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Pakistan, China agree to explore opportunities under CPEC

Frequent leadership's engagements, people-to-people contacts characterize Pak-China deep rooted ties: PM

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad gic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday noted that the deep-rooted China', the two sides agreed on the need to explore ties between Pakistan and China were characterized by frequent engagement and dialogue at the leadership level, people-to-people contacts, cultural and educational ex-

The prime minister met with Meng Fanli, Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee, and Deputy Party Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Committee in Shenzhen, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press

The prime minister lauded the impressive economic growth and exemplary innovative spirit of Guangdong province and also termed Shenzhen a trade gateway for China's business linkages with Pakistan

Reaffirming 'the time-honoured All-Weather Strate- by Meng Fanli

opportunities for increased cooperation between Pakistan and the Guangdong province particularly under CPEC.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and Party Secretary Meng underlined the importance of robust linkages and exchanges between scientists, innovators and businessmen to harness the true potential for enhanced partnership in science and technology, innovation and trade and economic

They also agreed that Pakistan-China Business Conference being held on Wednesday (tomorrow) could make an important contribution in that regard.

The prime minister also attended a banquet hosted



SHENZEN: Group photo of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Mr. Meng Fanli, Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee, and Deputy Party Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Committee along with their respective delegations.

SIC's reserved seats plea

PTI deprived its people of democratic right by not holding intra-party polls: CJP

Says all issues would've been resolved if intra-party polls were held: Case of PTI would have been strong if the independent members had not joined the SIC



VATICAN: Federal Minister for Interior shaking hands with Pope Francis.

Initiatives for coping with challenges of climate change along with good governance included in top priorities of provincial Govt., says CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minaimed at coping with the that unstoppable process of pollution, he added. challenges of climate change natural disasters has been ernance are included in the top priorities of provincial government.

He said that clean and fresh climate is the symbol of best health as the lungs and other related diseases are less in the countries which are pollution free. There is also marked reduction in the deforestation and emitting of the green house gases in these countries.

In a message issued here on eve of the World Environment Day being observed today (Wednesday)

ter said that the increasing started due to increase in the temperature globally.

He mentioned that torrential rains and flash floods in balochistan dur-

ing last two years. He said that it is such an example of urban flooding if we try to find out the reasons behind then the climate change and global temperature would be seen as

the most important factors. The Chief Minister said that Pakistan is an industrial country rather it is an agricultural country.

Pakistan, the Chief Minis- trial countries in increasing global temperature, but untemperature has created fortunately the countries ister Balochistan, Mir numerous issues all over the are also affecting which oth-Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has world especially in Paki- erwise have least role in stated that the initiatives stan. He noted with concern contributing environmental

> He stressed that all international agreements and protocols signed for there is no precedent of ending the Environment pollution.

He also stressed that we have to take serious steps to overcome the issue of global warming and move ahead with a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change all over the

He said that the World **Environment Day requires** us to plant maximum trees and keep our environment

Naeem Akhtar Afghan were been resolved if intra-party also part of the bench. However, Justice Musarrat Hilali didn't join the bench due to illness.

A thirteen-member bench headed by Chief Jus-tice of Pakistan Qazi Faez tice remarked that the canof us and you are representing from all the PTI. The candidates of PTI are leaving you and not joining

your party.

The chief justice questioned whether PTI or independent candidates renot given, he asked.

He further remarked Justice Hassan Azhar that we did not say that in-Rizvi, Justice Shahid tra-party elections should that we did not say that in-Waheed, Justice Irfaan not be held, adding that all

elections were held.

Addressing the lawyer, the CJP said that you are trying to associate yourself During hearing of the SIC's lawyer, the chief jusan independent candidate. didates who are not in front He observed that if you show yourself as a PTI candidate, you are not an independent candidate.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that the PTI had deprived its people of the democratic right. Where was the reflection of the will of quested to take election symbol of bat? Why not challenge if the bat sign was the voters in the election of this political party, he asked. He said that if there were party elections then only the members of PTI would

The PTI would have made a claim for these members. He asked if the candidate did not go to the SIC, what would happen to the reserved seats? If the number of 336 is to be completed in the Parliament then seats cannot be left vacant.

Justice Munib Akhtar Akhtar during the full court hearing on reserved seats legal mistakes made by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that compelled PTI-backed candidates to contest elections as independents.

dent members had not joined the SIC. "denied those reserved seats simply because now they have taken shelter under [the Sunni Ittehad Council].

On this occasion, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail remarked that apparently, the PTI candidates changed their parties, adding that there is a decision under Article 63A on party change.

Justice Sayed Mansoor Ali Shah asked what will case highlighted a string of happen if there are more independent members in the parliament and there are two political parties. Whether all reserved seats will go to the two political parties or He further stated that these parties will get spe-The CJP remarked that the issue regarding reserved cific seats only in proporthe case of PTI would have seats came down to whether tion to the number of seats

There is great role of indus-**Interior Minister meets** Pope Francis in Vatican City

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met Pope Francis at the Vatican City during his visit

The Minister was accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival in the Vatican City.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to promote peace, brotherhood, interfaith harmony

and dialogue.
Pope Francis commended Pakistan's efforts towards immediate repair and reconstruction of Churches in the aftermath of Jaranwala tragedy.
The Pope said that his

message to the people of Pakistan was peace, adding "We all should work together for establishing peace in the world. He also stated that the

Prime Minister of Pakistan had invited him for a visit and he would try his best to visit Pakistan soon.

The Pope expressed concern over the situation in Palestine, stating that it was a cause of huge con-

He added that he stayed updated on the humanitarian situation in Palestine through daily briefings with workers engaged in relief efforts.

He emphasized that the interfaith dialogue and harmony was the key to resolve issues.

Minister, Naqvi thanked him for his effective stance on the Palestine issue, which had

been widely appreciated. The minister apprised Pope Francis regarding Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the war against terrorism.

He lauded the services of the Pope towards promoting peace and harmony

The minister said that the protection of minorities was top priority of the government of Pakistan adding that teachings of our Holy Prophet (PBUH), Father of the Nation and constitution emphasized the protection and well-being of minori-



OUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani talking to media after end protest of Joint Action Committee Baluchistan employees outside Baluchistan University.

CPEC phase-II to grow business links between

Pak-China: Ahsan ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Tuesday said that the economic and cultural connec-

tions between the people of China and Pakistan are strong and focused. In a video message ahead of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, he said that a delegation comprising of one

also visiting China, PTV news channel reported. "China has an important role in Pakistan's development. It has always helped Pakistan in difficult times," he added.

hundred and twenty six

Pakistani businessmen is

Federal budget 2024-25 likely to be presented on June 12

ISLAMABAD (INP): The presentation of the federal budget 2024-25 is likely to be rescheduled.

Interestingly, it is also unusual that the budget strategy paper (BSP) for the next fiscal year has not et been 'shared' with parliament, though it is more because of political uncertainties emanating from the legal status of reserved seats and because of the absence of standing committees of the Senate and the National Assembly, particularly those related to

finance. The budget 2024-25 which was earlier scheduled to be presented on June 10 is now likely to be presented on June 12.

says Governor Mandokhail Seeks cooperation of Intl. institutions for provision of basic facilities in Afghan refugees living areas

Pakistan playing an important

role for peace of the region,

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Supreme Court of Pa-

kistan on Tuesday adjourned hearing till June 24, on an appeal of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) re-

garding the reserved seats.

