

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVIII No. 173, Zee'qad 10, 1444 AH Wednesday May 31, 2023 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

President Dr. Alvi says By holding national sports event, a message given to world that Balochistan is a peaceful province

Sports activities lead to healthy living, character building; Urges youth to follow Quaid's three guiding words 'unity, faith and discipline' as beacon for achieving success in future

Independent Report
QUETTA: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that sports activities always led to healthy competition by promoting discipline and character building, especially among the young people.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of 34th National Games, he said that by holding national sports event, a message was given to the entire world that Balochistan was a peaceful province.

The president observed that different genres of games always helped in promoting mental health, character building, team

work, and healthy competition at different levels.

He said Quaid-e-Azam and Fatima Jinnah always encouraged young people of the country to take part in healthy activities and stressed upon imbuing the spirit of unity, faith and discipline in all walks of life.

Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah paid special focus on girls' guide to strengthen the organizational discipline, he added. About Balochistan, he said the province was rich with natural and mineral resources and commended all the governments for their efforts to utilize them for the progress and prosper-

ity of the province.

The president further stressed that for physical health, regular exercise and other sports activities must be made a part of life as they were vital for healthy living.

He also appreciated all the stakeholders for the excellent arrangements and sportsmen for competing in the games. He termed holding of national games in Quetta as 'another feather in province's cap'.

The president urged the youth to follow Quaid's three guiding words 'unity, faith and discipline' as beacon for achieving success in future.



QUETTA: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with the Governor of Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar at Governor House.

CM approves establishment of Gwadar as a Special Economic District

Independent Report
QUETTA: In a significant development for the progress and development of Gwadar city and its port-related activities, Chief Minister Bizenjo has granted approval for the creation of a Special Economic District (SED). This decision was made after reviewing the summary presented by the Planning and Development Department.

The primary objective of this step is to promote the growth of Gwadar city and boost activities related to the port. The establishment of the SED is crucial for the development of tourism and other sectors of the economy. Following

the creation of the SED, trade, tourism, real estate, and hospitality industries are expected to flourish, reaching their optimal levels of competitiveness.

Designating Gwadar as a Special Economic District aims to introduce professional policies and provide a conducive environment for foreign investors. The establishment of the SED will not only attract foreign direct investment but also facilitate the growth of local industries. Additionally, federal and provincial tax incentives for industrial activities and relaxation in visa policies for investors will be provided.

First Lady urges society's role to cope with breast cancer, mental health issues

QUETTA (APP): First Lady Samina Alvi on Tuesday said that not merely the government rather everyone in



QUETTA (APP): First Lady Samina Alvi on Tuesday said that not merely the government rather everyone in

society would have to play their role to cope with the issues like breast cancer, mental health, and disability.

The first lady, addressing a seminar held with the cooperation of the World Health Organisation at Governor House here, for creating awareness on breast cancer, mental health and disability, lauded the world health body's efforts for elimination of breast cancer as well as welfare of the differently-abled people.

The first lady said that the government was striving for concrete and practical measures to cope with the challenges of breast cancer and disability. Every individual in society will have to play their part in the prevention of the deadly disease, she added.

Federal Ombudsman to hold meeting with heads of fed. departments

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Federal Ombudsman, Mr. Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi is due to arrive in the provincial metropolis today (Wednesday). According to the schedule, the Federal Ombudsman would hold meeting with heads of the federal government departments the same day at 02:30 PM at the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Indus-

try. In addition to this, he would also hold meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan and other concerned stakeholders on the jail reforms tomorrow (Thursday) at the Civil Secretariat.

In addition to this, he would also have an interaction with the trade and business leaders at the QCCI the same afternoon.

Rana Sanaullah says Imran will be tried in military courts for 'planning, executing' May 9 attacks

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Prime Minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan will face trial in a military court over his alleged role in the May 9 arson attacks, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday.

Speaking to a private news channel, Sanaullah accused Imran of "personally planning attacks" on military establishments, claiming that there was ample evidence to substantiate these accusations.

"It is all documented. The proof is in his tweets and messages," he said.



