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Editor: Omer Rizwan

Violent protests erupt as Former PM Imran Khan detained

Imran Khan arrested as per law: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was detained in the country's capital Islamabad on Tuesday, police have said. The arrest of the opposition leader has also been confirmed by his spokesman. The arrest was made as Khan arrived at Islamabad High Court for a hearing of a corruption case against him. Dozens of legal proceedings have been launched against the 70-year-old after he was pushed out of office more than a year ago. Witnesses told Reuters that as soon as the former premier entered the compound, armored vehicles and officers in full riot gear arrived on site. The gates leading to the court were reportedly blocked, with Khan soon being escorted out the building under heavy security.

The Islamabad High Court here on Tuesday ruled that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan was arrested as per law. The National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) officials arrested the PTI chairman when he arrived in the Federal Capital from Lahore to appear before the IHC in connection with his bail petitions. The NAB Chairman NAB had issued Imran Khan's arrest warrants in the Al-Qadir Trust case on May 1 under sections 9A, 34A, 18A and 24A of the NAB Ordinance 1999. Imran Khan was accused of corruption and corrupt practices. He would be produced before the relevant court for physical remand by the Bureau within 24 hours. Earlier, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq took notice of the arrest of Imran Khan when he



was doing his biometric verification before his court appearance, and summoned the Inspector General of Police Islamabad, Secretary Interior and Additional Attorney General to appear within 15 minutes. The IGP and the Additional Secretary Interior appeared before the court. Later, the court held a recess of 30 minutes and also summoned NAB Director General and Prosecutor General to answer in the arrest matter of Imran Khan. During the course of the hearing, the chief justice asked whether anyone could be arrested from the court premises. The accused would have to be released if the court find any illegality in the arrest of the PTI chief. NAB Director General Rawalpindi Irfan Baig and Prosecutor General Sardar Muzafar Abbasi appeared before the bench following the court directives. Justice Aamer Farooq asked what was the procedure for the execution of NAB warrants. Whether NAB adopted the same procedure in every case as the court's prime concern was whether the arrest was legal or not, he added. Sardar Abbasi said no accused could be arrested from the courtroom due to the respect of the court. He said the Bureau had conducted the investigation of the Al-Qadir Trust case in detail. The in-

quiry was converted into an investigation as per the law on April 28 and then the NAB chairman issued arrest warrants for the PTI chief, he added. Media have reported that Khan's supporters have gathered in various cities in the country, from Gilgit in the north to Karachi in the south. Khan has led massive rallies and protest marches in Pakistan in the past. More than 100 cases have been registered against Khan in various courts in the country, with charges ranging from corruption to terrorism and sedition, following the politician's ousting from power in a parliamentary no-trust vote last April. Khan says the cases are politically motivated to crack down on his Tehreek-e-Insaf Party, arguably the most popular in the country. Many senior Khan aides have had cases registered against them in recent months and been arrested. The fresh political crisis comes as Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund are in talks aimed at resuming stalled funding of \$1.1 billion due in November from a \$6.5 billion program agreed in 2019. The measures have fueled the country's highest-ever inflation, some 36.4 percent in April. The IMF funding is crucial for Pakistan to avert default on its external payment obligations during a balance of payment crisis in which foreign exchange reserves have shrunk to just four weeks of controlled imports. Khan's arrest also comes in the wake of the army's warning about legal action over accusations by Khan that a serving military official, Maj. Gen. Faisal Naseer, was plotting to kill him.

Canada wildfires slow allowing evacuees to return, but hot, dry weather coming

Entwistle (AFP/APP): Cooler temperatures and light rain brought relief that allowed some wildfire evacuees to return home in Canada's Alberta province on Tuesday, but several blazes were still out of control and a coming sharp rise in the mercury could set back efforts to tame the fires. Authorities have lifted evacuation orders for a handful of communities after beating back flames, but suffocating smoke still fills the air -- carried by winds across the continent as far as the Arctic and the US Atlantic coast. The number of wildfires that forced 30,000 people to flee in the past four days has fallen from a peak of 110 to 81, with 24 still listed as out of control. But officials warned that a return to

hot and dry conditions was expected by Friday and would persist through the weekend. Alberta Premier Danielle Smith noted that 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) in the province are usually consumed by wildfires each year. "We've already had 390,000 hectares burned. So it's already 10 times the typical fire year and we're really just getting started," she told reporters. It's an extraordinary (and) unprecedented event, which is I think what we have to be prepared for in future. "At the moment, it's all hands on deck," she said, noting that more than 700 firefighters are currently deployed and a request has been made for another 1,100 reinforcements from the rest of the country.

Senegal opposition calls for protests over threat to bar leader from vote

Dakar (AFP/APP): Senegal's opposition coalition said on Tuesday it would stage rallies over a threat to bar one of its leaders, Ousmane Sonko, from presidential elections after he was convicted in a defamation case. Sonko was on Monday handed a six-month suspended term that could jeopardise his bid for the 2024 elections. His possible elimination would significantly alter the contest, and could also lead to violence from his supporters. Sonko claims the judiciary is being used to sideline him from the vote. "The people have to mobilise to support Ousmane Sonko in this fight," Khalifa Sall, one of the coalition chiefs, told a press conference on Tuesday. He joined other heads of the Yewwi Askan Wi alliance in urging followers to turn out in force for an already-scheduled rally due this Friday, and for another protest a week later, on May 19. Senegal is traditionally a beacon of stability

in troubled West Africa, but in recent years has been buffeted by turbulence that has at times turned deadly. Sonko, 48, came third in the 2019 election against incumbent Macky Sall, and intends to stand again next year. But his candidacy has been clouded by Monday's conviction, which saw an appeal court increase a sentence of two months suspended, handed down in March, for defaming Tourism Minister Mame Mbaye Niangtou. The court also ordered Sonko to pay 200 million CFA francs (around \$330,000) in damages to Niang. The opposition figure has not issued any public statement since Monday. Sonko is also facing trial later this month for alleged rape and death threats over a complaint filed by an employee at a beauty salon where he went for a massage. He says he is the victim of a government plot to scupper his candidacy. The government has denied the accusation.

Saudi Majlis Al Shura chairman's visit depicts strong parliamentary contacts with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Majlis Al-Shura Chairman Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Shiekh who is leading a Saudi parliamentary delegation to participate in the International Constitutional Convention to commemorate Golden Jubilee celebration of the Constitution on May 10-11, on Tuesday called on National Assembly (NA) Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani. Welcoming the

delegation, Durrani said this visit depicts strong parliament-to-parliament contacts between both countries besides having deep religious, cultural and brotherly relations. He also said Pakistani people always look with reverence to their brethren in Saudi Arabia. He also said Pakistan as a nation always stands with Saudi Arabia. He expressed his hope that this visit would further enhance the ties between both nations. Dr

Abdullah said Pakistan and its people have always been close to Saudi Arabia. He prayed that Pakistan may continue to progress and develop. He also expressed his satisfaction and happiness to visit Pakistan. Inviting the delegation to visit Northern Areas of Pakistan, Durrani said Pakistan is a blessed state and has diverse tourist spots to visit. During the meeting, the delegation also mentioned their interest to visit Balochistan.

Biden meets Republican leaders in debt limit standoff

Washington (AFP/APP): President Joe Biden will convene a high-stakes meeting with Republican leaders Tuesday in hopes of breaking an impasse over the US debt limit -- with repercussions that could extend to next year's presidential election. The White House gathering at 4:00 pm (2000 GMT) involves Biden, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Senate Republican leader Mitch Mc-

Connell, setting in motion the deciding round of a power struggle that also threatens massive consequences for the world's largest economy. The lifting of the national debt ceiling, which allows the government to pay for spending already incurred, is often routine. But raising the borrowing limit, currently at \$31.4 trillion, has been a contentious issue for the past several years, with con-

gressional Republicans pushing for spending curbs and a smaller budget deficit in exchange for lifting the ceiling. A 2011 impasse resulted in the United States losing the coveted AAA debt rating. This year, McCarthy and his Republican Party have decided to say no to a debt ceiling hike -- unless Democrats first agree to sweeping budget cuts. Time is critical.

Ryanair orders 300 Boeing 737 MAX jets

London (AFP/APP): Irish airline Ryanair Tuesday ordered 300 Boeing 737 MAX jets worth over \$40 billion at list prices, representing the US aerospace giant's latest big contract in a fast-recovering aviation market. The announcement, comprising 150 firm orders plus 150 options for new fuel-efficient aircraft, represents "the largest order ever placed by an Irish company for US manufactured goods," said a statement from Ryanair, which is eyeing big growth over the next decade. The jets are set for delivery between 2027 and 2033, while airlines traditionally negotiate substantial discounts on list prices, especially for big orders. Executives did not release the financial details of the transaction, but Ryanair Chief Executive Michael O'Leary described the agreement as a "win-win" in

an interview that AFP held jointly with Boeing Chief Executive Dave Calhoun. The Dublin-based carrier said the deal would be subject to shareholder approval at its annual general meeting in September, owing to the size and scale of the transaction. The announcement is the latest lift for Boeing, which is emerging from a major slump due to the Covid-19 downturn and the lengthy grounding of the 737 MAX after two fatal crashes. The order covers Boeing's new 737 MAX-10 aircraft, which have 228 seats, about 20 percent more than the current generation of comparable Boeing jets, O'Leary said. At a signing event at Boeing's Arlington, Virginia headquarters, O'Leary added that the new aircraft "boast lower costs" that will be passed on "in the form of lower airfares therefore driving our growth."

