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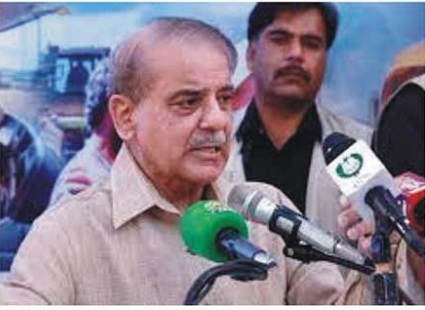
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'Will put everything before nation': PM Shehbaz on wheat import scandal

Cabinet division secretary refutes summoning Kakar, ex-Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi in investigation



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD.
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the government will put everything before the people with regard to those responsible for the wheat import scandal. "We will put everything before the nation," PM Shehbaz said during a meeting with Cabinet Division Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal, the bureaucrat leading the probe into the said issue. Directing Afzal to fix responsibility and inform the individual(s) responsible for the scandal, the premier ordered the cabinet secretary to work out recommendations with available records and documents and submit the final report by Monday (tomorrow).
The premier's remarks came as the federal government has been caught in a fix after the Balochistan and Punjab governments were unable to purchase wheat from the farmers due to a surplus in stock which, so far, is being attributed to excessive import of the crop.

Due to the non-purchase of wheat by the provincial governments, wheat is being sold at a lower price than the official rate — a matter of grave concern for the farmers.
However, a day earlier, former caretaker prime minister Kakar, while speaking during an interview, ruled out his role in the prevailing crisis stressing that "it's not a job of a prime minister to oversee wheat production".
Commenting on the decision to import wheat, he said that only 3.4 million metric tonnes of the said crop was imported whereas the shortage was of 4 million metric tonnes.
Sources told Geo News that the Ministry of National Food Security had apprised PM Shehbaz's cabinet that 28.18 million tonnes of wheat was produced last year and the caretaker government decided to import 2.45 million tonnes more.
The premier has also been told that the additional wheat import caused a loss of more than Rs300 billion to the national exchequer.

Family of suicide bomber Nizamuddin discloses revelations about the terrorist



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD.
The father and brothers of a suicide bomber have made shocking revelations about him, according to security sources.
The father of Nizamuddin, the suicide bomber linked to TTP, disclosed that his son was deported to Afghanistan, where he received illegal training.
The family's income sources, social status, and relationships have been named due to involvement of their family member in illegal activities.
The bomber's brother claimed that TTP enticed his sibling with money and coerced him into carrying out the suicide bombing.
Terrorists allegedly administered addictive injections to terrorist Nizamuddin.

Saudi businessmen to land in Islamabad today as Pakistan eyes Saudi investment



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD.
A delegation comprising top Saudi investors and businessmen as well as government officials is arriving in Pakistan today (Sunday) to attend a gathering organised to enhance investment from the oil-rich Gulf State.
The development comes just days after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Saudi Arabia for attending a Special Meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development in Riyadh where he also held discussions with Crown

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE.
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Sunday expressed the need for a further increase in bilateral trade volume with Korea.
She conveyed these views during her meeting with Park Ki Jun, the ambassador of the Republic of South Korea to Pakistan.
During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged thoughts on promoting bilateral cooperation and enhancing ties between the two countries.
The chief minister expressed a desire to benefit from Korean technology for industrial development, welcoming Korean cooperation in electronics, automobiles and information technology.
Maryam informed the ambassador that Punjab held



significant potential for investment in agriculture and mining industries. She offered assistance to South Korea for investment in Punjab's automobile sector.
Maryam also highlighted export opportunities for Korea in the textile sector, particularly in woven cotton and cotton yarn.
The Korean ambassador, on this occasion, congratulated Maryam on becoming the first female chief minister of Punjab.

