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PM Shehbaz, Chinese Premier vow to set CPEC projects at centrality in bilateral cooperation

Agree to celebrate Decade of CPEC this year to showcase success; Pakistan to expand strategic ties with China, says PM Shehbaz

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese Premier Li Qiang here wherein the two sides agreed to celebrate the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) this year to showcase its success.

The meeting was held here on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

It was the first in-person meeting between the

two leaders since Premier Li assumed office in March this year.

Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on CPEC's centrality for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives for the two countries.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

During the meeting, the two leaders held an in-depth discussion on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, including CPEC as well as economic cooperation.

Reiterating support to China on its core issues,

the prime minister appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic development.

He noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir was a vivid reflection of China's principled stance for upholding international law and the United Nations resolutions.



PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Premier of the State Council of China, Li Qiang meet on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressing his views in National Assembly

Zardari says 'ready to sign charter of economy'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has said that he is ready to discuss and sign the charter of economy.

While addressing a session of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), Asif Ali Zardari urged the industrialists to sign an agreement - charter of economy - with all political parties.

"I am ready to sign the charter of economy. I will give you a level playing field. We are rich not poor and those who think Pakistan is a poor state are fools," Asif Ali Zardari said that he had also invited Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman to sign the charter of economy.

He asked the manufac-

urers to increase exports. "The increased price of dollar makes everything expensive. I am fully aware of issues being faced by traders and industrialists. We can stabilize the economy by enhancing exports."

The PPP co-chairman claimed that they would increase exports to \$100 billion. "We have to promote trade for the betterment of the economy. The common people will be able to pay taxes if their issues are addressed. We should focus on trade opportunities instead of aid."

The former president said that ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran have improved and there are no more reasons left to further postpone the completion of the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project.

Pak to support Azerbaijan in mobile manufacturing, telecom sectors: Amin

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque has said that Pakistan had vast investment opportunities in various sectors including IT and Telecom. "We wish the bilateral relations in the Technology sector to be strengthened and the trade volume to increase further, he said during a meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov here Friday.

Syed Amin ul Haque further said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan had long-standing relations as Islamic brotherhood countries, Pakistan was the first to recognize Azerbaijan and the love between the two countries was natural, said a news release.

Cooperation in Trade and Industrial sectors can further strengthen mutual relations in this regard, he said.

The minister said the

Ministry of IT will provide all possible facilities and supports to Azerbaijan government and businessmen in all sectors including Incubation Centers, Software Technology Parks, Mobile Manufacturing and Telecom sector.

The Ambassador said, the revolutionary steps taken in the IT sector in Pakistan are commendable. "We wish to benefit from these experiences of Pakistan," he said.

He informed that the Minister for Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan would visit Pakistan in the second week of July. During his visit, we are looking forward to signing different Memorandum of Understandings on bilateral cooperation in Technology sectors. The Ambassador of Azerbaijan also extended an official invitation to the Minister of IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque to visit Azerbaijan.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari's addressing Press Conference at KPT.

CM inaugurates football ground, community centre at Ibrahim Hyderi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the football ground and community center Ibrahim Hyderi constructed with the help of World Bank for Rs1.9 billion.

Ibrahim Hyderi, a historical town located along the seashore has been rejuvenated with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art football ground, an upgraded community center, and the implementation of various infrastructure developments.

Those, who were present on the occasion include Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Deputy Mayor Salman Murad, MNA Agha Rafiullah,

MPA Mehmood Alam Jamote and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that this initiative was part of the government's commitment to enhance the welfare of the youth and prioritize the development of future generations, encouraging their active participation in healthy activities and fostering their contributions towards the progress of the country.

He said that the remarkable upgrades in Ibrahim Hyderi Village were made possible through the Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project (KNIP), which aimed at uplifting the entire town, accommodating its dense population.

Hina hails contributions of women in diplomatic field

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Friday said the significance of June 24 as the 'International Day of Women in Diplomacy' was self-evident, symbolizing global recognition and admiration for women's accomplishments in the diplomatic realm. She made these remarks in a message delivered at a roundtable discussion to mark the 'International Day of Women Diplomacy' here on Friday by the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

The minister said, having the great honour of being the first woman Foreign Minister of Pakistan, this Day held great meaning and

significance for her personally. "It both brings satisfaction and strengthens our resolve to continue to do more. Nations proudly showcase their progress in appointing more women in diplomatic roles, deserving commendation for tangible advancements," she said adding Pakistan had made notable strides despite socio-economic challenges, with women achieving prominent positions, including a woman Prime Minister and a young Nobel Prize laureate.

"While celebrating, we must also acknowledge remaining challenges and work together for a future of equal opportunities, amplifying women's voices and utilizing their expertise in peace-making.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi awarding letter of Commendation to an officer during Pakistan Navy Investiture Ceremony held in Karachi.

Military awards conferred on Pakistan Navy personnel

KARACHI (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi attended as chief guest of the Investiture Ceremony organized at Karachi on Friday to confer medals and awards to naval personnel

During the ceremony, Cdre Shahzad Iqbal, Cdre Tauqeer Ahmad Khawaja, Cdre Muhammad Ahsan Raza Mallhi and Cdre Syed Talat Hussain were awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Cdr Kabbir Yahya Khan, Cdr Muhammad Atif Khan and Lt Cdr Abdul Rehman Khan were awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz

(Military) while Tamgha-i-Basalat was conferred to Cdr Syed Eusaf Viqar and Barkat Ali LCDT was awarded Imtiaz Sanad.

Meanwhile, 14 Awards of Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-I, 17 awards of Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-II and 10 awards of Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-III were conferred upon CPOs and Sailors. Letter of Commendation by Chief of the Naval Staff was awarded to 29 Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Navy Civilians.

The ceremony was attended by serving and retired officers of the Pakistan Navy.

Bilawal for collective efforts by world powers to root out terrorism effectively

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday stressed that collective efforts were needed by the world powers to root out the menace of terrorism, which had affected Pakistan the most. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said being a global issue, terrorism should not be seen through the prism of geopolitics.

