Opposition alliance

demands apology from

'violators of Constitution'

LAHORE (INP): The op-

position alliance, Tehreeke- Tahaffuz-e-Aain-e-Paki-

stan (Constitution Protec-

tion Movement of Paki-

stan), has announced plans

to initiate a nationwide cam-

paign aimed at restoring the

Constitution and demand-

ing apologies from those

who violate Pakistan's con-

reached during a gathering

of the opposition coalition

on Saturday, chaired by Mahmood Khan Achakzai,

Chairman of TTAP. The

meeting was attended by

figures including Umar Ayub Khan, Leader of the

Opposition in the National

Assembly, Asad Qaiser, Central Leader of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI),

Sahibzada Hamid Raza,

Chairman of Sunni Ittehad

Council, Sajid Khan Tareen,

Acting President of

Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M),

as well as senior leaders

This decision was

stitutional laws.

Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Abbas Naqvi, and Syed Nasir Shirazi of Majlis-e-

Wahdatul Muslimeen

sition coalition denounced

the ISPR's press conference of May 7, labeling it as un-constitutional and an abuse

establishment's call for an

apology from PTI lead-

ership as unfounded, as-

serting that those who

violate the Constitution

should apologise to the na-

ated the current political

landscape and ratified sig-

nificant decisions pertain-

ing to a nationwide move-

sue legal avenues for per-

mission to hold public ral-

lies in Karachi and

Faisalabad, denouncing ef-

forts by local authorities to

impede these gatherings.

The gathering evalu-

It was agreed to pur-

of authority.

Leaders of the oppo-

They dismissed the

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol: XXV No. 261, Zeeqad 03, 1445 AH Sunday May 12, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Pakistan sought "technical support" as well as investments from Saudia to achieve economic progress: PM

Says Saudi Crown Prince, other friends can bring economic revolution

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehabz Sharif has said that Pakistan sought "technical support" as well as investments from Saudi Arabia in order to achieve economic progress in different sectors.

In an interview with Al Arabiya TV, Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan is expected to make major announcements in solar energy projects as the South Asian country seeks investment from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in different sectors to boost economy.

The prime minister during the interview shared that a Pakistan delegation is in Riyadh to discuss materialising investment portfolios in solar energy with ACWA POWER. "I think this is one area where

announcements, along with Thirdly, agriculture as there is huge potential in the sector," he said and maintained that Pakistan was an agrarian economy.

Shehbaz Sharif called for increasing cooperation with Saudi Ārabia to enhance agriculture produc-

While speaking about prime minister said that the Saudi crown prince's workings in the field were "phenomenal" and "breathtak-

When asked about strategic partnerships with other Arab countries, Shehbaz replied in affirmative and said that Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Turkey, and

we are going to make major China can become great partners in the field. "Internationally, we can create a kind of very wonderful economic revolution. This is all because of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's dynamism and his visionary leadership," he

In response to a query, Shehbaz said: "We have now a clear-cut way forward... mutual cooperainformation technology, the tion, investments in the field of mines and minerals, renewable energy," he said.

The Saudi crown prince is expected to visit Pakistan this month, according to media reports. His visit was initially scheduled for late 2022 but faced delays due to political uncertainties and Pakistan's elections

Speaker &

Dy. Speaker

BA pays

courtesy visit

to Governor

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Speaker

Balochistan Assembly.

Captain (Retd) Abdul

Khaliq Achakzai and

Deputy Speaker, Ms.

Ghazala Gola paid courtesy

visit to the Governor, Sheikh

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

separately here at the Gov-

ernor House on Saturday.

meetings, the Speaker and

Deputy Speaker of

Balochistan Assembly dis-

cussed with Governor the

matters about development

of the province besides other

matters of mutual interest.

CJP to visit

Azerbaijan to

attend SCO

meeting

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief

Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez

Isa is scheduled to visit

Azerbaijan from May 18 to 22 to attend the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation's

(SCO) meeting.

During his absence.

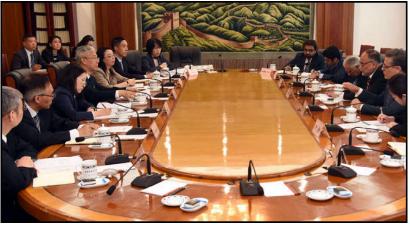
Justice Muneeb Akhtar will

assume the role of Acting

Chief Justice of Pakistan.

The swearing-in ceremony is set for May 18.

During the course of



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and SAPM Tariq Fatmi, meeting with Mr. Zhao Chenxin vice NDRC Chairman at NDRC office.

CM sees off intending pilgrims as two maiden Hajj flights depart for Saudi Arabia

Independent Report QUETTA: Two maiden hajj flights departed for Saudi Arabia (Madina Munawara) from Quetta

International Airport on Saturday afternoon. The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti saw off the intending pilgrims proceeding for Hajj at the Airport.

Pakistan and Balochistan in their prayers.

He also appealed to them to make peace, development and prosperity of the province and people part of their prayers during

It may be mentioned here that some 300 intending pilgrims proceeded for Hajj on two Hajj flight from



was held at the International departure lounge of the Airport where the Chief Minister met the intending pilgrims and congratulated them on their proceeding for

Around 25 Hajj flights to be operated from Quetta to Saudi Arabia, which would carry over 3700 pilgrims there.

non their proceeding for
. The pre-Hajj flight operation would remain continued from Quetta till ing pilgrims to remember June 4, 2024.

EC decides not to de-notify members against reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (Online): be suspended under SC de-Election Commission (EC) has decided not to de-notify the members against re-

served seats. Sources said law wing of EC has given opinion on Supreme Court (SC) decision about reserved seats that SC has not declared null and void EC and Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision and instead SC has suspended decision of EC and

The membership can

cision and there is no order for de-notification in this It is pertinent to men-

tion here EC had solicited

opinion from law wing. Law wing had opined that SC order be implemented in letter and spirit. EC is likely to seek opinion from law ministry on this matter. EC has summoned meeting to re-

view proposals of law

Devastating floods Pak offers condolences to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Saturday expressed sorrow over the oss of lives and property caused by heavy rains and flash floods in Afghanistan.

The government and the people of Pakistan express their heartfelt condoences on the tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property caused by heavy rains and flash floods.

QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Shoaib Nosherwani, Mir Ziaullah Langove, Sardar Faisal Khan

Jamali, Parliamentary Secretaries, Abdul Majeed Badini, Mir Barkat Ali Rind, Meena Majeed Baloch and MPAs Malik Naeem Khan

Bazai, Hidayatur Rehman Baloch, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Ghulam Dastagir Badini, Salma Kakar, Mir Asadullah Baloch, Syed

Zafarullah Agha and Khair Jan Baloch expressing their views on joint resolution during Balochistan Assembly session.

made during caretaker set up ment to be approached for financial assistance **Independent Report** cial government has already given Rs.2 billion on ac-QUETTA: The Chief Mincount of the subsidy and ister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has would pay the even

contacted the Federal Minister for Power and Water and other concerned authorities and demanded them of supplying electricity to the province for eigh hours as per the agreement already decided. The Chief Minister

stressed that permanent solution has to be found out for resolving the issues of subsidy on electricity to the agricultural sector. He said that we would be paying to WAPDA for

restoration of electricity for 15 to 20,000 families asso-

ciated with the agriculture.
The Chief Minister

amount further.

is given in the subsidy, even then the electricity issues would not be resolved. The Chief Minister

here on Saturday. The leader

delegation. During the course of

meeting, the zamindars apprised the Chief Minis-

province due to long hours electricity load shedding particularly in rural areas of the province.

gave patient hearing to the issues of growers and aseral government.

also be taking up the issues of zamindars with the federal authorities as their



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nosherwani, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi and Mir Ziaullah Langove seen during a meeting.

Hafiz Naeem says: **Balochistan should** receive their due share of benefits from CPEC

Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has advocated for addressing China's concerns regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), emphasizing that the people of Balochistan should receive their due share of benefits from the

Speaking at a large gathering in Quetta, he urged the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan to engage in dialogue to resolve misunderstandings, highlighting

QUETTA (INP): Jamaat-e- that any conflict between the two neighbors only serves the interests of the United States.

> Rehman underscored that regional peace hinges upon fostering strong and cooperative relationships among Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. Stressing the importance of peace for Balochistan's prosperity, he asserted that this goal cannot be attained if the province's people are con-

Continued on page 2

5000 SIMs to be blocked daily: FBR

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and telecom operators have agreed to block the mobile SIM cards of non-filers, with 5,000 SIMs to be blocked

According to FBR, the details of 5,000 non-filers have been shared with telecom operators today. FBR stated that telecom operators will receive addi-

tional lists of non-filers on a daily basis, and have already started sending messages to non-filers warning them of SIM blocking. The FBR believes that blocking SIMs of non-filers will increase tax revenue. Moreover, the General Order under Income Tax

Ordinance 2001, Section 114B, was issued after FBR meetings with PTA, and telecom operators. The purpose of the meetings was to proceed SIM blocking of non-filers for tax year 2023. Ån FBR spokesperson added that telecom operators have agreed to block SIMs manually in small batches.

Prior to this development, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Telecom companies failed to reach consensus regarding the blocking mobile SIMs.

Rehman addresses during the public reception (ISPR), Lt General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, will continue at his current billet. meeting held at Sabzazar of Metropolitan Corpo-Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch tables resolution: BA adopts resolution demanding

baring of illegal fishing, trawling

in Gwadar Sea and coast

Provincial Minister P&D Zahoor Buledi assures to prepare comprehensive fisheries policy to prevent illegal fishing, development of fisheries sector

Independent Report QUETTA:

Balochistan Assembly adopted resolution demanding prevention of the illegal fishing and trawling from the Gwadar coast and sea, here in its session held on Saturday.

The Speaker Provincial Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair at session.

The Member Provincial Assembly and Head of Haq Do Tehreek, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch tabled the resolution regard-

ing illegal fishing and trawling from the Gwadar coast In his resolution, he

pointed out that there is demand of rare fishes of Makran sea all over the world. It was regretfully noted that the trawler mafia of Sindh is busy in illegal fishing and sea life.

He noted with concern that the rare fishes are going to be extinct due to the mass level illegal fishing. He also pointed out that the illegal fishing of worth of Rs. 70 billion is done annually from the coast of from

Balochistan.

The illegal fishing has made it difficult for the local fishermen to make their both ends meet, it was further pointed out. It was demanded of

the government to take strict measures for prevention of illegal fishing and take stern action against the elements and officers involved in the illegal pro-

lution, the Provincial Minister for Planning and De-

Speaking on the reso-

Continued on page 2



meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

CM telephones to Federal Minister, other high ups: **Bugti demands provision of 8hrs**² electricity supply as per agreement

Points out Rs. 75 billion are required for solarization of agricultural tube wells in Balochistan; federal govern-

faced by growers of the

He asserted that if the whole development budget

was in meeting with the representative delegation of Zamindar Action Committee who called on him

Zamindar Action Committee and former MPA Malik Naseer Shahwani led the

The Chief Minister

sured to speak to the fed-He assured that a del-

egation of the members of provincial assembly from the province would be meeting the Prime Minister on Monday about the implementation on southern Balochistan development package.
He said that we would

Continued on page 2

Newly promoted

Lt. generals

assigned postings

Monitoring Desk
RAWALPINDI: Chief of

the Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir ap-

proved new postings on Saturday of three recently

promoted lieutenant gener-

Bukhari was posted as Commander XI Corps

(Peshawar). Before him, Lt

General Hasan Azhar

Hayat Khan was serving at

the post and has now been

has been appointed Chief

of Logistics Services at the General Headquar-

General of the Inter-Ser-

vices Public Relations

ters (GHQ) Rawalpindi.

Lt General Inayat

The current Director-

transferred.

Lt General Omar

IMF asks Pakistan for swift reforms in energy sector in its report. International Monetary

QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Capt (retd)

Abdul Khaliq Achakzai meeting with Balochistan

Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Fund (IMF) has urged Islamabad for "strong costside reforms" for restoring the viability of Pakistan's energy sector. In its staff report for

the second and final review under the recently-concluded \$3-billion Stand-By Arrangement, the IMF said Pakistan should be able to meet its fiscal year 2023-24 circular debt management plan (CDMP) target of Rs2.3 trillion with zero net zero stock accumula-

"Timely notification of the FY25 annual rebasing will be critical to the continued prevention of further circular debt flow, as will further collections efforts, including steps to enhance and institutionalise digital

"In parallel, the authorities should press ahead with agricultural tube well subsidy reform, for which a finalised plan is targeted by end-FY24.

"Delays in postprogramme external financing disbursements would also place further pressure on banks to finance the government (further exacerbating crowding out of the private sector)

Geopolitically driven higher commodity prices and disruptions to shipping, or tighter global financial conditions, would also adversely affect external stability," the IMF

The lender has also called Pakistan to end power subsidies given to industry sector in upcom-



Nabi Memon is also present.

GIIGIT (APP): A high-level

meeting was held in Gilgit-

Baltistan (GB) under the

chairmanship of Federal

Minister Engineer Amir

Muqam to discuss devel-

opment projects and the law and order situation in

officials, including Federal

Secretary Jawad Rafique

Malik, Chief Secretary

Gilgit-Baltistan Abrar

Ahmed Mirza, Inspector

General Police Afzal

Mahmood Butt, Additional

Chief Secretary GB Cap-

tain ® Mushtaq Ahmed,

MNA Muhammad Idris,

the Additional Chief Secre-

tary briefed about the de-

velopment projects initi-

ated by the federal govern-

ment in GB, while the IG

Police briefed about the law

and order situation in the

Minister for Kashmir Af-

fairs & Gilgit-Baltistan and

SAFRON, Engr. Amir

Muqam, vowed on Satur-

day to fast-track develop-

ment projects in Gilgit-

Baltistan, harness the

region's mineral resources,

and prioritize its progress.

Addressing the media

Meanwhile, Federal

During the meeting,

The meeting was attended by relevant senior

the region.

and others.

Japan defeat Pakistan in penalty shootout to clinch Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

President, PM laud National Hockey Team's performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ja- in the 12th minute, which final match of Azlan Shah pan emerged as the champion of the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, defeating Pakistan in a thrilling penalty shootout at Ipoh, Malaysia on Saturday.

The match ended with a 2-2 draw at the end of scheduled time, but Japan won on the penalty shootout by 4-1.

Pakistan's which had won the bronze medal in the previous event, put up a stellar performance but failed to capitalize on their chances.

The final match between Pakistan and Japan began with a fast-paced game, with both teams creating scoring opportunities. Pakistan earned eight penalty corners during the match but couldn't convert

Japan's player, Seren

was equalized by Pakistan's Ajaz Ahmed in the 34th minute. Pakistan's Abdul Rehman scored another goal in the 37th minute, but Japan's Matsunoto equalized again in the 47th minute, making the score 2-2.

In the penalty shootout, Pakistan's team couldn't do well, with only Imad Butt scoring a goal. Japan won the penalty shootout by 4-1, claiming the title of the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. Pakistan's team won the silver medal, an improvement from their bronze medal finish in the previous event. Meanwhile Pakistan's Rana Waheed Ashraf was declared Man

of the match. President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday appreciated the brilliant performance of the Pakistan Na-

Hockey Cup 2024, played in Malaysia.

