

# Independent

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Gwadar

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BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping.

## Pakistan, China signs MOU for aquaculture development in Gwadar

BEIJING (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed for the development of sustainable and commercially viable aquaculture projects in Gwadar. The MOU was signed between China Overseas Ports Holding Company, Guangdong HaiWei Aquaculture Group, Gwadar Seafood Company, and HKH-CAS Pvt. Ltd. at a B2B matchmaking session of the Pakistan China Business Conference inaugurated by PM Shehbaz Sharif in Shenzhen, China. It aims to leverage the technological expertise, resources, and industry experience of the Chinese companies and the local knowledge and community connections of their Pakistani counterparts to support the growth of the aquaculture sector in Gwadar.

For this purpose, advanced aquaculture technologies, including hatchery management, farming techniques, and processing capabilities, are expected to be transferred from China based on feasibility assessments and site selection for aquaculture projects in Gwadar. Contracting companies told CEN that investment will be made in the development of integrated aquaculture facilities and that local personnel will be trained in modern aquaculture practices. While the aquatic sector contributes greatly to the livelihood of coastal residents in Pakistan, a lack of advanced facilities and knowledge support has been hindering them from fully leveraging this promising industry, which currently accounts for only less than one percent of GDP but has the potential to play a much bigger role in the national economy.

## Pakistan, China reaffirm unwavering support to each other on core issues

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Friday expressed their firm commitment to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from its detractors and adversaries, ensure the timely completion of all ongoing projects, and support the high-quality CPEC development. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed in the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the Great Hall of the People, here. The prime minister was accompanied by key members of his cabinet. A welcome ceremony

was arranged in honour of the prime minister on his arrival at the Great Hall of the People. During the talks, the two leaders discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, regional and global developments of mutual interest. They noted that the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership was characterized by mutual trust, shared principles and strategic convergence. Premier Li congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart H.E. Li Qiang upon his arrival at Great Hall of the People.

## Institutions should work within their limits No one including judges are above law: Justice Mohsin

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) while wrapping up the petition regarding recovery of poet Ahmad Farhad has remarked "give respect to law and no one including judges is above law."

He observed one man went into two cases due to ego issue. His family is becoming affected. This is a serial of tyranny and is daily routine thing. The courts will see Islamabad jurisdiction. The court will impose ban on in-camera proceedings and its reporting in respect of the matters of national security.

He remarked "if you feel necessity then you can resort to court again. I know how to get implement my orders. He further observed "I am writing a letter to Chief Justice (CJ) for constitution of larger bench in connection with cases of all missing persons. DG ISI and others should appear in Criminal Administration Committee. How the writ of law has to be enforced in Islamabad, I am sending the matter to committee for

this decision. Give respect to law. No one including judges is above law. Institutions should work within their limits. He observed one man went into two cases due to ego issue. His family is becoming affected. This is a serial of tyranny and is daily routine thing. The courts will see Islamabad jurisdiction. The court will impose ban on in-camera proceedings and its reporting in respect of the matters of national security. I am sending the matter to larger bench only for this reason the other judges should too see it if stance of one judge is different. May be the other judges don't agree to it that the heads of intelligence agencies have to be summoned.

## Assault on security forces and properties unacceptable: CM Bugti urges political parties and stakeholders to convince local people for establishing peace in Chaman

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has urged all the political parties and stakeholders to convince the local people for establishing peace in Chaman. However, the Chief Minister asserted that the assault on the security forces and properties is unacceptable. He said that peaceful protest is constitutional right, but no one can be allowed to resort to violence and take law into one's hands. He urged the people to refrain from taking law into hands as the writ of state would be established at every cost. The Chief Minister was chairing high level meeting on the situation of Pak-Afghan border

Chaman, here at the CM's secretariat on Friday. The meeting was briefed about the overall situation of Chaman by the Provincial Home Department. The meeting was also attended by the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaiq Achakzai, member of provincial assembly, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai, JUI-F's provincial Ameer and Senator, Maulana Abdul Wasey, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, spokesman of Provincial government, Shahid Rind, besides others. The Provincial Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove and Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan

participated in the meeting through video link. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that we are desirous of resolving the issues and hardships being faced by the local traders through dialogue. He also said that we are aware of the issues of local people of the border town, Chaman. He said that although the protest is constitutional right of the people, but no one can be allowed to resort to violence under the garb of protest. He said that the government is demonstrating restraint and patience despite provocation by the protestors in Chaman. He said that we know very well that majority people of Chaman are peace loving, therefore, it is necessary that local people discourage those disrupting



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review overall situation of law and order in Chaman

## Sanjdi coalmine mishap Inquiry committee formed to probe Independent Report

QUETTA: The four-member Inquiry committee has been formed to probe into the tragic incident of coalmine occurred in Sandi coalmine field located in the outskirts of Quetta. The sources of Mines and Mineral Development department told that Muntaz Ahmed has been designated as Chairman of the Inquiry Committee for inquiry into the Sanjdi coalmine mishap earlier this week. The sources said that the Inquiry committee would submit its report to the provincial government within 10 days for further necessary action. The committee would also fix the responsibility of the coalmine mishap that had claimed lives of 11 coalmine workers including Manager and contractor of the mine.