The foreign minister regretted that after the fall of Kabul, the world powers had shifted their focus to the Ukraine conflict and the menace of terrorism remained unaddressed.

Pakistan, he added, suffered the most from terrorism as it had lost more people than the rest of the

world in the fight against terrorism. Exterminating terrorism and extremism was in the interest of Pakistan itself as it was the key to peace, stability and prosperity, he added.

Bilawal said first of all there was the need to bring political stability in Pakistan and then the focus should be shifted to further enhancing bilateral relations and forging partnerships with other countries, including the United States.

He said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman himself pushed his party into a blind alley following the May 9 vandalism of military installations and martyrs' memorials due to his rigidity.

He said time and again

the PTI chief was asked from the parliamentary forums to announce his disassociation from the May 9 incidents but he paid no heed and consequently his party was today in trouble. Those involved in attacking the military installations and the memorials of martyrs did not deserve any leniency, he added.

Bilawal said on May 9, the PTI protesters attacked the Jinnah House, military installations, the General Headquarters, and the monuments of martyrs.

Had such attacks been carried out in the US, the United Kingdom or any other country, their perpetrators would not have spared in the name of democracy, he remarked.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori talking with media men after inaugurating 3-day 2nd Bachat Expo

Sharjeel grieved over Dawood, Sulaiman's family over Submarine tragedy

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has expressed grief and sorrow over the deaths of Prince Dawood, Sulaiman Dawood and others in the submarine tragedy.

Sharjeel Memon said "We share the grief of the Dawood family over the tragic accident."

He prayed the Almighty Allah to grant patience to Prince Dawood and Salman Dawood's family.

Irrigation Minister writes letter to Fed Govt about water shortage

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro has contacted the federal government regarding shortage of water in Sindh and asked to stop transfer of water from the Indus River to the Chishma Jhelum Link Canal (CJ Canal).

In a letter addressed to the Federal Minister of Water Resources, Syed Khurshid Shah, the irrigation minister said on the one hand, water was being stored in water reservoirs, while on the other hand,

water was being released to Cheshma Jhelum and Taunsa Panjand canals, as a result of which there would be a severe water shortage in the province.

Due to water shortage, the provincial agriculture economy would be affected, Jam Khan Shoro cautioned.

After holding meeting over water shortage in the province here on Friday, the minister wrote a letter to Federal Water Resource Minister for taking notice of the matter.

Work on Safe City project to begin soon: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the approval of the Safe City project has been obtained and soon the work on this project will start. He said this while presiding over a meeting in his office on Friday to review the progress of the Safe City project. Under the project, 10,000 new cameras will be installed in different areas of the city and 2,000 existing cameras will be upgraded in 4 phases.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi and other relevant officials were also

present. In the meeting, a briefing was given regarding the work being done in Karachi under the Safe City Project. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Safe City project is important for Karachi, so the work should be carried out through full coordination between all the relevant institutions.

The main objective of the Safe City project is to develop the security and surveillance system in the city on modern lines, for which 10 thousand new CCTV cameras will be installed at important places in the city and the existing monitoring system will be updated according to modern requirements.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Hearings begin

Amidst a prolonged lull after months of political storms, a blockbuster Supreme Court case promises respite to those weary of the daily drudgery. Hearings commenced yesterday on a set of four petitions challenging the trial of ordinary civilians in military courts.

As has become custom, however, the court found it difficult to even begin without running into controversy. Shortly after the nine SC justices originally nominated by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial to hear the petitions convened on Thursday afternoon, senior puisne judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa excused himself, saying he could not consider the bench to have been 'legally' formed due to the pendency of a petition concerning the Supreme Court (Practices and Procedures) Act, which limits the chief justice's powers to constitute benches.

The bench was quickly reconstituted after excluding Justices Isa and Tariq Masood, the latter of whom had concurred with the former on the 'legality' of the bench. Fortunately, no other judge, petitioner or defendant objected to the new bench despite being offered a chance to do so, and one may now expect the hearings to proceed unhindered.

The matter before the court is undoubtedly of grave national import. It concerns the fate of dozens, if not hundreds, of citizens who face court martial over their alleged involvement in the vandalism of several military properties during riots that broke out following PTI chairman Imran Khan's arrest last month. The petitioners include notable lawyers like Aitzaz Ahsan and Latif Khosa, as well as former chief justice Jawwad S. Khawaja, whose involvement is a first by any retired chief justice in Pakistan's judicial history. They have presented more or less similar arguments: that the trial of civilians by military courts violates the constitutional rights guaranteed to the citizens of Pakistan and that, in any case, civilians should not be tried under the Army Act when ordinary courts are open and functioning.

It is noteworthy that the petitioners are not seeking any legal relief for the suspects: simply that they be tried in ordinary courts instead of military ones. It will be interesting to hear the counter-arguments from the attorney general of Pakistan, who will be defending the armed forces' demand, endorsed by the government, that all suspects be court-martialled. The SC has said it intends to keep its hearings short and wrap up the case as soon as possible. The matter may well prove a watershed for Pakistan's judicial history. At hand is the question of what jurisdiction military laws and courts have within the Pakistani legal and judicial system. For years, the lines have been blurred, leading to some grave miscarriages of justice. With the country going through a transformative period, now may be a good time to set fixed boundaries. May the law prevail.



Rashad Bukhari

The world is divided into two spheres, i.e. the 'House of Peace', which includes countries running their governance systems according to Islamic principles, and the 'House of War', where Muslims do not enjoy peace and security or are not free to practise their religion. This argument commonly used by extremists does not justify terrorism on any grounds. Those who back this opinion as a cover to commit acts of terror today are neither aware of its history nor the geopolitical context in which it emerged.

The two terms were first used by the eighteenth-century imam and jurist, Abu Hanifa. He had defined the House of Peace and House of War in the context of the political divisions of that time. These concepts had not been drawn from the Quran or hadith. For example, in response to the Mongol invasions of Muslim lands, 14th-century Islamic scholar Ibn Taymiyyah also used these terms to justify the use of force against the unjust and authoritarian rule of leaders if their aim was to re-establish a system of law based on Islamic principles. Against this backdrop, linking Islam with the informal decrees of that time does not qualify these concepts being used in today's circumstances.