LAHORE: Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango meeting with former Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Dost Muhammad Mazari. Senator Danesh Kumar and DG PDMA Jan Zaib are also present

Spectacular fireworks at end of National Games

Independent Report
QUETTA: The spectacular fireworks display was held at end of the 34th National Games in the Ayub Sports Complex on Tuesday night.

The fireworks display marked the end of mega national sports event in the metropolis organized after 19 years.

A large number of people were present to watch and enjoy the beautiful fireworks displayed at the spacious sports complex.

Many others also enjoyed the display while staying out of the venue far and wide. The sky lit with colourful lighting due to the fireworks display.

Three killed, another injured in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): At least three people were killed and another in separate incidents of violence in different localities of Quetta, police said on Tuesday.

According to details, a man was killed after unknown gunmen sprayed bullets on shop near telephone exchange on Sariab road of Quetta.

A teacher of government boys middle school identified as Inham Rabbani was shot dead by unidentified motorcyclists in Ferozabad locality.

Two groups traded fire in Zarghon area of Urak in which one person was killed while another sustained wounds.



QUETTA: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing participants of closing ceremony of 34th National Games. Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar, Sports Minister Abdul Khaliq Hazara, Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Provincial Advisor Information Mitha Khan Kakar, IGP Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and others are also present

Event another feather in the cap of GoB: CM pleased on successful ending of 34th National Games in Quetta; congratulates all

Bizenjo says holding of mega sports event in excellent manner a passionate reply to all those making criticism on law and order situation and government performance

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed his contentment and pleasure over successful holding and excellent ending of the 34th National Games in Quetta.

In a message issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister appreciated the performance of participating players, provincial Minister Sports, Abdul Khaliq Hazara, Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, officers and staff of the Sports Department as well as the Pakistan Olympic Association, security agencies and media and congratulated in this regard.

The Chief Minister said that the successful holding of the National Games in peaceful manner after 19 years is a bright chapter of the province and it is another addition in the

achievements of the provincial government too.

It is also a passionate reply to all those making criticism on the law and order situation and government performance in the province. Mr. Bizenjo maintained.

The Chief Minister also said that the holding of National Games is a fruit of sacrifices rendered by our martyrs for ensuring peace. He said that the National Games organized in Balochistan has given a message to the whole world that it is a peaceful area with patriotic, caring, peace loving and hospitable people.

This also proves that people of the province want peace and development despite the backwardness, he said adding that we provided funds for holding the National Games despite the severe financial crisis, he added.

PM rules out dialogue with 'arsonists & anarchists'

Says public relief, economic development among priorities in next budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said dialogue was a key to evolving democracy, however categorically stated that it could not be held with 'arsonists and anarchists' in the garb of politicians.

The prime minister's statement came after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on Friday appealed for immediate talks with state officials. Sharif said dialogue was deeply embedded in the political process, which helped democracy mature and evolve.

He said many political and constitutional breakthroughs occurred when political leaders sat across the table to craft a consensus. "However, there is a major difference here, the arsonists and anarchists who wear the garb of politicians and attack the symbols of the State do not qualify for a dialogue," he said.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said dialogue was a key to evolving democracy, however categorically stated that it could not be held with 'arsonists and anarchists' in the garb of politicians.

The prime minister emphasized that such people should rather be held to account for their militant actions.

He also termed it a prevalent practice even in developed democracies.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said the provision of maximum relief to the masses and economic development would be among the Federal Government's

priorities in the upcoming budget for fiscal 2023-24. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the budget proposals for the industrial sector, said the federal budget would also encompass the measures to enhance industrial growth as well as exports.

He said he would personally make sure that the proposals coming for the industrial sector were incorporated into the budget.

AJK AC judge killed in firing by robbers

RAWALPINDI (Online): A sessions judge has been killed in firing by robbers in Rawalpindi.

According to police two dacoits entered into home of Accountability Court Azad Kashmir judge Sardar Amjid Ishaq in phase-8 of a private housing society located in the jurisdiction of Rawat police station Rawalpindi for the purpose of robbery.

The robbers tried to hold the family members hostage at gunpoint. Sessions Judge Azad Kashmir Sardar Amjid Ishaq put resistance to the dacoits. In the meantime one robber opened fire leaving Sardar Amjid injured. He was shifted to hospital for medical aid but he breathed his last.

