

# Independent

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Stresses B2B cooperation for a bright future

## PM guarantees facilitation, security to Chinese investment

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, assuring all-out facilitation to Chinese investors, and security of Chinese individuals, projects and investments in Pakistan, emphasised that mutually rewarding business-to-business cooperation was key to a bright future for the two people.

The prime minister, addressing the Pakistan-China Business Forum during his five-day China visit, highlighted bilateral trade and investment potential, especially in key sectors

including transfer of Chinese technology, industry and partnership in IT, agriculture, mining, steel, textiles and renewable energy. The prime minister repeatedly lauded the Chinese model of development and economic transformation and vowed to replicate the same in Pakistan.

“I will go back to Pakistan with this resolve, come what may, we will follow this model of great economic transformation in Pakistan. This model is enough to copy and simulate if we are sincere to our purpose and



SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses Pakistan China Business Conference.



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Dr. Maen Khreasat, Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

## Zia condemns attack on DC Chaman; directs to take action against miscreants

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langave has strongly condemned the attack at Deputy Commissioner Chaman by some miscreants in his office and it's ransacking.

In an official condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the Provincial Minister for Home contacted the Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas and got detail from him.

He directed to the concerned authorities to take wholehearted action against the miscreants involved in the incident.

He asserted that we can't allow anyone to provoke the people of Chaman on mutiny and treason

against the State under the garb of protest in Chaman. However, he added that the peaceful protest is everyone's democratic right, on which there's no objection. Still attacking the FC Forte and Levies and anti-polio teams is unacceptable, he added.

The Minister Home said that the peace would be restored through action against the miscreants.

He recalled that he himself and Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai had gone to Chaman to hold talks with those observing protest and stayed for couple of days there.

He said that we are well aware of the hardships of the people of Chaman, and as such steps are being taken to resolve them.

## PM brought innovation in CPEC: Tarar

SHENZHEN (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif had brought an innovation within China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Talking to the media here, the minister said that a new era was beginning in CPEC under the vision of the Prime Minister. More than 500 Pakistani and Shenzhen businessmen participated in Business to Business Conference in Shenzhen, he added.

“The relations between Pakistan and China are entering a new era which is an important milestone for the Pakistani economy,” the minister said.

## President Zardari stresses upon further strengthening Pak, Jordan bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that Pakistan and Jordan enjoyed close cordial relations and stressed upon further strengthening of these bilateral ties between the two countries.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Pakistan Dr Maen Khreasat who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The Jordanian envoy invited the president to a conference being

held in Jordan on human relief activities in Gaza on June 11. The president assured him of Pakistan's participation in the scheduled conference. The ambassador apprised the president that Jordan had signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Akhuwat Foundation for provision of relief assistance in Palestine.

The president lauded Jordan for its efforts to provide relief in Palestine.

The ambassador also conveyed a felicitation message from the Jordanian King to the President Zardari on assuming his office.

## GoB spokesman says No objection on observing peaceful protest in Chaman; instigating public on mutiny intolerable

Chaman district administration says Levies force took action against miscreants attacking DC & ransacking his office; traffic restored on Quetta-Chaman highway

Independent Report

QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has stated that there's no objection on the peaceful protest (parlat) in Chaman, however, it is intolerable to instigate the people on mutiny or other than under the garb of protest.

In an official statement issued here on the situation of Chaman on Wednesday, the spokesman of provincial government said that the government made efforts to resolve the issue through negotiations time and again.

The Speaker Provincial Assembly and Ministers also visited Chaman on di-

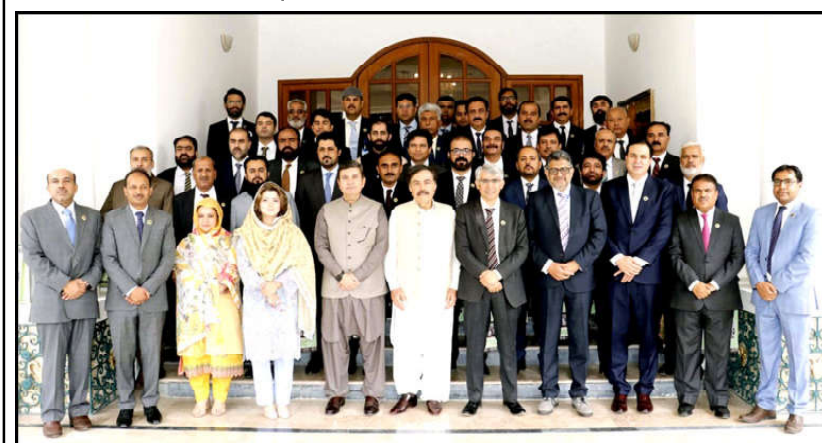
rectives of the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, however, the laghris observing protest maintained deadlock by not showing seriousness in the dialogue. The writ of state and law was challenged for several times during the protest continued for months, Shahid Rind mentioned adding that the FC forte as well as the DC complex and anti-polio team were attacked.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas said that the district administration held negotiations with the Chaman Parlat (protest) committee on Tuesday night for maintaining law and order situation

in Chaman city. However, during the course of dialogue in DC office Chaman, the laghris attacked the DC and ransacked his office.

However, the Levies force apprehended the miscreants taking immediate action against them. The DC Chaman escaped unhurt in the attack, a press release issued by the district administration mentioned.

The district administration said that the laghris has crossed the red line and now case of anti-terrorism would be registered against the assailants. It was also mentioned that the laghris have made the whole district hostage for last one month.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with under trainee officers of Midcare Management Course

## Governor exhorts civil officers to resolve public issues sans coming in any pressure

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has exhorted the civil officers to resolve the issues being faced by general public without coming any sort of pressure.

He stressed that it is the human and national duty of the officers to perform their duties remaining above all kinds of personal interests. He said that the government officers basically are the public servants not their rulers and marked improvement can be brought about by utilizing their authorities and duties for the public interests.

The Governor was addressing the participants of

Midcareer Management Course (MCMC) at the Governor House on Wednesday.

The ceremony was organized by the Balochistan Civil Service Academy on completion of the MCMC.

Also present on the occasion were the Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit, Director General of Civil Service Academy, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Jamali, administrative secretaries of the provincial government departments, vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of IT, Engineering and Management Sciences, Dr.

