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# 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 ity, and the critical role friendship and close stra- mains ranging from po- China Pakistan Eco-Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chi- the country's developnese President Xi Jinping ment. He asserted Friday held a productive Pakistan's commitment meeting, reaffirming the to high-quality developconsensus to high-qual- ment of the CPEC and to ity development of foster synergy between China-Pakistan Eco- the development stratenomic Corridor (CPEC) and timely completion of major ongoing projects.

The two leaders also affirmed consensus on up-gradation of the CPEC and advancing the development of the mega The two leaders were acproject in the second

briefed President Xi on economic reforms and cultural modernization tional warmth reflecand regional connectiv- tive of the ironclad

gies of the two countries through close coordina-

Great Hall of the People. companied by the federal ministers and senior The prime minister officials. This was the first meeting of PM Shehbaz Pakistan's policies for with the President of China since assuming ofsustained growth, indus-fice in 2024. The meeting trial development, agri- was marked by tradi-

thanked President Xi Jinping for the warm and gracious welcome accorded to him and his delegation in China.

He recalled the historic visit of the President Xi Jinping to Paki-The meeting bestan in 2015 when the the Indian Illegally Octween the two leaders China Pakistan Eco-cupied Jammu and Kashwas held at the historic nomic Corridor (CPEC) formally operationalized marking a new chapter in the

bilateral relationship. The two leaders reaffirmed the time- dent Xi's visionary Belt honoured 'All-Weather and Road Initiative (BRI) Strategic Cooperative Partnership' and expressed the resolve to

further deepen coopera-

tion across diverse do-

Zil Hajj Moon sighted

Eid-ul-Adha to

be celebrated

played by the CPEC in tegic ties between the two litical and security to nomic Corridor had sigeconomic, trade, and The prime minister people-to- people ex-

They also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including Afghanistan, Palestine and South Asia, besides the serious human rights situation in mir (IIOJK).

The two sides reiterated their longstanding support on each other's issues of core interest.

Commending Presiand Global Development Initiative (GDI), the prime minister under-

nificantly contributed to Pakistan's socio-economic development.

He underlined Pakistan's commitment and full support for safety and security of the Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

He underlined that the government's agenda for people centric, socio-economic development resonates with the concept of 'shared prosperity' embraced by China.

President Xi Jinping also hosted a banquet in honour of the prime minister, where another round of discussion on scored that as the flag-ship project of BRI, the tual interests was held. different matters of mu-

# Assault on security forces and properties unacceptable: CM Bugti urges political parties and

**Independent Report** Chaman, here at the CM's QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has urged all the political par-ties 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 in unacceptable. He said that peaceful

right, but no one can be allowed to resort to violence and take law into one's He urged the people to refrain from taking law into

protest is constitutional

hands as the writ of state would be established at every cost.

The Chief Minister was chairing high level meeting on the situation of border tary, Shakeel Qadir Khan Pak-Afghan

secretariat on Friday.

The meeting was briefed about the overall situation of Chaman by the Provincial Home Depart-

The meeting was also attended by the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaiq Achakzai, member of provincial assembly Forest Teach sembly, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai, JUI-F's provincial Ameer and Sena-

tor, 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 Secre-

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,

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



Shehbaz, Chinese premier

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, Eidul-Adha will be celebrated on Monday, June 17, 2024, with religious and traditional fervor across the nation.

### 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 Laghri Ittehad are protesting against the Passport Trolling Policy of the government in Chaman.

resolve to protect CPEC BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Friday ex-

pressed 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 panied 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 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 nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council.

The two leaders reaffirmed unwavering support for each other on core issues and expressed continued commitment and support for the high-quality development of CPEC.

They also emphasized the timely completion of all ongoing projects with a special focus on industrial development, agriculture prime minister was accom- technology, and development of Special Economic Zones for mutually beneficial and socio-economic development of Pakistan.

The two sides discussed the significance of Gwadar as an important pillar of CPEC and agreed to expedite the timely completion of all related infrastructure projects to transform Gwadar into a regional economic hub.

They also expressed their firm commitment to protect CPEC from its detractors and adversaries and to upgrade CPEC in the form of enhanced cooperation.



over a meeting to review overall situation of law and order in Chaman

### 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 Chi nese Premier's enthusi asm, speed of work and commitment. The recep tion hall was echoed by Pakistan's national songs played by a Chinese miliPeace talks flourish:

### Balochistan's path to prosperity strengthened QUETTA (INP): A grand gratitude, highlighting how

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 sues in the region, enhanc-

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.