Imran Khan skips hearing in local court

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday skipped hearing before a local court of Islamabad in a case pertaining to rioting and vandalizing public property during his party's march.

Civil Judge Ahtisham Alam heard the case against Imran Khan and other accused registered by the Golra Police Station.

FM Bilawal says: Pakistan keen to further cement bilateral relations cooperation with Belarus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said Pakistan was committed to further strengthening of high level engagements and bilateral cooperation with Belarus by building stronger economic, trade and investment ties.

Addressing a joint presser with visiting Belarusian Foreign Minister Sergei Aleinik, the foreign minister said they held a very fruitful and constructive meeting, and discussed entire areas of cooperation between the two countries.

"Our long term goals for Pak-Belarus relations include strengthening of the economic ties, expanding of trade and investment, fostering of scientific collaboration, enhancing of defence cooperation and increasing of the cultural and deeper ties of the people-to-people contacts," he added.

Foreign Minister Bilawal further said that both countries strived to build a mutually beneficial relationship that could contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the people of the two countries.

He said they had agreed to taking of the practical steps to transform the goodwill between the people of the two countries into a tangible cooperation.

One key outcome of the visit, he said, was the signing of the agreement between the two countries for abolition of the visas for the holders of the diplomatic and official passports which would boost high level visits. An agreement between Islamabad Strategic Institute and the Belarus Institute would lay strong foundation for educational cooperation, he added.

The foreign minister said they would build further on the discussion held during the 6th ministerial meeting.

Bilawal further said that in the year 2024, both the countries would be celebrating the 30th anniversary of their diplomatic relationship.

The foreign minister expressed his confidence to further strengthen the core of their bilateral relationship and move forward in further fostering of the mutually beneficial friendship between Pakistan and Belarus.

Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Aleinik expressing gratitude to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for extending an invitation, said they held a meeting in a very constructive and very frank manner in which both sides agreed to further building of ties between the two countries.

70% Gwadar International Airport work completed: GDA

Independent Report
QUETTA: The New Gwadar International Airport has completed over 70% of its construction work, according to officials from the Gwadar Development Authority. The comprehensive scope of work, including civil, structural, mechanical, and engineering tasks, has nearly been accomplished. The next step is to finalize the Navigational Aid and Communication Construction, which is progressing rapidly through the joint efforts of China Communication Construction Company and the Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan's professional teams. Installation and operationalization work for secondary vision navigation and communication operations are also underway, with all equipment already on-site and completion expected within 60 days.



QUETTA: On the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki and concerned officials attending a meeting to review affairs regarding enhancement of mutual investment between Government of Balochistan and private companies

PCJCCI inked MoU with Dongying Sino-German to boost trade relations

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) signed MoU with Dongying Sino-German (European Exchange and Cooperation Association) for the promotion of trade and investment here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Tuesday.

The PCJCCI also organized business-to-business (B2B) meeting with 10 high profile members and multi-sector Chinese trade delegation with Pakistani investors, and entrepreneurs.

The delegation was

headed by Mr Wang Zihai, Honorary Investment Counselor in China, Board of Investment and Chen Guangfeng, President Dongying Sino-German (European Exchange and Cooperation Association).

The meeting was also attended by top notch Pakistani businessmen, including Syed Ameer Abbas, Fast Cables Limited, Atif Hameed, TUV Austria BIC Pvt. Limited, Hassan Ahmed, Hassan Brother Company, Zaki Aijaz, Roshan Packages and others.

PCJCCI Vice President Hamza Khalid

said that the delegation came with a purpose to hold interactive B2B meeting with potential partners in Pakistan.

The area of interest was mainly manufacturer of steel, aluminum, plastic doors and windows production, oil drilling accessories, maintenance of environmental protection equipment, PVC insulated control cable and power cable, cross-linked polyethylene insulated electric cable, Power cable, photovoltaic cable, petrochemicals, rubber, petroleum equipment etc.

He added that the

Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry was highly grateful to the Chinese officials for being supportive and concerned about the business development of both countries.

The head of the delegation, Wang Zihai, invited the PCJCCI members to Shandong province and extended his precious regards and offer to fully cooperate with the Pakistani officials.