Atta Tarar holds open court session in NA-127, pledges swift resolution of workers' issues

● Tarar expressed his commitment to prioritize the resolution of workers' problems, directed the swift resolution of these issues, emphasizing the significance of addressing the concerns of the constituency's residents and workers promptly.
Tarar expressed his commitment to prioritize the resolution of workers' problems, stating that his constituency was like his home, and the workers were akin to family members.
During the event, Rana



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE.
Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar conducted an open court session at his office in constituency NA-127, where he attentively heard the grievances of the workers.
Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader

Mubasar Iqbal, MPA Mian Inam Javed, and other leaders extended messages of condolence on the passing of Afzal Hussain Tarar, praying for his soul to be granted the highest rank of Jannah.
Federal Minister Atta Tarar lauded Afzal Hussain Tarar's contributions to the party and the nation, highlighting his kindness and respectfulness within the family.

Wheat crisis: Kissan Ittehad announces protest demonstrations from May 10



Soon Times Correspondent MULTAN.
Kissan Ittehad on Sunday announced holding protest demonstrations across the country from May 10.
Addressing a press

Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR.
Awami National Party's (ANP) president for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Aimal Wali Khan, on Sunday was unanimously elected as the party's central president.
The party's general council meeting, under the chairmanship of Chief Election Commissioner Iftikhar Hussain, was held in ANP's Bacha Khan Centre in Peshawar.
According to sources, no other candidate submitted papers for the president's position. Aimal's name was suggested by ANP

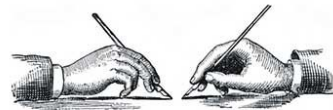
Aimal Wali Khan elected ANP president

leader Haider Khan Hoti. It should be noted that Aimal's father, Asfandiyar Wali Khan, was the party's president. However, the senior politician has been away from politics for sometime and did not participate in the February 8 general elections.
On the other hand, ANP central spokesperson Zahid Khan on Saturday announced his resignation from his position. He said that he would not be participating in ANP's intra-party elections.
Sources privy to the matter claimed that Hoti and Zahid are not taking part in the intra-party elections.
They further claimed that Zahid has political differences with the ANP leadership and he had distanced himself from the party affairs, however, Aimal had gone to his house to convince him. But the visit proved futile.

Gandapur terms KP governor's oath-taking ceremony 'waste of time'

Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Sunday said the oath-taking ceremony of the new KP governor did not hold "much importance" for him and attending the event would have been a "waste of time".
The KP chief minister said, "The Form 47 government and its illegally notified governor do not hold importance."
The KP CM said he had not attended oath-taking of those who were elected through Form 47 earlier.
Since the February 8 general elections, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been claiming that it won the polls on Form 45 with a wide majority and alleged that the other leading parties rigged election results in Form 47.
The KP CM spoke about Form 47 in response to a question about his absence from the governor oath taking ceremony.
Senior Pakistan Peoples Party

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Pak - Saudi Arabia mutual investment cooperation

A 50-member high-level Saudi trade delegation led by the Deputy Investment Minister of Saudi Arabia, Ibrahim Almubarak, arrived here on Sunday with the aim of exploring various avenues of trade and investment to further strengthen and promote bilateral relations between the two countries. Upon their arrival at Noor Khan Air Base, the Saudi dignitaries were welcomed by Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Petroleum Minister Musadik Masood Malik, said

a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce. Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan highlighted that the three-day visit of the Saudi delegation geared towards enhancing trade relations between investors from both countries and identifying trade and investment opportunities across various sectors of Pakistan's economy. He said that the Ministry had selected numerous Pakistani companies in relevant sectors for Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings

with their Saudi counterparts, adding that leading Pakistani companies would collaborate with 30 Saudi companies across different sectors. The B2B meetings will specifically target sectors such as agriculture, mining, human resources, energy, chemicals and maritime. Moreover, discussions will extend to investment prospects in other sectors including refinery, IT, religious tourism, telecom, aviation, construction, water and power generation, he said. The minister

emphasized that the objective of these discussions was to identify investment opportunities that would generate employment and boost exports between the two countries. He also noted that local companies would present their business and investment proposals to their Saudi counterparts. The minister expressed optimism that several companies would be able to finalize business and investment deals during the B2B session, fostering greater economic cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