The completion of this project holds promise in addressing water scarcity isin the region. Farmers from Kot Mandai expressed tural productivity.

# 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.



Rahim Aga Khan in recognition of his services for Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): within the Aga Khan De-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 offic-

According to the citation read out on the occasion, Prince Rahim Aga Khan, through his many

velopment Network, dedicated his untiring efforts to improve the living standard of the people in resourceconstrained regions of Asia

Upholding a multigenerational legacy, Prince Rahim has contributed immensely to the economic health, education, and cultural well-being of poor and marginalized commu-

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 en-

ergy sectors. The Fund has enabled access to financial services leadership roles for more for nearly 50 million than a quarter century people in Pakistan.

leadership of central Presi-

dent of National Party, Dr

Abdul Malik Baloch here

# 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





issue that needs attention and added that the secret of coming out from every kind of complex situation lies in the result oriented

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of different political parties ters with Iran and 2670 kiwho called on him under lometers with Afghanistan.

Maulana Abdul Kabir Shakir, leader of Awam National Party, Wali Dad besides others. The Governor said that Pakistan shares long border with it's two brotherly countries for instance, 900 kilome-

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

QUETTA: The fourmember Inquiry committee has been formed to probe into the tragic incident of coalmine occurred in Sandi coalmine field lo-Tajran, Abdul Rahim Kakar, cated in the outskirt of

> The sources of Mines and Mineral Development department told that Mumtaz 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 it's report to the provincial government within 10 days for further necessary

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

### 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 remarked "if you feel necessity then you can resort to court again. I know how to get implement my

BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif shakes hands with

his Chinese counterpart H.E. Li Qiang upon his arrival at Great Hall of the

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 report-

ters of national security. I am sending the matter to larger bench only for this reason the others judges should too see it if stance of one judge is different. May be the other iudges don't agree to it that the heads of intelligence agencies have to be sum-

ing in respect of the mat-

He gave these remarks during the hearing of peti-tion filed by Urooj Zainab wife of poet Ahmad Farhad Friday. Imaan Mazari advocate appeared on behalf of the petitioner while senior journalist Hamid Mir appeared as amicus curiae.

# Daily Soice of Masse Independent

# **Addressing contempt**

The judiciary should have long ago redrawn the line that separates acceptable and unacceptable criticism. It is realising quite belatedly that matters have gone too far.

As the Supreme Court proceeds in its contempt case against Senator Faisal Vawda and MNA Mustafa Kamal, 34 television channels have been issued show-cause notices for airing problematic remarks made by the two lawmakers, ostensibly in violation of broadcast regulations.

Some weeks ago, Messrs Vawda and Kamal had, on separate occasions, made several insinuations regarding the judiciary. Their remarks were aired live by many news channels, prompting concerns over what, prima facie, seemed to be an open attack on senior judges. The incident prompted the SC to take notice and summon the two lawmakers for an explanation. While Mr Kamal subsequently attempted an apology, Mr Vawda has not appeared remorseful. It may be recalled that Mr Vawda doubled down on his stance some two weeks ago in a speech he made in the Senate, in which, protected by House privileges, he said he stood by every word uttered in his press conference. Another senator also seized the occasion to level his own condemnations against the judiciary. Separately, a bill was presented to the National Assembly secretariat seeking a bar on individuals with dual nationality from serving in the judiciary, ostensibly to target a justice of the Islamabad High Court. Given the context in which these developments took place, the SC had to take a forceful stand. It must now take this case to its

The TV channels that have been put on notice must explain themselves and commit to following broadcast regulations, while errant lawmakers must pay a price for their ad hominem attacks. It has been noticed that, in recent years, prominent individuals have taken to assailing the judiciary whenever rulings have gone against them. This has slowly given rise to a culture normalising contempt. It is imperative that this culture be dismantled and the boundaries of acceptable criticism defined once again.

Lastly, it is encouraging to note that the judiciary, while demonstrating more strictness on the matter of contempt, is taking a measured approach to rectifying the problem.

Pemra, which had earlier issued a blanket ban on the coverage of court proceedings in its 'overefficient' response to the court's concerns, has been admonished for an illogical order. The apex court has warned it against "creating hurdles in the way of court proceedings" and promised action if it did not comply. Separately, the IHC chief justice has also reaffirmed the media's right to report fairly on ongoing proceedings.

