

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 86 Shawwal 15, 1445 AH Wednesday April 24, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Murad Ali Shah says There are vast investment opportunities in various sectors across province

Iranian President Raisi, Sindh CM discuss bilateral economic opportunities

KARACHI (INP): Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday during his visit to Karachi and had a detailed discussion on Pakistan-Iran economic opportunities, including issues concerning investment.

Raisi is currently on a three-day visit to Pakistan and had arrived a day ago. His visit is the first of its kind by any head of state after the February 8 general elections.

Raisi earlier landed at Jinnah International

Airport's old terminal where he was received by Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and provincial ministers.

He later visited Mazar-i-Quaid where he laid a floral wreath and offered prayers with provincial officials and his delegation in tow.

Raisi's subsequent visit was to the Sindh Chief Minister's House.

A ceremony was held in which an honorary doctorate was awarded to the Iranian president by Gov-



KARACHI: Iranian President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi along with others paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during ceremony held at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

ernor Tessori.

A statement issued by CM Shah's spokesperson Abdul Rasheed Channa said the Iranian president and provincial chief held a meeting discussing investment issues and bilateral economic opportunities.

Provincial ministers also attended the meeting. CM Shah said the Sindh government had always encouraged private enterprise and

there were "vast investment opportunities" in various sectors across the province.

A ceremony was later held in honour of the Iranian president who also addressed it and "expressed his delight" at being hosted in Sindh.

Addressing the ceremony, CM Shah said: "It is a matter of pride and honour for me that today I am welcoming the president of

a brotherly country, a long-time friend, sympathiser and benefactor of Pakistan," adding that Pak-Iran relations spanned "centuries".

"The religious, academic, cultural and economic ties between us are strong and deepening with time. Pakistan and Iran have supported each other wholeheartedly," he said.

CM Shah said the

two countries were passing through an "important period in history" where brotherhood, unity and mutual support were "essential".

"We are facing various problems in which terrorism, illegal trade, climate change and its negative effects, increasing atrocities in Palestine and Kashmir are the top.

"Genocide of Muslims in Palestine and Kashmir is a matter of concern. In the eyes of Pakistan, a peaceful solution to the problems of Palestine and Kashmir is the most important need of the hour," the chief minister said.

He added that Muslims should unite and support Palestinians in this difficult time.

Shah further said that Pakistan's "firm and principled stand" was that there should be an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Palestinians should be given their rights while the problem of Kashmiris must be solved in the light of UN resolutions.

President highlights significance of enhanced aerial connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday underlined significance of enhancing aerial connectivity with different countries and said that with increase in people to people contacts, potential of Pakistan's tourism sector could be adequately tapped.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Air Asia Aviation Group (AAAG) that called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, President

Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president further observed that Pakistan had a significant place owing to vast tourism prospects, particularly in the religious tourism.

Pakistan Stock Market possessed ideal investment opportunities and urged the investors to fully explore its potential, he added.

The delegation apprised the president of the AAAG and its flight operations.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Air Asia Aviation Group (AAAG) called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-i-Sadr.

Iranian President's visit to further strengthen mutual relations: Governor

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Tuesday said that the visit of Iranian President to Pakistan would further strengthen the mutual relations between the two countries.

He stated this during a meeting with Iranian Consul General to Karachi Hassan Nourian, who called on him here at the Governor House, a news release said.

The two sides discussed Pakistan-Iran relations, the ongoing visit of the Iranian President, and other matters of mutual interests. Governor Tessori said that there was a relationship of love with Iran.

Voters rejected PTI's narrative of hatred, hypocrisy and lies in bye-elections: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that the voters during the recent bye-elections had rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's narrative of hatred, hypocrisy and lies.

Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar here, he said much hue and cry was made about so-called rigging in the by-elections but even a single proof could not be presented by the PTI leadership.

Punjab to welcome Iran's investment in livestock sector: Maryam; emphasises stronger industrial, agri cooperation

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the Punjab government would welcome Iranian investment in the value-added livestock market of the province, emphasising stronger bilateral cooperation in industrial and agriculture sectors.

The chief minister, in a meeting with President of Iran Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his spouse Dr

Jamileh-Sadat Alamolhoda at the Governor's House here, suggested that both countries could earn valuable foreign exchange by establishing MDF zones and promoting halal meat export, according to a press release issued by DGPR.

Referring to the Pakistan friendship spanned over decades, the chief minister said that her government wished to carry out economic projects to alleviate poverty.



LAHORE: Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz meets with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi at Governor House.

US warns Pakistan of 'possible sanctions' for doing trade with Iran

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States hinted at the "risk of possible sanctions" on Pakistan if Islamabad did trade with Iran. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller while reacting to a question on the visit of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi said that the United States is one of Pakistan's largest export markets. However, he advised "caution to those considering trade deals with Iran," citing the potential threat of sanctions.

"We advise anyone considering business deals with Iran to be aware of the potential risk of sanctions." The spokesperson did not specifically name Pakistan but reminded it of the US significance as the biggest foreign market and one of the biggest investors in the country. "We have also been a leading investor in Pakistan for the past 20 years. Pakistan's economic success is in both of our interest, and we look forward to continuing our partnership," he added.

PM seeks UK's support to promote higher education, improve quality

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed the government's desire for working together with the United Kingdom to promote higher education and improve quality of education in Pakistan.

The desire was expressed during a meeting with the delegation of representatives from leading UK universities here at the PM House.

The delegation was led by UK's International Education Champion Sir Steve Smith.

The prime minister welcomed the delegation and emphasized the importance of promoting quality education, saying that it was the top priority of the government.

He expressed his commitment to ensuring that every child had access to education, and that the Federal Government was working with the provincial governments to achieve that goal.

The prime minister said as Punjab chief minister he had established the Education Endowment Fund in the province, and a similar initiative would also be taken at the federal level.

He said the government was taking steps on emergency basis for the development of the education sector.

The prime minister, praising the UK's support for Pakistan's education sector, expressed his desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of education and trade.

He highlighted that the launch of degree programmes in the universities of Pakistan and the UK on reciprocal basis was a welcome step.

The modern education, especially science and technology, was guarantee of development of any nation, he added.

PM Shehbaz underscored that the bilateral relations with UK spanned over decades which were further strengthening with the passage of time.

He emphasized that there should be collaboration in the fields of research and technology in the universities of the two countries.

He further said Pakistan wanted to take benefit of the capacity of the UK's education sector.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani addressing during Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2024 collaborating for Growth.