## Governor calls for finding sustainable solution to situation of Chaman Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized upon finding sustainable solution to the issues of Chaman keeping the source of income of local people and security concerns in the view. The Governor said that Chaman protest is an issue that needs attention and added that the secret of coming out from every kind of complex situation lies in the result oriented negotiations. The Governor was speaking to a delegation of different political parties who called on him under leadership of central President of National Party, Dr Abdul Malik Baloch here

at the Governor's House on Friday. The delegation comprised the Chairman, Quetta Development Mahaz, Abdul Mateen Akhunzada, president Markazi Anjuman Tajran, Abdul Rahim Kakar, provincial naib Ameer, Maulana Abdul Kabir Shakir, leader of Awami National Party, Wali Dad besides others. The Governor said that Pakistan shares long border with its two brotherly countries for instance, 900 kilometers with Iran and 2670 kilometers with Afghanistan. He said that the local people living near Pak-Afghan and Pak-Iran borders earn livelihood only from the border trade.

## Mutual cooperation of Bench & Bar vital for dispensation of cheaper & prompt justice to masses: CJ BHC Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar has stated that it is basic right of every citizen to get cheaper and speedy justice to the masses, for judiciary is making it's every possible effort. However, for the purpose, the mutual cooperation of Bench and Bar is very necessary, insisted the Chief Justice BHC while addressing the tribal elders, lawyers and government officers during his visit to Loralai, here on Friday. The Chief Justice BHC visited Loralai along with the judges of High Court, Mr. Justice Abdullah Baloch and Mr. Justice Rozai Khan Baraich, Registrar of High Court, Muhammad Asif Reki, President of Balochistan Bar Association, Muhammad Afzal Advocate, President Quetta Bar Association, Qari Rehmatullah Advocate.

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during his visit to Loralai, here on Friday.

## China, Pakistan agree to upgrade CPEC, advance development in second phase

PM Shehbaz, Chinese President exchange views on Palestine, serious HR situation in IIOJK; Xi assures China's continued support for Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity; asks PM Shehbaz to step up efforts to ensure security of Chinese projects

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping Friday held a productive meeting, reaffirming the consensus to high-quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and timely completion of major ongoing projects. The two leaders also affirmed consensus on upgradation of the CPEC and advancing the development of the mega project in the second phase. The prime minister briefed President Xi on

Pakistan's policies for economic reforms and sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernization and regional connectivity, and the critical role played by the CPEC in the country's development. He asserted Pakistan's commitment to high-quality development of the CPEC and to foster synergy between the development strategies of the two countries through close coordination. The meeting between the two leaders was held at the historic Great Hall of the

People. The two leaders were accompanied by the federal ministers and senior officials. This was the first meeting of PM Shehbaz with the President of China since assuming office in 2024. The meeting was marked by traditional warmth reflective of the ironclad friendship and close strategic ties between the two countries. The prime minister thanked President Xi Jinping for the warm and gracious welcome accorded to him and his delegation in China.

## Zil Hajj Moon sighted Eid-ul-Adha to be celebrated on June 17

KARACHI (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Abdul Khabir Azad on Friday announced that the crescent of Dhul Hijjah 1445 AH has been sighted. Addressing a press conference, he stated that the first day of Dhul Hijjah will be on Saturday, June 8, 2024. Consequently, Eid-ul-Adha will be celebrated on Monday, June 17, 2024, with religious and traditional fervor across the nation.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-i-Pakistan upon Prince Rahim Aga Khan in recognition of his services for Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Premier Li hosts luncheon in honour of PM Shehbaz

BEIJING (APP): Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang on Friday hosted a luncheon reception in honour of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Premier Li warmly received PM Shehbaz on his arrival at the venue. The prime minister, in his remarks on the occasion, said China was a big brother and trusted friend of Pakistan, and every Pakistani citizen felt proud on its remarkable progress and development. He said he was impressed by the Chinese Premier's enthusiasm, speed of work and commitment. The reception hall was echoed by Pakistan's national songs, including "Dil Dil Pakistan", "Dil Se Maine Dekha Pakistan", "Main Bhi Pakistan Hoon", and "Jeeve Jeeve Pakistan" played by a Chinese military band.