Khalid Hafeez, Provincial Ombudsman Nazar Baloch and Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Ghilzai.

Addressing the participants of MCMC, Governor extended congratulations to the civil officers on completion of their training at the Civil Services Academy. He said that the institutions and laws are formed for the public welfare, therefore, it is your duty to perform your duties honestly with dedication.

He said that heavy responsibilities rests with the government officers with regard to establish good governance and become voice of the voiceless people of the society.



BEIJING: Vice Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China, Sun Weidong receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Beijing Capital International Airport.

## Live streaming appearance of Imran is not violation of law: Justice Athar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Athar Minallah of Supreme Court (SC) has issued his dissenting note on SC decision for not live-streaming proceedings of NAB amendments case.

The dissenting note contains 13 pages. Justice Athar Minallah said live streaming is must for the protection of fundamental rights. NAB amendment case has already been live-streamed.

PTI founder is head of the largest political party of the country. Live-streaming appearance of PTI founder is not violation of law.

It has been further said in the dissenting note all cases of 184-3 were live

streamed from bench 3 after success of pilot project.

The appeal is against the case of 184-3 in NAB amendment case. When Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was executed he was not an ordinary prisoner. Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif too were not ordinary prisoners. NAB kept on misusing powers against former Prime Minister (PM). Former PM was humiliated being public representative and was harassed. PTI founder is not ordinary prisoner. He has several millions followers. The result of the recent polls bear witness to it. Non making SOPs is not impediment in live streaming the case.

## Coast Guards seize 1176 kg hashish worth billions in Jiwani operation

QUETTA (INP): The Pakistan Coast Guard in a major counter-narcotics operation, seized a large haul of hashish worth billions of Pakistani rupees during an operation near Jiwani, Gwadar district.

According to PCG spokesperson, acting on intelligence, Coast Guard personnel intercepted a vehicle in the General Area Kaldan Jiwani. A search uncovered 1176 kilograms of hashish concealed within the vehicle.

## Balochistan police determined to make province polio-free: IG

QUETTA (APP): Inspector General (IG) Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh on Wednesday said that the eradicating polio was a significant national duty and Balochistan Police was determined to make the province polio-free.

He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting at Central Police Office.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafaqat, Coordinator for

Balochistan Polio Zahid Shah, AIG Operation Dr. Sami, SSP Operation Muhammad Baloch, Captain Retired Anwarul Haque Coordinator National Emergency Operation Center Polio Islamabad, Brigadier Retired Abdul Hasan, and Ghulam Dastgir Ghazal.

In the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on the measures taken to protect the anti-polio teams in the province this year.

## Imran being asked strike deal and leave country, claims Dr. Arif Alvi

FAISALABAD (INP): A day after clarifying his party's position on political dialogues, former president and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Arif Alvi has claimed that the incarcerated party founder Imran Khan is being told to “strike a deal and leave the country”.

Alvi, while talking to journalists in Faisalabad on Wednesday, said that Khan rejected the offer and decided not to leave the country “at any cost”.

The former president predicted that those who were colluding to sentence Khan — the former prime minister — would face a complete failure.

Commenting on dialogue offers, the politico said that his party is ready to hold talks with “stakeholders but not with the non-stakeholders”. He asked the stakeholders to let go of hatred and practice compassion.

## FIA takes social activist Sarim Burney into custody over human trafficking charges

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) took social activist and entrepreneur Sarim Burney into custody from the Karachi airport on Wednesday.

According to sources in the FIA, Burney was arrested by a team from the FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Wing on Wednesday afternoon following a human trafficking complaint received from the US government. It is alleged that Burney was involved in illegal adoption practices, including human trafficking, spanning across the United States, Canada and other countries.

## Pakistan, Italy to undertake joint efforts against drug trafficking

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan and Italy have agreed to a coordinated and effective action plan against illegal immigrants and human trafficking.

This came at a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi in Rome. Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain was also present in the meeting.



The two sides also agreed to undertake joint efforts against drug trafficking.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said steps have been taken at all levels to stop illegal entry of Pakistanis to Italy and to counter drug trafficking. A zero tolerance policy has been adopted against human trafficking and drug mafia.

In his remarks, Chaudhry Salik Hussain said Italy can benefit greatly from Pakistan's skilled manpower. He emphasized the early finalization of the Skilled Manpower Agreement will discourage illegal immigration.

The Italian Interior Minister said his country will cooperate with Pakistan in matters pertaining to border security and human and drug trafficking.

## Bilawal urges govt to focus on public issues, not Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday expressed his discontent with the politics of hate and urged the government to shift its focus from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan to addressing public issues.

“The people of Pakistan are not interested in the politics of hatred. They want solutions to their problems. Our information department should also focus on resolving issues, not on what Imran Khan is doing. It makes no difference to people; he has his own cases to deal with,” Bilawal said while speaking at a meeting of the PPP's parliamentary party in Sindh.

The PPP chairman

emphasized the importance of genuine democratic behaviour, warning that the absence of such an approach leads to continual losses. “We must focus on our work. It is our responsibility to deliver performance,” he added.

Acknowledging the high expectations of the public, Bilawal said that Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has apprised him of the challenging economic situation and uncertainty regarding funds from the federal government for various projects.

“We will make every effort [to address these challenges]. I know Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will fulfil his promise and resolve these issues before the budget,” he added.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani presiding over meeting of Vice Chancellors of Universities of Balochistan

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**A sobering election?**

It is likely to be a bittersweet victory for the BJP and its ideological cohorts in the Sangh Parivar as India finishes counting the votes from its massive electoral exercise.

While Narendra Modi is poised to form his third consecutive government, electoral trends at the time of writing indicate that the BJP and its allies will be nowhere near translating their boastful claims of winning 400 seats in the Lok Sabha into reality.

The projections predict a simple, albeit thin, majority for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. The INDIA grouping, led by Congress, has made surprising gains, with a likely tally of around 200 seats. It should be remembered that in 2019, Congress was walloped; in fact, India's grand old party has spent the last decade in the political wilderness, as the BJP played up the Hindutva card, tearing apart the political structure built by Nehru and Gandhi. But the latest results indicate that things may be changing.

For the BJP, Muslim-baiting and communal rhetoric appear to have backfired, even in its political heartland or 'Hindi belt'. Instead of praising the glory of a new Hindu rashtra, Indian voters were more concerned about pressing issues, such as jobs and the cost of living.