Pemra should now withdraw its order forthwith and let the media do its job. Its strange diktat has caused enough trouble for reporters merely covering their beat.

# Humility vs conceit

listen to alternative per-

There are many

are soft and softened

when they look at the

form of verses (ayaat in

Quranic language).

There is also admiration

in the Quran for those

whose hearts are soft,

and when verses are re-

cited to them, their

hearts 'melt', leading to

prostration with humil-

ity: "Only those believe

when verses are recited

prostration, and cel-

ebrate the praises of

their Lord, nor are they

exclaims, "And to Allah

prostrate all that is in the

heavens and all that is

not proud" (16:49).

Still another verse

spectives.

### Jan-e-Alam Khaki

In the very beginning of the second chapter of the Quran (Surah al-Baqara), God describes dom. Such people claim two kinds of people with two kinds of mindsets. The first five verses tell us that the Holy Book is a guidance for the pious who believe in the unseen (ghayb); they believe in what the Prophet (PBUH) has brought and what the earlier prophets then, makes them conpreached. Moreover, they spend what they have been blessed with, and believe in the afterlife. In describing these attributes, the verses stress a humbler approach towards accepting God's guidance and to show an attitude of submission towards what one does not know.

On the other hand, right after these verses, the Quran tells us about those who adamantly refuse to submit and mislead believers. To these individuals, the divine scripture proclaims, it makes no difference whether they are warned or not. The Quran says that God has sealed their hearts, eyes and ears, and for them is punishment. It implies that this attitude itself invites punishment, because the refusal to see, hear, and reflect obviously blocks the grace of God from entering the heart. The Quran says God does not like those who are arrogant and vainglorious (4:36).

in Our Signs, "who, In life, we face many kinds of people, some who are very humble, to them fall down in ever seeking the truth. They find themselves in the first group men-(ever) puffed up with pride" (32:15). tioned above. Their quest or search makes them humbler and receptive to learning. They, in simple terms, have a more open mind. This connects them with in the earth, of the live many others who might moving creatures and be seeking similar an- the angels, and they are swers to their questions, thus becoming co-trav-

On the other hand, says, "... When the there are those who verses of the Most Beclaim to know too much, neficent (Allah) were [or too early; they feel 'full' are] recited unto them, of knowledge and wisthey fell [or fall] down prostrating and weeping" (19:58). Their hearts to have more answers than questions. Their are so softened that knowledge (or ignothey come to tears when rance?) makes them arrothe beautiful verses of gant, assuming that they have found the final anthe majestic Quran are recited to them. They are led to this state because swers to all the perennial questions of life and their hearts are wide death. Their attitude, open to the glory and majesty of God's miracles in the world in temptuous towards others, and least willing to the form of miraculous

creation.

On the other hand. These people, then, various verses of the tend to create a 'ghetto' Quran portray arrogant around themselves in people's hearts as which they live and funcstones, or even wo-r-se. tion. They tend to forget In a particul--ar verse. that when we open our talking ab--o---ut hardmouth to describe othened hea-rts, it deers, we only describe scribes them as "... like ourselves, showing the a rock and even worse limits of our own knowlin hardness.

edge and understanding. For among rocks Let us find some there are some from more relevant verses which rivers gush forth. from the Quran that por-(2:74). Their hearts tray or personify humble are hardened so much versus arrogant people.

that they are unable to vield anything good. verses that portray the Thus, if one wants to behaviour of humble check if we are humble people, how their hearts or arrogant, we must check ourselves against the descriptions of miracles of God in the these verses.

Very often knowledge itself gives a lot of pride to people, who then boast and make claims of having absolute truths. This very knowledge hardens their heart and they go on challenging others, believing they have the absolute truth, leading to arrogance. What needs to be remembered is that knowledge has many dimensions and it is interpreted from many angles. It is only through

dialogue, discussion and bringing new angles to old truths that we tend to learn new ways of interpreting the old truths. These interpretations depend on how many branches of science we know. The more we know, Talking about their the better informed we ellers with other seekers. humility, the Quran are. - Courtesy Dawn

# **Budgeting chaos**

'Stabilisation' is the favourite word of mainstream economists. The IMF loves it, and has recently hinted that Pakistan's economy has 'stabilised' enough for it to dole out another threeyear handout close to the \$6 billion that our finance czars have been craving.

