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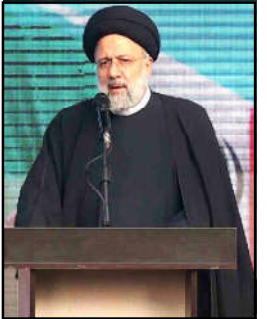
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## Helicopter carrying Iran's President Raisi crashes, search underway

Lives of President Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian "at risk; Harsh weather conditions and heavy fog have made it difficult for rescue teams to reach accident site, says state TV; Iranians urged to pray.



### President, PM concerned over Iranian President's helicopter incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that he heard the distressing news from Iran regarding Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's helicopter and waiting with great anxiety for good news that all is well.

In a post on X handle, he said our prayers and best wishes are with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the entire Iranian nation.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari has said that he is deeply concerned to hear news about the helicopter incident carrying the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Iranian Foreign Minister and others.

In a post on X handle, he expressed heartfelt prayers and good wishes for the wellbeing and safety of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi so that he may continue to serve the Iranian nation.

TEHRAN (AFP/APP): A helicopter carrying Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was involved in "an accident" in poor weather conditions on Sunday, state media reported, with a search underway and no news yet on his condition.

"An accident happened to the helicopter carrying the president" in the Jofa region of the western province of East

Azerbaijan, state television said.

Search and rescue team were headed to the remote mountain area, state media

in the Islamic republic reported, adding that Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian was also

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### Turkish FM Hakan Fidan arrives on official visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan arrived here Sunday on a two-day official visit to Pakistan.

He was received by Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Ahmed Naseem Warraich.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan will call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and hold extensive discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, a Foreign Office statement said.

The two sides will review the state of bilateral relations and assess preparations for upcoming high-level engagements between the two countries.

### Dummar emphasizes to enhance capacity of Levies Force, developed it on modern lines

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar on Sunday said that the government would take measures to enhance the capacity of Levies Force and developed it on modern lines keeping in view the present day requirements.

He stressed that efforts are needed to restructure the Levies Force, so that it can meet the security challenges of the modern day, said a news release received here.

The Levies Force would be equipped with modern arms, ammunition and vehicles on an emergency basis, he expressed these views while addressing the Levies Darbar held in Sanjawi.



LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Maqam addressing a press conference.

## Another 175 Pakistani students return home from Bishkek Deputy PM assures support for victims of Bishkek incident

Ishaq Dar says Kyrgyz FM has assured him that no deaths have been occurred and the situation is peaceful

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar expressed his regret over the unfortunate incident in Bishkek, emphasizing that the government stands firmly with the victims during this challenging time.

At a press conference held on Sunday, alongside Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Ameer Muqam, Dar reassured that medical treatment for injured Pakistani students is a top priority. He confirmed that all students are safe and stated that the incident stemmed

from a misunderstanding, with false information being circulated on social media for political purposes.

"The Bishkek incident was due to a misunderstanding, and various nationalities including Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, and Arab students were affected. False reports are being spread on social media, which is disgusting," said Dar.

He clarified that misleading information, such as mislabeling a Bangladeshi student's picture as Pakistani, is being propagated. He dismissed claims of assault against a female student as unfounded, citing confirmation from the

Kyrgyz government.

He highlighted the immediate response by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stating, "An emergency unit was activated right after the incident. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the entire government machinery are closely monitoring the situation." He mentioned that despite the Kyrgyz ambassador being on leave, his deputy provided detailed information on Saturday, ensuring full communication between the governments.

The Deputy Prime Minister

Continued on page 2

### Yousuf Raza Gilani receives threats

MULTAN (INP): Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani received a threatening message on his mobile phone from an unknown person.

According to sources, the threatening message is related to his son MNA Ali Musa Gilani.

It was stated in the message that Musa patronize the notorious gangs in the area.

A case has been registered with the cantonment police station against some unknown suspects on the complaint of Gilani.

The mobile phone number was later traced from Khanawal.

### BA session to resume today

QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to resume after two days break at 11:00 AM today (Monday) at the Assembly Hall located on Zarghoon road, Quetta.

The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai is due to chair the session of assembly.

According to agenda of the session, four resolutions would be tabled in the today's sitting.

## Australian defence chief visits GHQ Pakistan, Australia agree to expand military-to-military cooperation

General Angus J. Campbell expresses his admiration for high professional standards maintained by the Pakistan Armed Forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Defence Forces Australia General Angus J. Campbell called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Pakistan, the military's media wing said on Sunday.

In a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the discussions between the two military leaders focused on the global and regional security environment, as well as avenues for enhanced cooperation.

Both generals stressed their mutual commitment to expanding military-to-military cooperation, reflecting the deepening strategic partnership between Australia and Pakistan, the statement added.

General Campbell expressed his profound admiration for the high professional standards of the Pakistan Armed Forces. He lauded their remarkable achievements in combating terrorism and acknowledged their ongoing efforts to foster regional peace and stability.

The ISPR added that the meeting concluded with both leaders reaffirming their dedication to continuing collaboration on various defence-related initiatives, aiming to bolster peace and security in the region.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces Australia General Angus J. Campbell meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir

## Tarar says Bishkek situation normal; political party misrepresenting incident

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar has said that a political party is misrepresenting the Kyrgyzstan incident. He said that the situation in Bishkek has returned to normal, and those spreading fake images of casualties should fear Allah.

Addressing a joint press conference along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Ameer Muqam here on Sunday, he said that no Pakistani student had died in Bishkek; the incident was misreported, and any condemnation was insufficient.

The Federal Minister of Information stated that when a clash had occurred between two student groups in Bishkek, Pakistani students got caught up in the conflict, although they were not the target. He mentioned that when the incident had occurred, the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Office immediately took action, and the government promptly activated an emergency response cell at the Foreign Ministry. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister have been continuously monitoring the situation moment by moment for the past two days.



MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMA: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain meeting with CEO Rehlat Manafee Company Ahmed Abdullatef Tammar during his visit.

## No compromise on provision of best quality facilities to Pakistani pilgrims: Salik

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain Sunday assured that no compromise will be made on provision of best possible facilities of food, accommodation, cleanliness, transport and healthcare to Pakistani pilgrims during this year's Hajj.

"This year's Hajj would be exemplary for Pakistani pilgrims, offering facilities that were not available in the past", he said in an interview with PTV news channel.

He mentioned that accommodations, meals, and transportation, along with all basic necessities, had been standardized.

Minister said that the strict monitoring system would also be adopted and effective round the clock.

"Apart from the food flavor, food cleanliness and safety are also essential to

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Auditor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ajmal Gondal meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## PM stresses injured students should be brought back to Pakistan on priority

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday contacted Ambassador of Pakistan in the Kyrgyz Republic Hassan Ali Zaigham and directed him for making necessary arrangements for a special flight being sent to Bishkek this evening to bring back Pakistani students. At the instructions of the prime minister, the government of Pakistan will bear all the expenses of the special plane. The prime minister directed for keeping continuous contacts with all the students and their families, emphasizing that the return



Foreign Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan arrives in Islamabad. He was received by Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Ahmed Naseem Warraich at Nur Khan Airbase.

## Special desk established at CM Secretariat to assist student stranded in Kyrgyzstan

Independent Report

QUETTA. On the instructions of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, the Balochistan government has set up a special desk at the Chief Minister's Secretariat to assist students stranded in Kyrgyzstan.

The Balochistan government has taken this step to facilitate communication and assistance for students and their parents.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti said that there is concern about the students stranded in Kyrgyzstan and efforts are being made to reach them through the Foreign Ministry and the Kyrgyzstan Embassy.

The government will provide all possible assistance to the students and their parents. A coordination desk has been set up at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, which will remain active until the situation normalizes.

The contact numbers for the desk are 0092-333-7925600, 0092-315-8866926, and landline numbers 0092-81-9202061, 0092-81-9202069, 0092-81-9201090. Students from Balochistan and their parents can contact the coordination desk for assistance.



QUETTA: President Quetta Press Club Abdul Khaliq Rind and President BUJ Khalil Ahmed addressing a joint Press conference

## QPC, BUJ decide to launch countrywide protest movement against talabandi of Press Club

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Quetta Press Club (QPC) and Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) have decided to launch countrywide protest movement against the talabandi (lockdown) of the Press Club.

In first phase of the protest, walkout would be observed by the journalists from the session of provincial assembly besides lodging protest outside the assembly today (Monday).

4-point demands would be presented to the provincial government.

In case of non-implementation on the demands, the countrywide protest would be started from May 21 observing it as black day.

Then protest demonstrations would be held at all

press clubs all over the country on call of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ).

The black flags would be hoisted outside press clubs of the country and the journalists community of country would record protest against the provincial government.