The Ram Mandir, inaugurated by Mr Modi in January, may have been a grand spectacle, but tens of millions of voters were clearly not swayed by this dangerous mixing of politics, mythology and communalism. Mr Modi's hounding of India's Muslims — the anti-Muslim rhetoric was particularly pronounced during the poll campaign — has failed to translate into electoral dividends for the Sangh this time around.

It is hoped that the sobering election results lead to a dialling down of the inflammatory rhetoric against Muslims, and that the toxic communalism that has been promoted in India for political gains over the last decade is discarded.

Coming to relations with Pakistan, from 2019 onwards, bilateral ties have been at their lowest in decades under Mr Modi's watch. India's unilateral decision to annex held Kashmir has perhaps been the biggest obstacle standing in the way of better ties. Moreover, Mr Modi and his ministers have also used provocative language aimed at Pakistan, including during the election campaign, which has hardly served the cause of peace. Once the dust settles in Delhi and the BJP forms the next government, we hope that Narendra Modi reviews his foreign policy. India should reach out to Pakistan, and the state should respond positively to any Indian overtures. Naturally, rebuilding trust will take time, but long-term peace in South Asia is impossible without better Pakistan-India ties. India cannot skirt around the Kashmir question; both sides should at least start talking, even if they agree to disagree. Let India's incoming government start afresh with Pakistan.

**Modi's hat-trick**

Mahir Ali

At the cusp of yesterday, most of his troubles seemed so far away. The published exit polls pointed to a third landslide for Narendra Modi and his allies, even though the aspiration of 400-plus seats seemed far-fetched. The INDIA bloc-led opposition was justifiably sceptical about the projections.

There was never much doubt about Modi's hat-trick — the likelihood that he would become the first prime minister since Jawaharlal Nehru to win three elections in a row. His Bharatiya Janata Party's vote share, however, has never come close to the Congress tally between 1951 and 1962 — which always fell short of 50pc. Even when the Congress registered its highest percentage under Rajiv Gandhi in 1984, in the wake of his mother's assassination (and the appalling anti-Sikh pogroms that followed), it's unprecedented tally of 404 seats (out of 514) was based on 49pc of the popular vote.

As in all other first-past-the-post set-ups, the number of Lok Sabha seats a party or alliance wins does not have to match its percentage of votes. The same barrier to a more representative democracy applies in Britain — which may have to take the overdue leap into some form of proportional representation before former colonies such as India and Pakistan follow suit.

This year's polls in India were extended across six weeks — an unnecessarily long ordeal. In the customary publicity surrounding the polls that involve the world's largest electorate, some attention (as usual) was focused on, for example, how far electoral officials trek to obtain a handful of votes from barely accessible outposts. There were also reported instances — no-

tably in UP — of Muslim voters being brusquely (and often violently) turned away from polling stations.

Nonetheless, at the time of writing, the INDIA bloc appeared to have a decisive lead in UP — a setback for the state's obnoxious chief minister, Yogi Adityanath. INDIA also boasted a substantial lead in Maharashtra, and the NDA's dreams of inroads into Kerala and Tamil Nadu appeared to have been put on hold.

Likewise, the 'chaar sau paar' (more than 400) illusion appears to have fallen short by about 100. Modi spent 45 hours during the final stage of the election in a 'meditation' retreat in Tamil Nadu, apparently surviving on coconut water and grape juice (one can only wonder about the vintage); his 'isolation' heralded by dozens of TV cameras. Notwithstanding his desperate claims of divinity (or at least a divinely inspired mission), a sizeable chunk of the electorate appears to have decided that this would-be deity is encumbered by feet of clay.

Those who feared that another thumping majority lay in store have been pleasantly surprised. Even though a Modi exit remains distant, it seems closer than it appeared a few weeks ago. Since his advent as PM a decade ago, Modi has been courted and feted by Western counterparts who ought to have known better. His overbearing demeanour and attitude may not change in the near future. But his comeuppance in the latest polls may spell the beginning of the end for the RSS stranglehold in Delhi.

There are no grounds for complacency, but India appears to be on a more hopeful trajectory. The initial winner of three successive elections, Nehru, was a dedicated foe of

communalism in both its Hindu and Muslim manifestations. He noted more than once in his autobiography, though, that the relative dignity of the Muslim communalists was not reflected among their Hindu counterparts. Notwithstanding the 'pandit' title he inherited, Nehru was devoutly irreligious — but well aware that several of his Congress colleagues harboured co-munal prejudices beneath their secular garb.

He would have been disappointed by several of his successors at the helm of the Congress, possibly including his daughter and grandson, both of whom suffered brutal deaths. He might have found cause for pride, though, in the endeavours of his great-grandson. Whether or not Rahul Gandhi will ever be PM is not written in the stars, and dynastic politics are in many ways a curse in the subcontinent and the rest of Asia.

A few decades ago, India looked like a plausible role model to Pakistanis irked by their nation's descent into military-sponsored religious fundamentalism. India turned the tables by going the same way in 2014. Pakistan has never quite turned away from the obscurantism it encountered after July 1977. At a stretch, Indian voters have now indicated that they resent that formula in the Hindu context, particularly when it fails to deliver the promised levels of employment and levelling up. Modi will henceforth be a depleted leader, and the justifiably reviled Amit Shah might have reached the end of his tether.

The BJP-led coalition is expected to rule for the next five years. But, given current trends, it might not stretch that far. Fingers crossed. — Courtesy Dawn

**Upended by climate**

Abdullah Fadil

A new global stocktaking report released today by Unicef shows that climate change is impacting almost every aspect of child health and well-being, from pregnancy to adolescence. Nowhere is the impact more visible than on children in Pakistan, which recorded the wettest April this year in over 60 years. Torrential and unseasonal rains swept through Pakistan, killing 144 people. In KP, 33 children died; 24 injured were children.

In 2022, I saw firsthand how 10 years' worth of rains were dumped on villages in southern Sindh, triggered by climate change. Five hundred children lost their lives due to unprecedented rainfall, the highest recorded since 1961. The rain swallowed 12-year-old Mehreen's house and belongings. Together with her parents and four siblings, Mehreen lived in a makeshift shelter for months. I met hundreds of children like Mehreen, whose lives were upended by the floods.

