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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

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.

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.

In his remarks, Premier Li said the Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of the two nations.

He added that as a close neighbour and iron-brother, Pakistan occupied a special position in China's neighbourhood diplomacy and that China would continue its efforts for safeguarding Pakistan's core interests and for the economic development and prosperity of its people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and Premier Li Qiang agreed to continue the momentum of high level exchanges between Pakistan and China.

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PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang on the sidelines of the New Global Financial Pact Summit



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

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 its 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.

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102 people in army's custody, AGP tells SC

No journalist, minor, woman and lawyer under custody of Army in connection with the incidents of May 9 and 10; Hearing adjourns till June 26

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 incidents 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.

AGP Mansoor Usman Awan said that no any accused was in the custody of Islamabad Police regarding the May 9 incidents, while four persons were in the custody of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police. About 41 persons were arrested in Punjab under MPO and 141 were taken in custody under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA).

A total of 81 women were arrested in Punjab, out of which 42 had been released, he added.

The AGP said 172 accused were in the judicial custody in Sindh, and 70 of them got bails. Some 117 persons were arrested in Sindh under 3-MPO and 102 were in army's custody. No woman, child, lawyer or journalist was in military custody in connection with the incidents of May 9 and 10, he added.

Mansoor Awan said the Federal Government had a clear stance that no journalist or lawyer would be arrested for May 9 riots and no action would be taken against any innocent person too.

The CJP remarked that the court would neither take a suo-motu action nor it would pass a judicial order but it was noting everything.

Earlier, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan observed that a reference could be sent to the Federal Government if the custody of a civilian was required to the institution as per law and then former would take a decision in the matter.

He said the top court had declared in the 21st Constitutional Amendment case that army courts were set up for certain circumstances like war situation.

Ready to sign charter of economy, says Zardari

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 manufacturers 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."

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LAHORE: Chief Organizer of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz in a group photo with a delegation of National Party led by Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch

Expatriates are 'pride of Pakistan': Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said being a precious asset, the overseas Pakistanis were 'pride of Pakistan' as they were playing a major role in its economic development.

"It is the foremost priority of the government to resolve the issues of expatriates," the minister said in a meeting with members of Pakistani diaspora in France.

She extended gratitude to the Pakistani community for according a warm welcome to the Pakistani delegation on their arrival in Paris for a summit on New Global Financial Pact.

Marriyum said the journey of progress and development would continue in Pakistan under the visionary leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif.

GoB notifies public holidays on eve of Eid in Balochistan

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has notified public holidays on occasion of Eidul Azha in the province.

According to an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department, there would be three public holidays i.e., on June 28, 29 and 30, 2023 (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) in the offices observing five days working in a week and there would be four days public holidays i.e., on June 28 to July 1, 2023 (Wednesday to Saturday) for the offices observing six days working in a week.

Prominent among those participated in the conference were the former Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani and other dignitaries.

Call to take steps to reduce MMR: SOGP National Scientific Conference held with focus on women health issues

QUETTA: The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan (SOGP) National Scientific Conference was held with the focus on taking effective measures for prevention of the women health issues particularly reducing the maternal mortality ration in the country, here on Friday evening. While the chief guest of the conference was the Provincial Minister for Health, Syed Ehsan Shah, the Secretary Information, Hamza Shafiqat participated as the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the Provincial Health Minister appreciated the organizers for organizing the SOGP National Conference on such an important theme in Quetta.

The President SOGP, Professor Azizun Nisa Abbasi, the members of the SOGP and senior doctors and gynecologists from all over the country also participated in the scientific conference.

The senior gynecologist, Head of the gynecology department of Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital and Director College of Physician and Surgeons Balochistan, Professor Dr. Ayesha Siddiq and other senior gynecologists from Balochistan were also among the participants of the conference.

BA crucial budget session adjourned owing to issue of quorum

Independent Report
QUETTA: The crucial budget session of Balochistan Assembly was adjourned due to lack of quorum here on Friday.

The session was called at 11:00 AM on Friday, but it couldn't be started till 12:00 Noon. However, it was started after some time with Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail, but was to postpone due to the quorum issue soon after it resumed.

The JUI's MPA, Maulvi Noorullah pointed out towards the quorum. While the bells were rung for quite some time to call the members in the House, but to no avail.