AI helps create better, simpler hepatitis, Covid-19 tests



ISLAMABAD (APP): Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) US researchers, have developed a simple test that works for both hepatitis C and Covid-19, and delivers results in just a few minutes. The test was 97 per cent accurate for SARS-CoV-2 and 95 per cent accurate for the most prevalent version of the hepatitis C virus found globally, the researchers reported in the journal Cell Reports Medicine. The simplified test developed by University of Florida scientists currently happens in one small test tube, but it could arrive at doctor's offices soon and, one day, become available as home tests that are as easy as a pregnancy test. "We are trying to build a home-based test that is as reliable as a lab-based test," said Piyush Jain, Professor of chemical engineering who led the latest research. "Our objective is to develop a simple test that eliminates the need for expensive equipment and provides results in just 10 to 20 minutes," he added. Using AI, Jain's group developed a system known as a one-pot reaction because the entire test happens in one small test tube. These tests, based on a technology known as RT-LAMP, can amplify small portions of a virus's genome and produce a visible signal

when it detects the virus, Medical Daily reported. Reading these tests can be as simple as looking for a blue colour or using a small device that detects a change in the test tube. To determine the difference between a false positive and a true positive, Jain said he is combining another technology called CRISPR. However, the RT-LAMP technology requires a temperature of 150 degrees Fahrenheit, while CRISPR works best at 100 degrees Fahrenheit. That difference makes tests far more complicated requiring two separate reactions -- too complicated for at-home use. To bridge this gap, Jain's group turned to AI tools to analyse a CRISPR enzyme that thrives at 140 degrees and discovered changes to make it survive at 150 degrees. "It's very challenging for any human to do this kind of analysis on an enzyme. We didn't have to spend years; we could make these improvements in months," Jain said. "With everything working at the same temperature, now we are able to combine everything in a true one-pot reaction we call SPLENDID." The team successfully verified their simplified SPLENDID test on clinical samples from patients with hepatitis C or Covid-19.

About Khyber Mail The Khyber mail was first published in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1932. A newspaper in English by the eminent journalist Sheikh Sana Ullah. From 1932 to 1989 it has survived as leading English newspaper in the region by the sons of Sana Ullah i.e. Sheikh Zaka Ullah, Sheikh Inayat Ullah and Sheikh Saleem Ullah. The publication was shut down in 1989 due to various reasons. The current owner Rizwan Inayat son of Sheikh Inayat Ullah and grandson of Sheikh Sana Ullah, has restarted the family heritage but meeting with the requirement of the century, by giving the readers current happenings around the world with one touch anywhere any time and updating the reader to pace up with the world.

Commissioners, DCs asked to regularly inform CS about flour situations in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary has directed all the commissioners and deputy commissioners to monitor the flour situation regularly in their respective divisions and districts. Presiding over a meeting here to review flour distribution and supply from Punjab, the CS asked the commissioners and DCs to submit a report to him about the flour situation after every three days so

that timely measures could be taken to facilitate people. He directed them to regularly monitor the supply and transportation of flour throughout the province and take strict action against hoarders and profiteers. The meeting was informed that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was working on an application regarding the flour delivery system to track the transportation of flour and its transparent distribution. The meeting was

also briefed on the latest situation of flour prices in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the measures taken by the district administrations to control prices and matters related to the supply of flour from Punjab. On the occasion the representatives of the flour mills association and flour dealers, Secretaries of food, Home and Industries, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other concerned officials were present.

Federal Ombudsman lauds KP Govt for implementing prison reforms

PESHAWAR (APP): The Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has lauded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for taking pragmatic steps to improve prison conditions under its prison reforms. In a joint meeting with Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary here at the CS office, he said that the commitment shown by the provincial government towards the improvement of prisons in the province was commendable, said an official communicate issued here on Tuesday. Earlier, both

the ombudsman and KP CS jointly chaired a review meeting to discuss the implementation status of Federal Ombudsman recommendations on Prison Reforms. A briefing was given on the initiatives taken in KP to improve prison conditions, such as providing access to clean drinking water, health and education services, legal aid, skills development programs, waiting rooms, and separate facilities for women and juvenile prisoners. Secretary Home, IG Prisons, AIG Police and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

KP Governor announces five buses for Shahi Bagh girls college

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Tuesday visited the municipal inter girls college Shahi Bagh and announced five buses for the college. The Governor was warmly received by the faculty members and female students there. Caretaker Provincial Ministers, Sawal Nazir advocate , Rehmat Salam Khattak, Salma Begium, Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali and administrative heads of Higher education, Local

Government, Social Welfare and others were present on the occasion. The faculty members, students and administrative officials expressed joy after seeing the governor among them. The Governor said efforts should continue for the resolution of problems. Mayor Peshawar, Zuabir Ali and the principal of the college highlighted the educational achievements, demands and problems of the college. The mayor announced five water coolers

for the college. Minister Sawal Nazir announced Rs one lakh cash for the construction of a laboratory for the college. The governor said the joint visit to the college with ministers and administrative secretaries were aimed to bring improvement to it. The Governor said that he always made efforts for the overall development and progress of the municipal girls' college and efforts should continue for its resolution.

District administration orders installation of fire extinguishers in all business centers

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar district administration has issued a directive to all business centres to install fire extinguishers within

seven days to ensure public safety. This decision was taken in a meeting chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Sania Safi, with the participation of various government departments and representatives from the business community. During the meeting, it was discussed that most fire incidents in Peshawar occur due to the non-existence or expiration of fire extinguishers and

the failure of fire extinguishing staff. Therefore, the district administration has directed all business centres, including shops, restaurants, hotels, filling stations, and CNG stations, to install fire extinguishers within the given time frame. This initiative is aimed at preventing fire incidents and accidents in the provincial capital of Peshawar and ensuring the safety of the public.

KP Governor accuses previous Govt for improper utilization of Rs5 billion beautification's fund

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Tuesday accused the previous government for improper utilization of Rs5 billion funds taken on the name of beautification of Peshawar City. “The previous government did not correctly use the Rs5 billion funds, which were taken on the name of beautification of Peshawar City,” the Governor claimed during his visit to City District Government College for Women here, says an official statement. Caretaker Provincial Ministers, Sawal Nazir advocate, Salma Begum , Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali and administrative secretaries of education, Local Government, Finance and

Social Welfare Departments were present. The faculty members and girls students warmly received the governor upon reaching to the city district government college Peshawar. The governor said that he felt immense pleasure while remaining among people everywhere including bazaars, colleges and schools. He said he came here to know about college problems. He said that every possible effort would be made for resolution of the college's problems. The governor announced provision of buses for the city district government college and invited the girls' students to visit Governor House where buses would be handed over to them.

Imran trying to destabilize country after his politics became irrelevant: Faisal Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Tuesday said that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was trying to destabilize the country after his politics became irrelevant. He said ill designs of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf Chairman Imran Khan to drag state institutions into politics in a bid to raise his dwindling popularity was bound to fail as the people of Pakistan knew about his politics of U-turn and baseless accusations. Addressing a press conference here, Faisal Karim Kundi said that the PTI Chairman was trying to make the state institutions disputed and controversial after losing popularity in masses. He said PTI's foreign funding, BRT, billion Trees Afforestation Project and Malam Jabba scandals

had exposed Imran Khan anti corruption slogans. The minister said the PTI leadership had tried to hide behind stay orders in corruption cases and demanded speedy investigation of these scandals. He said if PPP leadership including former President Asif Ali Zardari, Faryal Talpur and Syed Khurshid Shah could appear in courts and face jail then why not Imran Khan in Tosha Khana and others corruption cases. Faisal Kundi said that the PPP strongly believed in dialogue and wanted a solution of all problems through negotiations. However, PTI did not positively reciprocate to the government dialogue offer, and that the attitude and approach of PTI members that negotiated with the government team for elections was not serious and irrational.

KP IGP assures to provide all facilities to police of merged distts

PESHAWAR (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Akhtar Hayat Khan on Tuesday said the police in tribal districts bravely fought terrorism in tough times and made the country and nation proud by sacrificing their lives.Addressing a large gathering of police officers and personnel at police Darbar in Wana, he said that equipping the police of the merged district with modern-day requirements and training was his top most priority and assured to take all measures in that regard.He said that work to bring new reforms in the police of the merged districts was in process under which the issues of police service structure, promotion and departmental examinations would be resolved.He said, “The police force is fully equipped,

they have thermal eye-sight, TI cameras, weapons and ammunition to deal with terrorists”.He said that KP Police had made a golden history by sacrificing its present for the bright future of the country and the nation, from constable to IG rank in the war against terrorism.The IG said that rule of law, justice and the welfare of the police force are among his top priorities, adding that security forces and law forcing agencies have sacrificed a lot for establishing peace in the area.He said, “The job of police is a sacred profession and by wearing the police uniform, a heavy responsibility comes to the shoulders of the police officials to move forward as a team and protect the lives and properties of masses by maintaining peace and order in the society.” He urged all

the police officials to play their imperative role in changing the traditional Thana culture by entertaining people respectfully to earn a good name for the police.Regarding police welfare, he said that the department would take all pragmatic measures at every forum to provide the best educational facilities to the children of the police force.He said that financial assistance would be given to the daughters of police officials on the occasion of their marriage, and equal opportunities for promotion to every police officer and official under the system of service structure. Earlier, the police officers and personnel presented their individual and collective problems to the IGP. District Police Officer (DPO) South Waziristan Shah Bir Hussain Marwat presented an

honorary souvenir to Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat. Later, IGP KP distributed awards for bravery among the police officers and appreciated their performance. Earlier, upon his arrival here, the IGP was welcomed by senior police officers including DPO South Waziristan Shabir Hussain Marwat and DC Lower Waziristan Mohammad Nasir Khan. A fresh contingent of the district police presented a salute to the IGP and officers presented flower bouquets while Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Nadir Khan donned a traditional tribal turban. Superintendent of Police (SP) Investigation Fazal Subhan, DSP Headquarters Wana Nadir Khan and SPCTD Izhar Shah were also present on the occasion.