Interestingly, the people claiming to perform acts of terrorism today in the name of Islam don't even consider Muslim-majority countries as being in the

War or peace

House of Peace. According to them, since such countries do not fully implement Islamic laws, they do not fall in the category of the House of Peace. For them, the whole world is a House of War, thus they justify the killing of individuals in blatant disregard of Islamic principles. On the contrary, Islam clearly rejects the unlawful killing of civilians. The Quran says: "... If anyone kills a person — unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land — it is as if he kills all mankind" (5:32).

Muslim combatants cannot target or harm non-combatants. Caliph Abu Bakr Siddique is reported to have ordered his army in very clear terms: "Do not practise treachery or mutilation. Do not kill a young child, an old man, or a woman. Do not uproot or burn palms or cut down fruitful trees. Do not slaughter a sheep or a cow or a camel, except for food."

The Islamic view of international law, as defined by many Islamic jurists, puts nations into five categories, and governs behaviour towards each. In the first category fall Muslim-majority countries with Muslim rulers, considered part of the House of Peace, whether or not Islamic laws are implemented domestically. Nations with which these Muslim-majority countries engage in a temporary peace treaty fall into the second category, the 'House of Truce'. Their status is equal to those in the House of Peace, as long as a treaty is intact.

The third category, the 'House of Promise', includes countries with which there is a permanent peace treaty. The fourth category includes countries that are neither allies nor enemies. They are also subject to the treatment of nations in

the House of Peace — including the rights to life, property, honour, and freedom for all, regardless of religion, language, or race.

The fifth and last category is the 'House of War'. It applies to states with which there is no peace treaty, which is currently at war with Muslim-majority states, and/or in which Muslims are unsafe. Some argue that this permits individual Muslims to use violence against these states or their inhabitants. Yet when it comes to nations in the House of War, there are rules of conduct.

In the Islamic view, no individual or group can declare war under any pretext. It is solely the prerogative of the state authority and only a last resort when all other options to restore peace fail. Islamic scholars need to take the responsibility to explain religious teachings and narratives contextualising modern thinking patterns and the challenges to states and societies in the form of extremism, violent extremism, and terrorism.

There is still light at the end of the tunnel that the tide of extremism can be controlled. The vulnerable youth, who are more prone to extremist rhetoric, have the religious justification to stand up to those falsely claiming to speak on behalf of Islam and restore its image as a peaceful religion. In this regard, the role of our policymakers is also more important since it is time to make legislation in the new context and implement the National Action Plan in letter and spirit. In fact, a fresh wake-up call to the nation to deal with this newly emerged wave of extremism, hidden in the garb of political activism, is the need of the hour. -- Courtesy Dawn

Promoting Inter-Provincial Harmony between Balochistan and Other Provinces

By Mehmood Ali

Inter-provincial harmony is a crucial aspect of fostering a united and progressive nation. In the context of Pakistan, Balochistan stands as a province rich in cultural diversity and untapped potential. However, it is imperative to acknowledge that true progress lies not in isolation but in the interconnectivity and collaboration among all the provinces. Promoting inter-provincial harmony, particularly between Balochistan and other regions is vital for fostering national unity, achieving sustainable development, and unleashing the full potential of this remarkable province.

Throughout history, divisions among provinces have hindered the realization of a united and harmonious Pakistan. Balochistan, with its unique geography and the distinct culture, has often faced challenges in bridging gaps with other provinces. It is time to break free from these historical constraints and recognize the immense value that Balochistan brings to the national fabric.

Cultural exchange and understanding are fundamental pillars in promoting inter-provincial harmony. Balochistan boasts a rich heritage, encompassing vibrant traditions, languages, and art forms. By actively engaging in cultural exchanges and promoting the diverse cultural expressions of

Balochistan, we can bridge the gap of misunderstanding and get a sense of unity among all provinces.

Meanwhile, Balochistan is blessed with abundant natural resources, including minerals, gas and oil. However, the potential for economic development and prosperity can only be fully realized through collaborative efforts with other provinces. By encouraging investments and advancing partnerships between Balochistan and other provinces, we can leverage the collective strengths and resources, leading to sustainable economic growth and improved living standards for all citizens.

Moreover, connectivity plays a pivotal role in promoting inter-provincial harmony. Balochistan's strategic location makes it a gateway for regional connectivity and trade. Investments in transportation infrastructure, such as highways, railways and ports can enhance connectivity between Balochistan and other provinces, it will help in facilitating the movement of goods, services and public transport sector. These infrastructure developments will not only boost economic activities but also create opportunities for cultural exchange and social interaction, advancing a sense of togetherness.

Furthermore, education acts as a

powerful tool for building bridges and breaking down barriers. Balochistan has made significant strides in improving access to education but more can be done. By prioritizing quality education and knowledge sharing programs, we can empower the youth of Balochistan to compete on national and international level. Exchange programs, scholarships, and collaborations between educational institutions across provinces can cultivate a spirit of unity and create a platform for shared learning and growth.

Promoting inter-provincial harmony and building bridges between Balochistan and other provinces is an essential step towards a more united and prosperous Pakistan. It requires collective efforts from both the government and the citizens to enhance cultural understanding, encourage economic collaboration, develop vital infrastructure and invest in education and knowledge sharing. Only through such initiatives can we unlock the immense potential of Balochistan and ensure that its unique contributions are fully integrated into the fabric of our nation.

By embracing diversity and strengthening the bonds of inter-provincial harmony, we pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for Pakistan.

Commerce News

Pakistan, Germany agree to enhance cooperation in trade, investment

Pakistan also keen to benefit from Brazilian experience in agriculture sector

PARIS (APP): Pakistan and Germany on Friday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in multiple fields including trade, investment and energy.

The bilateral ties were discussed in the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, on the sidelines of New Global Financing Pact Summit held here.

The prime minister thanked Germany for its support to the flood-hit people of Pakistan, besides providing an economic support of 163 million euros to the country.

