

Ahsan Iqbal terms CPEC a transformative force in region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a transformative force in the region as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), especially for Pakistan.

The minister said that CPEC will enhance cooperation and development for both countries in the fields of agriculture, industry, information technology and science.

The minister and Vice Chairman National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Li Chunlin jointly chaired the 13th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Li Chunlin praised the Pakistani minister of planning for his deep com-

mitment to CPEC and his active role in promoting it. Ahsan Iqbal chaired 10 of the 13th JCC meetings held so far, which is quite an honour in itself, said Li Chenlin.

Federal Minister for Privatization, Minister of Communications, Federal Minister of Information Technology, Secretary Energy, Secretary Communications, Secretary Board of Investment, and senior officials of federal and provincial ministries participated in the meeting.

In the JCC meeting, the Pakistan side appreciated the vision of Chinese leadership to upgrade the second phase of CPEC with the inclusion of these new corridors which are in harmony with Pakistan's 5E framework.

Meanwhile speaking on the occasion, Ahsan

Iqbal said, "We are ready to work with NDRC to finalise the scope and implementation plan on these corridors. Both sides are highly committed to this shared vision, and together, both countries have embarked on a journey of shared dreams, working hand in hand to build high-quality development projects."

Last year, Pakistan and China celebrated a decade of successful high-quality development and ever closer collaboration under CPEC, he said.

The minister stated that during the celebrations, Vice Premier He Lifeng unveiled five new corridors proposed by President Xi Jinping, including the Growth Corridor, Livelihood Enhancing Corridor, Innovation Corridor, Green Corridor, and Opening Up/Regional Connectivity Corridor.



Deputy Prime Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Chairs the first meeting of the Committee on Medical Education at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad.

Govt utilizing resources for facilitating people in Balochistan: Adviser

QUETTA (APP): Adviser on Environment and Climate Change to Chief Minister Naseem-ur Rehman Khan Mulakhel on Friday said that provincial government was utilizing all available resources to provide basic facilities to public in the respective area of province.

He said that while talking to Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Wali Noorzai called on him at his office.

The Secretary Wali Noorzai congratulated him on taking over the portfolio of Environment.

The Environment Adviser thanked the Par-

liamentary Secretary and congratulated him on joining the Cabinet and taking charge of the Department of Social Welfare.

In the meeting, the importance of both departments in the development of the province was discussed and the commitment was expressed that all resources will be utilized for public service.

Later, a delegation led by socio-political leader Chaudhry Naem Karim also met the Provincial Adviser on Environment and congratulated him on taking over the portfolio of Environment.



LAHORE: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

Digital X-Ray machines provided in 30 districts of Balochistan, says Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Manager, TB Control Programme, Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani has stated that the digital and artificial intelligence based new X-Ray machines have been provided in 30 districts of the province.

According to an official press release issued here on Friday, the digital X-Ray machines have been pro-

vided in the districts with assistance of the Global Fund. Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani said that the digital machines can diagnose the TB disease by itself. The Manager TB control Programme said that the technical staff would be imparted necessary training to operate the digital X-Ray machines. It would also effectively help control the disease, he added.

All necessary measures taken for Gwadar security: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Hamood ur Rehman Friday dismissed rumors about the erection of a fence in the coastal city of Gwadar, labeling such claims as baseless. Talking to APP, Rehman categorically denied any ongoing or future plans for constructing a fence in Gwadar. The DC emphasized that the government was committed to provide all necessary facilities to the local population, ensuring their freedom of movement within the city.

He mentioned that false rumors are being spread by certain political groups, obscuring the facts from the public.

Addressing the concerns about the so-called fence, Rehman clarified that a temporary trench was dug as a security measure, which has been misrepresented as a fence by some factions for propaganda purposes. DC Gwadar further noted that before initiating work on the trench, the local community was taken into confidence.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Bahkt Kakar, Zareen Magsi are in a group photo along with stranded Pakistani students from Bishkek-Kyrgyzstan on their arrival, in Quetta.



Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal co-chairing the 13th JCC meeting with China on CPEC in Islamabad.

Dar emphasizes uniform high quality medical education in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday underlined the need to improve the regulatory framework for medical education in Pakistan, besides establishing a coordination mechanism between medical institutions, and the public and private sectors to ensure uniform high-quality education.

He was chairing the first meeting of the Committee on Medical Education that was constituted by the prime minister earlier this week on May 20.

The deputy prime minister emphasized the important responsibility of the committee to address the gaps in medical education in the country.

Highlighting the importance of nurturing a conducive environment for medical students to excel and contribute meaningfully to the healthcare sector, Ishaq Dar stressed that the world-class quality of medical education should be ensured in all the provinces.

The committee conducted a comprehensive review of the country's medical education system, fee structure, and identified key areas for improvement and development of a strategic plan to align medical education with international standards.

It specifically focused on devising a plan to solve the issues faced by Pakistani medical students studying abroad. It also discussed strategies to support and empower medical students in their academic and professional endeavours.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Law and Justice, the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Health, Secretary Health, the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and Chairman Higher Education Commission, MNA Dr Nafesa Shah, heads of prominent public and private medical institutions, and eminent experts from the medical community.

After a detailed discussion in the meeting, a sub-executive committee was constituted with Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad, National Coordinator for Health as Convener and Tariq Bajwa as Co-Convener.

The sub-committee will deliberate on the existing terms of reference (ToRs) along with additional tasks including synergies among regulatory bodies, streamlining procedures for foreign students in Pakistan and the uniformity in curricula.



