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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a ceremony held in collection with Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police at Central Police Office

Allah failed those who conspired to break or weaken Pakistan: CM reiterates every possible measures for wellbeing of heirs of police martyrs; vows to eliminate terrorism in country together

Mir Sarfraz Bugti says we can improve governance through strong governance; pledges to make complete defence of fault lines of terrorism in country

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that our police martyrs are lucky that their blood was shed for the cause of country, and as such reiterated his government's resolve to take every possible steps for the well-being of their heirs.

He also reiterated the government's resolve to eliminate terrorism from the country. He asserted that no terrorism can harm Pakistan. "Allah failed those who conspired to break and weaken Pakistan."

He also vowed to face all the challenges together. He said that the government is not refusing the negotiations, but no one would be allowed to harm the country at all. He said that those involved in violence are not peaceful citizens. Those who are carrying weapons would be contended.

These views were expressed by the Chief Minister while addressing the ceremony held to mark the Balochistan Police Martyrs Day at the Central Police Office here on Sunday.

The Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola, Provincial Ministers, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani and Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, IG FC North, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Army and Frontier Corps and other high ups were present at the ceremony. The families of the police martyrs from different parts of the province especially participated in the ceremony.

While addressing the ceremony, Chief Minister said that he is not chief guest of the ceremony, rather the families of martyrs are chief guests of the event. He said that such a tradition should be set in future that the families of martyrs are chief guests of this ceremony.

He paid homage to the police martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of peace in Balochistan.

He said we are proud of our martyrs who rendered great sacrifices for us. So, we remember the martyrs of police every day of the year. We can't forget them as they are close to

our hearts, he maintained. The Chief Minister on the occasion said that we have the capability to take revenge of sacred blood of our martyrs. He said that the complete defence of the fault lines of terrorism would be made. He asserted that those having thinking of weakening the country can't be set free.

He said that the war against terrorism is of all of us, and we have to fight it together. He said that we can improve law and order through strong governance.

He said that the parliament is guarantor of rights of the province, and we got whatever rights, these were acquired through parliament. Referring the families of martyrs, the Chief Minister said that the government would extend full cooperation to the families of martyrs.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited the monument of Balochistan police martyrs in the Central Police Office and laid floral wreath there.

He also offered fateha for the departed souls of martyrs. Smartly turned out contingent of police also presented salute.

Fast-paced work in progress on second phase of CPEC: PM

Says no compromise on security of Chinese workers

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said that work was progressing fast on the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and there was positive momentum on further promotion of cooperation with China in different fields during visit of Chinese experts to Pakistan.

The prime minister was speaking during a meeting here with a seven member delegation of journalists who returned from an official visit to China undertaken on the invitation of government institution China Public Diplomacy

Association. He said that China was sincere friend which helped Pakistan on every difficult occasion.

He urged that all stakeholders should rise above politics to work together on the national development projects like China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The PM said whenever Allah Almighty gave him an opportunity to serve the country, he pledged to himself to focus all his energies on progress of the country.

He said he was thankful to the Chinese leadership and people on the ex-

emplary hospitality shown during his recent visit to China.

He told that he himself was monitoring the progress on the memorandums of understanding and agreements after the visit to China.

The prime minister assured that Pakistan was ensuring all steps for the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

There is no place for politics of any kind on relations with a close friend like China, he remarked.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar was present in the meeting.

India's actions demonstrate disregard for int'l law in IIOJK: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari said India's actions since 5 August 2019 demonstrated complete disregard for international law, the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, and the UN Security Council resolutions regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a message on Youm-e-Istehsal on 5th August 2024, he said, "Today marks the completion of five years of India's latest campaign to consolidate its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, five years ago, India took a number of unilateral and unlawful steps in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to undermine its international recognised disputed status."

Since 5 August 2019, he said India has embarked upon a ceaseless campaign to alter the demographic structure and political landscape of IIOJK.

Issuing domicile certificates to outsiders, registering temporary residents in the voters' lists, gerrymandering assembly constituencies, and modifying land and property ownership laws are some of the key

features of this campaign. All these measures are in blatant violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention, he observed.

"The continued presence of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops has turned IIOJK into one of the most heavily militarized zones in the world. The gross human rights violations in IIOJK have been documented extensively and condemned globally. The mistreatment of Kashmiri journalists and human rights defenders has further revealed India's willingness to go to any lengths to silence dissenting voices. India would not succeed in suppressing the just struggle of the people of IIOJK through domestic legislation and judicial verdicts," he added.

