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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.



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 East

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

LAHOKE (APP): Prime

Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday

contacted Ambassador of

Pakistan in the Kyrgyz Re-

public Hassan Ali Zaigham

and directed him for making

necessary arrangements for

a special flight being sent to

Bishkek this evening to

bring back Pakistani stu-

dents. At the instructions of

the prime minister, the gov-

ernment of Pakistan will bear

all the expenses of the spe-

cial plane. The prime minis-

ter directed for keeping con-

tinuous contacts with all the

students and their families,

emphasising that the return

Minister

Muhammad

Auditor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ajmal

Gondal meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh

PM stresses injured students

should be brought back

to Pakistan on priority

be a priority.

He further asked for

bringing back those students

back whose families were

residing with them in

Kyrgyzstan on urgent basis.

kistan Zaigham apprised the

prime minister of his meet-

ing with the Kyrgyz deputy

foreign minister. According

to Kyrgyz authorities, the

situation was under control

and no new incident of violence

took place in the last two days.

Security measures had been

enhanced and the foreign

students including Paki-

stanis were safe.

Foreign Minister of Turkiye Hakan Fidan arrives

in Islamabad. He was received by Additional Foreign

Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador

Special desk established

at CM Secretariat to assist

student stranded in Kyrgyzstan

Independent Report QUETTA. On the instructions of Balochistan Chief Min-

ister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, the Balochistan govern-ment has set up a special desk at the Chief Minister's

facilitate communication and assistance for students and

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.

to the students and their parents. A coordination desk has

been set up at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, which will

7925600, 0092-315-8866926, and landline numbers 0092-

81-9202061, 0092-81-9202069, 0092-81-9201090. Stu-

dents from Balochistan and their parents can contact the

remain active until the situation normalizes.

The Balochistan government has taken this step to

Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti said that

The government will provide all possible assistance

The contact numbers for the desk are 0092-333-

Secretariat to assist students stranded in Kyrgyzstan.

Ahmed Naseem Warraich at Nur Khan Airbase.

The ambassador of Pa-

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

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 Ebraĥim Raisi, Iranian Foreign Minister and others. In a post on X handle, he expressed heartfelt rayers and good wishes for the wellbeing and safety

of Íranian President Ebrahim Raisi so that he may

Azerbaijan, state television

continue to serve the Iranian nation.

Search and rescue team were headed to the remote

in the Islamic republic reported, adding that Foreign inister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian was also Continued on page 2



SLAMABAD (APP) oreign Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan arrived here Sunday on a two-day official visit to Paki-

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

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

The two sides will review the state of bilateral relations and assess preparations for upcoming highlevel engagements between

Foreign Office statement

the two countries. **Dummar emphasizes** to enhance capacity of Levies Force, developed it on modern lines

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Haji 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

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



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

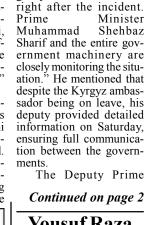
Ishaq Dar says Kyrgyz FM has assured him that no deaths have been occurred and the situation is peaceful

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 na-tionalities 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 mis-leading 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 im-

mediate response by the

Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs, stating, "An emer-

gency unit was activated

Yousuf Raza Gilani receives

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

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

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

The mobile phone number was later traced from Khanewal.

BA session to resume today **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is schedule to resume after two days break at 11:00 AM today (Monday) at the Assembly Hall located on

Zarghoon road, Quetta. Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai is due to chair the session of assem

According to agenda of the session, four resolutions would be tabled in the

Australian defence chief visits GHO Pakistan, Australia agree to expand military-to-military

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

cooperation

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 sad

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

Both generals stressed their mutual commitment to expanding military-tomilitary cooperation, re-

flecting 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 misreported, and any con-

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; incident

demnation 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



MAKKAHAL-MUKARRAMA: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain meeting with CEO Rehlat Manafea 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, cleanlitransport 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

Minister said that the strict monitoring system would also be adopted and

been standardized.

effective round the clock. "Apart from the food flavor, food cleanliness and safety are also essential to

keep in mind while serving the hajjis. Hence, our monitoring will encompass food preparation until the distribution processes," he remarked. An online app has been launched to train pilgrims from Pakistan to Ĥajj Baitullah and provide them guidance for every step, he said. The Minister said a complaint management system is also part of the app to resolve the complaints of the pilgrims immediately.

The camps in Mina and Arafat will be provided with all services including three times meals, water, soft drinks, hot drinks, a medical doctor, security guards and round the clock cleaning, he added.

It is to mention here that this year the government has introduced reduction in Hajj expenses with enhanced facilities as com-

Continued on page 2



Federal Minister & Senator Dr Mudadik Malik

received Pakistani students upon their return form

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has congratulated the Hazara community on the Hazara Culture Day observed on

Kyrgyzstan in Islamabad.

In a felicitation message issued here, the Chief Minister said that the Hazara community living in Quetta for centuries is known because of its unique living style, standard and tradi-

He said that the basic objective of Hazara Culture Day is to introduce the culture of beautiful community in the world. He said that the local Hazargi culture.

The Chief Minister said that Hazara community has always played an important role in development of Balochistan. He said that the people

from Hazara community has served important positions not only in Balochistan but also in Pakistan. He also said that Hazara community has always proved its wholehearted patriotism for stability and defence of the

He also praised the special traditional dishes and dresses of the Hazara community included in their culture.

culture is also depicted betoday's sitting. QPC, BUJ decide to launch countrywide protest movement against talabandi of Press Club press clubs all over the country on call of Pakistan Fed-

Independent Report

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

In first phase of the protest, walkout would be observed by the journalists from the session of provincial ssembly besides lodging protest outside the assembly today (Monday). 4-point demands would be presented to the provin-

cial government.

In case of non-implementation on the demands, the countrywide protest would be started from May 21 ob-

eral 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 govern-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



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



KARACHI: A beautiful view of the newly constructed Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan road while Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah being briefed about the progress of project, in Karachi

Law enforcers repel terrorists' attack in Dera Ismail Khan

DI KHAN (INP): The law enforcers on Sunday foiled an attack by terrorists on Darya Khan Bridge in Dera Ismail Khan after an exchange of fire for half an hour,

says in media reports.

A number of terrorists attacked the bridge over the Indus River connecting the two provinces. After the retaliatory action from the law enforcement agencies, including police, customs and excise personnel, the terrorists escaped.

It stated that exchange of fire between the terrorists and the law enforcers continued for 30 minutes. The sources also confirmed that there was no loss of life in the terrorists' attack on the bridge.

China invested in Pakistan in difficult times: Ahsan

Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Igbal has said that China invested in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project when the country was passing through difficult times. which helped to turnaround the local economy and put it on the sustainable growth and development trajec-

"When China decided to invest \$25 billion in Pakistan, this is [in] 2013, when we had 18 hours of power shortages and frequent suicide bombings at that time they decided to come to Pakistan and support Pakistan," he stated in an interview with VOA.

trust and confidence in Pakistan, he said adding that recent bullish performance of the country's stock exchange showed that the local investors had full confidence in the direction the government was following.

government," he said adding that "China considers Pakistan as a strategic friend and has confidence in Pakistan. Regarding the security

"I think it is the same sense of confidence that Chinese investors and Chinese government has in this

of the Chinese nationals, the minister reaffirmed the government's commitment for ensuring security of Chinese nationals and said that a special security unit operating on its soil.

This shows they have as well as local law enforcement were tasked with ensuring their safety.

To another question regarding issues of security threats, the minister maintained that when you were fighting terrorism, the terrorists always tried to find a way somewhere

Åhsan Iqbal said that the Chinese government had made it very clear that such cowardly incidents would not deter them from pursuing CPEC.

The minister further informed that Pakistan was opposed Afghanistan's inclusion in a Chinese-funded megadevelopment project, but would like Beijing to persuade Kabul to crack down on terrorist groups

Saif deplores Centre's unfair behaviour towards KP province

By M. Ilyas

ISLAMÅBAD – Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Adviser to Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif took the centre to task over the latter's 'unfair behaviour' towards the province.

His remark came days after when KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur lashed out at the federal government.

In a presser with the province's Food Minister Zahir Shah, the barrister said, "the funds of the ex-FATA region have been ended and now its responsibility also falls on KP's shoulders."

Defending his chief minister's aggressive speech, he said the purpose his choice of words was to make the centre aware of its rights about KP.

The Food Minister said that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will not buy imported wheat this year ,and so far 14 lakhs metric Tons of wheat has been registered in the app.

On this occasion, he said that wheat is being purchased in 22 centers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The

been made very transparent. So far, they have bought 27 thousands 3 hundreds metric tons of wheat.

process of purchase has farmers, we are buying 6 lakhs Tons of wheat, the price of 100 kg of wheat has been fixed at Rs 9,720. We are Also buying wheat and On this occasion, are taking various steps to



Food Minister Zahir Shah Thoru further said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will not buy imported wheat, we are buying 6 lakhs tons of wheat from local farm-

He also told the media that 3 lakhs metric tons of wheat will be purchased in the first phase. He said that the rate of 40 kg of wheat has been kept at Rs 3900. the process of purchasing wheat has been made very transparent. After a long time, our government is buying wheat from local

The provincial minister said that the people of



billions rupees.



this purchase.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa do not like the imported wheat, wheat is being purchased in 22 centers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, wheat will be purchased in new phases from 20 May 2024. The Food Minister said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's decision to purchase wheat from local farmers will benefit the province to the tune of 12

movements.

Dr Fai honored with Life

Achievement Award at

Kashmir conference in AJK

(INP): Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, an esteemed Kashmiri leader and a prominent advocate for the Kashmir Liberation Movement on the international stage, was honored with the Life Achievement Award by Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD) for his enduring and impactful contributions.

