

Independent

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

Says Saudi Crown Prince, other friends can bring economic revolution

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz 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

we are going to make major announcements, along with mines and minerals. 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 Arabia to enhance agriculture production.

While speaking about information technology, the prime minister said that the Saudi crown prince's workings in the field were "phenomenal" and "breath-taking".

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

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 added.

In response to a query, Shehbaz said: "We have now a clear-cut way forward... mutual cooperation, 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.



QUETTA: A delegation of representatives of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

CM telephones to Federal Minister, other high ups: Bugti demands provision of 8hrs' electricity supply as per agreement made during caretaker set up

Points out Rs. 75 billion are required for solarization of agricultural tube wells in Balochistan; federal government to be approached for financial assistance

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has contacted the Federal Minister for Power and Water and other concerned authorities and demanded them of supplying electricity to the province for eight 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 he would be paying to WAPDA for restoration of electricity for 15 to 20,000 families associated with the agriculture.

The Chief Minister said that the present provin-

cial government has already given Rs.2 billion on account of the subsidy and would pay the even amount further.

He asserted that if the whole development budget is given in the subsidy, even then the electricity issues would not be resolved.

The Chief Minister was in meeting with the representative delegation of Zamindar Action Committee who called on him here on Saturday.

The leader of Zamindar Action Committee and former MPA Malik Naseer Shahwani led the delegation.

During the course of meeting, the zamindars apprised the Chief Minister about the issues being

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Opposition alliance demands apology from 'violators of Constitution'

LAHORE (INP): The opposition alliance, Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Aain-e-Pakistan (Constitution Protection Movement of Pakistan), has announced plans to initiate a nationwide campaign aimed at restoring the Constitution and demanding apologies from those who violate Pakistan's constitutional laws.

This decision was 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

Sanaullah Baloch, Asad Abbas Naqvi, and Syed Nasir Shirazi of Majlis-e-Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM).

Leaders of the opposition coalition denounced the ISPR's press conference of May 7, labeling it as unconstitutional and an abuse of authority.

They dismissed the establishment's call for an apology from PTI leadership as unfounded, asserting that those who violate the Constitution should apologise to the nation.

The gathering evaluated the current political landscape and ratified significant decisions pertaining to a nationwide movement.

It was agreed to pursue legal avenues for permission to hold public rallies in Karachi and Faisalabad, denouncing efforts by local authorities to impede these gatherings.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Capt (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

IMF asks Pakistan for swift reforms in energy sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged Islamabad for "strong cost-side 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 accumulation.

"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 monitoring," the IMF said.

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

The lender has also called Pakistan to end power subsidies given to industry sector in upcoming FY24-25 budget.



QUETTA: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem Rehman addresses during the public reception meeting held at Sabzazar of Metropolitan Corporation in Quetta.

Newly promoted Lt. generals assigned postings

Monitoring Desk
RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir approved new postings on Saturday of three recently promoted lieutenant generals.

Lt General Omar 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 transferred.

Lt General Inayat has been appointed Chief of Logistics Services at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

The current Director-General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lt General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, will continue at his current billet.

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: The 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 and sea.

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

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 process.

Speaking on the resolution, the Provincial Minister for Planning and De-

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BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and SAPM Tariq Fatmi, meeting with Mr. Zhao Chenxing 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.

A simple ceremony

Speaker & Dy. Speaker BA pays courtesy visit to Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: 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 Governor House on Saturday.

During the course of meetings, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Balochistan Assembly discussed 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.

Devastating floods Pak offers condolences to Afghanistan

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

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



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 Hajj.

He urged the intending pilgrims to remember

EC decides not to de-notify members against reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has decided not to de-notify the members against reserved seats.

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

The membership can



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Shoaib Noshwani, 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.

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

President, PM laud National Hockey Team's performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Japan 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 team, 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 them into goals.

Japan's player, Seren Tanaka, scored the first goal in the 12th minute, which 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 National Hockey Team in the final match of Azlan Shah 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, played in Malaysia.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Zul-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 (SBBPTC) located on Razzaqabad in Karachi. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon is also present.

Engineer Amir Chairs meeting on GB development, security

Muqam pledges swift development for Gilgit-Baltistan

GILGIT (APP): A high-level meeting was held in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) under the chairmanship of Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam to discuss development projects and the law and order situation in the region.

The meeting was attended by relevant senior officials, including Federal Secretary Jawad Rafique Malik, Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Abrar Ahmed Mirza, Inspector General Police Afzal Mahmood Butt, Additional Chief Secretary GB Captain @ Mushtaq Ahmed, MNA Muhammad Idris, and others.