Foolproof security measures taken for Iranian President visiting Karachi

KARACHI (APP): In preparation for the arrival of President Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi, a comprehensive security plan has been made involving a substantial deployment of law enforcement personnel across the city. A total of 3,847 police officers and officials have been mobilized to ensure peace and tranquility and security of the foreign dignitaries during their visit to Karachi, said a spokesperson of Karachi Police here Tuesday.

The spokesperson while sharing the details said that deployment of security personnel across different zones of the city, revealing that 345 officers and employees are stationed in District East, 164 in West, and more than 300 in District South. Additionally, 1500 traffic

officers and over 300 officers from the Special Branch have also been assigned security duties. To enhance security measures, snipers have been strategically positioned at sensitive locations throughout the city.

Highlighting the commitment of the Karachi Police to uphold safety standards, the spokesperson emphasized that every possible measure is being taken to fulfill their duties effectively in safeguarding the visiting delegations.

The rigorous security arrangements underscore Karachi's dedication to hosting foreign dignitaries in a safe and secure environment, reflecting the city's ongoing efforts to bolster best relations with foreign dignitaries.

Karachi Port receives \$50 million upfront payment from ad ports

KARACHI (INP): Karachi Port Trust (KPT) has secured its first major revenue stream under a new concession agreement with Abu Dhabi Ports Group (AD Ports).

According to port industry sources, a signing ceremony was held in the presence of the Maritime Affairs Minister, where AD Ports subsidiary, Karachi Gateway Terminal (KGT), presented a check of \$50 million to KPT.

NA told Govt committed to implement minimum wages

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution urging the government to ensure the payment of minimum wages in both government-run departments and private enterprises.

The resolution was introduced by MNA Syed Rafiullah.

In response, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb said that federal government is committed to implementing minimum wages in the capital and its affiliated departments.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of representatives of the leading universities of United Kingdom calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Missing persons issue is very old, cannot be resolved overnight: Law Minister

Government to re-constitute committee on issue of missing persons

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has said missing persons matter is very old and it cannot be resolved overnight on court's orders.

"Talks are underway between political and military circles. Government is taking this issue seriously. This matter is linked to terrorism. However committee

has been constituted and investigations have been started. The country is put on the path to economic development. People have absolutely rejected PTI contradictory statements, this was said by law minister Azam Nazir Tarar and information minister Ata Tarar while addressing a joint press conference here Tuesday.

No secret talks of PTI founder are taking place with any one: Gohar

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI leader Barrister Gohar has said no secret talks are taking place and if any talks are held then all will be informed.

"The result of by polls already settled. Record rigging took place, he said this while talking to media men here Tuesday.

He went on to say PTI founder has expressed wonder over result of by elections. The result of the election were already

settled. In Punjab ballot boxes were already filled, he remarked.

We filed petition on form 45 and it has not been heard since two months, he underlined.

It is right of people that their votes are counted correctly, he underscored.

No secret talks of PTI founder are taking place with any one, he said adding whenever talks are held and a message comes we will inform openly.



ISLAMABAD: Syrian Ambassador to Pakistan Ramiz Al-Rai called on Federal Minister for Education Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

By-election trends

While it is too early to deduce a definitive political trend from the provisional results of Sunday's 21 by-polls held so soon after the Feb 8 general elections, the exercise has once again emphasised the need for the state — particularly the ECP and the administration — to work on improving the credibility of the electoral process. Five National Assembly seats were up for grabs, while the rest of the contests were for the provincial legislatures, 12 of those for Punjab Assembly constituencies. Just as allegations of rigging and irregularities had marred the Feb 8 polls, similar accusations were levelled in a number of constituencies during the by-polls, most of which were won by PML-N candidates.

An example was the 'confession' of a presiding officer at a Lahore polling station. The PTI might have played up these claims, but independent observers, too, were of the view that all was not well at many polling stations in Punjab. The ECP 'took notice' of the apparent electoral malfeasance and sought a report. Meanwhile, violence was reported from Narowal, resulting in the death of a man near a polling station.

Whereas the by-polls should have been a straightforward process, this was not to be. Clearly, the lessons of the Feb 8 polls, as well as earlier fiascos such as the 2021 Daska by-election, have not been learnt. Unless polls in Pakistan are transparent — and seen to be so — the country's democratic evolution will remain slow.

The ECP bears the principal responsibility for ensuring this transparency; others in the government, state and bureaucracy also have a duty to promote electoral integrity. Unless the culture of violence and rigging is rooted out, so that the vote is the sole determinant and source of political power, the credibility of the electoral process in Pakistan will continue to remain under a cloud. By-elections in Pakistan have generally attracted little voter interest, with voters often tending to cast their ballots in favour of the party already in the saddle. As per the provisional results, the PML-N secured two NA seats, while winning 10 provincial constituencies in Punjab. Many of these were seats that N-League candidates had already won on Feb 8.

Rather than reflecting any great triumph for the N-League narrative, as its leaders are claiming, the results are more an indication of the fact that voters want to maintain the status quo at this point in the electoral cycle.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to ignore the rigging claims, which also dominated the Feb 8 polls. They indicate that the electoral victory is not as clear as the ruling party is portraying. There is much time between now and the 2029 elections. This period should be used by all stakeholders to ensure the next elections are free of controversy.

Towards the end

Arif Hasan

Europe destroyed itself and also the rest of the world as a result of World War II. Since it had colonies all over the world, they were also inadvertently drawn into the chaos.

Towards the end of the war, and especially after, Europe discovered the terrible physical and 'moral' cost of it. Europe had in the past two centuries devastated its colonies through highly rapacious and political processes supported by deep-seated racism. By the end of the war, the Europeans also discovered how the Jews, Gypsies, and Slavs had been placed in concentration camps and gassed and starved to death by the millions as they were looked upon as racially inferior to the Aryan race.

The Jews were an educated, financially powerful community with strong links to European and American politics, academia, and global financial institutions. As such, their inhuman extermination, and the large numbers involved, became the most important issue that troubled post-war Europe's conscience. The devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not acquire the same importance in the European psyche.

Due to the tragic war and the racism that was part of it, the major powers (who had won World War II and who were largely European colonists) got together to create the United Nations and formulate its goals, rules, regulations, and covenants, which have grown over the years. The covenants have proposed equality of mankind, irrespective of caste, creed, or ethnicity, and sought to maintain the sanctity of national frontiers and guarantee that the causes and repercussions of World War II would never be seen

again. The headquarters of the UN's various agencies were for the most part located in European cities, and the initial formulations of the UN Charter and its supporting documents were developed by Western intellectuals, politicians, and academia. Thus, the UN was, for the most part, a European/ US construct.

