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Nawaz Sharif calls for accountability of those who ruined Pakistan

PML-N supremo says those who were involved in hatching conspiracies against him have been exposed; Imran Khan backstabbed him with 2013 sit-ins.

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif has lamented "injustices" meted out to him during his previous stint in power, calling for the accountability of the judges and all those who have "damaged" the country.

The former premier, while addressing the party's central working committee (CWC) meeting in Lahore on Saturday, said that those who were involved in hatching conspiracies against him were "being exposed".

"We demand an accountability for all those

who damaged Pakistan. Shouldn't all things that damaged Pakistan undergo accountability," he said.

The three-time prime minister referred to his ouster in 2013, saying that a big conspiracy was hatched to remove a sitting prime minister.

The PML-N supremo began his speech by heaping praise on all the party leaders for remaining steadfast despite political victimisation and legal battles during the previous PTI-led government.

"The people present here are the best members of the party who didn't

leave the party," he said, adding that the PML-N politicians were once again came to power after facing immense difficulties.

Nawaz said that Pakistan would have been a different nation and on a different pedestal if the process of accountability had continued.

The PML-N supremo recalled that he, as the prime minister he had declined the United States' offer of \$5 billion to stop the nuclear tests, claiming credit for making Pakistan an atomic power.

Lamenting the past in-

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LAHORE: Quaid PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and PML-N acting President and Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif attending meeting of Central Working Committee

Embassy advises Pak students to stay indoor amidst violence at Bishkek hostels

PM Shahbaz expresses concern, says monitoring Bishkek situation; directs envoy to help Pakistani students Kyrgyz authorities contacted to ensure Pak students' safety: Ishaq Dar

BISHKEK (Kyrgyzstan) (APP): Amidst mob violence taking place outside the student hostels in Bishkek, the Embassy of Pakistan in Kyrgyzstan on Saturday strongly advised the Pakistani students to stay indoors.

In social media post, Ambassador of Pakistan in Bishkek Hasan Zaigham assured that the embassy was liaising with the local law enforcement authorities to ensure safety of the Pakistani students.

The envoy also shared helpline No. +996 507567667, asking the students to call in case of emer-

gency.

"In view of mob violence around student hostels in Bishkek, the embassy strongly advises all Pakistani students in Bishkek to stay indoors until the situation returns to normal. We are liaising with the local law enforcement authorities to ensure safety of our student fraternity," the ambassador said.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch also reposted the envoy's message and said the embassy was in contact with the Kyrgyz authorities to facilitate Pakistani

students as their safety was of paramount importance for the ambassador and his team.

Various social media posts also reported the incidents of mob violence at the hostels housing foreign students in Bishkek, along with the footages and imagery, with many appealing to the relevant authorities for immediate help to the Pakistani students.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressing concerns over the situation of violence in Bishkek, directed Pakistan's Ambassadors

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia H.E Nawaf Bin Saad Ahmed Al-Maliki

Mohsin Naqvi says Historic relations with Saudi Arabia turning into beneficial economic relations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Saad Ahmad al-Maliki on Saturday welcomed Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, Pak-Saudi relations and cooperation in various fields.

Saudi ambassador Nawaf Bin Saad Ahmad al-Maliki assured full support for Islamabad police for which Mohsin Naqvi thanked Saudi Arabia ambassador for arranging housing facility for FC personnel. They also discussed Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's visit to Pakistan.

The minister said that the historic brotherly friendship of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is turning into the most beneficial economic relations. He said

that the recent visit of Saudi Arabia's investors to Pakistan was very successful.

The people of Pakistan are waiting for visit of Saudi Arabia's Wali Ahad, said Mohsin Naqvi adding that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman lives in the heart of Pakistani people. He said that the visit of Saudi Crown Prince will prove to be a game changer in relations between the two countries because Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in every difficult time.

Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Saad Ahmad al-Maliki assured that he will do everything possible to build the Islamabad police on modern lines. He said that Saudi Arabia attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan.

Justice Muneeb swears-in as Acting CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Justice Muneeb Akhtar Saturday took oath as Acting Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

According to the details, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, known for his legal acumen and dedication, will temporarily lead the judiciary during this period.

The swearing-in ceremony took place in the Supreme Court, where Justice Yahya Afridi administered the oath to Justice Muneeb.

Supreme Court judges, law officers and staff participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

Leaves of Finance Dept. cancelled owing to preparations of new FY budget

QUETTA: The leaves of all employees serving in the Finance Department Balochistan have been cancelled due to the preparations of the budget for new Financial Year 2024-2025.

According to an official notification issued here by the department, the employees have been directed to continue work on overtime on the otherwise closed weekly holidays i.e., Saturday and Sunday.

The leaves of employees of Finance Department have been cancelled from May 18 to June 30, 2024.



MIANWALI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti talking with mediemen at the residence of Shaheed Major Babar Khan

Announces returning party presidency to Nawaz Sharif; PM vows to put Pakistan on path of rapid development

Says Pakistan although faced with enormous difficulties but government is determined to put economy on fast tracked growth trajectory

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif says the government is working hard to address big challenges including economic crisis faced by the country.

Speaking at Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Central Council's meeting in Lahore on Saturday, he said Pakistan although faced with enormous difficulties but government is determined to put economy on fast tracked growth trajectory.

Shehbaz Sharif said PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif during his tenure made significant efforts for development and prosperity in the country.

The Prime Minister said Nawaz Sharif brought projects worth twenty

three billion dollars under China- Pakistan Economic Corridor in the country.

He said PML-N government eliminated power load shedding in its tenure and improved foreign relations with all countries including brotherly and friendly countries.

Shehbaz Sharif said GDP growth rate of Pakistan during Nawaz tenure was almost six to seven percent and business activities were growing rapidly.

Prime Minister has announced the return of the PML-N party presidency to Nawaz Sharif, promising to steer the country out of current difficulties under his leadership.

He emphasised the unwavering support for Nawaz Sharif within the

party despite challenges faced over the years.

"Today is a satisfying day for me," the PM stated, expressing gratitude for the strength and support from the PML-N leaders. "There is no greater satisfaction and peace of mind for me than to return this trust to my elder brother, the leader of PML-N," he added.

Recalling the trials faced by Nawaz Sharif, including the treatment in 2018 and his arrest in 1999, he highlighted the resilience and leadership demonstrated by the former prime minister and the late Kulsoom Nawaz during those challenging times. He commended the PML-N

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MIANWALI: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Fateha during his visit to the residence of Shaheed Major Babar Khan

King of jungle takes over entire country's system: Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman-for-life Imran Khan has said that the King of a jungle has taken over the entire system and democracy is being run with a stick in Pakistan, says in press release.

In his message from Adiala Jail, PTI Founding Chairman said that the current fake political system was nothing but they made

a mockery of democracy, as law was what the king of the jungle said.

Imran Khan pointed out that they dissolved the Punjab Assembly because the King of the jungle was trying to oust their government. "Our MPs were being intimidated, thus it is the rule of democracy to go back to the people when

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Children among 13 dead as minitruck plunges into ravine

KHUSHAB (INP): In a tragic incident, at least 13 including children dead as a mini truck carrying a family plunged into a ravine in Punj Pir area of Khushab.

As per details, the incident occurred in Punj Pir where a minitruck fell into a ravine, resulting in the deaths of 13 people, including 5 children and four others sustained injuries.

The rescue officials stated that the deceased be-

longed to the same family, and were traveling from Bannu to Wadi Soon in Khushab when the accident occurred.

The eyewitnesses said that the driver took a sharp turn when the vehicle was at high speed and skidded off the road into the ravine.

Furthermore, the rescue teams have reached the spot of incident and the dead bodies and injured are being shifted to THQ Hospital.

President visits family of Shaheed Major Babar, offers Fateha

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday visited the family home of Shaheed Major Babar Khan in Mianwali and expressed condolences to the family members of the martyr.

During the visit, the president offered Fateha for Major Babar Khan who was martyred in Zhob.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the rank of the martyred in paradise and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with patience.

He also paid tribute to martyred Major Babar Khan for sacrificing his life for the sake of the country, said a press release issued by the President House Press Wing.

The president said that the entire nation was proud of its martyrs and salutes them.

He also appreciated the Shaheed's devotion to duty, patriotism and his services for the country.



HUB: Provincial Health Minister Sarfar Faisal Khan Jamali visiting Jam Ghulam Qadir Hospital

Meets family of Major Babar Khan Niaz Shaheed CM Bugti pledges to take revenge of every drop of blood of Major Babar

Announces highest award for Major Babar, says martyr embraced martyrdom for people of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti visited the residence of martyr Major Babar Khan Niaz in Mianwali on Saturday.

During the visit, Chief Minister condoleed the death of Major Babar Niaz with his bereaved family including his father Noor Khan and brothers.

He embraced the son of Major Babar Niaz, who was martyred in an operation of security forces against the terrorists in Sambaza area of Zhob.

Also accompanied with him were the provincial ministers Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki and Mir

Shoab Nausherwani, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Commissioner Sargodha, Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, RPO Shafiq Kamal Siddiqui and Deputy Commissioner Khalid Javid.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that Balochistan is under debt of the martyr of Major Babar Khan.

While paying homage to the martyr Major Babar, the Chief Minister said that Major Babar embraced martyrdom for the people of Balochistan and his blood fell while protecting our children.

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti said that the people

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LAHORE: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail meeting with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House

Governors of Punjab & Balochistan meet-up: All political parties including Opposition ought to be on one page for stability and development of Pakistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider and Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail have stressed that all political parties including Opposition should be on one page for development and stability of the country.

The Governors of Punjab and Balochistan were in a meeting at Governor House Punjab in Lahore on Saturday.

The Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail met the Governor Punjab in Lahore.

The Governor Punjab welcomed his counterpart from Balochistan and congratulated him on assuming the office of Governor.

