchful eye on suspicious persons, strict orders were issued regarding proper uniforms and discipline.

He further issued orders to the officers and personnel to be ready all the time and perform their duties in an effective manner.

63 plots announced for martyrs families of Islamabad Police

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: A dignified ceremony was held at the Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad in honor of the families of Islamabad Police martyrs, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi attended the ceremony as a chief guest while senior police officers including families of Islamabad Police martyrs

The IGP Islamabad said, "Whenever I become part of the police force, the first thing I do is meet my real family who are the families of martyrs. I could have met you on the first day, but I waited. It was painful not to meet the families of my martyrs. It took so much time because I wanted to understand each martyr's issues and how to solve them. If I can't solve your issues, then I have no purpose in this job."

possible to express the greatness of a martyr because their sacrifices are immense. A martyr is mentioned in the Holy Quran. Our martyrs are present with us, but we lack awareness."

Martyrdom is a very high rank that is beyond description. Even if we serve the parents of a martyr all our lives, we can't fulfill their rights. A martyr is not just a badge of honor for us but a precious asset



and a large number of police officials were also present on this occasion.

The IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi paid a special tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs of Islamabad Police while addressing the ceremony.

He emphasized, "If I talk to the families of my martyrs, it is my duty to follow through. It's a sacred obligation."

I am grateful to all those families who took out their precious time and came here today. It's im-

portant for our nation. If there are no martyrs, we don't exist, he added.

He further said that, "In 2002, wearing the uniform, I took an oath to protect the lives and properties of people."

Yasin Malik: Beacon of peace, justice for Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Raja Muzaffar, Acting Chairman of the US-based JKLF (Yasin Malik faction), has lauded Yasin Malik as a champion of peace and justice, likening his spirit to that of Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King in the Kashmiri struggle for freedom from Indian rule.

Muzaffar highlighted Malik's leadership and dedication to achieving a peaceful resolution to the longstanding Kashmir issue, earning him respect not only from Kashmiris but also from various sectors within India, including political leaders, intellectuals, journalists, diplomats, and Hindu religious figures.

In response to the use of posters depicting Malik's meeting with former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for political purposes, Muzaffar condemned such actions as attempts to politicize Malik's legacy.

He urged Indian political parties to refrain from exploiting Malik for their divisive agendas and called upon international human rights organizations to ensure justice prevails.

Paying homage to Malik, who is currently incarcerated in New Delhi's notorious jail, Muzaffar praised his role in behind-the-scenes diplomacy aimed at resolving the Kashmir conflict peacefully.

BECS observed Labour Day with full zeal & zest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Different events and activities have been organized in its Non Formal Basic Education schools and ALP Centers in ICT, AJK and GB honouring the hard work and dedication of workers who make the community thrive. BECS students enthusiastically participated in Co-curricular activities to pay tribute to our labour community heroes.

Director General Basic Education Community

(BECS) Schools Hameed Khan Niazi and the partner Junior Jinnah Trust distributed gifts and certificates to the students of ALP Center's who are the supportive figure of their families and have also shown dedication and commitment towards education. The main idea behind ALP Centers' initiative of DG BECS was to support and uplift these hardworking students by bridging the gap between basic education and skills learning.

Tararr commemorates Labor Day, pays tribute to Backbone of nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tararr, commemorated Labor Day with a message, acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions of workers to the prosperity of the nation.

In his address in connection with Labor Day on Wednesday, he underscored the significance of this day as a symbol of the sanctity and dignity of labor, emphasizing the pivotal role of workers in driving economic growth.

Labor Day, observed annually on May 1st, serves as a solemn reminder of the struggles endured by workers in their pursuit of basic rights and fair treatment.

The minister Tararr paid homage to those who laid down their lives in this noble endeavor, highlighting their indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to the betterment of society.

As a representative of

the government, Minister Tararr reiterated the administration's dedication to upholding the rights of all laborers across the nation. He emphasized the principles of social justice and equity, drawing upon the values espoused by Islam, which advocates for the respect and fair treatment of workers.

Throughout his address, Minister Tararr emphasized the indispensable role played by the labor force in driving the nation's progress and prosperity. He underscored the government's commitment to ensuring fair labor practices and improving the working and living standards of workers, thereby fostering an environment conducive to their well-being.

Labor Day, Minister Tararr emphasized, serves as a call to action for both individuals and collectives to prioritize the welfare of working classes.



Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani presenting a shield to Secretary Senate, Muhammad Qasim Samad Khan on his retirement from Islamabad Secretariat at Parliament House Islamabad.

WWF says: Over 83,000 residential flats, houses handed over to registered workers so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): Over 83,000 residential flats and houses had been handed over to the registered workers so far those were registered with the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

According to the date of WWF, 1430 different categories of scholarships were also offered to the children of workers including

doctors, engineers, graduates, and higher education abroad and across the country around 313,569 students benefited from scholarships rest of the country. In addition, WWF also paid the grant for the marriage of children to workers about 195,772 and 27,765 death grants were paid to the workers.

Through the Hajj Scheme, WWF 57 workers were selected for Hajj through the balloting of the annual Hajj programme.

Aleem applauds labor community's contributions

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a statement marking World Labor Day, Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment & Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, hailed the dedication of every hard worker, laborer, and skilled individual serving the nation.

He emphasized the commendable efforts of those who fulfill their duties even amidst challenging circumstances, asserting that such contributions deserve recognition not only on May 1st but everyday, said a press release issued

on Wednesday. Aleem Khan also underscored the indispensable role of the labor community in sustaining the nation's economic framework, emphasizing their vital contribution to its vitality and dynamism. He urged for the adoption of strategies aimed at enhancing facilities for the labor class and integrating them more effectively into the national fabric.

Expressing heartfelt wishes for the well-being and prosperity of every laborer within the country,



ISLAMABAD: A view of out of order water filtration plant at a Katchi Abadi sector G-7 in the Federal Capital, as needs to attention for concern authority.

IIUI marks Labor Day: Panel discussion on right to education vs. Child Labor held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Department of Teacher Education in collaboration with Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) at the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) organized a panel discussion to mark the Labor Day in which panelists and participants discussed the critical themes surrounding the rights of children to education and the urgent need to address the issue of child labor. Dr. Shamsa Aziz, Chairperson Department of Teacher Education briefed about the main idea behind arranging the panel discus-

sion. The Panelists included Dr. Tabassum Naz Director Schools Federal Directorate of Education, Islamabad, Ms. Nazneen Zehra Deputy Director (Planning) Basic Education Community Schools, Islamabad, Ms. Shumaila Aslam Principal Ghori Career School, Islamabad, Ms. Tabassum Shairwani Khan PhD Education Scholar, IIUI and Ms. Sana Naseer BECS School. The panel was moderated by Dr. Fouzia Ajmal.

Under the theme "Empowering Futures: Right to Education vs. Child Labour," the discus-

sion encompassed a wide range of topics, each shedding light on different dimensions of the issue.