## President Zardari confers Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Prince Rahim Aga Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday conferred the Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Prince Rahim Aga Khan, in recognition of his meritorious services for the development, prosperity, and betterment of Pakistan and its people. The top civilian award was conferred on Prince Rahim Aga Khan at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, federal ministers, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, parliamentarians, diplomats, and senior government officers. According to the citation read out on the occasion, Prince Rahim Aga Khan, through his many leadership roles for more than a quarter century

within the Aga Khan Development Network, dedicated his untiring efforts to improve the living standard of the people in resource-constrained regions of Asia and Africa. Upholding a multigenerational legacy, Prince Rahim has contributed immensely to the economic, health, education, and cultural well-being of poor and marginalized communities. It was told that under his leadership, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development has advanced path-breaking initiatives in Pakistan in commercial banking, microfinance, insurance, sustainable tourism and renewable energy sectors. The Fund has enabled access to financial services for nearly 50 million people in Pakistan.



QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Development Mahaz led by former Chief Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Train service suspended after dozens hurt in new Chaman clashes

CHAMAN (INP): Residents' sit-in has continued in Chaman for the last nine months and now in new clashes as dozens of citizens and law personnel were injured while the train service was also suspended on Friday. According to media reports, locals under the banner of All-Parties Tajar Laghari Ittehad are protesting against the Passport Trolling Policy of the government in Chaman. There was a complete shutdown in the city on the third day and all markets and shops were closed.

## Peace talks flourish: Balochistan's path to prosperity strengthened

QUETTA (INP): A grand jirga was convened between FC Balochistan and local tribal elders in the Sibi district of Balochistan. The gathering saw the presence of Corps Commander Balochistan Corps, Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmad Khan, and IG FC Balochistan, Major General Chaudhry Ameer Ajmal, alongside civil administration, police officers, and community representatives from Sibi Kot Mandai. During the jirga, there was a heartfelt acknowledgment from tribal elders and farmers towards the Pakistan Army and FC for their

key role in upholding peace in the region. Farmers from Kot Mandai expressed gratitude, highlighting how the support from the armed forces enabled the cultivation of thousands of acres of land, providing valuable employment opportunities. Emphasizing the collaborative efforts, Corps Commander Balochistan commended the contributions of tribal elders and local populace towards peacekeeping endeavors. Furthermore, the Pakistan Army's security assistance for the Kachhi Canal project was underscored as crucial for its successful implementation.



## Kundi for upholding academic reputation of Edwards College

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi, visited Edwards College here on Friday and called for upholding the academic reputation of the college. He said, "Edwards College is the premier historical educational institution of the province, and it is the shared responsibility of all of us to uphold its quality of education."

The governor inspected the international language courses center, the central library, and various classrooms in the college. He also reviewed the ongoing annual examinations at the college. The principal of the college, Professor Shujaat Ali Khan, briefed the governor about the

historical status of the college, curricular and extracurricular activities, scholarships, and academic performance.

A briefing was also given regarding the structure of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and Finance Committee of the college.

Later, the governor planted a sapling on the lawn of Edwards College.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Turkey Mehmed Pacaci meeting with acting Punjab Governor Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan at Governor House.

## Minister reviews 100-day performance of Education Dept, introduces reforms

LAHORE (APP): Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat Friday said that the department exposed fake enrollment numbers of the previous government and ensured National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) verification for all future admissions.

While reviewing 100-day performance of the Education Department, he said for the first time in history, 1.2 million students were enrolled after NADRA verification within a short period and highlighted that within the first 100 days of the government, a new transfer policy for teachers was introduced in consultation with them, ensuring transparency and benefits for teachers.

The education minister said that a pilot project for a nutrition

programme had been initiated in the schools of Raiwand tehsil, with plans to extend the model to all schools. He noted that the school registration system had been made more efficient and that there was a renewed focus on the quality of education. Additionally, the department was introducing a modern system for monitoring educational institutions, he added and further mentioned that previous administrations had never taken action against cheating mafias. He said as per the instructions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the cheating network had been dismantled. Cameras had been installed in exam centres, leading to the elimination of the cheating mafia, the minister added.

## LHC extends market hours for Eidul Azha

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday extended market operating hours for the occasion of Eidul Azha.