I cannot understand what has been stabilised, except if a slight dip in inflation from over 30 per cent to something like 20pc is a sign of major is still mired in an endemic balance-of-payments crisis, which sucks up all foreign exchange reoff the interest on our \$135bn external debt burden.

And what 'stabilising' about taking on even more debt from the IMF, Gulf emirs and other 'friends' via the fantastical SIFC, and an increasingly hollowedout CPEC

facts about Pakistan's political economy will be acknowledged during the upcoming budget announcement, scheduled for June 12. The largely meaningless exercise is being preceded by chaos as ministers engage in an internecine conflict and bureaucrats do their own bidding. They'll get their act together in time for the budget performance and bandy about some numbers. But it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that nothing is about to

Blue-collar working and white-collar salaried classes will be burdened with even more regressive taxes, while public spending on anything other than yet more big infrastructure will decrease again. There will culated about matters that actually affect the figures are, as recent our policy debate would mass of the working

able housing in metropolitan Pakistan, and the multipronged deprivation landless people in the rural areas

Finance Minister

Muhammad Aurangzeb said recently that fixing Pakistan's economy does not require too many policy prescriptions, that established strategic objectives simply need to be executed. Among other things, honourable minister has small ruling class — inprogress. The economy privatising all public assets, and inviting investors to develop (read: pillage) unexplored mineral and other resources. He serves to regularly pay need not mention real estate, because that is a sector in which investors and developers already enjoy windfall profits.

Pakiŝtani officialdom and donors are on the same page about these strategic objectives. In fact, they've been saying more or less the same thing for de-None of these basic cades in the name of

'stabilisation' What's remarkable is that there is so little critique of these now banal, straitjacket policies. I think it is a damning indictment of many purportedly independent voices that they continue mains intact, more and to accede to such tired re-

In much of the Western world, the mantra of liberalising trade and finance while unabashedly privatising public assets has given way to talk of state-led industrial policy the US is even explicitly engaging in protectionism vis-à-vis China. But in Pakistan, the 'experts' are unable to think beyond standard neoliberal speak.

It is no wonder that real estate moguls like Malik Riaz become powbe no honest figures cir- erful behemoths who cannot be tamed. Such many other spaces. But events show, deeply em- rather live in the pretend broiled in the palace in-(un)employment, the trigues that constitute Courtesy Dawn

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar huge shortage of afford- our establishment-centric political order. Which brings me to the role of the establishment in our of the almost 40 million crisis-ridden economy: will any of our 'experts' summon the courage to talk about the defence budget or hidden subsidies over the next few

We do require new policy proposals, Minister Sahib. Most of all, we need to talk about the redistribution of wealth. Our is a country where a been very gung-ho about cluding a khaki bourgeoisie — owns the vast majority of land, industrial and financial capital. This class is content to continue enriching itself, while the IMF and other donors are happy to allow such continuity so long as they get their interest payments back in 'stabilisation'.

The ruling class and its foreign patrons are also intent on pillaging nature and destroying local ecologies in the name of 'development', which equates to future generations of working people being left with an even bigger debt burden and more frequent climate breakdown events to contend with.

If the status quo remore of our rapidly expanding young, working population will seek out livelihoods, housing and other basic needs in what is passed off as the 'informal' economy. If our ministers, donors and other experts had a finger on the pulse of the people, they would spend more time thinking about this than playing with macroeconomic numbers and budgeting chaos; not least because it is also in the 'informal' economy that the ruling class makes billions, extorting the working poor in Chaman, Taftan and so world of 'stabilisation'. --

# Commerce News

# Pak-Turkiye ties should be further cemented in agri. and education: Envoy

FAISALABAD (APP): machinery.
Ambassador of Turkiye
UAF Vice Chancellor
Prof Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan
Prof Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan though Pakistan and Turkiye are enjoying brotherly relations yet these relations should be further cemented in the field of agriculture and education.

at University of a unique position in seed Agriculture Faisalabad and agricultural machinery, (UAF), he appreciated the for which Turkish teaching and research services of UAF and hoped that the university would continue its active role in agriculture field in the years

further strengthen linkages between the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and the institutions of Turkive for cooperation in the field

said that the UAF had inked 20 memoranda of understanding Turkish institutions.