GOLD PRICE IN PAK

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
Per Tola Gold	Rs 223,600	Rs 204,966	Rs 195,650	Rs 167,700
Per 10 Gram	Rs 191,701	Rs 175,725	Rs 167,738	Rs 143,776
Per Gram Gold	Rs 19,170	Rs 17,573	Rs 16,774	Rs 14,378
Per Ounce	Rs 543,465	Rs 498,173	Rs 475,531	Rs 407,598

FOREX RATES

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	285	288
China Yuan	41.06	41.46
Japanese Yen	2	2.05
Saudi Riyal	75.8	76.5
U.A.E Dirham	77.7	79
UK Pound	359	362
Euro	314	316.5
Australian Dollar	191	193
Canadian Dollar	212	214.5

Emergency Numbers

Organization	Phone No
Rescue 1122 HQrs	091-2264224-25
Rescue 1122 Mardan	0937-9230770
Fire Brigade Cantt:	091-9212534
Fire Brigade City	091-2566666
Police Emergency	091-9212222
Edhi Ambulance	091-2214575
Red Crescent Ambulance	091-2210836
Emergency Ambulance	091-2590846
Civil Defence, Peshawar	091-9212176
Lady Reading Hospital	091-9211430
HMC Peshawar	091-9217140-46
KTH Peshawar	091-9216340-8
Irnam Hospital	091-9216115
Mission Hospital	091-2212371
Al-Khidmat Hospital	091-2215945
Fauji Foundation Hospital	091-9212771-4
Frontier Foundation Blood Services	091-5703463
Hamza Foundation, Peshawar	091-5841632
Sui Gas, Peshawar	091-9213016
Wapda Complaint Peshawar	091-9212041
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WSSCM employees protest against due salaries

PESHAWAR (APP): Employees of the Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSCM) in Mardan on Tuesday staged a protest against the delay in the release of their salaries. The president of the WSSCM, Akhtar Munir, addressed the protesters and stated, “The employees have not received their salaries for the last

two months, causing severe financial difficulties for them and their families. “ He said, “The children of the employees are being forced to go hungry due to the non-payment of salaries.”The protesters demanded immediate release of their due salaries, failing which they vowed to continue their strike.

Congo virus alert issued to KP hospitals

PESHAWAR (APP): The authorities have issued an alert to hospitals across the province in the wake of threats of Congo virus spread. According to the authorities of the Health Directorate on Tuesday, after the deaths of four people in Quetta and Karachi, all the district health officers and medical superintendents of the hospitals in the province have been directed to

make cogent arrangements for coping with any Congo situation. The health authorities have also been directed to issue guidelines for the general public, especially for those working at slaughterhouses. The instructions said that after the death of four people including two women and two men , of whom one was a helper at the butcher shop.



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Pakistan focusing on strengthening bilateral ties with all its neighbor:Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said on Tuesday that Pakistan will continue its support for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and focus on strengthening bilateral relations with its neighbouring countries. “Pakistan is a peace-loving country and wants good relations with all its neighbours, including, East Asia and the middle East countries”, she said while speaking to ptv news channel. She also highlighted the importance of a peaceful and stable neighbourhood and lauded the efforts of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto who

was playing a leading role in contributing to the creation of such an environment. She said Bilawal Bhutto’s visit was very successful as he presented Pakistan’s point of view on Kashmir and other issues clearly and firmly, adding, Pakistan will continue its participation in Shanghai Cooperation Organization meetings. Talking about CPEC, she said Pakistan and China have a long history of strategic relationship which was always on upwards trajectory based on mutual trust and understanding. “China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan and always stood with us on

multiple occasions,” she mentioned. Pak-China joint statement showed the confidence of both countries that the CPEC project will continue and the two sides agreed on the importance of the China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the emerging global challenges. To a question, she said an Ethiopian official delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Misganu Arega would reach Karachi, on a three-day official visit to Pakistan, adding, both-sides would also discuss a range of bilateral issues of mutual interest.

Punctuality of trains reach to 90 percent in three months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The overall punctuality ratio of trains has improved from 76 to 90 per cent in three months owing to close monitoring and stern measures taken by Pakistan Railways at the divisional and ministry levels. “With the punctuality of trains and concrete measures taken by the present government in last three months, the number of passengers has increased by over 20 million, which is ample proof of the department’s achievement,” an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said the punctuality of passenger trains was now improving day by day on the directives of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique. The official said the present

government had taken several steps to end the deficit of the department including the introduction of RABTA, an initiative towards enhanced customer facilitation. “RABTA platform lets customers plan the trip, check train status, choose and purchase seats, order car rental, meals and refreshments, and book hotels,” he added. To facilitate passengers, he said a mobile application ‘Pakrail live’ had been launched for real-time tracking of trains. The official said the high-capacity/high-speed hopper trucks had been inducted in the current fleet for swift movement/unloading of coal and new high-capacity high-speed rolling stock coaches and wagons were being procured.

DC reviews performance of price magistrates

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Adnan Mehmood Awan has said that providing food items to consumers at fixed prices is the first priority of the government. Addressing a meeting on Tuesday, he said special price magistrates would supervise the auction in vegetable market and negligence would not be tolerated. Additional Deputy Com-

missioner General (ADCG) Ahmad Raza, while giving a briefing about performance of price magistrates, said 43 price magistrates conducted 8,723 inspectionsand imposed a fine of Rs 1084,000 on 335 profiteers during the current month. He added that 23 shops and godowns were sealed while 47 accused were arrested.

Afghan Commerce Minister discuss trade, commerce with Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Afghanistan Minister for Commerce Nooruddin Aziz on Tuesday agreed to work together to boost trade and commerce in both countries for the prosperity and welfare of the people. The Afghan Commerce minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister Transport Sadiquallah Abid, Senior Afghan government officers of Trade, Transport, and Aviation, and Pakistan Ambassador in Afghanistan Ubaid ur Rehman Nizamani. Provincial Ministers Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Jam Ikramullah, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, and PSCM Fayaz Jatoi also attended the meeting that was held at the

CM House. The CM welcomed the delegation and discussed various issues including Afghan settlers in Karachi, the promotion of peace and tranquility, and the promotion of trade and commerce. The CM said that both the countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, were two brother countries and Pakistan, particularly Karachi had become another home of Afghanistan nationals. The Afghan minister said that this Eid-ul Fitr was the only Eid during the last many years that no untoward incident took place in Afghanistan. “Our people celebrated Eid with religious fervor and moved freely for recreation,” he said and added that peace was returning to Afghanistan.

Murad inaugurates resumption of Ethiopian airline operation at Old terminal

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Ethiopian Airlines has resumed its Karachi operation after a lapse of four decades, which has opened new vistas of trade and commerce, investment, and tourism between Pakistan and African countries. He said this while talking to the media shortly after receiving the inaugural flight of Ethiopian Air which landed at the Old Terminal on Tuesday morning with 110 passengers including three Ethiopian state ministers. He was accompanied by provincial ministers, Sharjeel Memon, Jam Ikram, Syed Nasir Shah, and Advisor Murtaza Wahab. The CM

received the three Ethiopian state ministers of Foreign Affairs Mesganu Arga, Technology Fozia Amin, and Commerce Kassahun Gofe and their senior officers. The Ambassador of Ethiopia, Jemal Beker Abdulla was also present on the occasion. The chief minister told the media that it was a great breakthrough that the Ethiopian airline started its commercial operation in Karachi on May 9. “This commercial operation of the airline is bound to boost trade between the two countries, promote tourism and help to explore investment opportunities,” he said and added this airline has opened the gate to African countries.

UAD Dikhan facilitate farmers to enhance shelf-life of fruit, vegetables: Registrar

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): University of Agriculture Dera Ismail Khan(UAD) is playing an effective role in promoting quality education, says the Registrar of the University, Abdul Basit. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the registrar said that most of the population was associated with the agriculture field which would witness development as a result of promotion of research-oriented education by the UAD. He said that the university besides imparting education to students in line with market’s requirements, had also intro-

duced initiatives and techniques for facilitating farmers such as enhancing shelf-life of fruit and vegetables. Moreover, he said the university’s administration under the leadership of Chancellor Prof Dr Shakibullah was taking tangible measures for welfare of employees and resolving their problems on priority basis. He also appreciated efforts of the incumbent vice chancellor for the development of the university, saying prof. Dr. Shakibullah had made the Agriculture University Dera one of the best universities of the country.

DC visits exam centers in Mirwah

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khairpur, Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa on Tuesday conducted surprise visits to examination centers of different centers of the taluka Mirwah and checked the enrollment of the appearing candidates of the class XI and XII annual examinations. Speaking on the occasion, the DC termed cheating in examinations as a “kind of corruption” and said the policy of the present government was clear in that regard.

IRSA releases 138,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 138,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 136,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1437.99 feet and was 39.99 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 37,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1122.00 feet, 72.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 41,200 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 60,800, 58,000, 40,600 and 10,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 35,600 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 15,200 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

Accused of triple murder case held

KASUR (APP): Kasur police arrested a proclaimed offender accused of triple murder case here in the limits of Mandi Usmanwala. Police said on Tuesday that the team led by DSP city Muhammad Saifullah conducted raid and arrested the murderer Javed. The accused had killed three brothers of Garey wala village nine months ago,added police. Further investigation was underway.

Three illegal colonies sealed

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) sealed three illegal colonies and demolished their structures in different parts of Faisalabad. FDA spokesman said here on Tuesday that Director Town Planning Junaid Hasan Manj checked status of various housing schemes and found three colonies--Canal Breeze Homes, Victory Housing and Din Garden,developed without completing codal requirements. The enforcement team sealed premises and demolished structures of these colonies,besides issuing warnings to their developers to avoid selling plots until these colonies were legalized. Meanwhile, FDA team also sealed sales of T&T Colony and Tech Town Phase-IV over nonpayment of FDA dues.

Two petrol pumps fined

SARGODHA (APP): Assistant Commissioner Sillanwali Shiza Rehman imposed Rs 50,000 fine on two petrol pumps here on Tuesday. According to the official sources, the AC inspected various petrol pumps and checkedrates and measuring quality besides imposing the fine on two petrol pumps.

PM extends stay in London for one day: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had extended his stay in London by one day for consultations on important political and national issues on the instructions of Quaid Pakistan Mus-

lim League- N, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. In a tweet, the minister said the prime minister would now leave for home on Wednesday (tomorrow). Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had gone to the United Kingdom to attend the coronation ceremony of King Charles III.