The court allowed markets to stay open until 12am [midnight] up to Eidul Azha and until 1am on weekends.

Justice Shahid Karim issued the orders while hearing petitions, filed by Haroon Farooq and others regarding ineffective measures to control smog.

During the proceedings, the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) submitted a report about dead chickens, stating that 46,670-kg dead chickens were discarded from Tollinton Market.

## Measles outbreak worsens in Punjab, 3 more children die

LAHORE (APP): The measles outbreak in Punjab continues to escalate, with alarming increases in both suspected and confirmed cases. Tragically, three children have succumbed to the disease in Multan during the past 24 hours, as reported by the Health Department on Friday. These recent fatalities bring the total number of measles-related deaths among children in Punjab to 30.



GILGIT: Country Head UN Women Lansana Wonneh addresses at the 2nd Annual Women's Summit for Strengthening Bonds, Finding Joy & Developing Collective Voice at old Assembly Building Chinar Bagh.

## Azma Bukhari says: CM Punjab committed to implement 43 exemplary initiatives across Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari Friday while appreciating exemplary 43-initiatives of Chief Minister Punjab government during her 100 days' performance assured that all public welfare projects will soon practically and equally be implemented across Punjab without in discrimination.

Talking to a private news channel, she said that one of the commendable achievements under the leadership of Maryam Nawaz Sharif has been a dramatic reduction in inflation, adding, the

introduction of air ambulance, field hospitals and clinic on wheels has revolutionary medical services for people of Punjab.

These remarkable measures underscore her commitment to ensuring that healthcare is not a privileged but a fundamental right of every citizen, she added.

Under the leadership of Maryam Nawaz Punjab is also witnessing a transport revolution, adding, eco-friendly buses in various cities is a significant step towards sustainable transportation, she added.

## PPP asks KP CM to tender apology for derogatory remarks

PESHAWAR (APP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Peshawar city chapter has asked KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur to tender apology for his derogatory remarks against PPP leadership and Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi.

Addressing a press conference at press club here Friday, President PPP Peshawar City, Zulfiqar Afghani warned the chief

minister of derogatory language against their Party leadership. Otherwise, he said that they take streets against them including holding a demo in front of the Chief Minister's House.

Other PPP leaders present on the occasion were included Khawaja Yawar Naseer, Mohammad Adnan Jalil, Abidullah Khan Yousafzai, Malik Zulfiqar Awan, Tahir Abbas, Munir Camrade.

## Old enmity claimed 3 lives in Esa Khail

SARGODHA (APP): As many as three persons were killed, while six sustained bullet injuries in the firing incident here at Kalu Shareef area. Police said that two Pathan groups of Esa Khail had an old enmity over some domestic issues.

On the day of incident, some unidentified armed outlaws opened fire at passenger van and killed Faraz (22), Asmatullah (40) and Saeed Ahmed (46), all residents of Munda Khail on the spot, while passengers including Muhammad Wasif, Shakeel Khan, Muzaffer, Kaneez Fatima, Naaz bibi and others sustained injuries.

## May 9 related cases: ATC extends bail of Yasmin, Umar Cheema

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has extended bail of PTI leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema and others in May 9 cases.

The hearing of bail pleas of Dr Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema, Ijaz Chaudhry and Mian Mahmood ur Rashid in four cases related to May 9 incident was held in ATC Lahore. No headway could be made in the case being Judge Arshid Javed of ATC on leave.

The court while granting extension in bail of the accused adjourned the hearing of the case till June 12.

## 'NourishMaa' campaign launched in KP to highlight maternal malnutrition

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Nutrition International, in collaboration with the Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), has launched the 'NourishMaa' campaign in the province.

The initiative aims at enhancing maternal nutrition by improving the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers (HCPs) and frontline health workers (FHWs).

A press release issued here Friday said that already operational in six districts across Punjab and Sindh, the campaign has now extended to KP, specifically targeting

Mardan and Battagram, districts with particularly high rates of maternal malnutrition.

Speaking on the occasion Minister for Health KP, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, said the health and nutrition of mothers and children are foundational pillars for the overall development of our society, emphasising the critical role of maternal nutrition in ensuring the well-being of both mothers and children. The minister highlighted the urgency of addressing maternal malnutrition and the essential role of healthcare providers in fostering a healthier future.

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GUJRANWALA: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari talking to media person on the eve of collective marriage ceremony.

## Ramesh Arora orders better arrangements for Sikh pilgrims

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minorities and Head of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) Ramesh Singh Arora has ordered for making better arrangements for Sikh yatrees' accommodation, travel, and security while relevant departments have to provide services round-the-clock.

