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India should benefit from CPEC, avoid creating hurdles: PM

Says CPEC's 10-year, transformed Pakistan's development landscape; Enemies of CPEC enemies of development, peace, prosperity in Pakistan, region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on the completion of 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Wednesday asked neighbouring India to take benefit of the mega project instead of creating obstacles in its way.

Highlighting the significance of project, he said Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the whole region would also benefit from it.

"CPEC is a beautiful plan to connect not only regions and areas but also people's hearts," he said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

The prime minister vowed to double the pace of the development as it was not only for improving roads, rail, sea ports and air routes, but it would also help health, education and skill development areas, besides masses' participation in the process.

Terming it a game changer for the whole region, the prime minister said CPEC would have a positive impact on the people's living standards in the region.

PM Shehbaz congratulated the leadership and the people of Pakistan and China on 10 years completion of CPEC, which was a

new chapter of the ever-green and trusted strategic cooperative partnership between the two iron brothers.

He said the project was a tremendous example of great Chinese leader Xi Jinping and PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's vision of "development for all".

"The Belt and Road initiative is the manifestation of Chinese President Xi's vision of peace, friendship, and economic partnership," he regretted that during the four years of previous government, hurdles were created in the way of the project, besides level-

ling baseless allegations against a great friend like China.

"The enemies of CPEC are against peace, development and prosperity in Pakistan and the region, as they do not want to eradicate poverty from the country," he added.

CPEC, he said, also initiated a new era of mutual partnership between Pakistan and China, and fortified their bilateral relationships.

PM Shehbaz said CPEC encompassed multiple projects ranging from provision of water to education, and technical and skilled-based training.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad Ms. Pang Chunxue and Federal Ministers cutting a cake marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the agreement for CPEC



RAWALPINDI: Advisor to President of Azerbaijan, Khalid Ahadov, along with delegation in a meeting with Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen and officials of MoDP

Pakistan believes policy of peaceful co-existence: Israr

RAWALPINDI (APP): A high-level defence delegation of Azerbaijan, headed by Khalid Ahadov, Advisor to the President of Azerbaijan called on Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen in his office at Rawalpindi.

The minister welcomed the delegation and appreciated the brotherly feelings of the Azerbaijan government for Pakistan on all international forums, including the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations.

He said that Pakistan was a peace-loving country, strictly believing in the

policy of peaceful co-existence with all.

He reiterated that Pakistan's commitment to peace was evident through its major contribution to UN peace efforts in war-torn countries in different parts of the world.

The minister also expressed Pakistan's strong desire to broaden and strengthen its partnership with Azerbaijan in all fields.

Khalid Ahadov thanked the Pakistan government for the warm hospitality extended to the delegation and for providing the opportunity to discuss various avenues of cooperation.

Only Nawaz Shrif can resolve country's problems: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's own people had exposed the Panama conspiracy.

Addressing a press conference here, she said that characters behind that conspiracy pushed the country towards multiple crises by imposing an incompetent and inefficient person at the helm of affairs.

The minister said that the solution of Pakistan's problems lied only with Nawaz Sharif who served thrice as Prime Minister.

"During the Nawaz



PTI's own people exposed Panama conspiracy

ures and characters who were burning the country today, stood on the container to stop the CPEC project in 2013-14.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said on that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif was disqualified under a conspiracy when "Panama verdict was changed to Iqama."

During the press conference, she played a video clip of senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and legal wizard Hamid Khan who told a private TV channel that it appeared that the decision to disqualify Nawaz Sharif in Iqama case was done somewhere else.

President upholds penalties, enhances fines upon sexual harassers

ISLAMABAD (APP): After the charges of blackmailing and sexually harassing a female employee at MEPCO were proven, President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of "dismissal from service" imposed upon Khizer Hayat, Assistant Director and enhanced the amount of the fine from Rs 500,000 to Rs 1 million.

He also upheld the penalty of "reduction to lower post" imposed upon Mian Sohail Afzal, Director (Admin), for three years and increased the fine from Rs 1 million to Rs 1.1 million to be paid as compensation to the victim, a President House press release said.

He also upheld the operation of Sohail Abbas, Deputy Director, and Jamshed Ahmed Niazi, Director, as no cogent evidence or substance was available against them to prove them guilty of the charge beyond any shadow of a doubt. The president gave these orders while rejecting two representations filed separately by Khizer Hayat and Mian Sohail Afzal against the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH) imposing fines and major penalties upon the two officers. A female Commercial Assistant at Multan Electric Power Company

(MEPCO) had filed a complaint before FOSPAH against four employees stating that they hacked her mobile data, made sexual demands, got published fake news items against her, and demanded Rs 500,000 from her to stop the series of news from its further publication. In his decision, President Alvi stated that a good message had to be sent to society that we would ensure the protection of women against harassment so that our women feel safe in the working environment of the country and our families were confident that if women get harassed, the law of the land would take strong action.