These decisions were made in a joint meeting of QPC and BUJ jointly chaired by the President of QPC Abdul Khaliq Rind and President BUJ Khalil Ahmed here at the Press Club on Sunday.

The participants expressed deep concern over the raid conducted by administration and police at Press Club and locking it down.

The participants also expressed deep anguish on the lukewarm attitude of the provincial government and restrictions on the media.





## CWAs to boost overseas employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) has given the task to the Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) stationed abroad to strategically enhance job opportunities for Pakistanis in the international market.

An official source told APP, that currently, there were 21 CWAs posted abroad by the Government of Pakistan.

The main aim of this task was to evaluate and improve the progress of CWAs in identifying and exploring targeted demand for employment prospects for Pakistani nationals through engagements with foreign employers.

This involved the formulation, signing, and execution of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and agreements with foreign companies, critical in amplifying the export of Pakistani manpower.

It has emphasized the crucial need for close collaboration between CWAs and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, particularly in sharing information related to employment demands abroad and the necessary skills required for those jobs. This step will facilitate the de-

sign of training programs specifically tailored to the skills demanded by foreign companies, ensuring that Pakistani workers are well-equipped and aligned with global standards.

While underscoring the significance of this initiative, the official source highlighted its dual impact, not only in enhancing employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad but also in contributing to the economic growth of the nation.

Furthermore, he stressed the essential role of CWAs in catering to the needs and resolving issues faced by overseas Pakistanis during their stay

abroad.

This comprehensive approach is designed to ensure the well-being and seamless integration of Pakistani expatriates in their respective host countries.

The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development reiterates its commitment to spearheading initiatives that fortify global employment prospects for Pakistanis.

This strategic meeting signifies a significant stride towards realizing this vision and underscores the Ministry's dedication to the welfare and prosperity of overseas Pakistanis.



ISLAMABAD: Protesters demand release of poet "Ahmad Farhad" during a demonstration in front of National Press Club in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Senior Kashmiri-American leader Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Abdul Rashid Turabi, Former speaker AJK Legislative Assembly Shah Ghulam Qadir, and others sits on stage during a reception ceremony in honor of Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai at National Press Club.

## Capital's school children participate in YourPace Kid's trail Pakistan race

ISLAMABAD (APP): The passionate school children of the federal capital early in the morning on Sunday actively participated in the inDrive and Margalla Trail Runners (MTR) hosted YourPace Kid's Trail Pakistan Race Event, a pioneering initiative aimed at promoting a running culture among children in the country.

The project's race, held at Fatima Jinnah F-9 Park, saw an impressive turnout of around 400 enthusiastic young runners aged 7-14, from diverse backgrounds along with their teachers and supporters.

YourPace by inDrive is a non-profit project dedicated to supporting running initiatives to bring together people from diverse backgrounds, helping create a discrimination-free environment for everyone.

YourPace, a global initiative successfully conducted in six countries including Egypt, Morocco, Peru,

## Balanced diet boosts brain health; study

ISLAMABAD (APP): Researchers found that individuals who followed a balanced diet tended to exhibit better mental health and cognitive functioning.

A recent study published in Nature Mental Health, examined how various dietary patterns influence several aspects of brain health, including mental health, cognitive function, metabolic biomarkers, and brain structure, as measured using MRI.

This study underscores the importance of making wise nutritional choices to enhance brain function and mental health outcomes.

Research suggests that diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and healthy fats can support cognitive function and reduce the risk of cognitive decline.

Conversely, diets high in processed foods, saturated fats,

## APSUP strongly condemns recent attacks on Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) Sunday strongly condemned the recent attacks on Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan.

"These reprehensible acts of violence against innocent Pakistani students studying abroad are deeply concerning and utterly unacceptable," the association said in a statement issued here.

"Education is a fundamental right and a beacon of hope for many young individuals striving to build a better future for themselves and their families. Such violent incidents undermine this principle and create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among international students," APSUP remarked.

"We urge the Kyrgyz authorities to take immediate and decisive action to ensure the safety and security of all Pakistani students in their country" adding that it is imperative that the perpetrators of these heinous

## 2 bike lifters netted, five motorbikes seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police Anti Robbery and Dacoity Unit (ARDU) team arrested two wanted members of a bike lifter gang involved in numerous bike lifting activities, and recovered five stolen motorbikes from their possession.

A police public relations officer on Sunday told APP that following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police has started "Nasha ab Nahe" movement and intensified crackdown against the criminal elements and drugs peddlers in order to eliminate the crime and drug menace from the city.

Following these directions, the ARDU police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members of a bike lifter gang. The accused were identified as Taimoor Ahmed and Zahid Khan.

The police team also recovered five stolen motorbikes from their possession.



ISLAMABAD: Families enjoying on holiday at Shahdara picnic point in the Federal Capital.

## IRCRA launches 'Azadi Fellowship Program' to promote religious freedom

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) has announced the launch of the Azadi Fellowship Program, hosted at the Islamic Research Institute (IRI) of the International Islamic University in Islamabad (IIUI).

The highly anticipated program commenced on May 17 and will run until May 25, 2024, spanning a total of nine days.

Speaking to the media, IRCRA President Muhammad Israr Madani explained that the Azadi Fellowship Program is de-

signed to engage over 20 community youth and faith leaders, university and madrasa graduates, teachers, writers, and scholars from across the nation.

This year, he said the fellowship will focus on enhancing participants' understanding of religious freedom, democracy, and civic engagement. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to implement seed projects in their respective communities, fostering real-world impact, he added.

Israr stated that

IRCRA has partnered with the Muslim Council of Elders, Paigham-e-Pakistan, KPCVE, and IRI-IIUI for this initiative.

He mentioned that the program will feature a series of sessions led by esteemed national and international speakers and experts, providing a dynamic and enriching learning environment adding that participants will benefit from a unique blend of theoretical knowledge and practical skills aimed at fostering leadership and community engagement.

## Hot and dry weather likely in most parts of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most parts of the country during the next 24 hours.

Very hot weather with windstorm-dust raising winds is likely in central and southern parts.

However, partly cloudy weather with rain/windstorm/thunderstorm is expected at isolated places

in upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir.

According to the synoptic situation, a shallow westerly wave was present over upper parts of the country and may persist during next 24 hours.

During the last 24 hours, hot and dry weather prevailed in most parts of the country while very hot in southern/central parts.

## Tourists throng Kaghan-Naran after road's reopening

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign and domestic tourists are thronging to Kaghan-Naran after the reopening of the road to enjoy their trips at recreational spots of the scenic valley. Talking to APP, a Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) official said the Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) has reopened the Kaghan Highway for all kinds of commuters.



ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted roads of Federal Capital due to intense heat.

## ICCI organizes freelancing, digital media training session

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Sunday organized a freelancing and digital media training session for Islamabad Youth Assembly and students of different universities of Islamabad for imparting training about the freelancing.

IT specialist Fahad Malik guided the participants of training program about the development of the IT skills as well as the techniques to earn money through online careers and underlined the need for getting complete command over the skills for online jobs, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said the ICCI has organized various training programs, seminars, conferences and workshops for enhancing skills in different fields and sectors.

He said that the it was also taking steps to promote entrepreneurship culture and takes initiatives for youth entrepreneurship development and economic empowerment of women adding that the youth must be aware of the fact that hard work prerequisites for the success.

Clinical Psychologist and Convener Rising Generation Empowerment Committee ICCI Fatima Hassan emphasized that digital skills are need of the hour not only for individual prosperity but for country's development.

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## Student volunteers of Iqra University visits Security Division

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the student volunteers of Iqra University visited Security Division Islamabad and met with SSP Security, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the SSP Security Capt @ Syed Zeeshan Haider welcomed the delegation of student volunteers of Iqra University and briefed them about security division police work.

The student delegation visited the Security division under the Friends of

Later, the delegation also visited the CCTV control room, police mess, stable, and diplomatic enclave. Moreover, delegation was fully informed about their procedure and usefulness, patrolling of police in High Security Zone and the performance and utility of the police that are playing an important role in the security of the High Security Zone, security of VVIP/VIP foreign dignitaries, national VIPs, important buildings situated in High Security Zone and protection of life and property of citizens.

The delegation acknowledged the security measurements taken by Islamabad Police to ensure



Police Program. The SSP Security fully briefed the delegation about the procedures and advantages of the Security division.

the protection of the diplomatic enclave. The delegation expressed special gratitude to IGP Islamabad and his team for this successful visit.

## Beyond theology: Seminars should embrace practical skills for holistic students development

ISLAMABAD (APP): There is a dire need to produce skill development in seminary students in a bid to integrate them into the mainstream fabric of society.

Embracing the ethos of empowerment and civic responsibility, this initiative can equip students with practical skills, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the economy while fostering a sense of responsibility as citizens.