For the past seven decades, the President said the Kashmiris had waited for the United Nations to fulfil its solemn commitments. "It is crucial that the international community urges India to end its human rights violations in IIOJK and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions."

Amir Maqam calls Int'l community to play its role to address Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr Amir Maqam has appealed to the international community and Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to play their vital role in addressing the longstanding Kashmir valley issue of the region.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, the minister said the Kashmir dispute should be resolved through the resolution of the United Nations as without a solution to this issue there is no peace and development in the region.

He said that the incumbent government was highlighting the Kashmir issue at all appropriate platforms of the globe effectively. The minister underlined that since August 5, 2019, to date in the last five years around 900 people have been killed, more than 2500 freedom fighters injured and many widows have been arrested by Indian forces.

India is claiming the largest democratic state of

the world but violating the human rights and suppressing the self-determination rights of Kashmiris, he added.

Amir Maqam asked all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk from Radio Pakistan to D Chowk in Islamabad on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir on August 5.

He said on August 5, 2019, the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was repealed by the Modi regime which will complete five years on August 5.

He said that every year, Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir is also being observed this year. Protest walks and demonstrations have been announced against this illegal move of the Modi government in Pakistan as well as around the world, he said.

Amir Maqam appealed to all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk so that a clear message could be sent to India that the government and people of Pakistan are united on the Kashmir dispute.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a review meeting on Track and Trace System

PM's Focal Person highly concerned about increasing polio cases in Balochistan; announces special anti-polio drive

Independent Report QUETTA: The Focal Person of Prime Minister for Polio Eradication, Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq has expressed concern about reporting of polio cases in Balochistan saying in view of the situation, special anti-polio campaign would be run in the province during next three months.

She announced that the anti-polio campaign would be run in September, October and November this year.

The PM's Focal Person was speaking to the Chief Minister whom she called on at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Sunday afternoon.

During the course of meeting, the Provincial Ministers Ali Madad Jatak and Sardarzada Faisal Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadeer Khan, National Polio Coordinator, Muhammad Anwaarul Haq, Commissioner

Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Secretary Health, Muhammad Saleh Baloch and Coordinator of Emergency Operation Center, Inam Khan Mandokhail were present.

During the meeting, matters about prevention of polio, immunization campaign and other related ones were discussed.

Expressing views on the occasion, Chief Minister assured that the complete administrative cooperation would be extended to the anti-polio teams for carrying out immunization campaign smoothly in the province.

He asserted that stern action would be taken against those creating hurdles in the anti-polio programme in the province.

adjacent areas. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Chairman District Council and Municipal Committee besides the political, social and tribal personalities of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor directed to take special measures for establishing officers' club, restoring all the street lights, providing necessary facilities for the tourists. He also directed to take measures for protection of the tourists. He made it clear that no negligence would be tolerated in protection of life and property of the people especially the tourists besides provision of necessary facilities in Ziarat.

Meanwhile, the Governor visited the Quaid-e-Azam public library and went round of its different sections.



QUETTA: Focal Persons of PM for Anti Polio Ayesha Raza meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Ministers are also present

Dissenting note raises important points regarding reserved seats: Atta Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said that two honourable judges of the Supreme Court had raised important points in their dissenting note regarding reserved seats.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that on the issue of reserved seat a party was provided relief which was not a petitioner. He said that two honourable judges of the

Supreme Court, Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, have issued detailed dissenting notes and it said that after the passage of 15 days a detailed verdict of the case had not come. He said, "Usually a detailed verdict comes within 15 days after a decision is announced."

Attaullah Tarar said that some articles of the Constitution were related to reserved seats, adding that in the reserved seats case, a

decision had been given not in line with these articles.

He further said that it was also mentioned in the dissenting note of two honourable judges of the Supreme Court that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had not been a party to this case and to provide it a relief the court had to travel beyond the jurisdiction conferred by Articles 175 and 185 of the Constitution and would also have to suspend Article 51, 63, 106 of the Constitution.

5 اگست

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Governor appreciates overseas Pakistanis' role in charity projects

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan on Sunday underscored the role of overseas Pakistanis in the development of the country.

He said that the hearts of Pakistanis abroad are full of love for their countrymen. "Overseas philanthropists also contribute to charitable works by sending valuable foreign exchange which is appreciable," he added.

The governor stated this while talking to a delegation comprising overseas Pakistanis who met him at Punjab House Islamabad under the leadership of Zameer Khan (Hilal Imtiaz) Chairman of

Pakistan Sweet Home. According to DPR Rawalpindi, the chairman briefed the governor about a new project of Pakistan Sweet Homes named Fatimat Al-Zahra Hospital (Chakri Rajar).