The panel unanimously agreed on the significance of education as a fundamental right for every child. They emphasized that access to education not only empowers individuals but also plays a vital role in shaping a prosperous society. Addressing the underlying socio-economic factors contributing to child labor was another focal point of the discussion, the panelists stressed the need for holistic approaches that tackle poverty, inequality,



ISLAMABAD: Smoke billows near Sabzi Mandi, endangering people's health. Lack of Waste management creates environmental pollution in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Thursday May 02, 2024

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. In Mecca, the Premier and his delegation met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In addition, Shahbaz Sharif held a private meeting with the Crown Prince.

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. While the PM's visit to Saudi Arabia was for participation in the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Riyadh on special invitation of the Saudi Crown Prince, he (Shahbaz Sharif) also held crucial meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, Emir of Kuwait, Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, President Islamic Development Bank Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, Managing Director IMF, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, besides with Mr. Bill Gates, on sidelines of WEF. It is customary for the Premiers to visit Saudi Arabia after being sworn into office, underlying the close ties between the two countries. However, Sharif's recent visit is important for many reasons that go beyond just following a tradition. To begin with, Pakistan's current civil-military leadership is keen to persuade its partners and allies that after a turbulent period of political unrest, stability has returned to Pakistan. It is important to recognize that Pakistan is facing economic challenges. Last year, Pakistan's economy worsened to such an extent that talks about its defaulting on loans dominated headlines for several months.

During the recent talks, Riyadh may have urged Pakistan to restore monetary stability through an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to gauge its commitment to stabilization and reform. There are signs that Pakistan has succeeded in both areas to initiate talks with Saudi Arabia about future investment. It has successfully concluded its current agreement with the IMF and plans to initiate talks with the organization for a longer program. Similarly, there has been a noticeable decline in political turmoil in Pakistan following the elections and installation of a new government. These developments are backed by the economic reforms that the country initiated over the last year. During his previous tenure as prime minister (April 2022-August 2023), Sharif took steps to privatize huge loss-making state-owned enterprises like Pakistan International Airlines. Under the outgoing interim government, the reform process took modest strides and is currently gaining momentum under the current administration. This continuity of policy over the last couple of years has perhaps convinced the Saudi leadership that Pakistan will not only protect its investments, but also become a stable partner.

Pakistan's policy approach may have begun to pay dividends. After Sharif met the Crown Prince, Riyadh committed to accelerating the initial round of a \$5 billion investment package that had been previously discussed but was not materialized, in part because of the political unrest in Pakistan. In addition, the Crown Prince has agreed to travel to Pakistan on invitation of the Premier Shahbaz. Several significant initiatives will probably be launched during that visit. This may include the long-discussed Saudi involvement in the Reko Diq mining project and the commencement of construction on a \$10-billion oil refinery at Gwadar Port. Sharif may have requested the Saudis for a new oil subsidy during his recent visit. A fresh subsidy would serve as a hedge against any future increases in the international oil market price that would jeopardize Pakistan's economic goals. In a tweet on X, the PM said "had many useful meetings, constructive discussions and productive engagements during my visit to Riyadh for WEF, and heading home now with plenty of ideas and plenty of work to do as we tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow." At the outset, PM Shahbaz Sharif's visit to the Kingdom is expected to restore confidence in Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations further.



By Samiullah Umrani

Imagine a world without laborers – a world where buildings remain unfinished, fields lie fallow, and factories fall silent. In this hypothetical scenario, the absence of workers would bring society to a standstill, underscoring the indispensable role that laborers play in every aspect of our lives. From constructing towering skyscrapers to cultivating the fields that nourish us, from manufacturing the goods we rely on to delivering essential services, the labor force forms the backbone of civilization. Their absence would leave gaping voids in every aspect of our lives, disrupting supply chains, stalling economies, and diminishing the quality of life we often take for granted. As we mark Labor Day, it's an opportune moment to pause and reflect on the indispensable role of laborers, whose contributions shape the world we inhabit.

Labor Day-1st May- is celebrated to honor the contributions and achievements of workers worldwide. It serves as a tribute to the countless individuals who have dedicated their time, energy, and skills to building societies and driving progress. It commemorates the Haymarket affair of 1886 in Chicago, where workers protested for an eight-hour workday, leading to a movement that resonated globally.

Moreover, as we commemorate Labor

Day, it's essential to extend our appreciation to not only those in traditional workplaces but also to the often unsung heroes who work tirelessly behind the scenes. This includes the countless women and individuals who labor within the confines of homes, dedicating themselves to nurturing



families, maintaining households, and ensuring our comfort and well-being. Their contributions, though less visible, are no less significant, as they play a vital role in shaping the fabric of society and enriching the lives of those around them. From caregivers and domestic workers to homemakers and artisans, their efforts contribute to the smooth functioning of communities and the enhancement of our everyday experiences. Therefore, as we celebrate Labor Day, let us recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of all individuals who labor, both within and outside traditional workplaces, to make our lives more comfortable, meaningful, and enriched.

In Pakistan, the observance of Labor Day gained momentum during the labor movement of the 1960s and 1970s, marked by protests and demands for improved working conditions, fair wages, and labor rights. The day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by workers in pursuit of social justice and equality. However, despite

the progress made over the years, Pakistan continues to face challenges in ensuring adequate labor rights and protections for its workforce. Issues such as low wages, unsafe working conditions, lack of job security, and exploitation remain prevalent, particularly among vulnerable seg-

In response to these challenges, various stakeholders including trade unions, civil society organizations, and international agencies have been advocating for stronger labor rights and protections in Pakistan. Efforts have been made to raise awareness about labor issues, mo-

with employers and the government. They play a vital role in collective bargaining, seeking to secure better wages, working conditions, and benefits for their members. Additionally, trade unions engage in advocacy and activism, raising awareness about labor issues, mobilizing support for policy reforms, and organizing protests and strikes to demand change.

Needless to say, celebrating Labor Day isn't just about paying lip service to the contributions of workers; it's about taking concrete actions to improve their lives. One way to do this is by advocating for policies that prioritize fair labor practices, such as living wages and safe working conditions. This can involve participating in rallies, signing petitions, or engaging with lawmakers to push for legislative changes that uphold the rights and well-being of workers. Additionally, supporting businesses that demonstrate a commitment to ethical labor practices sends a powerful message and helps create a demand for responsible business conduct.

On a more personal level, individuals can contribute to improving

and advocate for policy reforms at the grassroots level. By lending our time, resources, and expertise to such efforts, we can amplify the voices of workers and drive meaningful change from the ground up. Ultimately, celebrating Labor Day is about more than just a day off work; it's an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to creating a world where every worker is treated with dignity, respect, and fairness.

As we reflect on the significance of Labor Day and the invaluable contributions of workers, let us not simply confine our appreciation to a single day of the year. Instead, let it serve as a catalyst for ongoing action and advocacy in support of labor rights and social justice. By standing in solidarity with workers, championing fair labor practices, and fostering a culture of respect and dignity in the workplace, we can build a brighter future for all. Let us carry the spirit of Labor Day with us every day, as we work together to create a world where every individual's labor is recognized, valued, and celebrated. — The author is serving as Assistant Director Public Relations in Information Department Gov-



labor organizations in Pakistan is crucial in advocating for workers' rights and promoting fair labor practices. Trade unions serve as the voice of workers, representing their interests in negotiations

labor conditions by supporting and volunteering with local labor rights organizations and community initiatives. These groups often work tirelessly to empower workers, provide legal assistance,

ermment of Balochistan. He also served as Public Relations Officer to Minister Information, Minister Home and Tribal Affairs and PRO to Spokesperson Government of Balochistan.