The Governor Punjab insisted that there is very important to strengthen the coalition government and run it for political stability

of the country.

Sardar Saleem Haider said that there would be best working relationship with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in the best interest of the country.

The Governor said that all political parties including opposition should be on one page for development and stability of the country.

He said that the circumstances are heading towards improvement because of the economic initiatives of the country.

The Governor Balochistan Shaikh Jaffar Mandokhail vowed that he would play his positive role in improving coordination between the federation and provinces. Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail also said that it is included in his priority to play role for development and peace in the province.

'IMF sets strict conditions for new bailout programme'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set strict conditions for Pakistan to get the new bailout programme, ARY News reported quoting sources within the Ministry of Finance.

The sources privy to the development said that the IMF asked the federal government not to borrow from the State Bank of Pakistan and to only sell sukuk bonds in the stock market.

The IMF has also asked the Pakistani government to set the dollar exchange rate according to market conditions and fixation of the interest rate as per inflation.

The sources said that the IMF also sought the implementation of a strict monetary policy for reduction of the budget deficit.

They maintained that

debts and interest payments on Pakistan are the main reason for the deficit, asking the finance ministry to reduce pensions and other expenses. The sources said around Rs 9,787 billion will be set aside for loan interest in the next fiscal year's budget while the current fiscal year's loan interest payments are expected to be Rs 8,371 billion. In the first nine months of the current financial year, Rs 5,518 billion has been paid in interest on internal and external loans.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan is seeking new bailout programme with the IMF. The monetary fund also confirmed that talks are underway with Pakistan on 24th "longer and larger" bailout programme under the Extended Fund Facility.

NCHR ranks amongst top Commissions in world

Pakistan welcomes A-Status Accreditation by UN body

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) of Pakistan has been accredited as an A-status National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) by UN-linked body, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the largest network of national human rights institutions in the world.

GANHRI conducts reviews of national NHRIs to determine if they oper-

ate in accordance with the UN Principles on National Institutions, commonly known as the Paris Principles.

These principles set the standards to which commissions must comply in order to be considered internationally credible and to operate effectively. When a Commission proves its compliance with the Paris Principles, it can seek accreditation and become part of the global network known as GANHRI.

Despite it being extremely rare for commissions to attain A status in the first round, Pakistan's NCHR has been accredited with this highest grade in its first try. It is also the only country to have attained new A status in this year's session.

This status grants NCHR a seat at the Human Rights Council, and other UN bodies - a historic first for Pakistan. In the past, Pakistan's commission could only act as an ob-

server but now will get a voice at the table. NCHR Pakistan joins the ranks of the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, France and others as an A status NHRI, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

The Chairperson of NCHR, Rabiya Javeri Agha, said NCHR is proud to have secured accreditation as an A-status institution and we thank our members, team, civil and international partners such as UNDP for their support.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chairs a meeting as Islamabad Police IT team, in collaboration with the Punjab IT Board, has formally launched an e-license system.



ISLAMABAD: Police officials stand alert at the gate of Kayrgys Embassy during the protest of Islami Jamaat-e-Talaba against the incidents of violence against foreign nationals students including Pakistanis in Bishkek last night.

Islamabad Police launches E-Driving license for citizens

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, has taken another important step towards modernization in Islamabad Police, a public relations officer said.

Safe City, experts from the Punjab IT Board, and the IT team of Islamabad Police. During the meeting various matters were discussed to maintain an integrated traffic system, managing traffic, and ensure the issuance of e-licenses.

He said that, the Islamabad Police IT team, in collaboration with the Punjab IT Board, has formally launched an e-license system. A meeting in this regard was held at the Central Police Office Islamabad, which was chaired by IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi.

The meeting was attended by SSP Traffic, SSP

completing this system in a short period. With the help of the e-license system, citizens will be able to apply online and easily obtain their licenses from home. Moreover, citizens will be able to benefit from this system anywhere in the country. Citizens can obtain their e-licenses from the Islamabad Police website.

On this occasion, IG Islamabad said that this facility would make it easier for citizens to renew their driving licenses from home. He further added that the aim of this initiative is to provide maximum facilities to the citizens of the federal capital Islamabad.

Arrangements finalised for NA-148 Multan by-election with 8 candidates competing

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of 8 candidates are vying in the ensuing by-election for Multan's National Assembly Constituency 148 scheduled for Sunday, with arrangements now finalized.

A major showdown is expected between Ali Qasim Gillani of the Pakistan People's Party and Barrister Taimur Altaf Malik of the Sunni-Ittehad Council (SIC).

The election campaign for the NA-148 by-poll concluded at midnight on Saturday. The by-election is being conducted as Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) vacated his seat.

In the February 8 general elections, Syed Yousuf

Raza Gillani of the PPP won by a narrow margin of 293 votes. He garnered 67,326 votes, narrowly defeating Barrister Taimoor Malik, supported by PTI, who received 67,033 votes. Gillani relinquished his seat after being elected as a Senator, eventually becoming the Chairman of the Senate.

For the NA-148 by-election, 275 polling stations have been set up, including 69 sensitive stations. Among these, there are 72 stations for female voters, 72 for male voters, and 131 combined polling stations.

Over 3,800 police officers and personnel are deployed to ensure the election proceeds transparently and peacefully.



ISLAMABAD: Construction work on a project on Karnal Sher Khan Road is in progress in the Federal Capital, a 5-kilometre road is being constructed from Katarian Bridge on L.J.P Road to Srinagar Highway near the intersection of G-9 and G-10.

IFA boosts food safety with advanced testing training

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Food Authority on Friday organized a special training session for their staff to enhance their food testing skills. Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations of IFA, Dr Tahira Siddique said that this initiative, organized by Nutrition International, aimed at to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of food safety inspections in the Federal Capital.

The training focused on using modern Continuous Data Recording (CDR) machines, and i check roma, she added.

The training programme was designed to

equip IFA staff with advanced techniques and tools for food testing. With these new skills, they would be able to conduct more thorough inspections and ensure that the food available to the public meets safety standards, Tahira said.

She highlighted that this training marked a significant step towards improving food testing processes.

She said the CDR machines represent a major upgrade in the equipment available to the IFA teams. These machines were expected to make the testing process more efficient and accurate, which would ultimately lead to better enforcement of food safety regulations.

One killed in accident on M-9 motorway

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least one person was killed and another injured after a speeding trailer ran over a car carrying two passengers in the limits of Loni Kot Police Station on M-9 Motorway.

According to police, the car, traveling from Karachi to Hyderabad, was struck by the trailer, causing severe damage and resulting in the tragic death of one passenger, a private news channel reported.

The other individual sustained injuries and was rushed to the nearest hospital for medical assistance by rescue officials. The police officials have reported that the trailer driver fled the scene of the accident, leaving the victims to fend for themselves.

Int'l Museum Day observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Museum Day is being observed today to raise awareness about the importance of museums.

The theme for this year's day is "Museums for Education and Research".

The day aims to unite museums globally and emphasizes their significant role in raising awareness, fostering understanding, and promoting the appreciation of diverse cultures.

Morning Walks: Effective for heart and body

ISLAMABAD (APP): Research shows that while exercise is beneficial at any time of day, morning walks offer unique advantages for your heart and overall health.

According to the American Heart Association, brisk walking for 30 minutes daily can lower the risk of heart disease and stroke. This exercise helps reduce blood pressure, triglycerides, and bad cholesterol levels.

Studies have found that morning walks are particularly effective in preventing or reducing symptoms of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, thyroid issues, and high blood pressure.

A combination of

Mohsin Naqvi orders crackdown against encroachments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday ordered a crackdown against the encroachments in Islamabad.

He directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) staff to remove and eliminate all encroachments without discrimination and without accepting any pressures from anywhere.

He ordered Islamabad administration, CDA and police to conduct joint operation against the encroachment.

Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali

Randhawa immediately took action on the direction of the federal minister and launched an operation against encroachments in Islamabad.

The authorities demolished encroachments of Raja Gulfray Farm in Sangiani Sasing and sealed another factory.

The farmhouse was built illegally by constructing 10 rooms on 24 kanal area.

The Islamabad administration and the police led by the DC and CDA, jointly conducted the operation against encroachments.

Kyrgyz Charge d'affaires handed over a demarche over last night's violent incident against Pak students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Charge d'affaires of the Kyrgyz Embassy in Pakistan Melis Moldaliev on Saturday was called to the Foreign Office for a demarche by Director General (ECO & CARs) Aizaz Khan, conveying the deep concerns of the Government of Pakistan about the reports of last night's incidents against Pakistani students studying in the Kyrgyz Republic.

"It was impressed on the Kyrgyz Charge d'affaires that the Kyrgyz

government should take all possible measures to ensure the safety and security of Pakistani students and citizens residing in the Kyrgyz Republic," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement. The Government of Pakistan takes the matter of the safety and security of its nationals around the world very seriously and would take all necessary measures to ensure their well-being," it was asserted. The Kyrgyz authorities have expressed regret over the incidents of



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters enjoy bathing in the pond to get some relief from hot weather in the Federal Capital.

Govt urged for ensuring basic amenities for educational institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Saturday urged the government to ensure the provision of basic amenities for the educational institutions of the capital city on priority basis to promote the education sector and enhance literacy ratio in the country. During his visit to Islamabad Model College for Girls G-13, he said that development of educational institutions were prerequisite to achieve economic development and social prosperity in the country, said a press release.

He also urged the Minister for Education to take measures to fulfil basic needs including teaching staff, security, furniture, laboratory, playground, buses and clean drinking water for the college to facilitate the students.

He also urged the need to allocate sufficient financial resources for the development of education sector of the country to enhance literacy rate, which was the fundamental tool for economic growth and social prosperity. The ICCI head also announced to provide five computers for the college, besides the installation of a water filtration plant.

CDA completes repair work of One Window

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has completed all the necessary construction and repair work of One Window to facilitate the residents, on the directions of its Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa.