And thus, the session was adjourned to meet at 02:00 PM on Saturday (today) again. As per the agenda, debate was scheduled on the budget in the Friday's session.

PML-N, NP express resolve to extend political cooperation

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief organizer Maryam Nawaz and the National Party (NP) on Friday declared their intention to extend their political collaboration.

A NP delegation led by former Balochistan chief minister Abdul Malik Baloch called on Maryam, during which the matters in line with the country's political situation were highlighted.

On this occasion, Maryam believed that her party placed a great value on Balochistan and its people. She lavished praise on PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying, "Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz has always worked in line with the progress of Balochistan. The Balochistan's progress is vital for the sake of the overall country's development."

Gwadar's over 15 mega projects under CPEC completed in one year

GWADAR (APP): The Gwadar's over 15 mega projects under the game changer China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been completed during the financial year of 2022-23 which would benefit the local masses of the port city.

The mega projects completed included a 300 MW coal power plant, 2000 boat engines, Khuzdar to Panjgur transmission line, Gwadar International Airport, Pak-China Technology Institute, Gwadr Hospital, Smart Port and certain other projects in the socio-economic domain have been completed in the outgoing fiscal year. The construction of a modern hospital in Gwadar would ensure the best healthcare facilities for the local people, said an official source on Friday.

Under the CPEC, multiple projects for the provision of clean water and its fair distribution in the coastal town of Gwadar have been also completed during the said period.

The Gwadar Development Authority has completed a project of installing a 158 kilometer long pipeline to supply water from nearby dams to the residents of Gwadar town.

Moreover, multiple projects including were also underway at full pace as planned in the Master Plan of Gwadar, it added.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Social Welfare Officers Association Javed Baloch meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki

Indian troops martyr four Kashmiri youth

SRINAGAR (Online): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred four Kashmiri youth in Kupwara district, Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The troops martyred the youth during a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Machil area of the district. The operation was going on till last reports came in.

Govt. earmarked Rs 2 bn for out of school children

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has earmarked Rs 2 billion for out-of-school children to devise a social security programme to provide financial assistance to the poor so that they send their children to schools.

The government has allocated the budget in the financial year 2023-24 to bring massive reforms in the education sector to educate maximum numbers of out-of-school children, an official of the Balochistan government told APP on Friday.

The government would also launch a school enrollment programme to get their children enrolled in schools for reducing the huge number of out-of-school children in the province, he added.

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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, ie 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 eighth-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 terrorism, 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, ie 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 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.

Prime Minister

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.

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 percent and 16.72 percent 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.



PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif meets the President of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), 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 Dalmoock 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 Dalmoock 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 Dalmoock 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 Rs17,732, 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.



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

after patients at the temporary dispensary and asked them about the treatment facilities. He announced establishment of a school and a hospital in the Katcha area and ordered establishment of a dispensary and a school after acquiring a house with the cooperation of local residents. Mohsin directed additional chief secretary South Punjab to take prompt measures for establishing a school and a hospital and stated that the people of Katcha area would be provided health and education facilities.



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

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.

During the departmental briefing, Transport Secretary Punjab Usman Ali Khan said that work on 11 development schemes of the Transport department was underway across Punjab.

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.

The analysis showed that 605 drivers, 38 underage drivers, 142 pedestrians, and 511 passengers were among the victims of the road crashes.

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 Auqaf, 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 Khan, Jamsheed Bagwan, FCPNE Rahatullah, Qaiser Rizvi, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Wazirzada, Mumtaz Sadiq, Arshad Khan, Jamsheed Bagwan, Rashid Iqbal, Amjad Aziz Malik, Zahir Shah Shirazi, Salman Khan, Nauman Khan, Sardar Naeem, Maqsood Khan, Mumtaz Bangash, Najeebullah, and Aitzaz Hussain Shah and others participated.

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,

residences have been provided to six martyrs' families. Additionally, an amount of Rs 10.741 million has been distributed among 52 families as group insurance, providing a sense of financial security. Furthermore, the spokesman said over Rs 12.037 million had been disbursed as the final salary payment to 206 families, ensuring their well-being and stability.

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 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.

Dr Javed said the Punjab cabinet was working with good intentions for betterment of people.