As a result of the barbaric destruction of Gaza, the occupation of Palestinian land by Israeli homes, and the genocide that is accompanying it, Europe and the US, by supporting Israel's war against Hamas and the Palestinian people have violated everything that the UN Charter promotes and which the Western colonial countries have supported not only internationally but also within their own countries. Post-World War II, they have promoted these values as their own and have considered countries and societies that violated them as 'uncivilised'. So Europe has dismantled its own 'civilisation' and value system.

To assuage its post-war conscience, Europe developed two terms: one was 'Holocaust' and the other 'antisemitism'. The Holocaust is used to describe the mass murder of ethnic communities that Europe carried out. Another term that has evolved is 'antisemitism', which means that anyone who acts or says anything that is anti-Jewish is anti-Semite. Almost all European countries have laws that can punish those who deny the Holocaust and/ or is antisemitic.

Israel and its supporters and benefactors have used these two terms to promote the concept that any individual or country that denies the Holocaust or says anything that is antisemitic is anti-Israel. The Western powers have supported this con-

cept since the end of World War II.

This is ironic because many communities in the Global South, such as the Arabs, and the Muslims, were not involved in the Holocaust, but they have been accused of denying it. Similarly, they had nothing to do with the extermination of the Jews. Not only that, the Arabs themselves are Semites, and Islam is a Semitic religion. The Muslim faith is derived from Abraham, as is the Jewish faith. They are two branches of the same tribe. So history is a major casualty in the Euro-pean narrative of this form of reasoning.

Another myth that has been promoted is the invincibility and discipline of the Israeli army. This has been proven by Israeli Western-supported victories because of which Arab countries have refrained from attacking Israel directly since 1967. Iran by its recent attack has shattered this myth and the denial of the Holocaust and antisemitism have become a joke universally but the price for this has been paid by the children and women of Gaza.

The public, especially the young, in most Western countries have protested against their governments' support for Israel. This should not be allowed to fizzle out, as the anger against the Saudi crown prince for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi has — he is now the blue-eyed boy of the Western world. The formal and informal alliances that had been formed among opponents of Israel should be kept alive so that a positive change can take place in international media and the last remnants of colonialism can be wiped out, and a more equitable world created for the coming generation. -- Courtesy Dawn

Wrong choices

Naseer Memon

A fresh conflict has erupted between Punjab and Sindh on the issue of irrigating a new command area. Punjab's irrigation department sought a water availability certificate from the Indus River System Authority to irrigate two million acres of land under the Smaller Cholistan scheme.

The department's presentation reveals that the feasibility studies of the Greater Cholistan and Smaller Cholistan schemes have been completed to bring a total of 6.6m acres of new land under canal command. Sindh's objection was overruled at Irsa and the certificate was issued in favour of Punjab, but the province submitted a detailed note of dissent against the proposal.

Similarly, in August 2023, Wapda had presented a proposal on another forum to irrigate 6m acres of land in Cholistan through the Sutlej river on its left bank.

A drive for large-scale corporate farming has already kicked off. Sindh's last caretaker government had leased 52,000 acres of land in six districts where the newly created Green Pakistan Initiative intends to experiment with corporate farming. Developing new command areas in Cholistan is also part of the mega farming campaign; \$40 billion in revenue and the creation of millions of jobs are being touted under the initiative.

Undoubtedly, Pakistan has large swathes of barren land. But macro-scale farming needs large amounts of guaranteed flood flows and an extensive irrigation infrastructure. Officials in Punjab, it seems, are given to conjuring up numbers to claim the availability of surplus water whenever they want to advocate

new upstream diversions. Sindh has always rejected this data and interpretation. The debate can be endless but it is undeniable that Sindh frequently encounters sub-optimal flows that have led to ecological devastation in the Indus delta.

For the Cholistan dream project, Punjab has proposed an elaborate web of reservoirs and link canals. New reservoirs at Midh Ranjha, Shah Jewna and Chiniot, and new barrages at Hasilpur and Bahawalnagar on the Sutlej, are part of the scheme. Additionally, a new 195-kilometre link canal from the Chenab river is proposed for conveying 'perennial' flows to the Sutlej. Punjab claims that regulated flows of the Chenab will feed the Sutlej, which will eventually irrigate the Cholistan command area through two new feeder canals.

The Punjab irrigation department's proposals for the Smaller Cholistan scheme entail data on water availability. Water availability from the first week of July to the first week of September has been shown as Punjab's share from the flood flows. These flows range from 4,137 cusecs to 4,122 cusecs. Developing such a huge command area on the assumption of the availability of flood flows negates the fundamentals of irrigation engineering. Indus data shows that from 2001 to 2022, flows below Kotri Barrage remained less than 10 million acre feet for nine years. Who can guarantee that the Chenab and Sutlej rivers will receive surplus flows every monsoon?

India is aggressively damming the Chenab. According to The Diplomat, over 70 major hydroelectric projects on the Chenab are at different stages. Although they are run-of-the-river projects, their reservoirs

will hold water for weeks. Amid climatic vagaries and frequent upstream diversions, the reliance on flood flows for developing a massive command area lacks logic. What if a dry spell persists for a few years in the Chenab and the proposed three reservoirs are exhausted? Will the command area be left parched and the crops allowed to wilt? The Chenab and Sutlej flows eventually reach the Indus and the proposed scheme will reduce flows to Sindh.

Pakistan's population is projected to cross 400m by 2050. This poses a challenge for food security. Hence, the objective should be to increase food production, which can be achieved without controversial projects.

According to a report by the Zarai Taraqiati Bank, the national potential for total grain production is 100,933,000 kilograms per year, whereas the actual national grain production from 2015 to 2016 remained 38,227,000 kg.

This means that Pakistan is producing only 38 per cent of its actual potential. Moreover, Pakistan's per acre yield of 1.05 tons pales in comparison with China's 1.9. India obtains 1.1 tonnes. In rice, Pakistan's per acre yield is 1.25 tonnes which is less than half of China's 2.6 tonnes. Even Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India are ahead of Pakistan with 1.7, 1.6 and 1.3 tonnes per acre respectively. Hence Pakistan has the potential to double its grain production from the existing cultivable land. It would be prudent for the decision-makers to avoid the wrong choices and make attempts to increase crop yield and production through improved farm practices, modern water application techniques and quality seeds. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Economy on right path, govt committed to accelerate growth: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here on Tuesday that the economy was steadily advancing in the right direction, underlining the government's steadfast commitment to accelerate momentum towards achieving both economic growth and comprehensive social development.