Governor Punjab highlighted that overseas Pakistanis have helped Pakistan in every difficult hour.

"With the support of philanthropists, the new project of Overseas Pakistanis Sweet Home is an exemplary contribution of social responsibility in the society," he said adding that the charitable contributions by overseas Pakistanis should be encouraged.

Governor Punjab underlined the need to estab-

lish more such hospitals for poor and needy people in Attock and other remote areas.

The newly elected chairman of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, Syed Qamar Raza and overseas Pakistanis from Norway, Holland and Italy were also among the visiting delegation.

In a separate statement, the governor paid tribute to the police martyrs on the occasion of Police Martyrs Day and said that the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of peace in the country are our pride. He also expressed his solidarity with the families of the martyrs.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of overseas Pakistanis led by the leader of Pakistan People's Party and Chairman Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamard Khan (Hilal Imtiaz).

CM pays tribute to police martyrs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on Police Martyrs Day, said that August 4 can never be forgotten as this day reminds us of martyrs sacrifices.

"A nation turns out successful which pays tribute to their martyrs. We will never compromise on the respect of the martyrs," she said.

The Chief Minister said, "I salute the great sacrifices of all our martyrs. The Martyrs Day is a day to pay homage to the great sacrifices of the brave sons of the land. The martyrs will always remain alive in our hearts."

She added the immor-

tal sacrifices of the police martyrs are a precious asset which can never be forgotten, adding that the Punjab government every second stands with the family members of the martyrs and will remain so.

"The police force is rendering commendable duties in every area including the Kacha area. The Punjab government is utilising all possible resources for the welfare of the martyrs families. We will fully accomplish our duty to look after and provide service to the family of every martyr. We take pride in the glorious achievements of our martyrs and their sacrifices will be remembered for long," she added.

7 dead, 1,240 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least seven people were killed and 1,240 others injured in 1,184 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 550 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 690 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 711 drivers, 51 underage drivers, 125 pedestrians, and 411 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 258 accidents were reported in Lahore.

Punjab transport minister lauds district administration for monsoon measures

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister Punjab for Transport, Bilal Akbar Khan on Sunday lauded the measures taken by the district administration regarding monsoon rains.

"In the light of the directions of the Punjab government, the Rawalpindi district administration has made the best arrangements for the cleaning and drainage in view of the monsoon rains", he said during his visit to the nullah Lai.

According to the details, the minister along with Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema made a detailed visit to Nullah Lai, Gawalmandi and reviewed

the arrangements made by the administration. The provincial minister was briefed regarding the measures taken by the administration.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that all possible safety arrangements are complete. The situation is under control with timely cleaning of drains, he added.

He said that all the concerned departments are alert. He further said that officials of the concerned departments have been deployed in Naula Lai and nearby low-lying areas.

It is worth mentioning that the meteorological department has forecast more than normal rains this year.



MULTAN: Provincial Parliamentary Leader, MPA Syed Ali Haider Gilani addressing a press conference at Press Club.

PPP urges provincial govt to reconsider decision of relocating two wards of Nishtar Hospital

MULTAN (APP): Provincial Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Syed Ali Haider Gilani accompanied by other local leaders, urged government to reconsider its decision of abolishing Neurosurgery and Orthopedic Wards from Nishtar Hospital to Nishtar Hospital phase-II by keeping in view the public facilities.

Addressing a press conference here Sunday, Syed Ali Haider Gilani said that a notification has come out to shift two major sectors of the Punjab government, Neurosurgery and Orthopedics, to Nishtar-II,

from Nishtar Hospital. He said that the locals would face problems due to relocation these two major departments from main Nishtar Hospitals to outside branch. He said that the Punjab government was requested to reconsider the decision to transfer the departments. He said that the people of South Punjab have given heavy mandate to Gilani family from the platform of the Pakistan People's Party adding that his family had always put political affiliations above all else and made practical efforts for the development of South Punjab.

We're indebted to martyrs sacrifices for peace in country: PA speaker

LAHORE (APP): Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said on Sunday "we are indebted to those people who sacrificed their lives for peace in the country".

Speaking at the Police Martyrs' Day ceremony, Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said the assembly belongs to the heirs of those martyrs. "When Captain Ahmed Mubeen was martyred, I was the spokesperson for

the government. But I have not forgotten the martyrs and their families till today," he added. Malik Ahmad said "I have no words to describe the sacrifices offered by families of martyrs. We are indebted to those martyrs who sacrificed their lives for peace".