CJP Bandial terms Greece boat tragedy a 'human rights issue'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial said on Wednesday that the boat tragedy on Greek shores — which resulted in the deaths of nearly 300 Pakistanis — was a matter of human rights.

He passed these remarks as a two-member bench, comprising the CJP and Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, took up petitions pertaining to the trafficking of minors.

At least 600 migrants, out of possibly 750, on the fishing boat that set off from Libya towards European shores, perished when their vessel capsized in the Mediterranean Sea last month.

The passengers largely comprised Pakistanis, Afghans, Egyptians, Palestinians and Syrians migrating in the overloaded boat. It was a recurring tragedy — with no end in sight as economic, political and climate

crises compelled increasingly large numbers of people to flee their homes.

The tragedy of such immense proportions was believed to have taken place in the presence of maritime authorities. It was also believed that Pakistani nationals were forced to stay below the deck by the crew, which maltreated them during the journey.

Referring to the tragedy during the hearing today, Justice Bandial noted that innocent and poor people were tricked into going abroad on the pretext of better jobs.

"Citizens are duped by human traffickers and pay millions of rupees," the top judge said, pointing out that even children and women were becoming victims of human smuggling.

"Does the government have statistics on the number of children being smuggled," the CJP asked.



LAHORE: Commuters are facing difficulties in transportation due to stagnant rainwater due to poor sewerage system caused by heavy downpour of monsoon season, at Queens road in Lahore.

Seven dead as record breaking rain wreaks havoc in Lahore

LAHORE (Online): At least seven people were reported dead in Lahore as the provincial capital saw its heaviest rainfall in 30 years on Wednesday causing significant urban flooding and power outages.

Taking note of the unfolding situation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the Punjab government to take urgent measures and mobilise the rescue teams amidst heavy rains in the province.

The prime minister called for coordinated efforts by the district administration, Rescue 1122, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, and municipal and other departments, saying that all possible measures should be taken to protect the citizens' lives, according to a PM Office statement.

He instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other federal departments to extend maximum support to the Punjab government if required.

PM Shehbaz said that the necessary steps should be taken to alert the citizens of any emergency situation, chalk out alternate traffic plans and make arrangements for proper drainage.

He also instructed authorities to take preventive measures in the wake of the monsoon rains in other

parts of the country, besides asking the NDMA and PDMA to coordinate necessary arrangements.

The premier further stressed that all possible steps should be taken to relocate the people from villages to safe locations besides saving their cattle and livestock. Similarly, he said all necessary measures should be taken to prevent urban flooding. The prime minister also directed to mobilise the respective administrations of Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other hilly areas, besides instructing to keep the PMO updated on all measures taken.

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ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Qatar in Pakistan Sheikh Saoud Abdurrahman Al Thani call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Ahsan express satisfaction with recent IMF package

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the recent IMF package, which alleviated concerns of an immediate default.

However, he emphasized that the deal should be considered as a temporary relief and merely a breather, rather than a lasting solution. During the "Beyond IMF Agreement: Challenges and Opportuni-

ties for Pakistan" Twitter space organized by the Planning Ministry, the minister conveyed his views to a global audience, said a press release issued here.

In June, Pakistan secured a \$3 billion short-term financial package from the IMF, in recognition of the consistent efforts of the current government, which took office in April 2022.

Minister Iqbal described this as a much-needed respite that restored investor confidence.

PM says Pakistan deeply values its ties with USA

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended warm greetings to US President Joe Biden and the American people on their Independence Day. "Pakistan has always deeply valued its relationship with the United States," the prime minister said in a tweet.

He said over the past 75 years, the bilateral ties had continued to expand and deepen. He said the US was one of Pakistan's major trading, defence and economic partners.

"The governments in Islamabad and Washington have demonstrated pragmatism and wisdom to keep the course of our relations steady, which speaks of the dynamism of our partnership," he added.

Three soldiers embrace martyrdom in suicide blast in North Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Three soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced 'Shahadat', while three innocent civilians got critically injured when a vehicle borne suicide bomber exploded himself in general area Miran Shah, North Waziristan District on Wednesday.

According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release issued here, Subedar Sahib Khan (age 41 years, resident of Mianwali), Naik Muhammad Ibrahim (age 40 years, resident of Dera

Ismail Khan) and Sepoy Jehangir Khan (age 24 years, resident of Mardan) embraced shahadat. The suicide bomber intended targeting the security forces' post, however, timely interception of the suicide bomber on suspicion by on-duty soldiers prevented a major catastrophe.

Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, the ISPR press release added.

FM Bilawal Bhutto arrives in US on private visit

NEW YORK (INP): After concluding his maiden Japan visit, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday reached USA on a private visit, sources said on Wednesday.

Sources privy to the matter said that the foreign minister will stay in the USA for a period of one

week where he will hold important conferences being arranged by the US think tank.

The foreign office is also making efforts to arrange between FM Bilawal Bhutto and US diplomatic officials, say sources.

The foreign minister is visiting USA on a special invitation from US think tank, they say.

Bad news for electricity consumers across country

ISLAMABAD (Online): There is bad news for electricity consumers across country. Increase in the cost of electricity by RS 1.90 paise per unit for government discos and Rs 1.44 paise per unit for Karachi consumers has been approved.

NEPRA has completed hearing on applications of CPPA and K-electric.

The detailed decision will be issued later. A separate hearing was held under the chairman NEPRA Tauseef H. Farooqui on the requests to increase in the monthly fuel price adjustment for the month of May.



BAKU: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development, Sajid Hussain Turi meets with Chairman of Azerbaijan's State Tourism Agency, Fuad Naghiyev.

Alvi appoints Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin as FST chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday appointed Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin Khan as Chairman of the Federal Service Tribunal (FST).

The president appointed Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin as the FST chairman for a non-extendable term of three years.

Earlier, he had served as the judge of Peshawar High Court.

The president made the appointment under Section 3(IV) of the Service Tribunal Act 1973.

Another blow to PTI, two more leaders quit party

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former provincial minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president from Tank district Habibullah Kundi along with Irfan Kundi expressing strong reservations over May 9 mayhem announced to quit the party.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said that May 9 was the darkest chapter in the country's history as monuments of martyrs were attacked by the protesters.

Habibullah Kundi said that security personnel of our armed forces rendered supreme sacrifices for defence of the country.

He said PTI did irrepara-

ble damage to the country through its agitation and he did not wish to remain in the PTI. "Today I announce to quit party district president seat besides basic membership," he said.

Kundi said his family was in active politics before the partition of sub-continent and he started his political career in 1985 and came to the parliament with the support of the people. Pervaiz Khattak approached them at PTI in 2013, he added. He also clarified that there was no pressure on him to quit the party. The future course of action would be decided after consulting workers, friends and elders of his areas, he added.

Pak, US discuss ways to enhance economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome here on Wednesday exchanged views about areas of common interest and enhancing existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The finance minister appreciated the deep-rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts.

He updated the Ambassador about successfully reaching the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and communicated about the economic policies and priorities of the government in order to set the economy on the path from stability to growth.

Dar appreciated the support and cooperation of the US and reiterated the desire of the government to further deepen bilateral economic and trade ties with the US.

On the occasion, Donald Blome expressed confidence in the policies and programmes of the government for bringing economic sustainability to the country. He also extended his support to further promote bilateral economic, investment and trade relations between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar.

FAO Launches DVI Pilot: Bridging the Technological Divide in Rural Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Government of Punjab, launched a Digital Village Initiative (DVI) pilot site, in a ceremony organized at the Food Security & Agriculture Centre of Excellency (FACE) in Rahim Yar Khan.

This pilot launch is the FAO's global initiative under the 1000 Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific to bridge the technological divide and empower rural communities with access to digital resources, education, and opportunities.

necessary equipment installed at training halls of both sites for virtual training of farmers. The stations will provide customised weather advisory, forecast pest & disease models and other information to farmers of 10 kilometres range from its vicinity. Both weather station facilities are also equipped to arrange online trainings for farmers on the latest innovations in agriculture. Male and female farmers of selected pilot sites received training on different features of the weather station. Through these stations, farmers will be able to get customized and specific information to their farmland, accurate data and information which will help them in reducing costs related to inputs and taking measures for crop protection.

During the ceremony, female lead farmers from the pilot site villages also received 10 tablets to use the agriculture-related applications on which they were already trained by FAO. A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Hyper Localized Weather Station pilot site was also organized along with a briefing on the digital monitoring and forecasting function of the weather station. The stations were installed on both pilot sites along with the provision of

Two sites: one in Rahim Yar Khan and another in Sargodha, were launched after a detailed assessment conducted in 7 districts of Punjab and Sindh with the support of the provincial governments of both provinces.

Government officials, community leaders, researchers, male and female farmers, the private sector, and other key stakeholders were present at the launching event.