APWWA Women's Conference 2024 organized By APWWA A Unique Literary Organization



By: **Rushna Akhtar**
(Mahmood Kot)

A beautiful event was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 3, 2024 Sunday under the auspices of All Pakistan Writers Welfare Association (APWWA). All Pakistan Writers Welfare Association has always been organizing unique activities for the writers. This year too, maintaining

this tradition, a women's conference was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day. In which prominent personalities of the country participated. APWWA also has the honor that this organization has been supporting the people of pen without any greed. The ceremony was officially started with recitation of Holy Quran. Hafiz

Muhammad Zahid received the honor of reciting the Holy Quran and then Ms. Farhana Anbar Sahiba, the poetess of Gujranwala with a beautiful voice, presented Naat-e-Rasool (peace be upon him). Ms Madiha Kanwal, General Secretary of APWWA Organization, took over the duties of the host and performed it well. Then the arrival of the guests put

four moons on the party. Motivational speakers, drama writers, political personalities and social media personalities participated to guide budding writers from across the country. Sayeda Maha Shah Bukhari (Grandfather's granddaughter) who touched hearts with her beautiful, attractive and interesting statements in the political arena of Pakistan participated. Syeda Maha Shah Bukhari is a young political personality and is also an inspiration for the new generation. Syeda Mah Shah Bukhari spoke in the best way in favor of women. She has a friendly nature as well as being very pleasant to talk to. Renowned writer and voice over artist Rushna Akhtar (who is also a part of various foundations) received the award from her. Apart from her, the charming Sonia Meraj, who is in charge of APWWA magazine and CAO Kamal-e-Rah Foundation also received the award from Syeda Mah Shah Bukhari. From time to time the participants received awards and medals from the special guests. The famous actor of Pakistani film industry, Mega G set the party on fire with his beauty and charming style. Drama writer Saima Chaudhry's reforms opened

new ways of thinking. Anchor person Sana Khan, the owner of attractive and beautiful style, described women empowerment in the best way. Well-known senior journalist columnist Ghulam Zehra Sahiba, dramatist Zabiya Sahar Sahiba, well-known dramatist Sahrish Khan Sahiba, writer from Balochistan Saiz Ifukhar Sahiba, writer from Faizla Taslim Brohi Sahiba also participated. Breakfast was also arranged for the participants by APWWA. The birthday cake of APWWA founder Mr. M.M Ali was cut. The founders of APWWA, known as brothers from Saudi Arabia, know the art of explaining serious matters in a humorous way. Mr. Zubair Ansari in his address also promised better scholarly literary services and offered any kind of help without hesitation to all the women present in the gathering as their sisters and daughters. All the women here are my daughters and sisters, feel free to contact your brother if you need any help, he said. This star-studded event was covered by Daily Pakistan's Young Talented and interesting talk anchor Eram and team. All the team members of APWWA made the program a success with great zeal. I congratulate Madam Samina Tahir Butt, Mam Rehana Usmani, Aymn Saeed, Sajida Chaudhry, Madiha Kanwal, Mr. Zahid, Mr. M.M Ali, Mr. Zubair Ansari and others for a successful program. May Allah give them all a rise in honor and rank and may APWWA be blessed with success.

Climate Change and Its Effects on the Environment

(Faraz Ahmed Jamal)

Climate change happens when people burn fossil fuels, cut down forests, and do other things that add greenhouse gases to the air. These gases, like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, trap heat in the atmosphere. This makes the Earth's temperature go up, changes rainfall patterns, and raises sea levels. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that humans are mostly to blame for the warming we've seen since the mid-20th century. How Does Climate Change Affect Nature? Climate change is bad for nature. It messes up where plants and animals can live. It makes the oceans warmer, which is bad for coral reefs. It also melts ice in the Arctic and Antarctic, which is bad for animals like polar bears and penguins. How Does Climate Change Affect the Weather? Climate change makes the weather more extreme. There are more big storms, heatwaves, droughts, and floods. Warmer oceans make hurricanes stronger and bring more rain. Higher temperatures also make heatwaves more common.