By pointing out shortcomings in the government hospitals, he added that better facilities for patients could be brought about in hospitals. He asked the medical superintendent (MS) to realise the responsibility and create facilities for patients. He said a patient should not face any problem in any government hospital of the province.

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 Sheikhpura 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".



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

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 ter-

rible 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 Korean 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

Russia, China and India. The leaders reiterated a goal of boosting bilateral trade, despite a slump so far this year driven by lower global demand for smartphones and other electronic goods that Korean firms assemble in Vietnam with many components shipped from Korea.

"Although the business environment is difficult in recent years, we must find new opportunities in Vietnam, which is the centre of global supply chain reorganisation and an emerging consumer market," Yoon said.

Bilateral trade has fallen by a quarter in the first five months of this year compared to the same period in 2022, with a nearly 30% drop in Vietnamese imports of South Korean products.

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."

"I think it is true that if the president meets with prime minister Modi, then the protection of the Muslim minority in a majority-Hindu India.

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 engage-

ment 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 de-

spite 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 coop-

erative 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."

PM urges expatriates to expose anti-Pak 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



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

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 cooperative 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.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi awarding letter of Commendation to an officer during PN Investiture Ceremony held at Karachi.

Pakistan Navy personnel conferred military awards

KARACHI (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Friday conferred awards as the Chief Guest in an Investiture Ceremony to naval personnel held at Karachi.

The recipients of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) were Cdre Shahzad Iqbal, Cdre Tauqeer Ahmad Khawaja, Cdre Muhammad Ahsan Raza Mallhi and Cdre Syed Talat Hussain.

Recipients of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) included Cdr Kabbir Yahya Khan, Cdr Muhammad Atif Khan and Lt Cdr Abdul Rehman Khan.

Tamgha-i-Basalat was

conferred to Cdr Syed Eusaf Viqueer and Barkat Ali LCDT was awarded Imtiaz Sanad, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

In addition, 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.

Pak desires close ties with Afghan: 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.

Police cop injured in firing

QUETTA (APP): A police cop was injured in a firing incident that took place in the Airport Road area, here on Friday.

According to a police spokesman, a police cop was attacked by unknown armed men near Almo Chowk.

Resultantly, he suffered bullet injuries and was rushed to the civil hospital.

The assailants managed to escape. The condition of the injured police cop was stated to be out of danger.

The cause of the attack was yet to be ascertained.

Further probe was underway.

Yousufzai flays attack on police cop

QUETTA (APP): Spokesperson of Chief Minister (CM) to Balochistan Babar Yousufzai on Friday condemned the armed attack on a police cop.

In a statement issued here, Yousufzai said, "Elements involved in the gruesome incident will be brought to justice."

He also directed the health authorities to ensure the best healthcare facilities for the injured cop at the hospital.

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.

"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, peacebuilding, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."



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

GoB established 10 libraries in province

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has established 10 libraries in Quetta and other parts of the province in the outgoing financial year to encourage the book reading habit among the people, especially youth.

The government has allocated fund to provide books to the libraries established in which will be open to public next month, said an official of Balochistan government.

"The project has also been initiated for the renovation and expansion of libraries across the province to also help increase literacy," the official said. He added that libraries are nurseries that produce leaders, writers, scholars, philosophers, and teachers who serve the nation. Highlighting the importance of books, he said, libraries will not only encourage book-reading culture among youth but will also prove beneficial in their capacity building. He said the students will be able to compete with their counterparts from other provinces in education if they turn to reading.

Joint efforts to yield far-reaching results for HEIs: Dr. Shafiq

QUETTA: Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University Prof. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman on Friday said that joint efforts would yield far-reaching results for the higher education institutions of the province to cope with the modern demands and development.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting at the Hall of Balochistan University.

The meeting was attended by the vice-chancellors of the universities of the province, senior teachers, and relevant representatives.

In the meeting, various issues including better relations between the universities of the province, promotion of education, research, training activities, financial and other issues were discussed.

Despite, this regard, academic memorandum agreements were signed between the universities.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the purpose of this was to utilize each other's educational, research experiences and knowledge, including seminars, workshops, and teacher exchanges, and ensure measures to implement future educational projects.

While thanking the heads of the universities of the province, the Vice-Chancellor of Balochistan University said that joint efforts would yield far-reaching results for the higher education institutions of the province to cope with the modern demands and development.