MUZAFFARABAD

The award ceremony took place during the Round Table Peace Conference held in Rawalakot and it was organized by INSPAD.
Addressing the confer-

ence participants as the Chief Guest, Dr. Fai who also heads the US-based Kashmir Awareness Forum emphasized the critical role of a strong, stable, and prosperous Pakistan in resolving the Kashmir issue. He asserted that in today's world, only economically and politically developed nations can wield significant influence in international diplomacy and decision-making processes. The conference, titled

Present Situation and Future Strategy of Kashmir," was presided over by Commissioner of Poonch Division, Sardar Waheed Khan, and President of INSPAD, Dr. Muhammad Tahir Tabasim. Dr. Tabasim outlined the conference's objectives, highlighting the atrocities and acknowledged the inand brutality faced by valuable contributions of Kashmiris and Palestin-

people of Poonch to the Kashmir and Palestine

Distinguished attendees from various fields including former judges, lawyers, bureaucrats, educational experts, intellectuals, civil society representatives, and journalists participated in the event. Dr. Muhammad Tahir Tabasim commended Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai and his colleagues for their tireless efforts in advocating for the Kashmir Liberation Movement. particularly in the United

During the conference. participants discussed the sacrifices made by the region and emphasized the importance of wise action to strengthen the movement and garner international support. Notable figures such as Justice Rethard Sardar Abdul Hameed, Dr. Sheikh Waleed Rasool, and Sardar Zulfigar Hussain Washington contributed their insights and perspectives.

The second session of the conference featured a question and answer session where participants provided suggestions regarding Kash-mir policy and future strategies. Commissioner Poonch Division, Sardar Waheed Khan, expressed Dr. Fai in representing ians, as well as the histori- Kashmir on global platcal contributions of the forms. No compromise on provision...

win third T20I to clean sweep Pakistan 3-0 **Sports Desk** LEEDS: England women

England women

defeated their Pakistan counterparts by 34 runs in the third T20 International winning the series by 3-0 here at Leeds on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 177 runs, Pakistan could only score 142/4 in the allotted 20 overs. Pakistan made a steady start with Gul Feroza and Sidra Amin scoring 30 off 29 balls and 26 off 29 balls respectively. However, their progress was disrupted when Amin was dismissed by Sophie Scalestone foll Feroza's dismissal by Charlie Dean in the next

As Pakistan's batting order crumbled, Nida Dar and Aliya Riaz attempted to stabilise the innings but to no avail. Riaz scored 35 off 27 balls while Dar made 29 runs off 24 balls.

England's bowlers shared the wickets, with Dean, Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, and Danielle Gibson each taking one. England, batting first,

set a total of 176, losing 10 wickets in the process. The standout performance came from Danni Wvatt, who scored 87 runs off 48 balls. hitting 14 fours and a six. For Pakistan, skipper Nida Dar and pacer Diana

Baig each claimed three wickets, while Fatima Sana took one. Both teams will now prepare for the ODI series,

which begins on May 23. **Teachers association**

demands increase of budget for varsities

HYDERABAD (APP):Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Associations (FAPUASA) has urged the federal government to enhance the budget of the public sector universities which has been kept stagnant for the last 7 years. In a statement issued

here on Sunday the association's Sindh chapter General Secretary Abdul Rehman Nangraj said the Sindh government had shown a commitment to increase the budget for the higher education institu-

Sindh CM suspends SHO over dumping garbage on Korangi Causeway The dumper driver

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has suspended the SHO of Korangi Industrial Area for allowing the dumping of garbage on the Korangi Causeway.

HUB, PAKISTAN: View of site after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failed, at Hub River Road in Hub.

As per details, the Chief Minister expressed dismay at the sight of garbage dumped on the causeway and ordered the suspension of the SHO.

The Chief Minister has also directed the SSP to set up a camp office on the Korangi Causeway to monitor the situation and ake action against those responsible for dumping garbage.

The Chief Minister warned that if anyone dumped garbage on the causeway, strict action would be taken against the DC and SSP.

Earlier, Korangi police registered first against

Malir River at Causeway

handed while dumping garbage into the Malir River. It is pertinent to mention here in 2018 UN report revealed Pakistan is among the top countries

Irfanullah was caught red-

that are discarding billions of tons of plastic into the oceans

The United Nations says that around a million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute around the world, while up to five trillion single-use plastic bags are used half of which are designed to be used only once and then thrown away.

Till now, 300 million tonnes of plastic waste is produced every year nearly the weight of the entire human population. Of this, a staggering eight million tonnes of dumping garbage into plastic ends up in the Malir River at Causeway world's oceans every vear.

Helicopter carrying Iran's....

Continued from page 1

aboard the aircraft.

Road.

"The harsh weather conditions and heavy fog have made it difficult for the rescue teams to reach the accident site." state TV said in an on-screen news alert.

State TV broadcast footage of an Iranian Red Crescent team walking up a slope in thick fog, as well as live footage of crowds of worshippers reciting prayers in the holy Shrine of Imam Reza in the city

Sunday's accident happened in the mountainous protected forest area of Dizmar near the town of Varzaghan, said the official IRNA news agency.

Mashhad, Raisi's home-

Raisi, 63, was visiting the province Sunday where he inaugurated a dam project together with his Azeri counterpart, Ilham Aliev, on the border between the two countries.

His convoy included three helicopters, and the other two had "reached their destination safely, according to Tasnim news

IRNA said the foreign minister and local officials were travelling in the same helicopter as Raisi. The reformist Shargh

daily also reported that "the helicopter carrying the president crashed" while two other helicopters landed safely.

Later, Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said one of the helicopters "made a hard landing due to bad weather conditions" and that it was "difficult to establish communication" with the aircraft.

Raisi has been president of the Islamic Republic since June 2021, succeeding the moderate Hassan Rouhani, for a term during which Iran has faced crisis and conflict.

He took the reins of a country in the grip of a deep social crisis and an economy strained by US sanctions against Tehran over its con-

tested nuclear programme. Iran saw a wave of mass protests triggered by the death in custody of Iranian-Kurd Mahsa Amini in September 2022.

In March 2023, regional rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia signed a surprise deal that restored diplomatic relations. The war in Gaza that

began on October 7 sent regional tensions soaring again and a series of tit-fortat escalations led to Tehran launching hundreds of missiles and rockets directly at Israel in April 2024.

In a speech following Sunday's dam inauguration, Raisi emphasised Iran's support for Palestinians, a centrepiece of its foreign policy since the 1979 Islamic revolution. "We believe that Pales-

tine is the first issue of the Muslim world and we are convinced that the people of Iran and Azerbaijan always support the people of Palestine and Gaza and hate the Zionist regime, said Raisi. Raisi, born in 1960 in

northeast Iran's holy city of Mashhad, rose early to high office. Aged just 20, he was named prosecutorgeneral of Karaj next to Tehran. He served as Tehran's

prosecutor-general from 1989 to 1994, deputy chief of the Judicial Authority for a decade from 2004, and then national prosecutorgeneral in 2014. His black turban signi-

fies direct descent from the Prophet Mohammed, and he holds the religious title of "hojatoleslam" literally "proof of Islam", one rank below that of ayatollah in the Shiite clerical hierarchy.

LAHORE: Participants are holding cycle rally for awareness of environmental climate changes organized by Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee held in Lahore.

Deputy PM assures support.... Continued from page 1

Minister revealed that six Pakistani students were among the sixteen injured foreign students, currently receiving treatment in three different hospitals. He underscored the strong frater-nal relations with

Kyrgyzstan, emphasizing that the incident was not targeted against Pakistan. "The situation is now normal, with Kyrgyz students visiting the injured as a gesture of goodwill. Security has been heightened in Kyrgyzstan as a precaution," he added. Due to the incident, a

planned visit was canceled at the request of the Kyrgyz government, the minister said. Instead, he added that two officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were dispatched to Bishkek. He assured that continuous contact is maintained with the students and their parents through the embassy. "We have facilitated the return of 130 Pakistani students so far, with over 50 more registered to return today. Additionally, 540 students will return on commercial flights, and a Pakistan Air Force flight is also arranged to bring students back from Bishkek. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi will personally welcome these students," he

He also touched upon Pakistan's international standing, noting, "Pakistan was isolated on the international stage during the previous era, but under Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's strategy, the country's global image has been restored, and diplomatic relations have im-

proved." He emphasized Central Asian country's the importance of increasing the number of medical institutions in the country.

Minister Federal Ameer Mugam affirmed the government's ongoing contact with Kyrgyz authorities since the incident occurred. "It is crucial to set aside emotions and focus on the facts. The education of students in Kyrgyzstan benefits both countries, and the government is providing comprehensive support to the victims," he concluded.

Online adds: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday said that three special commercial flights had been arranged to bring back 540 Pakistani students from Kyrgyzstan today.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore alongside Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Dar also the foreign minister said, "Yesterday, around 130 students reached Pakistan via commercial flights. So today, three commercial flights, special flights have been arranged. Through these 540 more students will be able to return and the [total] number will increase to 670.

He further said that the government had also talked to the air force today, adding that it would also operate a special flight. "The capacity of that flight will be approximately 130 and for that the embassy has let the students know [...] So far, around 50 students have let the embassy know they wish to go on this flight," he said.

The development comes after around more than 100 students arrived in Lahore last night, follow- cluding four to five Pakiing mob violence in the stanis.

capital Bishkek, which had resulted in injuries to five Pakistani students as per the Kyrgyz health ministry.