In his address at the 7th edition of the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit, Collaboration for growth, the minister highlighted the impact of the incumbent government's constructive measures on economic indicators, noting their

resilience amidst challenges. He emphasized that these indicators signify a favorable trajectory compared to previous standings, signaling an optimistic outlook for the economy.

He said that upon assuming power, the foreign exchange reserves of the country stood \$3.4 billion, an import bill covering only 15 days. However, he noted a significant improvement, with reserves now exceeding \$13.3 billion. He further anticipated a boost following the disbursement of the country's tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Besides, the minister

said, Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) was performing well as it witnessed remarkable growth during recent days, adding such sentiments were helping to restore market confidence. Moreover, the agricultural sector in the country experienced notable growth with the successful harvesting of bumper crops, promising a positive ripple effect on the industrial sector, he added.

The agriculture credit disbursement during the period from July-February, 2024 witnessed 33.6 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year, he said adding that during the period under review the current account deficit decreased by 74 percent and reached to \$1.00 billion as against the deficit of 3.9 billion.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries Production and Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain being briefed by Commissioner Livestock Stock regarding Livestock Department.

Federal government to collaborate with provinces to reduce electricity losses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Tuesday said the federal government would engage with provincial governments in order to mitigate electricity losses.

He stated this while responding to a calling attention notice in the National Assembly

regarding un-scheduled load-shedding and overbilling in the Karachi especially in Layari and Azam Basti by Karachi Electric Supply Company.

He emphasized the need for assistance from law enforcement agencies to address the issue effectively.

The minister underscored that without

the cooperation of provincial governments and law enforcement agencies, controlling power issues and minimizing losses would be challenging.

He also revealed plans to establish a new board aimed at enhancing governance in the sector.

Addressing the specific situation in Karachi, he highlighted

that electricity supply challenges in certain areas contribute to load-shedding.

He mentioned that in Azam Basti, for instance, three feeders served 12,200 consumers, leading to 10-hour load-shedding due to losses. Efforts were underway to reduce the current loss rate of 38.3%, he added.

Regarding load-shedding in Layari, the minister detailed that out of 82 feeders, there was no load-shedding on 31, while others experienced varying durations of load-shedding based on losses. Providing an overview of Karachi Electric's operations, Leghari noted that out of 2,109 feeders, 1,500 faces no load-shedding.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan.

Chinese company delegation meets Ch Shafay Hussain

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from a chip manufacturing company in China met with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, here on Tuesday at the Punjab Investment Board.

The Chinese company expressed interest in investing in chip and card manufacturing. Andrew Leong from XH Smart Tech Limited stated that their group aims to establish a chip

manufacturing plant in Punjab and requested land in Bhalwal Industrial Estate. During the meeting, Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain highlighted the extensive investment opportunities in Punjab's industrial zones.

He mentioned the benefits of Special Economic Zones, including ten years of income tax exemption and one-time duty-free machinery import.

Afghan trade delegation visits FPCCI to boost bilateral trade

Independent Report LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Aijaz said that Pakistan and Afghanistan have great

scope for promoting bilateral trade. He added that steps were necessary to prevent smuggling, as smuggling causes great harm to the domestic economy.

He expressed these views while addressing Afghan trade delegation,



led by Board Member Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) and Co-Chairman Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) Khan Jan Alokozai, at the FPCCI Regional Office Lahore.

The head of the

Afghan delegation, Khan Jan Alokozai, said that FPCCI and ACCI are playing a vital role in promoting bilateral trade, and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce is also praiseworthy. He further said that tariffs and taxes

now more than ever. He said that there is potential to increase economic activities in this region. He said that 70% of trade between the two countries is done through Lahore, from where pharmaceuticals, rice, auto

parts and other items are exported to Afghanistan.

He said that Afghanistan is promoting its private sector. Political instability between the two countries affects mutual trade. The delegation urged Pakistani investors to invest in Afghanistan as Pakistanis.

He further said that they are willing to increase trade with Pakistan. Both countries need each other

Bill drafted to regulate veterinary sciences and animal welfare: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain Tuesday said the government was committed to increase export of livestock from Pakistan since this sector contributes around 62% of the agricultural GDP of the country.

Addressing a meeting, he said livestock sector was very important in the agriculture economy of Pakistan as around eight million families were connected to this sector.

He said there was a lot of potential to earn foreign exchange from the livestock sector.

He said Pakistan was the fourth largest milk producing country and all necessary steps would be taken to meet the requirements of meat

and milk across the country.

Rana Tanveer said the current government's mission is the development of the agricultural sector and also determined to increase the export of livestock.

He said for the first time in the history of Pakistan, a bill has been drafted to regulate veterinary sciences and animal welfare. The bill will soon be sent to the cabinet for approval.

He said practical measures are being taken to protect livestock from diseases.

"Strengthening the surveillance system to protect animals from diseases is need of the time," he said adding that concrete measures are being taken to create real-time data of animal diseases in the country.

Governor Punjab hails Pak-Iran friendship

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that Pakistan and Iran are bound to each other by rich historical, cultural and civilizational ties.

During a meeting with the President of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi at the Governor's House here on Tuesday, he said Pakistan accords great importance to its relation with Islamic Republic of Iran. President of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi hailed the city of Lahore for its beauty and grandeur, adding that it houses many architectural heritage sites.

President Raisi expressed the hope that his visit will enhance people to people ties between the two countries.

Later, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi along with his entourage departed for Karachi from Old Airport here on Tuesday evening.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman along with his wife Aisha Baligh and provincial ministers saw off the Iranian dignitaries.

Punjab Information Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique, Minister for Food and Livestock Bilal Yasin, Minister for Industries Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Chief Secretary, Inspector General Police, Iranian Consul General in Lahore

Mehran Mawahid Far, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Lahore, CCPO and other officers were present.

During the day-long visit to Lahore, the Iranian President and other dignitaries had a very busy schedule packed with multiple official engagements, reflecting the importance of bilateral discussions and cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim nations.

These engagements aim to further strengthen the existing relationship and explore new avenues for collaboration in various sectors.

After accomplishing the engagements in Lahore, the high-level Iranian delegation departed for Karachi.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rahman meets with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi at Governor House.