During the meeting, the Additional Chief Secretary briefed about the development projects initiated by the federal government in GB, while the IGP briefed about the law and order situation in the region.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engr. Amir Muqam, vowed on Saturday to fast-track development projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, harness the region's mineral resources, and prioritize its progress.

Addressing the media alongside former Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Hafiz Hafeez-ur-Rehman, and Member National Assembly MNA from Kohistan, 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 Hanzel Hydropower Project to 40 MW as a significant step towards the region's progress.

Underlining the tourism 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 ongoing development projects.

Expressing concern over frequent flight cancellations causing inconvenience to the populace, he announced plans to request the Prime Minister for the deployment of C-130 aircraft. Initiatives are in progress to secure constitutional rights for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, including the appointment of judges to the Supreme Appellate Tribunals.

Traders involved in Pakistan-China trade will receive support and have their concerns addressed. He commended the people of Gilgit-Baltistan for not participating in the conspiracy to disrespect the martyrs on May 9, 2023, stating that such abhorrent acts could not be committed by true patriots.

He emphasized the nation's admiration for its armed forces and assured that those responsible for the events of May 9 would face consequences. Responding to a query, he affirmed his respect for all workers who recognize former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif as their leader, emphasizing unity among PML-N members.

Earlier, Engr. Amir Muqam, accompanied by Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Gulbar Khan, in a meeting, agreed on the importance of improving coordination between the Gilgit-Baltistan government and the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan.

In their meeting, they extensively deliberated on the security status in Gilgit-Baltistan, budgetary concerns, ongoing development initiatives, and the provision of wheat to the region.

ANF, FC (North) encounter hostile resistance during poppy elimination operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (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 Gulistan after clearing Poppy Crop, the force stopped by an angry mob at approximately 5 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 offence. Despite facing challenging weather conditions, the forces demonstrated exceptional courage and determination, ventured into far-flung 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 operations and provide our guests with maximum comfort during their stay here."

Pakistan's Religious 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 competition among various transportation companies "to provide a practical product in the upcoming years."

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 Nations.

In an exclusive interview with the media on Saturday, PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi expressed his appreciation for this gigantic move, emphasizing that it underscored the global community's unwavering support for the establishment of an independent 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, Turkey, Iran and other supportive countries.



QUETTA: 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

KARACHI (INP): Federal 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 Raja Kamran, Secretary Kashif Munir, Vice President Anjum 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.

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 construction contractor and the operation 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 as earn.

Central Asian Volleyball League kicks off

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Asian Volleyball League kicked off with six teams Iran, Turkmenistan, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, and hosts Pakistan featuring in the extravaganza, here at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Saturday.

The league was inaugurated 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 teams.

The first day of the 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 an exciting and closely contested event, with all teams vying for the top spot.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Rana Mashhood said the government has also announced plans to establish an endowment fund for sports and education, which will provide support to talented young athletes and help promote sports development in the country.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the government is committed to promoting sports in the country. Pakistan has reached the final of a major hockey event after 13 years, he said.

Rana Mashhood said the Prime Minister's Youth Program has identified 12 sports for promotion. Pakistan is a sports-loving country, and the promotion and development of sports is government's priority, he said. The Central Asian Volleyball League which would run till May 17 was expected to be a memorable one.



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

APNS expressed profound grief on sad demise of wife of Saati

KARACHI (PR): Ms. Nazafreen Saigol 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.

He has said in his tweet message these are unnecessary speculations that PTI founder intends to nominate him party chairman. My Quaid is not perceiving any such thing nor such matter has been discussed with him during meeting with him. Such rumors create misperceptions in such party leadership of which is imprisoned illegally and unjustly. PTI is active despite massive arrests, coercion, barbarity and violence.

Chairman Gohar is leading the party well. He is in parliament as well. I want to work for the people of Pakistan, he added.

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

BA adopts resolution...

Continued from page 1

development, 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 added.

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.

The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove assured that the stringent measures would be taken against illegal fishing in the province.

The Member of Provincial Assembly, Rehmat Saleh Baloch also condemned the illegal fishing from the Makran coast and sea.

He said that the doors of livelihood are being closed on the local fishermen through the illegal fishing.

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 the agricultural tube wells.

However, adding he assured that the federal government would be approached for financial assistance 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): SA 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 by 2-0, with Ahmed Fahim scoring the first goal in the 58th minute and Shaikh Dost scoring the second goal in the 90th minute.