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.

Grapes have an undue 'spiritual' advantage, while mangoes, to the best of my knowledge, have not caught any distiller's fancy so far. Apart from their fermented transcendence into the imagination of poets, grapes do not have a leg to stand on when it comes to any comparison, even with Langra, a variety of mango whose very name means lame.

More on poets later. Let us, for the moment, bask in the mango's superiority and trample the grapes some more. What do they offer? White and black, seeded and seedless types, and only about 10 popular varieties. Mangoes, on the other hand, offer hundreds of commercially grown varieties worldwide.

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? Mango has a giant like Mirza Ghalib advocating for it. He declared those devoid of a taste for it 'jackasses'.

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. Asked what

caused his return, he quipped, "Mangoes, monsoon, and madness." 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. Spain has a tradition of a tomato fight, but it is in a festive, playful realm, whereas this 'sacrilege' committed by a well-meaning but ill-prepared mango influencer caused a tsunami — the PTI does not have a monopoly over apologetic reactions — of indignation. Starting from 'how dare you restrict the royal lineage of the mango to a dozen or so offspring', to taking exception to one's state being bracketed with an adjacent mango-growing territory, it was reprimand galore. While some Maharashtrian commentators graciously accepted the co-ownership of Alphonso with Karanatak, others fiercely objected to every Alphonso being called 'Hapus' and advised unsuspecting buyers to check the GI tags and scan the barcode to protect against the pretenders.

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. An office lunch almost turned into a fruit fight when an otherwise intelligent and wise colleague suggested that 'Chausa' was superior to 'Sindhri'. What prevented a lunge across the table was the fact that the family of the gent in question had migrated from UP to KP, and the latter's lack of competition with mango-growing Sindh and Punjab made him a somewhat less suspicious dissenter. However, what saved ev-

eryone in the cafeteria from a harangue on the Sindhri's superiority was, instead, a mango fact-check. The correct name is not 'Chausa', but 'Chausa'. The mango variety is named after its place of origin in Bihar.

The stunned silence had to be broken by a consolation admission that our Punjab has its own excellent varieties of mangoes like Anwar Ratol. However, the fact that the name sounds like a popular disinfectant was too good a jibe to miss. The origins of the variety in the district of Rataul, UP, were left out to soften the blow.

While the madness 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. As every body shovelled in the sweet treat, someone suggested it tasted like Banginapalli. The sense of relief at the suggestion that it was none of the suspected and debated varieties was palpable as stout backs slumped into siesta postures in the cafeteria chairs. The variety's origins in the Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, were left out as a peace offering.

The ghus kar marena (hot pursuit) refrain needs to be transformed to aam kay aam, guthion kay daam (a win-win) aspiration. Maybe, it is time for a new round of mango diplomacy.

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. -- Courtesy Dawn

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. They offer hope, which has been in short supply. At the same time, for the Zionist right they unintentionally serve as a distraction from the very atrocities that enrage most of the protesters. The main story is still unfolding in a starving Gaza, just as it was five or six decades ago in a beleaguered but unbending Vietnam.

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, and contributed to the end of that horrific conflict in 1975.

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. These days the charge is antisemitism. That weapon, too, is hardly new. It has been deployed over the decades against anyone who questioned Israel's predilection for ethnic supremacism. What's relatively unusual is the extent to which young Jewish Americans are revolting against their nation's attachment to the Zionist state that most of their parents' generation embraced.

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 input 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.

Schumer attracted the headlines when, as the highest-ranking Jew in American politics, he mildly denounced the inclinations of the Likud-led regime in Israel and called for an election to replace Benjamin Netanyahu. That contributed to the Demo-c-r-a-tic effort to focus resentment on the current Israeli PM and his despicable regime, instead of accurately recognising Israel's consistent drift towards dispossession and potential genocide ever since the Nakba.

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. As many of them have recognised, after their exposure to anti-Zionist Jews and Palestinians at university, the essence of Jewish experience embodies a concept of humanity that Netanyahu and his acolytes fail to recognise. That poses a problem for Zionism's biggest assets — its useful idiots in the US, a category that ranges from the president to most legislators and much of the bureaucracy.

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. All of them have known that Israeli militarism relies on US beneficence. That remains intact even as Biden administration pretends to challenge Israeli excesses while supplying the weapons required to perpetrate the

atrocities.

Almost a century ago, Americans who militated 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. The McCarthyism that descended after that war, disproportionately targeting Jews, violated every principle that the US purports to worship. Since then at least, free speech has been a right reserved for adherents to the officially sanctioned mainstream.

That has occasionally been disrupted in decades gone by. But perhaps never so potentially as in recent months. Despite Netanyahu and Biden's best efforts, the frequently nonsensical claim of antisemitism no longer carries much weight.

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". Some 20 years later, his spiritual descendant Bob Dylan reminded "mothers and fathers throughout the land" not to "criticise what you can't understand" because "your sons and your daughters are beyond your command". That echoes, in a way, the early 20th-century Lebanese poet Kahlil Gibran's well-known warning: "Your children are not your children/ They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself."

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. Whether or not the rebellion across US campuses achieves its aims, gratitude is owed to those who tried. -- Courtesy Dawn

Maryam Nawaz inaugurates Mobile Health Unit in Chak 6 DB Abbasnagar

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited Bahawalpur where she inaugurated the Mobile Health Unit in Chak 6 DB in the Abbasnagar area. She inspected the available facilities at the hospital. She also visited the Ultra Sound Room, Pharmacy, Laboratory, and interacted with the staff. Following the inauguration ceremony, the CM met with the women present and sat down to chat with them. Responding to an elderly woman Javeria's appeal, she personally escorted her to the hospital. The CM remained with the elderly woman until she underwent X-rays, an ultrasound, and an ECG. She also showed affection to a woman's son Usman. Additionally, she visited the home of a rural resident, Jamshed Arshad, upon his invitation. She introduced herself to the women and formally apologized for any inconvenience caused by her untimely visit. She accepted an invitation from rural women for a meal. She sat on the floor with the villagers and enjoyed simple traditional food, complimenting the delicious meal and expressing gratitude. The CM was delighted to meet the humble people of the village, appreciating their clean and simple lifestyle.



LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif at Jaati Umra.

CM aide asks KPCTA, KVDA to facilitate tourists of Chilam Josh Festival

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister on Tourism and Culture Zahid Chanzab has directed the relevant departments to make proper arrangements to celebrate the upcoming Chilam Josh Festival in a befitting manner in the scenic Kalash Valley in Lower Chitral begins from May 13. "The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, Kalak Valley Development Authority, Tourism Police, district administration and other relevant quarters should make proper arrangements to facilitate the tourists during the spectacular event," Zahid Chanzab said while chairing a meeting. KPCTA Director General Barkatullah Marwat, Kalak Valley Development Authority director General Minhasuddin and other officials attended the meeting as well. The advisor asked the relevant departments to reopen camping pods in Bumburet and depute the personnel of Tourism Police to facilitate foreign and domestic tourists and local residents in the gleeful gala. He added that local culture and traditions must be respected and facilities should be provided to the Kalash people to celebrate the annual festival. Zahid Chanzab said that camping pods and hotels should be reopened for the attraction and facilitation of tourists, while ensuring security measures for the festival, including the deployment of Tourism Police for assistance and the safety of visitors. Briefing the participants, Kalak Valley Development Authority Director General Minhasuddin said that the authority had taken proper steps for the facilitation of tourists, including arranging free parking lots, plan for smooth flow of traffic with the help of Traffic Police.