The president observed that after a long time, the national team displayed excellent skills throughout the tournament and securing a berth in the final was a good sign of improvement, President Secretariat Press

Wing said in a press release. The president also stressed upon promotion of the national game of hockey and expressed the optimism that the national team would demonstrate such outstanding performance in the future.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday appreciated the outstanding performance of the players of Pakistan National Hockey Team in the Azlan Shah Hockey Cup, 2024,



OUETTA: MPA Rehmat Saleh Baloch, MS Civil hospital and other cutting cake on occasion of world nurses Day ceremony at civil hospital.

Saudi Arabia is ready to invest in Pakistan's refinery sector, Malik

Central Asian Volleyball

League kicks off

ISLAMABAD (APP):The central Asian Volleyball an exciting and closely contested event, with all teams

Minister for Petroleum Mr. Musadiq Malik while giving a briefing to the delegation of Council of Economics and Energy Journalists (CEEJ) said that for the first time Saudi Arabia has agreed to invest in an integrated refinery with a buyback guarantee.

President Kamran, Secretary Kashif Munir, Vice President struction contractor and the Anium Wahab, Treasurer Ashraf Khan, Secretary Information Masood Ahmad Siddiqui and other members

of CEEJ were present.

Musadiq Malik said that there will be a tripartite investment in a refinery with Saudi Arabia, Chinese and Pakistani investment, the refinery will be set up with a "buy back" option to sell surplus products in the global market.

League kicked off with six

teams Iran, Turkmenistan,

Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, Af-

ghanistan, and hosts Paki-

stan featuring in the extrava-

ganza, here at the Liaquat

Gymnasium of Pakistan

Sports Complex on Satur-

gurated by Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program

Rana Mashhood Ahmad.

who emphasized the

government's commitment

to promoting sports and

education in the country.

The opening ceremony, featured a colorful

cultural performance, and

fireworks. The event was

attended by a large number

of sports enthusiasts who

cheered for their favorite

league saw Iran defeat

Turkmenistan by 3-2 in a

hard-fought match, while

Kyrgyzstan beat Sri Lanka

by 3-2 to secure a victory.

The league promises to be

The first day of the

The league was inau-

Musadiq Malik said that the Saudi group has the expertise to trade oil and chemicals in the global market, so this option has been considered. The federal minister said that the new integrated refinery involves an investment of more than \$10 billion, the Chinese company will be the engineering, procurement and conoperation and maintenance.

Musadiq Malik also said that the integrated refinery produces chemical and diesel products. He also said that Pakistan is a small market, so the demand for chemicals in the country is not that high. Therefore the surplus will be exported from the integrated refinery to save foreign exchange as well

tested event, with all teams

Speaking at the open-

vying for the top spot.

ter 13 years, he said.

said. The Central Asian Vol-

leyball League which would

run till May 17 was expected

to be a memorable one

APNS expressed profound grief on sad demise of wife of Saati

KARACHI (PR): Ms. Nazafreen Lakhani, President and Mr. Sarmad Ali, Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society have expressed profound grief on behalf of APNS office Bearers and members of Executive Committee over the sad demise of wife of Mr. Usman Arab Saati, Publisher and Chief editor Daily Vatan (Gujrati) and Monthly

Vatan Mag Karachi. The APNS office bearers expressed their condolences to Mr. Saati and prayed that Almighty Allah may rest the departed soul in eternal peace and give patience and courage to the bereaved family to bear the great loss.

Alvi contradicts reports about him appointment as PTI chairman

KARACHI (Online) Former president Arif Alvi has refuted reports about his appointment as PTI chairman.

ing ceremony, Rana Mashhood said the govern-He has said in his tweet message these are ment has also announced unnecessary speculations plans to establish an enthat PTI founder intends dowment fund for sports to nominate him party and education, which will chairman. My Quaid is provide support to talented not perceiving any such young athletes and help thing nor such matter has promote sports developbeen discussed with him ment in the country. during meeting with him. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Such rumors create Sharif, the government is misperceptions in such committed to promoting party, leadership of which is imprisoned illesports in the country. Pagally and unjustly. PTI is kistan has reached the final of a major hockey event afactive despite massive ar-

and violence. Rana Mashhood said Chairman Gohar is the Prime Minister's Youth leading the party well. He Program has identified 12 sports for promotion. Pakiis in parliament as well. I stan is a sports-loving counwant to work for the people of Pakistan, he try, and the promotion and development of sports is government's priority, he

Narratives based on hate are being fomented. As a nation we should remain united in our struggle, he underlined.

rests, coercion, barbarity



The Provincial Minisbe taken against illegal fishing in the province.

The Member of Profrom the Makran coast and

of livelihood are being closed on the local fishermen through the illegal fish-

ANF, FC (North) encounter hostile resistance during poppy elimination operation RAWALPINDI (APP): force stopped by an angry

(ANF) in collaboration with Government of Balochistan and FC (North) is undertaking a poppy elimination campaign in Balochistan, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday. He informed that

poppy crop had been eliminated in District Loralai, Dukki and Quetta Division. The campaign started

on Mar 25, this year in District Loralai and Dukki. From April 28, the campaign moved to District chaman and Qila Abdullah in Quetta Division. Administrative and security coordinated with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) & Civil Administration.

On May 6, while the poppy eradication party comprising members of Security Forces (SFs) and LEAs including ANF, Army, FC North, Police, Bln Levies and Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control (ET&NC) Dept were moving back from Khurgai, Tehsil Ğulistan after clearing Poppy Crop, the

mob at approximately five km short of Gulistan. As the negotiations with the leaders was in process, suddenly the mob started pelting stones and chanting slogans against the SF, however, the situation was tactfully handled and the force resumed its move towards Gulistan, the spokesman said. He informed that once

the forces reached Gulistan Karez, it was ambushed by armed tribesmen with, Light Machine Guns (LMGs) and Rocket Launchers (RLs). The convoy came under heavy fire from adjacent heights due to which 6 Security Forces personnel got injured who were shifted to CMH Hospital Quetta for a treatment. It is important to emphasize that poppy cultivation, as per the CNS Act 1997, is a criminal offense. Despite facing challenging weather conditions, the forces demonstrated exceptional courage and determination, ventured into farflung areas to execute the operations like the Poppy **Elimination Campaign**



QUETTA: Members of Awami Tahafuz Movement are holding rally in favor of Pakistan Armed Forces, at Quetta press club.

Saudi Arabia to test flying taxis, drones for pilgrims facilitation, Pakistan applauds initiative

MADINAH al MUNAWWARAH (APP): The Saudi authorities are utilizing innovative technologies and solutions to transform the logistical landscape, ensuring a smoother and safer journey for millions of Hajj pilgrims arrive in the kingdom every year from across the globe.

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Transport and Logistic Services Saleh al-Jasser said, "Flying taxis and drones will undergo testing during this year's Hajj season to ensure seamless opguests with maximum comfort during their stay here."

Ministry's spokesperson,

Muhammad Umar, praising Saudi Authorities' this initiative said, "Saudi Arabia's commitment to modernizing the pilgrimage experience through innovative technology demonstrates their dedication to ensuring pilgrims' comfort and convenience.'

In an interview with Al Arabiya, a state-owned international Arabic news television channel, the Saudi minister Saleh announcing the use of flying taxis and drones remarked that there was currently an intense erations and provide our competition among various transportation companies 'to provide a practical Pakistan's Religious product in the upcoming

PUC applauds UN resolution granting Palestinians full membership status, Route to Makkah expansion

The Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) has welcomed the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on Friday, affirming the eligibility of Palestinians for full membership status at the United In an exclusive inter-

view with the media on Saturday, PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi expressed his appreciation for this gigantic move, emphasizing that it underthe global community's unwavering support for the establishment of an independent

ISLAMABAD (APP): Palestine and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

He further urged world powers and all United Nations members to advocate for Palestine's permanent membership and to take immediate and decisive action against Israel's egregious acts, halting the senseless massacre of innocent civilians.

He conveyed gratitude to the nations instrumental in presenting the resolution, particularly highlighting the contributions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkiye, Iran and other supportive countries.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232405410783 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The XEN PHED invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Tender Fee Rs.650/-and Bid Security 2%

1 Construction of WSS Goth Mouza Daba Muhammad 685,000 Yousaf PSDP No.7790. iv). Supply of Pipe

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public

Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 479,500 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 650 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 24 May, 2024during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 24 May, 2024 till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM **Address:** District Jhal Magsi Deputy Commissioner Office Gandawa Phone no: 3337807556 Email: xenphejhalmagsi@gmail.com

PRQ No.2279/10-5-2024

PHE DIVISION JHAL MAGS

Shabqadar Fort in Charsadda. Balochistan should receive...

tinuously marginalized by the ruling authorities.

He called for unity among the oppressed to assert their rights from those in power, criticizing the legitimacy of both federal and provincial governments, which were formed through fraudulent

Rehman insisted that true democracy requires honoring the will of the public and respecting constitutional principles. He chastised the ruling elite for undermining democratic values and emphasized the need for national dialogue focused on ensuring the rights of all

Pakistani citizens. Rehman condemned those who exploit prejudices to divide the nation, asserting that unity is

Continued from page 1 class. He pledged to champion the cause of Balochistan nationwide and held local feudal lords equally accountable for the suffering of the Baloch people. Encouraging the province's youth to join Jamaat-e-Islami in peaceful resistance for their rights.

CHARSADDA: Frontier Constabulary Commandant, Moazzam Jah Ansari

inspecting the guard of honour during the passing out ceremony held at

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Zia-

ul-Hassan inaugurating the construction of Shoot House during the passing

out ceremony of the third batch of 522 SSU Commandos held at Shaheed

Benazir Bhutto Elite Police Training Center (SBBEPTC) located on

Razzaqabad in Karachi. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam

Engineer Amir Chairs meeting

on GB development, security

Mugam pledges swift development for Gilgit-Baltistan

alongside former Chief

Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Hafiz Hafeez-ur-

Rehman, and Member Na-

tional Assembly MNA

Muhammad Idrees, at local

hotel in Gilgit, he expressed

appreciation for the warm

reception in Gilgit-Baltistan. He pledged to

increase the capacity of the

Project to 40 MW as a sig-

nificant step towards the

ism prospects of Gilgit-

Baltistan, he emphasized its

status as a prime tourist

destination. Directives

have been issued to the

Chief Secretary and other

officials to expedite ongo-

ing development projects.

over frequent flight cancel-

lations causing inconve-

nience to the populace, he

announced plans to request

the Prime Minister for the

deployment of C-130 air-

craft. Initiatives are in

progress to secure consti-

tutional rights for the

people of Gilgit-Baltistan,

including the appointment

of judges to the Supreme

Pakistan-China trade will

Traders involved in

receive support and have the region.

Appellate Tribunals.

Expressing concern

Underlining the tour-

region's progress.

Hydropower

Kohistan,

He commended the people

of Gilgit-Baltistan for not

participating in the con-spiracy to disrespect the

martyrs on May 9, 2023,

stating that such abhorrent

acts could not be commit-

nation's admiration for its

armed forces and assured

that those responsible for

the events of May 9 would

face consequences. Re-

sponding to a query, he af-

firmed his respect for all

workers who recognize

former Prime Minister

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

as their leader, emphasiz-

ing unity among PML-N

Muqam, accompanied by

Chief Minister Gilgit

Baltistan Gulbar Khan, in a

meeting, agreed on the im-

portance of improving co-

ordination between the

Gilgit-Baltistan government and the Ministry of

Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit

extensively deliberated on

the security status in

Gilgit-Baltistan, budget-

ary concerns, ongoing de-

velopment initiatives, and

the provision of wheat to

In their meeting, they

Earlier, Engr. Amir

members.

He emphasized the

ted by true patriots.

He highlighted the urgency of addressing the issue of missing persons in Balochistan, calling on the Chief Justice of Pakistan to intervene.

Rehman reiterated that the people of Balochistan should have priority access to their region's resources, blaming the ruling elite for perpetuating their deprivation. He urged improvements in the Riko Diq project and reaffirmed his commitment to advocat-

paramount in securing ing for Balochistan's rights from the ruling rights at every level. BA adopts resolution.

Continued from page 1 velopment, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi admitted that illegal fishing is being done at the coast of Gwadar for long. However, we are preparing comprehensive fishery policy in the province for the first time, he

He stressed that we have to protect our coast and prevent illegal fishing in the province.

He mentioned that the trekkers are being installed at the big fishing boats. In addition to this, steps are also being taken for wellbeing of the fishermen

of the province, he added. He also pledged to protect rights of our fishermen.

ter for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove assured that the stringent measures would

vincial Assembly, Rehmat Saleh Baloch also condemned the illegal fishing

He said that the doors

Bugti demands provision...

Continued from page 1 Advocate. Referring the solarization of agricultural tube wells in the province, the Chief Minister said that Rs. 75 billion are required for solarization of tĥe agricultural tube wells.

However, adding he assured that the federal government would be approached for financial assis tance in this regard. If there was no

progress from the federation, then the matter of taking soft term loan from the private banks, the Chief Minister said.

He on the occasion ordered to the Customs, Police and all other law enforcement agencies not to stop movement of the solar panels.

SA Gardens to face Wapda in National **Challenge Cup** final on Sunday ISLAMABAD (APP): ŠA

Gardens and Wapda would be head to head in the final of the National Challenge Cup 2023 here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Sunday. In the first semifinal,

SA Gardens defeated Higher **Education Commission** (HEC) by 3-2 in a thrilling penalty shootout. In the second semi-final, Wapda beat Pakistan Army bŷ 2-0, with Ahmed Fahim scoring the first goal in the 58th minute and Shaikh Dost scoring the second goal in the 90th minute.



ISLAMABAD: Iran and Turkmenistan teams in action during 2nd Central Asian Volleyball Championship at Pakistan Sports Complex in Federal Capital.

Romina says:

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to focus climate action & adaptation plan, **Transparency Report at COP-29**

tor for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Saturday said the Republic of Azerbaijan and Pakistan would focus on climate action and adaptation plan and transparency report at the global climate moot COP-29 to be held in Baku this year for synergised and concerted response to the

global warming challenge. Addressing a joint presser flanked by Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources Azerbaijan and President-designate COP-29, Mukhtar Babayev here at F-9 Park, the PM's Coordinator said the governments of Pakistan and Azerbaijan had discussed pertinent issues regarding National Adaptation Plan, Green Pakistan Programme, Living Indus Initiative, Loss and Damage Fund mobilization, Climate Finance, G-77 plus China, Global Cli-

kistan to raise plight of rum. Romina Khurshid said the Azerbaijan Minister called on the President and Prime Minister and extended his state's invitation to attend the COP-29 conference in Baku

She said both the sides had discussed the contours of bilateral cooperation and engagement for participation at the COP forum and the preparations to be made for a meaningful participation. She added that the One house, one tree programme (Green Pakistan Programme) has been started in Saudi Arabia. where the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination were serving to assist the Saudi government

She added that the Pakistani delegation would way," he added

ISLAMABAD (APP): mate Vulnerability Index proceed under the leader-Prime Minister's Coordina- which is the priority of Pa- ship of Prime Minister ship of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif at the COPmost climate vulnerable 29 forum. On the occasion, states at the COP-20 fo-Mukhtar Babayev said Mukhtar Babayev said Azerbaijan vision was clear to promoted collective work and activities within the climate agenda, whereas he had planted trees at the F-9 Park along with his delegation to renew the pledge for nature conservation.