Traditionally, seminaries have served as centres of religious education, focusing primarily on theological studies and spiritual

development. However, recognizing the evolving needs of society and the aspirations of their students, the seminaries should embark on a journey to broaden their educational offerings.

Expressing his views with APP, a non-profitable organization - Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) Chairman, Muhammad Bilal Sethi said the seminaries should introduce a diverse array of skill development programmes tailored to the interests and aptitudes of their students. These programmes should encompass a wide spectrum of disciplines.



ISLAMABAD: A young man climbing a mountain in the area of Shahdara in the Federal Capital.

## Irony of fate: Education faces climate challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Education is widely acknowledged as a crucial weapon in combating climate change and to empower the next generations to tackle environmental challenges head-on. However, the irony of fate is that this narrative faces a harsh reality: the education sector itself is increasingly compromised by the impacts of climate change. This is particularly true in nations like Pakistan, where environmental challenges intersect with educational imperatives, creating a complex and pressing dilemma.

Extreme weather events in Pakistan disrupt school schedules, leading to closures and hindering students' learning. For instance, dense fog during winter and scorching heat in summer affect the entire educational system. The recent adjustment of school schedules by the education ministry in the federal capital

serves as a testament to the unpredictable climate patterns the school children face. Last year, cities like Lahore, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi experienced school closures due to dense fog, impacting educational continuity. Moreover, smog-related shutdowns occurred in Punjab, contributing to respiratory issues and eye infections among students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. Rising temperatures also pose health risks, with students vulnerable to heat-related illnesses and dehydration.

In a statement to APP, Muhammad Saleem, Media Spokesperson for the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, highlighted the escalating intensity and frequency of heatwaves in Pakistan's plains. Recent weather records underscore the severity of this trend, with Pakistan experiencing some of the world's high-

est temperatures in recent years. The IPCC's 2021 findings projected Pakistan to endure more frequent and intense heatwaves. For instance, Jacobabad recorded temperatures exceeding 50°C in June 2021 and May 2022. Such extreme heat poses significant health risks, including heatstroke and dehydration.

Saleem emphasized a collaborative approach involving federal, provincial, and district-level departments to mitigate heatwave impacts. Measures include issuing early warnings, developing SOPs, and establishing cooling centers equipped with water and ventilation systems. Additionally, initiatives such as heat-health awareness campaigns, tree plantations, and promoting reflective materials aim to mitigate heat stress.

Saleem stressed the importance of public awareness, especially in educational institutions and

through media channels, to minimize heatwave-related risks effectively.

He also underscored Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's dedication to enhancing Pakistan's environmental sustainability across various sectors. The prime minister, he said, has instructed his team to exhaust all avenues in addressing environmental degradation and strengthening the nation's ability to withstand the detrimental effects of climate issues. Saleem also highlighted his ministry's efforts to bolster climate resilience, aiming to mitigate the impacts of floods and heatwaves, safeguarding lives and infrastructure across the country. Nasreen Shah, a senior educationist at a government institution talking to this scribe, highlighted the impact of climate change on children's education. She said that the extreme weather conditions can disrupt schooling by making

students uncomfortable and unable to focus, especially on hot days when inadequate clothing and crowded classrooms contribute to discomfort and difficulty breathing.

Additionally, crowded buses during hot summers increase the risk of heat-related illnesses among children. Nasreen emphasized the importance of ensuring school safety and continuous learning regardless of weather conditions, suggesting the need for strategies to prioritize students' health and well-being above all else.

Dr. Gulam Fareed, a family physician, highlighted symptoms of heat-related illnesses such as high body temperature, rapid pulse, headache, and dizziness. He advised immediate action if a child experiences these symptoms, recommending moving them indoors or to a shaded area and applying cool water or wet towels to the skin.



## CM Sindh reviews progress on 7 mega projects in province

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday paid visit to seven different under-construction projects, reviewed its progress and removed bottlenecks causing delays in the completion of Malir Expressway and Karimabad Underpass.

The CM expressed his displeasure over the shifting of K-Electric and Sui Gas Company's installations, which have caused a delay in the completion of the Malir Expressway.

He suspended SHO Korangi for his failure to stop dumping debris and garbage along Korangi Causeway and directed SSP Korangi to personally monitor the area where

different projects Malir Expressway, New Jam Sadiq Bridge and Korangi Causeway Bridge were being constructed.

The CM was accompanied by provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Syed Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab. Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, Project Director Malir Expressway Niaz Soomro, PD Mega Projects Tariq Mughal and Engineer Khalid Masroor briefed the chief minister during his visit to different projects.

The CM was told that the Malir Expressway

project was 38.661 km starting from Jam Sadiq Bridge to Kathore at M9 was started on May 12, 2022 and its completion period was 26 months. It is a three-plus three (six-lane) project and would have six interchanges.

To a question, Niaz Soomro told the CM that the progress of Malir expressway segment-I from Korangi to Quaidabad has 70 per cent physical progress while segment-II from Quaidabad to Kathore has 30 per cent. The CM expressed his displeasure when he was told that the completion of Segment-I had been delayed by three months due to the shifting of utilities by K-Electric and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah being briefed about the progress of the under construction Malir Expressway Korangi to Quaidabad Segment during his inspection visit, in Karachi.

## Ashrafi urges pilgrims to avoid political activities during Hajj

LAHORE (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, has emphasized that Pakistani pilgrims should refrain from participating in any political activity during their pilgrimage.

Addressing a press conference at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islamia Cantonment on Sunday, Ashrafi condemned the spread of fake news on social media for political gains, particularly regarding the recent Kyrgyzstan incident. He highlighted that thousands of Pakistanis have left for Hajj, with over 80,000 joining private groups and around 70,000 in official groups. He praised the Makkah program, which assists pilgrims with necessary supplies, and expressed gratitude to

Saudi Arabia for facilitating this program.

He also mentioned that private groups, in collaboration with the Ministry of Religious Affairs, are committed to addressing any complaints from pilgrims in Makkah promptly. The "Road to Makkah" initiative has ensured the efficient delivery of goods for millions of pilgrims, he added.

Ashrafi urged Pakistani pilgrims to adhere to Saudi regulations and stressed that performing Hajj without proper permission on a visit visa is not permissible. He noted that countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with the support of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Hafiz Asim Munir, are investing in Pakistan.



GILGIT: Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah meeting with the Special Persons of Gilgit-Baltistan at Governor House.

## Higher education has key role in the development of the country: Saleem

Reviews progress on Arid Agriculture University Attock campus

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chancellor/Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan presided over an important meeting about Attock Campus of Pir Meher Ali Shah Aird Agriculture University Rawalpindi at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, Governor Punjab reviewed the progress on the project of Attock Campus of Pir Meher Ali Shah Aird Agriculture University.

Governor Punjab directed to complete the Attock campus at the earliest. He said that

Attock Campus project should be operational in the shortest possible time to provide the facility of higher education to the residents of Attock and suburban areas.

He said that higher education has a key role in the development of the country. Governor Punjab said that it is very important to provide higher education facilities in remote areas. It was also decided in the meeting that a committee comprising the officers of the Department of Agriculture will be formed. The

committee members will visit the site and submit a report within ten days to ensure the earliest completion of the Attock campus. In the meeting, Pro Vice-Chancellor Pir Meher Ali Shah Aird Agriculture University Rawalpindi Dr. Muhammad Naem, Special Secretary Agriculture Department Dr. Shahanshah Faisal Azeem, Additional Secretary Agriculture Captain Waqas, Principal Secretary to Governor Captain (retd) Saqib Zafar, Special Secretary



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi addressing public gathering at Dargai during his visit to Malakand.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Wada Mitsuhiro meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

## Ready to play bridge role between KP and federation: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that he is ready to play the role of bridge between the federation and the provincial government.

Governor Kundi stressed the importance of addressing issues with reason rather than resorting to indecorous behavior.

He said this while addressing a public gathering in Malakand.

"I extend an invitation once again to the Chief Minister KP to visit the Governor House, and I am willing to visit the Chief Minister's House if there is any problem in visiting the Governor House," said Governor Kundi, highlighting his commitment to collaboration for the

province's welfare.

Expressing readiness to meet the Chief Minister at any time for the province's rights, Governor Kundi expressed his intent to pursue the province's case at the appropriate forum.

"I invite the provincial government and all political parties to join hands with me in struggle for the province's cause," Governor Kundi urged, underlining the Governor House's role as the home for all political factions.

Governor Kundi assured that political rivalries should be settled through elections, emphasizing the need for effective governance.

"We will not impose Governor's Rule; Peoples Party believes in democracy," Governor

Kundi asserted, outlining his party's stance.

Regarding the electricity issue, Governor Kundi advised the federal government to transfer all three power companies to the province, holding the provincial government responsible for its management and outcomes.