Same-day simultaneous polls will ensure transparency: Senator

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Rana Maqbool on Tuesday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership to show more flexibility in decisions and cooperate with the government as simultaneous polls throughout the country would ensure transparency in the elections. Talking to the ptv news channel, the senator said that before going into the general elections, all the stakeholders including political parties must agree upon a viable plan for holding the elections, adding, the

next two and three months were important for the government to announce budget and complete the ongoing process of population census. “PML-N is confident to win the elections,” he said, adding, “free and transparent elections will be held this year and the National Assembly will complete its constitutional term.”Replying to a question, he said that the Federal government was not ready to hold general elections in the country “even one day before” the stipulated time on the demand of PTI.

Pakistan to strengthen bilateral ties with its neighbouring countries: Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch Tuesday said that Pakistan would continue its support for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and focus on strengthening bilateral relations with its neighbouring countries. “Pakistan is a peace-loving country and wants good relations with all its neighbours, including, East Asia and the middle East,” she said while speaking to ptv news channel. Highlighting the importance of a peaceful and stable neighbourhood, she lauded the efforts of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto who is playing a leading role in the creation of such an environment. She said Bilawal Bhutto’s visit was successful as he presented

Pakistan’s point of view on Kashmir and other issues clearly and firmly, adding, Pakistan would continue its participation in SCO meetings. Talking about CPEC, she said Pakistan and China have a long history of strategic relationship which was always on an upwards trajectory based on mutual trust and understanding. “China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan and always stood with us on multiple occasions,” she mentioned. Pak-China joint statement showed the confidence of both countries that the CPEC project would continue and the two sides agreed on the importance of the China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the emerging global challenges, she added.

Complete shutdown in IIOJK & AJK on May 22 against G-20 meeting in Srinagar

ISLAMABAD (APP): A complete shutdown will be observed in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir(IIOJK) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir on May 22 against the Modi regime’s illegal action of holding G20 meeting in Srinagar. According to Kashmir media service,Kashmiris living abroad will hold anti-India rallies and protests in all major capitals of the world on the same day sending a clear message to the world that they reject G20 meeting in internationally disputed territory. Call for protests have been given jointly by All Parties Hurriyat Conference and the leader-

ship of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Anti-India demonstrations will be held in New York, London, Washington, Brussels, Geneva and other major cities of the world to draw the attention of the international community to the ongoing human rights violations in the occupied territory. APHC leaders strongly condemned the ongoing human rights violations by the Indian forces’ personnel in Pir Panjal, Poonch and Rajouri areas of Jammu region. The APHC leaders urged the United Nations to take India to task for committing war crimes in the occupied territory.

Sanaullah to review anti-smuggling measures in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan will visit Peshawar to review measures taken by the government to prevent the smuggling of essential commodities. “The minister will review the measures taken to control smuggling of

essential commodities on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,” said a press release issued here on Tuesday. The minister will also preside over a high-level meeting to prevent the smuggling of sugar, wheat, flour and urea in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

ECP restores membership of Sindh MPA after submission of asset details

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has restored the membership of Naeem Ahmed Kharal, a member of the Sindh Assembly, allowing him to function as a member of the Provincial Assembly. The membership of Kharal, an MPA, PS-31, Khairpur-VI, had been suspended earlier due to his failure to submit his asset details in accordance with the relevant election laws. However, after submitting his statements of assets and liabilities, Kharal has now fulfilled the legal requirement as mandated by the Election Rules, 2017. As per the rules, every member of an assembly and Senate is required to submit a copy of their statement

of assets and liabilities, including those of their spouse and dependent children, by December 31 each year. The election rules further state that if a member fails to submit their statement of assets and liabilities by January 15, the ECP may suspend their membership by January 16. The ECP had suspended the membership of 271 parliamentarians for non-submission of their asset details. With Kharal’s membership now restored, he can resume his duties as a member of the Sindh Assembly. This incident highlights the importance of adhering to election laws and fulfilling the necessary requirements to avoid any suspension of membership.

IIOJK people asked through posters to observe strike on May 22

ISLAMABAD (APP): Posters have appeared in various parts of the territory urging the people to observe a complete shutdown on 22 May. In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir: Call for the strike and protests has been given jointly by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Azad Jammu and Kashmir political leadership including President

Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary. The posters carrying pictures of AJK president and APHC monogram read “Complete shutdown will be observed in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Azad Jammu and Kashmir on May 22 against the Modi regime’s illegal action of holding G20 meeting in Srinagar.

PM calls out Imran Khan for maligning state institutions, using religion for politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called out the politics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan, saying his blatant lies were all about maligning army without proof, running a media campaign against martyred troops and using religion for political gains. “I have no doubt that your [Imran Khan’s] politics is defined by blatant lies, untruths, U-turns, and vicious attacks on institutions,” he said in a detailed tweet where he put counter-questions to Imran Khan against his earlier tweet. PM

Sharif said Imran Khan while on a trial for corruption was claiming legitimacy to overturn the legal and political system. “Bending the judiciary to your whims and behaving as if rules don’t apply to you,” he said. He pointed out that maligning Pakistan Army as an institution was a recurring pattern in Khan’s politics after his ouster from power. “Did you not resort to constant mud-slinging of the leadership of the army & intelligence agency much before the Wazirabad attack?,” he questioned.

Brother turned out to be the killer of brother

FAISALABAD (APP): Thikriwala police claimed on Tuesday to have resolved the mystery of a blind murder case by arresting two accused including a brother of the victim. Police said that unidentified persons had shot dead Waqas, resident of Painsra after calling him out of his house late night on February 27, 2023. On the complaint of victim’s brother Waseem, the police had registered a case and started investigation. The complainant had alleged that his brother was by his cousins Zohaib and Shafiq over property dispute. SP Iqbal Town Irtaza Ku-

mail constituted a special team headed by SHO Thikriwala police station for arresting the real culprits. On suspicion, the police team took Mehar Zee-shan aka Shani, the friend of the complainant, into custody and checked the record of his mobile phone data. During interrogation, Mehar Zeeshan confessed that he along with complainant Waseem called Waqas out of his house and shot him dead. He alleged that Waseem wanted to make money by implicating his cousins in the murder case besides grasping property of his own victim brother.

PTI chief arrested in Al-Qadir Trust case: IGP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of Islamabad Police Dr Akbar Nasir Khan on Tuesday said that the Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had been arrested in the Al-Qadir Trust case. In a tweet by the Islamabad Capital Territory Police, the IGP said that the situation of the Federal capital was normal and as per the routine.

Dr Nasir Abkar said that the Section 144 was already imposed in the federal capital and action would be taken in case of any violation. “No violence has been done against any individual during the arrest of PTI chief,” adding that the Police had created a cordon around the vehicle of Imran Khan to ensure his safety.

Journalists walkout press gallery of NA amid protests on layoffs of media persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): The journalists on Tuesday walked out of the press gallery of the National Assembly amid protests on the layoffs of media persons from news channels and serious threats being given to journalists from a political party’s workers on social media. A delegation of the Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) Shahida Rehmani, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro and Federal Minister for Privatization, Abid Hussain Bhayo met the journalists in the Press Gallery and listened to their concerns while ensuring proper action on the matter. President, Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA), Sadique Sajid briefed the Minister and MNAs on the protest made by the journalists. He informed

that recently senior journalist Faheem Siddiqui of Geo Group was terminated from his service without any notice and Aamir Bashir Chaudhry of Neo News, and others received notices from their respective media houses. He added that senior journalist Ahmed Mansoor from 24 News and Waqar Satti of Geo News were threatened by the political workers of a political party on social media who warned them of dire consequences and linked their conduct to religion to allegedly accuse them of blasphemy. Sajid demanded the parliamentary delegation to constitute a special committee to probe the matter and ensure justice for the aggrieved journalists or send the matter to the NA Committee on Information to address the matter amicably.

Commissioner visits Nishtar-II project site, orders timely completion with quality assurance

MULTAN (APP): Commissioner Multan division Amir Khattak on Tuesday visited the site of the Nishtar-II Hospital project, a second tertiary health care facility in the city of saints after Nishtar. During his visit, he inspected different segments of the project and said improving health infrastructure and services was the prime focus of Chief Minister Punjab to make modern health services easily accessible to the people. Khattak also received a briefing from officials and directed them to complete the project within the stipulated time to save public resources and make the facility functional as

per schedule. He said that modern machinery be installed as soon as the civil work is completed. He asked officials to inform his office when they encounter any hurdle in project execution for its timely redressal. The commissioner was informed that 36 per cent of work had been completed on the Outpatient Department (OPD) section while work on laying sewerage and building roads was in progress. He was informed that sanitary fittings in bathrooms were being carried out while transformers, power cables and panels would be installed after Mepco inspection and subsequent certification.

Business community should work for welfare of special persons, breast cancer prevention: Samina Alvi

RAWALPINDI (APP): First lady Begum Samina Alvi on Tuesday called upon the business community to play role in welfare of the persons with disabilities and raising awareness to prevent breast cancer among women. Speaking as chief guest at an awareness session about breast cancer among the women organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here, Begum Alvi said promotion of awareness about breast cancer was the need of the hour because timely diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer can prevent this fatal disease. She said the business community had a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of any country. After the collective efforts, she said a substantial success had been achieved in awareness against breast cancer.

She said women should be aware of any abnormal changes in the body and consult a doctor immediately. “Women empowerment is a welcome process that should continue. Due to awareness, the chances of preventing breast cancer are 90 per cent. Availability of breast cancer diagnostics facilities also has to be ensured in far-flung areas of the country,” she added. Begum Samina Alvi said that persons with disabilities were also an important part of society who should be given special attention. “Steps are being taken on the government level for rehabilitation of the special persons,” she said adding that people from all walks of life especially the business community should play role in welfare and the rehabilitation of special persons and to make them useful citizens of the society.