The prime minister said that the additional 27 million euros for Benazir Income Support Program were spent for the assistance to the flood victims and provision of food to them. Lauding the development model of Germany, the prime minister said the progress achieved by the country was an inspiration for the developing countries. I am personally impressed by the development of Germany as a country and the hard work and resilience of the German nation, he added.

Shehbaz expressed the hope that Germany would raise the voice of developing world on the issues like climate change and financial stress. He said that releasing the economic burden from the developing states would help uplifting their people. The prime minister appreciated the services of German firms and NGOs operating in Pakistan. Expressing his pleasure to meet the prime minister, the German chancellor conveyed good wishes for the government and people of Pakistan.



PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif meets the President of Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

Symposium on corporate supervision, regulatory actions begins

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is hosting the Symposium on Corporate Supervision and Regulatory Actions on June 23-24.

The first day of the symposium saw notable members of the judiciary take the stage and address key challenges and opportunities pertaining to the corporate sector of Pakistan, said a press release issued here. SECP Chairman Akif

Saeed, in his welcome address, said, "We aim to build a strong and growing corporate sector that is attractive to both domestic and foreign investors, ensuring economic stability and prosperity for our nation". He added, "In this crucial mission, we are fortunate to be assisted by our esteemed partners at the World Bank, and we express our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable support in creating a conducive corporate environment in Pakistan".

CDNS set target of Rs 70b in Islamic FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 70 billion rupees in Islamic finance year 2023-24.

The aim was to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday. The senior official said, "Work on Islamic finance is still

needed in Pakistan." He said, "At present, work is being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations are being introduced." He said, "At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users." The official said, "CDNS will now provide facilities to its customers as a complete bank." Replying to another query, he said CDNS had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market.

WAPDA, UAE firm sign two MoU

ISLAMABAD (Online): WAPDA signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Private Office of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum of United Arab Emirates today.

The MoU were signed by Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) and His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum on behalf of their organizations.

The first MoU is aimed at establishing a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the Private Office of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum and WAPDA to explore investment opportunities for WAPDA's small hydel power stations including 1MW-Renala, 22 MW-Rasul, 13.2 MW-Chichokimalian and 13.8 MW-Nandipur.

The second MoU is related to exploring investment opportunities in energy sector of Pakistan, specifically for development of floating solar power project on water reservoirs and water bodies of the existing hydel power stations.

PM Sharif approves establishment of HAZECO: Murtaza

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Friday said that the approval of the establishment of Hazara Electric Supply Company (HAZECO) by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is a great decision to facilitate the masses of the region.

He expressed these views in a press statement after the approval of HAZECO.

The minister further said that the approval of the HAZECO also fulfills the longstanding demand of millions of consumers in the Hazara Division, which we have successfully materialized and fulfilled our promise. Murtaza

Abbasi said that the approval of the Board of Directors of Hazara Electric Supply Company will be circulated through a summary from the federal cabinet. He said that the establishment of HAZECO was approved during the tenure of the previous PML-N government, however, it was unnecessarily frozen during the PTI government.

Now the establishment of Hazara Electric Supply Company has been implemented to improve PESCO's performance, enhance consumer convenience and minimize load shedding, adding the minister said.



ATLANTA: Ambassador Masood Khan speaking at an event, titled "Pakistan Ambassador Briefing: Growing Trade and Investment with Georgia" jointly organized Global Atlanta, World Affairs Council Atlanta and Miller and Martin PLLC.

Weekly inflation increases by 0.33pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.33 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on June 22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 256.00 points as compared to 255.17 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 34.05 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.52 per cent and went up to 263.03 points from last week's 261.66 points whereas it also increased by 0.53 per cent for the consumption group from Rs 17,732-22,888.

Edible oil, ghee output grew 4.97pc & 16.72pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of edible oil and vegetable in the country during 10 months of the current financial year grew by 4.97 per cent and 16.72 per cent respectively as compared to the production of the same period last year.

During the period from July 2022 to April 2023, about 458,231 metric tons of cooking oil were

manufactured as compared to the manufacturing of 411,710 metric tons in the same period last year, said the data of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics released on Friday.

Over 1.268 million metric tons of vegetable ghee was also produced in order to tackle with local requirements in the last 10 months of the current financial year.

Gold prices decline by Rs 1,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,500 and was sold at Rs 217,500 on Friday against its sale at Rs 218,500 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,285 to Rs 186,043 from Rs 187,328 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 170,539 from Rs 171,718, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet in Islamabad.

Operation against dacoits: CM visits Katcha area to boost police morale

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Katcha Area in Rahim Yar Khan in order to boost the morale of police officers and jawans taking part in the ongoing operation against dacoit gangs.

He visited various 'mauzas' and deep katcha areas, which are being cleared from dacoit gangs and met the police jawans deployed at the front line bunkers. He appreciated the spirit of police jawans taking part in the operation in severe hot weather, said

a handout issued here. Mohsin Naqvi, Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Anwar, Additional IGP South Punjab and other police officers took their meal with the police jawans, listened to their problems and promised solving their problems. Mohsin Naqvi met students getting education in schools and inquired from them about their educational activities. He also distributed prizes among students in the school, established in the Katcha area. The CM inquired



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to participants of 33rd Senior Management Course during their study visit to Governor House.

Rs 104.292m assistance provided to families of Lahore police officials

LAHORE (APP): More than Rs 104.292 million were given to families of Lahore police officials through a range of assistance programmes during the current year.

In a statement, issued here on Friday, spokesman for the Lahore police highlighted the department's welfare-oriented initiatives and added that under the Shaheed package,

Hyderabad police arrested police constable for smuggling contraband items

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad police have arrested a police constable of Benazirabad district police and a private person in the act of smuggling a huge quantity of raw material used for preparing the banned item Manipuri as well as 2 kilograms of hashish. The police spokesman informed here on Friday that the Hatri police stopped a Toyota Parado in which the police constable Owais Channa.

Minister for swift progress on electric buses project

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Transport Ibrahim Hassan Murad on Friday directed that the project of electric buses should be progressed swiftly saying the eco-friendly transport would help protecting environment besides providing latest commuting facility.