"The issue of tax exemption was a gift from Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. I will raise the matter of tax enforcement with the federal government," Governor Kundi added, acknowledging the concerns of the Malakand division's residents and emphasizing the need for permanent solutions rather than repeated protests.

"I am a people's Governor, ready to go to every street. I don't want to cause anyone distress."



SIALKOT: Provincial Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique seen off indigent pilgrims during first flight of Hajj Operation at Sialkot Airport.

## PDF, TiKA pledge to boost humanitarian activities in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) and Turkiye's aid organization TiKA held talks for enhancing humanitarian activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The PDF was represented by its Chairman Muhammad Bilal Sethi, Patron-in-Chief Dr Qibla Ayaz and Executive Member Khurshid Khan, while the TiKa team comprised Turkiye Ambassador Dr Mehmet Pekachi and its Country Director Muhsin BALCI. The meeting focused on kick-starting projects to uplift the socio-economic status of the KP people.

Highlighting the economic challenges faced by the Pakistani youth, the PDF chairman underscored the need of creating job opportunities and empowering young individuals. He pledged for the TiKa's support in organizing skill-based training programmes, ranging from culinary arts to digital marketing, with the aim to foster entrepreneurship among the youth.

Muhsin BALCI provided a comprehensive overview of the TiKa's ongoing projects, emphasizing their commitment to empowering the local communities.

## FIA operations against illegal currency business continue in Swabi, Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): The FIA crackdown operations continued against Hawala, Hundi and illegal currency exchange in Swabi and Peshawar here on Sunday.

Major Operations of Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar in its operations have arrested 5 suspects in raid operations, FIA spokesman said. The alleged accused was arrested from Din Trade Center and Sadar area of Peshawar and Lower Dir, FIA spokesman informed.

The alleged accused were found to be involved in Hawala hundi and illegal currency exchange and the accused were doing currency exchange business without license, FIA spokesman said. Among the arrested accused are

Khalid Khan, Shayaz Khan, Shoaib, Asghar and Amjad Ali, the FIA spokesman said.

A huge amount of domestic and foreign currency was recovered from the possession of the accused and a total of more than 48, 56,000 Pakistani rupees was recovered from the possession of the accused. The money also included 355 UAE Dirhams, 115 Saudi Riyals, 20 US Dollars and 550 Ringgits were also recovered in foreign currency, FIA spokesman said. The FIA spokesman said that the accused could not satisfy the authorities regarding the exported currency and evidence related to the reference hundi was also recovered.

## Japanese ambassador calls on CM, discusses trade

LAHORE (APP): Japanese Ambassador Mr. Wada Mitsuhiro called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif here on Sunday.

All possible opportunities for strengthening trade, business and investment relations were discussed. Exchange of cultural and educational delegations between Punjab and Japan were also discussed in the meeting. The CM said that Punjab is emerging as a major consumer market, adding that there are good investment opportunities for Japanese companies in Punjab. Skilled young manpower of Punjab can perform unprecedentedly in Japanese institutions, she added.

The chief minister said the people-to-people

interaction between Punjab and Japan is indispensable for the development of bilateral relations. Moreover, the promotion of student-faculty programs between Punjab and Japan was also agreed in principle in the meeting.

Ambassador Wada Mitsuhiro said that Japan attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan. He added, "We are determined to collaborate with the Punjab government for the development of technology."

Mr. Wada Mitsuhiro apprised the CM that eleven Pakistani students are studying in Japan on MEXT scholarships for Masters/PhD degrees. He added a number of Japanese projects are ongoing for public welfare in Pakistan.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Moulana Tahir Ashrafi is addressing a press conference at Jamia Masjid Manzoor Islamia.

## CM KP expresses satisfaction over timely measures for Pak student

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Ali Amin Gandapur has sent a message to the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan in Pakistan and expressed satisfaction over the timely measures taken by the Kyrgyz government to protect Pakistani students.

The timely and effective measures taken by the Kyrgyz government to protect the students are commendable, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur said.

The timely actions of the Kyrgyz government proved helpful in saving the students from further harm and comforting their parents, said CM KP.

"In this difficult time, the leadership role of the Kyrgyz government has been very helpful in normalizing the situation and giving the students a sense of security," Ali Amin Gandapur said.

"We are grateful to the Kyrgyz government for ensuring the safety of our

students," the CM said.

"However, these incidents caused mental stress and suffering for the students and their families," Ali Amin Gandapur said.

The safe return of these students to their homes is very important, CM KP added.

He said, "For the safe return of these students, a telephonic conversation has been held with the Pakistani ambassador in Kyrgyzstan."

"The KP Government will provide all necessary support and facilities for this purpose," Ali Amin Gandapur said.

"The KP government is ready to bear all the expenses for the return of these students," the CM further added.

"The safe repatriation of these students is a shared responsibility that requires your continued and focused efforts," Ali Amin Gandapur told the Kyrgyzstan Ambassador.



LAHORE: Chancellor/Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan presided over an important meeting about Attock Campus of Pir Meher Ali Shah Aird Agriculture University Rawalpindi at Governor House Lahore.

## 15 dead, 1152 injured in 1085 road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least fifteen persons were killed and 1152 injured in 1085 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 542 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 610 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 603 drivers, 33 underage drivers, 174 pedestrians, and 390 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 256 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 281 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Gujranwala 74 in with 74 victims and at third Faisalabad with 72 RTCs and 84 victims. According to the data 946 motorbikes, 73 auto-rickshaws, 97 motorcars, 25 vans, 15 passenger buses, 28 truck and 84 other types of auto.

## Advisor Tourism visits Galyat, directs to remove encroachments

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister KP on Tourism, Culture and Archeology Zahid Chanzeb on Sunday expressed his displeasure over the illegal encroachments in Galyat and issued instructions to the concerned quarters to remove them immediately and submit the report of all the leased properties to him within ten days.

He also paid a detailed visit to the parks, public washrooms and parking areas in Nathiagali and Dongagali.

On this occasion, he expressed his indignation over the deteriorating condition of the washrooms and issued instructions to immediately allocate 20 washrooms separately for men and women and keep them clean.

While at the same time orders were also issued to remove the illicit encroachments and keep it as resting places for tourists only. He also directed to prepare a map of the land in Dongagali and make a

modern parking area for tourists so that the issue of parking in the area could be solved in the true sense.

He also visited the Himala House and issued instructions to complete the necessary renovation work going on there as soon as possible and to provide Wi-Fi and other facilities for the tourists as well.

Zahid Chanzeb further directed that the process of providing vehicles and motorcycles to the tourism police posted at Galyat and other tourist places should be started immediately and check posts should also be established for them where instead of body searching of the tourists, uniformed well-mannered police jawans would receive them and be there to provide them with facilities and guidance, to let the tourists experience pleasant changes. Zahid Chanzeb directed the Galyat Development Authority (GDA) to immediately remove all encroachments on the sides of the roads and to submit a detailed report of the rest areas.

## PSO workmen union Qazi Shaukat Panel takes oath

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: The 25-member cabinet of Pakistan State Oil (PSO) Workmen's Union, Qazi Shaukat Panel took their oath of office at a ceremony held at PSO House. The oath was administered by Election Commissioner Mahmood Ali to the newly elected President Qazi Shaukat Hussain, General Secretary Irfan, Senior Vice President Naseer Sultan, Finance Secretary Imran Taimoori, and other officials.

Company Secretary Rashid Umar Siddiqui, the chief guest at the ceremony, emphasized the importance of harmony and coordination between the management and the union. He underscored the need to address the legitimate concerns of the workers and ensure their rights are protected.

PSO GM (Legal Affairs & IR) Syed Sajjad lauded the fairness of the union elections and expressed hope that the re-elected Qazi Shaukat panel would continue to advance workers' rights with even greater vigor. He reaffirmed the management's commitment to resolving workers' issues, highlighting that employees are the backbone of the organization.

In his address, newly elected President Qazi Shaukat pledged to safeguard workers' rights and noted the union's historic achievements, including significant agreements with the management. He expressed gratitude to the PSO Managing Director for unwavering support and highlighted the panel's overwhelming electoral victory, achieved with a triple lead.

General Secretary Irfan reiterated the union's dedication to serving workers and committed to utilizing all available resources for the institution's development.



QUETTA: Vendor sells handmade clay pots to earn his livelihood for support his family, on his pushcart at roadside located on Double road in Quetta.

## Dr Vaqar says: Pak can contribute to healthier food options by adopting iTFA-free alternatives

ISLAMABAD (Online): Discussions on the regulatory framework and compliance with iTFA have shed light on the importance of adherence to standards for the health and well-being of consumers. It is essential to reflect on the next steps for both SMEs and government institutions. For SMEs, implementing the knowledge gained here into their practices is important. By adopting iTFA-free alternatives and reformulation strategies, they can contribute to healthier food options for consumers and align themselves with evolving regulatory standards. On the other hand, government institutions must continue to provide support and guidance to SMEs, ensuring compliance with regulations and fostering an environment conducive to innovation and reformulation.