Sherry Rehman slams IK for concocted accusations against senior military officers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday berated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan for levelling concocted accusations against senior military and intelligence officers. In a series of tweets, the federal minister said that Imran Khan’s accusations against serving military and

intelligence agency officials were regrettable and condemnable. Senator Rehman said, “Imran Khan is repeatedly making accusations against sensitive institutions which is very dangerous. With such baseless and outrageous allegations, he is inciting his workers. He is making allegations without evidence.” She took exceptions to Imran Khan’s narra-

tive saying, “On the one hand, he is accusing the institutions and on the other hand requesting meetings with them.” Imran Khan was attacked on 3rd November last year which we all condemned, she said, adding, by January 12th, his government was established in Punjab. “What did his provincial government investigate regarding this attack?” she queried.

Imran’s arrest is in accordance with law: Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had taken Imran Khan into custody in relation to the “Al-Qadir Trust” case. Reacting to the arrest of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on a private news channel, he said that notices were issued to Imran Khan,

but he had continuously denied any facilitation in the investigation. The minister further clarified the arrest was carried out in accordance with the law, and no violent incidents were reported. Rana Sanaullah said that Imran Khan was implicated in a case linked to Al-Qadir Trust, resulting in a loss of billions for the national exchequer.

ETPB Chairman given charge of additional secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs Talha Mehmood on Tuesday informed the National Assembly (NA) that the acting charge of office of the Chairman of the Evacuee Trust Property board (ETPB) was given to the additional secretary of the ministry after the resignation of incumbent Chairman Habib ur Rehman Gillani. Responding to a calling attention notice raised by Saira Bano regarding allegedly compelling to resign the ETPB Chairman, the minister said he moved a summary to the Cabinet after receiving the resignation of Habibur Rehman Gillani on May 2, the cabinet accepted his resignation on May 3, he added. The minister said, “One month’s salary has also been paid to the former chairman

as per the rule.” As the Chairman seat was lying vacant, an additional charge was given to the additional secretary of the ministry, he added. Earlier, moving the calling attention notice, Saira Bano said there were rumors that the former chairman was forced to resign. The former chairman was doing a good job and had recovered Rs 25 billion besides retrieving precious land of ETPB, he added. Meanwhile, the house also adopted amendments to the rules of procedure and conduct of business in the NA, 2007 moved by Dr Nafisa Shah. Under the new amendment, now the House would have a committee of the whole and the assembly hall could be used for the meeting of the committee of the Whole.

Sherry Rehman issues Heatwave Guidelines for Southern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday advised provincial and local institutions to take necessary precautions to safeguard public health and minimize the impact of extreme weather on vulnerable communities amid predicted heatwave in the Southern parts of the country. Minister Rehman’s call to action comes in response to the latest weather forecast from the Pakistan Meteorological Department’s (PMD) for May, which predicts a higher like-

lihood of heatwaves starting from the second week of the month, particularly in the southern half of the country, a news release said. To mitigate the potentially disastrous consequences of heatwaves, she is calling on institutions to follow the ministry for Climate Change’s recently issued ‘Heatwave Guidelines – Urgent Preparatory Measures’. These guidelines offer a proactive approach to prevent the spread of heat-related illnesses and provide critical information on how to prepare for and respond to extreme heat events.

Parliamentarians denounce IK’s accusations against officers of security institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The parliamentarians on Tuesday denounced Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan’s alleged accusations against senior officers of the security institutions and termed his conduct as unprecedented in the country’s history. Talking to APP outside the Parliament House, Member National Assembly (MNA) Ramesh Lal of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) said the remarks of Imran Khan for sitting army officers were regrettable, whereas he had been disrespecting state institutions for the past one year and should be taken to task. MNA, Tahira Aurangzeb

of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) said Imran Khan should respect the state institutions and should stop hurling concocted accusations against the institutions. MNA, Qadir Khan Mandokhail of PPPP said the great sacrifices rendered by the armed forces of the country have been esteemed throughout the country’s history. But Imran Khan, he said was reluctant and fighting to get his power back by reprimanding the national institutions. Mandokhail said Imran Khan should not be given more compensation for his baseless accusations and allegations against security institutions.

NGOs asked to stop field activities in Dera region

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district administration has asked Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to suspend their activities across the district amid heightened fears of kidnapping. The move has been prompted by the abduction of two officers of the agriculture department by unidentified armed persons in Kulachi Tehsil of the district. According

to a notification issued by the office of Assistant Commissioner Dera, all national and international NGOs have been directed to stop their field activities for the safety of their staff. It said, “Field activities by the NGOs shall remain suspended until further notice as the abduction of officials in Kulachi Tehsil has created a law and order situation.”

CM inaugurates Ethiopian airline operation at Old terminal

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Tuesday said that Ethiopian Airlines had resumed its Karachi operation after a lapse of four decades which opened new vistas of trade and commerce, investment, and tourism between Pakistan and African countries. This he said while talking to media persons just after receiving the inaugural flight of Ethiopian Air which landed at Old Terminal with 110 passengers, including three

Ethiopian state ministers. He was accompanied by Provincial Ministers, Sharjeel Memon, Jam Ikram, Syed Nasir Shah, and Advisor Mur-taza Wahab. The chief minister received the three Ethiopian state ministers - for Foreign Affairs, Mes-ganu Arga, for Technology Fozia Amin, and for Commerce Kassahun Gofe and their senior officers. Ambassador of Ethiopia, Jemal Beker Abdulla was also present on the occasion.

Saudi Aramco's Q1 net profit rises 3.75% q-o-q to \$32bn

RIYADH (Agencies): Saudi Arabian Oil Co. has reported a net profit of SR119.54 billion (\$31.88 billion) in the first quarter of 2023, up 3.75 percent from SR115.22 billion recorded in the previous quarter. In a statement to Tadawul, Saudi Aramco said that the rise in quarter-on-quarter net profit was driven by lower income taxes and zakat, lower operating costs, and higher finance and other income. "The results reflect Aramco's continued high reliability, focus on cost and our ability to re-



act to market conditions as we generate strong cash flows and further strengthen the balance sheet," said Amin Nasser, CEO of Saudi Aramco. Aramco's net profit, however, dipped 19.25 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, as the company had

clocked a profit of SR148.03 billion in the same quarter of 2022. Nasser further noted that oil and gas supplies are very critical components as the world sails toward a sustainable future. He asserted that Aramco is working hard to develop sustainable energy solutions that will smoothen the energy transition journey. "Our intention is to continue to be a reliable energy supplier with the ability to provide more sustainable energy solutions, supporting efforts to achieve an orderly energy transition.

Mitsubishi Corp plans US\$2.2bil buyback as profit soars

TOKYO (Agencies): Mitsubishi Corp. plans to buy back up to 6% of its shares for 300 billion yen (US\$2.2 billion), joining other commodity-exposed Japanese companies that are rewarding shareholders after reporting surging profits. The trading house will conduct the buyback from May 10 through the end of the year, it said Tuesday as it also announced fiscal year earnings, including a 62% jump in profit from its natural gas operations. Mitsubishi will then retire



all the shares on Jan 31. Mitsubishi and other Japan-based firms with exposure to commodities are using the proceeds of last year's surge in energy prices to carry out buyback programmes. Shares of Sumitomo

Corp jumped on Tuesday after it said it would purchase its own stock, while Tokyo Gas Co and Mitsui & Co have also announced similar plans since February. The trading companies, collectively known as "sogo shosha" in Japan, have a sprawling network of businesses including stakes in commodity projects overseas. They have benefited from a surge in energy prices and a weaker yen, as well as a vote of confidence following renewed backing by Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

Credit Suisse CEO to join UBS board of combined bank

ZURICH (Agencies): UBS Group said on Tuesday Credit Suisse CEO Ulrich Koerner will join the executive board of the combined bank once it closes its takeover of its Swiss rival, while Todd Tuckner will replace Sarah Youngwood as chief financial officer. The leadership reshuffle follows the government-orchestrated rescue of Credit Suisse, which UBS agreed to takeover in March for 3



billion Swiss francs (US\$3.4 billion), saying it would assume up to 5 billion francs in losses as part of a rescue backed by as much as 250 billion

francs of state support. Commenting on Koerner's future role, UBS said he had knowledge of both organisations and would be responsible for Credit Suisse operational continuity and client focus, while supporting its integration. UBS reiterated that it will evaluate all options for Credit Suisse's Swiss business and will "communicate further on this matter in the coming months."

LinkedIn to cut 716 jobs, phase out China jobs app

SUNNYVALE (Agencies): LinkedIn, the social media network owned by Microsoft Corp that focuses on business professionals, said on Monday it would cut 716 jobs as part of broader changes that would also result in it phasing out its local jobs app in China. In a letter to employees, LinkedIn CEO Ryan Roslansky said the move to cut roles in its sales, operations and support teams was aimed at stream-



lining the company's operations. "With the market and customer demand fluctuating more, and to serve emerging and growth markets more

effectively, we are expanding the use of vendors," Roslansky wrote. "We are also removing layers, reducing management roles and broadening responsibilities to make decisions more quickly." Roslansky also said in the letter that the changes would result in creating 250 new jobs. A LinkedIn spokesperson said that employees affected by the cuts would be eligible to apply for those roles.

Twitter beats 2 lawsuits stemming from mass layoffs, for now

NEW YORK (Agencies): A California federal judge on Monday dismissed a proposed class action accusing Twitter Inc of targeting female employees for layoffs after Elon Musk acquired the company last year, but said plaintiffs would be allowed to amend the lawsuit to add more details. US district judge Jon Tigar in Oakland said the lawsuit filed in December was "devoid of basic information," such as the



plaintiffs' positions with Twitter and the identity of managers who decided which workers would be laid off. Tigar also said that allegedly sexist remarks made by Musk and cit-

ed by the plaintiffs were irrelevant because they came long before he acquired Twitter for US\$44 billion last year. The decision came after a different judge in the same court on Friday dismissed a separate lawsuit accusing Twitter of discriminating against workers with disabilities by requiring employees to report to the office and put in long hours working at high intensity after the layoffs in November.