The working hours of One Window operation have also been extended from 9 am to 9 pm to facilitate the citizens, said a news release. In line with directions, the authority has established more desks at One Window for the convenience of the residents of the federal capital. Similarly, special information counters have been set up for the citizens.

IG Islamabad holds orderly room; to address concerns of officials

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, holds an orderly room at Central Police Office Islamabad, to ensure timely and prioritized resolution of institutional and personal matters concerning police officers.

The establishment of an orderly room aims to prioritize and address issues faced by police officers on a timely basis, emphasizing their welfare and issue resolution. The orderly room was attended by all divisions' police officers.

During the orderly room, police officers brought forth both personal and official concerns before the IG Islamabad. IG Islamabad reinstated the

officers involved in corruption, misuse of authority and involvement in other illegal activities.

On the occasion, the IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi highlighted various measures taken for the welfare of police officers, including initiatives aimed at improving residence facilities, enhancing healthcare provisions, and raising educational standards.

He assured all personnel of an open-door policy at his office, encouraging them to bring forward any concerns for immediate resolution.

He further said that, the primary objective of the orderly room is not only to address the welfare, personal, and official issues of police officers but also to

suspended officers in minor cases, while imposing severe punishments on the

elevate their morale by prioritizing resolutions based on their well-being.



ISLAMABAD (INP): The Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has imposed a ban on the entry of YouTubers and unauthorized people into Parliament House.

YouTubers entry 'banned' in Parliament House

According to media reports, the National Assembly speaker has suspended eight security personnel over the entry of unauthorized individuals into Parliament House.

The Sergeant-at-Arms have been directed to conduct an inquiry against the suspended personnel, who allowed unauthorized individuals to enter Parliament House without an identity card, sources added. Sources revealed that the unauthorized individuals stopped some members and ministers inside Parliament and asked them for picture. The incident came into light when the Defense Minister Khawaja Asif complained to the Speaker about the incident.

He stressed to ensure elaborate security measures within the premises of National Assembly (NA) building and its lobbies. Speaking on the National Assembly floor, the minister said that a large number of unidentified individuals are often present at the building's entrance. Asif noted that people congregate outside the hall, in front of the elevators, and in the corridors, posing significant security risks.

The minister said there was a system for issuing passes to the MNAs in the past, which should be implemented strictly to maintain security in the Parliament. He also expressed concern about the behavior of individuals seated in the gallery, who often engage in slogan chanting, thereby undermining the sanctity of the House.

Govt launches reconstruction project to Boost tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to elevate the tourism sector in Gilgit-Baltistan to new heights, the federal government, in collaboration with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), has embarked on a significant initiative to reconstruct government guest houses across the region.

Partnering with Green Tourism Private Limited, this ambitious project aims to revamp tourist accommodations, thereby enhancing the region's appeal to visitors seeking to explore its breathtaking landscapes and natural wonders, PTV reported.

Renowned for its

awe-inspiring beauty and often hailed as a paradise for tourists, Gilgit-Baltistan has long captivated the hearts of travelers. However, despite its allure, several scenic spots have remained relatively unexplored due to inadequate infrastructure. The SIFC's endeavor to upgrade tourist facilities is poised to unveil these hidden gems, promising tourists unparalleled amenities and improved accessibility. This strategic move is expected to catalyze growth within the local tourism industry, stimulating economic development and creating new opportunities.



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy family on the way carrying their luggage near expressway in the Federal Capital.

CM orders close coordination for land record digitisation

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over a special meeting relating to Board of Revenue (BoR) reforms here on Saturday.

A briefing was given on the Punjab Urban Land Systems Enhancement (PULSE). Maryam Nawaz Sharif issued directions to undertake essential steps for the digitalisation process. She ordered collaboration of relevant departments during the land digitalisation process. It was informed during the briefing that the land record digitisation process is being undertaken with the cooperation of the World Bank under the 'Plus Project.' Punjab Land

Record Authority and Management of Estate Land gave a briefing about the business plan affairs. Owner based digitalisation of all neighbourhoods (mouzas) will be carried out in Punjab.

The revenue system will be made transparent through partition of land and parcel document. The government will declare a clear property from every aspect as Green.

The lands having issues will be declared as Blue and Red. The proposal to abolish joint property system will be seriously reviewed. Legal complications will be reduced with the allotment of a separate property number to every seller.

Record of Rights-Holders (FARD), ownership and land transfer system will also be simplified after undertaking the digitalisation process. Overseas property transfer service for the overseas Pakistanis will be reviewed. Record of Rights-Holders (Fard), Mutation, E-Girdawari and Registration facilities will be provided in the Overseas Property Transfer Service.

Provincial Information Minister Azma Zahid Bokhari, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary, Chairman P&D Heads of SMU and other officers attended the meeting.



LAHORE: Provincial Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazeer preside over the meeting of Nutrition Board at PMU.

Kh Salman emphasises collective effort to improve health system

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has called for a collective national effort to enhance the health system.

He made the appeal during his visit to Jinnah Hospital Lahore on Saturday, where he celebrated the birthday of Mansoor, a young boy, who recently underwent a successful renal transplant.

Kh Salman praised the Jinnah Hospital team for their exemplary work in performing Mansoor's transplant. He congratulated the entire medical team, paying tribute to their dedication and skill. "I congratulate the entire team of Jinnah Hospital Lahore for the successful renal transplant of baby boy Mansoor," he said. He also announced plans to increase the capacity of the hospital's Urology Department to better serve the community. Reflecting on the boy's aspirations, the minister shared, "Mansoor wants to become an engineer when he grows up. The entire doctor

community is overjoyed with his successful surgery today." He highlighted ongoing efforts under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to improve patient care, noting, "In the eyes of Allah, there is no greater passion than serving humanity. Those who serve humanity have great ranks." During the visit, the minister cut Mansoor's birthday cake and congratulated his mother on the successful surgery. A bouquet was presented to the young patient. The event saw the participation of various medical professionals, including Principal of Allama Iqbal Medical College Prof. Syed Asghar Naqi, Head of Department Prof. Naveed Iqbal, MS Dr. Yahya Sultan, Assistant Professor Dr. Shabbir, Dr. Hamza Nazir, and Dr. Kashif Shabbir. The health minister's visit underscores the government's commitment to supporting healthcare advancements and celebrating the dedication of medical professionals.

LHC moved for investigation into Dubai leaks

LAHORE (Online): Petition has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC) seeking probe into Dubai Leaks.

The petition has been filed by citizen Mashkoor Hussain through Nadim Sarwar advocate.

Federal government, NAB, FIA and others have been made respondents in the petition.

It has been said in the petition name of several Pakistani politicians and business men have come in Dubai leaks. It is incumbent on every politician to show his property in Pakistan and foreign country.

It has been requested in the petition that LHC should order FIA, NAB and other respective institutions to probe into the matter.

It should be investigated if the property has not been made through money laundering.

Order be issued for initiation of action against the owners if property is proved illegal.

16 dead, 1549 injured in 1434 road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least sixteen persons were killed and 1549 injured in 1434 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 655 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 894 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 829 drivers, 67 underage drivers, 188 pedestrians, and 548 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 314 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 328 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 113 in with 117 victims and at third Multan with 80 RTCs and 91 victims. According to the data 1301 motorbikes 80 auto-rickshaws, 140 motorcars, 29 vans, 13 passenger buses, 39 truck and 128 other types.

Government organizing open katchehri to solve people problems: Toru

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Food Minister Zahir Shah Toru on Saturday said that the present government is organizing open katchehris in different areas to solve the problems faced by the people at their doorsteps.

People may feel free to come to government offices and contact us in case of any problems.

He was addressing an Open Katchehri organized by the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Khanjar kali Mardan. Besides District Health Officer Mardan Dr Javed Iqbal and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ibrahim Khan assured to resolve the issues through the concerned departments.

The community thanked the Minister Food, District Administration and District Heads for this initiative for coming to their doorsteps and finding out their problems and issuing instructions and orders for their proper solution.

representatives and social workers highlighted the problems faced by the area. Various problems were discussed between the administrative and district heads and orders were issued on the spot to solve some problems.

Zahir Toru said that the doors of our offices are always open for the public. He instructed the concerned departments on the spot about the district level problems and directed them to find solutions to the problems and submit a report in this regard.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with the representative delegation of media persons belonging to different districts at Governor House, Peshawar.

CM Sindh lauds Gambat Institute for performing 1,000 successful liver transplants

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the Pir Abdul Qadir Shah Jilani Institute of Medical Sciences, Gambat has reached a significant milestone by performing 1,000 successful liver transplants.

"This historic achievement, marking unprecedent complicated liver transplant procedures, has been successfully carried out at a public sector health facility in Pakistan," he said this while addressing the online gathering with Dr. Rahim Bux Bhatti, the Director organized at the Institute to commemorate the milestone.

Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, PSCM Agha Wasif and Secretary Health Rehan Baloch also attended the event with CM Sindh online. Murad Ali Shah said that his party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari always proudly lauded the achievements of Gambat Institute. He added that he was happy to know that out of 1000 liver transplants, 460 patients belonged to Sindh, 347 to Punjab, 141 to Balochistan 36 to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, nine to Kashmir and four to Afghanistan. "I am quite happy and content that our Gambat institute serves the entire free of cost," he said.

The patients who attended the ceremony at Gambat include Mutahira, 8-year-old from Afghanistan, Nasir Ali, 44 Hafizabad Punjab, Mohammad Nawaz, 56, Jacobabad, Saleemullah, 18, Karak KPK, and Habibullah, 14-year old, Jafferabad Balochistan, a commune said. The chief minister interacted with the patients and wished them a healthy and happy life. The significant milestone of 1,000 successful liver transplants was commemorated by cutting a cake by Dr Bhatti, his team members and the patients at the Department of Liver Transplantation.