Despite aid efforts, almost 9.6 million children still needed humanitarian assistance in flood-affected areas in December 2023. Many children didn't have enough food to eat or safe water to drink. Thousands were malnourished. Living and working in Pakistan, I am an eyewitness to the devastation caused by climate change. Year on year, children in Pakistan are caught in a vicious cycle of drought, water scarcity and floods. From the moment of conception until they grow into adulthood, the health and development of children's brains, lungs, and immune systems are affected by their environment.

Children are more likely to suffer from air pollution than adults, leading to life-threatening

respiratory diseases. As a result, about 12 per cent of deaths in Pakistani children under five are due to air pollution. Children suffer unequally because of global warming. Poorer children simply don't have the ability to cope like the privileged. In fact, the hardest-hit districts in Pakistan are amongst the most vulnerable. With an event like the 2022 floods, we could expect to see an 18pc increase in the prevalence of child marriage, which could erase five years of progress.

I am also concerned. As a father of four children, I worry about their future and that of every child and generation who will inherit from us. Despite children's unique vulnerability to climate change, only 2.4pc of climate finance from climate funds supports projects for children. In September 2022, for the first time, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child published General Comment 26, recognising children's rights to live in a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

While I am an eyewitness, I am also a polluter. As an emitter with a carbon footprint, I contribute to climate change with my choices, work and sheer existence. Every time I eat, consume, buy or travel, I add to global emissions. But blame does not fall equally. According to Oxfam, the world's richest 10pc is responsible for half of all global emissions. That, among other things, is heating up the planet. Everyone is accountable — individuals, families, businesses, and activists. We need to act on climate change beyond emergency relief for the Pakistan floods. We need to plan over the long term. This is everyone's business.

For the first time, decision-makers at COP28 in Dubai paid at-

tention to the unique impacts of climate change on children's health and well-being. They proposed an 'expert dialogue' at COP30. Now we urge world leaders to work towards making COP30 a children's COP — where we secure the 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature limit that the next generation needs. But as a collective, we can and must do more.

First, businesses must review practices that pollute the water and air, and companies should play a stronger role in reducing fossil fuels. Second, world leaders should take climate finance seriously. It can give countries, parents and social workers the power to help children deal with climate change. That means more money to build schools, wells, tanks, and health centres that can withstand climate shocks such as floods and cyclones. Third, for our children's future, financing mechanisms like the Loss and Damage Fund should be even more responsive to the needs of children.

If nothing changes, in 2030, emissions will be 22 gigatonnes higher than the 1.5°C limit will allow. Many more children could die, and the climate catastrophes will not be confined to vulnerable countries like Pakistan. Radical action is needed now. So, I ask every person and organisation to reflect on what they can do. Personally, I am making a commitment to go plastic-free, recycle more, buy more consciously, and conserve energy use. What will you do?

As 15-year-old Selena Khawaja, the world's youngest mountaineer, says "remember that if there is a problem on this Earth, we don't have another planet". — Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**PM invites Huawei to invest in Pak safe city, taxation, e-governance sectors**

Reiterates commitment to advancing innovative, sustainable digital transformation for Pakistan

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the Huawei headquarters here and invited the company to invest in Pakistan's taxation and e-governance sectors besides enhancing its presence in Pakistan's Safe City projects.

On his arrival at the headquarters, Huawei Chairman Liang Hua welcomed him which followed the playing of national anthems and his visit of the Exhibition Center.

The chairman briefed the prime minister about Huawei's operations

worldwide, particularly in Pakistan and expressed keen interest in investing in the country's different

**Chinese firm shows interest in investing in Pakistan's mobile phones, e-bikes, Fintech sectors**

SHENZHEN (APP): Chairman of Chinese firm Transsion Holdings Zhu Zhaojiang on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here and conveyed his company's interest in enhancing investment in mobile phone manufacturing unit and investing in electric bikes, modern agriculture, mobile phone manufacturing and Fintech sectors. The prime minister, who is in China for a five-day official visit, urged the relevant federal ministers and Pakistan's Ambassador in China to formulate an early strategy, in coordination with the Chinese company. He said the incumbent government was extending all-out-facilitation to foreign investors and businessmen. He also invited Transsion Holdings to manufacture goods in Pakistan for export purposes, citing the country's immense resources and youth bulge.

sectors. He was also briefed about different sectors including e-governance, digital

banking, telecommunication and artificial intelligence.

Prime Minister

Shehbaz, who is on a five-day visit to China, appreciated the innovative operations of Huawei and urged the company to increase its investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister, who later held a bilateral meeting with Chairman Liang Hua along with his delegation, appreciated the Safe City projects executed by Huawei in Pakistan and invited the company to invest in the projects, particularly in the cities where the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects were being executed.



SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visiting Huawei exhibition centre.

**Pak-China Business forum sign MoUs to boost bilateral trade: Aleem Khan**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan, on Wednesday said that thirty two memorandum of understanding (MoUs) were signed at the Pakistan-China Business Forum held in Shenzhen, China which would help boost bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries.

He mentioned that 500 Chinese companies and

100 companies from Pakistan participated in the forum. Additionally, successful bilateral negotiations were conducted with Chinese companies, said a press release received here today.

The minister highlighted that during the Prime Minister's current visit to China, detailed discussions were held regarding the promotion of business activities between the two countries.

Ministers for the

Board of Investment and Commerce also held meetings with chief executive officers of major Chinese companies.

Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that this was an excellent opportunity for the Pakistani business community to encourage Chinese investments, ultimately boosting exports. He indicated that this conference provided a platform for long-term business ties between the two sides.



SHENZHEN: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain witnessing MOUs at Pakistan China Business Conference.

**ADB approves financing to boost Public-Private Partnerships in Pak**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to help the Pakistan drive sustainable investments in infrastructure and services through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

"ADB's Promoting Sustainable Public-Private Partnerships Program

supports implementation of government policies to create an enabling environment for fiscally affordable PPPs and promote inclusive economic growth," according to press release received here.

"This program is part of our comprehensive and integrated package of public sector management support that balances the country's

fiscal consolidation and growth objectives," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "The program will help the Government of Pakistan create an environment that is conducive to strategic, fiscally affordable PPPs that will bring the country closer to its development goals," Zhukov said.