He said that the university had run a project cation. under the Turkey program called TIKA. "Turkey has a unique position in seed companies should visit Pakistan to promote mutual relations," added. He said that agricultural

educational relations of the He also agreed to two countries were ner strengthen linkages providing support in dealing with common challenges.

Pro-Vice Chancellor/ Dean of Agriculture Dr.



FAISALABAD: Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmed Pacaci visits exhibition Centre at University of Agriculture Faisalabad(UAF).

# **Submit sales tax returns** till June 18, LCCI chief urges members

LAHORE (APP): Lahore compliance. He urged all Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Kashif Anwar, in a meeting with Focal Person of the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) Omer Farooq Khan, urged the LCCI members to submit their pending Sales Tax Returns and Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) payments as the financial year 2023-24 draws to a close.

With the deadline set for June 18, 2024, the LCCI president highlighted the critical importance of towards taxpayers.

LCCI members to ensure that their PRA Sales Tax Returns and any due taxes are submitted promptly.

"Timely submission of these returns not only facilitates smooth business operations but also upholds our collective commitment to regulatory compliance,3 Kashif Anwar stated. In addition to stressing the importance of meeting tax deadlines, He advocated for a more supportive approach



Abdul Rehman meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Ministers Nawabzada Tariq Magsi, Mir Shoiab Nosherwani, Haji Ali Madad Jattak and Mir Asghar

# Shaza Fatima meets with Chinese Minister of Industry, IT in Beijing

for giving 'industry status'

to warehouses, logistics

Minister for Information Technology Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, held a meeting with the Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology, Jin Zhuanglong, here in

The minister is accompanying Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his state visit to China from June 4–8. While welcoming

Shaza Fatima, the Chinese

Rupee gains

19 paisa

against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistan Rupee on Friday

gained 19 paisa against the

US Dollar in the interbank

trading and closed at Rs

278.20 against the previous

day's closing at Rs 278.39.

Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying

and selling rates of the

Dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.75 and Rs 280.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 23 paisa to close at Rs 302.95 against the last day's

closing of Rs 302.72,

according to the State

Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

According to the

countries is deepening." Acknowledging growing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the IT sector, he said, "The two sides

trusted friends, and the

cooperation in various

sectors between the two

have cooperation in IT at the Joint Coordination Committee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)." The two sides shared

implementation reports of minister said, "China and the six working groups He said, "China has Pakistan are strategic under the JWG on promoted the development

President Karachi Chamber

of Commerce and Industry

(KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed

Sheikh, Friday, appreciated

announcing the status of

Industry to warehouses and

logistics which was widely

being demanded by the

business and industrial

community. President

KCCI, in a statement

issued, highly appreciated

resolve of Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif towards

creating an enabling

business environment and

government for

KARACHI

BEIJING (APP): The State cooperative partners and Industry and Information of the digital economy and Technology under CPEC during the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group JWG on IT held on May 14 this year.

Jin Zhuanglong stated, "China utilized information communication technology (ICT) as a central enabling tool, transforming China into a knowledge-based society and economy, and ICT has played a key role in economic and social development.

He said, "China has **KCCI** appreciates Govt

said that efforts being made

by PM Shehbaz Sharif have

put the country on a path

to economic progress and

prosperity which was

needed in the present era of

inflation and high cost of

government seriousness

towards resolving the

issues being faced by the

business community, the

KCCI president hoped that

other issues particularly

energy tariffs will also be

given special attention and

Keeping in view the

doing business.

# **PSX** stays bearish, losses 108 points

The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 108.91 points, a negative change of 0.15 per cent, closing at 73,754.02 points against 73,862.93 points the previous day. A total of 559,550,615 shares valuing Rs20.208 billion were traded during the day as compared to 352,738,992 shares valuing Rs12.312 billion the previous day. As many as 441 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 180 of them recorded gains and 200

### of information technologies represented by 5G, AI cloud computing.

improved the governance

of the digital economy by

infrastructure, promoting

rapid growth of the

electronic and information

industries, driving the

digital transformation of

industries, accelerating the

development of industrial

internet, and advancing

univers a l

telecommunications

services." He stated, "In

China, the new generation

ISLAMABAD (APP) sustained losses.