Changes in rainfall can cause droughts in some places and floods in others. What Does Climate Change Do to Natural Resources? Climate change makes it harder for people to have clean air, water, and food. It hurts farming and makes food shortages more likely. Melting ice makes sea levels rise, which can flood coastal cities. Saltwater can also mix with freshwater, making it salty and unusable. And, more carbon dioxide in the oceans makes them more acidic, which hurts animals like corals and shellfish. How Can We Help? To stop climate change from getting worse, we need to use more clean energy like wind and solar power and use less dirty energy like coal and oil. We also need to protect nature and make sure that our cities and farms can handle the changes that are coming. In Conclusion Climate change is a big problem, and we need to act now to stop it from getting worse. We need to protect nature and make sure that people have clean air, water, and food. If we don't, things will only get worse for us and for future generations. (Faraz Ahmed Jamal)

Poem

Poem In the garden of hearts, love blooms like a rose,
A symphony of emotions, endless delight,
Love's melody whispers in the silent night
Through highs and lows, a resilient song
Love's journey, where two hearts belong
A canvas painted with hues of joy and pain
Love endures, a timeless refrain
So, in the language of the heart, profound and true
Love's poetry, forever written for you
Written By: Rushna Akhtar



Rotary International District 3271 Recognizes Outstanding Social Services at HOPECON Conference 2024



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi:
The Rotary International District 3271 recently held a successful 3-day HOPECON Conference 2024 at a private hotel. Deputy Governor Shaikh Intiaz Hussain was honored with the Award for Continuous Best Social Services for three consecutive years. Shaikh Intiaz Hussain has been awarded the Best President in the first year, Best Assistant Governor in the second year, and Best Deputy Governor this year. The

conference was attended by more than 700 Rotarians from all over the world. It featured distinguished personalities such as Trustee The Rotary Foundation Aziz Memon, former Finance Minister Senator Saleem Mandivivalla, former Federal Minister Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Muhammad Ali Tabba, Deputy Governor State Bank Dr. Inayat Hussain and others. They also showcased their talents during the 3-day HOPECON Conference 2024. Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori also

participated in the event and presented Deputy Governor Shaikh Intiaz Hussain with the Best Deputy Governor Award. Prior to this, Shaikh Intiaz Hussain had already received awards for Best President and Best Assistant Governor. Additionally, during the conference, District Facilitator Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Tanveer Ahmed was honored with Rotary's highest accolade "Service Above Self". Akhter Alvi was awarded Best Regional Mentor, and District

Secretary Asif Makati was recognized as the Rotarian of the Year. The Rotary Club of Karachi Avenue also received multiple awards during the conference. Apart from acknowledging the exceptional social services of Rotarians and other social activists from interior Sindh and Balochistan, District Governor Muhammad Hanif Khan also awarded them with awards. Rotary International organizes this conference every year to appreciate the contributions of the best social workers and individuals. During the HOPECON Conference 2024, RI Director Muhammad Faiz Qidwai joined as an RIPR, commending District Governor Muhammad Hanif Khan and his team for their hard work. He mentioned that Pakistan had never seen such an impressive conference before. Muhammad Faiz Qidwai highlighted that the credit for the successful organization of HOPECON Conference 2024 goes to Governor Muhammad Hanif Khan and his team.