He said "we are giving free education to children of martyrs up to E.Sc., we will bring more privileges for police martyrs in consultation with the chief minister of Punjab,

Police Martyrs' Day observed across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Police Martyrs Day was observed across country on Sunday. Candles were lit in memory of police martyrs, across the province in which tribute was paid to those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the nation.

Miscellaneous events were held at the different places including martyrs memorials, public service delivery centers and at police lines.

According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Police, the Police Martyrs Day observations were started officially by lighting candles in the memory of the police martyrs. A large number of families, civil society and citizens participated. August 4 is marked as Police Martyrs Day across the country including Punjab.

Regarding Martyrs Police Day, IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said in his message that the eternal sacrifices of police martyrs would always be remembered. He said martyred policemen were figures of courage and bravery and loyalty to the country.

No ban on private practice of doctors in evening hours: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir has announced that the Health Department has not imposed any ban on private practice of doctors. In a statement issued on Sunday, he clarified that the department had instructed hospital heads to allow private practice during evening hours within government hospitals, aimed at providing better convenience to patients.

The minister emphasised that the initia-

tive would ensure that patients receive top-notch medical facilities during evening hours as doctors engage in private practice. This policy is part of the Health Department's broader effort to enhance health system in the province. He highlighted the successful implementation of evening private practices at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology in Lahore and the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, suggesting this model could be expanded.

Stepbrother kills two siblings in Kabirwala

KABIRWALA (APP): A stepbrother killed his two brothers following a dispute over a marriage proposal in Kabirwala, a private news channel and police reported on Sunday.

According to reports, Munir Ahmed, the accused, fatally shot one brother and stabbed the other in the Kabirwala area of Punjab.

The victims were identified as Qaiser Abbas and Nasir Abbas. The police arrived at the scene and arrested the suspect.



GILGIT: Inspector General of Police Gilgit-Baltistan Afzal Mehmood Butt and Force Commander GB Kashif Khalil offering fatiha after laying floral wreath on Yadgar-e-Shuhda on the occasion of Police Martyr's Day at CPO.

International News

At least 73 killed as clashes rock Bangladesh, curfew imposed

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: At least 73 people were killed and hundreds injured in clashes in Bangladesh on Sunday, as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse tens of thousands of protesters calling for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign.

The government declared an indefinite nationwide curfew starting at 6 p.m. (1200 GMT) on Sunday, the first time it has taken such a step during the current protests that began last month. It also announced a three-day general holiday starting from Monday.

The unrest, which has prompted the government to shut down internet services, is Hasina's biggest test in her 20-year regime after she won a fourth straight term in elections that were boycotted by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Critics of Hasina, along with human rights groups, have accused her government of using excessive force against protesters, a charge she and her ministers deny.

Demonstrators blocked major highways on Sunday as student protesters launched a non-cooperation program to press for the government's resignation, and violence spread nationwide.

"Those who are protesting on the streets right now are not students, but terrorists who are out to destabilise the nation," Hasina said after a national security panel meeting, attended by the chiefs of the army, navy, air force, police and other agencies.

"I appeal to our countrymen to suppress these terrorists with a strong hand."

Police stations and ruling party offices were targeted as violence rocked

the country of 170 million people.

Twelve policemen were beaten to death in the north-western district of Sirajganj, police official Bijoy Bosak said.

At least eight people, including two students and a ruling party leader, were killed and dozens injured amid fierce clashes in several places in the capital, Dhaka, police and witnesses said.

Two construction workers were killed on their way to work and 30 injured in the central district of Munsiganj, during a three-way clash of protesters, police and ruling party activists, witnesses said.

"They were brought dead to the hospital with bullet wounds," said Abu Hena Mohammad Jamal, the superintendent of the district hospital.

Police said they had not fired any live bullets.



Objects set on fire burn as demonstrators with sticks occupy the street during a protest demanding the stepping down of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, following quota reform protests by students, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Fears of wider conflict grow after Hamas chief Haniyeh's killing

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Middle East tensions soared on Saturday as Iran and its allies readied their response to the assassination of Hamas' political leader, blamed on Israel, spurring fears of a regional war. Israel's ally the United States said it would move warships and fighter jets to the region, while Western governments have called on their citizens to leave Lebanon — where the powerful Hezbollah movement is based — and airlines cancelled flights.

The killing earlier this week of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, hours after the Israeli assassination of Hezbollah's military chief in Beirut, has triggered vows of vengeance from Iran and the "axis of resistance".