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 Rates Tender Fee Rs.650/-and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Construction of WSS Goth Mouza Daba Muhammad Yousaf PSDP No.7790. I.v. Supply of Pipe	685,000

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 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 479,500 PKR Amount in subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure of Bid Security: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. 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, 2024 during 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

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PHE DIVISION JHAL MAGSI**

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator 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 Climate Vulnerability Index which is the priority of Pakistan to raise plight of most climate vulnerable states at the COP-20 forum. 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



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 selfless sacrifices, unconditional 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 their boundless love and com-

Kashmiris facing brutal repression for challenging Indian occupation: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), while strongly condemning the BJP-led Indian 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 occupation 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 political vendetta by 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 cherished goal.

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 possible 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 to the details, a citizen namely Gull Akbar, son of Dilbar Khan submitted an application at Noon 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 20 million rupees.

Upon receiving the request, the police team immediately registered a FIR of SSP Operations Malik Jamil Zafar and under the supervision of SP Industrial Area.

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 accused started firing directly at the police team 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 supervision 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 to check status of the housing schemes.



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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister Zartaj Gul has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) for removal of her name from Exit Control List (ECL) in connection with performance of Hajj by her.

IHC while issuing notice to interior secretary has sought reply from him.

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 counsel the petitioner Zartaj

CDA chief discuss urban development with Planning Wing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Saturday discussed organizational structure and key responsibilities in urban 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 release.

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 vision.

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.

Saudi Arabia prepares 4,000 kilometers of 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 re-aspalting 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 streams at 421 locations.

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 Hajj.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti has said that the BJP led Indian government is trying to revive Ikhwān 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 'Ikhwān' in IIOJK to muzzle people's voice in the territory. "They (government) have constituted sooted-booted ikhwān. They have formed political ikhwān 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.

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 attacked in Sanai Top. The



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



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

FDE under criticism over merit appointments of Principals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) is facing criticism over the out-of-turn 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 merit.

The teachers voiced 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 established 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 the principal of IMCB Maira Bhagwal overlooked several deserving candidates, including Javed Iqbal Shah, Dr. Waheedu Zaman,

Iranfanullah, Waseem Ahmed Shah, and Dr. Muhammad Ilyas.

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 that these irregularities not only undermine institutional efficiency but also impact student learning and exam performances.

Faisal Kundi prioritizes establishment of best ties between KP, Federation

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal 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 public.



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

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

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 Hajveri's shrine, offered Fateha and prayed for the stability and development 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 Muratza, Dawood Ahmed, Sardar Ali and others were also with him. A contingent of Rangers presented guard of honour to Punjab Governor at Mazar Iqbal. Speaking to the media on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that first of all he was thankful to Allah Almighty for giving him the opportunity to serve the people as Governor of Punjab. He said that he was a proud political worker and he reached this position by continuous 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 also play the role of a bridge between the Muslim League (N) and the

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) are responsible and patriotic and want stability in the country.

Azma rejects rumours about hike in naan price

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said on Saturday that price of 'naan' had not been increased across the province and it was being sold for Rs 20 per naan. In a statement issued here, she said that any rumours regarding increase in rate of naan were baseless. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz fixed new price of roti at Rs 15 on Friday and the new rate has been implemented from 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 items would also reduce.

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 prosecution case. Judge Arshid Javed of ATC Lahore heard Model Town prosecution case Saturday. Burhan Moazzam Malik counsel for the accused appeared in the court. During the hearing of the case statements of 9 witnesses including Zulfikar But inspector, Ashraf sub inspector, Ikhtlaq Ahmad constable, Aqeel 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 Daira Deen Panah area. According to Rescue officials, the dilapidated roof of a house near the Daira Deen Panah area suddenly collapsed and two people were stranded under the debris. Rescue 1122 teams rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation and recovered a person in injured condition while another died.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Law Malik Sohaib Ahmed being briefed about Law department.

CM approves project to provide glasses, hearing aid to students

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif accorded approval to the project for providing glasses and hearing aids to 700,000 students. Students in schools across Punjab will be subjected to medical check up of their eyesight and hearing abilities. Students having weak eyesight and weak hearing abilities will be provided with spectacles and hearing aids. The screening process in the government and private schools across Punjab will be launched soon. A famous institution, ATscale, will provide Rs. 500 million financial assistance in this regard. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Saturday met an ATscale delegation in which matters pertaining to Internet services in schools and other affairs were 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 concerned was emphasized. It was agreed to undertake steps for the enhancement of school teachers capacity building. 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 adopting the traditional manner. A positive change is only possible by invoking a new thinking in 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 reserved 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 Mariyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat, MPA Nausheen Adnan and others were also present.