Mr. Muhammad Salman, Country Lead Cargill says that discussion aims to make the lives of our countrymen better. Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director SDPI said the focus on crucial topics surrounding the reduction of industrially produced trans fatty acids (iTFA) remains crucial. From understanding the sources and health risks associated with TFAs to exploring national and international regulations, as well as iTFA-free alternatives and reformulation strategies, we discuss a wide spectrum of essential information.



ISLAMABAD: A labourer busy in loading sugarcane on vehicle at Vegetable and Fruit Market.

## Tightening noose around wheat hoarders, exploiters

FAISALABAD (APP): After a series of public welfare initiatives by the Punjab government, agriculturists have desired strict action and tightening noose around hoarders and exploiters to save precious money of poor farmers. These market exploiters continue to fleece billions of rupees of poor farmers every year in one context or the other forcing them to live a hand to mouth life for being under debt at the hands of these market mongers.

Steps to rescue farmers from cruel clutches of exploiters would encourage them enabling them to more efficiently contribute to national economy as well as initiatives to address food security issues. Being an agrarian country, Pakistan's farmer force is main component of its economy but they are very commonly made to suffer as happening in the case of wheat crop wherein the exploiters force farmers to sell their wheat for Rs 2800 to Rs 3000 for 40 kg instead of the government announced rate of Rs 3900.

"Rs 1000 per 40 kg loss is too less. We had better wheat crop this year and hoped that money earned from it would help us in cultivating other crops. But, market players are not inclined to give us announced price," remarked Muhammad



KARACHI: PSO Workmen Union, Qazi Shaukat Panel President Qazi Shaukat Hussain, Vice president Naseer Sultan, General Secretary Irfan, Finance Secretary Imran Timuri and other officials are taking oath of office at PSO House.

## Finance Minister updated on banking sector's strategic initiatives in priority sectors

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA) held a meeting with the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb.

The meeting focused on enhancing support by the banks for the three key sectors of Agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and Digital & Technology in Pakistan. The discussion underlined the banking

sector's commitment to fostering financial inclusion in the Country.

Federal Minister mentioned at the outset that the idea of this exercise shall be to encourage the entire sector to contribute towards these priority sectors as per their size and unique offerings & strengths. While there will be no "directed lending"; however, there shall be voluntary targets to be set between the banks and the

regulator to share the responsibility to contribute towards these critical sectors. He expects the banks to step up and continue to work with the Government in the revival and the growth of the economy. During the session, PBA Chairman Zafar Masud, along with the Steering Committee members on these initiatives, including Vice Chairman PBA, Ahmed Bozai, CEO & SG PBA,

Muneer Kamal, Executive Director (Financial Inclusion Group) State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Syed Irfan Ali, and President & CEO Meezan Bank, Irfan Siddiqui, presented a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at promoting growth and sustainability in these vital sectors. The proposals were developed in close consultation with SBP to ensure they effectively address



LAHORE: Consumers buying household items at Shadman Sunday market in the provincial capital.

## Exploring IT potential for economic growth

LAHORE (APP): As Pakistan navigates challenges of a rapidly evolving global landscape, a robust IT industry becomes a catalyst for driving innovation, fostering research and technological development and grabbing slot on the list of developed nations.

Fully employing this sector would matter much for Pakistan also in attracting foreign investment and partnerships on way to a progressive economy and steering country out of financial crunch.

A thriving IT sector can act as a buffer, reducing dependency on traditional industries with a youthful population contributing

visibly as a strategic asset for nation building and making the country flourish in different arena of life.

"Information Technology (IT) sector has exhibited consistent year-on-year growth and emerged as one of top five net exporters in the country," stated Pakistan Software Houses Association Chairman Zohaib Khan.

"As a primary contributor to net exports in services industry, IT sector plays a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's economic landscape," Zohaib said. "With the potential to become country's primary foreign exchange earner and achieve ambitious annual national

target of over US\$ 15 billion, it is crucial to embrace a comprehensive approach to propel this sector forward." According to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Pakistan's Telecom sector had generated Rs 850 billion in revenues in 2022-23, marking 17 percent growth from previous year and demonstrating sector's resilience amidst challenges of inflation, high business cost and economic slowdown.

In its report, the PTA mentioned to substantial investment potential in this sector, with local industry investments of \$5.7 billion and FDI worth \$1.4 billion over five years.

## Farmers urged to avail lab's facility

BAHAWALPUR (APP): The experts have urged farmers in the Bahawalpur region to avail themselves of a free laboratory facility provided by the Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) for the examination of water and soil.

This was offered in a seminar organized by FFC to highlight techniques for sowing and growing cotton.

The seminar was attended by Zonal Head, FFC, Zahoor Ahmad Khan, Regional Head, FFC, Faisal Mahmood, Expert at Central Cotton Research

Institute (CRI), Dr. Rabia Saeed, Scientific Officer, CRI, and Dr. Tarique, among others. The experts urged the farmers' communities of Bahawalpur, Multan, and Dera Ghazi Khan to avail themselves of a free laboratory facility provided by the FFC for scientific examination of water and soil before sowing cotton and other crops. They emphasized the need to use DAP fertilizer in the agricultural field to boost the production of cotton and other crops.

## FTO to chair central advisory committee today

LAHORE (APP): Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah will chair a high-level meeting of the central advisory committee to review the overall performance and take stock of the problems being faced by tax payers here tomorrow (Monday).

FTO Adviser Dr Waqarullah Chaudhry told media here Sunday that the 50-member advisory committee consisting of presidents of chambers of commerce, women chambers, APTMA, seed associations, prominent trade associations.

## Inter-provincial, inter district transportation of wheat permitted: Food dept

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Food Department has not imposed any restrictions on the transportation of wheat and according to the policy of the Punjab government, inter-provincial and inter-district transportation of wheat is fully permitted.

In a policy statement on the transportation of wheat, the spokesperson for Food Department said that according to the Wheat Procurement Policy 2024, the transportation of wheat is fully permitted and the Food Department of Punjab has not issued any notification regarding the ban on wheat transportation within or outside the province. There is no need for any kind of permit for the transportation of wheat.

The spokesperson also clarified that some elements are linking a letter written by the federal government to prevent smuggling of various items with the transportation of wheat, which is based on a complete misunderstanding. He said that in the light of the instructions of the federal government and the Punjab home department, letters were written for the appointment of vigilant and honest staff at all check posts to stop smuggling of various items. However, delivery, purchase and sale of wheat and inter-provincial and inter-district transport are fully permitted. The staff posted at the check posts will keep a record of wheat delivery as per their



SARGODHA: A vendor arranging and displaying mangoes on his cart to attract the customers.

## Green startup offers kitchen gardening through hydroponic technology

PESHAWAR (APP): A green startup by a university student offered kitchen gardening idea by installing of hydroponic farming technology at homes where there is no or very less space for growing of essential vegetables.

"Through installation of hydroponic technology and with little guidance people can do kitchen gardening and can get higher yields than traditional soil based growing systems," explains Marfaa Naseem, leader of team that proposed green startup of hydroponic farming at homes for kitchen gardening.

The startup was granted to university students under the Green Urban Development Programme (GUD), a two-year initiative by Institute of Urbanism (IoU) & School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF), with the support of the US Embassy.

The Green Urban Development Programme has been launched for fostering a collaborative environment aimed at reshaping the urban landscape for a greener and more sustainable future.

Talking to APP, Marfaa Naseem said that through utilization of new procedure of farming (hydroponic) people who have no space for cultivation in their homes, can grow vegetable of their choice by utilization of very little space.

"Hydroponics is a type of soilless gardening that can be done either indoors or outdoors. It's a great option for people with little or no gardening space, or who want to grow herbs and vegetables," Marfaa told APP.

Hydroponic gardening, she continued, is space-efficient and takes less water than gardening in soil. Growing in water also means no weeds.

## Dr Iqar says: Scientists should come up with solutions to increase agriculture productivity

FAISALABAD (APP): Agricultural scientists should come up with doable solutions to increase productivity and ensure food security, said Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

He was addressing the concluding session of a four-week workshop titled Finance, Administration Management and E-governance arranged by Professional Training and Skill Development Center UAF for the officers of Agriculture Department Punjab. Prof Dr Mahmood A Randhawa, Director Professional Training Dr Neelam Chaudry and others also spoke.

Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan urged agricultural scientists to disseminate modern agricultural trends in the farming community that would boost productivity.

He said that the development of the country depended upon the agriculture sector but the sector was facing challenges including low productivity, water scarcity, climate change and others. Hence, we have to adopt modern trends in the agricultural sector to combat the challenges, he added.

Dr Mahmood A Randhawa said it is the twentieth workshop for agricultural department officers, which is mandatory for their promotion.