FM Dar calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

GAMBIA Web Desk:
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has urged the OIC member nations to ensure an unconditional ceasefire in Gaza immediately. He made this remark while addressing the OIC summit in The Gambia regarding the ongoing Israeli attacks in Gaza. Reiterating his support for the independent Palestinian state and the full membership in the United Nations, he said that the OIC countries should work collectively for a ceasefire in Gaza and uninterrupted humanitarian aid. "The OIC should give a united and vigorous response to the challenges confronting the

Muslim Ummah," the FM said. Dar meets Azeri counterpart on margins of OIC Summit, discusses bilateral cooperation. "We condemn Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims," the FM mentioned. "India is committing atrocities on innocent Kashmiris in the Occupied Kashmir and the OIC should implement its action plan on this matter to alleviate the sufferings of the hapless lot," the deputy PM said. "OIC can play an important role in global economic development and the member nations should work together to deal with challenges like climate change," he said.

Crackdown against sellers of smuggled petrol; AC seals 4 petrol pumps

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:
On the direction of Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan, a crackdown has been launched against the sellers of smuggled petrol and diesel across the

district. On Saturday, Assistant Commissioner Anina Elsan Tamar along with Civil Defense Officer inspected various petrol pumps. Four petrol pumps failed to show form K and supply records from registered oil companies. On which four petrol pumps have been sealed. The

sealed petrol pumps include Allah Bakhsh Petroleum Faisalabad Road, Kamboh Petroleum Kandival Road, Shaukat Petroleum Chak No. 98 South and Muhammad Petroleum Chak No. 98 South.

IMF mission 'likely to visit' Pakistan this month to discuss new bailout package

Web Desk:
An International Monetary Fund mission is expected to visit Pakistan this month to discuss a new programme, the lender said on Sunday ahead of Islamabad beginning its annual budget-making process for the next financial year. Pakistan last month completed a short-term \$3 billion programme, which helped stave off sovereign default, but the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stressed the need for a fresh, longer term programme. "A mission is expected to visit Pakistan in May to discuss the FY25 budget, policies, and reforms under a potential new programme for the welfare of all Pakistanis," the IMF said in an emailed response to Reuters. Pakistan's financial year runs from July to June and its budget for fiscal year 2025, the first by Sharif's new government, has to be presented before June 30. The IMF did not specify the dates of the visit, nor the size or duration of the programme. "Accelerating reforms now is more important than the size of the program, which will be guided by the package of reform and balance of payments needs," the IMF statement said. Pakistan narrowly averted default last summer, and its \$350 billion economy has

stabilised after the completion of the last IMF programme, with inflation coming down to around 17% in April from a record high 38% last May. It is still dealing with a high fiscal shortfall and while it has controlled its external account deficit through import control mechanisms, it has come at the expense of stagnating growth, which is expected to be around 2% this year compared to negative growth last year. Earlier, in an interview with Reuters, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said the country hoped to agree the contours of a new IMF loan in May. Pakistan is expected to seek at least \$6 billion and request additional financing from the Fund under the Resilience and Sustainability Trust.



Round-the-clock passport office services for Lahore, Karachi residents



LAHORE:
Providing greater flexibility and convenience, the Interior Ministry has decided to keep at least one passport office operational 24 hours a day in both Lahore and Karachi. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi shared this development on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, on Sunday. The minister stated that to facilitate the public, at least one passport office in both Lahore and Karachi would remain open 24 hours. He said that this initiative would make access to passport office facilities easier and more convenient for citizens at any time. The decision was made after the minister's visit to passport offices last week, considering the issues faced by residents during the visit.

Free bus service for female students, teachers in Islamabad from June 15

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD:
In a bid to solve the problem of transportation for female students and teachers of the Islamabad Capital Territory Schools, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is planning to launch a free transport service. According to details, around 20 buses of federal educational institutions will be prepared and put on the roads with the support of the district administration. The female students and teachers of public and private educational institutions will be able to travel for free in these buses operated in the urban and rural areas of the federal capital



facilities, said the secretary of education. He went on to say that in the internal audit, it was found that 30% of the total 385 buses of federal educational institutions have been parked due to unusability. These buses were not being used due to lack of budget and drivers and for not repairing timely, said the official. In future, women will also be allowed to travel in these vehicles subject to the availability of space, he added. He further informed that by June 15, these buses will be ready and will start providing services for female students and teachers.