**AiIB, Pakistan discuss strategic partnership, future development plans**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Ludger Schuknecht on Wednesday met with the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema and discussed strategic partnership and future development plans.

The Secretary and Special Secretary of the

Ministry of Economic Affairs were also present attended the meeting.

The minister expressed gratitude for the valuable support and assistance provided to the people of Pakistan. He commended AIIB's crucial role in delivering assistance to Pakistan, especially during the 2022 floods, and briefed him on the country's improving economic outlook.

**Shaza discusses telecom infrastructure, innovation, ICT solutions**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The delegation of Hunan Sunwalk Group called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Shenzhen, China.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on digitalisation, telecommunication infrastructure and fiberization said a news release received here on Wednesday. The Sunwalk team briefed the Minister of

State for IT about its National Optical Fiber Project in Pakistan initiated in the year 2021. Shaza Fatima appreciated the Sunwalk Group for its investment in Pakistan and its plans regarding this.

She said that the optical fiber cable network is vital for digitalization in Pakistan adding that the present government is fully committed to the provision of quality telecom services in the country.

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where five ships, Maersk Hartford, Kypros Sea, Chem Leona, Clyde and Lima Trader carrying Container, Canola Seed, Chemicals, Gas oil and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Engro Terminal, Oil Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile two more ships, Hyundai Busan and Simaisma with Container and LNG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on today.

**7th Agri Census to help devise best policy: Livestock secretary**

FAISALABAD (APP): The 7th Agricultural Census 2024, being conducted currently, will provide complete statistics of agriculture, livestock and agricultural machinery under integrated approach in order to devise the best policy for agriculture sector in addition to achieving the goals of food security.

This was stated by Secretary Livestock & Dairy Development Muhammad Masoud Anwar while addressing

the awareness building workshop on the 7th Agricultural Census-2024 "Integrated & Digital Count" held in collaboration with Pakistan Bureau of Statistics at CAS Auditorium University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here on Wednesday. He expressed concerns about livestock statistics and said that growth rate of livestock in Pakistan is 2.7 percent whereas we have 40 per cent malnourished population.

## Tribal areas need better infrastructure for development: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that people of erstwhile Fata and all tribal districts including Mohmand need better infrastructure for the progress and prosperity of the region.

He was talking a representative delegation of Mohmand Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House.

The delegation requested the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor to play his constitutional role for establishment of special economic zone and industrial estate at Mohmand for promotion of marble industry. The delegation said it would help bring foreign investment besides generate employment opportunities for youth.

The delegation also emphasized the need for construction of Yakagund Road upto Pak-Afghans border and Warsak dam royalty to Mohmand district.

The delegation further apprised the governor about their concerns pertaining to electricity, enforcement of taxes and security challenges.

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi assured full support to the office bearers of Mohmand Chamber for continuity of business activities.

The governor assured to play his constitutional role in resolution of their issues and bringing funds for the province.



LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb inaugurating the third Environment ICE 2024 International Conference and Exhibition in the local hotel of the provincial capital.

## Six killed, 1301 injured in 1196 accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least six people were killed and 1301 injured in 1196 accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

According to the Rescue-1122, 729 drivers, 44 underage drivers, 175 pedestrians, and 403 passengers were among the victims of traffic crashes.

The statistics showed that 231 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 271 persons placing the provincial capital top of the list followed by Multan 80 in with 82 victims and at third Faisalabad with 78 accidents and 86 victims.

According to data, 1,058 motorcycles, 57 rickshaws, 117 cars, 23 vans, 11 buses, 26 truck and 88 other vehicles besides slow-moving carts were involved in the accidents.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi talking to representatives of Imamia Council Peshawar at Governor House.

## KP CM inaugurates new feeder route DR-14 of BRT service

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur inaugurated the new feeder route DR-14 of the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit System at the Central Park Regi Model Town on Wednesday.

This new route will connect Board Bazaar to DHA via Regi Model Town, on Nasirbagh Road.

This much awaited addition to the Zu Peshawar network brings the total number of routes to 16, further enhancing the city's public transportation infrastructure.

The inauguration event was attended by Secretary Transport, CEO TransPeshawar and other officials.

The route consists of a total of 16 stops namely Islamia College, Board Bazaar, Canal Bank Colony, Naseer Teaching Hospital, PSO Stop, Police Colony, Askari 6 Phase 2, Askari 6 Phase 1, Mian Khan Garhi, Badezai, Regi Model Town, Zone 3 Ground, Government Girls Primary School, Masjid-e-Hamza, Ladies Park and DHA.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the

chief minister emphasized the importance of efficient and accessible public transit in promoting sustainable urban development and improving the lives of the residents of Peshawar.

He said, "Zu Peshawar caters to approximately 350,000 passengers daily, making it a lifeline for the city's residents and commuters. The new route is expected to further enhance the accessibility and convenience of public transportation, contributing to the city's sustainable growth."

He said that the Zu Peshawar network was testament to the commitment of the government and stakeholders to meet the growing transportation needs of Peshawar's residents.

This development reflects the government's forward-looking approach to urban planning and sustainability, he added.

The residents of Peshawar had been eagerly awaiting this route, and its opening represents a significant step forward in TransPeshawar's efforts to enhance its service.

## Steps being taken to resolve issues of higher education institutions: Minister

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi has said that steps were being taken by the government to solve financial problems of universities.

During his visit to historic Islamia College here Wednesday, he said that the process to finalize rules and regulation was underway, adding that it would resolve all the issues including financial problems of Islamia College. He said that the government was also making incessant efforts to

resolve the issues being faced by higher education institutions. He also appreciated the education standard of the College and efforts of the faculty members to strengthen financial position of the institution.

The minister also planted a sapling in the College and assured cooperation to the College administration in resolution of their problems. He was also briefed by the faculty about various properties of the College in Khyber Bazar, Charsadda and Harichand.



ATTOCK: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider in a group photo with students during his visit to Government Pilot School.

## Welfare of families of martyrs, veterans, employees first priority: CCPO Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Police is taking historic steps for welfare of families of martyrs, veterans, and employees.

This was stated by Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana in a press release, issued here on Wednesday.