> He mentioned that ex tensive discussions were made with partners in Pakistan on common aspects related to climate change.

He thanked the Pakistani government for giving the opportunity to initiate dialogue on COP-29 forum preparations and deliberaons on the climate agenda

"Our goal is to promote climate action. Pakistan is the best opportunity for us to work together to protect nature, whereas further meetings are under-



ISLAMABAD: A foreigner women putting garbage of different kinds at a smart waste management setup at Hiking Trail in the Federal Capital. According to estimates the number of plastic products and waste will triple by 2060, while the recycling rate will only see a slight increase.

Zartaj Gul resorts to IHC for removal of her name from ECL

Former federal minister eral cases are registered Zartaj Gul has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) for removal of her name from Exit Control List (ECL) in connection with nance of Haii by her.

IHC while issuing notice to interior secretary has sought reply from

Later Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri while issuing written order about hearing of Zartaj Gul petition directed federal interior secretary to appoint some senior officer well versed in law for assisting court. The authorized officer should appear in the court on next hearing along with record. He should be aware

about the facts of case. It was said in the order that according to coun-

ISLAMABAD (Online): Gul is facing law as sevagainst her for voicing protest. The counsel told that

Zartaj Gul is neither absconder or proclaimed offender in any case. She has obtained bail. The counsel re-

quested Zartaj Gul wants to go to Saudi Arabia for performance of Hajj. Therefore, petition be decided early.

The petitioner took the plea her name is placed in ECL, No fly list or PNIL. There is no legal reason or moral justification for application of travelling restrictions on her.

According to counsel application was given to interior secretary on March 13 for removal of name from Provisional National and Identification List (PNIL) but no reply was given.



ISLAMABAD: A motorcyclist passing through a "Floral Clock" at Margallah Road in the Federal

CDA chief discuss urban development with Planning Wing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Řandhawa on Saturday discussed organizational structure and ban development with the

Planning Wing.
During the meeting, the Planning Wing provided an overview of their various roles, including master planning, zoning regulations, infrastructure development, urban renewal, public consultation, and coordination with government agencies.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of the Planning Wing in steering the city's growth and ensuring its long-term sustainability, said a news

He underscored that effective urban planning is the cornerstone of a vibrant and livable city, and the Planning Wing plays a central role in achieving this

The Planning Wing is the backbone of our city's development efforts,' stated the Chairman.

'Their expertise and dedication are vital in creating sustainable urban environments that meet the needs of our residents, support economic growth, and enhance overall quality of life, he further said.

FDE under criticism over against merit appointments of Principals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) is facing criticism over the out-ofturn appointments of Principals at ICT colleges.

The teachers accused the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) of disregarding seniority norms in these appointments.

In a recent development, Aamir Mumtaz, ranked at Serial No. 24 in the seniority list of associate professors, has been appointed as the principal of Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) F-11/1.

This decision took place during the transition to a new acting Director General, prompting speculation about the timing and motives driving the move. This is not an isolated case.

In a series of appointments dating back several months, junior associate professors have consistently been chosen over their more experienced colleagues, disregarding the principle of seniority and

concerns over the breach of merit and seniority principles in the appointments of college principals. They highlighted instances where junior associate professors were elevated to principal positions, disregarding seniority and violating estab-

lished protocols. An associate professor pointed out that Mr. Najeebullah, who was at serial number 65 in the seniority list of associate professors, was appointed as principal of IMCB G-11/1

in September 2023. Sharafat Ali Awan's appointment to IMCB Pakistan Town stands out as another glaring instance where seniority was disregarded, given his position at serial number 20 in the seniority list when he assumed the role of principal.

Similarly, Ghayur Hussain's appointment as Maira Bhagwal overlooked several deserving candidates, including Javed Iqbal Shah, Dr. Waheedu Zaman, exam performances.

The teachers voiced Iranfanullah, Waseem Ahmed Shah, and Dr. Muhammad Ilvas.

A senior associate professor, on the condition of anonymity told APP, that "Such appointments have not only fueled resentment and dissatisfaction among overlooked candidates but have also raised doubts about the fairness and objectivity of the selection process. This deviation from the seniority principle and the practice of out-of-turn appointments prompted 14 associate professors to contest the FDE's decisions in the Federal Service Tribunal (FST)

in December 2023. Another associate professor lamented working under a principal junior to him, questioning the department's disregard for his decades-long service

and expertise. The teachers argue the principal of IMCB that these irregularities not only undermine institutional efficiency but also impact student learning and



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam alongside Azeri Minister & President COP29 Mukhtar Babayev praying after plantation at F9 Park.

NA Speaker pays tribute to mothers whose sons laid their lives to protect beloved motherland

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday said that the nation is indebted to all mothers whose sons were martyred in preserving the dignity and sovereignty of the beloved motherland.

Mother's love is the energy which enables normal human beings to accomplish impossible feats in their lives, the speaker said, in a message on the eve of Mother's Day.

Mothers through their elfless sacrifices, uncondi-

tional love and unwavering dedication play a pivotal role in shaping future generations, he added.

Recognizing the immense challenges mothers face in balancing familial responsibilities and professional endeavors, the Speaker urged for a celebration of their resilience strength, and unwavering commitment.

He stressed that every nation owes a debt of gratitude to its mothers, who nurture and guide with boundless love and com-

The Speaker reaf firmed the National Assembly of Pakistan's commitment to safeguarding maternal and child rights.

He said, through legislative measures and par-liamentary forums like the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, SDGs Secretariat, and Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, efforts would be made to ensure the maximum wellbeing and empowerment of mothers and children

Saudi Arabia prepares 4,000 kilometers of progress rapidly roads for Hajj pilgrims

ISLAMABAD (APP): The General Authority for Roads in Saudi Arabia has announced the completion of extensive preparations on Makkah roads ahead of the upcoming Hajj season, 1445 AH.

The road works involved surveying and upgrading 4,000 kilometers of roadways to ensure a seamless and comfortable experience for pilgrims.

Improvements included scraping and reasphalting 158 km of roads, addressing cracks and potholes at 403 sites, trimming road shoulders across 2,361 km, removing sand dunes covering 1,240 cubic meters, and cleaning valley treams at 421 locations

Gulf News reported. Saudi Arabia's road network, noted by the World Bank as the first in global road network interconnection, plays a crucial role in connecting the holy sites and facilitating safe

Further ensuring the readiness of these pathways, Eng. Bader Al Dalami, Acting CEO of the General Authority for Roads, conducted an inspection tour of over 2,000 km of roads leading to key religious sites.

and efficient pilgrim travel.

The tour included key routes like the Riyadh-Taif highway, linking the capital with Taif, and the Taif Al-Sail road, crucial for pilgrim travel during Haii



ISLAMABAD: A mother surrounded by her children, cutting a cake together to celebrate Mother's Day, a heartwarming tribute to the love and bond

India reviving 'Ikhwan' to suppress voices, rig election in IIOJK: Mehbooba Mufti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti has said that the BJP led Indian government is trying to revive Ikhwan to throttle the people's voice and pave way for 1987 like poll rigging in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the Ikhwan wan an Indian army-backed local force formed in early 90s to crush pro-movement Kashmiris.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, today, Mehbooba Mufti said an arrest spree has been started to target the youth, especially PDP workers who participated actively in poll campaigns in the territory. She said that her party workers were being summoned to police stations and subsequently detained, besides 60 workers have been arrested in Poonch district after an IAF convoy was PDP president said, "Each and every institution of Government of India is being used to help proxies of BJP in Jammu and Kashmir with an aim to throttle the real voice of J&K". "We want to ask Election Commission of India (ECI) if you want to rig elections like rigged in 1987 then what for this whole drama is being created", she said.

She said that the BJP led government was trying to revive "Ikhwan" in HÖJK muzzle people's voice in the territory. "They (government) have constituted sooted-booted ikhwan. They have formed political ikhwan this time to throttle the voice of hapless people of Jammu and Kashmir," she said. "The 1987 election

rigging paved way for abundant graveyards in Jammu and Kashmir. If this will be repeated again, the situation will go further bad to worse," Mehbooba held.

Revamping of OWFC in

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the directives of Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad

Randhawa, the revamping of the One Window Facilitation Centre (OWFC) in the federal capital is progressing rapidly. Counters at the One

Window Operations directorate are now operational from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, providing extended hours for the convenience of the general public, said a news release

This extension in operational timing will allow citizens to visit authorities at their convenience, particularly for property transfer and other cases.

The instructions have been issued to introduce Information Technology reforms at the One Window Operations to create a corporate sector environment within the facility. The aim is to simplify procedures and associated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enhance user experience.

Once fully revamped, the centre will offer stateof-the-art facilities, enabling residents to easily access information and services in a streamlined and efficient manner.

17 POs and TOs involved heinous and property crime held

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested 17 absconders and target offenders involved in heinous crime and property crimes during the last 24 hour, a public relations officer said.

According to details, following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the special tasks were assigned to all senior police officials to ensure the arrest of absconders and target offenders involved in heinous and property crime.

During the crackdown, the Islamabad Police teams have arrested 17 absconders and target offenders involved in property crimes during the last 24 hours.

DIG Operations said that the Islamabad Police is taking all possible steps to eradicate the crime from the city and those involved in property crimes and illegal activities will be dealt with iron hands.



ISLAMABAD: People enjoying holiday at Dino Park in Margallah Hills of the Federal Capital.

Kashmiris facing brutal repression for challenging Indian occupation: APHC

All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), while strongly condemning the government's brutal actions including seizing of Kashmiris' properties and ongoing arrest spree in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the people of the territory were facing the

worst kind of repression for

challenging illegal occupa-

tion of their motherland. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar, said that the cruel actions against the Hurriyat leadership, activists and common people were aimed at stopping them from pursuing the ongoing struggle for securing their right to self-determination.

He said that the confiscation of properties of Kashmiris was purely po-litical vendetta by the ished goal.

SLAMABAD (APP): The Modi government. He said that the BJP regime wanted to take away everything from the Kashmiris and make them strangers in their own homeland. He said that India had failed to suppress the freedom spirit of Kashmiris through barbaric atrocities, so now they were taking their homes, lands and resources.

Minhas pointed out that India had exhausted all its resources and applied every brutal tactic to suppress the ongoing Kashmir freedom movement but failed to deter the people of Jammu and Kashmir from carrying on their just cause. He maintained that

thousands of people have offered sacrifices for the freedom movement and that the Kashmiris were determined to continue the sacred mission of the martyrs against all odds until the realization of their cher-

IGP Islamabad Nasir Rizvi visited injured police officer Ghazi Khurram at his home

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi visited police officer Ghazi Khurram, who was injured during a fight with criminal elements, at his home, a public relations officer said.



He said that the IGP Islamabad inquired about the health of the Ghazi officer and encouraged him for his bravery. He assured the Ghazi officer of providing all oossible treatment.

On this occasion, IGP Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police is a force of lions and braves. Martyrs and Ghazi of Islamabad Police are its glory. We did not hesitate to give our lives to protect the lives, property and honor of the citizens.

He further said that the bravery of Ghazi Khurram has raised the head of the Islamabad police with pride. From now on, every Islamabad police officer will be a nightmare for criminals.

Islamabad Police is engaged every moment to protect the lives and property of the citizens and provide them with all possible facilities.

SSP Operations informs Islamabad police arrested kidnappers and recovered the abducted citizen safely

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According application at Noon police team under the leadership

No. 347/24. DIG Operations Syed Shahzad to the details, a citizen Nadeem Bukhari took no-namely Gull Akbar, son of tice of this serious incident Nadeem Bukhari took no-Dilbar Khan submitted an and formed a special police



station and stated that his son, namely Noman Akbar left home for work on May 8, 2024, and could not be contacted again. At 9:00 p.m., he received a video of his abducted son saying that he had been kidnapped by unknown suspects at an unknown place and they were demanding a ransom

of SSP Operations Malik Jamil Zafar and under the supervision of SP Industrial

The police team utilizes scientific and human resources to trace their location. When the police team reached the location of the vehicle used in the incident at Jhangi Saidan, the of 20 million rupees.
Upon receiving the re
upon request, the police team immediately registered a FIR with the intention of killing them.

Task Force demolishes site offices of illegal housing society

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Task Force formed to take strict action in accordance with the law against illegal housing schemes has demolished site offices and other infrastructure of Ruden Enclave. According to a RDA

spokesman, in compliance with the directives of the Divisional Intelligence Committee, the Task Force was conducting operations against illegal housing schemes.

In a recent operation against the Ruden Enclave scheme in Mouza Budhial, Rawalpindi, the Task Force demolished the site offices and other infrastructure.

He informed that the operation was being carried out under the super-

vision of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Muhammad Abdul Aamir Khattak, the Director General (DG) RDA, Kinza Murtaza, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, and the City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi.
The DG RDA said

that upon the Commissioner's instructions, operations against all illegal societies would continue without any discrimination.

Strict action would be taken against the rules violators, he added.

She advised the citizens not to invest in illegal housing schemes and visit RDA website www.rda.gop.pk check status of the housing schemes.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Sunday May 12, 2024

Taxing pensions

Despite the state of the economy, the IMF's demand that the cash-strapped Shehbaz Sharif administration start taxing civil and military pensions exceeding Rs1.2m a year, as well as revoke income tax exemptions for various pension schemes and funds in the next budget, appears unfair.

It is true that the pension tax and withdrawal of existing income tax exemptions for pension funds and schemes is projected to generate additional tax revenues in the range of Rs22bn to Rs25bn per annum, but the move will add to the financial burdens of a class of citizens with few other sources of income. Besides, withdrawing the tax rebate incentive from pension funds will discourage people from saving for their retirement.

The proposal is reported to be part of the recommendations that the Fund has already put forth for the government to recover additional tax revenues of Rs600bn. It is premised on the principle of a fair tax policy: all incomes must be taxed regardless of source.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's taxation structure is inequitable and unfair. If the government has no option but to tax pensions, then it has to ensure that the fair tax principle is implemented across the board and that 'special exemptions' being enjoyed by judges, military personnel and others are stopped. Moreover, the tax must be applied progressively. The suggested threshold of Rs1.2m for taxable pension in- cally restructure our govercomes would create a distortion nance so that we can finally give hope and opportunity in the existing income tax to all our people. scheme, where all personal incomes above Rs600,000 per an- Unfortunately, our existing num are liable to pay income political leaders are outdated, out-of-touch, and smid garbage in katchi abadis tax. This anomaly can be removed by doubling the threshold of taxable income for all individuals to bring it at par with the one proposed for pensioners. That would mitigate the burden on the inflationstricken classes.