# Pakistan's exports to UK increase by 2.31%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United Kingdom (UK) witnessed an increase of 2.31 percent during the first ten months during April 2024 as of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the 2024, the SBP data corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to

the UK were recorded at US \$1.683 billion during July-April (2023-24) against exports of US \$1.645 billion during July-April (2022-23), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year UK also surged to \$154.613 million in April last year, showing an increase of 35.87 percent in \$151.111 million in April July-April (2023-24). \$154.613 million in April

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to the UK decreased by 13.39 percent compared to the exports of \$178.517 million in March revealed.

Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 10.64 percent in the first ten months, from US \$23.199 billion to US \$25.669 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from the UK into the country during the months under review were recorded basis, the exports to the at US \$695.909 million against US \$512.171 million



SAINT PETERSBURG: An MoU on Railways signed by H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Khalid Jamali from Pakistan side and Deputy Transport Minister D.S. Zverev from the Russian side at Saint Petersburg, Russia.

# Weekly inflation up by 0.45 percent

weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.45 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on June 06, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 309.91 points as compared to 308.52 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the increased by 0.70 percent.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 21.69 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.81 per cent and went up to 301.25 points from the last week's

298.82 points. The SPI consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175,

# Kundi for upholding academic reputation of Edwards College

PESHAWAR Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi, visited Edwards College here on Friday and called for the central library, and 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 governor about the

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

day performance of the

Education Department, he

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

ensuring transparency and

benefits for teachers.

introduced in consultation with them,

While reviewing 100-

all future admissions.

education." governor

inspected the international language courses center, 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

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.

introducing a modern

system for monitoring

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

network had been dismantled. Cameras had

been installed in exam

Additionally,

added and

education centres, leading to the

department

LAHORE: Ambassador of Turkive Mehmed Pacaci

meeting with acting Punjab Governor Malik

Minister reviews 100-day

performance of Education

Dept, introduces reforms

said for the first time in educational institutions, he

minister said that a pilot elimination of the cheating

project for a nutrition mafia, the minister added.

Muhammad Ahmed Khan at Governor House.

to uphold its quality of historical status of the college, curricular and extracurricular activities, scholarships, and academic performance.

Saturday June 08, 2024

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.



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 1 am

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 measlesrelated deaths among children in Punjab to 30.



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): introduction of air Punjab Information ambulance, field hospitals 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. news channel, she said that one of the commendable achievements under the leadership of Maryum Nawaz Sharif has been a dramatic reduction in inflation, adding, the she added.

and clinic on wheels has revolutionary medical services for people of

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

Under the leadership Talking to a private of Maryum Nawaz Punjab is also witnessing a transport revolution, adding, eco-friendly buses in various cities is a significant step towards sustainable transportation,

# PPP asks KP CM to tender apology for derogatory remarks

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 (APP): The 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 Peshawar City, Zulfikar Zulfikar Awan, Tahi Afghani warned the chief Abbas, Munir Camrade. Zulfikar Awan, Tahir

# **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, Shakee 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 Sarfraz Cheema and others in May 9 cases.

The hearing of bail pleas of Dr Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema, Ijaz Chaudhry and Mian Mehmood 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** International,

collaboration with the Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), has launched the NourishMaa' campaign in the province. The initiative aims at

maternal enhancing 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.



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 has issued visas to Indian Minister for Minorities Sikh pilgrims in and Head of Pakistan Sikh anticipation of the Gurdwara Prabandhak martyrdom day of Guru 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 roundthe-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 historical and spiritual religious harmony, the Rakistani High Arjan Dev Ji was martyred Pakistani Commission in New Delhi in 1606.

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

# 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 starva-

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- impunity to become an-

**Monitoring Desk** 

JAKARTA: Indonesia's president is rushing to re-

assure investors and bu-

reaucrats about his \$32 bil-

lion new capital city in a

malaria-prone pocket of

Borneo, after the resigna-

tions of two officials over-

seeing the plan raised fresh

doubts about its future.

President

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 co-

ordinator 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 inves-

tigation and for "those responsible to be held accountable"

become a hallmark of life in Sudan. We cannot allow

**Indonesian president** 

in damage control

over new capital

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 court-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 "Human tragedy has the country, and has been notorious for widespread looting as well as sexual and ethnic violence.

Two British

judges quit

# 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 re-

The specter that Sheinbaum's leftist Morena party and its allies were within earshot of securing the two-thirds, super-maiority 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

# **US and British** airstrikes hit Yemen

DUBAI: US and British forces carried out six airstrikes on targets in Yemen on Friday, a Houthi-

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.

**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. porters at home.

**Monitoring Desk** 

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.