13 dead, 1516 injured in 1423 road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (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 Pro-Chancellor in four universities 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 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. During the discussion, Murad Shah directed Prof. 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 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.



MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with the different delegations at Circuit House.

Brazilian, Portuguese envoys attend cultural dialogue at Alhamra

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Arts Council 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, Executive Director Alhamra Sarah Rashid, and other representatives. During the meeting, discussions focused on various aspects of history, art, and heritage preservation and promotion in their respective countries. Both sides emphasised the need to explore more opportunities for mutual development through bilateral cooperation. Separate sessions were held on this vital subject. The meeting at Alhamra also included discussions on the UNESCO-designated



KARACHI: Chief Guest Asif Sumsum, Chairman 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 a local hotel.

Police officers asked to improve law & order situation

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana stressed for establishment of law & order and crime 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 through intelligence-based operations, tightening the noose around mobile phone snatchers and motorcycle thieves for ensuring effective measures against dacoities, thefts, and robberies. Instructions were also given to all units of Lahore Police to enhance information sharing, maintain the best coordination, and utilize the Punjab Safe Cities Authority's network for crime prevention. Bilal 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 that 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 (Operations) Faisal Kamran, SSP (Admin) Atif Nazir, SSP (Operations)



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

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Archives and Libraries Meena Khan Afridi on Saturday reaffirmed that the provincial government was prioritizing higher education in the province. He said the government aimed to integrate cyber security and artificial intelligence in 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, including BS, M.Phil and Ph.D. Afridi, alongside

University Vice Chancellor Shafiqur Rahman and MPA Malik Aqeel Iqbal, encouraged students to utilize their acquired skills for the advancement of their province and the country. He underscored the government's dedication to enhancing the higher education sector in line with the vision of the Chief Minister. Additionally, 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 at Haripur University would be promptly addressed through the provincial cabinet.



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

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz fulfilled another promise, as the e-ballooting 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-ballooting for giving e-bikes and petrol bikes under the CM's Youth Initiative programme. The minister conducted e-ballooting 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 participants said as she is

Wheat purchase target may be further increased: Rana

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain said that the target of wheat purchase may be further increased to ensure a fair price to the growers as the government is sincere about facilitating wheat growers at maximum extent.

Sharif had taken strict notice of unavailability of Bardana (gunny bags) to the growers despite clear instructions of the government to start a purchase drive.

He assured that each and every grain would be lifted and interest of the farmers would be fully safeguarded.

He said that Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation Limited (PASSCO) had been directed to adopt a comprehensive strategy to

purchase maximum wheat from the growers in a free, fair and transparent manner. In this connection, PASSCO has so far received 88,000 applications out of which 1500 applications were verified and the company started the procurement process, he added.

He said that PASSCO had established its procurement centers in 13 tehsils across Punjab where necessary facilities were provided for wheat growers and their apprehensions would be

removed.

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 food 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 easily.



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

BEIJING (APP): 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.

General 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 million in the same period last year.

Exports and local 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, too.

Currently, he said that Pakistan's supplies include cotton, cotton yarns, and Griega 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 Chinese market gives Pakistani exporters ample opportunities.

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 harvest.

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 administration to prevent smog.

Mega Agriculture Alumni Gathering to be 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 pm.

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 an integral part of the universities whose establishment is aimed at the welfare of the institution and 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 Peshawar and its graduates.

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

Alumni Association is an integral part of the universities whose establishment is aimed at the welfare of the institution and development and stability along with solving the problems faced by it.

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 imposed a fine of Rs. 197.7 million on them under the head of 4479,000 detection units.



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

Commissioner visits vegetable market to review arrangements

LAHORE (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 and vegetables, particularly watermelons and bananas. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Nabeel Ahmed Memon and Secretary of Agriculture Market Committee Shehzad Chisema 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 to the 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 the importance of 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 marketplace.

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

BEIJING (APP): With the strong support of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, Douyin Pakistan Merchandise Official Pavilion 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 E-commerce Alliance, Shanghai Silk Road Selection Alliance, and Shanghai Waigaoqiao Global

Hub, aiming to promote economic and cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan and bring more diversified commodity choices for consumers.

At the opening ceremony, guests from government departments, industry associations, enterprise representatives, and media reporters gathered together to witness this important moment.