Crime eradication police responsibility: IGP

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said it is a responsibility of supervisory police officers to eradicate crimes and ensure easy delivery of justice and policing services to citizens.

He expressed these views while presiding over a video link meeting at the Central Police Office here on Saturday. RPOs, CPOs and DPOs of Multan, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sheikhupura, Sahiwal region participated in the meeting through video link.

The IGP ordered to improve follow-up of the public complaints, received on 1787 complaint management system and their quick redress. He instructed to focus on modern technology for scientific investigation and improve the workout rate of the cases. He emphasized effective supervision as well as effective coordination with prosecutors to improve the quality of investigation.

The IGP Punjab said that investigations of heinous crimes including dacoity murder, kidnapping for ransom

Kundi calls for steps to provide assistance to Pak students in Bishkek

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistani students and urged Pakistani embassy in Kyrgyzstan to provide needed help and assistance to Pakistani in Bishkek.

He also advised Pakistanis to remain in their hostels, avoid public places and protect themselves from mobs till normalization of situation.

He expressed concern over violence against

Police ordered to prepare comprehensive security plan for Eidul-Adha

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister, Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, has directed the police to prepare a comprehensive security plan for Eid al-Adha 2024, ensuring the safety of life and property of citizens.

The plan should include measures to ensure the implementation of the code of conduct for animal sacrifice, security arrangements, and surveillance.

The minister directed that all registered welfare and social organisations, religious seminars, and other stakeholders be bound by the code of conduct issued by the Sindh government and that the plan include measures for the collection and transportation of animal hides.

Ziaul Hassan Lanjar said that under the Eid al-Adha Security Plan, the Central Police Office's Central Command and Control Center will issue timely orders for implementation at every level, ensuring that suspicious activities are monitored and potential threats are neutralized. Additionally, the plan should include measures for the effective use of zone-wise control rooms and police stations' wireless control rooms.

The minister also directed that a list of all the masjid, imambargahs, eidgahs, and open places for Eid prayers be prepared and categorised, and that police personnel, including commandos, be deployed accordingly. The plan should also include detailed responsibilities for SSPs, SPs, SDPOs, and SHOs.



LAHORE: Provincial Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan holding a press conference in the DGPR office of the provincial capital.

Health professionals link national prosperity to children's health

LAHORE (APP): Children are the cornerstone of any nation's future, and their health and well-being are paramount.

These views were expressed by Principal Post Graduate Medical Institute (PGMI) Professor Al-Fareed Zafar during the closing ceremony of a comprehensive training workshop on children's diseases at the Lahore General Hospital here on Saturday. The workshop was jointly organized by the UNICEF and the Punjab government. The event highlighted the critical need for parental awareness and professional commitment to safeguarding the health of newborns. The workshop, which saw participation from over 200 doctors, nurses, UNICEF experts, and other medical professionals, focused on preventative measures and treatment of childhood diseases. Distinguished speakers, including Prof. Akmal Naik, Prof. Muhammad Shahid, Prof. Faheem Afzal, Prof. Nudrat Sohail, and others, discussed key topics such as infant health and breastfeeding. The event also featured a question-and-answer session, providing an interactive platform for participants.

Professor Zafar underscored the alarming mortality rates among infants in Pakistan, attributing deaths to diseases like pneumonia, measles, and diarrhea, as well as complications from malnutrition. He stressed the necessity of heightened awareness and proactive healthcare practices among parents to combat these issues. "It is crucial for parents to understand their responsibilities towards their children's health, including the irreplaceable benefits of breastfeeding and the importance of completing immunization schedules," he remarked.

LGH Medical Superintendent Dr. Faryad Hussain introduced the Baby Friendly Initiative, aimed at promoting breastfeeding through the establishment of dedicated feeding corners in hospitals and government offices.



KARACHI: Leaders and activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for demanding to ensure the return of Pakistani students who were trapped in Kyrgyzstan, at Karachi press club.

Minister for controlling employment with skilled training

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Minister for Labour Department, Fazal Shakoor Khan Saturday said that unemployment can be controlled through the promotion of technical and vocational education.

"We will encourage those males and especially female students who are enrolled in various technical and vocational institutions of Workers Welfare Board KP and we will also support them," he said this in a prize and sewing machine distribution ceremony held at the vocational institute district Charsadda. He said that technical and vocational schools and colleges run by KP Labour department would be established in tribal districts very soon.

The minister was flanked by the Secretary WWB Ibrar Shah, Director Education Amjad Khan, Director Administration Shuaib Khan.

3 passengers hurt as bus overturned

KHANEWAL (APP): At least three people sustained injuries as passenger bus turned turtle after its tyre burst near M4 Motorway Abdul Hakeem on Saturday.

According to Rescue officials, a passenger bus was going to Peshawar from Multan when suddenly its tyre burst and it overturned near M4 Motorway Abdul Hakeem towards Shorkot. As a result, three persons sustained injuries. Rescue teams rushed to the spot and provided first aid to people on the spot.



SIALKOT: Hajj pilgrims are being given vaccinations and necessary supplies at Haji Camp.

Alleviating poverty through technical education: a way forward

PESHAWAR (APP): Abid Ali, a 25-year-old mechanic is working against the clock in repair of tractors and threshers after its demands were increased during ongoing wheat crushing season in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Enjoying the patriotic "Dil Dil Pakistan" song on his mobile phone during correction of faults in tractors in his five room auto workshop on Warsak Road, the motivated auto mechanic is seen asking labourers to complete the assigned tasks as quickly as possible to earn maximum profit in the peak wheat crushing season.

Assisted by five labourers, Abid Ali was so concentrated in work that he even could not spare time to have meal with mouthwatering "Peshawari Rice Polao" in his auto workshop established in 2020.

After passing a three-year diploma in associate auto engineering from Polytechnic Institute Peshawar, the motivated mechanic had applied for a number of jobs in public sector departments but failed mostly on the grounds of insufficient experience in the field.

Termining unemployment as a social curse, the Peshawar-born mechanic said, "I never looked back after my father asked his childhood friend Shah G Khan to help him in securing a dignified job. "Shah G Lana took me to Shoba bazaar, a hub of auto workshops where I started fitting CNG kits and tractors repairs in his relative workshop.

Following 3-year experiences, Abid who was called "Ustad" now by his fellows has established his own workshop at Warsak Road Peshawar where customers from Nowshera, Peshawar and even from Afghanistan were coming for the installation of CNGs tanks and repairs of tractors-threshers, thus financially contributing to the country's development process.

"The labour charges of CNG installations varies keeping in view of size of the vehicles and number of CNG tanks," said Abid, adding normally we charge Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 per CNG tank installation while Rs 2000 in threshers repair. He said an increase in the conversion of vehicles to CNG has been witnessed due to a hike in petroleum products owing to the global economic recession. "I have come from Nowshera district to repair my threshers after its successive operation in wheat crushing season," said Misal Khan, a retired Govt servant while talking to APP. However, he complained about increase in prices of CNG tanks, engine overhauling and labour charges that needed to be regulated by the district administration.

Dr Zilakat Malik, former Chairman Economics Department, University of Peshawar said that technical education encourages self-employment and ensures financial independence.

He said that about 58.9 million population of Pakistan was aged below 30 years and providing jobs to all of them was impossible for any government.



HYDERABAD: Leaders and activists of Jeay Sindh Rahbar Committee are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hyderabad press club.

IT exports surges to stunning \$310m in April

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ICT services export remittances surged to US\$ 310 million in the month of April, 2024, an astounding increase of 62.3% in comparison to US\$ 191 million in April 2023.

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a statement said that it is for the first time in the history of Pakistan that IT exports saw this outstanding increase just in one month.

ICT export remittances have surged to US\$ 2.593 billion during July 2023 to April 2024 of FY2023-24 in comparison

to US\$ 2.135 billion reported for the same period last year.

Shaza Fatima said that the government has first priority to increase IT exports of the country, adding that this record increase in IT exports is due to relentless efforts of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

She said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif prevented the country from default in last PDM government and stabilised the economy and its positive outcomes are now coming.

She said that steps are underway for increasing IT

exports.

With the robust support from Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Ministry of IT and Pakistan Software Export Board are actively working to boost IT exports, she said.

In comparison to previous month of March 2024, ICT services export remittances have increased by US\$ 4 million (1.31% growth) in April 2024.

ICTI sector exports of US\$ 2.593 billion are the highest among all Services (40.25% of total export of services) with 'Other Business Services' trailing at US\$ 1.308 billion.



PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi addresses to traders of Qissa Khuwani Bazaar during oath taking ceremony held in Peshawar.

Govt continues extensive crackdown on essential commodities' smuggling

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to severe shortages of crucial goods such as flour, sugar, fertilizer, and oil, the government has initiated an extensive crackdown on the smuggling of essential commodities across the country.

From May 5 to May 12, authorities conducted targeted operations resulting in the successful seizure of significant quantities of smuggled items.

According to PTV, a total of 565 metric tons of sugar, 4,127 stacks of cigarettes, 1,322 bags of cloth, and 198,600 liters of Iranian oil were confiscated during these operations.

The crackdown targeted smuggling networks in major cities, yielding substantial hauls of contraband goods.

In Multan, officials seized 99 stacks of cigarettes, 133 cloth bags, and 28,000 liters of Iranian oil.

Karachi saw the confiscation of 164 cigarette stacks, 483 cloth bags, and 19,000 liters of Iranian oil.

Quetta reported the largest seizures, with authorities confiscating 3,864 cigarette stacks, 706 cloth bags, and 135,000 liters of Iranian oil.

Peshawar also contributed to the crackdown with the recovery of 16,000 liters of Iranian oil.

Since the crackdown began on September 1, 2023, authorities have seized a substantial amount of contraband goods, including 3,036 metric tons of fertilizer, 262 metric tons of flour, 34,626 metric tons of sugar, 236,547 stacks of cigarettes, 247,133 bags of cloth, and 6.055 million liters of Iranian oil.