Knowledge without morality serves powerful: Dr Jamileh

LAHORE (APP): Prof Dr Jamileh-Sadat Alamolhoda, the wife of Iranian President, said on Tuesday that knowledge without morality serves the purpose of powerful and cruel ones.

Addressing the international seminar: exhibition and launching of book titled "The Art of Living Femininely" by Prof Dr Jamileh Alamolhoda here at the University of Home Economics, she said that she was happy to visit the women university, adding that there were women universities in Iran

as well.

She underscored the need for giving adequate attention towards women whether it was a women university or a co-educational institute. She said: "Culture of Iran and Pakistan have some common characteristics". Independence of women was compared with western countries, she said and added that for us providing protection and taking women along was independence of women.

Jamileh Alamolhoda said: "There are a lot of challenges with regard to

upbringing of coming generations and all of us have to play our special role in this regard".

She said that it was a high time to stand up for protecting the values of morality, adding that each of us was aggrieved over the killing of humans in Gaza. She said that time had come to restore values of morality, adding that teachers were actually technicians of knowledge centre. She said: "I have mentioned in her book that if women play their role effectively and efficiently then success could be achieved".



LAHORE: Ms. Dr. Jamila Alam Al Hoda, wife of the Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran being received during her visit Pakistan Home at University of Home Economics, Gulberg.

Afridi praises issuance of scholarships by Chinese universities to Pak students

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi has praised the issuance of scholarships by Chinese universities for Pakistani students, particularly those from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He expressed the desire to cooperate with the Chinese government in the field of education to ensure that Pakistani students receive higher

education and contribute to the nation.

Afridi shared these views on Tuesday during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center in Peshawar.

During his visit, the provincial minister toured various galleries at China Window, signed the friendship wall, and registered his comments in the visitor's book.

ANF recovers 133 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 133 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 2.4 kg Ice was recovered from two passengers going to Saudi Arabia at Islamabad Airport, 700 grams Ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Peshawar Airport.

In third operation, 87 kg hashish and 33.9 kg opium recovered from Nowshera while 5 kg hashish and 1 kg opium were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up in Tandujam, Hyderabad. 2.7 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested in Sohrab Goth Karachi. 600 grams hashish was recovered from a drug smuggler netted near Turki Toll Plaza Jhelum.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.

Governor urges young doctors to serve humanity

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, has emphasized that serving the suffering humanity should be the purpose and goal of young doctors.

He addressed the 8th Convocation of Gandhara University, Peshawar, as a special guest. He mentioned that young doctors will bring innovation and improvement to the field of medicine. The Governor highlighted that to completely eradicate diseases, it's essential to utilize one's education effectively, adding that as new diseases emerge

globally, new treatment methods are being introduced.

"I hope our young doctors will make a name for themselves in society by contributing to the eradication of diseases," he said.

"It should be your commitment to improve the conditions of hospitals and provide every possible medical facility to patients," he urged.

He emphasized that the young generation should set their goals for success in their respective fields.

Police arrest eight drug dealers with over 11 kg charras

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police have arrested eight drug dealers and recovered over 11 kg charras, said a police spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that Rattanaal police held Tariq and recovered 2400 grams charras while Rizwan, Adeel, Bilal and Aliyan were sent behind the bars for having over 5.5 kg charras. Waris Khan police rounded up Bilal Khan and Waqas and recovered 1440 and 550 grams charras respectively.

CM Punjab directs to established Provincial Enforcement Authority

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting to review implementation of various government policies in the province, directed to establish the Provincial Enforcement Authority in Punjab.

The CM said the enforcement authorities would also be established in every district and tehsil of Punjab, adding that the Provincial Enforcement Authority would be headed by the chief secretary, supported by a director general, the District Enforcement Authority will be headed

by a deputy commissioner while Tehsil Enforcement Authority will be headed by the respective assistant commissioner.

The enforcement authorities will have powers to take action against price hike, encroachment of government lands and hoarding besides performing other special tasks assigned by the government

from time to time, including seizures of state properties. The CM directed to make these enforcement authorities functional and start legislation for the purpose.



BATTAGRAM: DIGHazara Tahir Ayub Khan, DPO Battagram Qamar Hayat Khan and other police officials are saluted the constable Amjad Hussain who martyred during duty by unknown terrorists at Khas Pull Check Post in district Battagram (Hazara Division) during funeral prayer, held at Police Lines Headquarter in Battagram.

KP Govt vows to fully support NCRC

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will provide full support to the National Commission for Child Rights (NCR) to facilitate the process of registration of children and its awareness. The complete coordination between the concerned institutions will be continued in this regard. Registration of children at birth is a very crucial process. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary Chairperson National Commission for Children's Rights Ayesha Raza Farooq participated in a

meeting organized on children's birth registration along with Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary in Peshawar on Tuesday. In the meeting, various feasible suggestions were considered regarding increasing the rate of registration at the time of birth of children.

On this occasion, the Chief Secretary said that to facilitate the process of registration of children at the time of birth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, they will ensure the implementation of all feasible suggestions, and will fully cooperate with the NCR to protect the rights of children.

International News

Iraq, Turkiye agree to cooperate against Kurdish militants

Monitoring Desk BAGHDAD: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said relations with Iraq were entering a new phase after the neighbours agreed to cooperate against Kurdish militants, boost economic ties via a new trade corridor and consider Iraq's needs for access to scarce water.

that the PKK's presence in Iraq will end. We discussed the joint steps we can take against the terrorist organisation PKK and its extensions targeting Turkiye," Erdogan said at a joint news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in Baghdad.

The two countries agreed to a strategic framework agreement overseeing security, trade and energy as well as a 10-year deal on the management of water resources that would take Iraq's needs into account, Sudani said.

Sudani said the two countries would cooperate to bolster border security

and act against non-state armed groups that could be working with terrorist organisations. He did not mention the PKK specifically.

An Iraqi government spokesperson said PKK members were welcome in Iraq so long as they did not engage in political activism or carry weapons. He did not elaborate.

The PKK took up arms against the Turkish state in 1984 and is designated a terrorist organisation by Ankara and its Western allies. Turkiye has conducted a series of cross-border operations against the group in northern Iraq since 2019.



Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shake hands after a joint statement to the media.

200 bodies exhumed at Gaza hospital

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Gaza's Civil Defence agency said on Monday that health workers had uncovered about 200 bodies over the past three days of people killed and buried by Israeli forces at a hospital in Khan Yunis.

When asked for comment, the Israeli military said: "We will come back to you on the matter." Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for Gaza's Civil Defence, said that "civil defence crews are still recovering bodies from inside Nasser Medical Complex, and since Saturday bodies of nearly 200 martyrs have been retrieved".