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KARACHI: GCBSO, PTCL and Ufone 4G Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief IT and CTO of NBP, Amin Manji, GCTO PTCL and Ufone 4G Jaffar Khalid, EVP of NBP Noman Muzaffar and others senior officials in a group photo during the signing ceremony of provision of primary Data Center Colocation Service, held at PTCL's Tier-III Data Center to support NBP's digital transformation, in Karachi.

Training workshops for cotton growers organized

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Food Security and Research in collaboration with Central Cotton Research Institute Multan organized pesticide management workshops for cotton growers in order to avoid their harmful impact on human health and the environment.

This major cash crop of the country.

Besides, the government was also working to ensure the availability of certified seeds for different crops including cotton, wheat, rice, maize and other major and minor crops to enhance crop output to achieve sustainable agriculture growth and social development in the country.

Power tariff for KE's consumers likely to increase Rs 1.45 per unit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The power tariff is likely to increase by Rs 1.45 per unit to the consumers of Karachi Electric on account of the monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for May.

The hearing was presided by the NEPRA Authority comprising of Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi, Member (Technical), Engr. Rafique Ahmad Shaikh, Member (Licensing), Engr. Maqsood Anwar Khan, Member (Technical & Finance), Mithar Niaz Rana and Member (Law), Ms. Amina Ahmed.

KE in its petition sought an FCA of Rs 1.495/kWh on account of FCA for the said period.

However, the net FCA for the month of May 2023 as per NEPRA's preliminary calculation is Rs 1.45/kWh (an impact of Rs. 2.6 billion approx.).

and regions and this is the main source of economic development. Regions like the European Union and ASEAN are great examples in this regard. These regions have accelerated economic growth by improving connectivity through rail, direct air links and road.

Meanwhile, about 25 master trainers were also trained for further disseminating training to growers on innovative crop sowing techniques, fertilizers and pesticide management to enhance the per-acre output of cotton during the current season, said an official.

In this regard, the track and traceability of certified seed was launched and the traceability data revealed that total cotton seed requirements were estimated at 41,048 metric tons, whereas seed availability was registered at 25,986 metric tons.

The Authority heard the petitioner and would decide the matter after due diligence and considering the comments of all stakeholders.

The hearing was also attended by a large number of representatives and senior officials of K-Electric, business community, journalists and the general public etc.

Fly Jinnah's SkyTime will now feature content from HUM TV

Independent Report KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's new low-cost carrier (LCC), has collaborated with HUM TV to provide content for

Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta. The carrier currently operates a fleet of three modern Airbus A320 aircraft. In addition

Sohail Barlas elected as SIAL chairman

SIALKOT (APP): A leading Sialkot based exporter Sohail Barlas was elected unopposed as chairman of Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), while Mian Daud Sair was elected unopposed as vice chairman for the year 2023-24.

The newly-elected chairman SIAL pledged to make all-out sincere efforts to make the SIAL as a model airport of Pakistan, says a news release issued here on Wednesday. He said that SIAL had been a hallmark of the sincerity, dedication, enthusiasm and unity of Sialkot exporters, which had established the international airport by setting a unique example of self help. The new leadership aims to bring fresh perspectives and drive further growth and development at the airport.

Under their guidance, the airport is expected to enhance its operations, infrastructure, and passenger services, he said.

Talking to APP he said that over 100 farmers from different crop-producing areas were also trained on the latest production technology, which was aimed to attain higher per-acre cotton output to enhance local production of

The wheat seed availability was recorded at 511,378 metric tons before the processing stage, out of which companies processed 462,048 metric tons and certified seed tags



FAISALABAD: An Iron smith are busy in their work at shop at Dajkot Road in City.

LCCI invites political parties to discuss charter of economy

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has taken a proactive step in addressing Pakistan's economic challenges by sending invitations to the heads of all political parties. The invitation, sent in the form of a letter, requesting their presence at the LCCI to participate in a comprehensive discussion on the crucial topic of the Charter of Economy (CoE), according to LCCI spokesman here on Wednesday.

transitioning towards sustainable economic growth, said Kashif Anwar, adding that in order to address these concerns, LCCI has formulated a draft of the Charter of Economy, which serves as a guiding framework for economic governance. The aim of this charter is to establish a minimum agenda that all political parties can include in their respective manifestos. By doing so, it ensures a level of consistency and continuity in economic policies, regardless of which party forms the government, he added.

All Fly Jinnah aircraft are equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices and right after takeoff. By collaborating with HUM TV, Fly Jinnah customers can now enjoy a wider selection of content that includes HUM TV leading dramas, Telefilms, Award Shows and celebrity shows.