During his visit to the Transport House, he directed that the mechanism of vehicle fitness certificate should be made more effective. He said fitness of government vehicles should also be monitored. The minister said he would request the caretaker CM about the electric-buses project. Ibrahim Murad said that the officers of the Transport department should travel occasionally on mass transport so that they could find out the grievances of the citizens regarding public transport.

Six dead, 1,252 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least six people were killed and 1,252 others were injured in 1,237 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 670 serious injured were shifted to different hospitals, while 582 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

Barrister Feroze says: All efforts will be made to solve problems of CPNE

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa committee meeting was held on Friday in a local hotel in Peshawar under the chairmanship of Caretaker Minister for Information and Awaqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhil. In the meeting, Secretary Information and Public Relations Mukhtiar Ahmed, Director General Information and Public Relations Basir Ali

Rehman Khan, President CPNE Irshad Ahmed Arif, General Secretary Ijazul Haq, Vice President Tahir Farooq, Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Committee FCPNE Rahatullah, Qaiser Rizvi, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Wazirzada, Mumtaz Sadiq, Arshad Khan, Jamshed Baghwan, Rashid Iqbal, Amjad Aziz Malik, Zahir Shah Shirazi, Salman Khan, Nauman Khan, Sardar Naem, Maqsood Khan, Mumtaz Bangash, Najeebullah, and Aitzaz Hussain Shah and others participated.



PESHAWAR: Members of Pakistan Railway Traffic Yard Staff are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Peshawar press club.

Minister orders maximum facilities to patients at govt hospitals

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram has said that maximum facilities should be provided to patients at the public sector hospitals as these hospitals were being run with citizens' tax money.

During his visit to Sir Gangaram Hospital on Friday, he said emergency conditions of hospital were slightly better. "I am visiting the government hospitals across the province on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi," he added.

ANF seizes 305 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 305 kg charras and arrested 12 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that in an operation near M-1 Toll Plaza, Islamabad, ANF recovered 72 kg opium and 61.2 kg charras from a vehicle. Two accused including a woman resident of Sheikhupura were arrested during the operation. In another operation near T-Chowk Islamabad, 2.4 kg opium was seized while two accused residents of Rawalpindi were netted.

Blistering heat wave faint Women at BISP centre Muzaffargarh

ISLAMABAD (Online): Several women in Muzaffargarh, Punjab reportedly lost their consciousness as Mercury crossed 40C in funds distribution centre of Benazir Income Support Program, officials said on Friday. Station House Officers (SHO) of Muzaffargarh told that he saw few women during his routine visit of various sites, who had fainted at distribution centre established at a government elementary school.

A video also showed SHO fanning women who collapsed. SHO told that he immediately called medical aid. According to AccuWeather.com, the temperature in the city was recorded to be 38 degrees Celsius at around 11:45am. A press release issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) a day ago warns that "prevailing heat wave conditions are likely to subside from June 25". It states, "Moist currents are penetrating in upper and central parts of the country from Arabian Sea and a westerly wave is likely to enter in upper parts of the country on June 25". The advisory further forecasts "pre-monsoon rains with dust thunderstorm predicted in upper and central parts from June 25-30 with occasional gaps".

International News

West Bank violence could spiral 'out of control': UN

Monitoring Desk
WEST BANK: The new outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank could spiral out of control, the UN human rights chief warned on Friday. This week, at least 18 people have been killed in the territory — in incursions by the Israeli military or attacks by Palestinians or Jewish settlers. "These latest killings and the violence, along with the inflammatory rhetoric, serve only to drive Israelis and Palestinians deeper into an abyss," Volker Turk said in a statement.

So far this year, more than 200 people have died in violence linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the vast majority of them Palestinians. Deadly violence has flared in recent days in the northern West Bank, a stronghold of Palestinian armed groups where Israel has stepped up military operations. Turk said this week's violence was being fuelled by strident political rhetoric and an escalation in the use of advanced military weaponry by Israel.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said the sharp deterioration was having a terrible impact on both Palestinians and Israelis and called for an immediate end to the violence. He said international human rights law required Israeli authorities to ensure all operations are planned and implemented to prevent lethal force. Every death caused in such a context requires an effective investigation, he added. "Israel must urgently reset its policies and actions in the occupied West Bank in line with international human rights standards, including protecting and respecting the right to life," Turk said.



Premier Li urges China and Europe to 'rise above differences' at Paris summit.

South Korea, Vietnam to boost work on North Korea nuclear threat

Monitoring Desk
HANOI: South Korea and Vietnam agreed on Friday to boost security cooperation, citing North Korea's nuclear threat, and committed to increasing bilateral trade and investment despite a slump this year and Vietnam's planned tax hikes on large firms.

In his first visit to Vietnam as president, South Korea leader Yoon Suk Yeol acknowledged economic woes but reiterated Vietnam's key role for Seoul's growth strategy. He signed 17 agreements with Vietnam's President Vo Van Thuong on a number of issues, from critical minerals to Vietnamese workers in Korea, and said Seoul would step up cooperation with Vietnam against North Korea's nuclear

threat. Vietnam is one of few countries which can boast close relations with Pyongyang. Vietnam "is ready to participate in the process of denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula", Thuong said in a joint press conference. The two nations also agreed to boost defence industry relations and security cooperation in the South China Sea. South Korea is one of many countries discussing possible arms sales to Vietnam as it seeks to modernise its arsenal. Korea and Vietnam over the last few decades have developed almost symbiotic industrial ties, with South Korea being the largest foreign investor in Vietnam. Seoul also enjoys the highest level of diplomatic relations with Hanoi, together with

Biden says he sees 'no real consequence' to calling Xi a 'dictator'

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden said the blowback over his calling President Xi Jinping of China a "dictator" would not undermine recent diplomatic progress between Washington and Beijing. "The answer to your question is no," Biden said during a White House news conference on Thursday when asked if his comments were damaging to U.S.-China relations, dismissing the riff as "an incident that caused some confusion."