Bassal said several of the recovered bodies had decomposed.

"There is difficulty in the process of identifying them but civil defence efforts are ongoing," he said. On Sunday, Bassal said that some of those killed had been tortured.

Ismail al-Thawabta, head of the Hamas government media office in the Palestinian territory, gave a higher figure of 283 bodies found at the hospital.

Floods swamp China

Monitoring Desk QINGYUAN: Floods swamped cities in southern China's densely populated Pearl River Delta following record-breaking rains, sparking worries about the region's defenses against bigger deluges induced by extreme weather events.

The province once dubbed the "factory floor of the world" is prone to summer floods. Since Thursday, Guangdong has been battered by unusually heavy, sustained and widespread rainfall, with powerful storms ushering in an earlier-than-normal start to the province's annual flooding season in May and June.

Prosecutors lay out 'criminal conspiracy' in Trump trial

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Donald Trump engaged in a multi-layered conspiracy of fraud, lies and cover-ups, prosecutors said on Monday during opening arguments in the first ever criminal trial of a former US president. Assistant District Attorney Matthew Colangelo said Trump falsified business records to buy the silence of porn star Stormy Daniels over a 2006 sexual encounter that could have impacted his 2016 presidential bid.

2 Malaysian military helicopters collide and crash while training, killing all 10 crew

Monitoring Desk KUALA LUMPUR: Two Malaysian military helicopters collided midair and crashed during a training session on Tuesday, killing all 10 people on board and injuring a swimmer in a pool, authorities said.

The helicopters were rehearsing at a naval base in northern Perak state for the navy's 90th anniversary celebration when the accident occurred, the navy said in a brief statement. "All victims were confirmed dead on site," it said. A video circulating on social media purported to be of the incident shows several helicopters flying low in a formation. One of the helicopters veers sideways and clips the rotor of another helicopter, causing both to plunge and crash. A local police officer, who declined

to be named because he isn't authorized to speak to the media, confirmed the footage is genuine. The two choppers were mangled beyond recognition. Rescue workers sifted through the debris to find the bodies. The victims included three women and seven men aged between 26 and 41, authorities said. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the nation mourned over the "heart and soul-wrenching tragedy." He said the navy will immediately carry out an investigation to find the cause of the incident.

Seven of the dead crew members were aboard an AW139 maritime operations helicopter, the navy said. That aircraft is produced by AgustaWestland, a subsidiary of the Italian defense contractor Leonardo.

Germany, Britain act against 'Chinese spies'

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: Germany and Britain on Monday both swooped on suspected spies accused of passing on secret information to China, as concern deepens in the West over aggressive Chinese espionage.

In Germany, investigators arrested three German nationals in the west of the country suspected of sharing information on maritime technology, prosecutors said in a statement.

The trio, named as Herwig F., Ina F. and Thomas R., are accused of taking part in an information-gathering project funded by Chinese state agencies, as well as illegally exporting a laser to China.

UK parliament as a researcher.

The German arrests and British charges come amid repeated Western warnings of Chinese intelligence services targeting advanced technologies. German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser warned of the "considerable danger posed by Chinese espionage in business, industry and science". "The area affected in the current case — innovative technologies from Germany that can be used for military purposes — is particularly sensitive," Faeser said. China firmly rejects accusations that it carried out spying activities in Germany, its embassy in Berlin said on Monday, after three Germans were arrested on suspicion of working with the Chinese secret service.

"We call on Germany to desist from exploiting the espionage accusation to politically manipulate the image of China and defame China," a spokesperson for the embassy said in an emailed statement.



Emergency personnel work at the site of a helicopter crash in Lumut, Perak, Malaysia.

Russia will strike in unexpected places this summer, Ukraine says

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russian troops will strike in unexpected parts of the front when they conduct their summer offensive in Ukraine and could try to advance on the northeastern city of Kharkiv, the commander of Ukraine's National Guard said on Tuesday.

Oleksandr Pivnenko said. "We are getting ready. Yes, the enemy will give us unpleasant surprises. It will operate in areas where we do not expect it. But it will not achieve its goal," he told the Ukrainian news outlet Liga.net.

Russia has been inching forward in the east, but long-delayed U.S. military assistance is finally expected to be approved this week and reach Ukraine soon.

Aid workers worried over looming Rafah invasion

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: An expected Israeli assault on Rafah has aid groups scrambling for ways to help the 1.5 million civilians sheltering in the south Gaza city but the uncertain timeline poses a logistical nightmare.

"We always are prepared with plans to up-scale or downscale but, really, we don't know what to expect," said Bushra Khalidi, head of advocacy at Oxfam.

Oxfam joined 12 other aid groups in a joint call for a ceasefire on April 3, stressing that more than a million civilians, including at least 610,000 children, were "in direct line of fire" in Rafah.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said repeatedly that Israel will press ahead with the threatened assault on Rafah, the last major population centre in Gaza that Israeli ground troops have yet to enter.

Tensions flare at US universities over Gaza protests

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK CITY: Tensions flared between pro-Palestinian student protesters and school administrators at several US universities on Monday, as in-person classes were cancelled and demonstrators arrested.

The protests, which began last week at Columbia University with a large group of demonstrators establishing a "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" on school grounds, have spread to other campuses, including Yale, MIT and others. Some

Jewish students at Columbia have reported intimidation and anti-Semitism amid the days-long protest, which is calling for the prestigious New York institution to divest from companies with ties to Israel. Classes were moved online on Monday, with university president Nemat Shafiq calling for a "reset" in an open letter to the school community. "Over the past days, there have been too many examples of intimidating and harassing behavior on our campus," she said.

President for comprehensive efforts to prevent heart diseases

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday underscored the need to create awareness and undertake comprehensive efforts to prevent cardiovascular diseases in Pakistan.

He urged the need to educate people about adopting healthier lifestyles to prevent heart diseases in the country.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH), led by its President Major General (Retd) Masud-ur-Rehman, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, the president expressed concern over the rise in cardiovascular diseases and emphasised the need for a comprehensive Heart and Non-Communicable Diseases prevention programme.

He said that steps should be taken to enforce the display of health advisories about the quantity of sugar in carbonated and sugary beverages.

The head of the delegation briefed the President about the role of PANAH in disseminating information about the spread of heart diseases and its risk factors among the general public.

He apprised that PANAH had been making

efforts to prevent, minimize and control fatalities due to angina, heart failure and heart attack.