Tax reforms must go beyond dress street crime is enmilking the salaried classes and pensioners, who are easy FBR targets. In spite of multiple or opportunistic? Can traditional policity tax reform programmes implemented over the last three decades with financial assistance from multilateral lenders, the authorities have failed to achieve their objectives, including raising the tax-to-GDP ratio and bringing it closer to the nantly an urban or rural level of lower-middle-income countries at 15pc to 20pc. The previous 39-month IMF programme had also envisaged individuals aged between boosting tax revenues by 4-5pc 18 and 35. The environof GDP by reforming personal ing, architectural designs, and corporate income taxes.

Yet Pakistan's tax collection as a ratio of GDP remains below 10pc. Tax reforms have appearing to be opportunistic, these crimes are infailed to deliver because of distortions created by the FBR bureaucracy through SROs, apparently for personal gains. With the size of tax expenditure at Rs2.5tr at the end of FY23, it is clear that some people are being forced to pay more tax than what they should be in an equitable tax system, while favoured circles enjoy exemp-

Unless these distortions are removed by implementing fair taxation measures, it will be difficult to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio. Last but not least, public knowledge on the power to levy a tax or allow exemptions should be restored domestic workers in urban to parliament by eliminating the areas like Karachi also SRO culture in FBR.

The lethal troika

Tariq Parvez

Many factors were responsible for the defeat of the erstwhile Soviet Union and then the US in Afghanistan. A common factor was the xistence of a combination of extremely resilient militant groups resisting both superpowers. This combination consisted of three categories of militants: local Afghan militants resisting foreign invaders; Pakistani militants crossing over to help their Afghan brethren; and thousands of mujahideen from various countries, particularly in the Middle East, participating in the Afghan jihad. With some variations in their composition, role and external supporters, they fought together against the US and USSR for 30 years, forcing them to withdraw. Alarmingly, after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, this Afghanistanbased lethal troika now tar-

gets Pakistan. The situation necessitates a fundamental shift in the terrorist threat assessment in Pakistan — from focusing exclusively on the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan to broadening the threat cal-

culus to the troika of the TTP, Afghan Taliban, and Al Qaeda

Concerning the nexus between the Taliban and TTP, the latest UN report on Afghanistan states that the Afghan government was supplying weapons, training facilities and regular financial packages to the TTP. Al Qaeda's primary goal, after lying low in the region for many years, is to revive itself without annoying its Afghan hosts or attracting the West's adverse attention.

In view of this, it seems to have opted to carry out its activities in Pakistan through the TTP, while staying below the international radar. The importance Al Qaeda gives to the TTP is evident in that it selected 15 of its commanders to assist the group conduct terrorist attacks in Pakistan. It also supplied armed fighters to the TTP in its attack in Chitral in September 2023, which killed four security officials. Al Qaeda's camp in Kunar, headed by Hakim ul Masri, is responsible for training suicide bombers for the

The TTP, which has been the most lethal terrorist group in Pakistan over the last three years, is on the same page with the Taliban and Al Qaeda not only because of an ideological affinity and a shared history of fighting foreign invaders in Afghanistan, but also due to similar goals of Sharia enforcement in Pa-

There were reports of

the TTP helping the other two members of the troika by killing Taliban members defecting to the rival Islamic State-Khorasan Province in Afghanistan. The basic point is that while the troika is united on targeting Pakistan, the members play different roles. The Taliban are likely to help TTP discreetly in Afghanistan by providing sanctuary, with Al Qaeda supporting both openly in Afghanistan through mentoring and in Pakistan through its sympathisers. With its edge, the TTP is likely to carry out ground attacks in Pakistan and lead a campaign to build up its narrative of violent extremism.

As far as the strategy and tactics to be adopted by the troika go, the TTP intends to replicate in Pakistan what the Taliban did

interview to Khorasan Diary, TTP ameer Noor Wali Mehsud stated, "our jihad in Pakistan ... has entered a decisive phase". He went on to say ominously: "Pakistani security agencies have unjustly occupied our homeland" and "our goal is to liberate our homeland and implement the divine law" In a nutshell, the TTP seems to be falling back on the two-point narrative of resistance in Afghanistan, ie, 'liberation of homeland' and enforcement of divine

This brings us to the likely impact of the troika on the terrorist threat landscape in Pakistan. Since 2021, the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan has been consistently increasing every year. This is likely to continue in 2024, with three possible changes. One, the number of Afghan nationals taking part in terrorist attacks in Pakistan may increase — we recall here the suicide bombing against military personnel in 2023 in Bannu by Afghans. Two, given its penchant for high-profile attacks, Al Qaeda may train the TTP to carry out such attacks. Three, given that in Afghanistan. In a recent the top Al Qaeda and 2001, and built up an elabo- Dawn

Taliban instructors will train TTP members, the quality and sophistication of the attacks in 2024 are likely to be enhanced.

Another area likely to be impacted by the troika is infiltration. Earlier, in the 1990s, Al Oaeda infiltrated educational institutions such as Karachi and Punjab universities to recruit educated youth. These recruitment cells in universities may be reactivated. Also, to stay abreast

of latest government planning in counterterrorism, the TTP, like the Taliban did in Afghanistan, may attempt to infiltrate government departments, including intel agencies.

The third and most important dimension of infiltration is that of the military, which was carried out by Al Qaeda in Pakistan in the late 1990s. It may be pertinent to mention that the last attempted terrorist attack by Al Qaeda was in 2014 in Karachi, when a group of naval officers tried to hijack a navy frigate and crash into a US ship in the open seas

Al Qaeda worked somewhat openly in Pakistan from the 1980s to

rate network of civilian volunteers in many cities of Pakistan, who assisted in collecting funds, recruiting volunteers, and providing hideouts for the group. These sleeper cells might again be contacted by it and reactivated. Similarly, there were some Pakistani militant organisations of the 1980s, like the Harkatul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba, etc. sympathetic to Al Qaeda and lying low these days. Al Qaeda may re-establish contact with them and get their support for the TTP.

Finally, both the Taliban and Al Qaeda are known for their high-quality propaganda campaign. The TTP media wing lacks that finesse. In the light of guidance from the Taliban and Al Qaeda, we are likely to witness a significant improvement in the quality of propaganda.

As Sun Tsu stated, "if you know your enemy and you know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles". Sadly, it seems that Pakistan is erring in assessing the collective capabilities of the TTP, supported by the Taliban and Al Qaeda. -- Courtesy

Pakistan needs a new political party

Dr Miftah Ismail

For the first time ever, many of us are not just apprehensive but frightened about the future of Pakistan. Daily survival is getting harder and harder for our people, our already ineffective governance is getting even worse, and our nation is drifting backward as the rest of the world is marching forward.

Not surprisingly, our youth see no hope for the future. When a ship going from Libya to Greece sank wo years ago, more than half of those who perished were Pakistanis. This shows the desperation of our youth to find opportuities abroad, leaving benind their families and child-

We are fast reaching the point of no return – and it is imperative we take a hard look at our ineffective governance that has failed our people. We need to radigive hope and opportunity

For that to happen, we need leaders with vision. devoid of any vision for the rather than taking swimming

nation's future. I am sorry or music lessons. to say they lack both the courage and the competence to change the course of this

country All countries have problems and we do too. What is unique about us, however, is that our problems have been lingering for decades and our leaders. engaged in palace intrigues, have only added to our woes and not been able to solve a single significant problem in decades.

Since our long-unsolved policy mistakes are now all coming to a head, concerned Pakistanis are alarmed about the future of this country. This is why we are starting a new political

Four out of ten Pakistani men, women and children, live below the poverty line and millions of hungry children cry themselves to sleep every night. And things are getting worse, not

enlightened among us realize that we are privileged primarily because of an accident of birth, and that - but for the grace of God – our own children could have been malnour-

If living in a sea of worsening poverty, lawlessness and despair bothers you, and our leaders' failure to do anything about it frustrates you, then you understand the need for a new

When there are men and women, who have gone to school and college, who have completed Matric, Inter or BA, who leave home for work at 8am and come back home after dark – in short they did and continue to do what society asks of them – but they are not able to pay their electricity and gas bills, we think a change is needed in the governing priorities of this country that the current political leadership has been

unable to provide. When Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have all gotten far ahead of us, when their children are studying IT and computer programming and have new employment opportunities and our working classes are forced to send their children think Pakistan needs a children go to quality who cannot be replaced to work in bicycle repair change in direction that only shops, then we need some fresh ideas and policy expertise to increase opportunities in the country. Do our

existing parties have that? When only a few families and individuals have

us for decades, when we go full circle from dharna to RTS to Form 47, when parties are run as dictatorships and fiefdoms, when everyone talks against corruption but it remains the grease that makes government works for the privileged, when Farah Gogis and Gullu Butts are an integral part of our politics, when politics is polarized but politicians fly in the same private planes of the few uber-rich – then this corrupt, crony political system needs to change and new political voices need to

emerge.
When after 30 years and with 80,000 lives sacrificed, we still can't decide whether the Taliban are good or bad, when after 75 vears and three wars we still don't know whether or not to trade with India, when the fulcrum of our foreign policy is just getting the next foreign loan, when we find it expedient to refer to a genocide as a 'conflict' – then we is under control and all our a clear-headed and educated leadership can provide.

Pakistan needs a government run by men and women of proven integrity parties have done, and who have a demonstrated ability to deliver. Pakistan needs a better party.

We are forming a different kind of party with women and young people as part of the leadership team, a party based on ideas and not personalities, a party that has professionals of integrity, competence and intellectual honesty, a party that belongs not to a province or a city but to the whole nation, a party that will constitutionally mandate term limits for its leaders, be internally democratic, and would never consider any individual or family to be indispensable. Most importantly, a party that speaks for the hopes and

We want to present to our people a new vision of Pakistan, a nation focused on its people – especially the young. A country where population growth schools that teach them until a successor is elected. how to read, write and think, where childhood mental and physical stunting ends, where infant and vided to our people and maternal mortality is allow newer, younger faces

aspirations of all Pakistanis.

been engineered to rule over power like leaders in other give admissions on merit and not 'sifarish', where jobs are given to those with degrees and not with parchis', where our youth and women have business opportunities, where people in public service exhibit competence and integrity and where the disease of VIP mentality ends.

We want to raise the living standards of our labour, give fair prices to farmers but not starve the urban poor, make Pakistani manufacturing and information technology industries competitive, get rid of terrorism and religious and ethnic strife across our land, and have horizontal and vertical equity in our tax systems.

We want to have constitutional local governments, entrusted with responsibilities for health, education, water and sanitation, and roads and transportation. We want directly elected mayors who run local jurisdictions and This one move will improve health, education and other services proand competence, who are not looking for shortcuts to where schools and colleges who are not looking for shortcuts to where schools and colleges ers. -- Courtesy TheNews

Street safety

Mohammad Ali

Babakhel Sindh executive's resolve to adcouraging. This commitment raises important questions: are these crimes ing strategies alone be effective, or is a blend of conventional and technological methods required? How important is educating the public on safety measures for the prevention of street crime? Also, one must consider whether street crime is predomiphenomenon.

Street crimes typically include the snatching of mobile phones, cash, and motorcycles by ment, such as street lightand administrative practices, also plays a significant role in these incidents. Although initially creasingly becoming organised, driven by environmental and situational factors. They usually occur in densely populated and economically disadvantaged areas, particularly where there is minimal surveillance, such as lack of CCTV, private se-

curity, and alarm systems. Several factors contribute to the rise in street crime, including high unemployment rates, poverty, easy access to small arms, a low criminal conviction rate, enticing highvalue items, insufficient police presence, low CCTV coverage, weak police-community collaboration, and limited safety practices. Hiring unverified labourers and plays a role. The psychological impact is significant, leading to increased feelings of insecurity and a rise in mental health issues among residents.

Recent reports indicate a significant surge in street crime in Karachi, with daily occurrences of theft and violence. However, lengthy processes and low trust between police and the public often prevent victims from reporting crimes. Streamlining the process for registering FIRs could enhance public trust and provide more accurate crime data. Karachi Police, with a force of 44,000 personnel, dedicates only 13,500 to patrol duties, with the remainder assigned to nonpatrol roles. This distribution poses challenges in effectively managing street crime, as traditional policing methods often result in unsuccessful investiga-

Karachi's unchecked demographic changes have led to the unregulated growth of slums, necessitating the establishment of a 'Slums Regulatory Authority' to oversee these areas and ensure proper integration of newcomers from other cities with collaboration between union councils, police, and Nadra. To effectively prevent crime such as auto theft and ATM robberies, improvements in vehicle security, increased surveillance around ATMs, and greater police visibility are essential. To address such challenges in Pakistan, the police introduced the Ababeel, Mujahid, Shaheen, and Dolphin squads, but public expectations require a

and technological backup. International examples, such as Malaysia's successful strategies, can offer valuable insights. These include enhanced police visibility, identifying crime hotspots, and fostering police-community partnerships, which have crime. -- Courtesy Dawn

more proactive approach

proven effective in improving public safety and reducing crime rates.

To effectively combat street crime, the police should harness advanced technologies like AI, CCTV and mobile apps to detect crime and aid their prevention. Facial and licence plate recognition are key to identifying and managing offenders, while GPS tracking is invaluable for recovering stolen vehicles and monitoring taxis.

However, relying solely on technology is not enough to re--duce street crime. Effective law en--forcement and ac--tive communi--ty engagement are equally crucial. Police need increased mobility, and the mo--torcycle busin-ess, including vehicle registration, requires stringent regulation. Initiatives like Safe City projects should be launched in major cities such as Karachi to enhance urban security. As most street crimes occur after sunset, identifying and reinforcing hotspots with security and lightingand

public education on safety are imperative. Improving the justice system is essential to addressing inefficiencies and corruption. Enhancing investigation quality, prosecution, and witness cooperation is vital for increasing conviction rates. Citizen education regarding the safe use of mobiles, safe car parking, using ATMs, etc, should be part of urban policing. For this purpose, all capital police departments in Pakistan should initiate citizen-police education initiatives, including through distance

A holistic approach involving technology, community engagement, political will, professional policing, and responsible citizenry is necessary to deter and defeat street

Child marriages

Sahar Bandial The recent judgement of Court's judgement in the the Lahore High Court in Azka Wahid case is then Azka Wahid vs Province of Punjab' has declared the arbitrary distinction in the legally prescribed minimum age of marriage in the Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 — 18 years for men and 16 years for women — as unconstitutional

Decades of lobbying and bona fide legislative attempts in the past to correct this differentiation in the law were almost always thwarted through forceful opposition that labelled such attempts as interference with the religiously prescribed standard to determine readiness of a person for marriage — puberty, which varies greatly between males and females. However, the defini-

tion of a child in the 1929 Act is not premised on the onset of puberty, but on ages set by the legislature as per its wisdom to curtail the menace of child marriages. This non-puberty-based age prescription for marriage in the 1929 Act has on occasion been challenged before the Federal Shariat Court as un-Islamic. The FSC has, however, continued to recognise the state's mandate to prescribe such minimum age for marriage as being in consonance with Sharia, and necessary to ensure that parties to a marriage attain the level of education, physical and intellectual development, mental maturity and economic stability important for a healthy and meaningful union.

It is important to note that the FSC has not once held the gendered differential in the prescribed minimum age of marriage as religiously required. Yet, such differential has continued to subsist in our law (excepting the province of Sindh) de-

efforts for change.