He underlined that over Rs 35 million financial assistance has been disbursed from the District Welfare Fund to 1,494 police employees during the year 2023-24. Cheques amounting to over Rs 91 million have been distributed as educational scholarships to the children of police

employees. Additionally, Rs 18.7 million have been provided as subsistence allowance to 549 deserving families. More than 400 police employees have been honored with the title of Ghazi.

In terms of medical financial aid, Rs 2.7 million have been distributed among 365 police employees. The families of 15 martyrs have been provided with homes, purchased by Lahore Police. Furthermore, wedding gifts worth over Rs 3.7 million have been given to the daughters of martyrs on their weddings.

## ANF recovers over 64 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover over 64 kg drugs and arrested two accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He said, 918 grams heroin was recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah at Faisalabad Airport. 44 grams of weed was recovered from a parcel sent from the UK at a courier office in Rawalpindi. In the third operation, 60 kg hashish was recovered from Pansi Gwadar.

## Minister asks ETEA to take strict action against leakage of various ETEA tests

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government Arshad Ayub Khan on Wednesday presided over a meeting of Cabinet Committee for Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency and directed to take strict legal action against the persons found guilty in the leakage of various tests of ETEA.

He said that merit and transparency are the first priority of the present government and no there would be no compromise

## Pakistani doctor gets first position in MRCP exam in Qatar

PESHAWAR (APP): Dr Dolat Khan, a doctor from Pakistan brought laurels for his country on international level by obtaining first position in Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography (MRCP), examination held in Qatar. A report said that Pakistani doctor from Lower Dir area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa got first position in MRCP exam. Dr Dolat Khan went to Middle East after obtaining his MBBS degree from Peshawar.

## Minister asks ETEA to take strict action against leakage of various ETEA tests

in this regard. He also directed to take steps to issue separate merit lists for minority and special persons so that their recruitment process is not delayed.

Earlier, the committee member Sajjad Barkwal told the forum that along with the recommendations to increase the manpower of ETEA, the agency was taking steps to make it compatible with the modern requirements of using digitalized technology and prevent duplication etc.

# International News

## Israel strikes, shelling kill 19 in Gaza amid manoeuvring on ceasefire quest

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Israeli shelling and airstrikes killed at least 19 people in central and south Gaza on Tuesday including two policemen who were helping protect humanitarian aid deliveries in the southern city of Rafah, Palestinian medics said. Seventeen of the deaths, they said, occurred in separate Israeli airstrikes on the al-Bureij and al-Maghazi refugee camps and the city of Deir-al-Balah in central Gaza, and by late Tuesday tanks were shelling an area just east of the al-Nusseirat camp, residents said.

Some told Reuters via chat app that the renewed Israeli military push was sowing panic, with some families living in al-Maghazi starting to flee under tank fire, with four shells crashing near a clinic in the camp.

In a brief statement issued earlier in the day, the

Israeli military said jets were hitting Hamas targets in central Gaza while ground forces were operating "in a focused manner with guidance from intelligence" in the al-Bureij area.

It gave no update on activity in Rafah, into which Israeli forces swept last month in what the military calls a limited operation to root out Hamas' last intact combat units after almost eight months of devastating war in the Gaza Strip.

The small city fringing Gaza's southern border with Egypt had been sheltering about one million Palestinians who fled Israeli assaults in other parts of the enclave, but most have fled again in the face of Israel's tank-led advance.

Israel launched an air and ground offensive in Gaza last October vowing to destroy Hamas after fighters stormed across the border into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing around

1,200 people and taking more than 250 people hostage, according to Israeli tallies. About 120 hostages remain in Gaza.

The Israeli military campaign has killed more than 36,000 people in densely populated Gaza, according to its health authorities, who say thousands more bodies are buried under rubble.

Qatar said on Tuesday it had delivered an Israeli ceasefire proposal to Hamas that reflected a three-phase proposal presented on Friday by US President Joe Biden, and that the paper was now much closer to the positions of both sides.

Qatar, which has been mediating on Gaza between Israel and Hamas, also stressed that there should be a clear position from both parties to clinch a deal, its foreign ministry spokesperson said in a press briefing.



Palestinians inspect the damage to a house after it was hit in an Israeli strike in al-Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip.

## Russia to provide more military aid, instructors to Burkina Faso

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia will send additional military supplies and instructors to Burkina Faso to help the West African country boost its defence capabilities and fight terrorism, Russian state media quoted Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying on Wednesday.

Burkina Faso, under military leadership since a 2022 coup, has played host to contingents of the Wagner mercenary force, whose founder Yevgeny Prigozhin was killed in a plane crash last August.

"From the very first contacts between our countries after President (Ibrahim) Traore came to power, we have been very closely engaged in all areas of cooperation, in-

cluding the development of military and military-technical ties," TASS news agency cited Lavrov as saying during a visit to Burkina Faso.

"I have no doubt that thanks to this cooperation, the remaining pockets of terrorism on the territory of Burkina Faso will be destroyed," he told a press conference in the capital Ouagadougou.

Lavrov has made a series of visits to Africa since the start of the war in Ukraine as Russia, hit by Western sanctions, seeks new trade partners and tries to rally developing countries behind its vision of a "multipolar world" no longer dominated by the United States and former European colonial powers.

## South African minister Kodwa appears in court on graft charges

**Monitoring Desk**  
JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's outgoing minister of sports, arts and culture Zizi Kodwa appeared in court on Wednesday after being arrested on corruption charges, police said. Kodwa served in President Cyril Ramaphosa's cabinet up until last week's election, which saw the African National Congress (ANC) lose its majority for the first time in 30 years of democracy.

He was appointed sports, arts and culture minister last year after being deputy minister of state security. He was ANC spokesperson from 2014 to

2017. Kodwa was granted bail during a hearing at a magistrate's court in Johannesburg, elite police unit the Hawks said in a statement. His lawyer said he would not evade trial and would disclose his defence at a later stage, footage by public broadcaster SABC showed.

Local news website News24 reported that he intended to plead not guilty.

The charges against Kodwa stem from a judicial inquiry into alleged corruption during former president Jacob Zuma's time in office.

## Germany considers expelling Afghans after knife attack

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: Germany said on Tuesday it was considering allowing deportations to Afghanistan, after an asylum seeker from the country injured five and killed a police officer in a knife attack.