Australia eyes first budget surplus in 15 years

CANBERRA (Agencies): Resource-rich Australia is projecting its first budget surplus in 15 years, the country's treasurer said Tuesday, heralding a commodities-fuelled victory for the year-old centre-left government. "We are now forecasting a surplus this year, smaller deficits after that," Jim Chalmers told media, hours before unveiling what is expected to be a A\$4 billion (US\$3.6



billion) surfeit. Chalmers touted the "biggest budget turnaround on record" as evidence of "responsible economic management", as his party

seeks to define itself as careful custodians of the public purse. The Labor party came to office in May 2022 after nearly a decade of conservative rule that saw state coffers strained by the Covid-19 pandemic, sweeping tax cuts and soaring defence spending. A conservative government led by Scott Morrison promised a budget surplus in 2020 but was unable to deliver due to the pandemic.

Bittrex files for bankruptcy after SEC complaint

NEW YORK (Agencies): Cryptocurrency exchange Bittrex Inc filed for bankruptcy protection on Monday, three weeks after the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) accused it of operating an unregistered securities exchange. Seattle-based Bittrex ceased operations in the US on April 30, and it said the bankruptcy filing would not impact Bittrex Global, which serves customers out-



side the US. The company's non-US operations are based in Liechtenstein. Bittrex's assets and liabilities were both between US\$500 million and

US\$1 billion, according to a bankruptcy petition filed in Wilmington, Delaware court. Bittrex said that it was still holding crypto assets of US customers who did not withdraw funds before April 30. Those assets are "safe and secure" and Bittrex said it intended to ask the bankruptcy court for a limited re-opening of customer accounts so that the crypto could be distributed back to customers.

AI could replace 80% of jobs 'in next few years'

RIO DE JANEIRO (Agencies): Artificial intelligence could replace 80% of human jobs in the coming years - but that's a good thing, says US-Brazilian researcher Ben Goertzel, a leading AI guru. Mathematician, cognitive scientist and famed robot-creator Goertzel, 56, is the founder and chief executive of SingularityNET, a research group he launched to create "Artificial General Intelligence", or AGI - artificial



intelligence with human cognitive abilities. With his long hair and leopard-print cowboy hat, Goertzel was in provocateur mode last week at

Web Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the world's biggest annual technology conference, where he told AFP in an interview that AGI is just years away and spoke out against recent efforts to curb artificial intelligence research. "If we want machines to really be as smart as people and to be as agile in dealing with the unknown, then they need to be able to take big leaps beyond their training and programming.

Ryanair close to mega 150 Boeing 737 Max deal

LONDON (Agencies): Days after the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus pandemic over, Ryanair Holdings Plc is betting big on the travel recovery that's gathered pace in recent months as bookings soar for city trips and summer vacations. Europe's largest discount airline is close to placing a major order with Boeing Co for about 150 of the 737 Max 10 aircraft. The deal, set to be announced as early as Tuesday, includes the possible addition of 50 options, according to people familiar with the deliberations, who asked not to be identified discussing confidential negotiations. The huge purchase of Boeing's largest 737 variant marks an important endorsement



from one of the US manufacturer's most important customers and highlights how carriers are willing to splurge on fleet upgrades again as travel rebounds. The huge purchase of Boeing's largest 737 variant marks an important endorsement from one of the US manufacturer's most important customers and highlights how carriers are willing to splurge on fleet upgrades again as travel rebounds.

Saudi Aramco posts 19% drop in first-quarter profit

RIYADH (Agencies): Oil giant Saudi Aramco announced first-quarter net profit of US\$31.9 billion on Tuesday, down 19.25% from a year earlier after a drop in crude prices. "We are... moving forward with our capacity expansion, and our long-term outlook remains unchanged," president and CEO Amin H Nasser said in a statement. The result was down from the US\$39.5 billion reported in the same period in 2022 when Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused oil prices to surge. It is more than three-quarters of the US\$40.5 billion in combined first-quarter profits reported by the five oil majors: BP and Shell in Britain, ExxonMobil and Chevron in the US, and TotalEnergies in France.



"The results reflect Aramco's continued high reliability, focus on cost and our ability to react to market conditions as we generate strong cash flows and further strengthen the balance sheet," Nasser said. Aramco is the jewel of the Saudi economy and the main source of revenue for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious economic and social reform programme known as Vision 2030.

EU lawmakers eye ambitious AI regulation

BRUSSELS (Agencies): The sudden popularity of ChatGPT and other AI tools is injecting urgency into Europe's drive to regulate the sector, which this week gets rolling seriously with an ambitious text to be voted on by EU lawmakers. The EU aims to be the global pioneer in creating a comprehensive legal framework that would rein in possible online harm while still protecting innovation in the field of artificial intelligence. The massive complexity of the systems, and their ability to produce text and images that at times mimic human output, is proving as fascinating as it is concerning. Faced with the risk of AI being used to



make dangerous content, manipulate opinion, conduct mass surveillance or other perils yet to emerge, even tech leaders such as Twitter boss Elon Musk have called for a pause in its development. The burgeoning use of AI by the public and corporations is outstripping action by Brussels, which two years ago proposed initial draft legislation to tackle the issue.

S'pore's wealth fund sees fintech growth after downturn

SINGAPORE (Agencies): Singapore's sovereign wealth fund said it still sees more growth in the financial technology sector, even after a downturn that's sent startup valuations plummeting as investors turn away from riskier bets. Chris Emanuel, head of GIC Pte's technology investment group, said the fund is excited about innovation in financial product distribution that brings opportunities to scale across the world. It also sees opportunities in enterprise software as digital transformation efforts "increase across sectors in both

momentum and urgency", he said. "Tech companies are continuing to change the way businesses operate," Emanuel said in an interview before GIC's Bridge Forum in San Francisco. "There will be further innovations, such as with cloud migration, which we are still in the early days of, especially internationally." The global technology industry has seen a rout that's prompted layoffs in the tens of thousands, depressed fundraising activity and shaved billions off the valuations of once high-flying startups.

China's imports shrink as export growth slows

BEIJING (Agencies): China's imports contracted sharply in April, while exports grew at a slower pace, reinforcing signs of feeble domestic demand despite the lifting of Covid curbs and heaping pressure on an economy already struggling in the face of cooling global growth. Inbound shipments to the world's second-largest economy fell by 7.9% year on year, while exports grew by 8.5% in the same period after an unexpected surge of 14.8% in March, customs data showed on

Tuesday. Economists in a Reuters poll had predicted no growth in imports and an 8.0% increase in exports. Government officials have repeatedly warned of a "severe" and "complicated" external environment in the wake of mounting recession risks for many of China's key trading partners. Analysts say cooling global growth pointed to a longer road to recovery for the Asian giant after Beijing abruptly ended tough Covid curbs in December.

Dollar edges up, sterling hovers near 1-year high

SINGAPORE (Agencies): The dollar inched higher on Tuesday after a loans survey revealed that credit conditions in the US were less gloomy than expected, while the pound flirted with a one-year peak ahead of this week's Bank of England policy meeting. The Federal Reserve's quarterly Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey (SLOOS) showed that while credit conditions for US businesses and households continued tightening at the start of the year, it was likely due to the impact of the Fed's aggressive rate hikes rather than severe banking sector stress. The closely-watched survey released on Monday was among the first measures



of sentiment across the banking sector since the recent run of bank failures, sparked by Silicon Valley Bank's collapse in March, had spread turmoil in global markets. The US dollar rode Treasury yields modestly higher after the survey, as traders pared back their expectations on the scale of Fed rate cuts needed later this year to ease the stress on the sector.

Cambodia FA president reverses decision to resign

PHNOM PENH (Agencies): A day after announcing his resignation as president of Cambodia's football federation, Sao Sokha said he would stay on in the role following appeals from the country's prime minister and fans. Sokha said on Sunday he would resign to "prove my responsibility" after Cambodia's Under-22 team lost 2-0 to Myanmar in Phnom Penh in their third group match at the Southeast Asian Games. Prime Minister Hun Sen, on behalf of the government, urged Sokha to reverse



his decision and said Cambodian football had gradually improved under his guidance. "I accept the appeals of Prime Minister Hun Sen,

the Kingdom's football lovers ... who convinced me to continue my mandate as elected head of the Football Federation of Cambodia," Sokha said in a statement on Monday. "In response to the trust of the prime minister and all football fans in Cambodia, I appeal to all clubs to continue to reform and develop all sections of football," added Sokha, who is also deputy commander-in-chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. Cambodia is hosting the SEA Games from May 5-17.

Messi and Fraser-Pryce win top Laureus awards

PARIS (Agencies): Argentina's World Cup winning captain Lionel Messi was named the Laureus Sportsman of the Year, while sprint champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce bagged the top women's honour at the awards ceremony on Monday. Messi also received an award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who were named World Team of the Year after their triumph at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The 35-year-old Paris St Germain forward has previously won the award once before, sharing it with Formula One driver Lewis Ham-



ilton in 2020. Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year. "I was looking at the names of the incredible legends that

won the Laureus Sportsman of the Year Award before me: Schumacher, Woods, Nadal, Federer, Bolt, Hamilton, Djokovic... it really sunk in what unbelievable company I'm in and what a unique honour this is," Messi said. Jamaican Fraser-Pryce enjoyed an outstanding 2022, which included winning the 100m gold at the World Athletics Championships. Tennis player Carlos Alcaraz, who won the 2022 US Open and rose to number one in the ATP rankings, was named the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year.

Nick Cassidy triumphs in Monaco to lead Formula E championship

MONACO (Agencies): Nick Cassidy of Envision Racing climbed to the top of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship with a storming drive from ninth on the grid to win an absorbing 2023 Monaco E-Prix. Cassidy led home Mitch Evans (Jaguar TCS Racing), having fended off his countryman until a late-race safety car made the win certain. The race ebbed and flowed as leaders vied for control and to set the pace but Cassidy's decisive early moves yielded the ultimate



result. Once his engineer gave the green light for a six-lap sprint finish, Cassidy did not look back, despite the close attentions of Evans' factory

Jaguar. Evans had himself clambered from sixth on the grid to second at the checkered flag and was within touching distance right up to the safety car three laps from the race finish. The New Zealand one-two made it four wins in succession, a new Formula E record for a single nation. Jake Dennis (Avalanche Andretti Formula E team) could not quite live with the lead pair but he had torn through from 11th on the grid to make the final step on the podium.