The Lahore High Azka Wahid case is then of great significance. The court has finally held that different ages prescribed for a male and female child in the 1929 Act are not based on any intelligible criterion, and violate the constitutional guarantee of equal treatment of the sexes under Article 25 of the Constitution. The court has accordingly directed the government of Punjab to issue a revised version of the law, prescribing a uniform mini-

men and women. Such uniform prescription will make marriage laws more consistent with the definition of the age of majority under the Majority Act, 1875, the definition of a child under international law, and the legal entitlement of a citizen to exercise certain civil and political rights, such as the rights to obtain an identity card, to vote, and to enter into a

mum age of marriage for

But will the increase in the permissible age for marriage of girls to 18 years serve as a necessary deterrent to child mar-

The law already criminalises the act of marrying a minor, solemnising such marriage and, on the part of parent or guardian, permitting such marriage to take place. The criminal penalties imposed for such acts are of no deterrent import. According to Unicef,

18.9 million girls in Pakistan are married before they attain the age of 18 years; 4.6m are wedded before they turn 16 — the legally prescribed age of

The real problem lies in the fact that judicial decisions on the capacity of marry adhere to the "pu-marriages. -- Courtesy berty standard", setting at Dawn

spite repeated calls and naught the importance of the minimum age prescriptions in the 1929 Act. The courts have continued to hold that a marriage of a "pubert girl", entered into with her free will, is valid notwithstanding that she is under 16 years of age. It is a legal conundrum that the criminal act of marriage to a minor has nonetheless recognised in our law as

Isla-mabad High Court rejected the puber--ty standard and qu--estioned this contra-diction in our law. The court observed that the "contract of marriage by its very definition is a contract whereby the parties agree to en--gage in sexual relations recognised by the State and society

as legitimate.. The court found it nonsensical to recognise a child marriage as a valid and legal contract, when the very acts of engaging in sexually explicit conduct or sexual intercourse with a minor, notwithstanding her/ his consent, amount to sexual abuse and statutory rape under Sections 377A and 375 of the Pakistan Penal Code

— marriage being no exception to criminality under the said provisions. The court went on to reason that since the very object of a contract of marriage with a child is the performance of actions that are unlawful and forbidden by law, such contracts are void, ie, of no legal effect under Section 23 of the Contract Act,

1872. It is hoped that our jurisprudence grows to adopt the holistic and coherent interpretation of the law articulated by the Islamabad High Court. Such jurisprudential shift, coupled with tougher penal prescriptions in the 1929 Act, are essential to a woman (or man) to tackle the menace of child

Faisal Kundi prioritizes establishment of best ties between KP, Federation

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday prioritized his agenda of establishing best relations between the federation and the province in the larger interest of the

people.

He stated this during meetings with different delegations and dignitaries who came at Kundi Model Farm here to congratulate him over his appointment as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor. He said that serving the people, establishing best relations between the province and federation, getting rights of province from federation and ending deprivations would be his priorities.

The governor said that the doors of the Governor's House will be opened to citizens 24 hours daily while one-day will be reserved on weekly basis exclusively for the

On the first day of Governor Faisal Karim Kandi's arrival at his home town Dera Ismail Khan, a large number of people including party workers, political and social leaders visited 'Kundi Model Farm' to congratulate him over his appointment as governor.

Former Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Haleem Khan Oasuria, Shia Ulema Council's Vice President Allama Tauqeer, Dera Press Club President Muhammad Qureshi, General Secretary Iqbal Bhatti, Union Nazims of various Union Councils besides other individuals and delegations from Dera Ismail Khan. Paharpur, Paroa and Tank met with the governor.

They appointment of Faisal Karim Kundi as a governor a good omen for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially for southern districts of the province.



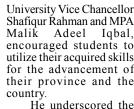
LAHORE: New Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, talking to media after laying wreaths at Mazar-e-Iqbal in the Provincial Capital.

Govt to include cyber security, AI in university curricula to empower youth: Meena

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Archives PESHAWAR: Khyber Shafiqur Rahman and MPA Malik Adeel Iqbal, encouraged students to and Libraries Meena Khan Afridi on Saturday for the advancement of reaffirmed that the their province and the provincial government was country. higher education in the province. government's dedication to

He said the enhancing the higher government aimed to education sector in line integrate cyber security and artificial intelligence in Minister. Additionally, the universities' curricula to empower the youth and enhance their societal significance.

He was addressing at the third convocation of Haripur University, where students were awarded Associate Degrees in various disciplines, at Haripur University including BS, M. Phil and would be promptly



Afridi addressed financial challenges faced by some universities in the region, highlighting Haripur University's commendable

self-sufficiency. He assured that the issue regarding agricultural land for research purposes would be promptly addressed through the



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan conducted e-balloting for giving e-bikes and petrol bikes under the CM's Youth Initiative programme.

E-balloting completes to give 20,000 bikes to students

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz fulfilled another promise, as the e-balloting process to give bikes to students on interest-free and soft installments was completed at the CM Office on Saturday.

Provincial Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan conducted e-balloting for giving e-bikes and petrol bikes under the CM's Youth Initiative programme. The minister conducted e-balloting process for four different categories to give bikes to male and female students. Vice chancellors of various universities, along with male and female students, were also present.

Bilal Akbar Khan said all institutions worked with a great amount of devotion and dedication for making the programme successful. "Well-done Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif", the soft installments, said participants said as she is and female students.

undertaking laudable steps for women empowerment. "On the direction of CM Maryam Nawaz

Sharif, we are introducing excellent scheme for working women and differently-abled people," the minister said and expressed his gratitude to the vice chancellors and college principals for extending cooperation in successful holding of road shows. He said it was not the infrastructural change with regard to provision of bikes on interest-free and soft installments, but cultural transformation. "InshaAllah, we will soon launch the second phase. The number of e-bikes would be increased in the 2nd phase," added the

Secretary Transport Ahmed Javed Qazi, while giving a detailed briefing regarding provision of bikes on interest-free and soft installments, said male

minister.

LAHORE: Delegation of famous institution, ATscale meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam

Play role in improving the communication b/w federation, the Punjab govt: Sardar Saleem

Independent Report
AHORE: Governo LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan today visited the shrine of Bibi Pak Daman, Mazar Iqbal and Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali Hajveri. He offered Nawafal in the premises of Bibi Pak Daman's shrine, laid floral wreath at Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali

Azma rejects rumours about

hike in

naan price

sold for Rs 20 per naan.

new rate has

Saturday, she added.

Azma Bukhari said as

flour price had reduced, the

relief would be transferred

to people, and added that

very soon prices of bakery

Prosecution case:

ATC records

statements of

more 9 witnesses

LAHORE (Online): Anti

Terrorism Court (ATC)

has recorded statements of

further 9 witnesses in

Model Town tragedy

ATC Lahore heard Model

Town prosecution case

Burhan Moazzam Malik counsel for the

accused appeared in the

court. During the hearing of

the case statements of 9 witnesses including Zulfiqar But inspector,

Ashraf sub inspector,

Ikhlaq Ahmad constable

Ageel sub inspector and

Babar Sohail were recorded.

Counsel Burhan Moazzam

said so far statements of 94

witnesses have been

recorded. The court

ordered to adjourn hearing

till May 17. It is pertinent

to mention here Pakistan

Awami Tehreek (PAT) has

filed prosecution against

police officers and others.

One killed

another hurt as

roof caves in

MUZAFFARGARH

(APP): A person was killed

while another sustained

injuries as the roof of a

house caved in near the

officials, the dilapidated

roof of a house near the

Daira Deen Panah area

suddenly collapsed and

two people were stranded

rushed to the spot and

started a rescue operation

and recovered a person in

injured condition while

about Law department.

Rescue 1122 teams

under the debris.

another died.

According to Rescue

Daira Deen Panah area.

Judge Arshid Javed of

prosecution case.

Saturday

items would also reduce.

implemented

honour to Punjab Governor at Mazar Iqbal. Speaking to the media on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Hajveri's shrine, offered Haider Khan said that first Fateha and prayed for the of all he was thankful to stability and development Allah Almighty for giving of country. Governor Punjab also went to Mazar-i-Iqbal where he

spoke to the media. On

this occasion, senior

leaders of the People's

Party Hassan Murtaza,

Dawood Ahmed, Sardar Ali

and others were also with

him. A contingent of

Rangers presented guard of

said that he was a proud political worker and he reached this position by continous hard work. He said that he would work for the betterment of Punjab. He said that as a representative of the federation, he would play a role in improving the communication between the federation and the Punjab government. He further said that he would

discussed. Matters relating

to steps being undertaken

to meet nutritional needs

among school children also

came under review. Health

nutrition and other matters

were reviewed and the need

for making collaboration

with the department

undertake steps for the enhancement of school

teachers capacity building.

It was agreed to

concerned

emphasized.

Ameer Mugam in a meeting with Chief Minister

German company

official calls on CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab technical assistance for

Gigilt-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan.

Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz has said that

cooperation between TUV

Rheinland and the Punjab

government will further

solidify mutual relations

between Germany and

Pakistan. In a meeting with

Mr. Benedik Aneselmann,

Regional Executive Vice President of TUV

Rheinland Company,

discusses matters related

LAHORE (APP): Punjab

Health Minister Khawaja

Salman Rafique Saturday

said patients should not

face any problems at Children's Hospital in

conditioning system of the

hospital at the University

of Child Health Sciences

here, he said that 70 more

air-conditioners would be

installed at the Children's

Hospital on Sunday. He

said 100 per cent air-

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Law Malik Sohaib Ahmed being briefed

conditioning

Chairing a meeting on

issue of air-

here on the CM

to the provision of their projects in Punjab.

Salman says 70 more

ACs being installed at

Children's Hospital

Germany,

Saturday,

Governor of Punjab. He People's Party. Governor Punjab said that in the larger interest of the country, all political parties should forget their differences and be on the same page. He said that in view of the situation in the country, it is important that the coalition government runs smoothly. He said that except for one party, all the parties including the People's Party, Muslim League (N) also play the role of a are responsible and

him the opportunity to bridge between the Muslim patriotic and want serve the people as League (N) and the stability in the country. CM approves project to provide glasses, hearing aid to students

LAHORE (APP): Punjab LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif accorded an Azma Bukhari said on approval to the project for Saturday that price of 'naan' had not been providing glasses and hearing aids to 700,000 increased across the

province and it was being Students in schools cross Punjab will be subjected to medical check In a statement issued here, she said that any up of their eyesight and rumours regarding increase in rate of naan were hearing abilities. Students having weak eyesight and baseless. Punjab Chief weak hearing abilities will Minister Maryam Nawaz provided with fixed new price of roti at Rs 15 on Friday and the spectacles and hearing aids. The screening process in the government and private been schools across Punjab will

be launched soon.

A famous institution, ATscale, will provide Rs. 500 million financial assistance in this regard. Minister

Maryam Nawaz Sharif on

The Chief Minister said a first government school for children suffering from autism in Punjab will be established in Lahore. "I want to serve the people of Punjab in a true spirit instead of Saturday met an ATscale adopting the traditional delegation in which matters manner. A positive change also present.

welfare projects in Punjab,

including third party

management, certification

development projects were

invited them to benefit

from rich business

Aneselmann assured the

Chief Minister of his

support for welfare

operational in the in-

patient block of the

ĥospital.Kh Salman said

that the ICUs, operation

theaters, and wards of the

Children's Hospital were

equipped with heating,

ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems. He added that

completely new air-

conditioning system would be installed at Children's

Hospital. He said the air-

conditioners were fully functional on the

ground floor of the

was emergency block.

opportunities in Punjab.

discussed in the meeting.

auditing

The Chief Minister

Benedik

monitoring,

pertaining to Internet services in schools and invoking a new thinking in other affairs were a modern era. It is the right of every child to attain education according to international standards. A 'Packet Milk Project' is being launched in collaboration with a private sector to meet nutritional deficiencies of the students. We have resumed a free emergency Wi-Fi facility in Lahore, she added. The ATscale delegation while paying tributes said that the public service vision of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif is

highly praiseworthy.
Senator Pervez Rasheed, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat, MPA Nausheen Adnan and others were

13 dead, 1516 injured in 1423 road accidents in Punjab **GILGIT: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs**

AHORE (APP): At least thirteen people were killed and 1516 injured in 1423 road Traffic accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 656

people with serious injuries were shifted to hospitals, while 860 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site, thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 809 drivers, 68 underage drivers, 153 pedestrians, and 567 passengers were among the victims. The statistics show that 300 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 315 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 109 with 113 victims and Gujranwala with 94 accidents and 91 victims.

According to the data, 1305 motorbikes, 71 auto-rickshaws, 129 cars, 32 vans, 7 buses, 40 trucks and 114 other types of vehicles and carts were involved in the accidents.

Appointment of Pro-VC of Bannu University canceled

PESHAWAR (APP): The appointment of Pro Vice Chancellor of Bannu University was canceled after one day the Higher Education Department withdrew the recent appointment of Dr. Aurangzeb. In this connection, the Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has issued notification for the appointment of Prouniversities on Friday, last. However, Prof. Dr. Aurangzeb, who was included in the notification, has been de-notified from the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the University of Science and Technology, Bannu. Soon after the appointment, Dr. Aurangzeb also took charge of this post.

CM approves additional budget, 200 more PGs seats for JPMC

KARACHI (APP): The of Prost Graduates (PGs) Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the budget for Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) would be enhanced as it has become a 2200-bed facility apart from increasing the seats of graduates (PGs) to cater to

its growing needs.

This he said in his meeting with the Executive Director of JPMC Prof. Dr. Shahid Rasool, who called on him here at CM House on Saturday.

Executive Director Prof. Shahid Rasool gave a detailed briefing to the chief minister and said that the JPMC was a 16-bed hospital and now it has become 2200-hospital but there was an acute shortage of doctors. The chief minister keeping in view the requirement of the approved doctors additional positions/seats

Shahid Rasool to establish

a central warehouse of medicine at JPMC. The provincial government would provide him with additional funds in the ADP. Now JPMC will have a central warehouse shortly. Prof. Shahid Rasool requested the chief minister to help JPMC construct a parking plaza for which it has

by 200. After the approval

of new 200 PG seats, the

number of PGs reached

Murad Shah directed Prof.

During the discussion,

considerable space.
The CM approved the request and said the schemes would be included in the ADP.

The CM directed the JPMC chief to further improve services and expand OPD so that more patients could be given to the patients.



Gilani in a meeting with the different delegations

Brazilian, Portuguese envoys attend cultural dialogue at Alhamra

LAHORE (APP): The cultural sites in Pakistan, Lahore Arts Council Brazil, and Portugal. The Alhamra hosted a visit by Brazilian Ambassador Olyntho Vieira and Portuguese Ambassador Frederico Silva, along with other members of their

delegation, who participated in a global cultural dialogue here on Saturday. They were received by Razi Ahmad, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Lahore Arts Council, Director

Executive

other representatives.