Kyrgyz police said they had mobilised forces in the Central Asian nation's capital on Friday to quell violence, in which hundreds of Kyrgyz men attacked buildings housing foreign students, including Pakistanis. According to Pakistan's embassy in Bishkek, foreign students living in the Kyrgyz capital, including those from Pakistan, were attacked by locals in the aftermath of a brawl with Egyptian na-

tionals on May 13. Kyrgyz private media outlet 24.kg reported that a spontaneous protest against foreigners" that began on Friday night in Bishkek ended on Saturday morning after police came to an agreement with the rioters and they dispersed

a little later. Pakistan on Saturday summoned Kyrgyz envoy Melis Moldaliev to the Foreign Office and demanded "all possible measures" for the protection of the students, with the embassy asking them to remain indoors till de-escalation of

the situation. Prime Shehbaz Sharif had also asked Dar to visit Bishkek along with Kashmir Affairs Minister Amir Muqam on a special flight. However, the two did not travel as planned.

Addressing the media today, Dar quoted Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Zheenbek Kulubaev as telling him that a total of 16 foreign students had been injured, in-

Continued from page 1 pared to previous years, he

noted. APP adds: Minister for Religious Affairs and In-terfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain visited the Rehlat Manafea Company, a service provider, on Sunday to review the arrangements made for Pakistani Hujjaj, particularly during the five Hajj days in Mashair from 8-12

Zilhaj. Upon arrival, the company's CEO, Ahmed Abdullatef Tammar, along with his team welcomed the Pakistan delegation, led by the religious minister. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dr Syed Ata-ur-Rehman, Director General (Hajj), Jeddah/ Head of Pakistan Hajj Mission, Abdul Wahab Soomor, Director Makkah, Faheem Afridi, Head of Medical Mission, Brigadier Jamil Ahmed Lakhiar, Director Mouavneen Asghar Yusufzai and other officials

assisted the minister in the meeting. Minister Salik Hussain appreciated the company for making timely and elaborate arrangements, including transport, accommodation, and catering in Mina. Arafat and

He stressed the need to explore ways and means for further collaboration in

Muzdalfa.

Hajj-related matters aimed at extending maximum facilitation to the guests of Allah Almighty at the holy

During the meeting, CEO Ahmed Abdullatef Tammar said the company, which has a team of highly skilled professionals, has finalized 100 percent arrangements well before

The minister invited the CEO to visit Pakistan for increased cooperation and collaboration in future Hajj-related plans. Accepting the invitation, the CEO said he would visit Pakistan in August. Later, Chaudhry Salik

Hussain took a round of

Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalfa

to witness the arrangements on the ground. The minister expressed satisfaction over the arrangements. The visit of Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain to Rehlat Manafea Company demonstrated the government's commitment to ensuring a smooth and spiritually fulfilling Hajj experience for Paki-

The minister's appreciation for the company's efforts and his invitation to the CEO to visit Pakistan reflect the government's desire for continued collaboration and improvement in Hajj-related ser-

stani pilgrims.



LAHORE: A large number of youngsters bathing in a canal to get relief from scorching hot weather due to increasing temperature in Provincial Capital.

CWAs to boost overseas employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad

The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development This involved the for-(OP&HRD) has given the mulation, signing, and extask to the Community
Welfare Attaches (LOIs) and agreements (CWAs) stationed abroad to strategically enhance critical in amplifying the job opportunities for Pa- export of Pakistani mankistanis in the international

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

pects for Pakistani nation- sign of training programs abroad. als through engagements with foreign employers.

with foreign companies,

An official source crucial need for close collaboration between CWAs and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development, particularly in sharing in-formation related to employment demands abroad and the necessary skills re-

specifically tailored to the skills demanded by foreign companies, ensuring that Pakistani workers are wellequipped and aligned with global standards

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

Furthermore, stressed the essential role of CWAs in catering to the needs and resolving issues quired for those jobs. This faced by overseas Paki-

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 Pakistani and Human Resource Development reiterates its commitment to spearheading initiatives that fortify global employment prospects for Paki-

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

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) has an-

nounced the launch of the

Azadi Fellowship Program,

hosted at the Islamic Re-

search Institute (IRI) of the

International Islamic Uni-

versity in Islamabad (IIUI).

program commenced on

May 17 and will run until May 25, 2024, spanning a

Speaking to the media, IRCRA President

Muhammad Israr Madani

explained that the Azadi Fellowship Program is de-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Pakistan Meterological

Department (PMD) has

forecast mainly hot and dry

weather for most parts of

the country during the next

windstorm-dust raising winds is likely in central and

However, partly cloudy weather with rain-

windstorm/thunderstorm is

Very hot weather with

24 hours.

southern parts.

Hot and dry weather

likely in most parts

of country: PMD

expected at isolated places in southern/central parts.

Kashmir.

total of nine days.

The highly anticipated

IRCRA launches 'Azadi

Fellowship Program' to

promote religious freedom

community youth and faith

leaders, university and

madrasa graduates, teach-

ers, writers, and scholars

fellowship will focus on

enhancing participants'

understanding of reli-

gious freedom, democ-

racy, and civic engage-

ment. Additionally, par-

ticipants will have the

opportunity to implement

seed projects in their re-

spective communities, fos-

tering real-world impact, he

in upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar re-

gion, Gilgit-Baltistan and

optic situation, a shallow

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 Sun

day organized a freelancing and digital media training session for Islamabad Youth

Assembly and students of different universities of Islamabad for imparting training

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

has organized various training programs, seminars, conferences and workshops for

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

ICCI Fatima Hassan emphasized that digital skills are need of the hour not only for

IT specialist Fahad Malik guided the participants of training program about the

Speaking on the occasion, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said the ICCI

He said that the it was also taking steps to promote entrepreneurship culture and

Clinical Psychologist and Convener Rising Generation Empowerment Committee

during next 24 hours.

According to the syn-

Israr stated that

This year, he said the

from across the nation.

signed to engage over 20 IRCRA has partnered with



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

Student volunteers of

Iqra University visits

Security Division

Later, the delegation

also visited the CCTV con-

trol room, police mess,

stable, and diplomatic en-

clave. Moreover, delegation

was fully informed about

their procedure and useful-

ness, patrolling of police in

high Security Zone and the

performance and utility of

the police that are playing

an important role in the se-

curity of the High Security

Zone, security of VVIP/VIP

foreign dignitaries, national

VIPs, important buildings

situated in High Security

Zone and protection of life

The delegation ac-

and property of citizens.

knowledged the security

measurements taken by

Islamabad Police to ensure

matic enclave. The delega-

tion expressed special grati-

team for this successful visit.

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According

to the details, the student

volunteers of Iqra Univer-

sity visited Security Divi-

sion Islamabad and met

with SSP Security, a public

ing 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 Univer-

sity and briefed them about

security division police

tion visited the Security di-

vision under the Friends of

The student delega-

He said that, follow-

relations officer said.

for employment pros- step will facilitate the de- stanis during their stay II MILL MANI FAL shmiri-American Leader iday, 19th May, 2024, L PRESS CLUB ISLAM

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 chil-

dren in the country. The project's race, held at Fatima Jinnah F-9 Park, saw an impressive turnout of around 400 en- dents to running basics and thusiastic young runners encouraging active particiaged 7-14, from diverse pation, with a special emtheir 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 and a tangible sense of acsix countries including complishment among the

Nepal, Chile, and Brazil. was held for the first time in Pakistan

Over the past eight weeks, experienced athletes conducted training sessions at selected schools, including Bebud School (Said Pur, Islamabad), Maryam Foundation School (Bani Gala, Islamabad), Ghoshae-Mashaal (Margalla Town, Islamabad), and The Qalam

(Rawalpindi). The program focused on introducing stuand unity among partici-

The race featured distances of 1km, 3km, and 5km, allowing children to showcase their running abilities in a supportive and inclusive environment. The event was a resounding success, with beaming faces Egypt, Morocco, Peru, young participants.

APSUP strongly condemns recent attacks on Pakistani students in Kyrgystan

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

"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 per-

ISLAMABAD (APP): acts are brought to justice and measures are put in place to prevent any recurrence of such incidents,

they stressed. They said we also call upon the government to engage with their counterparts in Kyrgyzstan to address this issue urgently and ensure the well-being of our students

A helpline should be made functional to provide updated information to the parents of the students, they recommended.

APSUP stands in solidarity with the affected students and their families during this difficult time and committed to supporting all efforts to provide them with the necessary assistance and ensure their safe and peaceful continuation of studies. The pursuit of education should never be marred by fear or violence, APSUP believed.

We appeal to the international community to uphold the values of respect, tolerance, and safety

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 bio-markers, and brain structure, as measured using MRI.

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

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.3

Conversely, diets high in processed foods, saturated fats

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

A police public relations officer on Sunday told APP that following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (ÎGP) 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

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.

crime and drug menace from

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

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 di-

jobs, said a press release.

enhancing skills in different fields and sectors.

Extreme weather

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

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 ministry in the federal capi- some of the world's high-

illnesses and dehydration.

adding that participants will benefit from a unique blend of theoretical knowledge and practical skills aimed at fostering leadership and community engagement. **Tourists throng**

the Muslim Council of El-

ders, Paigham-e-Pakistan, KPCVE, and IRI-IIUI for

program will feature a se-

ries of sessions led by es-

teemed national and inter-

national speakers and ex-

perts, providing a dy-

namic and enriching

learning environment

He mentioned that the

this initiative.