These efforts are part of a broader strategy aimed at curbing smuggling, safeguarding public welfare, and stabilizing the national economy.

Timber traders end strike after port releases stalled shipments

KARACHI (INP): The All Pakistan Timber Traders Association called off their one-day strike on Friday after successful negotiations with the Department of Plant Protection. The strike was prompted by delays in clearing imported timber shipments at Karachi port.

The Plant Protection Department attributed the hold-up to expired import permits, preventing biosecurity clearance for the timber. To resolve the issue, the department issued a one-time authorization for the release of existing docked consignments.

Prior to the agreement, timber importers faced financial strain due to demurrage charges imposed by shipping lines for the delayed deliveries.

LESCO collects over Rs 5.71m from 121 defaulters in 24 hours

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has recovered more than Rs 5.71 million from 121 dead defaulters in all the five districts - Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara - on the 22nd day of its recovery campaign.

A LESCO spokesman told the media here Saturday that on the 22nd day, SE (Superintending Engineer) Nisar Sarwar has recovered outstanding dues of Rs 0.76 million from 18 defaulters in Northern Circle; SE Umar Bilal recovered Rs 0.83 million from 9 defaulters in Eastern Circle; SE (Central Circle) recovered Rs 1.48 million from 22 defaulters; SE (South Circle) collected Rs 0.24 million from 18 defaulters; SE (Nankana Circle) recovered Rs 0.56 million from 12 defaulters; SE Najamul Hassan recovered Rs 0.56 million from 16 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle; SE Jamshed Zaman collected Rs 0.56 million.

SCCI demands measures to broaden existing tax-base

PESHAWAR (APP): President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq on Saturday demanded for taking further measures to broaden the existing tax-base.

While giving proposals for fiscal year 2024-25, he said KP is a net exporter of electricity and gas, despite of the fact that other provinces are charged equal rates with other federating units, which is totally unfair and unjustifiable.

The KP's total oil production is 31000 barrels per day, which is 42 percent share of the whole country's oil production, Fuad said.

He suggested for the establishment of an oil refinery in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa wherein oil reserves were available in surplus quantity.

Fuad asked to revive

IDBP for the provision of loans on easy terms to promote industry in the province.

He mentioned that from 30 to 32 billion dollars through human resources were official and the same figure amount was unofficial in the shape of foreign exchange.

Therefore, he called for launching a special technical training program for human resources of the country.

The conference was attended by presidents of all chambers of Pakistan, FPCCI office bearers and association presidents.

The SCCI president said that KP was producing 6500 megawatt electricity in which 2700 megawatt was utilized in summer and only 1100 megawatt in winter season, rest of the produced electricity exported to the national grid.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi meeting with Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communication Abdul Aleem Khan in Islamabad.

Kundi, Aleem Khan resolve to boost investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Faisal Karim Kundi and Federal Minister for Privatization and Communication Abdul Aleem Khan resolved on Saturday to boost investment opportunities in the country.

According to details, Kundi called on Aleem Khan. During the meeting, the different proposals were considered to increase the opportunities for employment. Aleem Khan had felicitated Kundi on becoming the KP governor.

Kundi said that there were wide opportunities to work in the fields of minerals and tourism.

"The natural resources can be utilised for creating employment opportunities," said Kundi.

Abdul Aleem Khan lavishes praise on workers -

Earlier this month, Aleem Khan expressed solidarity with the labour fraternity and recognised Labour Day as a day of practical acknowledgment of workers' rights globally.

In his message in line

with International Labour Day, the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) President acknowledged the unwavering spirit, resilience, and dedication of the workers.

"International Labour Day is an occasion of practical recognition of the rights of workers worldwide, symbolising the elevation of their rights and the promotion of mutual unity," Aleem Khan underscored the importance of raising voices for workers' rights and fostering mutual unity.

Beijing leads the nation in 5G base stations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Beijing has constructed about 114,500 5G base stations as of April, with a density of 52 stations per 10,000 people, ranking first in China, said an official.

"Beijing is actively promoting a signal upgrade campaign, focusing on improving network coverage in key areas," said Su Shaolin, head of the Beijing Communications Administration, emphasizing the city's ambition to lead the nation in massive connectivity.

To accelerate the transition to 10-gigabit-per-second-speed for internet, Beijing has implemented several initiatives, including the country's first 10-gigabit optical network plan, Su said.

By April, 5G mobile subscribers in Beijing reached 21.27 million,

accounting for 53.1 percent of the city's total mobile users. Additionally, gigabit broadband users surged to 2.54 million, representing 26.9 percent of total broadband users, according to the administration, ecns reported. Furthermore, 862 5G virtual private networks have been established across various industries, focusing on smart education, healthcare, tourism, media convergence, internet connected vehicles, and industrial internet. Beijing is actively cultivating demonstration projects to showcase the transformative power of 5G technology, Su said.

Beijing boasts the country's largest number of internet companies as of April, exceeding 22,000. The city also ranks second nationwide in website registration, with a total of 405,600 websites, he said.

DPO visits SCCI

SARGODHA (APP): District Police Officer Dr. Asad Ejaaz Malhi on Saturday paid a visit to the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

Sargodha Chamber President Sajid Hussain Tarar welcomed him warmly. The visit aimed to expedite mutual cooperation and review suitable security atmosphere for business in Sargodha.

The DPO said that the economy was the backbone of the state and it only can flourish in a peaceful atmosphere.

He also visited the Police Khidmat Markaz on the SCCI premises. He said that he was focusing on community policing to curb crime and protection of the business community was top priority of Sargodha police.

Raja Sohail Amjed, Sohail Alpa and other officials were present.

PMEX has major role in future market design, market economy: MD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Managing Director of Pakistan Mercantile Exchange, Farhan Tahir on Saturday said that Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) has a huge role in future market design and market economy on which future market depends.

Talking to APP, the MD, PMEX said that Market Eco-system and Storage is very important on which Pakistan Mercantile Exchange is working.

He said that there is a need to digitize the commodity market across the country, on which our institution is working on research and analytics.

Farhan said that digitization and automation are very important in the global capital market at this time and "we are working on creating the ecosystem of the commodity market and its role is important in the restoration and development of the country's economy."

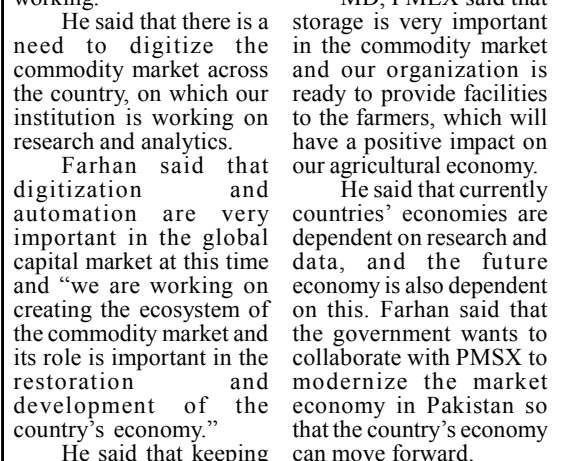
He said that keeping

in view the importance of the future market, an exhibition has been organized here today, the purpose of which is to provide awareness among the people and harmonize the country's economy with the requirements of the future market.

The productivity p factor in the Pakistani economy is low and more work needs to be done on it which is being followed by PMEX, he said.

MD, PMEX said that storage is very important in the commodity market and our organization is ready to provide facilities to the farmers, which will have a positive impact on our agricultural economy.

He said that currently countries' economies are dependent on research and data, and the future economy is also dependent on this. Farhan said that the government wants to collaborate with PMSX to modernize the market economy in Pakistan so that the country's economy can move forward.



ISLAMABAD: A fruit seller arranging loquat stall at Fruit and Vegetable Market, Sector I-II.

PMEX plays crucial role in automating, digitising capital markets: Speakers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) is playing a pivotal role in automating and digitising the markets, which will not only document the country's economy but will also bring economic sustainability.

The speaker while addressing the Investment Expo- 2024 organised by Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) here to create awareness about the future commodity and metal market said that PMEX not only connects domestic metal and commodity markets but also integrates domestic markets with international markets.

While addressing the seminar, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that Pakistan Mercantile Exchange is creating a history by digitising and the country's markets will benefit farmers and small businessmen. He said that he is a farmer and belongs to an agricultural family and with these initiatives would eliminate middlemen from the agricultural market.

He said that by

developing the metal and commodity trade on modern lines, the country's economy would not only advance but the country's economy would be built on modern lines.

Sardar Saleem Haider said that digitisation and storage of domestic markets will be a big step through which the domestic economy will become sustainable and productivity will increase.

Managing Director, Pakistan Mercantile Exchange, Farhan Tahir said commodity is a future market and PMEX is setting up an eco-system in commodity and metal which will integrate the market. He said that with digitisation and automation in the market, the country's economy will be developed in a proper direction and the commodity market will develop.

MD, PMEX said that the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange was started in 2002 and during this time they had done a lot of work in commodity and metal and it will be improved in future.



FAISALABAD: CPO Faisalabad Kamran Adil addressing at Chamber of Commerce Faisalabad.

Tribal areas HCCI opposed tax exemptions for oil, ghee, steel industries

HYDERABAD (APP): President of Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) Adeel Siddiqui has said the tax exemptions extended to Federal and Provincial Tribal Administered Areas are causing financial losses to the industries of steel, edible oil and ghee in the country's 4 provinces.

In a statement issued here on Saturday he pointed out that receivables in steel, edible oil and ghee industries amounted to hundreds of billions of rupees. He

believed that the tax exemptions were being availed in an unjustified way and demanded an impartial audit of those exemptions. On behalf of the business community, he called for putting an end to the discrimination being made with the steel, edible oil and ghee industries of the 4 provinces. According to him, the oil, ghee and steel being manufactured in the tax-exempt industries of the tribal areas, are sold in the cities of the 4 provinces at throwaway rates.