He said that renowned resource persons of their field were imparting training to the participants. He said that skilled manpower is a guarantee to a bright future. Dr Neelam Ch said that the uplift of the agricultural sector is a prerequisite for sustainable economic development. She said the university was making an all-out effort to address agricultural issues with tangible research work, and skilled manpower.



LAHORE: Consumers buying vegetables and fruits at Shadman Sunday market in the provincial capital.

# Saudi crown prince, US national security adviser meet for talks

DHAHRAN (INP): Prince Mohammed bin Salman and US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met in Saudi Arabia's eastern city of Dhahran to discuss a "semi-final" version of strategic agreements between the two countries, official Saudi media reported on Sunday.

The agreements are considered a major part of Washington's efforts to bring Riyadh around to recognising the state of Israel for the first time — efforts complicated by Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

Prince Mohammed, the kingdom's de facto ruler, and Sullivan discussed "the semi-final version of the draft strategic agreements between the kingdom

and the United States of America, the work on which is close to being completed", according to Saudi state media.

The two sides also discussed "what is being worked on between the two sides on the Palestinian issue to find a credible path towards a two-state solution".

The talks also touched on "the situation in Gaza and the necessity of stopping the war there, and facilitating the entry of humanitarian aid".

Sullivan is scheduled to visit Israel later on Sunday for talks about the conflict, according to the White House.

The Biden administration has been seeking for some time to reach an agree-

ment under which Saudi Arabia would recognise Israel in exchange for a stronger security relationship with Washington, which is already its most important security partner.

The Saudis are also bargaining hard for help developing a civilian nuclear programme.

Last September, before Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel that sparked the conflict in Gaza, Prince Mohammed said in an interview with the US network Fox News that "every day we get closer" to a deal to normalise ties.

But those efforts have been severely damaged by the more than seven months of fighting in Gaza and the rising civilian toll there.



Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado and opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez wave during a rally in La Victoria, Aragua State, Venezuela.

# Russia seizes assets of three European banks

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: A Russian court has ruled that Deutsche Bank and UniCredit's assets in the country are to be seized, documents showed. European banks have largely exited Russia after Moscow launched its offensive on Ukraine in 2022.

Russia has a list of Western assets that would be seized if Group of Seven (G7) leaders decided to confiscate \$300 billion in frozen Russian central-bank assets, the Kremlin had warned on

Dec 29 last year.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said any such move by the West would violate international law and undermine the global financial system and the world economy. A court in Saint Petersburg ruled in favour of seizing 239 million euros (\$260 million) from Deutsche Bank, documents dated May 16 showed.

The same day, it ordered the seizure of around 463 million euros of assets belonging to Italy's UniCredit.

# Saudi king has 'high temperature', will undergo tests: statement

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman is suffering from "high temperature" and joint pain and will undergo his second round of medical tests in less than a month, state media reported Sunday.

The tests will take place at a clinic at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, the Royal Court said in a statement published by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

King Salman "suffers from a high temperature and pain in the joints," the statement said.

# Fico 'stable', but still in 'danger'; suspect in detention

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRATISLAVA: Slovakia's health minister said on Saturday the prognosis for Prime Minister Robert Fico was "positive" after an assassination attempt as a court put the suspected gunman in pre-trial detention.

Fico has been in hospital since Wednesday when a lone gunman shot him four times, including in the abdomen.

# Slovak PM Fico out of danger but condition serious, deputy says

**Monitoring Desk**  
BANSKA BYSTRICA: Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico is no longer in immediate danger but still in a serious condition, his deputy said on Sunday, four days after an assassination attempt that sent shockwaves through Europe.

"The worst that we feared had passed, at least for the time being," Deputy Prime Minister Robert Kalinak told a news conference outside the hospital where Fico is being treated in the central Slovak city of Banska Bystrica.

The prime minister was shot on Wednesday in an attack that raised alarms over the polarised state of politics in the central European country of 5.4 million people.

Kalinak told jour-

lists that Fico's condition was still too serious to consider transferring him to hospital in the capital.

"We are all a little calmer. When we were saying that we want to get closer to a positive prognosis, then I believe that we are a step closer to that," he added. "But his condition remains very serious and therefore he will remain in the care of doctors at the Banska Bystrica hospital."

The shooting was the first major assassination attempt on a European political leader for more than 20 years. The Slovak Specialised Criminal Court ruled on Saturday that the suspect, identified by prosecutors as Juraj C., would remain in custody after being charged with attempted murder.

# Venezuela opposition candidate vows political freedom

**Monitoring Desk**  
LA VICTORIA: Venezuelan opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez said he will ensure all political parties are free to operate if he unseats President Nicolas Maduro in a July vote, and he urged the military to uphold the country's institutions as intended by the constitution.

Gonzalez, a former ambassador to Algeria and Argentina, was named by the Unitary Platform opposition coalition in April as its candidate after a ban against landslide primary winner Maria Corina Machado's holding office was upheld by the Supreme Court.

The opposition has said Machado's ban is illegal and an attempt by Maduro's government, which has overseen a deep economic crisis in the country, to tamp down support for the opposition in the

July 28 presidential election.

Standing on a large truck bed, Gonzalez and Machado spoke to a chanting crowd of about 3,000 in La Victoria, Gonzalez's hometown in central Aragua state.

Gonzalez said he will ensure political movements can exercise their rights under the constitution, urging voters to imagine a country "where the president does not insult or see his adversaries as enemies."

"To the national armed forces - you play a fundamental part in the security of all of us, being guarantors of institutions under article 328 of the constitution," Gonzalez, 74, said.

The previously low-profile Gonzalez told Reuters this month he believes Maduro's government would have banned him from office by now if it intended to.

# South Africa's new MK party seeks majority win in pivotal election, Zuma says

**Monitoring Desk**  
JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's new uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party is aiming to win a parliamentary majority in a May 29 election so that it can implement reforms without resistance from opponents, former President Jacob Zuma said on Saturday.

Zuma, who was forced to quit as president in 2018, has fallen out with the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and has been campaigning for MK, which was formed in December.

"We want to get an outright victory because if we don't get the two-thirds (majority), opposition may oppose us," 82-year old Zuma told thousands of supporters during a launch of the party's election manifesto.

An Ipsos opinion poll published in April showed MK would win 8.4% of the vote, far short of the party's 66% objective. Speaking in Zulu at

the Orlando Stadium in South Africa's biggest township Soweto, Zuma promised to provide free education for disadvantaged children, create jobs and fight corruption.

If the polls are correct, the ANC is at risk of losing its parliamentary majority for the first time since Nelson Mandela's victory in 1994 ushered in a new era of democracy after decades of apartheid rule.

MK has emerged as a threat to the ANC, especially in Zuma's home province of KwaZulu Natal, where he is popular.

A 31-year-old MK supporter, Girls Six, told Reuters she had travelled to Gauteng from neighbouring Mpumalanga province because the party represented change for people like her.

"We want jobs, we want the land, we want (a) people's bank, we want a lot! We know that we can get the change we want in this party," Six said.

# Spain's far-right Vox holds mass rally with Argentina's Milei and foreign allies

**Monitoring Desk**  
MADRID: Spanish far-right party Vox held a mass rally in Madrid on Sunday ahead of the European election, touting the support of international allies including Argentinian President Javier Milei, the prime ministers of Italy and Hungary and rightwing leaders from France and Portugal.

Nearly 11,000 supporters - according to Vox - packed a former bullring waving hundreds of Spanish flags, as well as some of Argentina, Cuba, Venezuela and Israel.

They cheered speakers ranging from French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen to the leader of Portugal's Chega, Andre Ventura, and jeered at every mention of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, feminism or socialism.

Milei earned a standing ovation with a speech in which he excoriated "lefties" and defended free market capitalism.

He also thanked Vox leader Santiago Abascal for his early friendship, "when

I was lonelier than Adam on Mother's Day".

The presence of foreign dignitaries prompted tight security, days after the shooting of Slovakia's Robert Fico.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who appeared via a live video-link, won applause for her speech in Spanish in which she attacked irregular migration and surrogate pregnancies.

Hungary's Viktor Orban and former Polish premier Mateusz Morawiecki extolled what they called Europe's Christian values in pre-recorded videos.

Chile's presidential runner-up Jose Antonio Kast and Israel's Diaspora Affairs Minister Amichai Chakli received a more muted reception.

But enthusiasm was high for former US President Donald Trump, represented in Madrid by the vice president of the conservative Heritage Foundation and former White House staffers Matt and Mercedes Schlapp.



MADRID: A woman holds a placard as people attend a protest in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

# Israeli minister threatens to quit unless 'Gaza plan' approved by June 8

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: An Israeli minister said on Saturday he would resign from the "war cabinet" unless Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved a long-term plan for the Gaza Strip.

