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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on budget proposals. Federal Ministers, leading businessmen, exporters and industrialists attended the meeting via video link.

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 anarchists and arsonists who wear the garb of politicians and attack the symbols of the State do not qualify for a dialogue," he said.

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.

The prime minister instructed the authorities concerned to remove all unnecessary impediments in the increase of small, medium and large-scale industrial production. He told the meeting that the previous government deliberately obstructed the investment and industrial development in the country.

The previous government violated the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to save its rule, making 220 million of Pakistan bear its brunt, he added.

He said being a resilient nation, Pakistanis were gradually coming out of the economic difficulties.

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 deepening of the people-to-people contacts," he added.

Foreign Minister Bilawal further said that both countries strived to build a mutually beneficial



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari (right) and Belarusian Foreign Minister Sergei Aleinik (left) during a joint press conference.

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 the establishment 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.

President Dr. Alvi says 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 imbibing 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 prosperity 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'.



QUETTA: President Dr. Arif Alvi giving the winner's trophy to the Pakistan Army team, at the closing ceremony of the 34th National Games.

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

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.

The attacks, which took place after Imran Khan's arrest on May 9 by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case, led to violent protests across the country including attacks on military installations and public and private property.

Sanaullah repeated the same statements in another TV interview. "Absolutely, why shouldn't he [be tried in military court]? The programme he made to target military installations and how he had it executed, this is absolutely a case for the military courts."

The minister claimed that the PTI chief personally orchestrated the attacks. "PTI activists chanted the slogan that 'Imran is our red line', and the entire plot was prepared on Imran Khan's initiative and instigation. He carried it all out. He is the architect of this chaos."

Addressing the issue of those involved in the attack, the interior minister claimed that there would be no leniency for those who launched the assaults on military installations, regardless of their current status with the PTI.

Govt raises objection over SC bench hearing audio leaks commission case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has raised objections over the Supreme Court (SC) bench hearing audio leaks commission case. Five members bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial is hearing the case.

The federal government through its miscellaneous petition has prayed the court to constitute new bench to hear the petitions against audio leaks commission.

The plea has been taken in the petition CJP Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar should recuse themselves from hearing this case.

The objection raised by Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) during the hearing of the matter on May 26 was not taken seriously. One audio before the inquiry commission relates to the mother in law of the CJP. According to courts decisions and judges code of conduct a Judge can not hear the case related to his relative. In the past former CJP Iftikhar Chaudhry had recused him from bench due to objection in Arsalan Iftikhar case. The alleged audio leaks relate to Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar too. Through the petition it has been prayed that new bench be constituted to hear the case.



LAHORE: Muslim League (PML-N) Senior Vice President, Maryam Nawaz Sharif exchanging views with Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner during meeting held in Lahore.

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.

Pakistan reaffirms commitment, support to UN peacekeeping programme: Hina Rabbani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment and support to the United Nations peacekeeping and peace-building programme.

"Pakistan firmly believes in peace, stability, development, and human rights which are interlinked with each other," she said while addressing an event in connection with the UN Peacekeepers Day here.

Hina said Pakistan valued the sacrifices rendered by the United Nations' peacekeepers from across the world, especially from Pakistan.

Paying tributes to the peacekeepers, especially those who sacrificed their lives, she said around 170 Pakistani peacekeepers and eight alone in 2022 had sacrificed their lives for global peace and to uphold the Blue Flag.

The minister maintained that Pakistan's security forces were playing a vital role in the peacekeeping missions under the United Nations to maintain peace in the world's conflict areas. She also appreciated the Pakistani women who were playing their key role in every field of life. They had also served the UN peacekeeping programme as psychologists, operational officers, and nurses, she added.

Four die, three injured as under construction bridge falls in Muzaffarabad

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Four people including technical experts and labourers died and three workers sustained injuries after the under-construction Bailey Bridge slipped and fell while being placed on the pillars with the help of heavy machinery in Dhani area of Naseerabad tehsil in Muzaffarabad district. According to police, the Bailey Bridge was being constructed to connect Dhani and Ghandi areas in the lower Neelam valley when it slipped and fell while being placed on the pillars.