"I don't think it's had any real consequence," Biden added. The president said he expects to meet with Xi "in the near term." Earlier Thursday, the Chinese Embassy said the country's ambassador to the U.S., Xie Feng, had made "strong protests" to senior White House and State Department officials. In a statement, Chinese Embassy spokesperson Liu Pengyu called the remarks "erroneous, absurd and irresponsible," and warned that the Chinese government "does not accept any political provocation against China's top leader and will resolutely respond." Biden's "dictator" remarks came Tuesday during a campaign fundraiser in California, suggesting China's leader was embarrassed because he did not know about the alleged Chinese spy balloon that had traversed the U.S. in February.

19 dead, thousands seek shelter in South Asia monsoon floods

Monitoring Desk
KATHMANDU: At least 19 people are dead after floods triggered by South Asia's annual monsoon, with a week of relentless rains forcing thousands of people to seek shelter in India.

Floods are common and cause widespread devastation during the treacherous monsoon season, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency, ferocity and unpredictability. The toll from flooding and landslides last weekend in Nepal had risen to 14 by Friday, with more than two dozen still missing, according to officials. "Search and rescue teams are still on the ground," Dhruva Bahadur Khadka, a spokesman for the country's national disaster authority, told AFP on Friday. Four others were killed after flooding in landslides in India's remote Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh near the Chinese border, disaster management authorities there said Thursday.

Chinese authorities focus on fire hazards after restaurant blast

Monitoring Desk
SHANGHAI: China's State Council Security Committee and municipal and provincial governments have held emergency video conferences and issued warnings about fire hazards and safety after a blast in the northwest that killed 31 people on Wednesday. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism issued an emergency circular, urging all localities to investigate "hidden dangers" and strengthen supervision and inspection.

Obama warns India risks 'pulling apart' without minority rights

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Former US president Barack Obama said on Thursday that India risks "pulling apart" if the Muslim minority is not respected, calling for the issue to be raised with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Obama spoke in a CNN interview as President Joe Biden welcomed the Hindu nationalist prime minister for a state visit and gently spoke of the importance of "religious pluralism". On a visit to Greece, where he is holding a weeklong session for emerging global leaders, Obama said that addressing human rights with allies was always "complicated."

Three killed in Russian attacks in southern Ukraine - local officials

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: At least three people were killed in Russian attacks in southern Ukraine on Friday, including two who died after a trolleybus company came under fire in the city of Kherson, regional officials said. Oleksandr Prokudin, the governor of the Kherson region, said two men aged 55 and 43 were killed by "targeted fire".

UN puts Russian forces on blacklist for killing children & attacking schools in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations put Russian forces on its annual blacklist of countries that violate children's rights in conflict for killing boys and girls and attacking schools and hospitals in Ukraine, according to a new report seen Thursday by The Associated Press. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the report to the Security Council that he is "appalled" by the high number of "grave violations" against children in Ukraine in 2022, "shocked" at the number of attacks on schools and hospitals, "concerned" by the detention of children, and "troubled" that some Ukrainian children have been transferred to Russia.

The U.N. chief did not put Israel on the blacklist for grave violations against 1,139 Palestinian children, including 54 killings last year — as supporters had hoped. Instead, he welcomed Israel's engagement with the U.N. special envoy for children in armed conflict, Virginia Gamba and its "identification of practical measures including those proposed by the U.N." to protect children. Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, told reporters Guterres "made a big mistake" in not listing the most extreme government in Israel's history. "It is very disappointing to the Palestinian people and to the Palestinian children," he said. In the wide-ranging report, the secretary-general said that last year children were disproportionately affected by conflict. He said the U.N. verified grave violations against 13,469 children, including 2,985 who were killed, in 24 countries and one region. "Grave violations" include the recruitment and use of youngsters by combatants, killings and injuries, sexual violence, abductions, and attacks on schools and hospitals.



Storms and heavy rain flood roads, block railway lines in Germany.

India deflecting attention from brutal repression of Kashmiri people: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): India habitually used terrorism bogey to deflect attention from its brutal repression of Kashmiri people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and maltreatment of its minorities, said Foreign Office Spokesperson here on Friday.

Responding to media queries regarding the US-India Joint Statement of June 22, 2023, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said: "We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the 'Joint Statement from the United States and India', issued on June 22, 2023, as unwarranted, one-sided, and misleading. The reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones. We are surprised that it has been added despite Pakistan's close counter-terrorism cooperation with the US."

She said, "Pakistan has rendered unmatched sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. In laying down their lives, our law enforcement agencies and armed forces have set an example. People of Pakistan are the real heroes in this fight."

"The international community has time and again recognized Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. It has long concluded that terrorism can be defeated through concerted and co-operative actions. Today, we fail to see how the assertions made in the Joint Statement could strengthen the international resolve to fight terrorism. The statement shows that the cooperative spirit, so vitally needed to defeat the scourge of terrorism, has been sacrificed at the altar of geopolitical considerations," she continued.

"In addition to being a

state-sponsor of terrorism, India habitually uses terrorism bogey to deflect attention from its brutal repression of Kashmiri people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and maltreatment of its minorities. It is thus completely ill-placed to cast any aspersions on Pakistan and its fight against terrorism." The Spokesperson said, "Ironically, the Joint Statement fails to address the key sources of tension and instability in the region and to take cognizance of the grave human rights situation in the IIOJK. This is tantamount to abdication of international responsibility."

Pakistan was also deeply concerned over the planned transfer of advanced military technologies to India, she noted adding such steps were accentuating military imbalance in the region and undermining strategic stability.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo, paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM urges expatriates to expose anti-Pakistan propaganda, condemn May 9 arson

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the overseas Pakistanis to play their role to expose the anti-Pakistan propaganda in their respective countries, besides condemning the arson that took place on May 9.

The prime minister, in an interaction with the representatives of the Pakistani community in France as well as the Pakistan Business Forum, told the expatriates that the arsonists of May 9 were spreading lies to instigate the people abroad.

The prime minister is visiting Paris to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit hosted by France.

He said the overseas Pakistanis were Pakistan's ambassadors and an asset, and that their services for the country's development were laudable.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the community members that through its tough economic decisions, the incumbent government saved the country from default.