Afghan top diplomat in India steps down after 'caught smuggling' 25kg gold

Web Desk:
Afghanistan's top diplomat in India stepped down after she was accused of smuggling nearly \$2 million worth of gold into the country, as per media reports. Zakhia Wardak, the Afghan Consul-General in India's Mumbai, confirmed her resignation on her official X handle, saying: "It is with great regret that I announce my decision to step away from my role at the Consulate and Embassy of Afghanistan in India, effective May 5, 2024." Afghanistan's embassy in New Delhi shut down in November, more than two years after the Taliban returned to power in Kabul following the collapse of the Western-backed government, leaving Wardak as the country's most senior representative in India, according to AFP. As per Indian media reports, Wardak was last month stopped by financial intelligence authorities at Mumbai airport on arrival from Dubai — along with her son — carrying 25 kilograms of gold. She was not arrested because of her diplomatic immunity, the reports said, but the gold — worth around \$1.9 million — was confiscated. Wardak's resignation leaves thousands of Afghan nationals, including students and businessmen, without any consular representation in India. Most foreign nations — including India — do not officially recognise Afghanistan's



Taliban government, but acknowledge them as the de facto ruling authority. In many Afghan missions, diplomats appointed by the former government have refused to cede control of embassy buildings and property to representatives of the Taliban authorities. Wardak said in the statement that she had "encountered numerous personal attacks and defamation" over the past year. Such incidents "have demonstrated the challenges faced by women in Afghan society," she added, making no explicit reference to the gold allegations. The Taliban authorities have full control of around a dozen Afghan embassies abroad — including in Pakistan, China, Turkey and Iran. Others operate on a hybrid system, with the ambassador gone but embassy staff still carrying out routine consular work such as issuing visas and other documents. Most countries evacuated their missions from Kabul as the Taliban closed in on the Afghan capital in August 2021, although a handful of embassies — including Pakistan, China and Russia — never shut, and still have ambassadors in Kabul.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar called on the President of the Republic of the Gambia, Adama Barrow, on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference, in Banjul, the Gambia on May 05, 2024.



Biden has rebuilt the refugee system after Trump-era cuts. What comes next in an election year?



COLUMBIA, S.C.
A church volunteer stood at an apartment door, beckoning inside a Congolese family for their first look at where they would live in America. "Your new house!" volunteer Dan Davidson exclaimed as the couple and the woman's brother stepped into the two-bedroom apartment in South Carolina's capital, smiling tentatively at what would come next.



Poland wants best ties with US no matter who's in power

WARSAW
Poland wants "the best possible relations with America, regardless of who is in power," Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said during a visit to Washington, according to a report by Poland's PAP newswire on Sunday. "We will not make the mistakes of our predecessors by putting all our chips on one color," state-run PAP cited Sikorski as saying, in an apparent betting reference.

Poland's former nationalist government had enjoyed a good relationship with former U.S. President Donald Trump, even as Warsaw's handling of policies raised concerns over its faithfulness to democratic values and strained the tolerance of EU allies.

After Joe Biden's 2020 election win, Warsaw did not officially recognise him as U.S. president for several weeks.

Sikorski was in Washington to discuss bilateral ties, security issues and the war in Ukraine with U.S. officials.



Hamas rejects truce that does not end Gaza war; Israel pounds the Palestinian enclave

As talks were underway, Israeli planes and tanks continued to pound Palestinian enclave overnight

CAIRO
Hamas leaders held a second day of truce talks with Egyptian and Qatari mediators on Sunday, with no apparent progress reported as the Islamist group maintained its demand that any agreement must end the war in Gaza, Palestinian officials said. One Palestinian official, close to the mediation effort, said the Hamas delegation had arrived in Cairo with a determination to reach a deal "but not at any price". Earlier on Saturday, a senior Hamas official said that the group would not accept a truce that did not completely end the Gaza war, accusing Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu of "personally hindering" a deal. "A deal must end the war and get Israeli forces out of Gaza and Israel hasn't yet committed it was willing to do so," the official told Reuters, asking not to be named.