Senior minister orders crackdown on illegal pyrolysis plants in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): In a decisive move, Punjab Senior Minister Maryam Aurangzeb has ordered a crackdown on illegal pyrolysis plants across the province, targeting areas like Sheikhpura and Mureedke. These plants, notorious for releasing toxic fumes by melting tires, have been swiftly shut down following the directive. In an order, numerous pyrolysis plants, including prominent ones like Aftab, Muza Nangal, and Suhdang, faced dismantlement and disconnection of electricity connections in a joint operation conducted by the Environmental Protection Department, Municipal Corporation, and district administration. Expressing grave concern over the health hazards posed by burning tires, Senior Minister Aurangzeb emphasized the urgency of cleansing Punjab's atmosphere of toxins, particularly for the safety of children. The emissions from these activities contribute to life-threatening diseases such as respiratory issues and cancer, warranting zero tolerance towards those jeopardizing human lives. She informed that the harmful smoke from burning tires contains carbon monoxide, a lethal gas, posing significant risks to public health.



GILGIT: Workers of Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority and GBPWD busy in clearing blocked road of Astore after heavy rain and land sliding in the area.



LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif at Jaati Umra.

CM KP emphasizes importance of hardworking class for societal progress, prosperity

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday emphasized the importance of honoring the dignity and rights of the hardworking class for societal progress and prosperity. In a message on the occasion of International Labour Day, he highlighted the pivotal role of the labour force in national development and emphasized the need to ensure their well-being and rights protection. The Chief Minister underscored that the prosperity and protection of workers are integral to any state's priorities, as they are the backbone of national advancement. He stressed the importance of providing dignified employment opportunities for workers by integrating industrial training institutions and industries, further stating that the current provincial government recognizes the pivotal role of the labor class in the country's progress. He said that the day calls for a renewed commitment from all sectors of society to address the welfare and issues facing workers, ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes. It is essential for all stakeholders to collectively work towards the betterment of the labor force and address their concerns effectively. He said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government pledges to protect the rights of workers, give them their due place, and take pragmatic steps to resolve their issues effectively.

Governor KP felicitates Maryam Nawaz on becoming first female CM Punjab

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday met with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and congratulated her on becoming the first female Chief Minister of Punjab. He said this during a meeting in Lahore attended by Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Senior Vice Chairman of the Business Panel Khwaja Shahzeb Akram, former president of the Mohand Chamber of Commerce Fayaz Ali, and other officials. They discussed matters of mutual interest, inter-provincial harmony, enhancing cooperation between the two provinces, and addressing challenges facing the national industry and economy. Governor Ghulam Ali also proposed lifting the ban on wheat procurement and transmission from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that it would fulfill the province's needs and alleviate the burden of expensive flour for the public. Additionally, he and prominent industrialist Khwaja Shahzeb Akram presented several important suggestions for the improvement of industrialists and the business community.

CM Sindh says: Govt committed for economic stability of labourers, workers

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.



LAHORE: Women from different labour organization participating in rally outside Press Club on the occasion of International Labour Day, as International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. It's a day to honor and appreciate the contributions of workers all around the world. This day recognizes the hard work and dedication of people who work in various fields to make our lives better.

CAP marks 16 years of heritage preservation

LAHORE (APP): The Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP) commemorated its 16th anniversary with a grand celebration at the National History Museum, underscoring its steadfast dedication to preserving the rich heritage of Pakistan. Founded in 2007, the CAP has been at the forefront of safeguarding the nation's history, culture, and identity through its innovative initiatives. The CAP's pioneering oral history program, launched in 2008, stands as a testament to its commitment to capturing the diverse narratives that shape Pakistan's collective memory. With over 5,000 oral histories and 600,000 images in its digital archive, the CAP has curated a treasure trove of invaluable resources for researchers, students, and the public. A notable highlight of CAP's legacy is the National History Museum (NHM) Lahore, Pakistan's first digital interactive museum inaugurated in partnership with the Parks and Horticulture Authority and the Government of Punjab in March 2018. NHM offers immersive experiences through cutting-edge technology.

Governor lauds efforts of Youth Parliament for the betterment of community

Independent Report
LAHORE: A 25-member delegation of Pakistan Youth Parliament (PMA) headed by President (PMA) Muhammad Abu Bakar met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation presented various suggestions to the Governor of Punjab regarding the improvement of the youth. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the young generation is the future of the country. He appreciated the efforts of Youth Parliament for the betterment of the community. Governor Punjab said that there are many positive things in the society. He said that we should appreciate the good work, but we should also keep an eye on the shortcomings in the society so that they might be rectified. Governor Punjab also awarded honorary shields to the members of Youth Parliament for their outstanding performance. The delegation presented an honorary souvenir to the Governor of Punjab on behalf of the Youth Parliament. On this occasion, the delegation also visited the Governor's House.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman conferred tamga e Imtiaz on senior journalist, well-known anchor, Iftikhar Ahmed on behalf of the President of Pakistan in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of media at Governor House.

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. 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. Nasir Shah stressing on the need of safety measures in line with modern requirements said that modern safety kits should be provided 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. 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 undermined 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.



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

Home Secretary for allocating more resources for Child Protection Bureau

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Secretary Home Punjab Noorul Ameen Mengal visited the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau in Bahawalpur. On this occasion, he said that the resources for the school located in the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau will be further increased by the Punjab government. The Secretary Home said that instructions have been issued to the Director General Child Protection and Welfare Bureau to decentralize the budget of the Child Protection Bureau Bahawalpur. He further said that the Commissioner Bahawalpur Division and DC Bahawalpur will also be asked to help in providing more resources to the Child Protection Bureau Bahawalpur. He said that the rights of children are being protected in Bahawalpur as well as in other districts of Punjab. Noorul Ameen Mengal said that these children are our precious assets and the Punjab government will make every effort to make these children useful citizens of the society.

Kundi says: PPP always represents workers, deprived class

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that his party always represented the workers and deprived class. In a statement issued here in connection with the World Labour Day, Kundi said the provision of necessities like 'bread, cloth and house' to the workers was the initial step towards the rights of the working class. He said that PPP founder leader Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto even today lives in the hearts of poor people due to his pro-poor vision. The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was also an attempt to end the deprivation of the poor, Faisal Kundi mentioned. "Whenever the PPP gets power, it increases the wages of the workers," he said and added the credit for increasing the salaries, pensions, and benefits of government employees also goes to his party. "Even today, our coalition government was making efforts to eliminate poverty and get rid of economic challenges."