He expressed these views while charging consultative meeting in Dera Sahib after his visit on Friday. He told the members of PSGPC that in a significant gesture of religious harmony, the High Commission in New Delhi

has issued visas to Indian Sikh pilgrims in anticipation of the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth guru of Sikhs.

The minister was briefed that pilgrims are scheduled to cross into Pakistan via Wagah border crossing on June 8, marking a poignant moment of cross-border cultural and religious exchange. The primary commemorative ceremony is set to take place on June 16 at Gurdwara Dera Sahib in Lahore, a site of deep historical and spiritual significance, where Guru Arjan Dev Ji was martyred in 1606.

## International News

## Over 100 killed as rebels attack village in Sudan

Monitoring Desk PORT SUDAN: A Sudanese pro-democracy activists' committee on Thursday reported "more than 104" dead in a single day when paramilitary forces attacked a village, as the UN warned of mass displacement and starvation.

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which have been at war with the regular army since April 2023, on Wednesday attacked the central village of Wad al-Noura in al-Jazira state "in two waves" with heavy artillery, the Madani Resistance Committee said.

It reported on Wednesday that the feared paramilitaries had "invaded the village", causing dozens of casualties and wide-

spread displacement. The attack "claimed the lives of more than 104 martyrs" and "injured hundreds" said the committee, one of hundreds of similar grassroots groups across Sudan, adding that it reached the toll via "initial communication with village residents".

The UN resident coordinator for Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, said she was "shocked by reports of violent attacks and a high number of casualties" in the village. She called for an investigation and for "those responsible to be held accountable".

"Human tragedy has become a hallmark of life in Sudan. We cannot allow impunity to become an-

other one," she added. On social media, the committee shared footage of what it said was a "mass grave" in the public square, showing rows of white shrouds laid out in a courtyard.

In a little over a year, the war has killed tens of thousands of people, including up to 15,000 in a single West Darfur town.

However, the war's overall death toll remains unclear, with some estimates of up to 150,000, according to US special envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello. The RSF has repeatedly besieged and attacked entire villages across the country, and has been notorious for widespread looting as well as sexual and ethnic violence.



Palestinians gather as people flee Rafah due to an Israeli military operation, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

## G7 summit: EU to consider leveraging windfall profits from Russia's frozen assets

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: European Union finance ministers will consider a G7 plan for leveraging windfall profits generated by Russian assets, immobilised in the West after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, after a G7 summit later in June, the ministers' chairman said.

Paschal Donohoe, who chairs meetings of euro zone finance ministers, said after a video teleconference of EU ministers on Wednesday that there was unwa-

vering support to help Ukraine meet its financing needs.

"The discussion among ministers showed appreciation for the constructive engagement with G7 partners in this regard and full support for it to continue," Donohoe said in the statement after the teleconference. "Finance ministers will consider at their June meeting the need for further discussions following the G7 Summit in Apulia," he added.

## Mexico's president-elect says no decision yet on constitutional reforms

Monitoring Desk MEXICO CITY: Mexico's President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum said late on Thursday no decision had been made on a package of constitutional reforms put forward by outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, local media reported.

The specter that Sheinbaum's leftist Morena party and its allies were within earshot of securing the two-thirds, super-majority needed in both chambers of Congress to pass the controversial measures un-

opposed roiled Mexican markets this week.

When asked about the reforms, Sheinbaum said "there has been no decision. My position is that dialogue needs to happen, the proposal has to be evaluated." Critics have warned that some of the reforms would eliminate crucial oversight bodies, erode judicial independence and concentrate more power in the executive branch. Morena and its junior partners, the Green Party and Labor Party, will likely have 83 seats in the Senate.

## US and British airstrikes hit Yemen

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: US and British forces carried out six airstrikes on targets in Yemen on Friday, a Houthi-run television station said.

Four attacks were made on the airport of Hodeidah - a main port city on the Red Sea - and the seaport of Salif to the north, Al-Masirah TV said.

Two strikes also hit the Al-Thawra region north of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, it said. The Houthis, who control Sanaa and most populous areas, have attacked international shipping in the Red Sea since November in solidarity with the Palestinians.

## NATO to set allies tougher targets for air defence and missiles, diplomat says

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: The NATO alliance is expected to set its members more demanding targets to bolster their air defence, long-range missiles and logistics capability, a European diplomat told Reuters on Friday. NATO has drafted the first major defence plans since the end of the Cold War, spelling out how the alliance would respond to a Russian attack.