Groups from Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and Syria have already been drawn into the nearly 10-month

conflict between Israel and Hamas. Iran said on Saturday it expects Hezbollah to hit deeper inside Israel and to no longer be confined to military targets. With such talk growing, the Pentagon said it was bolstering its military presence in the Middle East to protect US personnel and defend Israel. An aircraft carrier strike group led by the USS Abraham Lincoln will replace one led by the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the Pentagon said. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin also ordered additional ballistic missile defence-capable cruisers and destroyers to the Middle East and areas under United States European Command, as well as a new fighter squadron to the Middle East.

In Beirut, 20-year-old student Diana Abu Aasel said she feared "something bad will happen to my family and friends".

Biden voices hope Iran will stand down but is uncertain

Monitoring Desk
WILMINGTON: US President Joe Biden expressed hope Iran would stand down despite its threat to avenge the assassination of Hamas' leader in Tehran, as fears mounted that Israel's war against Palestinians in Gaza could escalate into a wider Middle East conflict.

Regional tensions have soared following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas' top leader, on Wednesday, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a senior military commander from the Lebanese group.

Hezbollah, which like Hamas is backed by Iran. Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for Haniyeh's killing, and they, together with Hezbollah, have vowed revenge. Israel has not claimed or denied responsibility.

Asked by reporters whether Iran would stand down, Biden said on Saturday in response to a shouted question, "I hope so. I don't know."

Seeking to bolster defenses in the Middle East in response to threats from Israel's foes, the Pentagon said on Friday it would deploy additional fighter jets and Navy warships to the region.

Extreme heat breaks records in China

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Swaths of eastern China baked under a scorching heat wave on Saturday, with temperatures in some areas reaching record highs, weather authorities said.

China is enduring a summer of extreme weather, with unseasonable heat searing parts of the north and east while torrential rains have triggered floods and landslides in central and southern regions. The country is the world's largest emitter of the greenhouse gases that scientists say drive global warming and make extreme weather more frequent and intense.

Blinken speaks with UK, French counterparts to 'de-escalate' rising Mideast tensions

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with his British and French counterparts via telephone on Saturday about the need to de-escalate rising tensions in the Middle East and prevent further escalation of the ongoing conflict.

Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy reaffirmed the need to "de-escalate rising tensions in the Middle East and prevent the conflict from spreading," said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

They stressed the importance of finalising a Gaza ceasefire hostage and prisoner swap deal "as soon as possible," it said.

Blinken also spoke with French Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne about achieving a Gaza ceasefire deal as well as the "importance of preventing

further escalation of conflict in the Middle East and the challenges posed by threats from Iran."

The calls came as tensions are running high in the region after Iran vowed "severe punishment" for Israel for the assassination of Hamas' political chief Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

The assassination of Haniyeh was "designed and executed" by Israel with support from the US, using a short-range projectile, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Saturday.

The US said on Friday it would deploy additional fighter jets and navy warships to the Middle East.

Haniyeh was assassinated early on Wednesday at his residence in Tehran in an attack that Iranian officials blamed on Israel. Haniyeh's bodyguard was also killed.



UMMALFAHEM: Arab-Israelis and left-wing activists lift flags of Palestine and placards to protest Israel's aggression in Gaza.

North Korea says Russia's Putin offered humanitarian aid over flood damage

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered humanitarian aid to North Korea, which has been hit by heavy rainfalls and floods, Pyongyang's state media KCNA said on Sunday. Relations between the two countries have grown closer, and Putin made the

offer in a message to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivered on Saturday via the Russian embassy in Pyongyang. The Russian leader's message expressed sympathy and support. Putin displayed "his willingness to provide immediate humanitarian support for the recovery from the flood damage.

France and Italy urge citizens to leave Lebanon due to security risks

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France and Italy on Sunday urged their citizens in Lebanon to leave the country due to the risk of military escalation in the Middle East, their foreign ministries said. Tensions have soared following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, leader of Palestinian group Hamas, in Tehran on Wednesday, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a top military commander from Lebanese armed group Hezbollah.

In two separate travel advisories, the French foreign ministry recommended citizens residing in Iran to temporarily leave the country given the risk of its airspace being closed. The ministry had urged citizens travelling in Iran to leave on Friday.

The airstrike hit a

Five more killed in Israeli strikes at hospital, Gaza officials say

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: An Israeli airstrike hit a tent inside a hospital compound in central Gaza, killing at least five people, bringing the total of Palestinians killed on Sunday to 19, Gaza health officials said, after another round of talks ended without result.

The airstrike hit a

tent area inside the Al-Aqsa Hospital compound, starting a fire, wounding at least 18 people in addition to the five killed, medical authorities said.

The Israeli military said it struck a fighter who "conducted terror activities" and that secondary explosions were identified, indicating the presence of weaponry in the area.