Extreme E heads to Scotland for homecoming Hydro X Prix

LONDON (Agencies): There is just one week to go until Scotland's flagship motorsport event in Glenmuckloch, the Hydro X Prix, as the pioneering electric racing championship Extreme E makes its return to the UK. The series' upcoming Scottish event will take place in the former opencast Glenmuckloch mine in Dumfries and Galloway on May 13 and 14. This represents a UK return for the sport-for-purpose series, as it delivers its third season highlighting climate issues and solutions across the globe.



Racing at the restored former opencast coal mine will provide a poignant backdrop for Extreme E, with the mine about to undergo the next phase of its

major transformation into a Pumped Storage Hydropower plant and wind farm. Alejandro Agag, founder and CEO of Extreme E, said: "We could not have found a more perfect racing site than the former Glenmuckloch coal mine. Here in Scotland, our race site will play homage to the much-needed transition of an old coal mine which is being given a new and exciting lease of life as a hydro-project, which will provide a fully renewable energy source for the region for centuries to come."

Boost for Saudi community sports as SFA partners with Zakat body

RIYADH (Agencies): The Saudi Sports for All Federation has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority to empower more people across the Kingdom to lead healthy and active lives. As part of the agreement, the SFA and ZATCA will implement an innovative range of programs and activities that promote and enhance the development of Saudi Arabia's sports culture and industry. The pact was signed by SFA President Prince Khaled bin Alwaleed bin Talal Al-



Saud and Suhail bin Mohammed Abanmi, governor of the ZATCA, with SFA Managing Director Shaima Saleh Al-Husseini in attendance. "We see this partnership with ZATCA as

both innovative in structure and future-focused: a community-focused agreement that will serve everyone in Saudi, providing people greater support to lead healthy and active lives," said Prince Khaled. "By combining resources and capabilities, the SFA and ZATCA can make a lasting impact on Saudi sports culture, providing even more opportunities to adopt sustainable routines of physical activity and overall wellness. We look forward to working with ZATCA to create a brighter, more active future for all."

Lakers rally past Warriors 104-101, take 3-1 series lead

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Lonnie Walker scored all of his 15 points in a phenomenal fourth quarter, and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied late to take a 3-1 series lead with a 104-101 victory over the Golden State Warriors in Game 4 on Monday night. LeBron James scored 27 points and Anthony Davis had 23 points and 15 rebounds for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who moved to the brink of an improbable trip to the Western Conference finals with their eighth consecutive home victory since March. Los Angeles overcame Stephen Curry's third career postseason triple-double down the stretch large-



ly because of Walker, who has made a seismic impact in returning to the Lakers' rotation in this series after the former starter was stuck on the bench in recent weeks. Walker went 6 for 9 in the fourth quarter and hit the go-ahead jumper with 1:53 to play. Curry's layup

with 1:05 left trimmed the Lakers' lead to one point, but Curry missed two 3-pointers on Golden State's next possession before Walker made two free throws with 15 seconds to play. Davis then forced a jump ball in the waning seconds, and it went out of bounds off Curry with 1.3 seconds to play. Curry had 31 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists in his 13th career triple-double for the defending champion Warriors, who will have to overcome a 3-1 series deficit for only the second time in franchise history to continue their NBA title defense. Golden State also did it in the 2016 Western Conference finals.

Syafiq wins Malaysia's 11th gold in men's 3m springboard

PHNOM PENH (Agencies): National diver Syafiq Puteh has dedicated his men's 3m springboard individual gold medal at the 2023 SEA Games here to his daughter, who turns three on Friday. The 28-year-old said that he could not celebrate Nuraisya Zulaikha's second birthday last year as he was competing in the Hanoi edition of the biennial Games in Vietnam. "My daughter Nuraisya's birthday is on May 12, so this win is for her," he said. The national div-



ing squad will return home on Friday, a day after the curtain comes down on the aquatics competition at the Moro-

dok Techo Aquatics Centre. Syafiq also feels that the gold medal he won today is a sign of good fortune as his wife is due to give birth to their second child in November. In today's action, national divers Syafiq and Gabriel Gilbert Daim dominated the proceedings by completing a 1-2 finish after six dives. Syafiq accumulated 377.85 points to defend the gold he won in the previous edition in Hanoi while Gabriel also did well to retain the silver medal with 365.25 points.

National men's badminton squad check into SEA semis

PHNOM PENH (Agencies): The national men's badminton squad stormed into the semifinals of the team event after beating Vietnam 3-1 in the 2023 SEA Games here today. World number 61 player Leong Jun Hao drew first blood for Malaysia when he thumped Nguyen Hai Dang 21-14, 21-16 in the quarterfinal tie at the Morodok Techo National Stadium's Badminton Hall. Beh Chun Meng-Goh Boon Zhe then extended Malaysia's lead with a 21-19, 21-14 win over Vietnam's Nguyen Dinh Hoang-Tran Dinh Manh despite facing stiff resistance in the first game. However, Lee Shun Yang, ranked 93rd in the world, failed to carry the winning



momentum as he went down to world number 163 player Le Duc Phat 13-21, 21-16, 7-21 in the second singles. National second doubles Chia Weijie-Liew Xun then stepped up to the plate to overcome Xun Nguyen Xuan Hung-Pham Van Hai 21-14, 21-18 to take Malaysia to the semifinals tomorrow.

The Malaysian behind Indonesia beating Malaysia for SEA Games hockey gold



PETALING JAYA (Agencies): With five minutes and 20 seconds left in the final of the SEA Games men's indoor hockey final, Indonesia took off their goalkeeper and launched power play. Malaysia were leading 3-0, and putting an extra man in attack at that stage of the match was a moment of desperation for Indonesia. Yet there was method in the madness that sprung pure euphoria. Indonesia scored three goals in three minutes, the last goal coming two seconds from the final hooter, to send the match into the roulette of a penalty

shootout. Defending champions Malaysia, who were crowned Asian champions last year, lost 2-1 in the shootout, making Indonesian indoor hockey the best in Southeast Asia. One man knew that the players from the tiny hockey nation of Indonesia would play their hearts out, although he could never have imagined striking gold. That man, like Indonesia's opponents on Sunday in Phnom Penh, is from Malaysia. He is K Dharma Raj, 51. He is being hailed as a sporting hero by many, including the Indonesian media whose removed perception of the sport, according to Dharma Raj, has changed overnight. Dharma Raj is the technical director of Federasi Hockey Indonesia (FHI) and a former coach who had turned the Malaysian men's and women's senior teams, as well as the junior squads, into a feared force.

Forest edge Southampton to escape drop zone

NOTTINGHAM (Agencies): Nottingham Forest's Premier League survival hopes got a massive boost as Taiwo Awoniyi's brace helped them to a 4-3 home win over bottom club Southampton whose 10-year stay in the top flight looked to be coming to an end on Monday. A nerve-jangling City Ground clash exposed the defensive frailties of both sides with Nigerian striker Awoniyi striking twice within four minutes early to give his side control before Carlos Alcaraz hit back for the visitors. A Morgan Gibbs-White penalty restored Forest's two-goal lead in the 44th minute but Forest's fans were on edge again when a Lyanco header gave Southampton renewed hope. Southampton were threatening an equaliser but Forest struck again on



the break in the 73rd minute with Danilo finishing off a flowing move. Forest had a Felipe goal ruled out for offside before Saints captain James Ward-Prowse ratcheted up the tension by converting a stoppage-time penalty. Forest held out for the three points that lifted them out of the relegation zone to 16th with 33 points from 35 games. Southampton have 24 points from 35 games and are eight points below the safety zone with three games left.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: MAY 10, 2023



– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES:** You're in touch with something that's bigger than you or your group, and you may very well see a glimpse of the future of your family or workplace. It's a good time to work on something positive.
– **TAURUS:** Don't be too surprised if you get snippy at the smallest provocation today. It's just one of those days when your skin is a bit thinner than usual. Most folks probably have it coming anyway!
– **GEMINI:** Someone new could change the way you think about some big issue, and you like where this is heading. There's no need to monitor the situation, because it's all going according to plan.
– **CANCER:** You may have more invested in today's big issue than anyone else, and that could make you a little crazy. Try not to go overboard. Most of these folks just need a reason to care, so give them one!
– **LEO:** You and your people are dealing with bigger issues than you thought you

might, but that doesn't mean it's time to back down! If anything, you should redouble your efforts to make things right.
– **VIRGO:** You're inspired to change your daily routine a bit, just to see what happens. It's a good time to open yourself up to new ideas or suggestions. Almost anything is possible on a day like today!
– **LIBRA:** Talk up new ideas with people today. Make as many connections as possible! Even if you're not initially interested, the social energy should draw you in and make you more passionate.
– **SCORPIO:** Get ready for a big storm at work or home. At least one person is about ready to lose it! You might mix it up in response, though that won't get you anywhere. It might be cathartic, though!
– **SAGITTARIUS:** Your smile is melting hearts and helping you meet the people you know you need to meet, and it's easier than ever to make the right impression! See if you can score some face time with that one client.
– **CAPRICORN:** This is a time to be cautious, especially when it comes to new or untested plans. You're right to be wary, though you might have a hard time convincing others to hold back until more data is in.
– **ACQUARIUS:** You're feeling incredible excitement over a big idea that just popped into your head. You may want to flesh it out just a bit before sharing it with the world, but don't take too long!
– **PISCES:** Your intellect is more powerful than usual today, and you should be able to tackle bigger challenges as a result. Try to make it a group effort, because that has the best chance of success.