"The war cabinet must formulate and approve by June 8 an action plan that will lead to the realisation of six strategic goals of national importance, (or) we will be forced to resign from the government," Benny Gantz said, referring to his party, in a televised address directed at Netanyahu. Gantz said the six goals included toppling Hamas, ensuring Israeli security control over the Palestinian territory and returning Israeli prisoners.

"Along with maintaining Israeli security control, establish an American, European, Arab and Palestin-

ian administration that will manage civilian affairs in the Gaza Strip and lay the foundation for a future alternative that is not Hamas or (Mahmud) Abbas," he said, referring to the president of the Palestinian Authority.

He also urged the normalisation of ties with Saudi Arabia "as part of an overall move that will create an alliance with the free world and the Arab world against Iran and its affiliates". Broad splits have emerged in the Israeli "war cabinet" in recent days after Hamas fighters regrouped in northern Gaza, an area where Israel previously said the group had been neutralised.

Earlier in the week, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant slammed Netanyahu for failing to rule out an Israeli government in Gaza after normalisation.

# Turkiye pardons 7 generals jailed for role in coup

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has pardoned seven generals imprisoned for their role in the military coup that overthrew an Islamist government in 1997, according to decrees published in the official gazette.

The decision cited the age and medical conditions of the generals, who were sentenced in 2018 after a trial full of twists and turns.

The decrees were signed as a court in Ankara sentenced charismatic Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtas to 42 years in prison for offences including undermining state unity.

The main opposition CHP party, which made strong gains in municipal elections in late March, has long asked for the generals to be freed. Party leader Ozgur Ozel said on X, formerly Twitter, the decision was "late but just".

# Austria to resume aid to UN agency for Palestinians

**Monitoring Desk**  
VIENNA: Austria said on Saturday it will restore its funding to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees after suspending it over allegations that staff were involved in the October 7 Hamas raids.

Israel alleged in January that some United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees may have participated in the Hamas raids on October 7.

In the weeks that followed, numerous donor states, including Austria, suspended or paused some \$450 million in funding.

Many, including Germany, Sweden, Canada and Japan, had since resumed funding, while others have continued to hold out.

"After analysing the action plan in detail" submitted by UNRWA "to improve the functioning of the organisation", Austria has decided to "release the funds," its foreign ministry said in a statement.

A total of 3.4 million euros (\$3.7 million) in funds have been budgeted for 2024, and the first payment is expected to be made in the summer, the statement said.



Supporters of Tunisian President Kais Saied carry flags and signs during a demonstration to show their support for him and to reject what they say is "foreign interference", in Tunis, Tunisia.

# Trump hush money trial and what to watch for as it wraps up

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Testimony in the hush money trial of Donald Trump is set to conclude in the coming days, putting the landmark case on track for jury deliberations that will determine whether it ends in a mistrial, an acquittal — or the first-ever felony conviction of a former American president.

Jurors over the course of a month have heard testimony about sex and book-keeping, tabloid journalism and presidential politics. Their task ahead will be to decide whether prosecutors who have charged Trump with 34 counts of falsifying business records have

proved their case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Here's a look at what the two sides have argued, who has been missing from the case, what to listen for in the final days and what prosecutors will have to prove to secure a conviction.

Through witnesses including a porn actor, a veteran tabloid publisher and longtime Trump aides, the prosecution aimed to link the presumptive Republican nominee for the White House this year to a hush money scheme during the 2016 presidential campaign that resulted in the filing of phony business records to mask the alleged conspiracy.

# Russian massive air strikes kill at least five

**Monitoring Desk**  
KHARKIV: Russian airstrikes killed at least five people and injured 16 others in a recreation area just outside Ukraine's northeastern city of Kharkiv on Sunday, local officials said.

Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov gave the toll of dead and wounded.

"The explosions heard in Kharkiv around noon occurred in a nearby suburb. Two Russian missiles hit a recreation centre where people were relaxing, killing five people and injuring sixteen others," he said on the Telegram messaging app.

# Tunisia says 23 migrants missing after setting off in boat to Italy

**Monitoring Desk**  
TUNIS: About 23 migrants were missing after setting off in a boat from Tunisia towards Italy, the country's national guard said on Saturday.

Tunisia is facing a migration crisis and has replaced Libya as a main departure point for people fleeing poverty and conflict in Africa and the Middle East in the hope of a better life in Europe.

The national guard said it had deployed floating units and had informed the navy to help in the search for the missing people.

# Democratic Republic of Congo army says it stopped attempted coup

**Monitoring Desk**  
DAKAR: The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) armed forces repelled an attempted coup d'etat involving Congolese and foreign fighters on Sunday morning, a DRC army spokesperson said in a televised address.

"An attempted coup d'etat has been put down by the defence and security forces. The attempt involved foreigners and Congolese. These foreigners and Congolese have been put out of action, including their leader,"

spokesman Sylvain Ekenge said.

The spokesperson did not specify whether this meant they had been detained or killed.

His statement comes hours after armed men attacked the house of Vital Kamerhe, the former chief of staff and close ally to President Tshisekedi early on Sunday morning.

Witnesses say a group of about 20 assailants in army uniform attacked the residence and an exchange of gunfire followed.



People wait outside a school used as a polling station, to cast their votes, on the day of the presidential election in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

# As UNSC member Pakistan to push for Mideast peace & self-determination for occupied peoples: Munir Akram

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan will articulate developing countries' aspirations, work for peace and in the Middle East and Africa as well as promote the right of self-determination for peoples under foreign occupation if elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Ambassador Munir Akram has said.

Elections for five of the 10 non-permanent seats on the Security Council for the term 2025-26 are set to take place on Jun 6. Pakistan's candidacy has the endorsement of the 55-member Asian Group.

Pakistan has been elected to the Security Council seven times, with the most recent term in 2013. Other occasions were in 1952-1953, 1968-1969, 1976-1977, 1983-1984, 1993-1994 and 2003-2004.

Ambassador Akram, who is Pakistan's ambassador to the UN, was speaking to members of the US-based Pakistan Students Association Coalition (PSA

Coalition) via video-link, said the election to the 15-member Council would bring a lot of responsibility on Pakistan to play a leadership role in addressing "our issues like Kashmir, Afghanistan and counterterrorism", but also other multiple global challenges.

The Coalition comprises US-based Pakistani student associations of various colleges that are linked by their unwavering commitment to preserving the Pakistani identity, traditions and its rich culture.

The Pakistani envoy said that U.N. Security Council resolutions on Kashmir provided for the realization of the right to self-determination by Kashmiris.

No gimmicks by the Indian government could alter the international status of the dispute, which is on the UN Security Council agenda, he told the students.

Ambassador Akram briefed the students about

Pakistan's active role at the United Nations, including its presidency of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as non-permanent member of the Security Council and as chairman of the Grouping of G-77 and China.

As the second-time President of the ECOSOC in 2021, he said Pakistan played a leading role in advocating the concepts of vaccine equality, and the creation of new money for the developing countries enabling them to fight off the impact of Covid-19, an effort that led to restructuring of debt and suspension of interest payments by G-20, thus providing a substantial relief to the developing world, including Pakistan.

"Likewise, the establishment of the instrument of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of \$650 billion by the IMF led to the provision of additional resources to the developing countries in navigating the economic challenges," the Pakistani envoy said.



LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visiting NADRA Center, Garden Town.

# PM directs for all out support to assist repatriated students from Bishkek: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Senator Musadik Masood Malik on Sunday said the Prime Minister had directed to ensure all out support to assist the repatriated students from Bishkek for reaching their hometowns safely.

Addressing the students returning from Bishkek and media here at the Islamabad International Airport, the Minister expressed his heartfelt sympathies to the students for facing violence in Kyrgyzstan. Malik said the government made efforts but due to limited mission in Kyrgyzstan, it was unable to make extraordinary

interventions.

He added that due to limited capacity, the Pakistani mission abroad was not to remain all-prepared for such emergencies.

"The Federal Cabinet on behalf of the government extend an apology for the predicament the Pakistani students faced. We are running special flights to bring back all those who want to return and would not force the senior students who intend to stay as their final examinations were ahead," he said.

The Minister said the government had demarched the Kyrgyzstan government and got the surety from them that no more

mob attacks would be allowed on Pakistani students.

"People made personal calls to me, the ambassador and we established a hotline at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy in Kyrgyzstan with four to five people operated the hotline to assist our students," he said.

Musadik Malik vowed that the government of Pakistan would support its children in distress all over the world. "Our Foreign Minister is also in contact with the Krgyz counterpart and our embassy is also engaged with them as well."

# President House directs Pakistani embassy in Bishkek to ensure security of students

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the instructions of President Asif Ali Zardari, the President House Sunday contacted the Pakistani ambassador in Kyrgyzstan expressing concern over the violent situation in the country.