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 Pakistan Tourism Develop official said the Kaghar

westerly wave was present valley. Talking to APP, a over upper parts of the country and may persist ment Corporation (PTDC) During the last 24 Development Authority hours, hot and dry weather (KDA) has reopened the prevailed in most parts of the country while very hot Kaghan Highway for all kinds of commuters

Kaghan-Naran after road's reopening

Police Program. The SSP the protection of the diplo-Security fully briefed the delegation about the procedures and advantages of the tude to IGP Islamabad and his



meaningfully to the economy while fostering a sense of responsibility as Traditionally, seminaries have served as cen-

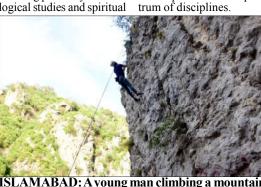
ISLAMABAD (APP): development. However,

with APP, a non-profitable organization – Pakistan tive can equip students with practical skills, enabling them to contribute (PDF)

tres of religious education, focusing primarily on theo-

recognizing the evolving needs of society and the aspirations of their stuto integrate them into the dents, the seminaries should embark on a journey to broaden their educationa offerings. Expressing his views

> Development Foundation 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 spec-



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

individuals prosperity but for country's development. Irony of fate: Education faces climate challenges

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

tal serves as a testament to the unpredictable climate patterns the school children 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 rupt schooling by making wet towels to the skin.

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 ate action if a child experiimpact of climate change on ences these symptoms, recchildren's education. She said that the extreme weather conditions can dis-

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

Dr. Gulam Fareed, a family physician, highlighted symptoms of heatrelated illnesses such as high body temperature, rapid pulse, headache, and dizziness. He advised immediommending moving them indoors or to a shaded area and applying cool water or



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

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Monday May 20, 2024

Border clashes

The Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier has witnessed another series of flare-ups, this time in the Kurram tribal district that borders several Afghan provinces. The hostilities indicate the need for better border management from both sides, so that minor disputes do not descend into armed exchanges. Thankfully a ceasefire was agreed to on Saturday, with the border reopening. Earlier, those living in border villages had moved to safer locales as forces from both gated not just the claims states traded fire. Trade activities at the Kharlachi crossing had also been suspended. The trigger for the escalation remains unclear. Though the Taliban remained tight-lipped Afghan media claimed a number of "civilians" had lost their lives in the clashes, which had been continuing for several days but intensified on Friday.

Pakistan's cross-border issues with Afghanistan are of two kinds. The first involves direct hostilities between security forces of both nations. The second element is that of crossborder terrorism perpetrated in Pakistan by militant groups that have apparently found sanctuary in Afghanistan. Both these outstanding issues need to be resolved in order to ensure mutual security. While some in official circles had felt that security would improve after the Western-backed government in Kabul fell and the Taliban took over, this has not been the case. Ever since the August 2021 fall of Kabul, cross-border security has re- tax exemptions for resimained tenuous. The number of incidents over the past several months is numerous. For example, the Torkham crossing has remained closed for days on end due to various disputes. Sometimes these closures have taken a violent turn, with security forces trading fire. Pakistan has also struck reported terrorist sanctuaries Successive governments, both elected and military, in Afghanistan; the last major have failed to provide good such incident took place in March after a number of security personnel were martyred in a North Waziristan ambush. Meanwhile, a terrorist incursion in Chitral was thwarted by security forces in September last

While Pakistan has communicated its "deepest concerns" to Kabul regarding the latest hostilities, there is a need to tions. Inequitable distriwork with the de facto Afghan bution of resources has government to ensure the western border remains peaceful. Local-level disputes at the frontier need to be resolved by area commanders and officials before they deteriorate into exchanges of fire. Moreover, the Afghan on what ails governance in side must realise that the Pakistan Studies have ad-Durand Line is the border, and change in its status is non-negotiable from the Pakistani point of view. The issue of cross-border terrorism is more complicated. While the Taliban authorities may be in denial about the MNA who has spent a presence of militants on Afghan certain amount of money soil, securing the border — and on elections. Ostensibly, his (or her) priorities ensuring no anti-Pakistan terrorists are able to threaten this country's security from the Afghan side — is the Taliban's responsibility. While it may appear that Islamabad's antiterrorism concerns are not being seriously entertained by Kabul, the state must continue to use diplomatic channels to communicate its views.

How not to win a Pulitzer

Abbas Nasir

Israel's destructive military campaign in Gaza, which has so far killed over 35,000 Palestinians, including nearly 14,000 children over the past seven months in revenge for the Hamas assault on Oct 7 last year, has exposed the objectivity and impartiality claims of many leading Western newspapers and media outlets.

The New York Times. whose coverage of the Oct events and its aftermath won the 2024 Pulitzer for international coverage, has been disappointing in so many ways. Analysts have for months strung together its headlines that refrained from naming Israel for the mass killings in Gaza.

A couple of its stories have come in for considerable stick after readers and small independent digital media platforms investicontained in them but also who was responsible for the newsgathering, ie, whose byline appeared on

The foremost example of such reporting was a front-page story on Dec 31, 2023, which detailed the alleged rape of many Israeli women by the Oct 7 attackers. There was scepticism within the Times newsroom and its print story, which was also to be made into a podcast, never made it into audio.

One of the murdered women's families, which was cited as a source by the Times reporters, later said they did not believe she was raped, and neither did the reporters mention rape when interviewing them. About a third of the story was centred on this particular victim. (Watch the investigation by 'Breaking Points' journalists online.)

After The Intercept reported on the serious differences of opinion in the NYT newsroom over the editorial decisions on the rape story, the union representing 1,500 NYT newsroom staff, made a representation to the management decrying the 'interrogation' of staff of Middle Eastern origin on suspicion of leaking the story.

When asked at a public forum about his evidence, Jeffery Gettleman, whose byline appeared alongside two other reporters, said he was uncomfortable with the term 'evidence' as it applied to LSE Media and Commu-courts and that the nication Department, says journalist's job is to present information'. I would have added 'credible information'

It emerged later that an Israeli, Anat Schwartz, who shared the byline with Gettleman, had 'liked' posts that were vehemently anti-Palestinian (she later took down her social media accounts). It also emerged she served in the Israeli Defence Forces and was in the Air Intelligence, possibly a Hasbara specialist. Another story ap-

peared this March about the 'food convoy stampede' in late February, which killed around 100 starving Palestinians and left another 700 wounded as they tried to reach the The Israeli version

was taken as fact by the NYT journalist reporting on the event. Multiple sources and media outlets reported that the IDF opened automatic fire on the Palestinians, and the IDF itself vaguely acknowledged this fact while blaming the victims for it.

Yasemin Giritli

there is nothing new in this pro-Israel bias in the Western media. Writing in The Wire, she quoted a 2011 study by the Glasgow Media Group on the BBC's news broadcasts, which documented the differences in language

used for Israelis and Pal-

estinians Google her piece for many such examples where NYT and Washington Post headlines displayed a brazen tilt, and even the BBC World/ News handle on X used 'dead' for those killed in Gaza and 'killed' for Is-

Most Western media will have you believe the Palestine issue cropped up on Oct 7, 2023 and not with the Nakba in 1948. An Associated Press

story on the Columbia University students' protest said: 'The latest Israel-

Hamas war began when Hamas and other militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people and taking an additional 250

captives, and Israel's military has killed more than 35,000 people in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and com-

Ironically, AP itself does not make the same distinction, as it does not mention that the 1,200 Israelis killed on Oct 7 included some 400 security personnel.

By contrast, Israel's Haaretz newspaper incurred the wrath of its own government when the cabinet considered banning it on national security grounds because it carried (and continues to carry) several pieces criticising Netanyahu's Gaza policy and printed graphic accounts of killings and destruction in the Strip. All Israeli TV channels censor Gaza stories and footage.

A Haaretz story based on released Palestinian prisoner testimonies about widespread sexual abuse and torture got little to no traction in the Western media.

Most of the US and

Israel or petrified of it to do the kind of journalism they should be doing. I am aware only of British-American journalist Mehdi Hasan being dropped by his channel in the US.

However, there are several cases in the UK where journalists have either had to offer grovelling public apologies (LBC's Natasha Devon for questioning the rape stories) or have been sacked from their jobs for robustly questioning Israeli government functionaries. Bella Donati (SkyNews) and Sangita Myska (LBC) are two ex-

amples. But all is not as bleak. Some of the journalists on CNN have done sterling work. Matthew Chance's story, based on whistleblowers' accounts of Palestinian detainees' sub-human treatment and torture at a military-run camp, made headlines. CNN's Jomana Karadsheh reported not just on the 14,000 children killed but also on the heart-breaking plight of the 20,000 WCNSF (wounded child, nceolu, a visiting profes-sor of media studies at the tants still hold about 100 blindly sympathetic to many of whom are ampu--- Courtesy Dawn

Mainstream Pakistan

Muhammad **Amir Rana**

The revelations from the Dubai leaks, detailing the expensive overseas properties owned by the country's power elite, have not surprised the populace.

Similarly, news of Pakistan's total debt and liabilities reaching a record Rs81 trillion due to economic mismanagement has failed to shock. Instead, social media reflects a sense of bemusement over the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee's (JAAC) success in achieving its demands. This disconnect highlights the differences in the priorities of the elites and the common people, which are exacerbating the nation's ociopolitical crisis.

The juxtaposition of the contrasting news running on our TV screens is quite jarring. On one side, the federal finance minister is determined to eliminate ally Administered Tribal Areas and Provincially Administered Tribal Areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On the other, it is disclosed in the Punjab Assembly that state-owned land is being leased for a mere Rs417 per month for gymkhana clubs in the province. Such reports seem to justify the public anger at the state, an example of which can be seen in viral social media clips of an official in Azad Kashmir being humiliated for using a government vehicle to transport his pet dog.