Two killed in separate road mishaps

KHANEWAL (APP): A minor girl among two killed while three injured in separate road accidents reported in the city on Wednesday. According to Rescue 1122 sources, Rehman Gull s/o Imam Gull resident of Village 54/10-R was going to city on motorcycle along with his 6-year old daughter Bisma Gull, 10-year old Momina Gull and 9-year old Umair Rehman. All of a sudden, a speeding mini van collided with the motorcycle near Mouza Raheem Shah. Resultantly, Bisma Gull died at the spot while the other three members sustained injuries.



Minister for State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a virtual meeting with members of Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) in Islamabad.

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. 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. 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.

Shanzana Memon says: HerMarket empowers Women to showcase their products, service

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. Looking ahead, the horizon is brimming with possibilities as Hermarket continues to expand its reach and impact.

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. He articulated that the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping global dynamics. To remain competitive in the realm of international trade, it's imperative that we commence educating our students on the constructive applications of AI without delay, as it stands as the cornerstone of global education. President Chamber Farooq Shaikhani underscored the pivotal role 'AI' can play.



LAHORE: All Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions holding rally passing through Kasib Road on the occasion of International Labour Day, as International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. It's a day to honor and appreciate the contributions of workers all around the world. This day recognizes the hard work and dedication of people who work in various fields to make our lives better.

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.

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.



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

'Climate change poses threat to economy'

LAHORE (APP): Chairman UK-Pakistan Joint Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Wednesday said climate change had posed a great threat to Pakistan's economy and agriculture sector, with devastating consequences witnessed in the aftermath of recent floods. Speaking as a guest of honour at a seminar on "Challenges of Climate Change" here, he said these floods wreaked havoc, washing away vital infrastructure and causing colossal losses to agriculture which was a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy. He said Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change was exacerbated by its geographical location and reliance on agriculture, which employs a large portion of the population and contributes significantly to the GDP. Extreme weather events, like floods, droughts, and heatwaves, are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change, amplifying the challenges faced by the agriculture sector. He stressed the urgent need for adopting concerted efforts at the national and international levels. Investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, such as flood defenses and water management systems, is essential to mitigate the risks posed by extreme weather events. Furthermore, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and diversifying the economy can enhance resilience to climate change while fostering long-term economic growth. Mian Kashif said the last floods inundated agricultural lands, destroying crops.

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 Ateeel, Member National Assembly and former provincial minister, Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar and others. Addressing the seminar, the Secretary Agriculture said that cotton was a cash crop, adding that farmers should get financial benefits by sowing cotton. "Agriculture Department (Extension), Government of Punjab has been making efforts to promote IPM model and modern technology in cotton growing," he said. He said that the Punjab government had given a package for farmers estimated to be billions of rupees.

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

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. The purchase of local wheat was being preferred rather imported or from Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation Limited (PASSCO), the minister said, and added it would save Rs 12 billion for the provincial government. He said the purchased wheat would be stored in warehouses to ensure transparency during the whole process.



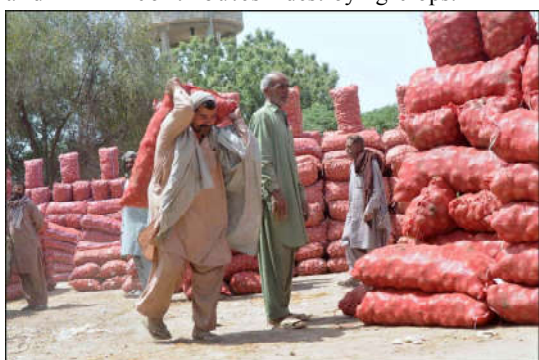
QUETTA: Central Anjuman Tajran Balochistan President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with others addresses to media persons during press conference.

Foreign companies show lack of interest in PIA privatization

ISLAMABAD (INP): PIA. Sources further said that Privatization officials, including the financial adviser on PIA's privatization, are not familiar with raising capital from abroad. The lack of interest of the foreign investors in this process is a matter of regret that even the messages of the foreign investors have not reached yet, sources added. The Privatization Commission and the PIA administration also conducted various roadshows but failed to achieve much success, sources concluded. According to sources in Privatization Commission, applications for tenders have not been submitted yet by such companies despite the fact that May 3 is the last date for the submission of applications for tenders regarding privatization of

China's trade with other BRICS members up 11.3 pct in Q1

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): China's trade with other BRICS members hit 1.49 trillion yuan (about 209.7 billion U.S. dollars) in the first quarter, up 11.3 percent year on year, according to customs authorities. The trade value accounted for 14.7 percent of the nation's total foreign trade value during the same period, said the General Administration of Customs (GAC). Among BRICS members, China's exports to Brazil and imports from it rose 25.7 percent and 30.1 percent year on year.



MULTAN: Labourers busy in unloading sacks of vegetables at vegetable market as International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. It's a day to honor and appreciate the contributions of workers all around the world. This day recognizes the hard work and dedication of people who work in various fields to make our lives better.

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 back in their hometowns. This year, it was the 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.

Asian markets track Wall St down as Fed looms

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. The reading on labour costs followed a string of recent reports out of Washington suggesting the central bank's battle against inflation has some way to go, even with borrowing costs at two-decade highs. It also adds to the angst among investors leading up to the Fed's latest policy decision later in the day, which many were already expecting to see officials turn more hawkish.

UBG Leaders call for unified action amid Pak economic crises'

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan is currently grappling with one of its most severe economic crises, prompting leaders from the United Business Group (UBG) to issue a call for unified action. In a joint statement, UBG leaders including S M Tanveer, Zubair Tufail, Khalid Tawab, Hanif Gohar, Momin Ali Malik and Mazher A Nasir emphasized the need for collaboration between the government, political parties, and the business community to chart a path towards economic resilience and prosperity. The UBG leaders stressed the importance of garnering support from all trade bodies to revive the stagnant economy. They urged for an end to the prevalent "rental business" mindset and emphasized the necessity to address the underlying challenges faced by various sectors, particularly focusing on genuine industrial and agricultural growth to double exports within the next five years. Drawing inspiration from Bangladesh's economic transformation despite formidable challenges, the UBG leaders underscored the possibility of achieving similar success in Pakistan with concerted efforts. Furthermore, the UBG called for the establishment of an economic forum under the auspices of FPCCI to integrate the business community's recommendations into a comprehensive economic growth roadmap. They highlighted key areas for economic revival, including restoring severed trade relations with neighboring countries, political stability, reducing the cost of doing business, lowering energy prices.



ISLAMABAD: Farmers driving machines to harvest wheat in a field in the Federal Capital.

Israeli offensive on Rafah would be 'unbearable escalation': UN chief

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: United Nations chief Antonio Guterres urged Israel not to invade southern Gaza's Rafah city, after the Israeli prime minister said an offensive would go forward regardless of a pending hostage deal with Hamas.

With the war roiling the region, international outrage mounting over the human toll, and mediators ramping up diplomatic efforts to ease the crisis and reach a truce, Guterres implored Israel not to go ahead with its operation.

"A military assault on Rafah would be an unbearable escalation, killing thousands more civilians and forcing hundreds of thousands to flee," the secretary-general told reporters.

Such an operation

"would have a devastating impact on Palestinians in Gaza, with serious repercussions on the occupied West Bank and across the wider region," he added.