Officials had been carrying out an "intensive review for several months... to allow the deportation of serious criminals and dangerous individuals to Afghanistan", Interior Minister Nancy Faeser told journalists. "It is clear to me that people who pose a potential threat to Germany's security must be deported quickly," Faeser said. "That is why we are doing everything possible to find ways to deport criminals and dangerous people to both Syria and Afghanistan," she said. Deportations to Afghanistan from Germany have been completely stopped since the Taliban retook power in 2021.

## US says response from Hamas on ceasefire proposal still awaited

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A response from Palestinian Islamist group Hamas on Israel's ceasefire proposal that US President Joe Biden revealed on Friday is still being awaited, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Tuesday. "We are waiting for a response from Hamas" through the Qatari mediators, Sullivan said. CIA Director Bill

## Plan to start working from new capital city in July: Indonesia

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia's President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said on Wednesday he plans to start working from the new capital city next month amid concerns over the future of the project following the resignations of senior executives overseeing the development.

Jokowi said the progress of several infrastructure developments under the first phase of the \$32 billion capital city, called Nusantara, on Borneo island.

## Modi set to take PM oath for 3rd time on June 8 as allies pledge support

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to be sworn-in for a record-equaling third term on June 8, after key allies pledged their continued support a day after a humbling election verdict that saw his party lose its majority in parliament.

Modi, a populist who has dominated Indian politics since coming to power in 2014, will for the first time need the support of regional allies whose loyalties have wavered over the years, which could complicate the government's reform agenda. On Wednesday,

## Ukrainian official in Beijing urges China to attend peace summit

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Ukraine's first deputy foreign minister visited China on Wednesday and urged it to send a delegation to a planned summit on Ukraine this month in Switzerland, in the apparent hope it was still possible to persuade China to attend.

Russia has not been invited to participate in the June 15-16 meeting, Beijing has so far said it will stay away, describing the attendance of both warring sides as a prerequisite for any substantive peace conference.

"The Ukrainian side expressed hope that China's participation in the event could be a good opportunity to make a practical contribution to achieving a just and lasting peace in Ukraine," the Ukrainian foreign ministry said following a

meeting in Beijing between First Deputy Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong.

Kyiv says more than 100 countries have accepted its invitation to the summit to discuss provisions of a peace plan outlined by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to end the full-scale Russian invasion now in its third year.

Moscow has ridiculed the idea of a summit without its participation as pointless.

Ukraine has accused Moscow of trying to disrupt the conference.

China proclaimed a "no limits" partnership with Russia just days before Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, but portrays itself as neutral in the conflict.

## Syrian man arrested near US embassy in Beirut: army

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: A Syrian man was arrested after a shooting on Wednesday near the US embassy in Beirut, the Lebanese army said, with the diplomatic mission saying its personnel were safe. The embassy, in the northern suburb of Awkar, "was subjected to gunfire by a person holding Syrian nationality", the army said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter.

## CJ IHC says There is bar on irresponsible reporting not on court's reporting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) Aamir Farooq has remarked there is bar on irresponsible reporting and not on court's reporting.

There is no bar on judicial reporting. Media can report court's proceedings. Bar is not on reporting but bar is on irresponsible reporting, he gave these remarks during the hearing of petitions filed by Press Association Supreme Court (PASC) and Islamabad High Court Journalists Association (IHCJA) here Wednesday.

The petitioners Fayyaz Muhammad, Rizwan Qazi and Aqeel Afzal appeared in the court.

The CJ IHC remarked there is no bar on court's reporting. Media can report court's proceedings. Bar is not on reporting but bar is there on irresponsible re-



SHENZHEN: Chairman and Founder of Transsion Holdings, Zhu Zhaojiang calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## No policy change in net metering policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik Wednesday said that the government was determined to promote alternative energy in the country to fulfill local domestic and commercial requirements of the energy on affordable prices to achieve sustainable economic development and social prosperity.

In a press statement, the minister ruled out any change in the net metering policy, besides reviewing the agreement and said that no restrictions have been imposed on net metering and no agreement is being revised in this regard.

## Govt striving to develop Livestock Dept on modern lines: Bakht Kakar

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar on Wednesday said that the provincial government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti was trying hard to develop the livestock sector on modern lines.

He said that the Livestock Department was the backbone of the province's economy.

He expressed these views while talking to media personnel.

He said that most of the people in our province were directly and indirectly related to cattle rearing and shepherding.

Livestock sector is playing a key role in the economy of the province and providing employment to the youth, he said and



QUETTA: Advisor of Chief Minister for Women Development Department Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi being briefed about under construction building of Directorate

## BUJ flays attack on Chaman Press Club

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Union of Journalists on Wednesday condemned the attack on Chaman press club, calling for immediate arrest of those involved in the unlawful act.

Khalil Ahmed, President BUJ in a statement issued here, expressed his grave concern over the growing incidents of attack on the media and media houses.

The outraged protesters in the bordering town of Chaman barged into the Chaman Press Club and broke the mirrors and other items early Wednesday.

"The district administration of Chaman shall take

porting. Problem is created when a sensational ticker is run.

PEMRA filed its reply in the court.

Barrister Umar Ijaz Gillani and Riasat Ali Azad President Islamabad Bar Association appeared in the court.

The court inquired from Additional Attorney General (AAG) has federal government any relevance with this matter.

AAG Munawar Iqbal Dogal said this is PEMRA related matter and federal government has nothing to do with it.

Barrister Umar Ijaz Gillani said there is no bar on reporting pending hearing cases in the law from which PEMRA has taken help. The court summoned final arguments on next hearing besides adjourning hearing of the case till June 11.



SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of framework agreement between the Ministry of Information Technology of the Government of Pakistan and Huawei.

## Pakistan's economic system can be strengthened by creating new openings for traders: Governor

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized on creating new opportunities for the people associated with the trade and industry so that they may contribute in the national economy to strengthen it further.

The Governor also stressed the need to hold a grand function for those associated with the commerce and industry in Quetta city.

He was speaking to the delegation who called on him under leadership of the President of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdullah Khan Achakzai here at the Gov-

ernor House on Wednesday. During the course of meeting, the matters about establishment of Expo center were discussed besides the hardships being faced by the business community.

The Governor said that there are vast opportunities of profitable investment in Balochistan as such the investors must benefit from them.