Encompassing multisectoral areas Pak-Italy JEC agrees establishment of joint framework

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman and Italy's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Maria Tripodi on Tuesday co-chaired the 5th meeting of the 'Pakistan-Italy Joint Economic Commission' (JEC) at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides agreed to set up a joint framework to tackle climate change and cooperation in water management, hailing the establishment of an Italian Trade Agency office in Islamabad the next week, a news release said.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Sherry Rehman said it was a pleasure to co-chair the 5th meeting of the Pakistan-Italy JEC in Rome with the Deputy Minister.

She added that the establishment of the Italian Trade Agency office in Islamabad would boost bilateral trade. "We are building a common framework with Italy to tackle climate change and improve water management. The trade partnership between Pakistan and Italy is stronger than ever. Our bilateral trade is to reach \$2 billion in 2022, and Pakistan's exports will cross \$1 billion," Sherry Rehman said.

The next JEC meeting would be hosted in Islamabad at a mutually convenient time.

Khawaja Asif asks CJP to 'recuse himself' from hearing audio leaks case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday has asked Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial to "distance himself from hearing the audio leaks case to ensure that true justice is served to the aggrieved."

He was referring to a five-member bench order of the apex court, headed by the chief justice, which stayed the proceedings on various petitions challenging the constitution of the judicial commission formed by the federal government, tasked to inquire about the veracity of audio leaks allegedly involving the SC judge and a relative of the top judge.



LAHORE: Chairman International Cricket Council (ICC) Greg Barclay visiting the Gaddafi Stadium along with Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Najam Sethi for supervision as ahead of Asia Cup in Provincial Capital.

PTI sends Rs10b defamation notice to Abdul Qadir Patel

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday sent Rs10 billion defamation notice to Federal Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel over his 'shameful allegations' in a press conference wherein he raised questions pertaining to former prime minister Imran Khan's medical status.

The notice served by Imran Khan's lawyer Abuzar Salman Niazi urged Abdul Qadir Patel to tender his unconditional apology to PTI Chairman Imran Khan and take back his 'shameful allegations' within 15 days.

Tareen, Aleem efforts enter into final phase for formation of new political party

ISLAMABAD (Online): The efforts from Jahangir Tareen and Aleem Khan have entered final phase for formation of new political party.

They have contacted with all former parliamentarians of PTI and soon show of power will be made. The consultation is underway on the name of new political party.

Sources told Online Jahangir Tareen is playing active role in carving out new political party and he has made contacts with former members of assembly from PTI. Consultation was made on future political strategy.

As per sources 20 dissidents from PTI were also contacted.

Opposition leader Raja Riaz was assigned the task to arrange early meeting with the dissidents, over 100 PTI former Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) have contacted and met with Jahangir Tareen.



ITALY: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman and Italy's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Maria Tripodi signing an important 'Roadmap for Cooperation' covering climate change, trade and investment, heritage, culture, agriculture, higher education, technical cooperation and technology transfer in reference areas.

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.

investment in the sector." It noted some recommendations including the availability of Green Financing by State Bank to promote waste collection & recycling, a five-year tax holiday for recycling projects for multiple cities of Pakistan, exemption of sales tax, custom duty & zero tariff regime for import of equipment for recycling projects.

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 Dianqu, 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 micro finance schemes of such nature.

PSX gains 331 points

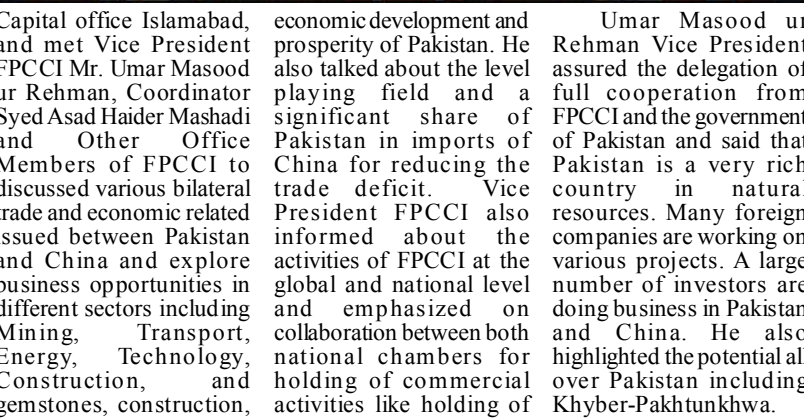
ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 331.60 points on Tuesday, a positive change of 0.80 per cent, closing at 41,671.66 points against 41,340.06 points the previous day. A total of 197,681,397 shares were traded during the day as compared to 346,349,821 shares the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

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



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-II, 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.