At present, Fly Jinnah connects five major cities of Pakistan including

to extra comfort provided by the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin, the carrier offers customized and affordable travel experiences to its passengers through "SkyCafe" onboard menu where passengers can enjoy a wide variety of delicacies between snacks, sandwiches, and meals at affordable prices.

Customers can now book their flights by visiting Fly Jinnah's website (www.flyjinnah.com), by calling the call center (021-3565096) or through travel agencies.

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In the letter, the LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted the daunting economic challenges facing the nation and underscored the need for consistency in economic policies.

LCCI firmly believes that a unified approach is imperative for dealing with these challenges and

President LCCI said the Charter of Economy is designed to create a working consensus among political parties on key economic issues. It provides a set of guidelines for policy formation.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Chicago, Maersk Brooklyn, Huang Shan-16, Yankul Silver and N-Orhan carrying Containers, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal and SSGC Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Lisbon, Southern Anoa and Milha Raslaffan carrying Containers, Palm oil and LNG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. PQA berths engaged by eight ships during the last 24 hours, out of them, three ships, Maersk Chicago, Maersk Brooklyn and Al-Marroona left the port on Wednesday morning and two more ships, Aruna Berk and Chemroad Hope are expected to sail on same day. A cargo volume of 116,444 tonnes comprising 90,604 tonnes imports cargo and 25,840 tonnes export cargo including containerized cargo carried in 2,873 Containers.

Business leader stresses need to adopt culture of savings

Says lack of savings prevents investment, opens door for loans

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain stressing the need to adopt culture of savings has said that lack of savings prevent investments and opened doors of loans.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said that the former government's efforts to develop the economy resulted in a payment crisis and this will happen again in the future.

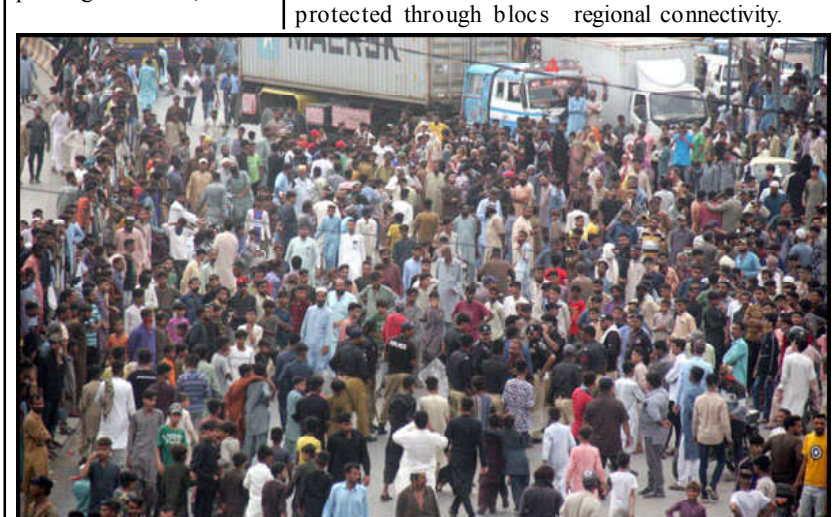
Our growth depends entirely on imports rather than exports, always leading to an unsustainable current account deficit, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that it is necessary to foster a culture of exports and savings in the country to ensure development without current account deficit.

He said that GDP growth on a sustainable basis is impossible until the current savings rate is doubled. The savings rate in Congo is 61.4 percent, in Singapore it is 53.8 percent, in the United Arab Emirates the savings rate is 47.8 percent, in China it is almost 44.9 percent and in India and Bangladesh it is between 30 and 31 percent, he informed.

However, in Pakistan this rate is only twelve percent which is rapidly decreasing due to current inflation and unemployment, he said.

The business leader said that in 2007-2008,



KARACHI: A large number of the people holds protest against the load shedding of Gas, Electricity and Water at Liyari, in Provincial Capital.

Gold prices up by Rs.1,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,000 and was sold at Rs.206,000 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.205,000 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.858 to Rs.176,612 from Rs.175,754 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs.161,894 from Rs.161,108, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs.20 to Rs.2480 whereas that of ten gram silver dipped by Rs.17.14 to Rs.2,126.20.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$1 to \$1928 from \$1929, the association reported.

Services' trade deficit narrows by 88 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The services' trade deficit shrank by 88.26 percent during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has reported.

The services trade deficit was recorded at \$607.67 million during July-May (2022-23) against the deficit of \$5,175.24 million during July-May (2021-22).