The JAAC's demands have been met. The risk of its protests turning even more violent had increased following the killing of three protesters, and it seems the government was not ready to take that kind of risk. The presence of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation in Islamabad seems to have contributed to the fulfilment of JAAC's demands, as the group had bluntly expressed doubts about the capabilities of state institutions amidst the heightened political uncertainty and renewed social tensions. These reports of

The government acted out of panic, likely hoping to avoid derailing its talks exemptions given to the with the IMF for another

widespread social unrest

from Azad Jammu and

Kashmir must have added

to the IMF's anxieties.

bailout programme over the been draining Pakistan's sociopolitical unrest in Azad Kashmir. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif promptly approved a Rs23 billion (\$82 million) subsidy programme to drastically reduce the price of wheat and flour, meeting a demand that the protesters had been raising for at least the last year. The JAAC had modelled its approach after the Awami Action Committee (AAC) of Gilgit-Baltistan, which has been active in ensuring the

Earlier this year, the AAC had secured a similar deal with the government for a wheat subsidy. Initially reluctant, the government seems to have conceded in both cases due to the strategic and economic significance of both GB and Azad Kashmir, particularly with respect to the China-Pakistan Economic Corri-

fulfilment of several local

demands in recent years.

These regions have tax and customs duty exemptions, widespread subsidies, and certain legal exemptions. There are many in Islamabad who have long voiced concerns that the people of these areas have

economy. While concessionary policies may have benefited the elites in these regions, ordinary citizens have continued to struggle, and they rightly attribute their plight to the power

The people's reaction to the government's plans to introduce new taxation measures in former Fata and Pata is yet to be seen. It is uncertain how the government will react if mass movements akin to AAC and JAAC emerge: will it fold again in the face of ad-

The IMF's primary concern is that state institutions do not have a strategy to address the sociopolitical crisis. They either resort to extreme and violent measures or complete surrender. Such measures damage the state's ability to implement long-term structural reforms in the economic sector. The IMF assesses the government's stringent economic measures in a volatile environment, noting that a weak government is less capable of handling such challenges.

The dilemma for state institutions lies in the fairness and constitutional va- manded full provincial sta- these movements

mands, which are organic and devoid of significant political ambitions. The JAAC and AAC represent anti-elite movements challenging the existing political order. These movements, unlike the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement in KP and the Haq do Tehreek in Balochistan's Makran region, have so far avoided ethnic and nationalistic undertones. However, this could change if the government fails to fulfil its commitments.

The government needs to navigate a delicate balance between satisfying the masses and meeting IMF requirements. The only sustainable solution is a comprehensive, long-term plan for socio-economic transformation — a task the power elite struggles to conceive, as it prefers firefighting and short-term crisis management. The populist movements discussed here have arisen stream administrative system.

For example, Gilgit-Baltistan has long de-

lidity of the public's de- tus, which was nearly achieved under Imran Khan's government. But plans were inexplicably stalled and have not been discussed again. Even though the state was finally able to 'mainstream' Fata after 75 years, it remains an ongoing challenge exacerbated by the increased securitisation of the region in recent years. Perhaps, instead of clamping down more tightly on both Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir when populist movements broke out, the state should have learnt from its mistakes in Fata and taken a more consid-

ered approach. Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir require mainstreaming in governance, economy and politics, and equal constitutional rights. Granting these rights could help legitimise and simplify the introduction of the tax reforms that the government envisages for these regions. historically benefited from capacity to implement mainly in peripheral re- However, the unstructured gions, which are fighting for and unplanned handling of constitutional status or in-social transformation by tegration into the main- change agents and the noninvolvement of political parties, particularly ruling parties, has positioned them as adversaries to

Good governance

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

governance to Pakistan. A perfect storm created by chronic political instability, inconsistent economic policies, weak institutions, pervasive corruption, and lack of accountability has hit our country. Add to that the gross mismanagement of scarce resources, the accumulation of unsustainable debt, and pathetic public service delivery, and it is no wonder that Pakistanis are losing trust in their government and state institucreated horizontal and vertical disparities. Millions of people have fallen below the poverty line. There is no social justice or equal opportunity. Nor are people's basic needs being met or their human rights being respected.

Experts have written vised on how to extricate our economy from poor governance. However, if one were to identify the root cause of these ills, it is not the economy but the way parliamentary democracy is practised here.

Take, for instance, the role of a ruling party would include: recovering the amount spent on the poll campaign, securing contracts and government jobs for his constituents; getting an executive position; and ensuring that the local government system does not take root lest development funds move out of his domain and end up with LG representatives. None of these priorities relate to his actual responsibility of negotiating and legislating on pubdifferent if this MNA is

in the opposition. He would have to find a way to recoup the funds spent on his election campaign, or team up with likeminded colleagues to bring the government down. Legislation is the least of his priorities. The prime minister

is a hostage to the MNAs. If he does not facilitate the allocation of sufficient development funds for them, he runs the risk of a vote of no-confidence. To remain in power, he looks around to seek help from other state institutions the bureaucracy, judiciary, army — rather than leading them as chief executive of the country or inspiring their confidence to work within their respective mandates.

Such a fragile political system cannot deliver good governance. One may ask why the parliamentary form of governance works well in countries like Japan, Italy and the Netherlands, where politics is nearly as unpredictable as it is in Pakistan. A major reason is that these countries have not experienced military interventions in recent history, and the governance system has refined itself over electoral cycles. The other reason is that their state institutions, particularly the bureaucracy, judiciary, and the armed forces, are not politicised, and maintain their independence and meritocracy. An efficient and competent civil service coupled with an impartial judiciary is the

which political party is in For Pakistan to take the road to good governance, the parliamentary reformed. -- Courtesy form of government, as is

steel frame that ensures

the rule of law. If these

two institutions are func-

tioning on the basis of

merit, governance remains

functional regardless of

being practised here, It is essentially no needs to be revisited. The size of the provinces should be rationalised by increasing their number to facilitate better governance. The resources devolved to them under the 18th Amendment should be transferred to the local level of governance. We should also set up a national security council for integrated decision-making under the leadership of the elected prime minister. However, these measures require national consensus and constitutional amendments, which

would take a long time.

The focus, therefore,

should be on doable measures that do not require constitutional amendments. These would include: (i) setting up elected LGs for better public service delivery, and letting MNAs and MPAs devote their time to legislation; (ii) encouraging wealth creation by facilitating industrialisation and ease of doing business, and attracting domestic investors who have parked their capital abroad; (iii) working towards self-reliance: expect no foreign dole-outs, open up the SIFC framework for domestic investors, encourage industries that create employment, expedite economic zones, encourage import substitution. regulate food cartels, and encourage regional trade; (iv) not compromising on establishing

government's writ, otherwise investments won't come in; and (v) empowplanting, and soil ering the ECP to use elecstabilization tronic voting machines for transparent polls, and ensuring democratic practices within political par-

A governance sysgardens tem that does not ensure the safety, security, dignity, and prosperity of ordinary citizens must be

Environmental Issues in Quetta and its solution



By Romisa Shah

Air pollution due to dust and particulate matters.

Natural environment and geography of Quetta contribute to dry and dusty atmosphere.

Limited rainfall and wind patterns exacerbate challenges dust particles in the air.

growth encroachment on green land, leading to soil erosion and increased dust.

Construction activities and trafemissions worsen air qual-

Solutions: measures: water sprinkling, tree

Promote sustainable urban plastic. planning: green spaces, parks, and

eco-friendly tion. cycling, and elec- industrial efflu- water resources.

tric vehicles vehicles and in- pesticides.

dustries

zens about envi- is highly vulnerronmental con- able to climate servation and in- change. dividual actions country has expeto reduce pollu- rienced extreme

Develop and like implement effec- floods, tive waste management and recycling systems

search and development of innova- to the lack of selftive solutions for sufficiency in the Quetta's unique wood-based prodenvironmental ucts sector.

these issues and stan lacks effec-Urban sprawl implementing tive waste manand population these solutions, agement systems, Quetta can miti- leading to pollugate the effects of tion and health environmental problems. pollution and pregenerations.

world's third-most ronment, contrib-Implement when it comes to water pollution. dust-reducing air quality. This is because of industrial activities, vehicle emissions, are a significant and the burning contributor to air of garbage and

Water pollu-

ent, untreated Enforce emis- sewage, and the sions regulations overuse of chemiand standards for cal fertilizers and

Climate Educate citi- change: Pakistan weather events droughts,

heatwaves. **Deforestation:** Pakistan's forests Support re- are depleting at an alarming rate due

Waste man-By addressing agement: Paki-

Industrial polserve its natural lution: Industrial beauty for future activities in Pakistan Air pollution: harmful chemi-Pakistan is the cals into the envipolluted country uting to air and

> Transportation pollution: Vehicle emissions pollution Pakistan's cities.

Agricultural tion: Pakistan is pollution: The use classified as a wa- of chemical fertil-Encourage ter-stressed na- izers and pesti-The cides in agricultransportation: country's rivers ture has contamipublic transport, are polluted by nated soil and

CM Sindh reviews progress on 7 mega projects in province

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 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

Expressway, New Jam Sadiq Bridge and Korangi Causeway Bridge were being constructed.
The CM

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 Malir Expressway Company (SSGC).

different projects Malir 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 (sixlane) project and would

have six interchanges. To a question, Niaz Soomro told the CM that the progress of Malin 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 The CM was told that and Sui Southern Gas



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

Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, has emphasized that Pakistani pilgrims should refrain

conference at Jamia ensured the efficient responded with gunfire Manzoor-ul-Islamia delivery of goods for resultantly. Cantonment on Sunday, Ashrafi condemned the added. spread of fake news on social media for political particularly regarding the recent and Kyrgyzstan incident. He performing Hajj without 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 of Prime Minister Makkah program, which Muhammad

necessary supplies, and

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

directed to complete the

Governor Punjab

Agriculture University.