Israel wants a deal to free at least some of the around 130 hostages held by Hamas but an Israeli official signed on Saturday that its core position was unchanged, saying Israel would "under no circumstances" agree a deal to end the war, which it has pursued with the aim of dismantling and dismantling Hamas for good.

Another Palestinian official told Reuters the negotiations are "facing challenges because the occupation (Israel) refuses to commit to a comprehensive ceasefire" but added that the Hamas delegation was still in Cairo in the hope mediators could press Israel to change its position.

As the latest talks were underway, residents and health officials said Israeli planes and tanks continued to pound areas across the Palestinian enclave overnight, killing and wounding several people.

Netanyahu says ending Gaza war now would keep Hamas in power

JERUSALEM
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hardened his rejection of Hamas demands for an end to the Gaza war in exchange for the freeing of hostages, saying on Sunday that he would keep the Palestinian Islamist group in power and pose a threat to Israel.

Netanyahu said Israel was willing to pause fighting in Gaza in order to secure the release of hostages still being held by Hamas, believed to number more than 130. "But while Israel has shown willingness, Hamas remains entrenched in its extreme positions, first among them the demand to remove all our forces from the Gaza Strip, end the war, and leave Hamas in power," Netanyahu said. "Israel cannot accept that."

"Hamas would be able to achieve its promise of carrying out again and again its massacres, rapes and kidnapping."

In Cairo, Hamas leaders held a second day of truce talks with Egyptian and Qatari mediators, with no apparent



progress reported as the group maintained its demand that any agreement must end the war in Gaza, Palestinian officials said.

The war began after an assault by Hamas on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which 1,200 people were killed and 252 hostages taken, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's ensuring military offensive has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-ruled Gaza. The bombardment has devastated much of the coastal enclave and caused a humanitarian crisis.

25 arrested at University of Virginia after police clash with pro-Palestinian protesters Videos



NEW YORK

Twenty-five people were arrested for trespassing at the University of Virginia after police clashed with pro-Palestinian protesters who refused to remove tents from campus, and demonstrators at the University of Michigan chanted anti-war messages and waved flags during commencement ceremonies.

In Virginia, student demonstrators began their protest on a lawn outside the school chapel Tuesday. On Saturday, video from WVAW-TV showed police swearing heavy gear and holding shields lined up on the campus in Charlottesville. Protesters chanted "Free Palestine," and university police said on the social platform X that an "unlawful assembly" had been declared in the area.

As police moved in, students were pushed to the ground, pulled by their arms and sprayed with a chemical irritant, Laura Goldblatt, an assistant professor of English and global studies who has been helping student demonstrators, told The Washington Post.

"Our concern since this began has been the safety of our students. Students are not safe right now," Goldblatt said.

The university administration said in a statement that the demonstrators were told the tents and canopies they erected were prohibited under school policy and were asked to remove them. Virginia State Police were asked to help with enforcement, the university said.

It was the latest clash in several tense and sometimes violent weeks at colleges and universities around the country that have seen dozens of protests and hundreds of arrests at demonstrations over the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.



Sports & Showbiz News



Naqvi announces \$100,000 cash prize for each player if team wins T20 World Cup



LAHORE
Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mobsin Naqvi announced that each player will receive a hefty amount of \$100,000 if the Green Shirts win the upcoming T20 World Cup scheduled in June this year. Naqvi made the announcement during his meeting with the national players on Sunday at Gaddafi Stadium. The PCB chief spent two hours with the players to boost the morale of the team ahead of their departure for the tours of Ireland, England, and the T20 World Cup. Mobsin Naqvi also hosted a luncheon for players and officials at a local hotel.