The exports of services during the period increased by 3.38 percent by going up from \$6,438.33 million in 2021-22 to \$6,655.82 million in the first eleven months of FY2022-23, according to PBS data.

On the other hand, the imports declined from

\$11,613.57 million to \$7,263.49 million in FY2023, showing negative growth of 37.46 percent.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the export of services increased by 19.77 percent by growing from \$15.14 million in May 2022 to \$616.96 million in May 2023.

However, services imports into the country decreased by 11.84 percent, from \$977.85 million to \$862.11 million.

On month-on-month basis, the export of services increased by 19.78 percent in May 2023 when compared to the imports of \$15.08 million in April 2023.

The imports of services also grew by 31.60 percent in May 2023 compared to imports of \$655.10 million in April 2023, PBS reported.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House.

Ahsan Iqbal to attend 12th JCC to mark 10-year celebrations of CPEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) to mark the 10-year celebrations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The minister is set to embark on a four-day official visit to China from July 8 to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) to mark the 10-year celebrations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Under the 10-year celebrations, several events are being conducted by the CPEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Planning Ministry which includes international conferences, academic sessions, cultural shows and others across the country. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal reviewed progress over the special 12th JCC to be held on July 11. The meeting was attended by Secretary Ministry of Planning and De-

velopment Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Chief Economist of Pakistan, who is also the Executive Director of the CPEC, Dr Nadeem Javaid and representatives from all the relevant ministries and divisions were also present. The upcoming visit of the planning minister will underscore the importance of Pakistan and China's relationship and their commitment to further strengthening their strategic partnership. During the visit, the minister will hold meetings with key Chinese officials which include China's National Development and Reform Commission NDRC and others. The 10th year celebration. It is noted that since

the government came into power in April last year, CPEC has been revived which remained halted by the previous government. Several projects of power, infrastructure, water and others have been completed in Gwadar which are ready for the groundbreaking. While chairing the meeting to review progress over the special 12th JCC, the planning minister directed the relevant stakeholders to finalize the arrangements for the event. The minister also asked the relevant ministries to share their pending issues so that they can be taken with Chinese authorities during the visit.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada cutting the cake along with the Ambassador of Republic of Belarus to Pakistan Andrei Metelitsin and others on the occasion of the celebrations of the Independence Day of Republic of Belarus, at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Mir Shai Mazar Baloch, Director General (COORD/PDU), Senate attending the meeting between Senate Parliamentary Development Unit (PDU) and the team of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), at Parliament House.

Relations with Pak span centuries: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (Online): While expressing his views at the opening ceremony of Supreme Court Bar Room, Ambassador of Turkey Dr Mehmet Pecaci has said that Pakistan and Turkey relations span centuries. Both countries stand together in every difficult time. Turkish Ambassador has said that they are having relations with Pakistan even earlier than 16th century. In the devastating earthquake of 2005, people of Turkey stood with the people of Pakistan. Pakistan had also supported Turkey in the dev-

Court summons Imran Khan in toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court of Islamabad on Wednesday fixed toshakhana criminal case for hearing tomorrow and also served notice to Chairman Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) for appearance in personal capacity. Additional District and Session Judge Hamayun Dilwar would take up the case for hearing on Thursday. Previously, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had directed the trial court to re-decide the maintainability of the toshakhana case within seven days after hearing chairman PTI.

NA Speaker strongly condemns Israeli attack on Palestinians in Jenin

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervez Ashraf has vehemently condemned the deadly airstrikes and raids carried out by Israeli occupation forces on a Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin. He also deplored that the dispossession and displacement of Palestinians from their homes by the aggressive Israeli forces are unacceptable. Speaker said that the recurring instances of unlawful raids and assault on the innocent Palestinian men, women and children raises serious concerns on the international laws prohibiting such hate-fueled incidents. The freedom of expression has also been tarnished by the Israeli forces and such blatant violations exposed the dark character of the Zionist reign of Israel, Speaker remarked. He stressed that the United Nations and the International Community as a whole should not only strongly condemn this blatant violation of human rights and rights of refugees, but also take all necessary actions to ensure the complete protection and provision of human rights of Palestinians. The National Assembly of Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with Palestinian brothers and sisters in these testing times and continue to extend unwavering support to them in their legitimate struggle to achieve the right to life, right to freedom, and most importantly right to self-determination, he added.