He also added that just as Pakistan is happy to see China's growing stature on the world stage.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of M/s PepsiCo led by Mr. Eugene Willemsen, CEO Africa, Middle East & South Asia called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at FBR(Hq).



SIALKOT: SM Tanveer caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry, commerce and energy is addressing to the meeting of members of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

KP Govt to establish Inclusive Business Development Park

PESHAWAR (INP): The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is going to establish an Inclusive Business Development Park (IBDP) to enable men, women, persons with disabilities and transgender to establish their business setups.

In this connection, a formal memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) and Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC), Project Management Unit (PMU), Planning & Development (P&D) Department for the establishment of interim setup for the initiative here on Tuesday.

The signing ceremony was held at KP-EZDMC Head Office Peshawar with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Industries, Commerce and

Technical Education, Mohammad Adnan Jalil as chief guest on the occasion.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP-EZDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak and Project Director (PD) KPEC, Imran Zahoor signed the memorandum on behalf of their respective organizations. Besides, Secretary Industries, Commerce & Technical Education/Chairman Board of Directors (BoD) KP-EZDMC, Mati Ullah Khan, other officials of the company were also present on the occasion.

Under the agreement, the Industries Department is going to establish an interim-setup for Inclusive Business Development Park at Economic Zone Hayatabad Peshawar. The proposed Inclusive Business Development Park will operate under the operational control of the KP-EZDMC.



BAHAWALPUR: Customers are buying wheat from a roadside vendor at Grain Market.

Minister chairs resource mobilization committee meeting

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer here Tuesday chaired a meeting of the resource mobilization committee to review the business models of waste management companies, WASAs (Water and Sanitation Agencies) and the Punjab Mass Transit Authority.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Excise Bilal Afzal, Punjab Finance Secretary, MD WASA and senior officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the committee approved several proposals for

resource acquisition during the fiscal year 2023-24 for waste management companies, WASAs, and the Punjab Mass Transit Authority.

Additionally, the committee supported the recommendation of exploring public-private partnerships for waste management companies, whether through outsourcing or collaboration with electric supply companies. Furthermore, proposals for branding and advertisement to enhance the resources of the Punjab Mass Transit Authority were also given the green light.

CoRe for including green financing in budget to tackle plastic pollution

ISLAMABAD (APP): CoRe (Collect and Recycle) the first multi-stakeholder packaging alliance in Pakistan on Tuesday stressed to include green financing, a five-year tax holiday for recycling projects and incentives for the stakeholders in the forthcoming budget in order to combat plastic pollution.

According to the press release, CEO of

CoRe Sheikh Waqar Ahmad said, "The first step to address the issue of packaging waste and ensure a waste-free future is a public investment in the formal collection and recycling infrastructure. The government has an important role in providing appropriate policy framework and enabling environment to promote sustainable and innovative practices to fuel new

Amin reaches Morocco to attend GITEEX Africa Digital summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecom Syed Amin Ul Haque Tuesday reached Casablanca (Morocco) to attend GITEEX Africa Digital summit.

GITEEX Africa Digital Summit is being held in Morocco from May 31 to June 2, 2023, said a news release received here.

The event aimed to bring together technology operators, government bodies, small and medium enterprises, start-ups, investors and scholars from Africa and the world in one platform.

Syed Amin Ul Haque will share the Digital Pakistan Vision, his perspective on the current challenges and the next frontier of innovation.

From financial technologies to cloud systems, material connectivity (IoT), artificial intelligence, telecom technologies and cyber-security systems will be developed widely in the next three days.

Advisory for growers of cauliflower

FAISALABAD (APP): The agriculture experts advised growers to complete preparations for early cultivation of cauliflower from first week of July. A spokesman for the agriculture (extension) department said on Tuesday that July was the best for early cultivation of cauliflower crops, therefore, farmers should sow seeds for seedlings (Paneri) in the nursery after mid of June and shift plantlets from nursery to the field during first week of July.

He said that weather temperature from 17 to 18 degrees centigrade was much suitable for growth of cauliflower crop while its plants could also survive from 20 to 30 degrees centigrade temperature.

However, the crop production and its quality badly affected if temperature increased from 30 degrees centigrade, he added.