He informed that the Association aimed to educate the people and impart training regarding the recognition of cardiac arrest and providing Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to save lives.

He further apprised that PANAH had also helped the victims of natural disasters, besides treating poor patients and children.

The president appreciated PANAH's role in promoting cardiac health and advocating for healthier lifestyles and assured them of his full support in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Iranian President vows to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in diverse sectors

LAHORE (APP): Iranian President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi says Pakistan and Iran are keen to develop centers of arts and learning besides promotion of arts and sciences.

Addressing students and faculty at Government College University in Lahore, he said it is need of the hour to pay special attention to arts, sciences and technology to shine among the comity of nations.

President Raisi said that universities should be centers of learning and research and a comprehensive strategy in the education

sector may pay dividends. On Allama Iqbal, the Iranian President said the poetry of Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal enjoys special acceptance in Iran.

He said Pakistan and Iran maintain the same stance on Palestine issue.

Dr Raisi said Iran would further enhance its cooperation with Pakistan in the energy and other sectors.

The Iranian President thanked Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the cordial hospitality during his visit.

Daily urgent hearing applications time extended in SHC

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA) Hyderabad has informed the office of Additional Registrar SHC Hyderabad Circuit Bench will receive their applications for taking up matters urgently on the same day by 10 am daily.

The SHCBA Hyderabad's President Ayaz Hussain Tunio and General Secretary Irfan Ali Bughio issued a circular here on Tuesday stating that the bar's plea with regard to extending the time for acceptance of the application had been approved.

They expressed gratitude to the court for accepting their request and extending the daily time for submission of urgency applications till 10 am.

Mirpurkhas authorities acts fast to combat floods

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood Khan called for an important meeting with officials to address the extensive damage caused by recent floods in Tehsil Jhudo and Sindhri, on Tuesday.

According to the DC office, the meeting aimed to identify solutions to prevent future flooding and destruction.

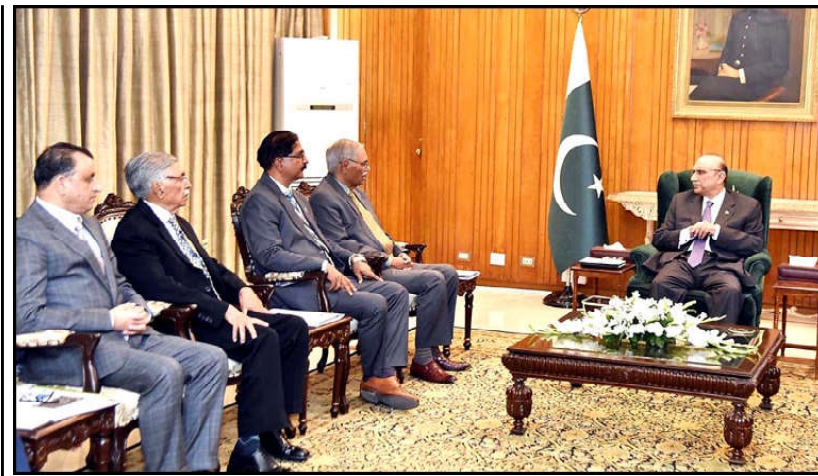
In the meeting, the decisions were taken to build embankments along Dhoropuran river, identify encroachments and remove them, clear debris from old bridges, identify important factors contributing to floods.

The meeting emphasized the need for collective action to protect the district's towns and villages.

23 outlaws held, arms, drugs recovered in Keamari

KARACHI (INP): At least 23 outlaws were arrested besides recovery of arms, drugs during separate actions in different areas of district Keamari during 24 hours. SSP Keamari, Capt (Retd) Faizan Ali said that operations against anti-state elements were conducted in jurisdiction of Baldia, Site A, Site B, Maripur, Pak Colony Dawks and Shehshah police stations of the district.

During separate actions, 23 outlaws including three street criminals, six drug peddlers, a proclaimed offender and 13 involved in other crimes were apprehended. The police recovered three pistols, 69 gram Ice (Crystal Meth), a stolen motorcycle, four maund betel nut and over 46 maunds of gutka mawa, tobacco, choona and katha from possession of the nabbed outlaws.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH), led by its President, Major General (Retd) Masud-ur-Rehman called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan aims to reach \$3 trillion economy by 2047: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan aimed to reach \$3 trillion economy by 2047 and called for enhanced public-private collaboration and a streamlined regulatory framework.

"Pakistan is poised to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, bolstered by a targeted growth rate of 9%," he said while emphasizing the current opportune moment for international investments in Pakistan, including significant commitments from China and Saudi Arabia.

"Leveraging productivity enhancements, Paki-

stan aims to establish itself as an attractive destination for global industries, fostering its position in the international market," he added.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal, speaking at the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2024, stressed the imperative role of collaboration between the government and the private sector in driving economic growth.

He advocated for the development of comprehensive ecosystems within business clusters to optimize value chains and promote sustainable value addition.

Drawing parallels with successful models from countries like Japan, Korea,

Singapore, and Malaysia, he emphasized the need for trading houses to facilitate the global market integration of local products.

Underlining the interdependence of exports and global supply chains in driving economic advancement, Minister Ahsan Iqbal stressed the need for Pakistan to transition from a predominantly domestic market focus to an export-oriented economy. He underscored the critical role of exports in revenue generation and integration into the global supply chain, citing the current low export figures as indicative of the need for strategic investment in this area.

Pak-Saudi ties to be taken to new heights in fields of mutual interest: Speaker NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday said that Pakistan attached great importance to its long-standing brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia.

"Pak-Saudi relations are bound by unbreakable bond of religion, culture, history, and mutual trust and respect," he said during a meeting with the Saudi Ambassador in Pakistan, Nawal bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy who called on him at Parliament House.

He also expressed, "The continuous upward trajectory of our bilateral relations is extremely heartening, and we are committed to taking this mutually beneficial partnership to new heights by expanding coop-

eration in all fields of mutual interest."

The speaker highlighted that the people of Pakistan held deep respect and affinity for Saudi Arabia, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul AI, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, and the people of the Kingdom.

"Both brotherly countries share the unanimity of views on important global and regional issues," he added.