During the last four years, the economy was pushed to the verge of collapse, and unemployment and inflation were at their peaks, he added.

The prime minister said that having inherited an isolated Pakistan on the diplomatic fronts, his govern-

ment made constant efforts throughout the year to revive foreign relations.

He said the recently unveiled Economic Revival Plan would prove to be a milestone to restore Pakistan's economic position and that a Special Investment Facilitation Council had been established to remove impediments to investment. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that only economic sovereignty and stability could guarantee a safe future for Pakistan.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi also attended the meeting.



PARIS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets President of the EU Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit.

Islamabad High Court Asad Umer, SM Qureshi gets bails in May 09 Case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umer in cases of May 09 incident.

It is important to mention that angry protesters attacked sensitive military, state installations after PTI chief arrest in corruption charges.

The violent attacks were followed by a serious crackdown on the PTI whereby several party leaders and workers were arrested and slapped with cases of inciting violence and spreading unrest.

Qureshi and Umar had emerged as two key leaders who had opted not to part ways with the party after their key release from custody, unlike a major chunk of their former colleagues that have denounced their

party memberships.

Nonetheless, following his release from jail last month, Umar stepped down from his role as PTI secretary general.

The two leaders had appeared before an additional sessions judge earlier this week in connection with a case registered against them over arson and vandalism of state and public property.

After the local court had denied them bail, both leaders were seen fleeing court premises in a desperate attempt to avoid their arrest.

Still concerned about their possible arrest, Qureshi and Umar approached the IHC seeking bail.

The high court's Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir presided over the proceedings today.

Pakistan desires close ties with Afghanistan: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan Asif Durrani called on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here on Friday and discussed matters of mutual respect.

They reviewed the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's desire to build close co-operative relations with Kabul.

Kashmir Cultural Night on June 24

KARACHI (APP): The Arts Council of Pakistan (ACP)-Karachi in collaboration with Welfare Organization will organize a Kashmir Cultural Night season 4 at its open-air theatre at 7 p.m. on June 24.

OSPs can play key role to pull country out of economic crisis: Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the overseas Pakistanis can play a significant role to pull the country out of the prevailing crisis.

This was stated by him while speaking during a reception organized by him in honour of consul generals' of various countries in Karachi.

Kamran Tessori said this

was high time for all countrymen living abroad to come forward for playing key role to tackle the economic crisis confronted by the country.

The Governor Sindh further stated that overseas Pakistanis through their remittance can not only stabilize their families, their native areas but also the national economy.

PM, President EUC discuss bilateral coop in diverse areas

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen here on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit. The Prime Minister thanked the President of the Commission for her participation in the Resilient Pakistan Conference held in Geneva on 9 January this year. He conveyed Pakistan's commitment to continue working in close collaboration with European institutions.

President for enhancing economic, cultural coop. with Korea, Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday called for further promoting bilateral economic, trade and cultural cooperation with the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka to further cement bilateral ties.

The president expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo, and the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Vice Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama, who made separate calls on him here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its multidimensional relationship with Korea, which involved collaborations in various fields such as political, economic, scientific, cultural and people-to-people relations.

He highlighted that Pakistan was open for business and investment for all its friends and partners, and would especially welcome Korean investment in various sectors.

He stated that Pakistan wanted to increase cooperation with Korea, particularly in the areas of Information Technology and Agriculture. The president also called for further promoting cultural cooperation

with Korea, adding that Pakistan offered some of the most exotic mountaineering and religious tourism sites and would welcome tourists from Korea to visit Buddhist sites.

He remarked that Pakistan was home to the Gandhara Civilization and some of the most sacred relics in Buddhism, which could be a source of attraction for Korean tourists.

Talking to the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its long-standing friendship and co-operative ties with Sri Lanka, which was its second-largest trading partner in South Asia.

He added that Pakistan wanted to further expand economic cooperation and trade relations with Sri Lanka under the Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.

He stated that both countries should explore ways to rejuvenate SAARC and work together to fight poverty and promote peace, economic growth, and development for the benefit of the entire region.

He also recalled Pakistan and Sri Lanka's support for each other at the UN and other international bodies and expressed the hope that this cooperation would continue at international fora.

He highlighted that Pakistan was open for business and investment for all its friends and partners, and would especially welcome Korean investment in various sectors.

He stated that Pakistan wanted to increase cooperation with Korea, particularly in the areas of Information Technology and Agriculture. The president also called for further promoting cultural cooperation



LAHORE: Chief Organizer of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz posing for a group photograph along with the Leadership of National Party.

SC adjourns petitions regarding May 9 riots accused till Monday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned the hearing of the petitions pertaining to trial of May 9 riots accused in military courts till June 26 (Monday).

A seven-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhter, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik heard the petitions.

At the outset of hearing, the chief justice remarked that it was a wrong perception that a civilian could never be tried in army court. A civilian could be tried in army courts if he was accused of instigating army personnel against institution for sedition.

He, however, said the procedure adopted to bring the accused of May 9 inci-

dents in the jurisdiction of army courts would have to be viewed. It would also be viewed that on which grounds the anti-terrorism courts allowed to shift the trials, he added.

The chief justice observed that it was understood that the institution would identify the crimes under the Official Secret Act and it could file the request to the ATCs for the custody of civilian accused.

CJP Bandial said harassing the legal fraternity was not legal and also asked the Attorney General for Pakistan that what was the policy of government about journalists. He asked the AGP to contact the acting provincial governments and took their stance about the lawyers and journalists.

The role of lawyers and journalists was essential for the self-confidence of the society, he added.

Mayor HMC holds meeting with officials of SSWMB

HYDERABAD (APP): The Mayor of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) Kashif Ali Shoro held a meeting with the officers of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) and the private contractor Atlas Pak here on Friday at the HDA Secretariat.

The meeting discussed arrangements for disposing of the offals of sacrificial animals during Eidul Azha.

The mayor said the elected local government representatives would also coordinate with the staff of the board and Atlas Pak during the exercise of disposing of animal offals during the Eid holidays.