He said growers could harvest their cauliflower crop in September and October if they transferred.

Irfan Iqbal says: Exporting to 21% of World Population

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound satisfaction, as the country's apex trade & industry body, that one of the most prominent former presidents of FPCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar, has been elected to the highest trade body of the SAARC, i.e. SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) as its Vice President for a period of two years. It is a good omen for the economy of Pakistan in general and trade with the SAAR countries in particular, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh stressed that SAARC region had significant economies vis-à-vis Pakistan - Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Afghanistan - and the bloc accounts for 21 percent of world's population. Only fully

tapping into the export potential of this single trade bloc can result into \$20 - 25 billion worth of exports boost in a short-span of 5 years.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh apprised that Mian Anjum Nisar is one of the senior most, well-respected and accomplished trade leader of Pakistan; and, he has it all what takes to secure favorable arrangements for the country's exports - both as a trading bloc and bilaterally with the member countries of SAARC. It is pertinent to note that Mian Anjum Nisar has been active in policy advocacy at the highest level for the past 25 years on a national & international level, he added.

FPCCI Chief explained that SAARC CCI assumes particular importance in Pakistan's case as Pakistan's regional trade is only 9 percent of its total trade.

BRI Agri Institute launched to rev up potato industry

BEIJING (APP): In a bid to turbocharge the potato industry, 11 Belt and Road (BRI) countries including China and Pakistan have joined international universities, companies and organisations to launch an international network on the potato industry at a forum held recently at China's Southwest University.

A collaborative effort led by the Southwest University, the Belt and Road potato network is designed to enhance the quality and efficiency of the potato industry in BRI countries through multi-level cooperation, including academic exchanges, joint research, and technology transfer.

Prof. Lyu Dianqiu, Dean of the Agronomy and Biotechnology College at Southwest University told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview.

Specifically, the innovation institute would

serve as a platform to facilitate research and promote advancements in potato breeding, germplasm creation and utilisation, and construct potato cultivation demonstration bases, Prof Lyu said.

The potato expert noted that the breeding-oriented cooperation "arises from a detailed study conducted to scrutinise the challenges and potential in the potato industry in the BRI countries.

"We found BRI countries such as Pakistan and Kazakhstan are plagued by a lack of quality potato seeds. As a token of support, each country was gifted 100 sets of germplasm rapid diagnostic kits at the forum," Prof. Lyu added.

As a first step, he said, training sessions would be organised to impart breeding know-how to the members.



PESHAWAR: Members of All Class Four Government Employees Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Peshawar press club.

Mark Silver Jubilee of CDC Pak SECP Chairman unveils commemorative stamp

ISLAMABAD (APP): To mark the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC), Pakistan Post has issued a commemorative postage stamp. SECP Chairman Akif Saeed officiated the event and unveiled the stamp, a press release on Tuesday said. Akif Saeed lauded CDC's efforts and perseverance throughout the years and said that "CDC has served as the pride of Pakistan's capital market, with its unwavering commitment towards service quality, innovation, investor facilitation, and improving ease of doing business".

The unveiling ceremony, held today at

SECP's head office, marked CDC's landmark achievement of 25 years of successful operations.

Since 1997, CDC has been operating as an integrated infrastructure institution, providing efficient, trustworthy, and innovative services to Pakistan's financial landscape.

CDC functions as an infrastructure entity offering digital innovation.

On the occasion, the Chairman of SECP, Akif Saeed, recalled the exemplary contributions of CDC's founding member and Chairman, Arif Habib, the longest-serving CEO, Muhammad Hanif Jakhura, and the current Chairman of CDC.

Chairman Board of Trustees AAOIFI called on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman Board of Trustees AAOIFI Tuesday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The finance minister welcomed Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and congratulated him for holding the First International Conference on Islamic Capital Markets in Pakistan in coordination with SECP Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

Sheikh Ebrahim Bin

Khalifa Al Khalifa lauded the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Bahrain.

He also appreciated the continuous support of Pakistan and stated that Pakistan has always been the closest partner in the Muslim world.

He expressed his desire to start various social welfare ventures in Pakistan, especially for capacity building and easy loan facilitation for entrepreneurs, especially for the women and the youth as Pakistan holds great potential in this

regard.