"All members of the Security Council, and many other governments, have clearly expressed their opposition to such an operation. I appeal for all those with influence over Israel to do everything in their power to prevent it."

The latest Guterres warning follows Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's promise that the Israeli army will launch a ground offensive on the Gaza Strip's far-southern city of Rafah "with or without" a truce deal being agreed with Hamas.

Rafah has become a refuge for some 1.5 million Palestinians who have fled Israel's bombardments that

have ravaged the territory since the start of the war on October 7, when Hamas launched a deadly and unprecedented attack on Israel.

But Netanyahu has pledged to destroy Hamas, and he said the Israeli army stopping the war "before achieving all of its goals is out of the question."

"We will enter Rafah and we will eliminate the Hamas battalions there with or without a deal," he told families of hostages still being held in Gaza, his office said.

Guterres implored Israel and the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas to reach a truce "now," and reiterated his call for Israel to allow more humanitarian aid into Gaza, including through the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA.



Visitors stand behind barriers while looking at military hardware at an exhibition, which displays armoured vehicles and equipment captured by the Russian army from Ukrainian forces in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict, at Victory Park open-air museum on Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow, Russia.

Russia ramps up arms production as US boosts support for Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's defence minister on Wednesday ordered a hike in weapons production and said deliveries needed to be faster for the war in Ukraine, a week after U.S. President Joe Biden signed off on tens of billions of dollars of new military aid for Kyiv.

President Vladimir Putin's 2022 invasion of Ukraine touched off the worst breakdown in relations between Russia and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, ac-

ording to Russian and U.S. diplomats. Biden on April 24 signed a bill into law that provides \$61 billion in additional aid to Ukraine, including an array of artillery, rocket systems, anti-tank munitions and ammunition.

Russia is gradually advancing at key points along the 1,000-km (620 mile) front line and stated that U.S. arms will not prevent victory by Moscow, but some Russian officials are concerned that the U.S. support will escalate the conflict.

US 'expects accountability' from India, says State Dept

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US State Department stated on Tuesday that it expects India to address the alleged involvement of senior Indian officials in assassination attempts within the United States. "We continue to expect accountability from the government of India based on the results of the Indian inquiry committee's work, and we are regularly working with them and inquiring for additional updates," said the department's principal deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel during a news briefing in Washington. Patel also emphasised that the United States continues to "raise our concerns directly with the Indian government at senior levels."

China, US to hold climate meetings in Washington in May

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. climate change diplomat John Podesta said on Tuesday he will meet his Chinese counterpart Liu Zhenmin in Washington in early May, resuming bilateral talks on climate cooperation amid simmering tensions over trade and security. This is Liu's first visit to Washington in his new role after replacing veteran climate envoy Xie Zhenhua, who stepped down due to health reasons in January.

Liu has spoken with Podesta since he stepped into his new role as the top U.S. climate diplomat earlier this year, replacing former Secretary of State John Kerry. However, the envoys of the world's two

biggest emitters have not yet held formal talks. Podesta told Bloomberg TV he will meet with Liu when he visits the United States.

One source familiar with the visit said Liu will be in Washington from May 8 to May 10. The source said Liu will also travel to New York. China's foreign ministry also said Liu would visit the United States in a readout from Secretary of State Antony Blinken's trip to China last week. Kerry and Xie played a key role in brokering the final outcome at the COP28 Climate Summit in Dubai, agreeing to bilateral language that paved the way for broad acceptance of an agreement by all countries to transition.

UK confirms first migrants held for Rwanda deportation flights

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The UK government confirmed on Wednesday it had detained an unspecified number of migrants in recent days for deportation to Rwanda in July under its controversial new policy.

It comes a week after lawmakers ended months of parliamentary wrangling and passed a law allowing some asylum seekers to be deported by declaring Rwanda to be a safe third country.

US, allies press UAE over Russia trade, sanctions

Monitoring Desk
ABU DHABI: The United States, Britain and the European Union are pressing the United Arab Emirates to show it is cracking down on firms evading sanctions imposed on Russia over the war in Ukraine, according to three sources aware of the diplomatic outreach.

American, British and EU officials visited the Gulf state last week as part of a wider coordinated effort to prevent sanctioned goods from reaching Russia, a British foreign secretary spokesperson said, declining further comment. The sources said the officials asked the UAE in a series of separate meetings to share detailed trade information on its exports to Russia and on the re-export of so-called dual-use goods that have both civilian and military purposes.

Asked for comment, a

UAE official did not address whether talks had taken place but said bans on certain dual-use products "deemed essential in mitigating the conflict in Ukraine" had been issued and that preliminary data indicated there had been no export or re-export of such products so far this year.

The official did not share the preliminary data. A U.S. State Department spokesperson said a U.S. delegation had visited the UAE as part of an ongoing dialogue about transshipment trends, especially of dual-use goods that support the Russian defence industrial base. Among Western concerns is that companies in the UAE are involved in the export of computer chips, electronics, machinery and other sanctioned products to Russia that could be used to aid Moscow's military effort against Ukraine.



Demonstrators remove barriers near the parliament building during a rally to protest against a bill on "foreign agents" in Tbilisi, Georgia.

At least 24 people killed in south China road collapse

Monitoring Desk
GUANGDONG: At least 24 people died after part of a highway collapsed due to heavy rains in southern China's Guangdong province on Wednesday, state media said.

Guangdong, a densely populated industrial powerhouse, has been lashed by rainstorms in recent weeks, causing severe flooding and landslides in some areas.

The downpours have been much heavier than would normally be expected for the time of year and have been linked to accelerating climate change.

State news agency Xinhua said that a stretch of road between Meizhou city and Dabu county in Guangdong province caved in at around 2:10am on Wednesday (6:10pm GMT Tuesday).

The incident caused 20 vehicles to become trapped and involved a total of 54 people, according to Xinhua.

As of 3pm (7pm GMT), "24 people have been confirmed dead, and 30 are receiving all-out emergency care in hospital", Xinhua said.

Recovery work was ongoing and the lives of those hospitalised were "not currently at risk", it added, without specifying their injuries.

An aerial photograph published by state broadcaster CCTV showed wrecked vehicles lying in a deep muddy pit where the highway once ran.

Dozens of emergency vehicles and cranes congregated along the intact section of the road, which bisects a steep, wooded slope.

Taliban are working to woo tourists to Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Around 30 men are crammed into a Kabul classroom, part of the debut student cohort at a Taliban-run institute training tourism and hospitality professionals.

It's a motley crew. One student is a model. Another is 17 and has no job history.

The students vary in age, education level and professional experience. They're all men — Afghan women are banned from studying beyond sixth grade — and they don't know anything about tourism or hospitality. But they are all eager to promote a different side of Afghanistan. And the Taliban are happy to help.

Afghanistan's rulers are pariahs on the global stage, largely because of their restrictions on women and girls. The economy is struggling, infrastructure is poor, and poverty is rife.

Abu Dhabi-backed group ends Telegraph takeover bid

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: An Abu Dhabi-backed group planning to take over Britain's Telegraph Media Group (TMG) said Tuesday it will withdraw and sell the business after the UK government moved to block the deal.