PM pays tributes to Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tributes to Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Nishani-Haider on his 24th martyrdom day. He said the nation salutes to all the martyrs including Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed. The prime minister said Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed was such a brave son of Pakistan whose courage, valour and bravery were confessed by the enemy itself. Captain Karnal Sher Khan turned into a lion like his name and pounced on the enemy chasing it away from the borders of the motherland, he said in a statement issued by the PM office. PM Shehbaz said Captain Sher Khan paid his duty of safeguarding the country at 17000 feet height and sacrificed his life for the sake of the country. The nation is indebted to its martyrs and it will continue to pray for the elevation of ranks of their souls, he said. Captain Karnal Sher Khan along with his soldiers defended the border of Pakistan despite being outnumbered by the enemy, the prime minister added. He deplored that on May 9, black history was written by desecrating the memorials and statues of Captain Karnal Sher Khan and other martyrs. He asked the young generation to get full awareness of the martyrs' great sacrifices, bravery and undying love for the motherland. The prime minister said the 9th May incidents conveyed the message, particularly to the enemy that we did not respect our martyrs. "The whole nation will protect the sanctity and honour of the martyr who sacrifices his life while defending the country, and will punish the criminals." The prime minister said Captain Karnal Sher Khan was the first Nishani-Haider who belonged to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He also prayed for the martyred and grant of courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

COP28 President to visit Pakistan on Sherry Rehman's invitation

ISLAMABAD (INP): The incumbent government will welcome the President of COP28 and UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology HE. Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, on July 6 as a distinguished state guest for a day-long official visit. This is the outcome of an official invitation extended by Senator, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Sherry Rehman aimed to share the country's progress on climate and environmental goals ahead of the COP28 conference in UAE, and build common ground for the global stocktake ahead in the context of Pakistan's accelerated climate stress, said a press release on Wednesday. Minister Al Jaber will recall upon Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during the official visit. The meeting will focus on Pakistan's climate adaptation challenges, specifically its vulnerability to climate-induced disasters, and the need for enabling greater international cooperation at the upcoming COP28 in UAE. Sherry Rehman will host H.E. Al Jaber and the accompanying delegation for a bilateral meeting at the Ministry for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, and bring attention to Pakistan's programmes and initiatives to prevent environmental degradation and building resilience through policy action. Energy transition cooperation will also be on the agenda. Sherry Rehman will also share Pakistan's vulnerability to accelerated climate impacts, and the need for a global reset that enhances support for developing countries on the frontline of climate emergencies.

ICCPO says: Enquiry ordered, Incharge of 3 police stations removed over poor performance

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has removed Incharges of three police stations over poor performance and ordered departmental enquiry against them, a police public relations officer said. He said that the ICCPO issued these orders during a high level meeting at Central Police Office, today. The meeting was attended by CPO Headquarters Malik Awais Ahmed, SSP Operations Malik Jameel Zafar, AIG Operations Saud Khan, zonal DPOs, SDPOs and Incharge of all police stations. The ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan reviewed the performance of all divisions thoroughly and emphasized the significance of proactive measures to prevent crime. Those officers who exhibited poor performance were strongly reprimanded, underlining the commitment to ensuring efficiency and effectiveness within the police force. He directed that, all senior officers will monitor the investigation while all investigation process will be done under direct supervision of concerned Divisional Police Officer adding that law officer are posted with all DPOs for effective prosecution and conviction of the criminal. He said that targets have been set for all Incharge police stations after the establishment of Police Bureau of Investigation.

IHC issues written order regarding protective bail of Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday issued written order regarding the 14-day protective bail of PTI's Chairman Imran Khan in a case pertaining killing of a lawyer in Quetta. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mian Muhammad Hassan Aurangzeb issued the written order in the said case. It said that the court had been told that there was risk of arrest of the petitioner in reaching the concerned court. It said that the court had accepted the protective bail of the petitioner against surety bonds worth Rs 50,000 and stopped the police from arresting him till July 17. The court asked the ex-prime minister to approach the relevant trial court during the given time period.

Interns in Islamabad capital police call on Dr. Akbar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interns of Islamabad Capital City Police Youth Internship Program met with Islamabad Capital City Police Officer meeting. During the meeting, the interns informed the ICCPO Islamabad about their experiences of working in different divisions and branches.

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the purpose of Islamabad Capital Police Youth Internship Program is to provide professional training to young students from different departments and to develop their skills as per aptitude so that these young people can work in every field of life in future. Such programs will also continue in future as well, he maintained.