Isa heard the appeal against the verdict of Peshawar

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib

Akhtar, Justice Yahya

Afridi, Justice Amin ud Din

Khan, Justice Jamal Khan

Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar,

Justice Ayesha A. Malik,

Justice Athar Minallah,

High Court.

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Pakistan is playing an important role for peace of the region. We need support of the international institutions for provision of the basic facilities in the Afghan refugees and the areas affected from them. He said that establishment of sustainable peace is in the interest of the whole region particu-

larly Pakistan. The Governor was speaking to the country cades.

representative of UNHCR in Pakistan, Ms Philippa Candler who called on him here at the Governor's House on Tuesday.

Also present in the meeting were included Head of UNHCR sub-office, Tesfaye Bekele, Commissioner Afghan Refugees, Arbab Talib and Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai.

The country representative of UNHCR thanked the Pakistani nation and government on extending hospitality to the Afghan refugees for last four de-



QUETTA: Country representative of UNHCR Philippa Candler meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

University of Balochistan's 90-day sit-in ends as govt releases salaries

OUETTA (APP): The government of Balochistan has announced the release of salaries for university employees, resulting in the end of the 90-day sit-in by Balochistan University

On Tuesday, Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani arrived at the protest sit-in organized by employees against the non-payment of salaries, where she held talks with the teachers and subsequently announced the end of the sit-in.

The Provincial Education Minister expressed her regret that the teachers were on the streets instead of in the classrooms. She announced the payment of

salaries to the employees up to June.

Talking to the protesting teachers, the Education Minister emphasized that employees should not have to take to the streets to receive their salaries, as salaried individuals rely on their wages to run their households.

Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti, the dues of university employees are being paid," she main-tained. She hopes that the upcoming budget will allocate funds for university teachers for the entire year. Subsequently, the university employees announced the end of their 90-day sit-in.

'On the directives of

CM grieved over death of 11 mine workers in Sanjdi coal mine mishap Independent Report

OUETTA: The Chief Min ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of 11 coal mine workers in the mishap occurred in a coal mine located in Sanjdi area. The Chief Minister ex-

pressed anger over the lack of safety measures in the coal mines. The Chief Minister also issued orders to the concerned authorities to fix

the responsibility of the

sorrowful incident of coal He stressed that the coal mine owners have to implement the prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the mines. However, most of the incidents occur due to the carelessness of coal mine own-

The Chief Minister directed the Secretary Mines Department to ensure implementation on the SOPs for prevention of such incidents and stoppage of precious human lives in the mining sector in future.

GoB orders to register case of Sanjdi mishap against mine owner, 2 others **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has ordered to register case against three persons including the owner of coal mine in which a mine manager, contractor and nine workers died in Sanjdi area on Tuesday night.

According to the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind, an official letter has been dispatched to the concerned police station for registration of FIR by the Mines and Minerals Department

It may be mentioned here that 11 persons including the Coal mine Manager, contractor and nine mine workers were died due to the leakage of poisonous gas and suffocation



LAHORE: President PML (N) Nawaz Sharif shaking hand with Ambassador of Oatar Ali bin Mubrak Al-Khatir. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz is also present.

CM Maryam, Nawaz Sharif meet Qatari envoy

ing the meeting.

she expressed.

The chief minister briefed H.E. Mr Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khater about

the business-friendly poli-

cies of Punjab government

and invited Qatari busi-

nessmen and industrial-

ists to invest in Punjab.

"We want to promote economic relations be-tween Punjab and Qatar,"

the need to strengthen bi-

lateral relations and find

Both leaders stressed

LAHORE (APP): Punjab est were discussed dur-Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, along with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, met with the Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Mr Ali Bin Mubarak Al

Khater, here on Tuesday. Possible investment opportunities in Punjab, labor force supply from the province, cooperation in

the development of infrastructure and other sectors in Punjab and other matters of mutual inter- new ways of cooperation. Pakistan Navy, PMSA seize large consignment

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency have seized a large consignment of

of drugs at sea



According to ISPR, in a joint anti-narcotics operation, PMSS Zhob seized a large quantity of narcotics in the North Arabian Sea, worth thousands of dollars in the international market

This is the third major operation of Pakistan Navy

against drug smuggling in the last ten days.

Pakistan Navy and PMSA maintain constant presence to closely monitor sea lanes Successful joint antinarcotics operation is a result of effective surveillance at sea by Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Cipher acquittal

Yesterday afternoon, Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi stood acquitted of the charge of compromising state secrets.

Traitors' for a grand total of about four months and one week, the two have been vindicated by the Islamabad High Court of charges brought against them in the infamous 'cipher case', as it came to be

While the detailed verdict is awaited, it is worth recalling that this was the most serious of the three convictions former prime minister Imran Khan had been slapped with in quick succession in the days leading up to the Feb 8 general election. Both Mr Khan and ex-foreign minister Mr Qureshi had been handed 10 years' rigorous punishment each for, in the eyes of the presiding judge, 'leaking' a secret cable and thereby compromising the safety, integrity and credibility of Pakistan's secure communication system with its diplomatic missions abroad.

The conviction had precluded Mr Qureshi's right to participate in the general election; Mr Khan had already been deemed ineligible by an earlier conviction in the Toshakhana case.

The verdict had been secured on the state's third attempt at prosecuting the case. Two earlier trials were aborted by the IHC after it found serious irregularities in the proceedings. Even then, the trial court's sentence was almost immediately slammed by the legal community; many had criticised the abnormal circumstances in which the trial was completed. This was the same case, it may be recalled, in which the court had denied the two defendants their right to appoint their own counsels or cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses, even though the prosecution had sought the maximum penalty of a death sen-

Even then, the biggest charge the two were found guilty of — compromising the country's secure diplomatic communication system — was undermined by the Foreign Office shortly after, when it affirmed through a statement that its communication system had been audited and found to be safe and protected. There was, therefore, near unanimity in the legal community that the verdict would be overturned: it was not a question of if but when.

In retrospect, Mr Khan and Mr Qureshi committed a historical blunder and caused an international diplomatic incident by using the cipher as a political prop; however, this was never reason enough to punish them under laws originally meant to prosecute traitors and foreign spies. That, as prime minister, Mr Khan chose to use sensitive diplomatic communications for selfish political reasons, imperilling diplomatic ties with the country's largest trading partner, should have been left as something for voters to

Instead, our state, in its desperation to victimise another ex-prime minister, once again left them looking like more of a hero than they perhaps deserved to be. There are lessons aplenty in this saga: but will our state ever learn?

Tyranny of learning

Nasira Habib

School education in Pakistan plays no constructive role in cultivating a civic sense in students. It fails to prepare social studies school curriculum claims a paradigm shift to an inquirybased approach, focusing on student constructed' learning, instead of teacher-transmitted information. It also recognises that learning experiences must be relevant to students' daily lives.

The prerequisites of such an approach are relevant cultural context, understanding of students' prior knowledge, immersive teaching, active participation, and recognising the critical importance of their voices. However, these essential elements are missing in textbooks.