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

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

**Monitoring Desk** sian 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. He also said that if changes to this doctrine.

a nuclear weapon, though he saw no need to do so at the present time.

Putin's response came to a question from Sergei Karaganov, an influential Russian analyst, who asked if Putin should hold a "nuclear pistol to the temple" of the West over Ukraine. "The use is possible in an exceptional case - in the event of a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. I don't think that such a case has come. There is no such need," Putin said at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum. "But this doctrine is a living tool and we are carefully watching what is happening in the world around us and do not exclude making some

# Rights body urges Biden to halt arms supply to Israel

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON:

civil rights organisation raeli prisoners and urged President Joe called upon Israel to Biden on Thursday to "indefinitely" halt all weapons deliveries to Israel and pressure the tional and humanitarian US ally to end its bombardment of the Gaza Strip, sending a reminder that his support him among Black voters in November's elec-

The call by the National Association for ceasefire to Gaza. 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 sup-

A Hamas to return the Is-"commit to an offensive strategy that is aligned with internalaws"

which has advocated for racial justice and for Israel could hurt rights for Black Americans, said the US must use its influence with Israel to bring a permanent

"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 ter-

rorist organisations. "It is imperative that the violence that has claimed so many civilian lives, immediately stop," the organisation said in a statement

# Widodo's announcement that he will start working

Joko

next month from an office in Nusantara, a giant construction site over 1,200km (750 miles) from the current

capital Jakarta, is unlikely to allay fears about his legacy project, analysts say.

"Investor confidence has dropped, I think. They were already in doubt and in 'wait-and-see' mode, partly because of the unclear land status, partly because of a lack of transparency in governance of the new capital,' said Yanuar Nugroho, the president's former deputy chief of staff. "The resignations worsen this... instead of explaining what really happened, the government is trying to cover it up."

# Hong Kong's top court

**Monitoring Desk** HONG KONG: Two British judges have resigned from Hong Kong's top court, about a week after a landmark verdict that convicted 14 prominent democratic activists of subversion, amid a national security crackdown on dissent in the financial hub.

In a statement, the Hong Kong judiciary said two prominent British judges, Lawrence Collins and Jonathan Sumption, had tendered their resignations from the city's Court of Final Appeal (CFA).



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.

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

signed 23 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including transport infrastructure, industry, energy, agri-culture, media, health, water, socioeconomic development, and other areas of

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 Mumtaz Zahra Baloch told the media at her weekly

pressed unwavering sup- of the UN Security Coun-

issues and reiterated their 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

The two countries agreed to maintain highlevel exchanges, including strengthening of institutional linkages in all tiers and spheres, besides continuing to holding consultations on matters of bilateral and global significance, particularly

China, the prime minister

businesspersons to explore investment opportunities in

In the meeting and vents 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 interwith Chinese business leadduring ers to secure investments Pakistan's two-year term as and yield dividends mutu-Both sides also ex- a non-permanent member ally beneficial for compa-



# 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

Office Foreign pokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, high-lighted 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 racy, transparency, and ac-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 nonpermanent 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 democcountability. 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

Zamindar Action Commit-

antee that the electricity

would not be acquired from

the regular power system

after converting the agricul-

tural tube wells on solar

energy. The necessary leg-

islation would be made in

this regard, if needed so, he

on the occasion asserted

that stern action would be

taken against those in-

volved in pilferage of elec-

tricity. He also warned that

stern action would also be

taken against the personnel

of QESCO if found in-

New Gwadar Ínterna-

tional Airport, a flag-

ship project under the

China Pakistan Eco-

nomic Corridor (CPEC)

is now in its final stages o

marvel, the airport spans

across 4,300 acres of land

boasting a runway capable

of accommodating the Air-

bus A380, the world's larg-

building covering 14,000

square meters, the airport

aims to elevate Gwadar's

infrastructure and pave the

way for future develop-

ment. The project, esti-mated at \$246 million, is on

track for completion in

Recently, a significant

With a sleek terminal

Set to be a modern

construction.

est aircraft.

The Chief Minister

added

# **Opposition's protest leads** to adjournment of Senate session till Monday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The continuous protest by the Opposition members in the Senate on Friday led to adjournment of the session till Monday at 05:00 pm.