(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan at Safe City Islamabad, a police public relations officer said. He said that the interns working in Safe City Islamabad, Training and Human Resource Wings participated in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Passengers are travelling on the roof top of the bus without any safety, which needs the attention of concern authority

Chairman CDA reviews dengue prevention arrangements in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT Noor ul Ameen Mangal on Wednesday reviewed the arrangements for dengue prevention preparedness and dengue prevention activities to keep vigilance and proper check on dengue larva from rural and urban area of ICT. Chairman CDA reviewed these arrangements during a meeting held here, was also attended by the Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chattha. Member Environment, Member Finance, DC ICT, DC Rawalpindi DG Health Services, DG Environment, DDG Civic Management, and relevant staff of the DHO, ICT attended the meeting. Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT directed the relevant formation heads to ensure consistent surveillance of potential dengue breeding spaces and persistent liaison with other departments. He further directed to Director Health Services, MCI to hire additional 200 personal / work force for a period of three months on daily paid labour for reinforcement of existing work force. Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT directed the Deputy Commissioner, ICT to engage a team for the training of existing and newly hired staff to tackle any dengue related situation.

One person killed as speedy tractor-trolley struck

ISLAMABAD (APP): One person was killed while two people including a child, were injured after being hit by a tractor-trolley in Muzaffargarh on Wednesday. According to police sources, a tragic accident occurred when a high-speed tractor-trolley hit a motorcycle at Khanpur Baga Sher on the outskirts of Muzaffargarh. As a result, one person was killed on the spot while two others sustained critical injuries. The deceased, identified as Ashiq Chaudhary, is said to be a resident of Khanpur Baga Sher. The driver managed to escape from the spot.

SC allows PIA to make 205 new professional appointments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to make 205 new professional appointments while postponing the recruitment of 45 others. A two-member SC bench comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case filed by PIA seeking permission for 250 recruitment of pilots, cabin crew, IT specialists, finance and management officials. In its verdict today, the apex court allowed the recruitment of pilots, cabin crew and IT specialists. During the course of proceedings, the court also directed the PIA's administration to make the recruitment process clear and transparent. Justice Ayesha Malik asked why PIA was not able to pay its dues and why did it had to recruit more people? Justice Ijaz said that the quality of services of the PIA was not up to the mark. The new recruitments would burden the organisation by more than Rs 90 million annually, he added. CEO PIA Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Amir Hayat said that the national airline's profit for the last six months was three billion rupees and flights were operating on profitable routes. He said that the PIA was starting flight operations on international and national routes. Justice Ijaz said that the flight staff of other airlines was less and questioned if the recruitment would be on a permanent or on a contractual basis.

BISP disburses over Rs 51 bln among beneficiary women

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs 51 billion among more than 5.7 million beneficiary women under Benazir Kafaalat. The disbursement of the fourth quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 is continued after Eid-ul-Azha holidays through banks' retailers. Under Benazir Kafaalat, 9 million registered beneficiary families are entitled to a quarterly installment of Rs 9,000 per household. The BISP has already released over Rs 81 billion to its partner banks, that is, Bank Alfalah and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for disbursement among the beneficiaries through their retail distribution network.

Case registered against 8 Pak, 5 arrested for doing job in Israel

ISLAMABAD (Online): FIA Mir Pur Khas circle has registered case against 8 Pakistanis and arrested 5 among them for doing job in Israel. Siddiqi, Muhammad Zeeshan and Muhammad Anwar. These accused stayed in Tel-Aviv for the period ranging between 4 to 7 years. The accused got entry into Israel through an Israeli agent. The accused paid Rs 300000 to 400000 to Israeli agent. They all belong to Mirpur Khas. They entered into Israel through Jordan airport on European visa. They returned to Karachi via Dubai from Jordan airport.

PM files acquittal plea in money laundering reference

LAHORE (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has filed acquittal plea in money laundering reference. Amjad Pervez Advocate submitted acquittal plea on behalf of PM Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in Accountability Court (AC) Lahore in money laundering reference. The petitioners have taken plea in the acquittal plea NAB made false and fabricated money laundering reference. The assets are as per law which have been declared in FBR and Election Commission (EC). NAB has no evidence of any kind in this regard. It has been further said in the acquittal plea filed by PM and Hamza Shebaz that any possibility of proving the case against them stands ruled out.

PDM-led govt striving hard to stabilize economy: Afzal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Ministers of Commerce and Industries Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan Wednesday said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led government with its fruitful policies was striving hard to stabilize the economy and leaving a responsible platform for the next government. Talking to PTV news channel, he said that under the IMF agreement, the overall uncertainty was covered after a successful IMF agreement, adding, the government had to take unpopular and strict decisions, but these were necessary to save the country from the risk of default. He further mentioned that it was very important for Pakistan to get the IMF programme as it would help achieve financial discipline and keep the country afloat. Replying to a question, he said the Pakistani rupee also experiencing a significant gain against the US dollar in the interbank market, adding, the first IMF installment of \$1.1 billion from IMF.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people visiting Rawal Lake View Park in a pleasant day in the city.