There has been no effort to locate the teaching of citizenship in students' sociocultural realities in primary school textbooks. On the contrary, the text is context-neutral and abstract. The language is dull, monotonous and difficult. Not only linguistically but conceptually as well, it is age-inappropriate. The content is uninteresting and the vocabulary and concepts far more advanced than their comprehension sentences to educate six-year-old Grade 2 children on rights and duties, including the right to religious freedom. Without explaining human rights, a table gives four types of rights and five kinds of responsibili-

The rights include the freedom to choose and changes in rights an occupation, the right to shelter homes for destitute people, and the right to electricity, gas, ray of rights and duties clean drinking water, a safe environment, housing, education, protec-

tion, and healthcare. of sensitivity in the text-Furthermore, the text- books pertaining to books want children to children's lived experi-'define' a government ences, the extent of their and its roles and responsibilities.

responsible citizens. The role of the government pear to overlook teachand citizens for Grade 3 ers' ability to deal with is no less pathetic. The curriculum expects seven-year-old children to link water shortages in some areas of Pakistan to the increase in population, a lower water table, absence of water storage facilities, poor water supply management and irrational water use. The textbook also asks them to give suggestions on how a government and citizens can collaborate to meet the needs of a

community

son, they must know the qualities of good citizens, for example, being law-abiding, responsible, trustworthy, gender-just, tolerant, and respectful of others' rights. The relevant chapters for Grade 4 take children farther away from their reality and achieve new heights of abstraction. The chapter on citizenship describes at least 33 complex concepts in 26 sentences. Almost every sentence presents a new

At the end of the les-

Students are required to memorise the definitions of an 'ordinary', 'digital' and 'global' citizen. They have to level. A chapter on gen- endlessly repeat and eral knowledge uses six commit to memory complex concepts like the caste system, international affairs, conflict resolution through dialogue, the UN Declaration of Human Rights, protection of language and culture, religious freedom, right of movement, speech and expression, payment of taxes, and responsibilities over time. In addition, 26 bullet points present an ar-

for the three categories of

exposure, location, access to technology, etc. The chapter on the The textbooks also apsuch intellectually challenging concepts. The borrowed format of the presentation and layout of the text makes a mockery of the thought behind

the format. Such imposed and undemocratic education is a tyranny for learners. It leads them to using hollow words, having no de--mocratic values and convictions,

la--cking the courage to stand up for civic ideals. Poor governance, slackness in law enforcement, and rampant corruption reinforce their ignorance and disbelief in democratic values. People without a value system, logical thinking, and decision-making tools become conformists and follow the crowd.

We must teach democratic behaviour and form habits from the first day of school. Instead of talking about J.S. Mill and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, education must be structured around everyday happenings involving children, inviting them to express their views, listening to them, and giving them ownership in decision-making, such as developing class-

room rules. School life presents many situations in the classroom, in the lab, in the library, in the garden and on the playground, which themselves relate to issues of rights and duties, justice and fair play, gender equity and responsibility, and need resolution. Such immersion would help children think and act democratically. Textbooks must facilitate these processes. Otherwise, they are counterproductive.

Monsoon menace

Naseer Memon

With the approach of the monsoons, timely precaution is needed. The South Asian Climate Outlook Forum has anticipated above-normal rains in the region during the season. Rainfall and temperature outlook maps from the SACOF-28 report forecast heavy rains in all the and equipped with techprovinces and excessive temperatures Pakistan's snow-capped mountainous belt. This

conditions. Sindh is the most vulnerable province as it is the final destination of glacial melt in the north and the hill torrents of southern Punjab and eastern Balochistan. A closer look at the temperature and rainfall maps of the report indicates the following perilous scenarios for Sindh:

(1) Scorching temperatures in the north triggering snowmelt and consequent flooding of the Indus river.

(2) Excessive rainfall in southern Punjab unleashing hill torrents from Koh-i-Suleman, which will eventually join the Indus river to swell its

(3) Abnormal rains in eastern Balochistan, which can produce gushing spate flows entering Sindh from the Kirthar Hills. This flow can exert stress on the Flood Protection (FP) Bund and embankments of the Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD), turning Lake Manchhar into a threat.

(4) Heavy downpours in Sindh can choke malfunctioning drainage networks on both sides of the Indus and create ponds in case there are breaches and spill-overs. Sindh witnessed a combination of the first two scenarios in 2010, while an amalgam of the latter two was endured in 2022, causing calamity.

The next monsoon season is set to begin in a few weeks. The authori-

knocks. Precautions are realise that urgent actions can mitigate the repercussions. A monsoon monitor-

should be established at

the Provincial Disaster

Management Authority

nical, financial, logistical in and human resources to enable swift action in case suggests looming flood 2022, a major disaster was unleashed due to recordbreaking rains in eastern Balochistan in July and August. An enormous quantum of water entered Sindh along the foothills of the Kirthar range. The ary 2023, asking the FP Bund couldn't withstand the water sheet and was breached at five locations. The banks of the RBOD and Suprio bund vast areas in Kambar Shahdadkot and Dadu drains in the remaining districts. The Sindh irrigation department should devise a communication mechanism that can be put to use by the department and its counterpart in Balochistan to obtain timely updates on the rain-

> Sindh, the floodwaters 277-kilometre-long FP Bund before reaching Manchhar. The irrigation department has to ensure the timely emptying of flows. In 2022, delayed emptying resulted in breaches and relief cuts to save Sehwan town. Dozens of villages between Sehwan and Dadu towns were inundated. Dadu, Johi and Mehar just about managed to avert a disaster, thanks to the concerted efforts of the local community and

flows likely to veer to-

wards Sindh. The FP

Bund and the banks of the

RBOD need critical sur-

veillance to avert breach-

Clogged natural wa-

ties remain in a state of terways are a chronic slumber until disaster cause of flooding. In a bid to appease a few podelayed. They should litical favourites, the government exposes millions of poor people to flooding risks. A study commissioned by the Sindh ing and coordination cell Irrigation and Drainage Authority in 2012 enlisted all blocked waterways and suggested a plan for the rehabilitation of the drainage network on the left bank side. In January 2021, the Sindh of an adverse situation. In High Court ordered the removal of encroachments from irrigation department lands by June

More recently, the court's Sukkur bench issued a verdict in Februgovernment to improve the drainage of storm water from both sides of the Indus by reviving the natural waterways also collapsed, inundating via the construction of surface/storm new

area. The verdict identified 11 obstructions in waterways

Balochistan Manchhar on the right bank side, and advised the authorities to rectify matters. These efforts fall and the consequent yielded no result. Obstructions created by the Left Bank Outfall Drain against the natural flow of the Puran river caused havoc in Jhudo in Mirpurkhas and put parts of Badin at risk in 2022. LBOD underpasses travel the length of the and regulatory infrastructure at zero point need to be completed before the monsoons. Similarly, the Aral Wah canal, which has been the lake to absorb these adequately remodelled, was meant to drain the surplus flows Manchhar to the Indus, but the old regulator on the Indus Highway has not yet been removed. It can potentially cause a bottleneck and make Sehwan and Dadu vulnerable as in 2022. Devastation due to delayed action can cost far more than investment in resilience. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Gilani inaugurates commercial production of Kia Shehroze

Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday inaugurated the commercial production of Kia Shehzore at the Dewan Industrial City near Sujawal.

the Addressing launching ceremony, Gilani felicitated the Dewan Farooque Motors Limited (DFML) and Kia on resuming the commercial production of their 'Special Purpose Kia Commercial

He said it was a significant milestone not only for the company, but also marked the spirit of progress and development that "we continuously strive for in Pakistan"

page of automotive excellence, hard work and testament to Pakistan's industrial growing progress, he added.