The President House stressed the need to take immediate measures to protect Pakistani students in Bishkek besides providing a conducive environment for Pakistani students to continue their education.

The president's directives came after reports of unrest and violence in

Kyrgyzstan, which has put the safety of Pakistani students at risk.

The Pakistani ambassador in Bishkek told the President House that the security situation of the Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan was improving.

He said the embassy was in close contact with the Kyrgyz authorities and was taking measures to ensure the security of the students.

He said the Kyrgyz government and universities would arrange online classes for the students who were returning to Pakistan.

# Dar, Saudi FM review preparations for Crown Prince's visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah on Sunday reviewed preparations for the visit of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Bin Salman Al Saud to Pakistan.

Ishaq Dar underlined that the people of Pakistan were eagerly looking forward to the visit of His Royal Highness at a mutually agreed date.

During a telephonic conversation, the two leaders also discussed the robust bilateral relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, exploring various avenues for further strengthening cooperation across multiple sectors. This dialogue underscored the profound and enduring partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The ministers also discussed the grave situation in Gaza and other pressing regional and global developments of mutual concern.



Chairman, Pakistan Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan arrives in Dhaka, Bangladesh to attend D-8 Youth Ministers and Senior Officials.

# DG Food says Process of procurement of wheat scheduled to start from May 21 in Balochistan

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The process of procurement of wheat is due to start on May 21 in Balochistan.

This was informed by the Director General Food Department, Zafarullah to media here today.

According to the DG Food, the Food Department would purchase some 500,000 bags of wheat from the growers all over the province.

The DG Food said that at the moment, the stock of 7,75,000 bags of wheat in the godowns of food department.

These bags of wheat

are preserved in the godowns located in Quetta, Pishin, Mastung and Khuzdar.

According to the DG Food, no stock of expired wheat is available in the food godowns of the province.

It may be mentioned here that a high level meeting chaired by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti had approved to procure wheat from growers in the province.

The meeting had also approved funds for procurement of the wheat in the province.



QUETTA: Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Akram along with others is taking action against drug dealers in Padangabad area under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Mastung Syed Samiullah, in Quetta.

# Barrister Gohar says Students not satisfied with govt's measures for their evacuation from Kyrgyzstan

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has voiced concerns over the safety of Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan, urging the government to expedite their evacuation amidst a deteriorating public order situation.

In a statement on X, Khan highlighted the plight of over 100 students from institutions such as the International Medical Univer-

sity, Asian Medical Institute, and Adam University. Students, including Adel, Talha, Komal Gilani, Abdul Hai, Amir Afzal, and Shahzeb, conveyed their distress and the challenges they face during a Zoom meeting with Khan.

Khan emphasized the urgent need for government intervention, stating that the students are dissatisfied with the current protection measures.



SIALKOT: Minister for Defense and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif cutting ribbon to inaugurate "Chief Minister Punjab Special Initiative Clinic on Wheel".

# "Clinic on Wheels" program providing modern health facilities to people: Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the "Clinic on Wheels" programme is providing modern healthcare facilities to people at their doorsteps. He said this while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Chief Minister Punjab Initiative "Clinic on Wheels" project in Sialkot here today.

The ceremony was attended by Member Provincial Assemblies (MPAs) Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Chaudhary Faisal Ikram, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqarnain, Chief Officer (CO) Health Dr. Rehan Azhar, Program In-charge "Clinic on Wheels" Sialkot District Dr. Muhammad Adnan besides local officials of the health department and field staff.

Addressing the ceremony, Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) believes in the politics of

public service and the government is providing necessary healthcare and education facilities to people, especially women.

He said that the provision of modern healthcare facilities is government's top priority. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has given the gift of health to the people of Punjab by starting the "Clinic on Wheels" program. Health facilities will be available at the doorstep of people through the mobile clinic, he added.

He said that the condition of the District Headquarters (DHQ) hospital is a matter of concern. "On the instructions of the Chief Minister, I will visit the DHQ hospital tomorrow and steps will be taken to improve its condition. Maryam Nawaz is taking initiatives by following in the footsteps of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif.

# Ban imposed on fishing in all waters of Balochistan for 2 months

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Fisheries and Coastal Development Department has imposed ban on the fishing in the waters of Balochistan province for two months period.

This was announced in an official hand out issued here today.

According to the hand out, the ban has been imposed on fishing due to the season of reproduction and breeding of the fishes in the waters of province including sea, rivers, canals, dams and inland water.

The ban shall come into force from June 1 and shall remain in force till July 31, 2024, as mentioned in the hand out.

# DC issues strict order to arrest criminal, absconders

Independent Report  
JHAL MAGSI. To maintain law and order in Jhal Magsi district, Deputy Commissioner Syed Rehmatullah Shah has issued strict orders for the arrest of criminals and absconding suspects.

To ensure implementation, the Levies Force is actively working. Following the Deputy Commissioner's orders, a team led by Major (R) Abdul Hakeem Abro, SHO Levies Thana Gandawah, Naib Risaldar Abdul Razaq Changhani, and other Levies Force personnel, arrested the absconding accused, Sher Khan son of Ghous Bux, resident of Gandawah, in cases #11/2012, #15/2012, and #35/2013, under various sections of the Pakistan Penal Code. The Levies Force is conducting further investigations.

# MQM-P calls meeting to discuss 'budget proposals'

KARACHI (INP): The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has summoned an emergency meeting to discuss budget proposals ahead of federal budget 2024.

The meeting will focus on development schemes for Karachi and Hyderabad. MQM-P will present its proposals for increased funding for the cities, including for education, health, and law and order, sources added.

# Campaign in progress against illegal rickshaws in Quetta

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The campaign against illegal and unauthorized rickshaws is continuing in the provincial metropolis. According to the official sources, the campaign had been launched by the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) and Quetta Traffic Police on special directives of the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat some time back.

During the campaign, action is being taken against the illegal and unauthorized rickshaws plying in the

# Political instability won't bring economic stabilization: Sayed

KARACHI (INP): Former federal minister Mushahid Hussain Sayed has said that the political instability will not bring economic stabilization in country.

Talking to media here Mushahid Hussain, a former senator, said that the absence of political stability will hinder the investment from abroad. He urged for a consensus in all political forces for the sake of political stability in the country.



HUB: Pakistani Coast Guard Officials are exposing huge quantity of recovered Chew Tobacco and betel nuts (Supari/Chaliya) seized during checking of passenger buses on Uthal Coast Guard Check Post, to media persons.

# Edu ministry rebuild school in N. Waziristan destroyed by terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training while giving a powerful response to extremism in North Waziristan, has rebuilt and reopened a girls' school destroyed by bombing.

The official sources from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training have confirmed that, from today (Monday), we celebrate the resilience of our daughters and the nation's commitment to education.

The ministry sources while sharing the details said that in the latest tragic incident in North Waziristan, a private girls' school fell victim to unidentified militants who mercilessly targeted it, causing destruction and fear in the community.

Despite the attackers' efforts, no lives were lost, but the psychological and educational impact is significant. This is not the first

# DC chairs meeting regarding preparations for upcoming monsoon rains

Independent Report  
JAFARABAD. Under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Jafarabad, Azhar Shahzad, an important meeting was held yesterday regarding preparations for the upcoming monsoon rains. All district heads, including religious leaders, participated in the meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on the situation arising after the rains and the precautionary measures to be taken.

The meeting also focused on effective emergency response during floods and highlighted various aspects. Participants were informed to eliminate any confusion and ensure realistic planning.

The meeting decided to form a committee to inspect the weak points of the Patt Feeder Canal and its sub-branches.



QUETTA: Former MPA Sana Baloch and other political and tribal elders are offering Fateha on the death of poet and writer Mir Muhammad Al Fateh Muhammad Shahi during condolence meeting held.

# PML-N gov't economic friendly policies will lead country towards dev.: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries, Production and Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain Sunday said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led government's wide-ranging reforms and economic-friendly policies of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will help to lead the country towards economic development.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that PMLN-led government is committed to reduce inflation and we believe that the country under the leadership of Prime Minister is heading towards the right direction.

He said that PML-N leadership always committed to serve the poor segments of society, adding, we have been struggling to uplift the economy and take the country to the path of progress.

"We believe that social justice, political stability and supremacy of law is imperative for progress and prosperity of the country", he added.

Replying to a question, he said that the incumbent government is also committed to encourage the neighboring countries to exploit favorable and business-friendly atmosphere in Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan has capacity to attract all the foreign investments in different sectors to boost the economy and gradually the country will emerge as an economic power in the world.

To another question, he said Pakistan is in dire need of political and economic stability at this point of time, adding, all the political parties must have to develop a mutual consensus on national interests.



SANJAVI: Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar and Deputy Commissioner Liaquat Ali Kakar addressing a Khuli Kutchery