GWADAR: Chairman COPHC meeting with Director General GDA Muejbur Rehman Qambrani

PM, President 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 for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the flood-affected areas.

Visa policy for Afghan refugees relaxed on eve of Eidul Adha

By M. Ilyas

PESHAWAR: On the special occasion of Eid al-Adha, the Afghan refugees who want to go Afghanistan for celebrating Eid al-Adha there at Afghanistan the Pak-Afghan border authority will allow them through Tazkira without a Visa or passport.

According to Pak Immigration authority they can go to Afghanistan through Afghan Registration Card only without a passport and visa.

According to the Pak immigration authorities, the facility for Afghan refugees to go to Afghanistan for Eid al-Adha.

In order not to face any kind of problem, the clearance process has been started from today and tomorrow from 7 AM to 9 PM.

Grand protest demo held at Chaman Awami Tehreek

QUETTA: A grand protest demonstration was held under the auspices of Chaman Awami Tehreek in Chaman on Friday.

The demonstration was turned into a big public meeting at Sanatan Chowk. The President of Awami Tehreek Rehmatullah Pehalwan, Jan Achakzai, Abdul Razzaq Khan, Attaullah Muslim Bashir, Khan Shamsullah and others addressed the public meeting.

They demanded of the concerned authorities to abolish the Gadang check post immediately.

They said that the poor people of the area particularly the small traders are facing immense problems and hardships, therefore, these must be addressed. They also demanded to facilitate the people for issuance of the passports instead of creating problems for them.



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.

Saboor Kakar meets Dr. Rubaba: Meeting chaired by CM to make final decision on local domicile issue: Dr Rubaba

QUETTA: The Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Balochistan, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar called on the Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Information Technology, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi here on Friday. During the meeting, the matters regarding meeting of the stakeholders about local and domicile certificates and other departmental matters were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ruababa Buledi said that the final decision about consultation of the leaders of political parties and all stakeholders ahead of the new laws and regulations regarding the local and domicile certificates would be made in the meeting to be held under the

presidentship of Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

She mentioned that the recommendations of the two meetings held in the Law department are being finalized. The Parliamentary Secretary said that the ground situation of provincial capital, Quetta and other districts of the border areas is quite different. Therefore, such effective legislation and rules would be formulated keeping in view all the facts and realities so that no complications may be created and no one is deprived of one's right in future.

The Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs suggested that if single card may be introduced by computerizing all the necessary documents including local, domicile, driving and arms licenses, then it would facilitate the masses.



QUETTA: President SOGP Prof. Azizun Nisa presenting shield to Secretary Information Hamza Shafiqat on eve of SOGP Conference

Despite space constraints in Mina Talha vows to provide optimal facilities to Pak Hajj pilgrims

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): Senator Talha Mehmood, the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Friday said continuous and dedicated efforts being made to secure optimal facilities for Pakistani pilgrims during the Hajj days, despite the limited space in Mina.

Following a meeting with Osama Danish, the Managing Director of Al-Bait Guests, (Duyuf Al-Bait) a prominent Hajj service provider, Senator Talha Mehmood stated that he has urged Osama to allocate the maximum available space in Mina and in new Mina for Pakistani pilgrims, as well as for the Pakistan Hajj Muavineen. Osama was also urged to provide quality food in accordance with Pakistani tastes to pilgrims during hajj days. Besides deploying English or Urdu-speaking staff in his Mina office to facilitate Pakistani pilgrims. The Minister stressed sacrifice, resilience, and adherence to Islamic teachings during Hajj.

Hindu Community takes out rally to show solidarity Pakistan Army

KHUZDAR: A rally was taken out by the Hindu community living in Kanya, Lal Seth Jwari, Ramesh Kumar, Dewan Chand Prakash and others.

The participants of



The rally reached the press club through different routes of the city. The participants of the rally were shouting slogans in favour of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army. The elements who insulted the martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives for the protection of Pakistan could not be well-wishers in any case of the country and the nation.

The speakers said, "Our armed forces have a big hand in making the country invincible.

The martyrs of the homeland are our heroes and thanks to their sacrifices, we are living peacefully today."

Paying tribute to, acknowledged the pledge that we are with our Pakistan Army and civilian institutions and will remain with them.