Lemon jumps to Rs 1,000 per kg in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Lemon has gone out of reach for the poor after its price jumped from Rs 800 to Rs 1,000 per kilogram in Bahawalpur.

APP learned on Saturday that lemon, which was being sold out at Rs 200 to 250 per kilogram last month in April 2024, has now gone out of reach of poor people. Its price has jumped to Rs 800 to 1,000 per kilogram in the local market of Bahawalpur.

"Due to very hot weather, demand for lemon has increased as people used to make Shikanjeen (lemonade juice)."



ISLAMABAD: Workers unloading sugarcane at Fruit and Vegetable Market, Sector I-II in the Federal Capital.

Food prices remain uneven despite slight decline in inflation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's inflation rate continued its downward trend, dipping 1.06% in the latest week. This brings the annual inflation rate to 21.22%.

The Federal Statistics Agency's weekly report highlights price fluctuations across essential commodities. While 16 items, including wheat flour, tomato, onion, garlic, petrol, and diesel, witnessed price drops, 20 items like eggs and meat saw increases. The prices of 15 other items remained stable.

The report details significant price reductions for vegetables like tomato (down 27 rupees/kg), onion (down 27 rupees/kg), and garlic (down 46 rupees/kg). Additionally, the cost of

wheat flour, banana, rice, red chili, and lentils decreased. Prices for fuel products like petrol, diesel, and LPG also showed a decline.

However, the news isn't all positive. The cost of potatoes, beef, mutton, pulses, eggs, chicken, cloth, and wood increased. For instance, potatoes rose by 1.28 rupees/kg, while beef and mutton prices jumped by 10 and 20 rupees/kg, respectively. Pulses and eggs saw a 3 rupees/kg increase, and eggs went up by 2 rupees per dozen. The report also provides a year-on-year comparison. While some essential items, like wheat flour, chicken, ghee, cooking oil, and LPG, became cheaper compared to last year.

KTC rubbishes market report as false, fabricated

ISLAMABAD (INP): Khyber Tobacco Company (KTC) has taken an exception to a report "Pakistan Cigarette Market Assessment 2024" by Ipsos Pakistan and described it as false and fabricated.

The KTC in a statement issued here said KTC is a leading cigarette manufacturing company in Pakistan, and "is compelled to address the public regarding the baseless and defamatory

allegations levelled against it" by Ipsos.

"The said report contains unsubstantiated claims and defamatory remarks regarding KTC's business practices. These false allegations... have caused significant harm to KTC's reputation and business interests," it said.

KTC vehemently denies all accusations made in the report and asserts its steadfast commitment to compliance with all regulatory requirements, it

added. "We assert with pride that we are among the preeminent national cigarette manufacturing entities, employing a workforce exceeding 400 individuals within the country, and serving as Pakistan's foremost tobacco exporter during the fiscal year 2022-23. These factors significantly bolster our contributions to the national exchequer, in direct contradiction to the assertions made by Ipsos," says KTC.



MULTAN: A large number of traders participating in bidding of seasonal fruit Melons at the Fruit market.

Military spending pushes Russian economic growth up

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's economy grew 5.4 percent in the first quarter of 2024, official statistics published Friday showed, as President Vladimir Putin denied military spending on his Ukraine offensive was reaching unsustainable levels. The Kremlin has heavily militarised Russia's economy since sending troops into Ukraine in February 2022, with the vast outlays helping to power growth and cushion the blow of Western sanctions.

But it has also set off inflation and comparisons with runaway defence spending that hobbled the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

The Rosstat statistics agency said the first quarter growth was up from 4.9 percent in the fourth quarter of last year.

The inflation rate also picked up over the month, however, to 7.8 percent. On a state visit to China, Putin denied that Russia's vast military spending—which he said had passed eight percent of GDP—had hit unsustainable levels.

"It is not critical yet. In the Soviet Union in 1985-1986, defence spending was 13 percent" of GDP, he said.

"Taking into account the state of the economy, macroeconomic indicators and budget revenue forecasts, combined defence and security spending of eight-and-a-bit percent is not critical," he added. Earlier in the week, Putin had said Russia's military spending was a "great resource" that should be used "carefully and effectively."

He said Friday that experts believe Russia's state finances still have room to accommodate even higher expenditure.

Russian troops last week launched a major new offensive on Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region. Putin has signalled he sees Moscow's path to victory on the battlefield by outspending Ukraine and its Western backers. The re-orientation of Russia's crucial energy exports to the likes of China and India has helped it weather Western sanctions that many analysts predicted would push Russia into a deep recession. China has become Russia's most important economic ally over the last two years.

Putin on Friday blasted US attempts to put pressure on Beijing over its ties with Moscow.

He called US threats of sanctions on Chinese banks and companies that deal with Russia "illegitimate" and said lenders in both countries were working to overcome problems with cross-border payments.

The United States has targeted companies in third countries, including China, that it says are helping Russia purchase sanctioned goods for its military.



Afghan residents clean debris and salvage their belongings after flash floods in Gho province's Firozkoh.

Taiwan's foreign minister says China and Russia are supporting each other's 'expansionism'

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Russia and China are helping each other expand their territorial reach, and democracies must push back against authoritarian states that threaten their rights and sovereignty, Taiwan's outgoing foreign minister, Joseph Wu, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

His comments came as Russian President Vladimir Putin was on a visit to China amid Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping reaffirmed their "no-limits" partnership as both countries face rising tensions with the West.

Wu called on democracies to align in countering Russia and China's military assertiveness in Europe, the South China Sea and beyond. China threat-

Paris sends forces to quell unrest in New Caledonia

Monitoring Desk
NOUMEA: Areas of the Pacific territory of New Caledonia have "escaped" state control, the French government's representative said on Friday, announcing fresh security deployments after days of deadly violence.

"Reinforcements are arriving ... to control the areas that have escaped us in recent days, where control is no longer assured," the High Commissioner of the Republic in New Caledonia Louis Le Franc told reporters at a briefing.

A state of emergency was imposed on the French archipelago after opposition to Paris's plan to change voting rules there spiralled into arson, looting and violence that has left five dead and hundreds wounded.

As part of the state of emergency, about 200 of an estimated 5,000 "rioters" have been detained, French authorities have said.

Slovakia's PM Fico still in intensive care after assassination bid

Monitoring Desk
BANSKA BYSTRICA: Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico remains in intensive care, the government said on Friday, two days after he was shot at close range in an assassination attempt that stunned the small Central European nation and drew international condemnation.

Earlier, local media reported that Slovak doctors would meet on Monday to assess whether Fico, who underwent hours of surgery, could be transported to the capital Bratislava from the central city of Banska Bystrica where he is being treated.

In its short statement, the government said further information on Fico's health would be made public "when the situation allows".



Slovakia's Health Minister Zuzana Dolinkova, Minister of Defense Robert Kalinak and director of the F.D. Roosevelt University Hospital in Banska Bystrica Miriam Lapunikova hold a press conference outside the F.D. Roosevelt University Hospital, where Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico is hospitalised following an assassination attempt, in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia.

Northern Gaza sees fiercest fighting yet

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli forces launched a fresh assault on northern Gaza on Friday in some of the fiercest engagements since they returned to the area a week ago, while in the south Hamas fighters attacked tanks massing around Rafah.

Residents said Israeli armour had thrust as far as the market at the heart of Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, and that bulldozers were demolishing homes and shops in the path of the advance.

"Tanks and planes are wiping out residential districts and markets, shops, restaurants, everything. It is all happening before the one-eyed world," Ayman Rajab, a resident of western Jabalia, said via a chat app.

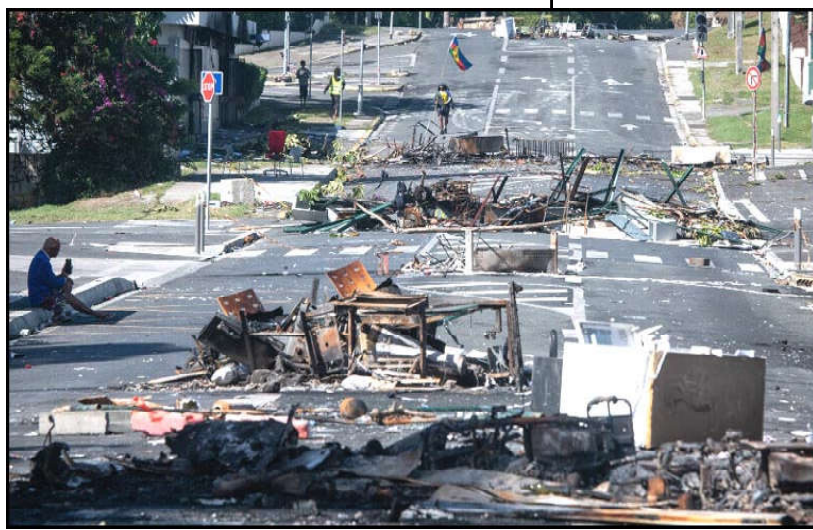
At the southern end of Gaza, thick smoke rose over Rafah, bordering Egypt, where an escalating Israeli assault has sent hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from what was one of the only places of refuge left.

Singapore to resume flying F-16 jets after crash this month

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Singapore will resume flying its F-16 fleet after suspending training when one of the jets crashed earlier this month, the defence ministry on Saturday. The defence ministry said the May 8 crash was due to the plane's pitch rate gyroscopes giving erroneous inputs to the flight control computer.

"This led to the pilot being unable to control the plane at take-off," the statement said. The pilot ejected successfully. F-16 fighter jets are fitted with four such gyroscopes. A simultaneous failure is very rare occurrence and a first for Singapore's fleet, the ministry said.

It added that all pitch rate gyroscopes will be checked and cleared before flights resume, and that the air force and F-16 manufacturer Lockheed Martin will look into the specific cause behind the malfunction. The May crash was the first one for a Singapore fighter jet since 2004 when an F-16C went down during a night training mission in the US state of Arizona, killing the 25-year-old pilot, according to local media CNA.