Saudi Arabia for facilitating He also mentioned

that private groups, in collaboration with the Ministry of Religious Affairs, are committed to from participating in any political activity during from pilgrims in Makkah millions of pilgrims, he

Ashrafi Pakistani pilgrims to adhere to Saudi regulations stressed that proper permission on a visit visa is not permissible. He noted that countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with the support Shehbaz assists pilgrims with Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Hafiz Asim Munir



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

Cop injured by firing of unknown motorcyclists

RAWALPINDI (APP) Unknown motorcyclists opened indiscriminate firing on police party and fled away from the scene in the jurisdiction of naseerabad police station.

According to the police spokesman, the incident occurred when the pilgrimage. promptly. The "Road to Addressing a press Makkah" initiative has motorcyclists, but they

Due to the fire a constable was injured and he was shifted to the nearby hospital. SDPO Naseerabad visited the hospital to inquire the

injured cop.
Additionally a search operation was being conducted to apprehend the unknown attackers.

Two dacoits killed in police encounter

FAISALABAD (APP) Two dacoits were allegedly killed in a police encounter in the area of Millat Town police station here on late Saturday night.

A Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Sunday that an encounter took place between the police and outlaws near Falahi Bridge Diyal Gar on Millat Road in which two criminals including Imtiaz (25) and Nabeel (30) received serious injuries and died on the spot.

campus. In the meeting, Pro

University Rawalpindi Dr.

Agriculture Department

Dr. Shahanshah Faisal

Secretary Agriculture

Captain Waqas, Principal

Secretary to Governor

Captain (retd) Saqib Zafar,

Secretary

Additional

Vice-Chancellor Pir Meher

Attock Campus project committee members will

should be operational in visit the site and submit a

the shortest possible time report within ten days to

to provide the facility of ensure the earliest

higher education to the completion of the Attock

He said that higher Ali Shah Aird Agriculture

Special

Azeem,

residents of Attock and

education has a key role in

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

the development of the Muhammad

suburban areas.

continue in Swabi, Peshawar Higher education has key role in the development of the country: Saleem

continued against Hawala, Hundi and illegal currency Reviews progress on Arid Agriculture University Attock campus

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 spokesman said. Among related to the reference

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khalid Khan, Shayaz FIA crackdown operations Khan, Shoaib, Asghar and Amjad Ali, the FIA spokesman said.

LAHORE: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Wada Mitsuhiro meeting with

Ready to play bridge

role between KP and

federation: Governor

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

provincial government and all political parties to join

hands with me in struggle

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

emphasizing the need for

Governor's Rule; Peoples

Highlighting the economic challenges faced

by the Pakistani youth, the

PDF chairman underscored

the need of creating job

young

BALCI

their

empowering young individuals. He pleaded 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

provided a comprehensive overview of the TiKA's

empowering the local communities.

opportunities

the youth.
Muhsin

commitment

ongoing emphasizing

FIA operations against

illegal currency business

'We will not impose

effective governance.

through

to Party believes in for the democracy," Governor

SIALKOT: Provincial Minister for Local

Government Zeeshan Rafique seen off indenting

pilgrims during first flight of Hajj Operation at

PDF, TiKA pledge to

boost humanitarian

activities in KP

Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Development Foundation

(PDF) and Turkiye's aid

organization TiKA held

talks for enhancing

humanitarian activities in

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

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

for the province's cause,

invite the

elections,

Expressing readiness

province's welfare.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

PESHAWAR

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.

stressed the importance of

addressing issues with reason rather than resorting

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

am willing to visit the Chief Minister's House if there

is any problem in visiting

the Governor House," said Governor Kundi,

highlighting

commitment

collaboration

to indecorous behavior.

Governor Kundi

He said this while

A huge amount of domestic and foreign currency was recovered from the possession of the accused and a total of more than 48, 56000 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 without license, FIA currency and evidence

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

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.

opportunities strengthening trade, business and investment trade, 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.

said the people-to-people

Kundi asserted, outlining

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

Governor, ready to go to

every street. I don't want to cause anyone distress."

Free medical

camp organized

by Pak Army in

Gilgit-Baltistan

GHANCHE (Online): A

one-day free medical camp

was organized by Pakistan

Army in Kharko village of

Ghanche district of Gilgit-

Baltistan. Twenty-six

doctors and paramedical

staff of Army Medical

Corps participated in the

medical camp. During the

one-day free medical camp,

more than 1500 patients

including 425 men, 627

investigations, portable

dental x-ray, minor OT

procedures, patient care,

medication, dressing and

wound care facilities.

The people of the

area appreciated the

noble service of the

"I am a people's

than repeated protests.

his party's stance.

Regarding

interaction between Punjab and Japan is indispensable for the development of bilateral relations.
Moreover, the promotion student-faculty possible 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 collaborate with the Punjab government for the development 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 The chief minister projects are ongoing for public welfare in Pakistan.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ullema 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 students," the CM said. 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

camp provided patients with routine medical and dental check-up, ECG, lab the leadership role of been very helpful in normalizing the situation

> Amin Gandapour said. "We are grateful to

> and giving the students a sense of security," Ali

"However, these incidents caused mental stress and suffering for the students and families," Ali 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 the Kyrgyz government proved helpful in saving the support and facilities for women and 363 children were treated. The medical and comforting their Gandapur said.

The KP government "In this difficult time, the leadership role of the Kyrgyz government has "In this difficult time, 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 the Kyrgyz government for ensuring the safety of our Kyrgyztan Ambassador. Amin Gandapur told the



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

Advisor Tourism visits Galyat, directs to remove encroachments

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister KP on Tourism, Culture and Archeology Zahid Chanzeb on Sunday expressed his displeasure the over 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.

Independent Report

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 washrooms and issued instructions 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 passenger buses, 28 truck and 84 other types of auto. 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 Wî-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.



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

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

c o m p l e t e

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

OMMERCENEWS

PSO workmen union **Qazi Shaukat Panel** takes oath

Independent Report

KARACHI: The 25-member cabinet of Pakistan 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 Mehmood Ali to the newly elected President Qazi Shaukat Hussain, General Secretary Irfan, Senior Vice President Naseer Sultan, Finance Secretary Imran Taimoori, and other

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 resources elections and

expressed hope that the re-elected Qazi Shaukat panel would continue to advance workers' rights with even greater vigor. He reaffirmed management's commitment to resolving 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

General Secretary Irfan reiterated the union's dedication to serving workers and committed to utilizing all available 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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Discussions on the By adopting iTFA-free reformulation strategies, Pakistan can contribute to

healthier food options for consumers and align with evolving regulatory standards, says SDPI's Joint Executive Director, SMEs and government Dr. Vaqar Ahmed. He was institutions. For SMEs, 'Empowering SMEs; Training on reducing industrial trans fatty acids for healthier Pakistan' by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute here in Islamabad on Sunday.

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director SDPI said the focus on the crucial topics surrounding reduction of industrially produced trans fatty acids (iTFA) remains 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.

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 themselves with evolving

regulatory standards. On other compliance environment conducive to

innovation reformulation Salman, Country Lead

on the next steps for both knowledge gained here into practices is important. By adopting iTFA-free alternatives and reformulation strategies, they can contribute to healthier food options for consumers and align

government institutions must continue to provide support and guidance to regulations and fostering an

Muhammad Cargill says that discussion aims to make the lives of our countrymen better.



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

inclusion in the Country.

Association (PBA) held a meeting with the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Muhammad

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

Meeting regarding progress of SEZ enterprises

in DIK PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting under the chairmanship of Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher, took place at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Khyber Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) office, here on Sunday regarding the progress of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) enterprises in D.l. Khan.

SBP to celebrate "Int'l Museum Day" on May 20

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will celebrate International "International Museum Day" on Monday (May 20) with the theme of "Museums for Education and Research.

The objective of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about the fact that museums are an important means of cultural exchange enrichment of culture and development of mutual mutual understanding, cooperation and well being among people. According to spokesman, "The SBP Museum & Art Gallery has planned an event wherein underprivileged students (class 4 to 8) from Zindagi

Trust School

Federal Minister mentioned at the outset the banks to step up and that the idea of this exercise continue to work with the shall be to encourage the Government in the revival entire sector to contribute and the growth of the economy. During the session, PBA Chairman towards these priority sectors as per their size and unique offerings & Zafar Masud, along with strengths. While there will the Steering Committee be no "directed lending"; members on these however, there shall be initiatives, including Vice Chairman PBA, Ahmed voluntary targets to be set

contribute towards these Inclusion Group) State critical sectors. He expects Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Syed Irfan Ali, and President & CEO Meezan presented a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at promoting growth and sustainability in these sectors. proposals were developed in close consultation with SBP to ensure they



LAHORE: Consumers buying household items at Shadman Sunday market

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 exchange earner and achieve population contributing ambitious annual national

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 yearon-year growth and emerged as one of top five net exporters in the country," stated Pakistan Software Houses Association Chairman Zohaib Khan.

"As a 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 target of over US\$ 15 billion, it is crucial to embrace a comprehensive approach to propel this sector forward." According

Telecommunication Authority Pakistan's Telecom secto 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

FTO to chair central advisory committee today

LAHORE 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 tomorrow (Monday).