## Putin says Russia does not need to use nuclear weapons for victory in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk ST PETERSBURG: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday there was no need to use nuclear weapons to deliver victory for Moscow in Ukraine, the strongest signal yet from the Kremlin chief that there will not be a nuclear strike.

Putin, whose forces have been making advances in eastern Ukraine in recent months, said he did not see the conditions for the use of such weapons and requested that people stop discussing the nuclear topic.

However Putin, who leads the world's biggest nuclear power, said he did not rule out changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine, which sets out the conditions under which such weapons could be used.

## Rights body urges Biden to halt arms supply to Israel

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A civil rights organisation urged President Joe Biden on Thursday to "indefinitely" halt all weapons deliveries to Israel and pressure the US ally to end its bombardment of the Gaza Strip, sending a reminder that his support for Israel could hurt him among Black voters in November's election.

The call by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) was a rare instance of an influential body taking a position on US foreign policy towards a country without a significant black population.

It appeared likely to deepen the Democrat president's election-year challenges as he tries to back a key ally abroad and temper unrest among his supporters at home.

The NAACP urged Hamas to return the Israeli prisoners and called upon Israel to "commit to an offensive strategy that is aligned with international and humanitarian laws".

The NAACP, which has advocated for racial justice and rights for Black Americans, said the US must use its influence with Israel to bring a permanent ceasefire to Gaza.

"The NAACP calls on President Biden to draw the red line and indefinitely end the shipment of all weapons and artillery to the state of Israel and other states that supply weapons to Hamas and other terrorist organisations. "It is imperative that the violence that has claimed so many civilian lives, immediately stop," the organisation said in a statement.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin, Bolivia's President Luis Arce and Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa attend a plenary session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in Saint Petersburg, Russia.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing "Safar-e-Mualim" ceremony organized by Voice of Balochistan

## Pakistan calls for India's accountability over 7,000 custodial deaths in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday reiterated its call for India to be held accountable for its unabated human rights abuses in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) where over 7,000 Kashmiris had so far died in the custody of Indian forces during the last three decades.

Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, highlighted the reported death of a Kashmiri civilian at a police station in IIOJK's Pulwama district.

"This is not the first incident of its kind as over the last three decades the number of custodial deaths in IIOJK has exceeded 7,000. The perpetrators of these crimes should be held accountable," she said reaffirming Pakistan's continuous political, diplomatic

and moral support to Kashmiri people for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Highlighting Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026 with the overwhelming support of 182 members of the UN General Assembly, she thanked the members, particularly Asia Pacific Group for their confidence.

She told the media that at the Council, Pakistan would play its role in the peaceful resolution of disputes, opposing the resort to unilateral force, combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations, supporting UN peacekeeping efforts, resolution for regional and international crises, and promoting democ-

racy, transparency, and accountability.

Spokesperson Baloch strongly condemned the horrific bombing of Israeli forces on the UN-run school sheltering Palestinian refugees that led to multiple deaths of mostly women and children.

"This attack is another crime in a series of attacks against civilians including an IDP Camp last week that resulted in the deaths of 45 Palestinians. The deliberate targeting of civilian population and facilities is a grave violation of international law and constitutes war crimes," she added.

Condemning the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound by hundreds of Israeli extremists, she said it was the responsibility of the occupation authorities to respect religious sites.

## Zamindars have to detach them from regular power supply system after solarization of agricultural tube wells: CM Bugti

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that the zamindars have to detach them from regular power supply system of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) after solarization of the agricultural tube wells in the province.

He said that we would have the financial cooperation of federal government for solarization of the agricultural tube wells, however, it's reservations have to be removed on the solarization.

He insisted that the electricity could not be acquired from the regular power system after regularization.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the delegation of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee, who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Friday.

Also present in the meeting were included the provincial ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Ali Madad Jatak and Nawabzada Tariq Magasi besides office bearers of Zamindar Action Committee. During the course of meeting, the matters about solarization of agricultural tube wells in the province.

Speaking to the members of delegation, Chief Minister stressed that Zamindar Action Committee would have to give guarantee that the electricity would not be acquired from the regular power system after converting the agricultural tube wells on solar energy. The necessary legislation would be made in this regard, if needed so, he added.

## Pakistan, China sign 23 MoUs for cooperation in industry, energy, agriculture, other sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China on Friday signed 23 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including transport infrastructure, industry, energy, agriculture, media, health, water, socioeconomic development, and other areas of mutual interest.

The MoUs were signed after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang held delegation-level talks wherein they reaffirmed that the Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership was characterized by mutual trust, shared principles, and strategic governance, Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch told the media at her weekly press briefing.