He said that there is very important role of Balochistan in development and prosperity of the country. This province can give an access to Iran, Afghanistan and especially to the Central Asia.

He further said that the country's economic system can be strengthened further by providing the people associated with the commerce and industry necessary facilities besides creating new opportunities for them in backdrop of the existing political and economic situation.

To a query, the Governor said that the representation of our traders is necessary at certain forums besides taking their opinions for formulating the policy regarding trade, industry and minerals.

Referring their problems, the Governor said that he is well aware of their issues just because he has also been part of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA conducts National Simulation Exercises Focusing on Monsoon Preparedness at NEOC, NDMA HQs.

## Rind condemns unpleasant incident in Chaman Press Club

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The spokesman of Provincial Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has condemned the unpleasant incident occurred in Press Club Chaman.

The spokesman of provincial government has issued orders for probe into the incident from all aspects.

The spokesman said that ransacking in the Chaman Press club is sorrowful.

He said that the provincial government believes in freedom of press.

The spokesman of provincial government said that it is responsibility of the State to provide protection to all segments of the society including media persons.

**PTA chairman meets delegation of 40th MCMC**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Major General Hafeez Ur Rehman Tuesday met with a delegation of officers and faculty members from the 40th Mid-Career Management Course.

During the visit, the delegation was welcomed by senior officers from PTA, said a news release.

The delegation was given a detailed presentation about the role and functioning of PTA, specifically focusing on cyber security initiatives for the telecom sector, consumer issues.



KARACHI: A delegation of International Civil Aviation Organization meeting with CAA officials for site follow up at CAA Headquarters

## On World Environment Day, PM urges countrymen to join global movement for land restoration

SHENZHEN (APP): As the international community observes World Environment Day on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged the countrymen to join the global movement to restore their land, build drought resilience and combat desertification. The World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5 to highlight the environmental challenges of our time. World Environment Day 2024 focuses on land restoration, stopping desertification and building drought resilience. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the global host of this year's edition. Urging the people to be part of the Generation Restoration program to ensure a better future for all, the prime minister, who is on a five-day visit to China, in his message to the nation, said that the people and Government of Pakistan joined the global community in recognizing their shared responsibility to protect their planet and fight climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

He said the theme of this year's World Environment Day – "land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience," – reminded the world of the humongous challenge that confronting it in terms of the billions of hectares of land that was being degraded, affecting almost half of the world's population and threatening half of global GDP. Rural communities, smallholding farmers and the extremely poor are hit the hardest, he added.

"Pakistan stands firm in its resolve to combat environmental challenges and stands committed to contributing to global efforts towards sustainability. Initiatives such as the Green Pakistan Programme, Living Indus Initiative, and National Adaptation Plan, underscore our commitment to reforestation and ecosystem restoration, tackling issues of deforestation and biodiversity loss head-on," the prime minister remarked.

He recalled that Pakistan's climate diplomacy efforts during COP27, particularly in establishing a Loss and Damage Fund were recognized widely and viewed positively by international experts. He said on the domestic front, Pakistan is actively working on developing sustainable long-term low-carbon development strategies with assistance from GIZ, Pathways 2050 platform, UNDP, and the World Bank. Additionally, robust afforestation programs are being implemented. Initiatives like the Recharge Pakistan, GLOF, and Sustainable Land Management Program (SLMP) demonstrate Pakistan's dedication to promoting sustainable agriculture practices and combating land degradation, he added. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that despite facing challenges such as land degradation, desertification, and water scarcity, Pakistan remained steadfast in its resolve.



QUETTA: Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sarwar Brohi visiting Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) Office.

## Chairman PMYP Multi-billion-dollar projects to create job opportunities for Youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Wednesday said that signing multi-billion-dollar investment projects with China and Saudi Arabia will create numerous job opportunities for youth in Pakistan.

He said this while addressing the National University of Technology (NUTECH) Job Fair organized in collaboration with Islamabad Industrial Association.

Rana said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was on a visit to China and holding talks to bring multi-billion-dollar investment in Pakistan which would create employment opportunities for youth.

He said that the future of Pakistan is in the hands of the talented and intelligent youth.

## Higher turnout in IOK polls reflect rejection of Modi's policies: Fai

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A prominent Kashmiri leader has said that the higher voter turnout in recent elections in Indian-occupied Kashmir that the BJP leadership boasted about was in fact a rejection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies in the disputed territory.

"The higher voter turnout was the reflection of the rejection of Modi's colonial and anti-democratic ways in Kashmir," Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum, an advocacy group, said in a statement, while noting the Indian leaders claims that the 2019 abrogation of Article 370 has enabled the aspirations of the Kashmiri people to find full expression."

He said that the future of Pakistan is in the hands of the talented and intelligent youth.

## ICAO team kicks off safety audit of Pakistan's CAA

KARACHI (INP): A team of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has begun a safety audit of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Pakistan, sources said Wednesday.

The audit, started today, will review various aspects of the CAA's operations, including flight standards, licensing, aeromedical, aerospace, and airport safety.

The ICAO team will

## PM Sharif visits Nanshan one-stop center; directs to replicate model in Pakistan

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the Nanshan One-Stop Service Center and Shenzhen Exhibition Museum and directed his ministers to immediately coordinate with the Center to replicate a similar modern system in Pakistan.

On his arrival at the Center, the prime minister was received by Member of Party Leadership Government of Shenzhen Nanshan District Peoples Government and Deputy Mayor Li Zhenhua.

He was briefed about the digital system established at the Center to register companies and carry out other processes under one roof. He lauded the



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Environmental and Climate Change Naseemur Rehman Khan Mulakhail, Secretary Environment Nadeem ur Rehman and Director General Environment Muhammad Yasir Bazi planting saplings on eve of World Environment Day

## Quetta police & Customs to take joint action against non-custom paid vehicles

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Quetta capital police and Customs department have decided to take joint action against the non-custom paid vehicles in the provincial metropolis.

The decision to this effect was made during meeting of the Chief Collector Customs, Muhammad Yaqoob Mako with Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh at the Central Police Office,

on Wednesday. During the course of meeting, it was unanimously decided that the legal action would be taken jointly by the Quetta police and Customs against the luxury non-custom paid vehicles in Quetta.

The non-custom paid vehicles would be impounded and handed over to the Customs for further necessary action, it was also decided further.

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