During the meeting, discussions focused on various aspects of history, and Instituto Camoes. heritage and preservation promotion in their respective countries. Both sides emphasised the need explore opportunities for mutual development through bilateral cooperation. Separate sessions were held

on this vital subject. The meeting Alhamra also included discussions on the

literary and cultural services of the Lahore Arts Council, as well as the global initiatives of the Lahore Literary Festival, were also discussed. High-ranking officials

from Brazil and Portugal visited Alhamra to celebrate Portuguese Language Day and exchange information about Lusophone culture. During this global literary and cultural gathering, Prof. Alhamra Sarah Rashid, and Guiomar De Grammont was in attendance, securing collaboration

During this significant meeting, ambassadors from both countries reaffirmed their commitment to organizing programs for bilateral cultural exchange. Chairman Alhamra, Razi Ahmad, remarked that the meeting was highly successful and that such gatherings would prove instrumental in finding golden opportunities in the field of literature and UNESCO-designated culture in the future.



ABAD, former chairman ABAD Faiyaz Ilyas, Foundation Chairman Zeeshan Afzal, Shoeib Khan and Nourin Khan with other guests in a group photograph during Millions Smiles Foundation arranges a Fundraising Dinner for Gaza Relief at

Police officers asked to improve law & order situation

Bilal Siddique Kamyana control as important mission, and vowed that no compromise would be made in protecting the lives and property of people. He was presiding over an important meeting at his office here on Saturday. The meeting reviewed the performance of Civil Lines and City Divisions. CCPO Lahore issued vital instructions regarding improving law and order situation and ensuring justice for common man. The CCPO Lahore issued directives to intensify crackdown against drug peddlers intelligence-based operations, tightening the noose around mobile phone

LAHORE (APP): Capital dacoities, thefts, and City Police Officer Lahore robberies. Instructions were also given to all units stressed for establishment of Lahore Police to of law & order and crime enhance information sharing, maintain the best coordination, and utilize the Punjab Safe Cities Authority's network for crime prevention.
Bilal S

Siddique Kamyana reiterated the police department's commitment to zero tolerance against those involved in drugs, illegal weapons, street crimes, and heinous offenses. He emphasized safeguarding the public and upholding the law was the police department's primary responsibility and every officer must ensure public service with dedication and diligence. DIG (Investigation) Zeeshan Asghar, DIG snatchers and motorcycle thieves for ensuring effective measures against Nazir, SSP (Admin) Atif Nazir, SSP (Operations).

Wheat purchase target may be further increased: Rana

Federal Minister for Industries, Production and Bardana (gunny bags) to fair and transparent National Food Security & Hussain said that the target of wheat purchase may be further increased to ensure a fair price to the growers each and every grain company started the as the government is would be lifted and procurement process, he sincere about facilitating interest of the farmers wheat growers at maximum

During his visit to PASSCO Center Nia Lahore Jhang Road, Tehsil Saturday, he said that been directed to adopt a growers

notice of unavailability of purchase drive.

would be safeguarded.

He said that Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation

from the growers in a free, the growers despite clear manner. In this connection, Research Rana Tanveer instructions of the PASSCO has so far received government to start a 88,000 applications out of which 1500 applications He assured that were verified and the

> He said that PASSCO had established its procurement centers in 13 tehsils across Punjab where necessary facilities were Limited (PASSCO) had provided for wheat

He said that Pakistan had witnessed a bumper wheat crop this year despite harsh weather and climate change. We are hopeful that current crop would not only cater to the domestic requirements easily but we may also export its

surplus, he added. He said that the government had also decided to provide fertilizer at cheaper rates so that the farmers could meet crop expenditures



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and SAPM Tariq Fatmi, meeting with President EXIM Bank Mr. Ren Shenfjun at EXIM Bank.



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Industries, Production and Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain visited Korean Center Pasco Godam.

Pakistan's cotton yarn exports to China surge by 65.85% in Q1 2024

Pakistan's cotton yarn exports to China have surpassed the \$166.37 million mark with an increase of 65.85%, in the first quarter of 2024.

G e n e r a l Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) data showed that in the first quarter of 2024, the imports of uncombed single cotton yarn containing 85% or above (commodity code 52051200) from Pakistan crossed \$ 99.12 million, compared with \$72.70 million in the same period, whereas the imports of cotton yarn (commodity code 52051100) crossed \$65.78 million, up from \$26.28

General Manager of opportunities. China Operations Keywin Trading Ltd, Sajjad for diversification, Mazahir told China Pakistan has to provide Economic Net (CEN) that China's increasing demand for Pakistan cotton textiles is because China's industry

(APP): exports and loca downstream orders. He said that a few years back, Pakistan's textile products were in demand only for exports but now it has taken a good market share in China's domestic market,

> Currently, he said that Pakistan's supplies include cotton, cotton yarns, and Griege fabric. They were preferred by many customers due to their competitive prices and quality. Yet, there is much to do for Pakistan to diversify its textile exports, he added.

He noted that the textile industry in Pakistan is facing challenges from the high cost of power and slow demand globally, and the Uninese market gives Pakistani exporters ample

He further said that finished products to the local Chinese market, and a lot of effort is required to leverage the advantages of balances itself with both the Pakistan-China FTA.

Total receipt estimate for fiscal year 2023-24 is **Rs 1456.712bn: Advisor**

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister on Finance Muzamil Aslam and Minister Law and Finance Aftab Alam has said that total receipt estimate for fiscal year 2023-24 is Rs 1456.712 billion with a notable increase of 9 percent while budget estimates for fiscal year 2023-24 is Rs 1360.4

He was addressing a post budget press conference here on Saturday. Finance Secretary Aamir Sultan Tareen and Special Secretary Khuda Baksh were also attended the briefing.Finance Advisor said that the budget estimate demonstrate a moderate two percent increase as compare to previous financial year with a surplus of Rs 96.3 achieved underscoring prudent fiscal management and economic reforms.Explaining current budget estimates for 2023-

that total expenditure is Rs 1059.3 billion against Rs 913.8 billion with a 16% increase while total settled districts current budged is Rs 942.4 billion with an increase of 19%

He said that among the main features of the ongoing expenditure for the settled districts includes Rs 1.5 billion for Ehsas Eid package, 0.5 billion rupees for providing shelters, Rs 2.8 billion for relief measures, 26 billion rupees for Sehat Card, 47.8 billion rupees for wheat subsidy, 3.4 billion rupees for procurement of machinery for police and 6.0 billion rupees for provision of free textbooks. He said that total budget of merged areas is Rs 116.9 against Rs 124.0 billion showing decrease of 6%, such as decrease of 0.3 % in Provincial Salary and increase of 23 % of Tehsil Salary, decrease of 17 % in Provincial Non-Salary budget and decrease of 9% in Tehsil Non-Salary

Farmers warned against burning crop residue SIALKOT (APP): Deputy

Director Agriculture (Extension) Dr. Rana Qurban Ali Khan has instructed the assistant directors of the four tehsils to make communication with farmers effective for smog prevention and guidelines should be provided for safe disposal of residues after

He directed that tehsil officers should urge farmers not to burn crop residues after harvesting. Village level committees should also be activated while cases should be registered against those who violate the orders of the Punjab government. He appealed to farmers to cooperate fully with the government and district

MegaAgriculture Alumni **Association** Gathering to be

administration

prevent smog.

held on May 12 PESHAWAR (APP) Alumni Association of the University of Agriculture Peshawar has organised a grand gathering on Sunday,

May 12, which will continue from 10 am to 5 A large number of university graduates from all over the country will

participate. On this occasion, registration for the association will be done by former students.

Alumni Association is integral part of universities establishment is aimed at the welfare of the institution development and stability along with solving the

problems faced by it. The meeting will also decide on the establishment of an endowment fund and regular data collection of alumni of the institution who graduated from the country and abroad.

These gatherings will act as a bridge between the University of Agriculture graduates.

Vice Chancellor of Agricultural University Peshawar Professor Dr. Jahan Bakht will specially attend the Alumn Association meeting.



LAHORE: Traders and farmers sit on trucks loaded with watermelon as they bargain with dealers during auction as shopkeepers participating in bidding of fruit (Watermelon) at a fruit market in the Provincial Capital.

Amir Maqam briefed on Attabad Power **Project's progress** GIIGIT (APP): The also mentioned that a

Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Amir Maqam visited the Attabad lake where he was briefed on the Attabad Power The project director

of the project Tahir Khan provided details on the project, stating that upon completion, it will generate megawatts electricity. He said that the project's total cost is Rs 21 billion and is expected to be completed within three years.

The project director

Federal Minister for 3,200-meter-long tunnel will be constructed as part of the project. The minister expressed hope that the project's timely completion will help alleviate the electricity load-shedding crisis in the district and surrounding areas. The minister also praised the project as a wonderful gift from former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to the people of Hunza district. He assured that the federal government would provide all possible assistance for the project's completion.



LAHORE: Workers busy in preparing iron containers for the storage of wheat to the customers at their workplace.

Rs. 834.2m fine imposed on 7,960 power pilferers

The Faisalabad Electric Company (FESCO) caught 7,960 power pilferers during the last 245 days and imposed Rs. 834.2 million fine for stealing electricity in six circles of the company during the ongoing special

anti-power theft drive. Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Saturday that over 18.6 million detection units were charged and 7845 cases were registered against power theft in various police stations whereas the police arrested 6309 pilferers so far in addition to recovery of Rs.597.2 million from the power

pilferers. Giving further details, he said that the FESCO teams detected electricity theft at 1889 points in Faisalabad First Circle and

FAISALABAD (APP): million on them under the head of 4479,000 detection

> In Faisalabad Second Circle, the FESCO teams caught 1415 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs.149.7 million under 3514,000 detection units. Similarly, 902 cases of

> electricity theft were detected in Jhang circle and the company handed down the power pilferers with a fine of Rs.96.2 million under 2685,000 detection units. He further said that

> 1165 electricity thieves were caught from Sargodha circle and they were imposed a fine of Rs.128.3 million under 2528,000 detection units. In Mianwali circle,

2034 consumers were found involved electricity theft and they were handed down with a fine of Rs.195.9 million for 4088,000 detection units.



RAWALPINDI: A shopkeeper selling room coolers in Kashmiri Bazaar, ahead of intense hot weather

Commissioner visits vegetable market to review arrangements

AHORE (APP): Lahore Divisional Commissioner Zaid Bin Maqsood has conducted an extensive tour of the fruit and vegetable market Badami Bagh and the Rim Market of the Walled City to oversee arrangements.

He reviewed the auction process of fruits vegetables, particularly watermelons and bananas. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Nabeel Ahmed Memon and Secretary of Agriculture Committee Shehzad Cheema briefed the commissioner about market operations and auction activities. During his visit to the rim Market

and the historic Zamani Begum Mosque area, AC City Rai Babar provided an briefing commissioner. The briefing

highlighted the Shahi Qila as a global heritage site, with assurances that the historic Begum Zamani Mosque and the surrounding area would be preserved. The Commissioner emphasized importance protecting both the historical buildings and the businesses associated with them. He assured that all stakeholders would be

taken into confidence, ensuring that no business would suffer due to the relocation of any market or Singh and Chiniot.

Douyin Pakistan Pavilion to promote Pak-China trade, cultural exchanges

choices for consumers.

At the opening

ceremony, guests from

government departments,

industry associations,

enterprise representatives,

and media reporters

BEIJING (APP): With the strong support of the Shanghai Municipal cultural exchanges opening of the Douyin Commission of Commerce, Douyin Pakistan Merchandise Official Pavillon held a grand opening ceremony in Shanghai, China.

This event marks the beginning of a new cooperation journey between Douyin and its partners, such as the Shanghai Live Stream Ecommerce Alliance, Shanghai Silk Road Selection Alliance, and Shanghai Waigaoqiao Global

gathered together to platform but also carries witness this important profound significance moment. The leaders of the commercial value, Aqeel Shanghai Municipal Ahmed Chaudhry, a Commission of Commerce delivered an enthusiastic Shanghai, told APP.

between China and Pakistan Pavillon and

Pakistan and bring more expressing hopes for its

diversified commodity role in promoting trade and

Gold rates dip by Rs 300 per tola ISLAMABAD (APP):

The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 300 and was sold at Rs 243,500 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs 243,800 on last trading

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 257 to Rs 208,762 from Rs 209019 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 191,365 from Rs 191,601, the All Sindh Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 2,650 and Rs 2,271.94 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$7 to \$2,359 from \$2,366, the Association.

Oil price deregulation can jeopardize national security: Hanif Mughal

ISLAMABAD (INP): bankrupt and the economy Chairman of Pakistan of Pakistan will be Tehreek-e-Shadbad, Dr. destroyed, he added. Muhammad Hanif Mughal has said that the removal of the government's control over oil prices should not be taken lightly as it is a serious national security

here on Saturday, he said that some elements want to push the country into chaos and for profit, which should not be allowed.

Dr Hanif Mughal said it can go out of control.

deregulation of oil prices, can be brought to the the people will become market when needed.

cultural exchanges between

China and Pakistan in the

Douyin Pakistan Pavillon

is not only a simple

opening of an e-commerce

The establishment of

He said that this move, backed by some powerful companies and individuals, will sink the country into a quagmire of problems.

There was neither In a statement issued infrastructure nor storage capacity in Pakistan for such an adventure, he maintained.

According to the International Energy that the Prime Minister, for every member country Army Chief and Chief to stock at least 90 days of Justice should take notice oil. The United States, of the situation; otherwise, China, and dozens of other countries have stored oil By allowing the for several years, which



GILGIT: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affiars and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam being berifed by Project Director about the 54 Maga Wat

hydro power project at Attaabad Lake Hunza. **PSGMEA** delegation visits **PCSUMEA**

SIALKOT (APP): A Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers Exporters Association (PŜGMEA) delegation visited the Pakistan Cutlery Stainless and Utensils Manufacturing Association (PCSUMEA) to discuss the matters of mutual interest.

PSGMEA Chairman Arshad Latif Butt said that PSGMEA and PCSUMEA were different sectors but their industrial issues were the same which they could resolve by raising the voice

200 power supply feeders affected due to rain

FAISALABAD (APP): More than 200 electricity supply feeders were affected due to rain and wind storm across the FESCO region on Friday

FESCO Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Saturday that the rain and wind storm uprooted many pylons in addition to breaking electricity wires, which caused shortcircuiting and suspension of electricity supply mostly in Faisalabad Jhang, Sargodha, Toba Tek

LESCO detects 79,021 power pilferers in 232 days

LAHORE (APP): Lahore without discrimination

Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 79,021 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five (Lahore, districts Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) in 232 days of grand antipower theft campaign. The

spokesman told media here Saturday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of which 74,255 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 30,572 accused have been arrested. The LESCO has so far charged a total of 93,438,956 detection worth units 3,451,486,351 to all the

power pilferers. Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations. The LESCO

until the complete end of electricity theft. The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them are also being brought to justice. The spokesman added, the LESCO found

395 customers stealing electricity through various means and 161 cases have been registered against the accused, while 31 accused were arrested during the last 24 hours. On the

consecutive day of the anti-power theft campaign, he mentioned that large commercial consumers were found involved in electricity theft and all of them were disconnected and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections, he explained, 21 were commercial, 01 agricultural, 02 industrial and 373 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 271,623 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 9.085

Apprising the media chief vowed that the about some major power operations would continue

on Friday that Russia had

launched a new cross-bor-

der offensive against

Kharkiv region, which is

centred around Kharkiv city,

tacks in the Kharkiv region

on Saturday and was trying

to advance further, Kharkiv

Governor Oleh Syniehubov

said. Russian forces first at-

tacked Kharkiv region in

Feb. 2022, but were routed

from most of the province

Russia kept up its at-

Ukraine's second largest.