ZIARAT: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti visiting Quaid-e-Azam public library.

43 Pakistani prisoners in Sri Lanka to return home

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's success on the diplomatic front will bring 43 Pakistani citizens back to their homes from Sri Lanka jails.

In a high-level meeting on Friday with the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Srivijay Gunaratne, it was agreed to immediately repatriate 43 Pakistani citizens imprisoned in Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Home Affairs had been working with the Sri Lankan authorities for the past month to bring back these prisoners.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner assured all possible cooperation in this regard.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi thanked the Sri Lankan High Commissioner for his support for the repatriation of the prisoners.

The arrangements for the return of Pakistani prisoners will be finalised in a few days, Mohsin Naqvi said in his statement.

The minister said that relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan have been going from strength to strength over the past seven decades. He said that Pakistan wants to further develop mutual relations in various fields with Sri Lanka. In the meeting, it was agreed to take immediate steps to return the prisoners of both countries to their country. Issues of mutual interest and the development of bilateral relations were also discussed in the meeting. Both sides agreed to increase cooperation in the field of security and counter-narcotics.

Earlier, Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the Sri Lankan High Commissioner on his arrival at the Ministry of Interior.



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango visiting control room of PDMA.

Pakistan grapples with severe heat wave, temperatures soar to 50°C in some areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): A severe heat wave continues to grip Pakistan, with temperatures expected to reach a scorching 50 degrees Celsius in some parts of Sindh, a spokesperson for Met Department said on Friday.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the plains of Punjab and Sindh were bearing the brunt of the heat, with major cities also experiencing extreme temperatures.

Dadu and Mohenjodaro in Sindh, he said were expected to be the hottest, with temperatures reaching 50°C, while Lahore is expected to sizzle at 42°C, Karachi at 34°C, and Islamabad at 41°C.

He has warned that the weather would remain hot and dry in other parts of the country, with some respite expected in the form of rain in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Kashmir.

However, Karachi is expected to experience hot and humid weather, with sea winds providing some relief throughout the day.

He said the city's residents could expect some respite from the heat, but not for long, as the Met Department predicted a third heat wave in June.

The Meteorologist said that the heat wave's micro-impacts would be felt more severely in smaller towns and cities, and urged people to take precautionary measures everywhere.

The country is experiencing its second heat wave, with the first one having occurred earlier this month.

Minister says; Action against political party office taken in accordance with law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Azam Nazeer Tarar, informed the Senate that action against a political party office had been taken in accordance with the law and for violating building bylaws.

Responding to a point of order raised by opposition leader Shibli Faraz, he further explained that the first notice was issued to the political party in 2020 for violating building bylaws. Notices were repeatedly issued from 2020 to 2024 at six-month intervals, with the final notice given on May 10 for ongoing violations.

"In view of the last notice dated May 10, the action is in accordance with the law," the minister said.

He elaborated that he had talked to the chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), who confirmed that the process had been ongoing for the past four years due to the violations. The final notice was issued to ensure compliance with CDA directions, he added. The minister further explained that reminders were issued to the political party regarding two floors constructed without CDA approval and the misuse of a public place for parking containers.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Nawabzada Tariq Magsi and former MPA Malik Sikandar Advocate meeting with Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Pakistan's border crossing with Iran at Taftan, Gabd to remain open 24/7

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu announced on Friday that Pakistan's border crossing with Iran at Taftan and Gabd will remain open 24/7 to promote business between the neighbouring countries.

Calling it a big step forward, the ambassador said it would hopefully increase the flow of goods between the two countries and consequently widen economic opportunities.

Pakistan and Iran on April 24 reiterated the importance of energy cooperation and electricity trade, despite the warning of potential sanctions hinted at by the United States following the then Iranian president Seyed Ebrahim Raisi's three-day visit to Pakistan.

Agreeing to turn the common border between the two states from a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries had reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain, including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

During Raisi's visit to Pakistan, both sides had underscored the imperative of a long-term durable economic partnership and collaborative regional economic and connectivity model, particularly for socio-economic development in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan and Pakistan's Balochistan provinces.

This was stated by the Foreign Office in a 28-point joint statement, hours after the Iranian head of state had departed for Tehran from Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: JUIF chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman met with deputy chairman senate Syed Aal Khan Nasir and discussed overall political situation, in the Federal Capital.

Recovery of missing Ahmad Farhad case: IHC summons defence secretary, sector commander ISI in person

ISLAMABAD (APP): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned defence secretary and sector commander ISI in person in the matter of recovery of missing poet Ahmad Farhad.

The petition seeking recovery of Ahmad Farhad came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani.

Attorney General (AG) said the state has not failed yet. We are tracing through CDR.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked "you are saying state has not failed. Recovering the missing person is compulsion of state otherwise there is failure of state. The failure of state are mere words and its results.

SSP operations appeared in the court and said location has been traced. Team is present there. Police is seeking assistance from IB.

The court remarked defence secretary should make understand about ISI working by appearing on next hearing. Sector commander and how many persons work under him in ISI. Now agencies will not sit hidden any where. These police walas are sitting here only because they are answerable.

The court further remarked law and situation deteriorates too. Police walas are beaten and their uniforms are torn. Now the recovery of this man is left behind. We will settle some things. Now the statement of sector commander will be recorded in missing persons case. Police officer will record statement and write zimm.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked if the institutions are not answerable and you could not make them accountable then what will happen. You are seeking support of which agency. ISI and MI are not included.



HUB: Members of All Balochistan Transport Itehad are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police and coast guards.