Soon after calling attentions business, Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan from panel of presiding officers assumed the chair as the Chairman, requested leave from the House to witness oath taking of his newly elected son as member National As-

However, Leader of the Opposition Syed Shibli Faraz along with other opposition members, started protest and pointed out side over the session.

that in the presence of Deputy Chairman, the presiding officer cannot chair

The Presiding Officer while quoting the Rule 14 of procedure and conduct in Senate, observed that she could preside the House. She went on to say that it was the prerogative of the Chairman Senate to nominate any member of the House as presiding

Senator Farooq H Naek also observed that no rule was violated and it was the prerogative of the Chairman. He said that Palwasha Khan could pre-

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

Minister Shehbaz Sharifon 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

BEIJING (APP): Prime tribute to Chairman Zhao for his contributions to the Friday met Chairman of 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 coun-

# young parliamentarians tries was based on strategic trust. Salik appreciates ILO's efforts, initiatives to support workers, mitigate adverse

crises faced by Gazans ISLAMABAD (APP): Chaudhry Salik Hussain led Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OPHRD), Chaudhary 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.

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 par-ticipation emphasized its commitment to addressing key labor issues and contributing to the global dialogue on work-related challenges and solutions.



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

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

QUETTA (APP): Senior ince in 2024. He said that 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 activi-

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

ties in the area.

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-

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 cam-

paign 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 the city canal.

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



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

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

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 foodinsecure people in the flood-affected areas of Pathe USD 3.7 million and kistan, implemented in USD 1 million contribu-Sindh, Balochistan, tions helped WFP to de-Punjab and Khyber liver nutritionally balanced

WFP organized a Project Completion cer-emony to recognize the vi-tal 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

ISLAMABAD (APP):The floods in Pakistan, said a press release issued here on

The USD 2.5 million enabled WFP to provide emergency food assistance to flood-affected communities, ensuring their immediate food security and nutrifood every month to those actively involved in community rehabilitation, livelihood and resilience building initiatives and identified through district-level con-

sultations in 2023. The USD 3.7 million grants also supported conditional cash assistance during the early recovery



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary for Maritime Affairs, Zafar Ali Shah 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 envi-

cussed the incentives for investors including streamlined customs procedures and robust legal protec-

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

tial investors. It is welcoming that great interest was showed by the Chinese companies in Gwadar and investment

# ronment make it an ideal in Pakistan, he concluded. Pak, Indonesia & Turkiye call for collective efforts to combat Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Consulate Generals of Pakistan, Turkiye, and Indonesia in New York cohosted 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 diasul 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 sys-

tematic destruction of reli-

### 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 Assem-

bly today. Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah administered the oath Responding to a calling attention notice, Minister of State for Power Division shedding of six to ten hours s being carried out

only on high loss feed-ers of the K-Electric in Karachi. He said feeders showing losses of over twenty-five percent face

oad-shedding. Responding to another calling attention notice, Ali Pervaiz Malik said a safety commission of the European Union de-listed Pakistan from its air safety concern list last month. Similarly, Pakistan has submitted its action plan to another safety list which is under verification process.

## 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. The smartly turned-out contingents of the People's

solarization of agri tube wells: Bugti power system after regular- Minister stressed that

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

Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

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 solar-

He insisted that the electricity could not be ac-

The Chief Minister tee would have to give guar-

QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Development Mahaz led by former Chief

Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Governor

Zamindars have to detach them from

regular power supply system after

was speaking to the delegation of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee, who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Also present in the

meeting were included the provincial ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Ali Madad Jatak and Nawabzada Tariq Magsi 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 mem-

### volved in the power pilferquired from the regular bers of delegation, Chief **New Gwadar Industries Department** airport nears promoting culture of completion Balochistan: Pirkani GWADAR (INP): The

**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 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

# visit to different training Pakistan, Russia signed MoU to upgrade railway sector

kistan 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).

Liberation Army presented

Understanding aims to explore opportunities for sector.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- implementing railway upgrade projects and other initiatives within this crucial

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

signed by Ambassador Muhammad Khalid Jamali from Pakistan

Furthermore, it seeks to enhance and streamline international cargo trans-

side and Deputy Transport Minister D.S. Zverev from the Russian

### milestone was achieved as the Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan (CAA) successfully conducted a five-The MoU was day flight

test operation, sup ported by China, starting from Tuesday, June 4, 2024. The inaugural test flight was greeted with a traditional salute upon



OUETTA: Provincial Minister for C&W Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed about ongoing development projects in the city

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