Both sides also expressed unwavering sup-

port for each other's core issues and reiterated their commitment to the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the timely completion of ongoing projects.

Both sides also resolved to protect the CPEC from detractors and adversaries with Prime Minister Shehbaz PM reaffirming commitment to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan.

The two countries agreed to maintain high-level exchanges, including strengthening of institutional linkages in all tiers and spheres, besides continuing to holding consultations on matters of bilateral and global significance, particularly during Pakistan's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026.

The spokesperson said, "Since his arrival in China, the prime minister has met with Chinese investors and businesspersons to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan."

In the meeting and events including a Business Forum in Shenzhen, he encouraged the Chinese companies to invest and develop joint ventures.

Several MoUs have also been signed with Chinese companies in economy, green energy, textiles, and manufacturing.

Before he departed for a five-day visit to China, the prime minister had told the Chinese media in an interview that he would engage with Chinese business leaders to secure investments and yield dividends mutually beneficial for companies on both sides.

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BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being presented with the Guard of Honor at Great Hall of the People.



QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Development Mahaz led by former Chief Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Salik appreciates ILO's efforts, initiatives to support workers, mitigate adverse crises faced by Gazans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OPHRD), Chaudhry Salik Hussain Friday appreciated the efforts and important initiatives taken by the ILO to support workers and mitigate the adverse effects of the crises being faced by Gaza and the West Bank.

The minister made these remarks during the 112th International Labour Conference being held on 3rd June to 14th June 2024 featured significant engagement from Pakistan.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain led the Pakistani delegation, which also included Zulfiqar Ahmad, Secretary, Workers Welfare Fund. The conference served as a vital platform for global labor discussions, covering topics such as labor standards, employment strategies for fostering decent work, and inclusive economic growth, a news release said.

Pakistan's active participation emphasized its commitment to addressing key labor issues and contributing to the global dialogue on work-related challenges and solutions.

## New Gwadar airport nears completion

GWADAR (INP): The New Gwadar International Airport, a flagship project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is now in its final stages of construction.

Set to be a modern marvel, the airport spans across 4,300 acres of land, boasting a runway capable of accommodating the Airbus A380, the world's largest aircraft.

With a sleek terminal building covering 14,000 square meters, the airport aims to elevate Gwadar's infrastructure and pave the way for future development. The project, estimated at \$246 million, is on track for completion in 2024.

Recently, a significant milestone was achieved as the Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan (CAA) successfully conducted a five-day flight test operation, supported by China, starting from Tuesday, June 4, 2024. The inaugural test flight was greeted with a traditional salute upon touchdown.

## Pakistan, China agree to promote cooperation between NPC, Parliament

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chairman of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee Zhao Leji wherein they agreed to promote engagement and cooperation between the NPC and the Parliament of Pakistan. The prime minister, who is on a five-day official visit to China, proposed several initiatives to strengthen parliamentary exchanges, including enhancing interactions between the China-Pakistan Friendship Groups and exchanging delegations of young parliamentarians.

PM Shehbaz paid rich

tribute to Chairman Zhao for his contributions to the Chinese politics and society, and congratulated him on successfully convening the NPC's annual session.

He noted Zhao Leji's important position in the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the NPC which underlined the trust placed in him by the Chinese leadership and people.

He stated that the relations with China were the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. The prime minister noted that the unique and special relationship between the two countries was based on strategic trust.

## NA informed Pak Airlines flights to EU will be resumed soon

ISLAMABAD (INP): Newly elected members of the House Ali Qasim Gilani and Zainab Mahmood Baloch took oath as members of the National Assembly today.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah administered the oath. Responding to a calling attention notice, Minister of State for Power Division Aij Pervaiz Malik said load-shedding of six to ten hours is being carried out

## Secretary Maritime says Gwadar economic zone offers unique opportunities for Chinese investors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary for Maritime Affairs, Zafar Ali Ghadar on Friday said the Gwadar free economic zone has immense investment potential and offering unique opportunities for Chinese investors.

In a statement, he highlighted Gwadar's potential as a leading transshipment hub, enhanced maritime infrastructure, and incentives for businesses.

He said due to Gwadar's strategic location, modern port facilities, and supportive regulatory environment make it an ideal

investment destination.

Zafar Ali further discussed the incentives for investors including streamlined customs procedures, and robust legal protections.

He added that due to diverse sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, and technology there exist huge industrial growth opportunities for the potential investors.