"I hope you will raise the green flag high this time. Play without any pressure and give your best in the field," Naqvi said while meeting the players and team officials. "The victory will be yours and defeat will be mine," said the PCB chief. Mobsin Naqvi said that all the players are united and Shahzeen Shah Afridi will give an excellent performance in the World Cup. He added that nation has many expectations from you and you will have to give your best in the field. Naqvi also presented special green shirts to Muhammad Rizwan for completing 3,000 runs in T20 matches, and Nasim Shah for taking 100 wickets in T20 matches.



Sultan Azlan Shah Cup: Pakistan defeat Korea in one-sided match

Sports Desk
Pakistan made explosive start as Hammad Shahid secures the first goal just three minutes into the game. In a one-sided contest, Pakistan defeated Korea 4-0 in their second Sultan Azlan Shah Cup match on Sunday in Ipoh, Perak. Pakistan made an explosive start as Hammad Shahid secured the first goal just three minutes into the game with a powerful field goal, setting the tone for the encounter. The momentum continued to swing in Pakistan's favour as Arshad Liaquat added to the scoreboard, netting another field goal in the 20th minute of the match. With a relentless display of skill and determination, Ghazanfar Ali further extended Pakistan's lead with a third field goal in the 27th minute, leaving the Korean defence struggling to keep pace.

As the match progressed into the third quarter, Pakistan's solid defence held firm, denying their opponents any opportunity to close the gap. The score remained unchanged at the end of the third quarter, with Pakistan maintaining their commanding 3-0 lead. In the final quarter, Pakistan sealed their victory with a clinical performance, as Sufyan Khan converted a penalty corner into a goal in the 50th minute, putting the match out of Korea's reach. Pakistan defeated Malaysia with a last-minute winner by Abu Mahmood on Saturday. The nine-goal thriller saw some of the best goals as the Green Shirts managed to emerge triumphant 5-4 after a long 60 minutes. Pakistan's next match is now against Japan on May 7 at the same venue.

Does Yumna Zaidi look dazzling even without



Pakistani showbiz industry's one of the top actors Yumna Zaidi is praised for her beauty in the clip during a conversation with her makeup artist. Known for her stellar performances in drama serials such as "Tere Bina," "Sadaqay Tumhare," and "Bakha," Yumna Zaidi has gained fame not only in Pakistan but also in India and Bangladesh. A brief video of Yumna Zaidi is going viral on social media. In the video, Yumna Zaidi is present with her makeup artist Tabish Khawaja, preparing to get her makeup done. Addressing her makeup artist in the video, Yumna Zaidi says,

Is Kylian Mbappe buying Sergio Ramos' luxurious \$20m Madrid mansion?

Recent reports surrounding Paris Saint-Germain's (PSG) star Kylian Mbappe suggest that he is currently in talks with his former teammate Sergio Ramos to buy his \$20 million mansion in Madrid. According to a Sports Tiger report, Mbappe, 25, is reportedly all set for his expected transfer to Real Madrid this summer, even though no contract has been signed yet. According to Pop Vopuli, Mbappe has made an agreement with his former PSG teammate, Ramos, 38, to purchase his luxury mansion in Spain's La Moraleja. The mansion was Ramos's primary residence during his tenure with Real Madrid. Although Ramos wasn't initially willing to sell the Madrid house, he changed his mind after some reported contacts between Mbappe's agent and his mother Fayza Lamari. The reports further stated that the negotiations are about to be completed but will be finalised once



Madrid officials announce the French footballer's signing in the summer transfer window. This is not the first time the Real Madrid fan has been linked to a move to La Liga. He was about to sign a deal with the team two years ago, but he decided to renew his contract with PSG. According to Mario Cortegana, Los Blancos President Florentino Perez offered a hefty deal of \$140 million with complete control of image rights.