A street blocked by debris and burnt out items is seen following overnight unrest in the Magenta district of Noumea, France's Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Dozens of Israeli protesters attack a truck in an apparent effort to block Gaza aid

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Dozens of Israeli protesters attacked a truck in the occupied West Bank, beating its driver and setting it on fire in an apparent attempt to prevent aid from reaching Gaza, the Israeli military said Friday. Soldiers tried to intervene and but were attacked by the protesters, lightly injuring two officers and a soldier, the military said. According to Israeli media, the truck was carrying ordinary commercial goods, not aid for Gaza.

Some 1.1 million Palestinians are on the brink of starvation in Gaza, according to the United Nations. Israeli restrictions on land border crossings and heavy fighting have hindered food and other supplies from reaching Palestinians. On Friday, a newly built U.S. floating pier on Gaza's coast started unloading trucks of aid for the besieged enclave. However, the U.S. and aid groups warn that the sea corridor is not a substitute for land deliveries that could bring in all the food, water and fuel needed in Gaza. At the U.N.'s top court, Israel strongly denied charges it's committing genocide against the Palestinians, arguing Friday that it's doing everything it can to protect the civilian population.

India's spike in trade with Russia not a 'temporary phenomenon', minister says

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's considerable increase in trade with Russia should not be seen as a "temporary phenomenon", given more economic opportunities are emerging, India's foreign minister stated on Friday. India and Russia have a close relationship which dates back decades and New Delhi recently "refused to condemn Moscow over its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine", instead "urging the two sides to end the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy".

New Delhi emerged as one of the topmost buyers of Russian sea-borne oil after Western nations imposed sanctions and halted purchases, in response to the war (which Russia calls a "special military operation"). "For long, we have looked at Russia from a political or security perspective," Foreign Minister, S. Jaishankar said at an industry conference. "As the country turns eastwards, fresh economic opportunities are presenting themselves, the spike in our trade and new areas of cooperation should not be regarded.

Flash floods kill 50 in western Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Flash flooding has killed at least 50 people in western Afghanistan, provincial police said on Saturday, a week after hundreds were washed away in the north of the country.

Friday's flooding also destroyed about 2,000 houses and damaged thousands more homes and businesses, Ghor police spokesman Abdul Rahman Badri said. The fresh flooding in the country — which is highly vulnerable to climate change — comes as survivors of the May 10 flash floods in northern Baghlan province continue to search for missing relatives.

"Fifty residents of Ghor province were killed by the floods on Friday and a number of others are missing," Badri said.

"These terrible floods have also killed thousands of cattle... They have destroyed hundreds of hectares of agricultural land, hundreds of bridges and culverts, and destroyed thousands of trees," he added. Major roads into and within the province were blocked. Abu Obaidullah, the head of the province's disaster management department, said it was an "emergency situation".

"The floods hit several districts in the province, including the capital Chaghcharan, where the streets 'are full of mud'," Obaidullah said. "The situation is really concerning," he told AFP, adding that victims were in need of shelter, food and water.

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and Taliban officials said more than 300 people died as a result of the flood disaster earlier this month that left homes and roads coated in thick mud.

Turkey opposition chief cool to constitution talks with Erdogan

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey's main opposition leader, boosted by sweeping local election gains in March, said he is "far off" opening talks with Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party over a new constitution since the president doesn't abide by the existing one.

In an interview with Reuters, Ozgur Ozel, who was elected chairman of the Republican People's Party (CHP) last November, also called on the government to once again raise the minimum wage, which continues to lag the soaring inflation rate.

The question of whether and how to rewrite Turkey's constitution could dominate domestic politics this year after Erdogan and his AK Party (AKP) said it is a priority. Analysts say a new document could potentially extend Erdogan's rule beyond 2028 when his current term ends.

"It would be a waste of time to discuss a new constitution while there has been so much violation of the constitution by the ruling party..." Ozel, 49, said at the CHP headquarters in Ankara this week.

"If the ruling party abides by the current constitution, we would get closer to discussing a new one. We are far-off from that point at the moment," he said.

Ozel's comments come after his secularist-centrist CHP won most major cities and made big gains in the AKP's rural heartland in the March 31 local elections, surpassing the conservative ruling party's share of the popular vote for the first time in more than two decades.

Modi imitating 'detractors of democracy' in Pakistan and Bangladesh, says Kejriwal

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India once used to give the world lessons on democracy, but under Prime Minister Narendra Modi it has been "reduced" to "imitating detractors of democracy" in Pakistan, Russia and Bangladesh, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday. He is currently campaigning in the Indian state of Punjab where his 'Aam Aadmi Party' (AAP) holds power, as well as in Maharashtra, where the opposition 'INDIA' alliance hopes to clinch a majority of the 48 seats up for grabs from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Kejriwal claims that Modi is 'losing the election'. "Should he win by any chance, he would have stolen a leaf from President Vladimir Putin, who has jailed his opponents to win with a huge margin."

Kejriwal alleged that Russian President Vladimir Putin had 'locked up' various political opponents and killed others to score high at the hustings.

He termed the incarcerated founder-chairman of the PTI, Imran Khan as "the tallest leader of Pakistan" and said he too, was jailed by his opponents to contrive his defeat.

The prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, was similarly accused by Kejriwal of jailing political opponents to 'steal the election'.

"If he wins, Modi will definitely jail Udhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawaramong, among others," he stated, whilst pointing to the opposition 'INDIA' alliance hosts, present at the meeting.

Kejriwal secured bail after the Supreme Court intervened to give him '21 days of freedom'. This permits him to canvass support for his AAP party and allies, before returning to jail on the 2 of June. "I have to return to jail before the votes are counted" he had said earlier, at an AAP meeting held in Delhi.

French response in New Caledonia risks helping China, analysts say

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: French President Emmanuel Macron's ambitions to deepen French influence in the Pacific, where China is expanding its security ties, could be put at risk by the heavy-handed response to civil unrest in New Caledonia, Pacific analysts and officials said.

Deadly riots erupted this week among indigenous Kanak, after Paris changed voting rules to allow more French residents to join electoral rolls in the Pacific territory. The violence and the arrival of hundreds of police from Paris are reigniting regional sensitivities over colonialism.

Australian National University Pacific analyst Graeme Smith said a crackdown by French police in Noumea could bolster China's weaponisation of the colonial legacy of Western nations in the Pacific — which includes French and American nuclear testing.

"It will play very well because China has been discovering some of the colonial history of the Pacific," he said.

Beijing has pushed to deepen its security ties in the Pacific Islands, strategically located between the United States and Asia, with mixed success.

After striking a security pact with the Solomon Islands in 2022 that alarmed Washington, Beijing failed to reach a Pacific-wide trade and security deal.

Its members, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, are at the centre of a contest for influence between China and the U.S. and its allies, including Australia and France. In July, Macron made the first visit to Vanuatu by a French leader since it gained independence from France and Britain in 1980, warning in a speech against China's "new imperialism". China is Vanuatu's largest external creditor, and its then prime minister was ousted by lawmakers the next month, in part for abandoning Vanuatu's non-aligned foreign policy. Melanesian Spearhead Group leaders met in August to consider security cooperation with China, on which no decision has been made.



LGBT community groups protest against a new government decree listing transsexualism as a "mental disorder", in front of Peru's Ministry of Health, in Lima, Peru.

CPEC to inject new impetus to Pak-China relationship, says Chinese DCM

ISLAMABAD (APP): China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, said Chinese Deputy Chief of Missions (DCM) Shi Yuangqiang at a well-attended seminar on Dynamics of Xinjiang in Pakistani Perspective hosted by Overseas Chinese Association Rawalpindi on Saturday.

He noted, "The keenness on Pakistan's side to greatly enhance the ongoing commercial cooperation was welcoming as it would inject new impetus into China-Pakistan cooperation as China enters a new development phase".

Turning to bilateral relations, DCM Shi underscored the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and praised Pakistan's new government's "5Es" framework, which aligns with China's approach to high-quality development.

He highlighted key achievements of CPEC Phase One, including the construction of renewable energy projects and the es-

establishment of a buffalo embryo laboratory, which have contributed significantly to Pakistan's economic and social development.

"Looking forward to CPEC Phase Two, we are ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries," DCM said. "We aim to inject new impetus into China-Pakistan cooperation with China's new development and promote the in-depth integration of the 5Cs with the 5Es, creating an upgraded version of the CPEC and building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era", he maintained.

"China is ready to work with friends from all walks of life in Pakistan to advocate universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization," DCM affirmed. "We must work together to make the 'cake' of economic globalization bigger and fairly share it, promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation for mutual benefit, win-win results, and com-

mon prosperity", he added.

DCM further elaborated that China's progress in protecting the rights of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region that also signals China's increasing openness and transparency in displaying the achievements in the region, refuting rumours and lies made by the US-led campaign.

He noted that Xinjiang region is enjoying the best time in its history as all the local ethnic population is moving ahead with sustainable development and prosperity contributing their role in the national rejuvenation. He said that there are more than 24,000 mosques located in China and the Muslim community is practicing Islam as the fundamental beliefs of their religion. The Muslims in China are enjoying the religious freedom that rejects the malicious propaganda campaigns of Western think tanks. DCM noted that the proactive policies to ensure employment and job security adopted by the local government.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba hold a protest front of Kayrgys Embassy against the incidents of violence against foreign nationals students including Pakistanis in Bishkek last night.

Pakistan needs healing touch to pull her out of multiple challenges: Senator Mushahid

KARACHI (APP): Senator and seasoned politician Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Saturday said that the country needed a healing touch to pull her out of the path to strong foreign policy, economic and political stability.

While addressing a conference on 'A World in Turmoil' organized by Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) at a local hotel here, he stressed the need for domestic political stability in the country.