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

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

Punjab Food Department has not imposed any transportation of wheat and according to the policy of the Punjab government, inter-provincial and interdistrict 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 transportation of wheat.

and honest staff at all check posts to stop smuggling of various items. However, 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 installing of hydroponic farming technology at 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.

students under the Green space, or who want to Urban Development Program (GUD), a twoyear initiative by Institute of Urbanism (IoU) & School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF), with less water than gardening the support of the US in soil. Growing in water Embassy.

The Green Urban Development Programme has been launched for kitchen gardening idea by fostering a collaborative environment aimed at reshaping the urban homes where there is no or 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 The startup was great option for people grow herbs and vegetables, Marfaa told APP.

Hydroponic gardening, she continued, is space-efficient and takes also means no weeds.

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

should come up with doable solutions to increase productivity and ensure food security, said Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad

He was addressing the concluding session of a four-week workshop titled Finance, Administration Management and Egovernance 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 Iqrar Ahmad Khan urged agriculture scientists to disseminate modern agricultural trends in the farming community that would productivity. He said that the

development of the tangible research work, and country depended upon skilled manpower.

FAISALABAD (APP): the agriculture sector but Agricultural scientists the sector was facing the sector was facing challenges including low productivity, 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.

said 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 sustainable economic development. She said the university was making an all-out effort to address agricultural issues with



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

Farmers urged to avail lab's facility Institute (CRI), Dr. Rabia

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 (FFČ) for the examination of water and soil.

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

Mahmood, Expert at the production of cotton Central Cotton Research and other crops.

Saeed, Scientific Officer, CRI, and Dr. Tarique, urged communities themselves of a free

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 seminar was attended by Zonal Head, FFC, Zahoor Ahmad Khan, Regional Head, FFC, Faisal

among others. The experts the farmers Bahawalpur, Multan, and Dera Ghazi Khan to avail laboratory facility provided by the FFC for scientific

Tightening noose around wheat hoarders, exploiters

After a series of public welfare initiatives by the 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.

farmers from cruel clutches of exploiters would encourage them enabling them to more efficiently contribute to national announced price," economy as well as remarked Muhammad

security issues.

ISLAMABAD: A labourer busy in loading sugarcane on vehicle at Vegetable

Being an agrarian country, Pakistan's farmer force is main component of its economy but they are in increased per acre cost, very commonly made to suffer as happening in the case of wheat crop wherein the exploiters force farmers to sell their wheat 40 kg instead of the government, government announced rate of Rs 3900.

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

FAISALABAD (APP): initiatives to address food Imran, a small farmers in crop when the exploiters crop," informed an Faisalabad. "Since prices of seed,

fertilizers and other inputs had risen recently resulting offering us reduced wheat price means to make our survival difficult," he said. Appreciating recent

measures in different for Rs 2800 to Rs 3000 for sectors by the Punjab appealed to deal with middlemen and hoarders to ensure better price for them. "First they exploit us when they lend us seeds and fertilizers and then by purchasing our crop on

reduced price. What is happening sowing surpassed 18.5 with farmers in the case of million acres. This wheat is a replica of what additional 1.5 million they faced during maize brought out a bumper

purchased maize crop from them Rs 700 to Rs 800 per 40 kg less than announced The country has

witnessed a bumper wheat production this year as the average wheat production in some areas remained around 45 maunds per Therefore,

procurement by the government and purchase by private sector must be par in terms of commodities rate. "This time we had set a target of wheat sowing at 16 million acres but the agriculture department official. "This bulk production created demand and supply imbalance and is one the reasons behind price issues. According to Dr Javaid Ahmed Chief

Wheat Scientist, Department Ayub Research Institute, new wheat varieties like Akbar-2019, Dilkash-2019, Nawab-2021and Bhakkar Star played important role in enhanced productivity. We have done our bit in research and development by introducing good varieties. Now, it is duty of other government organs to sort out purchasing, storage and other market

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

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

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

America, the work on which is close to being completed", according to Saudi state

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 solu-

talks also touched on "the situation in Gaza and the necessity of stopping the war there, and facilitating the entry of Sullivan is scheduled

to visit Israel later on Sunday for talks about the conflict, according to the White

The Biden administrasome time to reach an agree-

MADRID: A woman holds a placard as people attend a protest in solidarity

ian administration that will

manage civilian affairs in the

Gaza Strip and lay the foun-

dation for a future alterna-

tive that is not Hamas or

(Mahmud) Abbas," he said,

referring to the president of

the Palestinian Authority.

normalisation of ties with

plan that will lead to the overall move that will cre-sentenced in 2018 after a

realisation of six strategic ate an alliance with the free trial full of twists and turns.

world and the Arab world

against Iran and its affili-

ates". Broad splits have

emerged in the Israeli 'war

cabinet' in recent days after

where Israel previously said

the group had been

Defence Minister Yoav Gal-

lant slammed Netanyahu for

failing to rule out an Israel

government in Gaza after

Rafah and just returned to

what was left of their home

in the southern city of

Khan Younis that they had

fled nearly five months ago.

dren, grandchildren, and

daughters and we came and

lived above the rubble of

our home. Because there is

no place to take refuge

here," Omran told Reuters

inside the wrecked prop-

erty as another woman

cooked over a fire. Israeli

forces also pushed deeper

into the narrow alleyways

of Jabalia in northern Gaza

overnight and into Sunday,

returning to an area that they said they had cleared

earlier in the conflict, resi-

dents said. The Israeli mili-

tary has said its operations

in Jabalia - the largest of

Gaza's eight historic refu-

gee camps - are precise

and meant to stop Hamas

from reestablishing its

"We took our chil-

Earlier in the week

He also urged the

Israeli minister threatens

to quit unless 'Gaza plan'

approved by June 8
Monitoring Desk ian administration the

prove by June 8 an action Saudi Arabia "as part of an

televised address directed at Hamas fighters regrouped in

Netanyahu. Gantz said the northern Gaza, an area

Israel launches strikes

across Gaza as US

envoy meets Netanyahu

neutralised.

JERUSALEM: An Israeli

minister said on Saturday he

would resign from the "war

cabinet" unless Prime Min-

ister Benjamin Netanyahu

approved a long-term plan

must formulate and ap-

goals of national impor-

tance, (or) we will be forced

to resign from the govern-

referring to his party, in a

six goals included toppling

Hamas, ensuring Israeli se-

curity control over the Pal-

estinian territory and re-

ing Israeli security control,

establish an American, Eu-

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Israeli planes and tanks pounded areas across

the Gaza Strip, residents said, as White House na-

tional security adviser Jake

Sullivan met Israeli Prime

Netanyahu on Sunday amid

US calls for a more focused

to press for Israel to go af-

ter Hamas militants in a tar-

geted way, not with a full-

scale assault on the south-

ern Gaza city of Rafah, the

White House said before

the discussions. Israel has

been pushing into the city

that it says is the last bas-

tion of Hamas forces. Hun-

dreds of thousands of Pal-

estinians have fled the area

that was one of their few

remaining places of refuge.

Strip, there is no safety," said Sahar Omran who told

"Across the Gaza

Sullivan was expected

military campaign.

Minister

Benjamin

'Along with maintain-

ropean, Arab and Palestin- normalisation.

turning Israeli prisoners.

Benny Gantz said,

The war cabinet

for the Gaza Strip.

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

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 tion has been seeking for in Gaza and the rising civilian toll there.

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 Is-

lamist government in 1997.

according to decrees published in the official gazette.

age and medical conditions

of the generals, who were

signed as a court in Ankara

sentenced charismatic

Kurdish leader Selahattin

Demirtas to 42 years in

prison for offences includ-

ing undermining state unity.

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, for-

merly Twitter, the decision

Two dead, five

missing after

suspected boat

collision on

Danube in

Hungary

after a suspected collision

involving a small motor

boat and a cruise ship on

the Danube River north

of Budapest late on Sat-

urday, Ĥungarian police

man was found near the

site, while that of a

woman was recovered

lice said on Sunday.

The body of an adult

was "late but just"

The main opposition

The decision cited the

The decrees were



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

Russia seizes assets of three European banks

Austria to resume aid to

UN agency for Palestinians

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 dêcided to confiscate \$300 billion in frozen Russian central-bank assets, the Kremlin had warned on UniCredit.

Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: Austria said on

Saturday it will restore its

funding to the UN agency

for Palestinian refugees af-

ter suspending it over alle-

gations that staff were in-

volved in the October 7

Janu-ary that some United

Nations Relief and Works

Agency (UNRWA) em-

ployees may have partici-

pated in the Hamas raids on

lowed, numerous donor

states, including Austria,

suspended or paused some

\$450 million in funding.

In the weeks that fol-

Israel alleged in

Hamas raids.

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)

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

Many, including

"After analysing the

Ger-many, Sweden, Canada

and Japan, had since re-

sumed funding, while oth-

ers have continued to hold

action plan in detail" sub-

mitted by UNRWA "to im-

prove the functioning of the

organisation", Austria has

decided to "release the

funds," its foreign ministry

euros (\$3.7 million) in

funds have been budgeted

for 2024, and the first pay-

ment is expected to be made

in the summer, the state-

A total of 3.4 million

said in a statement.

ment said.

from Deutsche Bank, documents dated May 16

Monitoring Desk

dergo his second round of medical tests in less than a month, state media reported Sunday. The tests will take

King Salman "suffers

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

Monitoring Desk BRATISĽAVA 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 de-

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

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman is suffering from "high temperature" and joint pain and will un-

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

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

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

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. ing chai Kalinak told journal- murder.

ists 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 prog-nosis, 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 be-

ing charged with attempted Venezuela opposition

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

The opposition has said Machado's ban is ille-

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

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 lowprofile Gonzalez told Reuters this month he believes Maduro's government would have banned him from office by now if

pivotal election, Zuma says

(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

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 twothirds (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

township Soweto, Zuma promised to provide free education for disadvantaged children, create jobs

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

supporter, Ğirlsy Six, told represented change for

want the land, we want (a) people's bank, we want a lot! We know that we can get the change we want in

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 mar-

Ĥe also thanked Vox leader Santiago Abascal for his early friendship, "when Schlapp.