The Senate chairman cornerstone of progress, innovation, driving employment opportunities, and economic prosperity.

"The success of South Korean automobile giants like Kia significantly boosted the country's GDP, enhanced its global trade standing, and spurred technological innovation."

Gilani said that the industry, through such innovation, the launch of remarkable initiatives, was Kia Shehzore truck was a manifesting "our shared commitment to fostering a robust and self-sufficient automotive sector"

He further said that said that the automobile Pakistan was committed to sector served as a pursuing a robust geoeconomic policy that 'prioritizes regional developmental cooperation and trade as a vehicle of shared prosperity".

Gilani said the transportation sector under the Chian Pakistan Economic Corridor had already opened up new avenues of trade and connectivity.

bearish trend, losses

SLAMABAD (APP) The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, loosing 908.60 points, a negative change of 1.20 per cent, closing at 74,666.66

were traded during the day as compared to 441,261,756 shares valuing Rs 18.364 billion

As many as 451 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 99 of them recorded gains and 279 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 73 companies remained

The top three trading companies were Fauji Cement with 36,618,571 shares at Rs 22.51 per share, K-Electric Limited with 35,198, 695 shares at Rs 4.87 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 21,707,630 shares at Rs 1.34 per share.

QUETTA: A delegation of led by President Quetta Chamber of Commerce Abdullah Khan Achakzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail. **ICCI proposes** measures for broadening tax base

ISLAMABAD (APP): to flourish local trade and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry

He said said that (ICCI) on Tuesday urged the government to introduce special measures in upcoming federal budget for the financial year 2024-25 for broadening the tax base by taking the business community on board, besides forming joint committees at district levels to address the challenges faced by local

trade and investment. Addressing a seminar on 'Tajir Dost Scheme', President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the chamber had forwarded its budget proposals to the government and urged for and promotion of exports incorporating these to initiate journey towards suggestion in the budget the economic stability.

business community of the country was aware of the significance of the tax for economic development and it always remained at the forefront for ensuring the full tax compliance for the documenting the national economy and social prosperity. The president termed

the track and trace system as imperative to check those involved in tax evasion and underlined the need for large scale reforms in Federal Board of Revenue, besides privatization of losing making government entities

Gold up SCCI asks govt by Rs 700 to conduct forensic per tola ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold audit of IPPs

of Commerce and Industry, Fuad Ishaq has urged the government to conduct a forensic audit of the IPPs to pull the country out from the hovering net of circular debts.

He was addressing as guest at the concluding ceremony of two-day International Solar Energy Expo – ISE organised 2024 by GreenWend Energy/ SunSaviour here, said a press release here.

rising electricity cost and

Fuad Ishaq

China's growing demand for colored gemstone urges Pakistan to react quickly

BEIJING (APP): The 2024 Beijing International Gold, Jewelry, and Gemstone Exhibition concluded on June 3 at the Concluded on June 3 at the Patting Exhibition Center.

Patting Exhibition Center.

Patting Exhibition Center. 2024 Beijing International The event featured exhibitors not only from major Chinese cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou but also from various

international jewelers. Chinese consumers showed consistent enthusiasm for gold, jade, pearls, and other precious items. Notably, there was a marked interest in colored gemstones, with significant crowd around the booths of exhibitors from Pakistan and Sri Lanka

increased by Rs 700 and

was sold at Rs 241,000 on

Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs 240,300 on the

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also

increased by Rs 600 to Rs

206,619 from Rs 206,019

whereas the price of 10

grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 189,400 from Rs188,850, All Sindh

The price of per tola

Association reported.

2,820 and to Rs 2,417.70.

Jewellers

last trading day.

Sarafa

Pakistan and Sri Lanka growing recognition of the something good to buy," a consumer shared with China Economic Net (CEN). "In 2023, the total

import and export value of China's jewelry industry reached a record high of \$145.334 billion, an increase of 8.62% year-onyear. Chinese consumers show a strong interest in gold and silver jewelry products for both their aesthetic and investment value. Additionally,

"The quality of China saw a 47 percent colored gemstones from increase in 2023, indicating quality of Pakistani gemstones among Chinese buyers

Muhammad Amjad, the owner of PIEDRA, a Pakistani-colored gemstone company, brought emeralds, aquamarines, and other gems from Peshawar to the exhibition. "I came to China in 2006 and have been in the colored gemstone business ever

The reason for choosing to do business in China is simple: the good relationship between the two countries and the Pakistan's exports of gems and precious stones to Chinese consumers.

APTMA for regionally competitive energy tariff, cut in mark-up

LAHORE (APP): All Tuesday. APTMA Pakistan Textile Mills Chairman (North) Kamran Association (APTMA) Central Chairman Asif Inam has demanded reduction in the power tariff to 9 cents/kWh, bringing down the interest rate to 12 percent and restoration of zero rating for the textile industry to enable it to contribute to the national economy through exports, investment

and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs APTMA office on revenue

employment.

Arshad, Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, and Secretary General (North) Mohammad Raza Bagir were also present. Inam said

industry was paying Rs 240 billion in cross subsidies and over Rs 150 billion in stranded cost. He said the supply of electricity at 9 cents/ kWh would generate over 300 megawatts in He was addressing a additional grid demand press conference here at and Rs 500 billion in

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Faisal Karim Kundi conferring awards to the traders of KPK during a award giving ceremony which was held at Islamabad Chamber and Commerce & Industry.

Services exports increase by 1.18 pc in 10 months

during the first ten months of the current financial year increased by 1.18 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of the last year. During July-April 2023-24, exports of services were recorded at \$6.441 billion as against the exports of \$6.366 billion during the same period of last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau

of Statistics (PBS). During the period under review, the services imports into the country grew by 20.77 percent and it was registered at \$8.347 billion as compared to the import of \$6.912 billion in the same period last year. On a year-on-year

basis, the services exports from the country grew by 16.59 percent in April 2024 as compared to the exports of the same month of last year. In April 2024, services valued at \$646.03 million were exported as compared to exports of \$554.10 million in the same month of last year.

PSX witnessed 908.60 points

points against 75,575.26 points the previous day.

A total of 414,479,234 shares valuing Rs 18.311 billion the previous day.

unchanged.

PESHAWAR (APP): The SCCI chief said President Sarhad Chamber hydel and solar energy was the best solution to the

> He called upon the government to pay serious attention to the uplift of the solar energy sector.

> demanded disbursement of loans under KP government interest-free Youth loan scheme worth Rs 10 Billion through the Bank of Khyber and demanded the revival of

Cooperation with Qatar will be further increased in various fields: Governor

Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore, here today. Both sides discussed cooperation between the two countries in trade and other fields

occasion, Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that Pakistan and Qatar have brotherly relations. He said that cooperation with Oatar will be further country and its people are increased in various fields.

Punjab Governor said that Governor Punjab said that playing the role of a strong bridge between the two countries. He said that Pakistan is grateful to the government of Qatar for hosting the expatriates. Governor Punjab said that said that delegations of Pakistan wants to benefit from Qatar's expertise in the Oil and Gas sectors. Speaking on the He appreciated Qatar for asion, Punjab showing Islamic teachings and values to the whole world during the hosting of the Football World Cup. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan is a peaceful

loving and hospitable.