The leaders of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce delivered an enthusiastic

speech, expressing warm congratulations on the opening of the Douyin Pakistan Pavilion and expressing hopes for its role in promoting trade and cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan in the future.

The establishment of Douyin Pakistan Pavilion is not only a simple opening of an e-commerce platform but also carries profound cultural significance and commercial value, Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhry, a Pakistani jeweler based in Shanghai, told APP.

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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 day.

Oil price deregulation can jeopardize national security: Hanif Mughal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, Dr. 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 issue.

In a statement issued 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 that the Prime Minister, Army Chief and Chief Justice should take notice of the situation; otherwise, it can go out of control.

By allowing the deregulation of oil prices, the people will become

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 Sarafa 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.

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.

bankrupt and the economy of Pakistan will be destroyed, he added.

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

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

According to the International Energy Agency, it was mandatory for every member country to stock at least 90 days of oil. The United States, China, and dozens of other countries have stored oil for several years, which can be brought to the market when needed.

PSGMEA delegation visits PCSUMEA

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

LESCO detects 79,021 power pilferers in 232 days

LAHORE (APP): Lahore 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 districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) in 232 days of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO 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 units worth Rs 3,451,486,351 to all the power pilferers.

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 jointly.

The LESCO 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 units worth Rs 3,451,486,351 to all the power pilferers.

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 night.

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 short-circuiting and suspension of electricity supply mostly in Faisalabad, Jhang, Sargodha, Toba Tek Singh and Chiniot.

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 chief vowed that the operations would continue



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.

More than 200 dead in Afghanistan flash floods: UN

Monitoring Desk
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 AFP.

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

Taliban government officials said 62 people had died as of Friday night.

Spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said "hundreds of our fellow citizens have succumbed to these calamitous floods" in a statement on X, formerly Twitter, on Saturday, without differentiating the numbers of dead and injured, though he told AFP that dozens had been killed.

Multiple provinces across Afghanistan saw flash flooding, with officials in northern Takhar province reporting 20 dead on Saturday.

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

The Foreign Office extended its condolence on behalf of the government and the nation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims, injured and the communities affected by this natural calamity and we pray for the early recovery of those missing."

"Pakistan stands in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan during this difficult time," the FO said.

Emergency personnel have been deployed to the affected areas and were rushing to rescue injured and stranded people, the defence ministry said.

Afghanistan — which had a relatively dry winter, making it more difficult for the soil to absorb rainfall — is highly vulnerable to climate change.

The nation, ravaged by four decades of war, is one of the poorest in the world and, according to scientists, one of the worst prepared to face the consequences of global warming.



Afghan men clear debris and mud from a damaged house following a flash flood in Baghlan province's Laqiha village.

Philippines sends ships to disputed atoll where China building 'artificial island'

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines said on Saturday it has deployed ships to a disputed area in the South China Sea, where it accused China of building "an artificial island" in an escalating maritime row.

The coast guard sent a ship "to monitor the supposed illegal activities of China, creating 'an artificial island'", the office of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said in a statement, adding two other vessels were in rotational deployment in the area.

Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Commodore 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 Chinese embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Philippine assertions, which could deepen the bilateral rift.

The Philippine national security adviser called on Friday for expelling Chinese diplomats over an alleged leak of a phone conversation with a Filipino admiral about the maritime dispute. Beijing and Manila have been embroiled for a year in heated stand-offs over their competing claims in the South China Sea, where \$3 trillion worth of trade passes annually.

China claims almost 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 international law.

Australia says Palestinian UN membership bid builds peace momentum

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said on Saturday the country's support for a Palestinian bid to become a full United Nations member was part of building momentum to secure peace in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Australia voted on Friday with the overwhelming majority of the U.N. General Assembly in backing the resolution that would effectively recognise a Palestinian state. It recommended the Security Council "reconsider the 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. "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, 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 occupied West Bank that the U.N. considers illegal.



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.



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 government 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, although relations appear to have become frayed.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al 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," he said in an Arabic post.

North Korea leader Kim Jong Un inspects artillery weapon system

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea 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-firing 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 strengthening the country's military's."



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 Delhi, India.

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 guilty in the ruling regime".

This was a "complete 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 the expense of other.

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 response.

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.

Russia takes five villages in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, defence ministry says

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia said on Saturday that its forces had taken five border villages in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, where Russia launched an offensive on Friday, exploiting its increasing advantage on the battlefields of eastern Ukraine.