He said we know how to preserve and protect our foreign policy. He said that the country needed a regional re-set with our neighbours and should not be part of any civil war in the future.

He said, "This is the world of open borders." Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that China was time-tested friend of Pakistan and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provided Pakistan to be regional hub of connectivity. He said that China was a power, which had challenged the Western hegemony. Sayed said the country had got an opportunity to form a strong foreign policy for the benefit of the nation.

He said we should further show strong viewpoint on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and show solidarity with Palestine.

He said that any party, which was mandated in the general elections be

Pak envoy inquires about health of Pakistani national in Kyrgyz hospital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Hasan Zaigham on Saturday visited the Kyrgyz National Hospital to inquire about the wellbeing of Pakistani National Shahzaib who was under treatment there.

According to the Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Baloch, a few other Pakistanis who were injured had been discharged from the hospital after providing the first aid.

Earlier in a video message, Hasan Zaigham briefed the detail of the incidents in Kyrgyzstan said that last night, some local extremist elements attacked the international student's hostels and their residents in Bishkek.

He said according to the Kyrgyz government, six hostels came under attack and some 14 international students got injured during the attacks.

The Pakistani mission in the country was told that a Pakistani student Shahzaib was under treatment at Kyrgyz National Hospital, he said adding that under the direction of the prime minister he visited the hospital and enquired about health of Shahzaib who was stable now.

The envoy informed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had extended special directives to provide every possible assistance to the Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan.

Earlier in a video message, Hasan Zaigham briefed the detail of the incidents in Kyrgyzstan said that last night, some local extremist elements attacked the international student's hostels and their residents in Bishkek.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

Bilawal expressed concerns over violent incidents in Kyrgyzstan

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep concern over the violent incidents targeting foreign students, including Pakistani students, in Kyrgyzstan.

He has asked the Government of Pakistan to ensure that all necessary support and assistance are provided to these students in Bishkek.

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, the Chairman of PPP has urged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement specific measures for the safety of Pakistani students in Bishkek. He also empha-

sized that the Embassy of Pakistan in Bishkek should maintain regular contact with the students and provide their families in Pakistan with accurate information. He said that Pakistani youth in Kyrgyzstan and abroad serve as ambassadors for our country. He urged them to exercise restraint and act responsibly in challenging situations.

Emphasizing the close ties between Islamabad and Bishkek, the former Pakistani foreign minister described Kyrgyzstan as a second home for Pakistanis.

He also highlighted the longstanding enthusiasm for friendly relations between the peoples of both nations.

DEO Usta Muhammad visits Gandakha H/S

QUETTA (APP): District Education Officer (DEO) Usta Muhammad, Akhtar Ahmad Jamali along with District Education Officer (DEO) Female on Saturday paid a surprise visit to Gandakha High School to inspect the ongoing exam at its centre.

On this occasion, Superintendent Gandakha and Additional Superintendent Qazi Khalil Jamali briefed them about the ongoing examinations.

During the visit, he also checked the papers of the ongoing intermediate of examination.

DEO Akhtar Jamali said that children should also acquire knowledge with enthusiasm because going forward, these children have to manage the future of the country. Our endeavor is to equip the future generations with the jewel of modern education, he said. He said that the present era was of education and ignorance could not change the destiny of any nation nor the dreams of development could be realized by staying in the dark.

Copying is darkening the students should remove its idea from the heart, the DEO said.

He said that copyists would be punished under UFM of the Board and strict measures would be taken to eliminate cheating in examinations centers.

The DEO lauded the efforts of the Superintendent and Additional Superintendent Qazi Khalil Jamali for the good arrangements of the ongoing examinations.



QUETTA: Baloch Yakjehti Committee leader, Prof. Manzoor Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

PTI founder gets courage from elections, other issues: Chan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Peoples' Party leader Nadeem Afzal Chan has said that the PTI's founder gets off and on courage with elections or any other way.

In an interview with a private TV Channel Chan delving in Pakistani politics' dynamics said that "the people feel, there must be a writer behind a revolution".

Commenting on the political career of Nawaz Sharif, Nadeem Afzal Chan said that he is a veteran politician, he inflicted loss to himself. "A person's exit should be excellent and robust, which didn't happen with Mian Sahib," PPP leader said. "There are mistakes of Nawaz Sharif and

his advisers for this exit," he further said.

"He couldn't become the prime minister again in his advance age, and now he has not been active in the politics," he said. "What is party's president, his daughter and brother are doing the active politics," Nadeem Afzal added.

Talking on the PML-N's offer to the PPP to join the Cabinet, he said, "it is not easy for the People's Party." "We will see when the matter will be discussed within the party," he further said.

"Official inquiry in the wheat scandal is mere a lollipop," commenting on the wheat scam Nadeem Afzal Chan said.



MIANWALI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti offering Fateha during his visit to the residence of Shaheed Major Babar Khan.

QMC disposes 150,000 tons of trash during ongoing cleanness drive: Hamza

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division/Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat said the corporation has collected over 150,000 tons of trash from the city so far during the ongoing cleanness drive.

He said that on the special instructions of Chief Minister Balochistan, the cleanness campaign is going on rapidly across the city.

Hamza Shafiqat said special efforts have been taken regarding the cleanness situation and all available resources are being utilized to ensure civic facilities to the Quetta dwellers.

The commissioner, who is also administrator of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC), said that the Corporation was collecting waste through heavy machinery on daily basis as

the city produced around 1.5 million tons of garbage annually.

Administrator QMC Hamza Shafiqat said the cleanness drives are being carried out in every area of the city on a regular basis and the QMC was ensuring the collection and disposal of garbage in every area of the provincial capital city including Sariyab to Nawan Killi.

He said in order to improve the cleanness situation, the heavy machinery and staff of Metropolitan Corporation are working in day and night shifts.

He added that in order to speed up the ongoing cleaning campaign in the city, the work on ongoing cleaning drive across the city would also during the night hours.

He said that all possible measures have been taken to provide relief to the public on urgent basis.



GWADAR: View of huge fire flames rise from burning construction Machinery, due to unidentified armed men set fire to the machinery of a local contractor while local people are busy in exhausting fire.

Lahore-Paris Rally to promote cultural, positive image of Pakistan: Rana Mashhood

LAHORE (APP): Chairman of Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has announced that the Lahore-Paris Rally 2024 will significantly promote Pakistan's cultural heritage and enhance its positive image globally.

Addressing a press conference held at Airwan-e-Iqbal here on Saturday, he said the government was committed to promoting tourism and making Pakistan an attractive tourist destination. He revealed that the Lahore-Paris rally will commence its journey on August 26, 2024, with its final destination being Paris (France). Participants in the rally will travel through 12 countries, covering a distance of 20,000 kilometres in 70 days. The route includes major countries such as Pakistan, Iran,

Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and France, he added.

The rally is being organised by the Globe Series and Cross Route Club, in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and the Pakistan Tourism Department, he said. Emphasising the significance of the rally, Rana Mashhood said, "The Lahore-Paris rally is not only a means of promoting our national culture but also an excellent opportunity to project a positive image of Pakistan to the world." He assured full support and resources for the participants, including safety measures for women and children taking part in the rally. This initiative aims to strengthen cultural ties and foster friendly relations between different nations.

Rana labels Gandapur's fiery statements 'aerial firing'

LAHORE (INP): Former interior minister and Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah said on Saturday that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's bellicose posture was no more than rhetoric and that the provincial government would do what the federal government asked him to do.

Talking to the media here, Sanaulah, also a PML-N stalwart, said that the government had no objection to parleys between the PTI and the establishment. "Right from the very start, the PTI has issues with the establishment," he said, adding, "The party wants the latter to stand by it; to intervene in the country's politics." When the PTI was in power, the adviser went on to say, it wanted to crush the opposition. "But when the establishment did not support it, its leaders started calling army generals Mir Jaafar and Mir Sadiq.



HUB: Pakistan Coast Guard Officials are showing huge apprehended drugs worth millions of rupees, during raid on local area of Pansi and Uthal, during press conference held at PCG Headquarters.

Saad Rafique says: PTI has track record of spreading 'Anarchy'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Saad Rafique criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for its history of fostering "anarchy" in the country. Talking to a private news channel, he said that "Whenever the country starts to progress, PTI disrupts it. It is inappropriate for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to use foul language against the centre." Rafique expressed concerns about Gandapur's leadership in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, suggesting that his actions indicate an inability to manage provincial affairs and a desire to create disturbances.

Addressing the recent developments within PML-N, Rafique commented on Shehbaz Sharif's resignation as party president.

At UN, Pak urges removal of curbs on transfer of new technologies to developing countries

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called for the removal of "undue restrictions" on providing to developing countries access to new and emerging technologies to enable them to make progress in order to address contemporary challenges. "We underscore the imperative of removing barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to scientific knowledge, equipment, material and technology, including its transfer to developing nations," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told UN Security Council's "Arria-Formula" meeting on 'Unlocking the Potential of Science for Peace and Security.' Switzerland convened the 15-member Council meeting under the format of Arria formula, which is named after a former Venezuelan UN ambassador, Diego Arriva. It is a very informal consultation process which affords the Council the opportunity to hear persons in a

confidential, informal setting. "Unless fair and equitable access to new and emerging technologies is provided to developing countries, and all undue restrictions removed, the Global South will lag even further behind in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," Ambassador Jadoon added.

Opening the meeting, Thomas Gurbur, State Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, said that the 15-member

Council has a mandate to deal with the many crises that are shaking the world. But, he said, even in these difficult times, it was crucial that the world community took a longer-term view, "noting that the number of conflicts was increasing and the challenges to peace and security becoming ever more complex."

"The consequences of climate change are exacerbating existing risks, new technologies are having a profound impact on our societies and disinformation.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Chairperson Balochistan Commission for Women (BCW) Fouzia Shaheen meeting with Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazam Muhammad Baloch.