LAHORE: Consul General of China Zhao Shiren,

and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Syeda Faleeha Zahra

Kazmi visiting the exhibition regarding Pak-China

Culture and Environment at Home Economics

Performance of food

dept remained exemplary

in 100 days: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab million people in the first

He said this while 100 days, with the

that that it was the most common man has been

valuable relief for 130 resolved, he added.

Food Minister Bilal Yaseen

said that the Punjab Chief

Minister has fulfilled the

promise of providing

affordable and quality food

to the public and during the

first 100 days of the

provincial government, the

performance of the Food

Department remained

100 days of the government and under the

leadership of Chief

Minister Maryam Nawaz

Punjab has taken a lead in

significantly reducing the

wheat, roti, naan, and

semolina have decreased

by up to 48% in the first

Prices of flour

prices of food items.

College University of the provincial capital.

the Pakistani workforce is the world needs to be shown the real face of Pakistan.

Wednesday June 05, 2024

Ambassador of Qatar Ali bin Mubarak Al Khattar said that the Ameer of Qatar will visit Pakistan soon. He experts from Qatar will visit Pakistan and take matters forward in terms of increasing cooperation in various fields.

Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider today visited the house of PPP leader Hasan Ashraf Bhatti where he condoled with him on the death of his father Ashraf Bhatti.

ANF recovers 49 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its ongoing operations against drug trafficking conducted five raids across the country and managed to recover 49 kg drugs and arrest three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 4.4 kg ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Islamabad. 424 grams of ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Islamabad Airport while 35 kg hashish was recovered from Panjgur.

Efforts underway to control spread of dengue:

Zaneera RAWALPINDI (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner(ADC) Headquarters Zaneera addressing a seminar organized by the Pakistan Dairy Association in a local hotel on Tuesday. He said affordability for the local addressing a seminar availability of affordable and quality flour, the local sissue of food affordability for the local area and no negligence would be enhanced. Despite this, as ceremony of AQ Khan.

on Tuesday referred a petition, filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh, heard the petition (PTI) challenging the filed by PTI Secretary Election Commission of General Omar Ayub Khan Pakistan's (ECP) authority

LAHORE: Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar

and other challenging proceedings and notice. During proceedings, petitioners'

counsel answered various court queries about the PTI intraparty election and jurisdiction, and requested to refer the petition to a would be appropriate larger bench.

Meena Afridi says: Federal Govt should pay Rs. 2000 billion arrears to KP

PTI's election

symbol plea referred

to larger bench

LAHORE (APP): The that the present petition Lahore High Court (LHC) should also be heard by

the bench.

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education and Libraries Meena Khan Afridi while expressing his extreme concern over the news of the closure of funds for the provincial universities by the Prime Minister, who imposed an educational emergency in the country. The Provincial Minister demanded that instead of

to withdraw a political

party's election symbol, to

the LHC chief justice with

a request to fix the matter

before a larger bench for

identical petitions were

already pending before the

larger bench, therefore, it

The court held that

further hearing.

per vision of party leader Îmran Khan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will give full support to the universities and will not let his new generation be deprived of higher education. He said that even if the fake mandate holders don't give us funds, at least they should give us the arrears of more than Rs.2 thousand billion. He announced that we will make full use of every forum for our rights. He closing the funds of the expressed these views while universities, it should be addressing the opening

called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House. 153kg narcotics smuggling bid foiled

ATTOCK (Online): The National highway and motorway Police on Tuesday foiled a bid to smuggle 153.60 of narcotics from KP to Punjab through Peshawar- Islamabad motorway (M-1) and arrested two members of interprovincial gang of narcotics smugglers. Sources said that acting on a tip off, patrolling staff of National highway and motorway Police intercepted a car near Chach interchange and during search recovered 153.60 kilogram of narcotics including 117.60kilogram hashish and 36kilogram opium. Later the suspects were handed over to Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Police station Attock for further legal action. huge consignment of narcotics from Peshawar to Rawalpindi.

Anti-Polio drive underway

RAWALPINDI (APP) Chief Executive Officer(CEO), District Health Authority, Dr Ejaz Ahmed Tuesday said that the week-long anti-polio campaign, which began in the entire district on June 3 successfully entered into its 2nd day

Under the drive, he said, over 320,000 children had so far administered the polio vaccine while the set farget to cover 906,011 children would be achieved

KP Govt to declare Dara **Adam Khel as Commercial** City, KP Finance Minister

for Finance and Law Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that FATA University is going through an evolutionary process and we are confident that this university will perform better not only nationally but also internationally.

He assured that the provincial government will solve the problems being faced by FATA University on priority basis. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is rich enough in great natural resources, but unfortunately the federal government is in control of our resources and has robbed our rights. "We will formally inaugurated it are making full use of soon.

Independent Report every forum to achieve PESHAWAR: Khyber our rights and also Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance and Law the Federation," he added.

He expressed these views while addressing as guest of honor at the opening ceremony of academic blocks at FATA University in Adam Khel on Tuesday, in which Provincial Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi was the chief guest while Sher Ali Afridi MPA specially participated in the event. The Finance Minister on this occasion announced the Pakhtunkhwa government is going to declare Dara Adam Khel as a commercial city and the Chief Minister

Religious scholars' conference reaffirms to promote harmony in society

(APP): A religious conference organized here on Tuesday by Majlis Ulema Azad Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with the Department of Religious Affairs Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sufi Forum and Ulama Mashaikh Council reaffirmed its commitment to play vital role for creating solidarity and harmony in the society and guiding the people to firmly stand with the armed forces of Pakistan for ensuring integrity and security of the country.

The conference titled 'Role of Pulpit and Mehrab in Creating Religious Harmony and National Unity" presided over renowned Maulana Muhammad Khabair Azad while Chairman Ideological Council Allama Dr. Mufti Muhammad Raghab Hussain Naimi

was the chirf guest.

attended by Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Daood Muhammad Breach, Religious Affairs and Auqaf Sardar Muhammad Zaffar Khan, member Legislative Assembly Pir Syed Ali Raza Bukhari, besides Ulema and scholars of all sects including Pir Amitaz Ahmed Siddiqui, Allama Kifayat Hussain Naqvi, Maulana Imtiaz Ahmed Abbasi, Maulana Zaid Bustan, Maulana Maqsood Ahmad Tauhidi, Allama Asif Akbar Qadi, Maulana Mushtaq Qadi, Allama Azmat Hayat, Mufti Abdul Khaliq, Allama Syed Sadiq Naqvi, Dr. Shaheen Kausar, Maulana Abdul Majid, Maulana Saleem Ijaz, Qazi Shahid Hameed, Maulana

Ayub Khan Saqib,

Maulana Mumtazul Haque Qasmi, Syed Tofail

Kazmi, Maulana Abdul

Ghaffar Salafi, Mufti

Muhammad Ahmad Khan,

Maulana Daniyal Shahab.

International News

UN experts urge all countries to recognise Palestinian statehood

GENEVA: A group of United Nations experts called on Monday for all countries to recognise a Palestinian state to ensure peace in the Middle East.