In its briefing on Saturday, the Defence Ministry said that Russian forces had taken the villages of Pletnivka, Ohirtseve, Boryshivka, Pyna 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 has made slow but steady advances since seizing the longtime Ukrainian stronghold of Avdiivka in February. Ukrainian officials said on Friday that Russia had launched a new cross-border offensive against Kharkiv region, which is centred around Kharkiv city, Ukraine's second largest.

Russia kept up its attacks in the Kharkiv region on Saturday and was trying to advance further, Kharkiv Governor Oleh Synchubov said. Russian forces first attacked Kharkiv region in Feb. 2022, but were routed from most of the province 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 secure Russian territory from Ukrainian strikes was to create a buffer zone that would place Moscow's territory out of range of Kyiv's forces.

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

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 Friday.

In the ongoing case brought by South Africa, 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 legal arm of Hamas".

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 Palestinians in Gaza.

South Africa asked the court to order that Israel 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 enter.

"Those who have survived so far are facing imminent death now, and an order from the Court is needed to ensure their survival," South Africa's filing said.

US report criticises Israel but does not block arms

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A long-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 \$3.5 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.

The State Department finally submitted its report two days after President Joe Biden publicly threatened to withhold certain bombs and artillery shells 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 country on Oct 7 - made assurances to the United States and "identified a number of processes for ensuring compliance that are embedded at all levels of their military decision-making".

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 "prove-you'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 AI existential safety.

"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 said.

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", where building alliances is key.

Cicero excelled with scores that would have placed it in the top 10 percent of experienced human players, according to a 2022 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.

Brazilian athletes drop Olympic dreams to help flood victims

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: 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 Evaldo Becker and Pedro 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azerbaijan, Minister for 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 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

very integrated to climate. He underlined that to hear the voices of vulnerable countries was 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 biennial transparency reports to the UNFCCC.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz 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 mining.

said, "Pakistan and the United Kingdom enjoy long-standing relations that are further strengthening with the passage of time." He also emphasized the government's commitment to improving governance structures and introducing institutional reforms.



ISLAMABAD (Online): Government has contradicted media reports about postponement of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman visit to Pakistan.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Government has contradicted 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.

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 national hockey team remained unbeatable till final of the event.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam talking to media along with Azri Minister & President COP29 Mukhtar Babayev at F9 Park.



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 Buat about the Law & Order Situation.

Presidential immunity granted to Zardari in Park lane, Toshakhana reference

ISLAMABAD (Online): Presidential immunity has been granted to president Asif Ali Zardari in Park Lane, Toshakhana reference. The Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has stopped proceedings against President Asif Ali Zardari. Judge Nasir Javed Rana of AC Islamabad has issued written decision of petitions of President Asif Ali Zardari to seek presidential exemption in NAB cases.

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.

PTI serves show cause notice to Sher Afzal

ISLAMABAD (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 reply from Sher Afzal Marwat within 3 days.

KP governor tells KP CM If you see to governor house I will drag you on roads

PESHAWAR (Online): 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.



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 Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has taken serious notice of the one 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

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 Assembly.

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 signed a cooperation agreement 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 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.

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

MUZAFFARABAD (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

Brutal killing of seven labourers echoed in Balochistan Assembly; Ministers & MPA strongly condemn incident

Independent Report 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 Saturday. The Provincial Ministers Mir Zahoore 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 Zahoore

DC Humaira vows to work tirelessly to address health care challenges

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Humaira Baloch on Saturday vowed to work tirelessly to address the healthcare challenges. The incumbent government is committed to prioritizing the improvement of our health sector in Balochistan. Every individual deserves access to quality healthcare, and it is our responsibility to ensure that no one should be left behind, she said during his visit to the District Headquarters Hospital Uthal. Reiterating government resolve, she stressed, "We will work tirelessly to address the challenges facing our healthcare system, including inadequate infrastructure, limited resources, and gaps in service delivery. Through strategic planning, collaboration with stakeholders, and the allocation of necessary resources, we will strive to enhance healthcare facilities."

Yusuf Gilani vows to uphold supremacy of law, constitution & sanctity of institutions

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 Association 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. Syed 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 Global Neighbourhood for Media Innovation (GNMI), in collaboration with the United States Department of State, organized a three-day training on Sabz Journalism Environmental Journalism in Quetta on Saturday. Led by senior environmental journalist Afia Salam, the training aimed to empower mid-level journalists, digital content producers and filmmakers actively engaged in climate-related reporting across various media platforms. Addressing the participants, Director of GNMI Husnain Raza said that environmental journalism



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers and MPAs meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Saifraz Bugti.