Referring to parliament-to-parliament relations, Ayaz Sadiq emphasized that parliamentary diplomacy was of utmost importance to strengthen bilateral relations.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malkiy called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

Raisi's visit to further expand Pak-Iran economic cooperation: Mian Zahid

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 said that the three-day visit of Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi will open new avenues of economic cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement here on Tuesday, he said that a large delegation of Iranian businessmen was also accompanying the distinguished guest, so their visit should be taken full advantage of, and economic cooperation should be increased, which will also help reduce the tension between the two countries.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that economic matters in Pakistan have always been neglected, which has caused the country to come close to bankruptcy.

Due to the efforts of the political and military leadership, the country avoided bankruptcy, but

the economy could not be declared out of danger, he added.

The business leader said that Pakistan was still trying to get more loans from the IMF and was forced to sell national assets because essential institutions have been run on a political rather than economic basis; therefore, they have become white elephants.

He said that the Iranian president was visiting when Pakistan's economic condition was weak, and the country could be fined twenty billion dollars for non-implementation of the gas pipeline agreement.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that elements in the border areas threaten both countries, which has caused tension to become routine in bilateral relations, and both countries continue to make accusations.

He said that Pakistan and Iran should work together to clear the border areas of terrorists and build border markets and border trade.



KARACHI: Edhi Marine Services team is busy in rescue operation after the report of a man jumping into the sea, in Karachi.

Gillani calls for concerted efforts to tackle environmental issues, population growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Tuesday called for concerted efforts to tackle economic challenges, environmental issues, social welfare, and population growth.

While addressing the 7th edition of Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit he expressed gratitude to the organizers for the invitation. He emphasized the importance of forums like the summit in fostering dialogue and collaboration among business leaders.

He commended the summit for its role as a constructive forum for addressing key challenges and formulating strategies for economic growth.

Regarding security challenges, the Chairman noted the resurgence of terrorism and emphasized the

importance of regional stability.

He underlined the need for global attention to end conflicts that threaten national security.

On the economic front, Yousuf Raza Gillani said that there is a need for a shift in policy paradigms to stimulate economic revival and growth, emphasizing collaboration between the government and business leaders.

He also addressed environmental challenges, advocating for sustainable practices and public awareness to mitigate climate change impacts. He highlighted the significance of social welfare programs like the Benazir Income Support Program and stressed the need for efficient resource utilization in social safety-net initiatives.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori exchanging views with Dr. Syed Ebrahim Raisi, Iranian President during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

Delay in tax cases: PM directs to suspend Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, officials

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday took notice of the "willful" delay in tax cases and ordered for suspension of Commissioner Inland Revenue Islamabad and other relevant officials.

While issuing a directive for the suspension of all the relevant officials, the prime minister also asked for initiating an inquiry against them, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Soon after assuming the office, the prime minister had directed for immediate reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and decided to oversee the

process himself. As per details, billions of rupees' cases related to government revenues have been pending for adjudication in the Tax Tribunals.

The prime minister had requested the Chief Justice of Pakistan for the early disposal of such cases.

Recently, the prime minister took a notice of one of these pending cases in which an FBR counsel had sought adjournment and directed the relevant authorities to inquire into the matter.

The prime minister observed that the national exchequer had been suffering due to the pendency of such cases involving worth billions of rupees tax matters.

DC directs cleaning of drains ahead of rain

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Tariq Qureshi on Tuesday directed relevant department to ensure immediate cleaning of drains across the district in anticipation of possible rains, to facilitate swift drainage of rainwater.

He was presiding over a meeting regarding the cleaning of drains across the city in his office.

The deputy commissioner said that a letter would be written to the

higher authorities through the Commissioner to allocate the budget for cleaning the drains.

The deputy commissioner directed the concerned officers to play their key role in keeping the pumping stations functional and ensure that the defected machines were also repaired.

The meeting was attended by MD WASA Zeeshan Malik and other relevant officers.



KARACHI: A view of closed road due rot arrival of Iranian President in provincial capital.

NAEAC conducts accreditation assessment at SAU

HYDERABAD (APP): The National Agricultural Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) Tuesday conducted a comprehensive assessment of various disciplines and degrees at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam.

Under the leadership of Chairman Dr. Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Sahi, a delegation comprising members from diverse universities across the country, including Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, Irfan A. Baig, Muhammad Hamad Nadeem, Dr. Mashooq Ahmed, Dr. Muhammad Anjam Aqeel, Dr. Nasser Nadeem, Dr. Rana Mazhar Abbas, Dr. Badar Naseem Siddiqui, Dr. Shabeer Hussain, Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Markhand, Dr. Hakumat Ali, and Secretary Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, convened with Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Mari.

According to the spokesman of the university, an introductory meeting was held in the university's committee room in this context under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor SAU, Tandojam Dr. Fateh Mari. Dr. Muhammad Ismail Khumbhar briefed the accreditation team about the university during the session.

During his address, SAU VC Dr. Mari underscored the progress achieved by the university despite resource constraints.

He highlighted advancements in academics, research, infrastructure, scholarships, internships, sports, student societies and student facilities, international collaborations and alumni engagement.

Sheikh Rasheed slams govt. over ineffective justice system

RAWALPINDI (INP): The head of Awami Muslim League Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad has criticized the government, declaring it a complete failure. He stated that the people are suffering due to a flood of false cases and demanded the withdrawal of all such cases.

Speaking to the media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court on Tuesday, Sheikh Rashid expressed his concerns over the mounting number of cases against the public.

He said, "Every day, we have to appear in courts due to these fabricated cases. The situation has become so absurd that even

individuals who weren't present in Pakistan during certain events are being implicated."

The former Interior Minister further added, "Our lawyers have to attend court almost daily because of these false cases. But the government will have to take back all these cases."

Many people have been falsely implicated in thousands of cases. If the government wants to provide relief to the people, it must end these baseless cases. We will fight within the boundaries of law and constitution, and we will win these cases."



LARKANA: Members of Mirbahar Community are holding protest demonstration for immediate recovery of missing Aisha Mirbahar and Ashraf Khatoon, at Larkana press club.

Sindh University hosts symposium to combat violence against women, children

HYDERABAD (APP): A seminar was organized by the Sindh University aiming at to create awareness on violence against women and children on Tuesday.

Speakers emphasized on the need for strict implementation of laws against gender-based violence. According to the university spokesperson, a one-day symposium titled "How to Stop Violence Against Women and Children in Society?" was organized by the department of criminology at the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Convention Center of the University.

During the symposium, the Vice Chancellor Professor (Meritorious) Dr Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro highlighted in his keynote address the need for reforms in the basic structure of the police and special attention to the training of police officers to make policing more effective.

He stated that there are ample capabilities among women in Sindh, and opportunities for recruitment in the police department have been provided to them, which is motivating.