The call came less than a week after Spain, Ireland and Norway officially recognised a Palestinian state, prompting anger from Israel, which has found itself increasingly isolated after nearly eight months of aggression in Gaza. The experts, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Palestinian territories, said recognition of a Palestinian state was an important acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinian people and their struggle towards freedom and inde-

"This is a pre-condi-

estine and the entire Middle East beginning with the immediate declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza and no further military incursions into Rafah," they said.

remains the only internationally agreed path to peace and security for both way out of generational cycles of violence and resentment." Israel's Foreign Ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment. With their recognition of a Palestinian state, Spain, Ireland and Norway said they sought to accelerate efforts to secure a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza.

The three countries say they hope their decision will spur other European Union states to follow suit. Denmark's parliament later rejected a pro-

posal to recognise a Pales-

Israel has repeatedly condemned moves to recognise a Palestinian state, saying they bolster "A two-state solution Hamas.

Some 55 per cent of all structures in the Gaza Strip have been destroyed Palestine and Israel and a damaged or possibly damaged since war erupted in the Palestinian territory eight months ago, according to preliminary satellite analysis by the UN.

The analysis showed more than 137,000 buildings affected, UNOSAT, the United Nations satellite analysis agency, said on X formerly Twitter. The esti mate is based on a satellite image taken on May 3, and compared with images taken in May a year earlier, last September, and on October 15 — just over a week after October 7 raid.

Japan's Nagasaki holds off inviting Israel to peace ceremony

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: The Israeli ambassador to Japan has not yet been invited to Nagasaki's annual peace ceremony, said city officials who instead sent the embassy a letter

calling for a Gaza ceasefire.

The city in southern Japan this week invited dozens of countries and territories to the August 9 event on the anniversary of the US nuclear attack in 1945 that killed 74,000 people. But "as for Israel, the situation is changing day by day ... so we have put sending an invitation letter on hold,' mayor Shiro Suzuki told reporters on Monday.

Israel launched a blistering military offensive in Gaza nearly eight months ago, following an attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on the country. Worries that protests could disrupt the memorial for atomic bomb victims are partly behind the decision.



A Palestinian man and children push a cart with water containers, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in southern Gaza City, in the

Iran's top diplomat confirms talks with US

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Iran's acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri said on Monday his government was engaged in negotiations with arch-foe the United States hosted by the Gulf sultanate of Oman.

Asked about the issue at a news conference during a visit to Beirut, Bagheri said "we have always continued out negotiations... and they have never stopped." Washington and Tehran have not had diplomatic relations since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran. The British daily Financial Times reported in March that Bagheri was involved in indirect talks with the United States in Oman in early 2024, against the backdrop of heightened re-

gional tensions over Gaza. Bagheri arrived Monday in Lebanon, on his first foreign trip since assuming the interim role following the death of Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a helicopter crash last month that also killed Iran's president, Ebrahim Raisi

Houthi Red Sea attacks decline in last week as navies act

Monitoring Desk ATHENS: Closer interna-

tional cooperation between naval missions in the Red Sea has reduced the number of attacks by Yemen's Houthis over the past week, Greek Shipping Christos Minister Stylianides told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

Greece is the home of the headquarters of the European Union's naval operation in the Red Sea, which is dubbed "Aspides" and in Greek means "Shields". "For us, it is a satisfaction that during the past week, we have seen a notable reduction in the number and intensity of attacks. This is the reality," Stylianides said, speaking on the sidelines of the Posidonia shipping week in Athens. "It is another proof that the international community with decisiveness can stop this." Aspides was set up this year to guard vessels against attacks by Iranianaligned Houthi militants, who have launched repeated drone and missile strikes in the Red Sea region since November and

have expanded attacks to

other busy waterways

China accuses MI6 of using state workers to spy for UK

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China on Monday accused Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) of recruiting a couple who worked for the central government to spy for the UK, adding to months of mutual espionage allegations between Beijing and Western powers.

The Ministry of State Security said in a post on its official WeChat that MI6 operatives convinced a man surnamed Wang, who worked in a "core confidential role" in the central state apparatus, to defect along with his wife.

Palestinians say Israeli forces kill two in West Bank

Monitoring Desk NABLUS: Palestinian officials said Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinians in the occupied West Bank on Monday, as Israeli police confirmed undercover agents had killed a wanted man

in the territory.

The Palestinian health ministry in Ramallah named the dead men as Adam Salahuddin Mansour Faraj, 23, and Mutaz Khaled Sadiq Nabulsi, 28.

US urges UN Security Council to support cease-fire plan in Gaza announced by President Biden **Monitoring Desk** this plan and we call on the

NITED NATIONS: The United States urged the three-phase plan an-nounced by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the nearly eight-month war in Gaza, freeing all hostages and sending massive aid into the devastated terri-

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the United States circulated a draft resolution to the 14 other council members to back the proposal for ending the conflict that began with Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed some 1,200 people, mostly Israeli civilians.

'Numerous leaders

Security Council to join them in calling for imple-U.N. Security Council on mentation of this deal with-Monday to support the out delay and without further conditions," she said in

The brief draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, would welcome the May 31 deal announced by Biden and call on Hamas "to accept it fully and implement its terms without delay and without condition." Hamas has said it views the proposal "positively.

It makes no mention of Israeli acceptance of the

When Biden made the announcement he called it an Israeli offer that includes an "enduring cease-fire" and Israeli withdrawal from and governments, including in the region, have endorsed hostages it is holding. Gaza if Hamas releases all

Ukraine says extending use of Western arms will weaken Russia near border

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukrainian Presi-Volodymyr Zelenskiy's chief of staff said on Tuesday that using Western weapons

to strike inside Russia was a vital decision that will weaken Russians' would impact Moscow's tactical aviation and its forces in the border arcapability to operate in eas. border areas. from Ukraine and some ter fend off Russian

of its European allies, the aerial attacks, Yermak US agreed last week to said. change its policy and allow Kyiv to strike inside Russia with Western weapons as part of its campaign to repel Russia's full-scale inva-

Kyiv said the step would help push back Russian advances and better defend territory the northeast Kharkiv region.

"Permission to use Western weapons on the territory of the Russian Federation is a vi- Kharkiv region.

tal decision," Andriy Yermak said on the Telegram messaging app.

'This will impact the conduct of the war, planning of counteroffensive actions, and abilities to use their

decision Following pressure would also help to bet-

Ukraine has frequently targeted occupied Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, Western-made

But outgunned and outmanned on the battlefield, Kyiv had pleaded with Washington to allow it to strike targets on Russian soil with US-made weapons, as Moscow launched a new front in the northeastern

Turkey's reported desire to join BRICS **Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: Russia welcomes Turkey's reported desire to become part of the BRICS group of na-

Sebastien Delogu, deputy for La France Insoumise

(LFI) party attends a pro-Palestinian protest in cen-

Kremlin welcomes

said on Tuesday, saying the subject would be on the agenda of the organisation's next

summit.

tral Paris, France.

was heightened interest in BRICS - a group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, tions, Kremlin spokes-man Dmitry Peskov the United Arab Emirates - from various states, but said it was unlikely the grouping could completely satisfy all interested nations.



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema, chairs the 4th meeting of the International Partners Support Group (IPSG) at the Prime Minister's Office.