He assured that the representatives would also convince the people to throw the offal at a particu-

lar dumping point in each neighbourhood.

Shoro asked the board and the private contractor to distribute large plastic bags in the neighbourhoods so that the people might throw the offals after packing them in those bags.

The Mayor directed the Director Health of the HMC to ensure that all drains were timely desilted.

Shoro said he would personally visit all the areas of the city to check that the cleanliness was being maintained by timely removal of the offals.

The SSWMB's Executive Director Nisar Ahmed Soomro, Director Ali Raza Khero, Deputy Director Syed Zulfiqar and Atlas Pak's General Managers Fahim Aiwan and Virasat Waris and Mateen Takim attended the meeting.

Light rain likely to persist in city

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Friday predicted very hot and humid weather with dust-raising winds in the afternoon for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, drizzle is predicted in the coastal areas including Karachi.

PIA concludes pre-Hajj operations

KARACHI (INP): The pre-Hajj operations scheduled to take place from Karachi to Jeddah conducted by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was successfully concluded last night, marking an important milestone in facilitating pilgrims.

According to the details, a significant number of 61,467 pilgrims has been facilitated through a total of 268 flights.



KARACHI: Former Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court Dr. Agha Rafiq Ahmed Khan meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori in Governor House.

Commissioner chairs meeting regarding arrangement for cleanliness

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Muhammad Abbas Baloch chaired a meeting to overview the arrangement for better cleanliness situation throughout the division, at Eidgahs and cattle pans.

IG Police Muhammad Younus Chandio, Additional Commissioner-II Fayaz Hussain Rahujo and Deputy Commissioner SBA Shaheryar Gul Memon attended the meeting while DC Sanghar Muhammad Ishaque Gad and DC Naushehro Feroze participated through video link.

Addressing the meeting Commissioner said that the sanitation situation of Eidgahs, Cattle markets and

cities should be improved throughout the division on the occasion of Eid ul Azha.

He said that staff concerned shall be made bound to shift the remains of sacrificial animals out of the city on all three days of Eid.

Commissioner instructed all three Deputy Commissioners for strict implementation of SOPs issued for the collection of hides of sacrificial animals and steps to be taken for the cleanliness of Eidgahs and cattle markets.

DIG Police informed the meeting that a security plan has been prepared for Eidul Azha, which would be strictly implemented under the SOPs issued by Sindh Government.

Syed Sajjad Ali Shah appointed as Director PMN

HYDERABAD (APP): The Managing Director Sustainable Action to Access Financial Capital Opportunities (SAFCO) Syed Sajjad Ali Shah has been appointed as the Member Governing Body and Director of Pakistan Micro Finance Network for a period of three years.

According to a press release issued here on Friday, a ceremony has been arranged in honor of Syed Sajjad Ali Shah where addressing the participants, the founder SAFCO Suleman G. Abro termed the appointment of Syed Sajjad Ali Shah as Member Governing Body and Director PMN as recognition of the success and services of SAFCO.

8,156 cops deployed in 9 districts of Hyderabad: DIG

HYDERABAD (APP): The DIG Hyderabad Peer Muhammad Shah has said some 8,156 cops would be deployed in 9 districts of Hyderabad Police Range to perform the duty during Eidul Azha.

The police spokesman informed here on Friday quoting the DIG that instruction had been issued to all the 9 SSPs in the Range to arrange fail safe security during the Eidul Azha holidays and Eid Namaz.

He directed that pickets should be set up along the roads connecting the cities and towns with the

markets of the sacrificial animals. The DIG emphasized that the Sindh government guidelines for the collection of the skin hides should be strictly implemented and only the approved collection points should be allowed to function.

The DIG also asked the officers to make special security arrangements at the shopping markets that a large number of people visit before Eid.

He said adequate security arrangements should also be made at all the recreational places in the Hyderabad Range.

Sindh announces head money for six hardened criminals

KARACHI (INP): Sindh home department has issued a list of six hardened criminals with bounties on their heads on Friday. Head money was announced for six wanted criminals at the request of the Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC). According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Abdul Raheem Sheerazi, the provincial government has announced a Rs6 million bounty on the head of Kashif Abro aka Anwar Ali.

Rs5 million each have been announced as a prize for those who help in the arrest of Nazir Bhayo and Akbar Bhayo. Rs5 million.

ADC chairs meeting with board

HYDERABAD (APP): The Additional Deputy Commissioner Shakeel Ahmed Abro has said the District Traffic Management Board has played an important role in easing the problems of traffic in the city but more needed to be done in this regard.

Chairing a meeting of the board in Shahbaz Building here on Friday the Additional DC emphasized the need of taking action against all forms of obstructions in the flow of traffic on a daily basis.

Abro said the soft encroachment, wrong parking and the electric poles which were wrongly placed on the roads all contributed to the traffic congestion.

He added that the traf-

fic police and the staff of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) should take action against such obstructions as routine work. The Additional DC asked the concerned officers to expedite the work of arranging separate parking for the vehicles outside Qadam Gah Moulai Ali (RA) and outside the shrine of Sakhi Abdul Wahab Shah Gillani (RA).

The officials of the police, HMC, Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Excise, Provincial Highways, Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), Anti Encroachment Cell and representatives of the business community and the civil society attended the meeting.

DC for ensuring cleanliness on Eid-ul-Azha

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Khairpur, Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa Friday directed the officials concerned to undertake effective planning and coordinated steps to be taken for security and cleanliness on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

He was chairing a meeting at Darbar Hall here on Friday to review the arrangements for cleanliness as well as the maintenance of Law and Order during Eid.

The DC asked assistant commissioners (ACs),

concerned, officers of town committees and municipal committees to set up an emergency room to receive complaints, at their respective tehsils to ensure cleanliness.

He directed the health department to assign emergency duties to the medical and paramedical staff in hospitals during the Eid holidays.

The meeting was attended among others by assistant commissioners of all tehsils of the district, and officers of municipal and town committees.



KARACHI: Aga Khan University Medicine Professor, Dr. S.M Wasim Jafri delivering a lecture on Health Related Issues on Eid-ul-Azha held at Seminar room of the Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD) University of Karachi.