RedBird IMI, a joint venture between US firm RedBird Capital and Abu Dhabi's International Media Investments, struck a £1.2 billion (\$1.5 billion) deal with TMG's previous owners, the Barclay family, in November.

The agreement, which has faced opposition over its potential impact on freedom of speech given Abu Dhabi's press censorship record, saw RedBird IMI pay off bank debts in exchange for control of the media group.

However, last month the UK government said it would bring forward legis-

lation to block such state-backed takeover deals in the industry, while Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer also mulled a full regulator probe.

The regulatory hurdles appear to have prompted RedBird IMI to now abandon the endeavour to own and control TMG, which also includes The Spectator magazine.

"RedBird IMI has today confirmed that it intends to withdraw from its proposed acquisition of the Telegraph Media Group and proceed with a sale," it said in a statement.

"We continue to believe this approach would have benefited the Telegraph and Spectator's readers, their journalists and the UK media landscape more widely.

"Regrettably, it is clear this approach is no longer feasible."

Duchess Sophie visits Ukraine in first trip by British royal since start of war

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Sophie, Britain's Duchess of Edinburgh, has visited Ukraine, meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his wife in the first trip to the country by a British royal since the conflict with Russia began, Buckingham Palace said.

Sophie, 59, the wife of King Charles' youngest brother Prince Edward, made the surprise visit on behalf of Britain's Foreign Office to show solidarity with those impacted by the war and as part of her work to champion survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, the palace said in a statement. "It's true that women and girls pay the highest price in terms of human cost when it comes to the way that they are affected."



Part of an expressway collapsed in south China's Guangdong Province on after heavy rains.

Indonesia's Ruang volcano erupts again, alert status at highest

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia's Ruang volcano erupted on Tuesday, spewing ash and lava, after an eruption earlier this month led to hundreds of evacuations and an airport closure.

The country's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) raised the alert level to the highest following the morning eruption, urging residents not to get near the volcano, according to its website.

The island of Ruang

in the province of North Sulawesi is home to more than 800 residents, most of whom have been evacuated following the eruption earlier this month. It was not immediately clear how many more were evacuated on Tuesday.

The country's disaster mitigation agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Footage on social media on Tuesday, which Reuters could not immediately authenticate, showed lava flowing down the volcano, which is about 100 km (62 miles) from the provincial capital Manado.

Turkish police detain over 200 May Day protesters in Istanbul, minister says

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkish police detained 210 people on Wednesday, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said, after using tear gas and rubber bullets to stop the protesters reaching Taksim Square, the traditional focal point of May Day rallies in Istanbul.

President Tayyip Erdogan said on the eve of May Day that the annual protests would not be allowed to take place on Taksim Square, which was cordoned off by police.

US-built Gaza aid pier to be ready within days: Cyprus

Monitoring Desk
NICOSIA: US forces were expected to complete a floating pier on Gaza's coast later this week, allowing more aid deliveries into the besieged Palestinian territory, the president of Cyprus said Tuesday.

The Mediterranean island nation hopes to be a hub for a "maritime corridor" to ship relief goods to the 2.4 million people of Gaza, who have been under Israeli bombardment and siege since Hamas launched its October 7 attack.

Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides told

reporters the United States had informed his government that the floating dock would be ready by Thursday, roughly in line with earlier US timelines.

US President Joe Biden first announced the plan for the temporary pier on March 7. The Pentagon declared construction had started on April 25 and said it was expected to begin operating in early May.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who has pledged EU involvement in the aid project, was on Thursday due to visit Cyprus.

Parts of India record hottest April as heatwave kills nine

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Eastern India experienced its hottest April on record as a heatwave scorched parts of the country amid a general election, killing at least nine people, and the weather office on Wednesday forecast above normal temperatures for May too.

Searing heat has been cited by political analysts as one of the reasons for low voter turnout in the seven-phase parliamentary election that began on April 19, with results due on June 4.

'Torrential' rains shutter Saudi schools, flood roads

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabian authorities shuttered schools in several regions on Wednesday as flash floods inundated roads, the latest instance of heavy rains disrupting life in the desert Gulf.

AFPTV footage showed partially submerged cars struggling to drive through standing water in the central region of Qassim, one of the areas hit hardest overnight.

"The rain continued for seven hours from the afternoon until near midnight in very large quantities," said Mohammed, an Egyptian resident of Buraidah, the capital of Qassim, who spoke to AFP on the condition that only his first name be used. "Water accumulated to a height of more than 10 centimetres in front of the residence and prevented us from going out to the street. The sound of thunder was loud and lightning was illuminating the city."

The National Meteorological Centre issued red alerts for Qassim and other areas, including the eastern province on the Gulf, the capital Riyadh and Medina province bordering the Red Sea.

It warned of "heavy rain with strong wind, lack of horizontal visibility, hail, torrential rains, and thunderbolts". Schools in the eastern province and Riyadh also cancelled in-person instruction and moved classes online. The Medina education department posted pictures of maintenance workers repairing electricity and air-conditioning units and removing standing water from schools on X.

There was some standing water on Riyadh's roads on Wednesday but traffic was not significantly disrupted. Rainstorms and flooding are not unheard of in Saudi Arabia, especially in winter, and larger, more densely populated cities can struggle with drainage. Such problems occur annually in Jeddah, the port city on the Red Sea coast.

Philippines says Chinese coast guard elevating tensions in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines on Wednesday accused China's coast guard of elevating tensions in the South China Sea after two vessels suffered damage from water cannon use by Beijing, an official said.

Philippine officials have said a coast guard ship and a fisheries vessel were damaged when Chinese coast guard vessels fired water cannons at them while on their way to the disputed Scarborough shoal on Tuesday to help Filipino fishermen at sea.

Commodore Jay Tarriela, Philippine coast guard spokesperson on South China Sea matters, said their Chinese counterparts have elevated tensions after it directly used water cannon against one of its vessels for the first time.

"It just goes to show that Goliath is becoming more Goliath. They don't hesitate to use brute force to violate international law," Tarriela told a briefing.

China has previously used water cannons against Philippine navy-crewed civilian

supply vessels in the region.

No country has sovereignty over Scarborough Shoal, a prime fishing patch close to major shipping lanes that is used by several countries. The shoal falls inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and has been a constant source of flashpoint between it and China.

Tarriela added China's actions do not count as an armed attack against a Philippine vessel, but he said China has been raising the pressure of its water cannons which have damaged their ships.

Jacky Yu is closing his Japanese gift shop in Hong Kong after 12 years. He has made the difficult decision to move it online.

The Philippines has a longstanding mutual defence treaty with the United States and Washington has pledged its "ironclad commitment" to defending its ally against an armed attack on Filipino military and public vessels, including coast guard ships, anywhere in the South China Sea.



Volunteers direct traffic to clear the Athi River-Namanga highway that was affected after a seasonal river burst its banks following heavy rainfall in Kitengela municipality of Kajjido County, near Nairobi, Kenya.



LAHORE: Political leaders joined hands to express solidarity with the Palestinians on the occasion of the National Palestine Conference organized by the Central Jamiat Ahl Hadith Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Iqbal of the provincial capital.