Pakistan seeks to emulate Chinese economic model: PM Shehbaz

'We are coming with serious plans; to return with great dividends': PM conveys to Chinese firms

ISLAMABAD (APP): As dends that will benefit Chi-Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif departed for a fiveday official visit to China, he reiterated the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties by engaging in discussions with Chinese business leaders to secure investments and yield dividends, mutually beneficial for companies on both

gage with you and return to

nese and Pakistani companies and the two countries will have their relations strengthened and become much higher than the Himalayas or any other highest peaks and deeper than the deepest oceans, the prime minister said in an interview with the representatives of different

Chinese media groups in-

cluding Xinhua news

agency, national broad-

caster CCTV and CGTN

Urdu, prior to his first offi-

He said through the visit, Pakistan hoped to promote interaction between enterprises in both countries, utilize Special Economic Zones and Pakistan's labor advantages to establish joint ventures, facilitate the transfer of industries and technologies, and enhance Pakistan's manufacturing output, to promote constructing upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Secretariat

SLAMABAD (Online): slamabad High Court

(IHC) has ordered to de-

seal immediately Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Cen-

Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz of IHC issued re-

served decision on Tues

PTI petition against Capi-

tal Development Authority

(CDA) and ordered to de-

seal the office immediately

tion here IHC on June 03

had reserved judgment on

the petition filed against

sealing the PTI central sec-

retariat and CDA operation. Justice Saman Riffat

Imtiaz heard the case.

The court accepted

It is pertinent to men-

tral Secretariat.

Naval Chief for addressing grave **Court orders** for immediately threats to marine ecosystems de-sealing due to anthropogenic activities **PTI Central**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Tuesday demanded the stakeholders and nation as a whole to address the grave threats to marine ecosystems due to the anthropogenic activities posing seri-ous risk to marine life and

In his message in connection to the World Environment Day issued by the Pakistan Navy, the Admiral said, "World Environment Day' (WED) is observed on 5th of June each year and calls for protecting our natural surround-

The day, celebrated under the ambit of United Nations Environment an occasion to raise aware-

ness on the challenges facing our environment such as; pollution, illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable consumption, rising sea levels and food insecurity.'

This year's theme for the WED is 'Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience'.

The occasion will serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need to protect our land, sea, and everything in between.

He said, "Pakistan's long coastline provides access to rich resources of livelihood for millions of people. Our marine resources are a treasure trove of biodiversity that support a vast array of marine life, from majestic sea Programme (UNEP) marks turtles to colourful coral

On May 17, IHC had issued directives to remove registrar office objections on PTI petition against sealing its central secretariat and CDA operation. PTI leader through the

petition had requested the court to nullify the order issued by CDA for sealing party central secretariat. The petition said Arshid Dad and Nasim ur

Rehman both are PTI members. The both purchased a commercial plot on July 17, 2020 after an agreement.

Vawda refuses to apologise over his anti-judiciary outburst

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda has refused to tender unconditional apology in contempt of court case.

On the other hand Mustafa Kamal has tendered unconditional apology. He has filed reply as

Senator Faisal Vawda filed his reply in connection with contempt of court notice in Supreme Court (SC).

Faisal Vawda said in the reply that press conference was not aimed at committing contempt of court. Its purpose was betterment of the country. Court should exercise restraint in moving forward contempt of court proceedings. The contempt of court notice be withdrawn Faisal Vawda pre-

sented scripts of speeches

Mandokhail and Executive Minister for Home and Engineer Public Health En-Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah gineering briefed the Min-Langove has stated that ister Home. provision of timely and It was directed to proquality facilities to the vide details about non-funcpeople of Kalat is included tional schemes besides reasons behind their non-func-

QUETTA: Central President Tehreek Ittehad

Sadaat Pakistan and Provincial President PML

Ulema Mashaikh Wing Syed Saifur Rehman Taran,

SR Nasir and Rafiqur Rehman Sanjrani meeting

with acting Chairman Senate Saydal Khan Nassar

Provision of timely & quality

facilities to people of Kalat

included in priority, says Zia

in his top priorities.
The Provincial Minister was speaking in a meeting about improving facilities and reforms in Khaliqabad Complex in Kalat on Tuesday.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial

The Minister Home was briefed about the measures in context of the provision of facilities in the phase-II of Khaliqabad

He was briefed in detail about the sub-divisional complex, sports complex, 30-bedded hospital and PHE boring in the complex.

Heatwaves intensify crisis for millions in Pakistan, warns IRC ISLAMABAD (INP): As heatwaves and floods. An mated," Baloch stated Pakistan braces for severe IRC report revealed that the educational disruption caused by the 2022 floods

heatwaves, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has issued a dire warning about the escalating threat posed by rising temperatures. With 8.6 million people already facing food insecurity, the heatwaves are expected to impact up to 26 districts, compounding the devastating effects of recent droughts and extreme flood-

Since July 2022, widespread agricultural destruction has led to soaring food prices, leaving many households struggling to feed their families. The educational sector has also suffered, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan, the provinces

two-year COVID-19 school closures. Since March 2020, 2 million children in Pakistan have been unable to access education, with another 3.5 million experiencing ongoing inter-

The Additional Chief

Secretary Development.

Hafiz Abdul Basit, Secre-

tary PHE, Imran Gichki.

Commissioner Kalat,

Muhammad Naeem Bazai

and other concerned high

ups were present in the

meeting. The Minister

Home directed to the con-

cerned authorities to ensure

timely completion of the de-

velopment works, which is

also the basic objective be-

hind his visit to Kalat.

ruptions due to the floods. IRC Pakistan Director Shabnam Baloch emphasized the disproportionate impact of climate change on Pakistan, despite the country generating less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. "The devastating impact that extreme weather events are having

"Heatwaves, in particular can have long-lasting and far-reaching effects on fuexceeded the impact of the ture generations." The IRC report highlighted that 14% of surveyed households in Sindh reported disruptions to their children's education due to heatwaves.

Additionally, 17% of households experienced a significant drop in income during hot months, forcing many to resort to extreme survival methods such as child labor and child marriage. Baloch called for urgent international action, stressing that Pakistan's minimal contribution to global emissions underscores the need for shared on communities across Pa- responsibility in addressing kistan cannot be underesti- the climate crisis

President reaffirms Pak commitment to protect environment through innovative solutions, partnerships

President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to protect environment and surmount environment related challenges to ensure a healthier, safer and more resilient planet for the future generations

The president, in a message on the occasion of World Environment Day being observed on June 5. said that the Day highlighted "our shared responsibility" to protect the environment for the future generations.

'Today, we reaffirm our commitment to overcoming these issues by pioneering innovative solutions and fostering international partnerships," the President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as

Today, he said, they were commemorating the 'World Environment Day' to raise awareness about the

issues of land degradation, desertification, droughts.

Pakistan is among the few countries that have been most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. During the past few years, Pakistan has witnessed diverse climate phenomena, including floods, droughts, heatwaves, and forest fires," he added.

The president observed that the focus of the Day on land restoration, desertification combat, and drought resilience was quite pertinent

"Pakistan's unwavering resolve to tackle environmental challenges is showcased through initiatives like the Green Pakistan Programme, which has made significant strides in afforestation and ecosystem restoration," he added.

The president said the initiatives such as the National Adaptation Plan and the Climate Smart Agriculture reflected their dedica-

tion to sustainable agricultural practices and land degradation mitigation.