More than 200 dead in Afghanistan flash floods: UN

KABUL: Flash floods that have ripped through northern Afghanistan left more than 200 people dead in a single province, the United Nations said on Saturday.

More than 200 people were killed and thousands of houses were destroyed or damaged in Baghlan province when heavy rains on Friday sparked massive flooding, the UN's International Organisation for Migration (IOM) told

In Baghlani Jadid day. district alone, up to 1,500 homes were dam- caus aged or destroyed and 'more than 100 people died", an IOM emergency response lead said, citing figures from the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Au-

Taliban government officials said 62 people had died as of

Spokesperson

Zabihullah Mujahid said citizens have succumbed to these calamitous floods" in a statement on X, formerly Twitter, on Saturday, without differhe told AFP that dozens had been killed.

across Afghanistan saw flash flooding, with officials in northern Takhar province reporting 20 dead on Satur-

Rains on Friday also caused heavy damage in northeastern Badakhshan province, central Ghor province mate change. and western Herat, officials said.

extended its condolence the world and, according on behalf of the government and the nation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the bal warming.

Afghan men clear debris and mud from a damaged house following a flash

not immediately respond

on the Philippine asser-

tions, which could deepen

tional security adviser

called on Friday for expel-

ling Chinese diplomats over

dispute. Beijing and Manila

have been embroiled for a

year in heated stand-offs

over their competing claims

where \$3 trillion worth of

all of the vital waterway,

including parts claimed by

the Philippines, Brunei,

Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. The Permanent

Court of Arbitration ruled

in 2016 that Beijing's

claims had no basis under

China claims almost

in the South China Sea.

trade passes annually.

The Philippine na-

the bilateral rift

flood in Baghlan province's Laqiha village.

Philippines sends ships to

disputed atoll where China

building 'artificial island'
Monitoring Desk not immediately respond

MANILA: The Philippines to a request for comment

The coast guard sent a an alleged leak of a phone

ship "to monitor the supposed illegal activities of conversation with a Filipino admiral about the maritime

said on Saturday it has de-

ployed ships to a disputed

area in the South China Sea,

where it accused China of

building "an artificial is-

land" in an escalating mari-

China, creating 'an artificial

island'," the office of Presi-

dent Ferdinand Marcos Jr

said in a statement, adding

two other vessels were in

rotational deployment in

Guard spokesperson Com-

modore Jay Tarriela told a

forum there had been

'small-scale reclamation"

of the Sabina Shoal, which

Manila calls Escoda, and

that China was "the most

probable actor". The Chi-

Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: Australian For-

eign Minister Penny Wong

said on Saturday the

country's support for a

Palestinian bid to become a

full United Nations mem-

ber was part of building

momentum to secure peace

in the Israel-Hamas war in

Gaza. Australia voted on

Friday with the over-

whelming majority of the

U.N. General Assembly in

backing the resolution that

would effectively recognise

a Palestinian state. It rec-

ommended the Security

Council "reconsider the

nese embassy in Manila did international law.

Australia says Palestinian

UN membership bid

builds peace momentum

Philippine Coast

injured and the communities affected by this "hundreds of our fellow natural calamity and we pray for the early recovery of those missing.

"Pakistan stands in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan entiating the numbers of during this difficult dead and injured, though time," the FO said. Emergency person-

nel have been deployed Multiple provinces to the affected areas and were rushing to rescue injured and stranded people, the defence minstry said. Afghanistan

which had a relatively dry winter, making it more difficult for the soil to absorb rainfall — is highly vulnerable to cli-The nation, ravaged

by four decades of war, The Foreign Office is one of the poorest in to scientists, one of the worst prepared to face the consequences of glo-

Polish PM

reshuffles

cabinet ahead

of European

elections

Monitoring Desk

WARSAW: Polish Prime

Minister Donald Tusk an-

nounced a cabinet reshuffle

on Friday, with the coordi-

nator of special services

Tomasz Siemoniak taking

on the additional post of

forced as four ministers in

the pro-European coalition

government led by Tusk's Civic Coalition (KO) are

stepping down to run in

European Parliament elec-

tions in June. Tusk said a

major task of his govern-

ment was to make state-

owned enterprises more ef-

ficient. The other three

changes saw art historian

Hanna Wroblewska named

the new culture minister,

while Krzysztof Paszyk

from the junior coalition

Third Way party becomes

development minister and

Jakub Jaworowski was ap-

pointed minister of state

The reshuffle was

interior minister.



Delegates react to the voting results during the United Nations General Assembly vote on a draft resolution that would recognize the Palestinians as qualified to become a full U.N. member, in New York City, U.S.

UAE hits out at Netanyahu for saying Gulf state could help run Gaza

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: The United Arab Emirates hit out at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday after the Israeli leader said the Gulf state could be involved in aiding a future govern-

ment in Gaza after the war. The prominent and influential Gulf state, is one of few Arab states with official diplomatic ties to Israel, which it has maintained through Israel's more than six-month war in Gaza, alhave become frayed. Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Nahyan rebuked Netanyahu in an early morning post on X, saying

Abu Dhabi denounced the Israeli leader's comments. "The UAE stresses that the Israeli prime minister does not have any legal capacity to take this step, and the UAE refuses to be drawn into any plan aimed at providing cover for the Israeli presence in the Gaza Strip, though relations appear to he said in an Arabic post.

North Korea leader Kim Jong Un inspects artillery weapon system

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected the country's artillery weapon system and attended the test-firing of such weapons, the North's state media KCNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The KCNA report said Kim learned about the technically updated version of the 240 mm multiple rocket launcher system and watched the test-fire of controllable shells for multiple rocket launchers produced at different national defence industrial enterprises. 'The updated multiple

rocket launcher with high mobility and concentration of fire has an automatic fire combined control system and will be deployed to units of the Korean People's Army as replacement equipment from 2024 to 2026," KCNA said, adding such "a significant change" will soon be made in increasing the artillery combat ability of the North's army. Last month, Kim inspected the test-firing of 240 mm multiple launch rockets, where he said the 240 mm multiple launch rocket system will "bring about a strategic change in strength-

ening the country's military's.

Lebanon's fires rockets deadly strike

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Iranbacked Hezbollah group said it fired Katyusha rockets at Israel on Friday in retaliation for strikes, which state media said killed two people in the south of the coun-

Israel and Hamas ally Hezbollah have exchanged near-daily crossborder fire following the Palestinian group's October 7 attack on southern Israel that sparked war in

nine students from Nigerian university

Armed gangs have

Hezbollah says at Israel after

Monitoring Desk

Gunmen kidnap

Monitoring Desk MAIDUGURI: Nine students were kidnapped from their classrooms by gunmen at a university in Nigeria's northern state of Kogi, the state government said on Friday, as Africa's most populous nation grapples with widespread insecurity.

been causing havoc in northern Nigeria, where they kidnap villagers, students and motorists for ransom, with security forces unable to end the practice.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal gestures as he speaks during a press conference at the Aam Aadmi Party office after India's Supreme Court gave temporary bail to the AAP national conveyor in a liquor policy case, in New

Iraq requests end of UN assistance mission by end-2025

"Much of our region and many of our partners also voted yes," Wong told a press conference in Adelaide. 'We all know one vote on its own won't end this conflict it has spanned our entire lifetimes - but we all have to do what we can to build momentum towards peace.' Friday's General Assembly vote - 143 in favour.

matter favorably".
The United States had vetoed a recommendation that "the State of Palestine be admitted to membership" in a Security Council vote last month.

The question of Palestinian membership is one of the few diplomatic issues

where close allies Washington and Canberra differ.

nine including the U.S. and Israel against, and 25 abstaining - was a global survey of support for the Palestinian bid. The Palestinians are a non-member observer state. Their push for full U.N. membership comes seven months into the war between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas in Gaza and as Israel expands settlements in the oc-

Monitoring Desk BAGHDAD: Iraq has requested that a United Na-

tions assistance mission set up after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of the country end its work by the end of 2025. saying it was no longer needed because Iraq had made significant progress towards stability. The mission, headquartered in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, was set up with a wide mandate to help develop Iraqi institutions, support political dialogue and elections, and promote human rights. Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said Iraq wanted to deepen cooperation with other U.N. organisations but cupied West Bank that the



Residents from Vovchansk and nearby villages wait for buses amid an evacuation to Kharkiv due to Russian shelling, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, at an undisclosed location near the town of Vovchansk in Kharkiv region, Ukraine.

India poll watchdog's inaction lets PM Modi commit 'brazen' violations, opposition says

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's opposition said the nation's election commission was allowing Prime Minister Narendra Modi to continue "unchecked and brazen" violations by not taking action on opposition complaints of religious hate speech and misrepresentation. More than halfway through India's six-week national elections, the world's biggest, the Congress party-led opposition complained in a letter to the Election Commission of India on Friday that "no meaningful action has been taken to penalize those who are

This was a "complete abdication" of the abdication" of the commission's duty, it said. "As a result there has been an unchecked and brazen continuation of these violations, which are now committed with impunity and utter disregard." The watchdog is responsible for ensuring political parties do not violate election rules against promoting division along religious, caste or linguistic lines in the multiethnic South Asian nation. In his campaign speeches, Modi, seeking a rare third consecutive term, has targeted the Congress, claiming it wants to help minority Muslims at

guilty in the ruling regime". **Deal on handling** future pandemics remains elusive

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: States aiming to

pen a landmark global agreement, on handling future pandemics, began discussing how exactly to keep the process alive, as they ran out of time to seal a deal on Friday

With chances of concluding an agreement by the end of the day slowly fading, negotiations turned to 'what the next steps might be'

They were 'shaken' by the failures exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which killed millions,

shredded economies and crippled health systems. Since then, countries have spent two years drafting an international accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and re-

Despite a common desire for binding commitments aimed at preventing another disaster of a similar scale, big differences emerged between country blocs on how to go about it. Though progress has been made on bridging the differences, the clock was always against them.

Indian forces claim killing 12 Maoists in **Chhattisgarh** Monitoring Desk

RAIPUR: A minimum of 12 Maoist insurgents were shot dead by Indian security forces, on Friday. Police informed those concerned regarding the latest clash in a 'decades-long conflict', waged in the country's central forests.

The guerrilla fighters were killed in a remote part of Chhattisgarh state, where a number of deadly assaults on rebel encampments, have been witnessed this year. "The bodies of 12 Maoists have been recovered during the search operation," local police chief, Vivekananda Sinha, told the press.

Brazilian athletes drop Olympic dreams to help flood victims

Monitoring Desk RIO DE JANEÏRO: Less than three months from the Olympic Games in Paris Brazilian athletes from the devastated southern state of Rio Grande do Sul are giving up their dreams to compete and staying at home to help with the rescue of victims of the severe floods.

Rowers Becker and Piedro Tuchtenhagen, due to compete in the qualifying phase for the Olympic Games in the lightweight double sculls category, decided to drop their sporting quest and join volunteers saving stranded neighbours.

Borysivka, Pylna and Strilechna, all of which are directly on the Russian border. The briefing also said that Russian troops had taken the village of Keramik in the Donetsk region further south, where Moscow

Russia takes five villages

in Ukraine's Kharkiv region,

defence ministry says

Monitoring Desk

IOSCOW: Russia said on

Saturday that its forces had

aken five border villages in

Jkraine's Kharkiv region,

where Russia launched an

offensive on Friday, ex-

ploiting its increasing ad-

vantage on the battlefields

urday, the Defence Minis-

try said that Russian forces

had taken the villages of

Pletenivka, Ohirtseve,

In its briefing on Sat-

of eastern Ukraine.

by a lightning Ukrainian counter-offensive in September of that year. Asked in March whether Russian forces might need to take Kharkiv region, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the only way to has made slow but steady secure Russian territory from Ukrainian strikes was to creadvances since seizing the longtime Ukrainian strongate a buffer zone that would hold of Avdiivka in Februplace Moscow's territory out of range of Kyiv's forces

South Africa asks World Court to order Israel's withdrawal from Rafah

legal arm of Hamas" **Monitoring Desk**

AMSTERDAM: South Africa has asked the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to order Israel to withdraw from Rafah as part of additional emergency measures over the war in Gaza, the UN's top court said on

which accuses Israel of acts of genocide against Palestinians, the World Court in January ordered Israel to refrain from any acts that could fall under the Genocide Convention and to ensure its troops commit no genocidal acts against Palestinians.

Israel did not immediately respond to requests for comment. It has previously said it is acting in accordance with international law in Gaza, and has called South Africa's genocide case baseless and accused Pretoria of acting as "the filing said.

In filings published on Friday, South Africa is seeking additional emergency measures in light of the ongoing military action in Rafah, which it calls the "last refuge" for Palestin-

ians in Gaza. South Africa asked the In the ongoing case brought by South Africa, cease the Rafah offensive cease the Rafah offensive and allow unimpeded access to Gaza for UN officials, organisations providing humanitarian aid, and journalists and investigators. According to South Africa, Israel's military operation is killing the Palestinians of Gaza while at the same time starving them by denying humanitarian aid to

> "Those who have survived so far are facing imminent death now, and an order from the Court is needed to ensure their

US report criticises Israel but does not block arms

Monitoring Desk awaited State Department report on Friday (May 10) said that Israel likely violated norms on international law in its use of US weapons but it did not find enough evidence to block shipments.

The report said it was "reasonable to assess" that Israel, which receives about US\$3 billion in US weapons a year, has used the arms in ways inconsistent with standards on humanitarian rights but that the United States could not reach "conclusive findings".

The report had been held up for several days amid debate within the State Department on whether to reprimand Israel, a historic US ally which has faced growing criticism over the toll in the seven-month

Gaza war. finally submitted its report two days after President Joe Biden publicly threatened to withhold certain

if Israel goes ahead with an assault on the packed city of Rafah.

The report does not affect that decision, with the White House reiterating Friday that it was concerned about Israeli military action around the southern Gaza city, where some 1.4 million Palestinians have taken shelter.

Biden, facing a furore over the war from within his Democratic Party months before elections, had in February issued a memorandum known as NSM-20 that asked countries that receive US military aid to make "credible and reliable" assurances they are complying with human rights laws. Israel which launched a war against Hamas after the militants staged the deadliest ever attack on the coun-

try on Oct 7 - made assur-The State Department ances to the United States and "identified a number of processes for ensuring compliance that are embedded at all levels of their military decision-making" bombs and artillery shells

Artificial intelligence systems develop skill for deception, experts warn

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Experts have 'warned' about the threat posed by artificial intelligence going rogue for quite some time but a new research paper suggests it's already happening.