It is welcoming that great interest was showed by the Chinese companies in Gwadar and investment in Pakistan, he concluded.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran

## Steps afoot to improve law & order situation in Quetta: SSP Baloch

QUETTA (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operation Quetta Muhammad Baloch Friday said that all resources were being utilized to improve law and order situation in respective areas of Quetta City. He said that several criminals were arrested in conduction operation against them with the aim to ensure protection public lives and their property by elimination of crime activities in the area.

He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at the DIG Office along with SSP Zohaib Mohsin, SSP Traffic Bahram Mandukhel.

SSP Operations Muhammad Baloch said that the police was taking effective measures to control the incidents of theft and robbery in Quetta city saying that several accused by police team from respective areas of the prov-

ince in 2024. He said that several open courts had been held in various areas for the convenience of the public, with the aim of strengthening the relationship between the public and the police to eradicate crime while such open court would be arranged in the areas for improvement of law and order situation.

He said that a campaign would be launched to give respect public in order to enhance confidence of people on police.

He said that during the operation against illegal diesel petrol, 8,000 liters of petrol were seized, around 2,000 drug addicts were also detained by conducting an operation against illegal arms and drug dealers in the city canal.

He said that the citizens should submit their data under the Tenant Act to the concerned police stations within a week.

## ATC extends interim bail of PTI founder in 3 cases till June 12

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in three cases related to the May 9 violence until June 12.

The court directed jail authorities to ensure the attendance of the PTI founder through a video link at the next hearing, besides seeking the record of cases.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI founder in cases of attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and the torching of Shadman Police station.

## Industries Department promoting culture of Balochistan: Pirkani

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Secretary Industries Department, Noor Ahmed Pirkani has stated that the Industries department is promoting culture of the province besides imparting training to the youngsters in different sectors of life so that they may play their role in development of the province and promotion of its culture. The Secretary Industries was addressing the officers and youth completing their training during his visit to different training

centers of Industries Department here on Friday.

He said that Industries sector is developing in the province, but the department has left no stone unturned in imparting training and providing livelihood to the youth of the province. He urged the youth to play their wholehearted role for development of the department. He stressed that under trainee youth should also play their role in development of the province besides getting respectable source of income.

## PM given guard of honour at Great Hall of the People

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday was given a guard of honor at the Great Hall of the People where he arrived to meet the top Chinese leadership. As the prime minister arrived at the formal reception ceremony, Chinese Premier Li Qiang warmly received him which followed the introduction of their respective delegations to each other. The national anthems of Pakistan and China were played as the prime minister stood at the salute dias along with his Chinese counterpart.

## Pak, Indonesia & Turkiye call for collective efforts to combat Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Consulate Generals of Pakistan, Turkiye, and Indonesia in New York co-hosted a significant event on combatting Islamophobia.

In their opening statements, the Consul Generals emphasized their governments' collective commitment to combatting Islamophobia, while also advocating for peace, tolerance, and inter-religious dialogue.

In his remarks, Consul General of Pakistan, Aamer Ahmad emphasized Israel's genocidal actions in Gaza as a stark illustration of global Islamophobia and shed light on prevalent Islamophobic incidents worldwide, including hate speech, targeted attacks, and discrimination against Muslims. He further brought into focus the systematic destruction of religious sites in India.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Provincial Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## Japan's contribution enhances food security, nutrition builds resilience in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) acknowledges the Government of Japan's generous contributions under three projects that provided emergency assistance for the stabilization of food-insecure people in the flood-affected areas of Pakistan, implemented in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

WFP organized a Project Completion ceremony to recognize the vital contributions of USD 7.2 million (USD 3.7 million, USD 2.5 million and USD 1 million) from the Government of Japan to address the critical needs of 246,000 people affected by the unprecedented 2022

floods in Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The USD 2.5 million enabled WFP to provide emergency food assistance to flood-affected communities, ensuring their immediate food security and nutrition needs in 2022, while the USD 3.7 million and USD 1 million contributions helped WFP to deliver nutritionally balanced food every month to those actively involved in community rehabilitation, livelihood and resilience building initiatives and identified through district-level consultations in 2023.

The USD 3.7 million grants also supported conditional cash assistance during the early recovery phase.

## Pakistan, Russia signed MoU to upgrade railway sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Railway sector on Friday on the sidelines of 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

The Memorandum of Understanding aims to explore opportunities for

implementing railway upgrade projects and other initiatives within this crucial sector.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Railways, the MoU also establishes a framework for potential future collaboration with relevant companies operating in this sector.

Furthermore, it seeks to enhance and streamline international cargo transport.

The MoU was signed by Ambassador Muhammad Khalid Jamali from Pakistan side and Deputy Transport Minister D.S. Zverev from the Russian side.