The finance minister apprised Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa of the current government's policies and programmes to support the youth and particularly women such as Benazir Income Support Programme which is well-praised by the World Bank and also being followed in various African countries.

He added that the government was fully committed to supporting the lower classes through various microfinance schemes of such nature.

PSX gains 331 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 331.60 points on Tuesday, a positive change of 0.80 per cent, closing at 41,671.66 points against 41,340.06 points the previous day. A total of 197,681,397 shares were traded during the day as compared to 346,349,821 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.6.403 billion against Rs.6.423 billion on the last trading day.



FAISALABAD: Prof. Chen Letian Director International Affairs, South China Agricultural University addresses international conference on sustainable food security solution arranged by University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Chinese delegation led Luan Xiangjie by visit to FPCCI

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: A Chinese delegation led by Luan Xiangjie President Ruzhou Foreign Trade Enterprises Association visited Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI),

building materials, agriculture, transportation, furniture and real estate sector, etc.

While welcoming the delegation, Umar Masood ur Rehman, Vice President FPCCI highlighted the contribution of China in the

exhibitions and formulation of delegations.

He also acknowledged the Chinese investment in Pakistan in the backdrop of CPEC which will improve the infrastructure and energy situation of Pakistan.



Capital office Islamabad, and met Vice President FPCCI Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman, Coordinator Syed Asad Haider Mashadi and Other Office Members of FPCCI to discuss various bilateral trade and economic related issues between Pakistan and China and explore business opportunities in different sectors including Mining, Transport, Energy, Technology, Construction, and gemstones, construction,

economic development and prosperity of Pakistan. He also talked about the level playing field and a significant share of Pakistan in imports of China for reducing the trade deficit. Vice President FPCCI also informed about the activities of FPCCI at the global and national level and emphasized on collaboration between both national chambers for holding of commercial activities like holding of

Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President assured the delegation of full cooperation from FPCCI and the government of Pakistan and said that Pakistan is a very rich country in natural resources. Many foreign companies are working on various projects. A large number of investors are doing business in Pakistan and China. He also highlighted the potential all over Pakistan including Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activities were recorded on Monday, where eight ships namely, MSC Denisse, Lana, Northern Jamboree, Geneva Queen, Ton Hill, Hafnia Providence and Serinity Gas carrying Containers, Canola, Coal, Gas oil and LPG berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain & Fertilizer Terminal, Bulk Terminal, Oil Terminal and Sui Southern Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile three more ships, Maersk Atlanta, EM Astoria and MSC Cielo Rosso with Containers and Mogs are also arrived at outer anchorage of the port on (today) morning.

A total of 08 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Lana Northern Jamboree and MSC Denisse left the Port on Tuesday morning on another LNG carrier 'Al-Jassasiya' is expected to sail on same day (today).

Locust outbreak in Afghanistan threatens Wheat crops: FAO

ISLAMABAD (Online): A large-scale locusts outbreak across eight provinces in North and Northeast Afghanistan poses enormous threat to the country's food security, warns the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

According to a report, published earlier this ongoing month, the sightings of locust have been made in Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul and Takhar, with fresh reports coming in from Herat and Ghor provinces.

The Moroccan Locust is ranked among the most economically damaging plant pests anywhere in the world. A full outbreak this year could result in crop losses ranging from 700 000 to 1.2 million metric tonnes of wheat, up to a quarter of the total annual harvest, according to FAO.

This equivalent to

between USD 280 million and USD 480 million in economic loss, as of today's prices in the country.

In the Baghlan province farmers like Najibullah have seen their crops ravaged by locusts.

Najibullah, farmer affected by locust outbreak told FAO "The Moroccan locust has destroyed 300 jerbis (60 hectares) of my wheat field and 31 000 jerbis (6 200 hectares) of pastureland in this area, where ten villages are located."

Afghanistan's North and Northeast regions are prone to Moroccan Locust outbreaks. Drought, overgrazing, very limited locust control and the right amount of rainfall in March and April (approximately 100 mm) created this year the ideal environment for locusts to hatch and swarm. In these parts of Afghanistan, Moroccan Locust lay eggs between May and June.