Thailand's cannabis sellers say US growers are eating their lunch

BANGKOK (Agencies): Nearly a year after Thailand decriminalised cannabis amid promises of an economic bonanza, Thai growers and sellers say they are being undercut by illegal imports from the United States that sell for a fraction of the price of homegrown buds. Thailand struck cannabis from its list of banned narcotics in June 2022 after a high-profile campaign by Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul to establish the kingdom as a global hub for cannabis for medical purposes. But Thai-



land's parliament has yet to pass a long-awaited cannabis bill, leaving the regulatory framework for the industry in limbo. Local businesses say foreign money is filling the gap, with many dispensaries across the country

pushing low-cost cannabis imported illegally from the US. Foreign brokers are approaching local dispensaries to hawk cheap, smuggled weed that is untaxed and then sold at two to five times its original price, according to local cannabis entrepreneurs. "A decent locally grown strain goes for 300 baht [\$9] per gram but imports are only 150-180 baht [\$4.50-5.30] per gram," Prajya Aura-ek, a cannabis entrepreneur with several licensed dispensaries in Bangkok, told Al Jazeera.

Gwadar port surpasses other ports in Pakistan in shipping & processing of wheat

QUETTA (APP) :Gwadar Port proved its operational capability by successfully handling all the stages of processing 0.45 million metric tons of wheat imported from Russia. Nine ships from Russia anchored from March 2 to May 3 carrying 450,000 metric tons of wheat, an official of the Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents Association (GSCAA) said. He said that Gwadar port has surpassed other ports in Pakistan in shipping and processing of wheat. He said that Gwadar port was more economical than other ports like KPT and Qasim ports as these two ports were always congested and ships face frequent demurrage and high storage charges. He said that there were no demurrage and storage charges at Gwadar port, along with the fastest stevedoring services saying all stages of discharge and delivery have been successful since the first ship anchored in the first week of March. All loading,

off-loading and transportation were done by Pakistani manpower. Instead of manual handling, the web-based One Customs Clearance System (WeBOC) was used for processing wheat from Gwadar port, he said. He said that at Gwadar Port, WeBOC ensured automation, standardization and harmonization of all trade procedures and logistics services under the Pakistan Single Window (PSW). He said that China Gwadar Port Authority, Overseas Ports Holding Company, Trading Corporation of Pakistan, Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited, Pakistan Customs and National Logistics Cell, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar International Terminals Limited have made sure that worked in harmony. According to Gwadar International Terminals Limited, the import of wheat using Gwadar port was a new milestone as it would boost commercial activities in Gwadar.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday issued a power suspension programme for Wednesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, I-11/1, I-11/3, Metro, Anguri, NCP, Mangyal, Shahdara, Shahpur, Khaban Iqbal, Peer Suhawah, Quaid-e-Azam University, Punjab House, Bari Imam, Mandala, Athal, NIH Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Nogzi, Bajnyal, Nust Road, F-17/1, F-17/2, Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Chahan, Chontra, Ra-



jar, Chakri, SPD, SPF, 22 No. Chonggi, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park. 1, Car Chowk, Mehboob Shaheed Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Garmala, Baba Shaheed, Chhappar Sharif, Kallar City, Doberan Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Daulatala, Adi, Dera Muslim Feeders, Attock Circle, from 08:00 am to 01:00 pm, Bolnewal, Khanabad, Lalazar, Lalrukh, Small Industrial, Purmiana, Garhi Afghanistan, Mainawala feeder and surrounding areas.

IHC instructs FO to ensure safety of Dr Fozia during visit to US

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday instructed the Foreign Office to coordinate with Dr Afia Siddiqui's lawyer in the United States for the preparation of case for her release from jail and also take measures for the security of Dr Fozia Siddiqui during her visit to the US for meeting her sister. Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan heard the case filed by Dr Fozia Siddiqui regarding the release of Dr Afia Siddiqui from a US jail. Dr. Fozia Siddiqui appeared before the court along with Clive Smith, Dr Afia's lawyer in the US. At the outset of the hearing, Additional Attorney General Munawar Dogal said Dr Fozia had received a five-year US visa to meet her sister. Fozia Sad-



diqui and lawyer Clive Smith would meet Dr Afia in jail from May 29 to 31, he added. The court also instructed the Foreign Office to take measures for the provision of the services of an independent psychiatrist to Afia Siddiqui. The FO officials apprised the court that there was a need of approval from the competent authority to share the sensitive information. The case was then adjourned till June 30.

Seminar on 'Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems' held

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO), organized a seminar on "Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS): A Regional Perspective" on Tuesday. The seminar was well attended with the participation of members of the diplomatic community, academia, experts from think tanks, officials from relevant department representatives of civil society, and university students. In his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Amb. Sohail Mahmood said that the transformative potential of new and emerging technologies like robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning was affecting every facet of human civilization. These technologies had now spread to over 100 countries,

increasing from 60 a decade ago. States could utilize these emerging technologies for the development of LAWS. The proliferation of these technologies had raised the profile of the phenomenon and required deeper reflection. The dual-use nature of these technologies had also led to massive commercial use and raised concerns that non-state actors could use these technologies for malicious purposes. In May 2013, Pakistan became the first country to call for a ban on fully autonomous weapons. It had repeatedly advocated for a ban on autonomous weapons and was spearheading the efforts internationally to have a legally binding instrument. Director ACDC-ISSI, Malik Qasim Mustafa said that increasing weaponisation of AI was generating insecurity and fear and presented complex security challenges for states and added that the development of these weapons had raised

Ukraine war: 'Mad panic' as Russia evacuates town near Zaporizhzhia plant

Russia has sparked a "mad panic" as it evacuates a town near the contested Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, a Ukrainian official says. Russia has told people to leave 18 settlements in the Zaporizhzhia region, including Enerhodar near the plant, ahead of Kyiv's anticipated offensive. The Ukrainian mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, said there were five-hour waits as thousands of cars left. The UN's nuclear watchdog warned a "severe nuclear accident" could occur. Speaking to the BBC's Newshour programme Rafael Grossi - the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - said the evacuation of residents near the nuclear facility indicated the possibility of heavy fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces around the plant. Although its reactors were not producing electricity they were still load-

ed with nuclear material, he said. Mr Grossi added that he had had to travel through a minefield when he visited the plant a few weeks ago. Earlier, the IAEA warned in a statement that situation at the Zaporizhzhia facility was "becoming increasingly unpredictable and potentially dangerous". Operating staff were still at the site but there was "deep concern about the increasingly tense, stressful, and challenging conditions for personnel and their families". It said IAEA experts at the plant had "received information that the announced evacuation of residents from the nearby town of Enerhodar - where most plant staff live - has started". On Friday, the Russian-installed regional head Yevgeny Balitsky said that "in the past few days, the enemy has stepped up shelling of settlements close to the front line".

Bolivian general who captured Che Guevara dies at 84



BOGOTA (Agencies): The Bolivian general who captured Argentine-born Cuban revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara and became a national hero died at the age of 84. Gary Prado Salmo died in a hospital in the country's Santa Cruz province, his son Gary Prado Arauz announced on Facebook on Saturday. "He leaves us a legacy of love, honesty, and grace. He was an extraordinary person. Thank you to everyone who supported us in this time of agony. God bless you," Arauz said. Born in 1938, Salmo who was paralyzed in the spine in 1981 after being accidentally shot, retired from the army in 1988. Guevara was captured in Bolivia on Oct. 9, 1967, in a joint operation of the Bolivian army and the US Central Intelligence Agency. He was executed at a school in rural La Higuera, about 800 kilometers (497 miles) from Bolivia's administrative capital La Paz.

Western Canada seeks urgent help to fight wildfires



DRAYTON VALLEY (Agencies): Canada struggled on Monday to control wildfires that have forced thousands to flee, halted oil production and razed towns, with the western province of Alberta calling for federal help. Some 30,000 people were ordered to leave their homes over the past three days, as nearly 100 fires flared across the province -- including 27 out of control. Federal disaster officials and the military were on standby, after Alberta leader Danielle Smith spoke with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to formally ask for assistance. "Canadians stand with the people of Alberta as they deal with these terrible, terrible wildfires," Trudeau told reporters in Ottawa. "We were watching images from the communities affected by these wildfires and I assured Danielle that we will be there to help," he said. Details of what supports would be made available were not immediately released. In Alberta, firefighters prioritized dousing flames threatening homes and businesses. Many roads near the provincial capital Edmonton were blocked off as temporary shelters welcomed evacuees. Officials said 390,000 hectares had burned, patients and long-term care residents had to be relocated and many schools were closed. Oil firms -- including Vermilion Energy and Crescent Point Energy -- announced temporary shutdowns of operations, slashing production by more than 125,000 barrels of oil per day. Many residents and oil workers rode to safety in motorhomes or with campers in tow, and set up in empty parking lots. Others are staying with friends or family, like Jerry Greiner, a resident from Dayton Valley, west of Edmonton, the capital of Alberta.

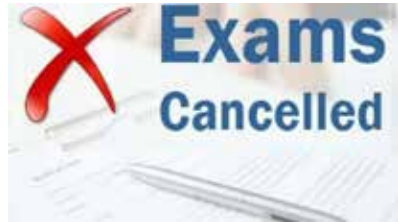
Balochistan govt restored deceased quota

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan government has announced the restoration of the deceased quota for government servants who died during service which was suspended on July 31, 2013. Employment would be given to widows or widowers, one son or daughter to the posts in BS-01-15, on a regular basis without advertisement against the post criteria which the applicant fulfills. According to a notification issued on Tuesday, the government of Balochistan has restored Rule 12 (Deceased Quota) and discontinued Rule 12-A of the Balochistan Civil Servants.

Dr Idrees appointed VC RMU

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department, Punjab, appointed Dr Idrees Anwar as Pro vice-chancellor (VC) of Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU) here on Tuesday. According to a notification issued here, on the orders of the Governor Punjab who is also the Chancellor of RMU in the exercise of powers vested under sections of the RMU Act 2017, appointed Professor Idrees Pro VC RMU for a period of three years or till the age of his superannuation, whichever is earlier. Many doctors and students of RMU and allied hospitals congratulated the appointment of Dr Idrees Anwar, Professor of Surgery as the VC, RMU.

BC cancels Cambridge International, IELTS exams



ISLAMABAD (APP): British Council (BC) has cancelled all Cambridge International, Pearson, University of London and IELTS exams scheduled across Pakistan on May 10 (Wednesday). Regarding the exams scheduled on May 11 and 12, the BC will issue an update on its social media channels by Wednesday, according to British High Commission in Pakistan.

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