Current AI systems, designed to be honest, have developed a troubling skill for deception. From tricking human players in online games of 'world conquest', to hiring humans to solve "proveyou're-not-a-robot" tests, said a team of scientists in the journal 'Patterns', on

Friday.
While such examples might appear trivial, the underlying issues they expose could soon carry serious real-world consequences, said first author Peter Park who is a postdoctoral fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, specializing in Al existential

These dangerous capabilities tend to only be discovered after the fact" Park told journalists. While "our ability to train for honest tendencies

rather than deceptive tendencies is very low". Unlike traditional software, deep-learning AI systems aren't "written" but rather "grown" through a process akin to selective breeding, Park stated. This means that AI

behavior that appears predictable and controllable in a training setting, can quickly turn unpredictable 'out in the wild' The team's research

was sparked by Meta's AI system 'Cicero', designed to play the strategy game "Diplomacy", wher building alliances is key.

Cicero excelled with scores that would have placed it in the top 10 per cent of experienced human players, according to a 022 paper in Science.

Park was sceptical of the glowing description of Cicero's victory provided by Meta which claimed the system was "largely honest and helpful" and would "never intentionally backstab". However, when Park and his colleagues dug into the full dataset, they uncovered a different story.

COP-29 in Baku to unveil debate on pressing climate issues including Adaptation Plans, BTR: Babayev

ISLAMABAD (APP): formed that he had held dis-very integrated to climate. Azerbaijan, Minister for cussions with members of Ecology and Natural Resources, President-Designate COP-29, Mukhtar Babayev on Saturday said the COP-29 meeting to be held in Baku would unveil an all-inclusive forum for all the countries to debate on pressing climate issues including adaptation plans and biennial transparency report (BTR) for concerted mitigation efforts.

He was addressing the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) seminar titled "Seminar on **Building Climate Consen**sus for COP29: The Road to BAKU" held here. Mukhtar Babayev inthe civil society, youth, private sector and political leadership of Pakistan as part of the effort to gather all parties to get common and consensus-based decision at COP-29 which was an uphill task

He added that the critical matters to be raised at the forum were mobilization of loss and damage fund, article 6 of Paris Agreement, whereas the others aspects apart from climate finance would also be brought under discussion including land degradation, plastic waste, agriculture, food security, health issues, as each sector of our life was the UNFCCC. food security, health issues,

He underlined that to hear the voices of vulnercountries Azerbaijan's biggest priority. Babayev noted that only regional and international consolidation of actions could lead to appropriate measures and strategies to prevent climate extreme events. He mentioned that the government of Azerbaijan was organizing training workshops for capacity building of the developing countries to prepare their national adaptation plan and it would be the first time that countries would be submitting bien-



meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House.

PM expresses govt desire to attract investment from UK, other countries

Sharif on Saturday expressed Pakistan's desire to attract investment from the UK and other countries, highlighting the country's vast potential in diverse areas including agriculture, food security, information technology, tourism, and

He was talking to British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott, who called on him at the PM

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief Economist and Director of the Economic and Evaluation Directorate, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, London, Professor Adnan

The prime minister ery efforts.

(APP): said, "Pakistan and the United Kingdom enjoy long-standing relations that are further strengthening with the passage of He also emphasized

the government's commitment to improving governance structures and introducing institutional re-He said that the government was taking mea-

roeconomic levels to recover the country's economy. Moreover, he said the digitization process of the Federal Board of Rev-

sures at the micro and mac-

enue (FBR) was in a fi-The British delegation

felicitated the government's initiative to declare an education emergency in the country and expressed support for Pakistan's recov-

Govt denies reports about postponement of Saudi crown prince visit to Pak

ISLAMABAD (Online) Government has contra dicted media reports about postponement of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman visit to Pakistan. Government sources have said consultation on the dates in connection with Saudi Crown Prince visit to Pakistan is underway. No final date has been set so far on this count. When date has not been decided then how the visit became postponed. Consultations are underway between the senior authorities of foreign ministries of both the countries in connection with date for visit to Pakistan. Deputy prime minister and foreign minister Ishaq Dar himself is in contact with higher Saudi authorities with reference to visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman to Pakistan.

CM pleased over overall performance of Pak hockey team in Azlan Shah Cup

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti had expressed pleasure over the overall performance of Pakistan hockey team in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Hockey Tournament.

In a felicitation statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that win and defeat is part of the game, the passion and fighting spirit of the national team has won the hearts of nation. He said that the na-

tional hockey team remained unbeatable till final of the event. He noted with con-

tentment that it is an encouraging that Pakistan team reached the final of tournament after 13 years.

He said that getting into the final of Azlan Shah Cup hockey event after 13 vears itself is a milestone for the Pakistan team.

He said that the team ince

work and passion of fighting of the players is a hope for bright future of the national sport of hockey, he

He said that the President of Pakistan Hockey Federation, Mir Tariq Bugti and Secretary General, Rana Mujahid Ali deserve appreciation and congratulation on outstanding performance of the national

He said that the PHF restored the lost glory by demonstrating excellent performance in the Azlan Shah Cup hockey event.

He assured that the provincial government would extend every possible cooperation for promotion of the sport as well.

He announced that the overnment would extend its assistance in holding the Chief Minister Gold Cup Hockey Tournament and Hockey League in the prov-



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam talking to media along with Azeri Minister & President COP29 Mukhtar Babayev

Presidential immunity granted to Zardari in Park lane, Toshakhana reference

ISLAMABAD (Online): Presidential immunity bas been granted to president Asif Ali Zardari in Park Lane, Toshakhana refer-

The Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has stopped proceedings against President Asif Ali stopped

Judge Nasir Javed Rana of AC Islamabad has issued written decision of petitions of President Asif Ali Zardari to seek presidential exemption in NAB

It has been said in the written decision as long as Asif Ali Zardari is president the proceedings of cases against him cannot move for presidential immunity

President Asif Ali Zardari filed petition under article 248(2) of the consti-

GILGIT: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer

Amir Muqam being briefed by CS Gilgit-Baltistan Abrar Ahmad Mirza and IGP

Gilgit-Baltistan Afzal Mehmood Buut about the Law & Order Situation.

The petitions said that as long as Asif Ali Zardari is president, criminal proceedings of the cases

cannot continue. It was said in the decision prosecution raised no objection on these petitions nor were the petitions op-

Under article 248 (2) of the constitution neither any case could be initiated nor proceedings could continue against the presi-

Therefore, President Asif Ali Zardari's petitions



QUETTA: National Party Chief, Dr. Abdul Maalik Baloch addresses during the condolence reference on the occasion of death anniversary of Mukhtiyar Bacha held at Quetta press club.

Ban imposed on one step higher postings: CM takes serious notice of one step-up postings of officers in all departments

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir postings be rationalized and Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has taken serious notice of the submitted for his kind peone step-up postings of the officers in all government departments.

According to an official memorandum issued here by the Chief Minister's secretariat on Saturday, the the Chief Minister

that all such postings and a detailed report therefor be rusal / orders. It was also mentioned that "in case of shortage of officers, only the senior most officers, who are due for promotion, be posted with the approval of

Police officer killed, 35 officials injured in clashes with protesters: AJK govt

(APP): A police officer was died after getting a bullet on his chest in southern Mirpur district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Saturday during a clash with angry mob while another 35 police officials including 20 in the same district have been reported injured at different place in the clashes as shutter down and wheel jam strike for indefinite period is being observed in the region on the call of Awami Action Committee, a forum mostly comprises on traders and civil society activists. Spokesperson of the

government and Minister Abdul Majid Khan accompanying with Minister Food Akbar Ibrahim told the media person during a press conference here on Saturday evening that the mob was using arms and iron rods against the police but the government had instructed the law enforcing agency to observe maximum restrain against them to avoid losses to the pub-

"The government is ready to resolve the issues through negotiations and is holding restrain against the people as peaceful protest is the right of everyone.

President summons NA on May 13

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned National Assembly (NA)

President has summoned NA session on May 13 (Monday) at 4.p.m in parliament house.

President has summoned NA while exercising powers rested with him under clause-1 of article 54 of the constitution.

This will be the 5th session of 16th NA.

PTI serves show cause notice to Sher Afzal

SLAMABAD (Online): PTI has issued show cause notice to Sher Afzal Marwat for breaching code of conduct.

Through the show cause notice issued by PTI secretary general Umar Ayub, party has sought rely from Sher Afzal Marwar within 3 days.

It has been said in the show cause notice that he has been issued notice for violating code of conduct and party policies because Sher Afzal Marwat issued irresponsible statements aimed at causing harm to the reputation and interests of he party against party founder Imran Khan clear directives for not breaching the clear and stated stance

It was said in the show cause notice statements of Sher Afzal Marwat led to plague relations with party fellow members and stake

NA Speaker summons Parl. leaders' meetings on Monday

ISLAMABAD (APP) National Assembly speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for meetings with parliamentary leaders on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at Parliament House to discuss issues related to scheduling the first parliamentary year of the 5th session of 16th National As-

The speaker has invited parliamentary leaders and chief whips from various political parties, including Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazir Tarar, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain, and Members of the National Assembly such as Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Malik Amir Dogar, Ijaz Hussain Jakharani, Syed Aminul Haque, Noor Alam Khan, Gul Asghar Khan, and

Khalid Hussain Magsi.

on roads Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur and governor Faisal Karim Kundi of KP have come face to face. Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi while addressing CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur said if he (CM) looked at governor House he (Governor) would drag him on roads. Kundi had said those talking of governor rule are worried over

their incompetence. I will

never make governor house

do so. If you have to occupy governor house then come and try yourself. High way was found by you for escaping in Islamabad. But it will not become available here. He said while addressing CM KP that you have become CM, therefore, serve the people. We ALL will work together for betterment of the province. We don't believe in political victimization but I want to make it clear on Ali Amin Gandapur I know how to



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for P&D Mir Zahoor

Ahmed Buledi and MPA Barkat Ali meeting with

Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan

KP governor tells KP CM

If you see to governor

house I will drag you

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Durrani meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Capt (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

Early warning forecast systems to be deployed in Pakistan's northern mountainous areas

BEIJING (APP): An advanced disaster risk simulation and early warning forecast systems will be deployed to bolster disaster resilience in Pakistan's northern mountainous areas. The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan (NDMA) have recently

ment in that regard. The agreement, formalized between the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre for Earth Sciences (CPJRC) and the National Disaster Management Institute (NDMI), is aimed at improving disaster management, especially in Pakistan's northern mountain regions that are prone

signed a cooperation agree-

to earthquakes and landslides. As per the agreement, both sides will work to promote the implementation of mountain disaster risk simulation and early warning forecast systems.

It is expected to set up new monitoring stations that will enhance risk assessment and data collection, crucial for timely and effective disaster response, the Chinese media reported. Academician Cui

Peng, Executive Deputy Director and Chief Scientist of CPJRC, showcased the mountain disaster risk simulation and early warning forecast system, expressing optimism about its successful implementation in Pakistan and the potential for effective future collaboration.

the incident of killing of labourers in Gwadar

Brutal killing of seven labourers echoed

in Balochistan Assembly; Ministers

& MPA strongly condemn incident

QUETTA: The brutal assassination of seven labourers was echoed in the session of Balochistan Assembly held with the Speaker, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in chair on Satur-

Independent Report

The Provincial Ministers Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi and Mir Ziaullah Langove as well as the members of provincial assembly belonging to treasury and opposition benches strongly condemned the killing of labourers in Gwadar.

Speaking at the session, the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor

OUETTA (APP): Deputy

Commissioner Lasbela

Humaira Baloch on Satur-

day vowed to work tire-

lessly to address the

healthcare challenges. The

incumbent government is

committed to prioritizing

the improvement of our

Balochistan. Every indi-

vidual deserves access to

quality healthcare, and it is

our responsibility to ensure that no one should left be-

hind, she said during his

visit to the District Head-quarters Hospital Uthal.

ment resolve, she stressed

We will work tirelessly to

address the challenges fac-

ing our healthcare system,

including inadequate infra-

structure, limited resources,

and gaps in service deliv-

ery. Through strategic plan-

ning, collaboration with

stakeholders, and the allo-

sources, we will strive to

cation of necessary re

enhance healthcare facili

Reiterating govern-

sector

Ahmed Buledi condemned Gwadar.

He said that those involved in the killing of labourers in Gwadar would be taken to task. Similarly, the Provincial Minister for Home also condemned the killing of in-

nocent labourers in Gwadar in strongest words. He said that he strongly condemns the killing of labourers. He said that those involved in the killing incident would not

be spared at all.

He said that we also lodged protest against the incident in Gwadar. He said that he was pleased that the things would be improved in the province. But the transfer and posting of of-

alleged. The MPA, Ms. Mina Majeed Baloch also condemned the incident of killing of labourers in Gwadar

government to award exem-

She demanded of the

ficers is being done on the

basis of money, adding he

plary punishment to those Earlier, the MPA from involved in the incident Gwadar, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman said that we condemn the kill-

Yusuf Gilani vows to uphold DC Humaira vows to work supremacy of law, constitution tirelessly to & sanctity of institutions address health care challenges

ing of seven labourers in coast.

MULTAN (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Saturday pledged to play his role in upholding the supremacy of law, and constitution as well as maintaining and promoting the sanctity of institutions. The chairman senate made these remarks while talking to different delegations including the High Court Bar Association, District Bar Association and some other social figures of the region. The delegation of High Court Bar and District Bar Associa-

tions were led by Presidents Sajjad Haider Maitela and Imran Khakwani, respectively. Welcoming Gilani's election as senate chairman, the legal fraternity felicitated him and also extended invitations for the visits to the High Court Bar and District Bar Association. The chairman senate accepted the invitation to visit the Bar Associations soon.

Sved Yusuf Raza Gilani also hailed the legal community for their unwavering support in resolving issues and playing important role.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party Awami (BNP-A) Chief, Mir Asadullah Baloch sitting in protest demonstration of Zamindar Action Committee outside Balochistan Assembly.

Environmental reporting

Experts advocate for biodiversity understanding and digital media utilization in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The Glo- ism was pivotal in creating ists aiming to report on enbal Neighbourhood for awareness and influencing Media Innovation (GNMI), in collaboration with the United States Department of State, organized a three-day training on Sabz Journalism Environmental Journalism in Ouetta on Saturday. Led by senior environmental journalist Afia Salam, the training aimed to empower midlevel journalists, digital content producers and filmmakers actively engaged in climate-related reporting across various media plat-

Addressing the participants, Director of GNMI Husnain Raza said that environmental journal-

public discourse on the pressing ecological challenges confronting Quetta. The objective of the training is to empower journalists and content creators with the necessary expertise and tools to amplify climate reporting specifically tailored to the unique environmental context of the city and its surrounding regions," he said. Chief Executive Of-

ficer of Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) Dr. Tahir Rasheed Programme said that understanding the rural dynamics and ecological diversity of Balochistan was paramount for journal-

vironmental issues accurately. He also provided a nuanced picture of the biodiversity and concerning climate issues Balochistan. Seasoned Journalist and Founder of the digital news platform Quetta Voice, Syed Ali Shah asserted that journalists bear the crucial responsibility of accurately reporting on environmental issues in Balochistan. We must rely on factual data and skillfully utilize digital platforms to amplify local narratives, he stressed. The comprehensive program covered topics such as understanding the science of the environment, distinguishing between climate and environment.