I was lonelier than Adam on Mother's Day" The presence of for-

eign dignitaries prompted tight security, days after the shooting of Slovakia's Rob-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 preg-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

candidate vows political freedom **Monitoring Desk** July 28 presidential elec-LA VICTORIA: Venezu-

elan 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 institu-tions as intended by the constitution

was upheld by the Supreme

gal and an attempt by Maduro's government, which has overseen a deep economic crisis in the country, to tamp down support him from offi-for the opposition in the it intended to.

South Africa's new MK party seeks majority win in

Monitoring Desk
JOHANNESBURG: the Orlando Stadium in South Africa's biggest South Africa's new uMkhonto we Sizwe

and fight corruption. President Jacob Zuma said on Saturday.

MK has emerged as a threat to the ANC, especially in Zuma's home province of KwaZulu Na-

al, where he is popular.

A 31-year-old MK Reuters she had travelled to Gauteng from neighbouring Mpumalanga province because the party people like her.

'We want jobs, we this party," Six said.

Trump hush money trial and what to watch for as it wraps up Monitoring Desk proved their case beyond a NEW YORK: Testimony in reasonable doubt.

"foreign interference", in Tunis, Tunisia.

Monitoring Desk
BUDAPEST: Two
people were killed and
five others were missing 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.

further downstream and Jurors over the course disaster response units of a month have heard teswere still searching for the timony about sex and bookfive missing people, pokeeping, tabloid journalism A spokesperson for and presidential politics. the Budapest police, Their task ahead will be to decide whether prosecutors Soma Csecsi, said eight who have charged Trump adults were aboard the with 34 counts of falsifysmall motor boat at the time of the suspected colHere's a look at what

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

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 in-

cluding 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

Democratic Republic of Congo army says it in boat to Italy **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

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

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. life in Europe.

Witnesses say a group of about 20 assail-The national guard ants in army uniform atpeople.

ing business records have mask the alleged conspiracy. stopped attempted coup

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 foreignspokesman Ekenge said.

urday. His statement comes

parture point for people in Africa and the Middle

said it had deployed floating units and had informed

teen others," he said on the Telegram messaging Tunisia says 23 migrants missing after setting off

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

Terekhov gave the toll of

"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 six-

dead and wounded.

Kharkiv Mayor Ihor

officials said.

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 Sat-

Tunisia is facing a migration crisis and has replaced Libya as a main defleeing poverty and conflict East in the hope of a better

capitalism.

tacked the residence and ers and Congolese have the navy to help in the an exchange of gunfire folbeen put out of action, insearch for the missing cluding their leader." lowed

grip there. Reuters her family had fled 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.

the instructions of Presi-

dent Asif Ali Zardari, the

President House Sunday

contacted the Pakistani

ambassador in Kyrgyzstan

expressing concern over the

violent situation in the

stressed the need to take

immediate measures to

protect Pakistani students

in Bishkek besides provid-

ing a conducive environ-

ment for Pakistani stu-

dents to continue their

The president's direc-

The President House

President House directs

Pakistani embassy in Bishkek

to ensure security of students

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the instructions of Presitive the safety of Pakistani stu-

tives came after reports of classes for the students who

unrest and violence in 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

were eagerly looking forward to the visit of His Royal

also discussed the robust bilateral relations between Pa-

kistan and Saudi Arabia, exploring various avenues for

further strengthening cooperation across multiple sec-

tors. This dialogue underscored the profound and endur-

ing partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Ishaq Dar underlined that the people of Pakistan

During a telephonic conversation, the two leaders

The ministers also discussed the grave situation in

Arabia Mohammed Bin Salman Al Saud to Pakistan.

Highness at a mutually agreed date.

The Pakistani ambassador in Bishkek told the

President House that the

security situation of the

Pakistani students in

Kyrgyzstan was improv-

was in close contact with

the Kyrgyz authorities and

was taking measures to en-

sure the security of the stu-

government and universities

would arrange online

He said the embassy

He said the Kyrgyz

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

NEW YORK (APP): :Pa- Coalition) via video-link, kistan 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 Afghanistan foreign occupation if elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Ambassador Munir Akram has

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 55member 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 USbased Pakistan Students Association Coalition (PSA

said the election to the 15member Council would bring a lot of responsibility on Pakistan to play a leadership role in addressing "our issues like Kashmir, counterterrorism", but also other multiple global chal-

The Coalition comprises US-based Pakistani student associations of various colleges that are linked by their unwavering commitment to preserving the Pakistani iden-The Pakistani envoy

Kashmir provided for the realization of the right to self-determination by Kashmiris.

cil agenda, he told the stu-Ambassador Akram challenges," briefed the students about

alter the international sta-

tus of the dispute, which is

on the UN Security Coun-

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 tity, traditions and its rich the impact of Covid-19, an effort that led to restructuring of debt and suspension said that U.N. Security of interest payments by G-Council resolutions on 20, thus providing a substantial relief to the developing world, including Pa-

"Likewise, the estab-No gimmicks by the lishment of the instrument Indian government could 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 the Pakistani



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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The campaign

against illegal and unautho-

rized rickshaws is contin-

ued in the provincial me-

tropolis. According to the

official sources, the cam-

paign had been launched by the Retional Transport Au-

thority (RTA) and Quetta

Traffic Police on special directives of the Commis-

sioner Quetta, Muhammad

Hamza Shafqaat some time

action is being taken against

the illegal and unauthorized

ickshaws plying in the

During the campaign,

He added that due to limited capacity, the Paki-

interventions.

stani 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

In all 14 illegal rick-

The administration

Besides, the ban has

shaws were impounded

while 41 others were

challaned on violation of

the traffic laws on Joint

has warned that the cam-

paign against illegal rick-

shaws would remain con-

been imposed on new rick-

shaws in the Quetta divi-

sion by the Commissioner,

it was mentioned in the of-

ficial hand out issued here

the other day.

tinued in future as well.

road the other day.

illegal rickshaws in Quetta

mob attacks would be al lowed on Pakistani stu-

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

Musadik 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

Campaign in progress against **Political instability** won't bring economic

stabilization: Sayed

KARACHI (INP): Former federal minister Mushahid Hussain Sayed has said that the political instability wil not bring economic stabil

ity 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

Gaza and other pressing regional and global developments of mutual concern.

Chairman, Pakistan Prime Minister's Youth Pro gram, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan arrives in Dhaka, Bangladesh to attend D-8 Youth Ministers

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 the other day,

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

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 prov-

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 prov-

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

deteriorating public order with Khan. situation.

PESHAWAR (INP): Paki- sity, Asian Medical Instistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)
Chairman Barrister Gohar
Ali Khan has voiced concerns over the safety of Pakistani students in Afzal, and Shahzeb, con-Kyrgyzstan, urging the veyed their distress and government to expedite the challenges they face their evacuation amidst a during a Zoom meeting Khan emphasized the

In a statement on X, urgent need for government Khan highlighted the plight intervention, stating that of over 100 students from the students are dissatisfied institutions such as the In- with the current protection



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

SIALKOT (APP): Federal public service and the gov-Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the "Clinic on Wheels" programme is providing modern healthcare facilities to people at their vision of modern healthcare 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 Commis-Muhammad

Zulgarnain, 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 cer-

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

ernment is providing necessary healthcare and education facilities to people, especially women.

SIALKOT: Minister for Defense and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif cut-

ting ribbon to inaugurate "Chief Minister Punjab Special Initiative Clinic on

He said that the profacilities 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 mo-

bile 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



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 govt's economic friendly policies will lead country towards dev.: Tanveer "We believe that so-

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 commit- he said Pakistan is in dire ted to serve the poor segments of society, adding, we have been struggling to uplift the economy and take the country to the path of

cial justice, political stability and supremacy of law is imperative for progress and prosperity of the country", he added. Replying to a ques-

tion, 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

To another question, 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.

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 prov-

ince for two months period. This was announced in an official hand out issued here the other day.

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. Followthe 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 ac-cused, Sher Khan son of Ghous Bux, resident of Gandawah, in cases #11/ 2012, #15/2012, and #35/

MQM-P calls meeting to discuss 'budget proposals'

2013, under various sec-

tions of the Pakistan Penal

Code. The Levies Force is

conducting further investi-

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.

ered 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): time such violence has 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 bomb-

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 commu-

Despite the attackers' efforts, no lives were lost, but the psychological and educational impact is significant. This is not the first struck educational institutions in the region, highlighting a disturbing trend of targeting education, particularly for girls. However, amidst the darkness, there is a glimmer of hope as the Ministry of Federal Education has rebuilt the school in record one week.

The Ministry sources confirmed that the 120 girls will be back in their classes today (Monday) morning. 'This act symbolizes resilience, defiance against extremism, and a firm commitment to providing education for all, especially for the daughters of the nation. Stay tuned for the inspiring story of rebuilding and national solidarity"

It is to mention here that a private girls' school was blown up by unidentified militants in Tehsil Shewa of North Waziristan district on Wednesday night, the police sources

DC chairs meeting regarding preparations for upcoming monsoon rains

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

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

cused 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