Although Pakistan was taking steps to tackle desertification, land degradation and drought through the restoration of degraded forests, and agricultural lands, but much more needed to be done, he stressed. "We need to adopt sustainable land management practices, and water conservation techniques, besides supporting community action to promote forestation in the rural and urban residential ar-

eas," he opined. president stressed that they needed to mobilize federal and provincial departments and local communities to combat desertification, land degradation and droughts by efficiently managing and charging their water resources, restoring pastures, and enhancing the waterplanting more trees.



QUETTA: Senator Dostain Domki, Parliamentary Secretary Muhammad Khan Lehri, MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail and Chairman BDA Captain (retd) Javed meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Vision & conscious efforts needed to achieve goal of quality education: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the slogans of quality education are attractive and pleasing, but the getting concrete results are conditional with the vision and conscious struggle in

practical field. He said that neither we are weak nor our higher educational institutions are so weak that may not gather the wisdom of their scholars and researchers and bring improvement in the situation. He believed that what we are going to do would be different and better than the past just because we believe in reconstruction of the institutions and training of the human resource.

The Governor was speaking on visit to the University of Balochistan here on Tuesday.

The acting Vice Chan-

Chancellor of University of Loralai, Dr Ehsanullah Kakar, Principal Secretary to Governor, Ĥashim Khan Ghilzai were also present on the occasion.

The Governor appreciated the initiatives of digitalization and conversion of electricity on the solar system in the University of Balochistan

He said that although marked improvement has been brought in the affairs of the University, however more steps are needed to improve further it's performance The Governor also stressed that the higher educational institutions have to think above from merely collecting heavy fees. He was of the view that new means of income can be generated through research

Sheikh Mandokhail said that we can achieve the targets of cellor of UoB, Professor Dr bright future rapidly by ensuring responsibility.

and production.



QUETTA: MPA Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul

Situation of gender based violence in **Balochistan reviewed**

QUETTA (APP): A meeting under the chairmanship of Advisor to the Chief Minister on Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, here on Tuesday held to review the situation of genderviolence based Balochistan,

The meeting was attended by representatives of UN agencies, local nongovernmental organizations, and stakeholders, including Dr. Sarmad Saeed, UNFPÁ head of Balochistan.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi emphasized the need for necessary amendments in laws, formation of rules of business, and implemen-

gender-based violence. She acknowledged the efforts of civil society organizations working to prevent violence against women and urged lawmakers to support these efforts. The meeting was informed that the Balochistan cabinet had approved bills to prevent child marriage and domestic violence, and also decided to establish a women's police station in Sibi. Currently, women's police stations are functioning in Quetta, Turbat, and Dera Murad Jamali, and the government aims to estab-

lish separate police stations

for women in all districts

tation of laws to prevent



HUB: Members of District Bar Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at District and Session Court premises.

Blood donation camp for thalassemia patients held

GŴADAR (INP): In Gwadar, Rural Health Center Ormara organized a blood donation camp for thalassemia patients with the support of local community and Pakistan Army

Pakistan Army sol diers actively participated by donating blood to help Thalassemia patients.

Bilawal grieves over deaths of miners in gas, labourers in firing incidents

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his grief and sorrow over the deaths of miners and labourers in two separate incidents of gas leakage and firing in Balochistan.

He expressed his regret over the gas in a mine in Sanjadi and the deaths in the firing incident in Dhaka.

The PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies with the bereaved families.

He showed his concern over the daily accidents and deaths in the mining sector.

Tarar grieved over demise of senior journalist Amir's mother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the mother of senior journalist Amir Sajjad Syed. In a condolence message, he expressed his heartfelt condolence and sympathy to the family of the deceased. The minister said he was really sad to hear about the death of Aamir Sajjad Syed's mother and he shared the grief of the bereaved family. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.



IPSG meeting Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema on Tuesday commended the global support in chairing the 4th meeting of the International Partners Support Group (IPSG) at the Prime Minister's Of-

fice Islamabad. This meeting marked almost two years since the devastating floods of 2022, aiming to review the progress of flood recovery and realign efforts for a resilient Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

The meeting was attended by Romina Khurshid, the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, along with secretaries and senior officials from the ministries of economic affairs, Finance and Rev- also present.

enue, Foreign Affairs, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Climate Change division. Additionally, repre-

sentatives from bilateral and multilateral development partners, including ambassadors Sweden, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Australia, and diplomats from Germany, China, UAE, South Korea, USA, Qatar, Turkey, Netherlands, Russia, Japan, France, Switzerland, as well as officials from the Canadian and British High Commissions, participated

in the event. Representatives from various international organizations such as UNDP, World Bank, ADB, IMF, AIIB, UNRC, EU, KfW, UNICEF, IsDB, WFP, AICS, and USAID were

IHC says:

If date is not given for LB polls in IBD then contempt of court notice will be issued to FG, EC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought report within 7 days for holding Local Bodies (LB) election in Islamabad.

IHC also suspended property tax notices on new rate. Justice

Akhtar Kayani remarked CDA is causing destruction in all the city in the name of MCI. You levied taxes of millions of rupees without local government. The case regarding delimitation has been done non holding local bodies to the extent of 125 union

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani Tuesday. Barrister Umar Ijaz Gillani and other lawyers appeared on behalf of the

came for hearing before

single bench of IHC led by

petitioners. Mohsin Justice Akhtar Kayani remarked the petitioners will have to

rates. They will be able to levy tax following the approval by the local govern-Justice

Akhtar Kayani inquired from Election Commission (EC) authorities why the ocal bodies election are not being held. EC authorities told

schedule has been given with reference to delimitation of constituencies Justice Akhtar Kayani remarked delimitation has been done

election in federal capital councils. There is no need of new constituencies. This is Supreme Court (SC) decision and IHC decision too that local government election have to be held. Are all the governments including PTI founder, Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif responsible for it that no one held local government election in



KILLA SAIFULLAH: MPA Molvi Noorullah visiting center of Benazir Income Support Program

All communities enjoying religious freedom in Pakistan: Law Minister

Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that all religions were enjoying complete religious freedom in Pakistan. Addressing a cer-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

emony, he welcomed all the people of the Sikh community who arrived in Paki-The minister said that

the people of this country respected the traditions of mission, he said, adding Sikh community as there was a strong connection Pakistan has sent his between the two sides. The greetings to the Sikh Sikh community has vibrant community.

role in the development of the country. He further said that promotion of interfaith

hour. Azam Nazeer Tarar said that teaching of "Guru Nanak" negate the materialism, adding that no religion permits for hate and

harmony was need of the

violence. Service to the humanity should be our that the Prime Minister of

Pak & Saint Vincent, Grenadines establish formal diplomatic ties

NATIONS lomatic relations between (APP): Pakistan and Saint Vincent, an island country in the eastern Caribbean, Monday established formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, and his counterpart from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, signed a joint communique to formalize the dip- ing of ties," Ambassador contribution.

the two countries. Welcoming Ambassa-

dor King to the Pakistan Mission, the Pakistani envov said that Pakistan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have had a long tradition of a 'warm close and cooperative' relationship at the UN. "The establishment of formal diplomatic relationship between

forward to more intensive interaction between the tourists, business delegations, and the people of the two countries." Describing Saint Vincent and Grena dines envoy as an ally, Ambassador Akram lauded her strong advocacy at mul-tiple UN forums, especially as president of ECOSOC. saying that her leadership the two friendly countries was an example of how will lead to further deepen- small nations can make a big

Akram said. "We now look