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 government or its agents along with harsh and life-threatening prison conditions, arbitrary deten-

tion 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" annual exercises of preparing such unsolicited reports lack objectivity and remain inherently flawed in their methodology."

Washington expects accountability from India

Govt strongly believes in supremacy of law under constitution: Amir Muqam

PESHAWAR (INP): Federal Minister for SAFRON and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam has said that his party led government strongly believes in supremacy of law under the constitution.

This was stated by him on Wednesday while addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the Matta Bar Council Association in Swat. The ceremony was attended by party leaders, district officials and members of the legal fraternity.

Engr Amir Muqam urged the lawyers' fraternity to work towards up-

holding the supremacy of law and the constitution, rather than being swayed by individual interests.

Reiterating the government's commitment to upholding the independence of the judiciary, he asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to give priority to public issues over personal agendas.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister needs to focus on improving the lives of people of the province rather engaging in power struggles in Islamabad, he added.

The federal minister expressed confidence in the

strength of the central government and assured that over the next five years, Pakistan would gain control over its issues.

He highlighted the importance of collaboration between institutions and governments solely for the resolution of Pakistan's issues. He praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his tireless efforts to resolve the issues faced by the country and countrymen.

Engr Amir Muqam commended Army Chief General Asim Munir's role in attracting investment from around the world for the first time in Pakistan.

MQM delegation meets President

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 delegation along with party convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi were also present on the occasion.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that all the stakeholders would be taken on-board while carrying out affairs of the government.

MQM delegation assured the President of their all possible cooperation.



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.

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.

President ECI stresses proactive role of Pakistan in promoting ECO tourism

SHAHRAH (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 Shahrisabz, 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 Shahrisabz 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.

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.



QUETTA: Director Colleges Kaleemullah Lango briefed Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Duurrani about colleges. Secretary Schools Saleh Nassar is also present

34th meeting of Board of Directors of BEEF held

QUETTA: The 34th meeting of Board of Directors of Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) was held here the other day.

The Secretary Finance, Babar Khan presided over the meeting.

The Chief Executive of BEEF, Zikriya Khan Noorzai briefed the meeting about agenda including complete educational scholarships for children of the civil martyrs under the Benazir Bhutto Fund Scholarship Programme, educational scholarships for providing equal opportunities of education for the students belonging to all minorities as well as the transgender students besides the policies prepared for educational scholarships for topper students of all districts (matriculation and Intermediate).

The meeting approved different matters and policies.

The Chairman Board of Directors appreciated the performance of schemes of BEEF and directed to start new ones soon.

He also directed to conduct the third party evaluation soon.



QUETTA: Member Balochistan Assembly Maulana Hidayat Ur Rehman Baloch along with labour leaders leading a rally to mark the International Labour Day as International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 every year.



BANJUL: - Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar arrives in Banjul, the Gambia for the 15th OIC Islamic Summit. He received by the Gambian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Nani Juwara.

Rights of labourers working in industrial zone to be protected, assures Hasan Zehri

INDEPENDENT REPORT: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Industries, Mir Ali Hasan Zehri has categorically stated that the rights of labourers working in industrial zone of the province would be protected.

He asserted that those exploiting the labourers would have to face the music. Stern legal action would be taken against usurping rights of the labourers.

This and similar views were expressed by the Advisor Industries in a message issued on the occasion of World Labour Day observed on Wednesday.

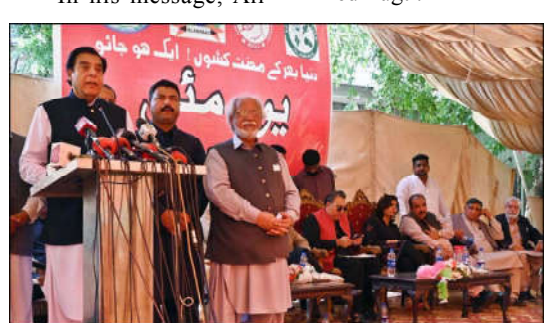
In his message, Ali

Hasan Zehri paid tributes to the labourers of Chicago saying that their sacrifices would be remembered for centuries.

He said that the provincial government would protect the rights of labourers at every cost.

In this regard, necessary amendments would be made in the laws for protection of their rights.

Mir Ali Hasan Zehri said that at least 1,000 children of labourers would acquire higher education from prestigious educational institutions of the country, as per the vision of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing during function to mark the International Labour Day at National Press Club.

Labour Day observes to pay tribute to sacrifices of Chicago workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Like other parts of the globe, international labour day was observed across the country on Wednesday to pay homage and glowing tributes to the sacrifices of 1886 Chicago workers who sacrificed their lives for demanding eight hours duty a day.

People gathered at roads and streets to renew their pledge sending a message to employers to provide proper wages and healthy environment under this year's theme of "ensuring labourers' safety and health at work place."

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and labour organizations jointly held a rally on the International Labour Day, honouring workers worldwide and paying homage to the martyrs of Chicago. The event, organized by PPP Lahore, saw prominent figures, including PPP Lahore President Chaudhry Aslam Gill, Mian Khalid Mahmood, and Robina Jameel, among

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).

"Oye Chote" delivers a powerful message on Child Labor

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

Deputy PM Dar arrives in The Gambia to represent Pak 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 from 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 Riyadh.

He was received by the Gambian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Nani Juwara, Foreign Secretary



QUETTA: A delegation of tribal elites meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

BFA foils attempt to supply unhealthy chicken to Quetta

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Food Authority has failed a major attempt to supply unhealthy chicken to Quetta city.

According to the spokesperson Balochistan Food Authority was received a confidential information regarding the supply of unhealthy chicken meat worth of lacs.

According to details, the BFA officials started monitoring the allegedly hazardous chicken meat supplying from Punjab by

Indian troops martyr eight Kashmiris in April

SRINAGAR (Online): Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred eight Kashmiris, including a young boy, during the last month of April in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those martyred five were killed in fake encounters or custody by the Indian forces' personnel in the territory.

During the period, Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force, dreaded National Investigation Agency and State Investigation Agency arrested 205 civilians, including Hurriyat leader, Firdous Ahmed Shah, political activists, youth and students. Several among those arrested were booked under black laws, including Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA).

deputing staff at various entrances of Quetta city.

The operation team under the leadership of Deputy Director Operations Qamarul Zaman notices a suspicious cargo truck going at Airport Road, Kali Almas Chowk.

The BFA team signalled to stop the suspected chicken loaded truck but instead of stopping the driver ran away and closed the entry gate after entering the truck into a parking area.

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.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the government is taking effective measures for the welfare of labourers and would ensure all basic facilities to the productive segment of society.

In a message on the occasion of Labour Day, he said that workers are playing a key role in the development of the society.

and on the basis of hard work by the employers and the employees including workers.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized the government's commitment in enhancing the quality of life and prosperity of labourers.

In a message on International Labour Day, she paid tribute to labourers worldwide, highlighting their significance in Islam and society. CM Maryam honoured women workers and the Chicago martyrs for their contributions and struggles. She stressed the importance of respecting labour rights, ensuring fair wages, protection, and societal recognition. Additionally, she announced plans to enforce an 'Occupational Safety Act' for labourer protection.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said the provincial government was working hard for the economic stability of the labourers and also ensuring

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