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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 Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday noted that the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and China were characterized by frequent engagement and dialogue at the leadership level, people-to-people contacts, cultural and educational exchanges.

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 release.

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 Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China", the two sides agreed on the need to explore opportunities for increased cooperation between Pakistan and the Guangdong province particularly under CPEC.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and Party Secretary Meng Fanli 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 cooperation.

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 by Meng Fanli.



SHENZHEN: 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.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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.

Today, he said, they



were commemorating the "World Environment Day" to raise awareness about the issues of land degradation, desertification, and 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 dedication to sustainable agricultural practices and land degradation mitigation.

EAD commends global support at fourth IPSG meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad 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 Office Islamabad.

and Revenue, Foreign Affairs, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Climate Change division.

Additionally, representatives from bilateral and multilateral development partners, including ambassadors from Azerbaijan, Sweden, 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 also present.

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

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 connections 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 hundred and twenty six Pakistani businessmen is 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.

He said there is a big opportunity for us to export the country's products to neighboring China, adding, Pakistani business delegation will sign investment and export agreements with their Chinese counterparts during the visit.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday adjourned hearing till June 24, on an appeal of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) regarding the reserved seats.

A thirteen-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isha heard the appeal against the verdict of Peshawar High Court.

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, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfaan Saadat Khan and Justice

Naeem Akhtar Afghan were also part of the bench. However, Justice Musarrat Hilali didn't join the bench due to illness.

During hearing of the SIC's lawyer, the chief justice remarked that the candidates who are not in front of 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 requested to take election symbol of bat? Why not challenge if the bat sign was not given, he asked.

He further remarked that we did not say that intra-party elections should not be held, adding that all the problems would have

been resolved if intra-party elections were held.

Addressing the lawyer, the CJP said that you are trying to associate yourself with different parties, adding that you are no longer an independent candidate. He observed that if you show yourself as a PTI candidate, you are not an independent candidate.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isha said that the PTI had deprived its people of the democratic right. Where was the reflection of the will of 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 benefit it.

The CJP remarked that the case of PTI would have been strong if the independent

members had not joined the SIC.

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 said that the PTI had highlighted a string of legal mistakes made by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that compelled PTI-backed candidates to contest elections as independents.

He further stated that the issue regarding reserved seats came down to whether these candidates should be

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 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 these parties will get specific seats only in proportion to the number of seats they had won.

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 to Europe.

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 concern.

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, Mohsin 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 in the world.



KARACHI: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor of Sindh during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

Till completion of hearing IHC stops implementation of death sentence on five former Naval officers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped implementation of death sentence order in respect of five former NAVY officers till the completion of hearing of petition in the court.

These six former officers were court martialled for their involvement in attack on Navy Dockyard in Karachi.

Justice Babar Sattar issued written order on the petition of NAVY officers

that they were not given right to fair trial in attack on NAVY Dockyard in Karachi.

It was said in written order as per petitioners they were awarded death sentence in general court martial. They were not provided the assistance of any lawyer during court martial.

The counsel for petitioners said evidence and documents of court of inquiry were also not shared with the accused.

Court orders for immediately de-sealing PTI Central Secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered to de-seal immediately Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretariat.

Justice Saman Riffat Intiaz of IHC issued reserved decision on Tuesday.

The court accepted PTI petition against Capital Development Authority (CDA) and ordered to de-seal the office immediately.

It is pertinent to mention here IHC on June 03 had reserved judgment on the petition filed against sealing the PTI central secretariat and CDA operation.

Justice Saman Riffat Intiaz heard the case.

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.



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

CM Maryam, Nawaz Sharif meet Qatari envoy

LAHORE (APP): Punjab 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 interest were discussed during the meeting.

The chief minister briefed H.E. Mr Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khater about the business-friendly policies of Punjab government and invited Qatari businessmen and industrialists to invest in Punjab. "We want to promote economic relations between Punjab and Qatar," she expressed.

Both leaders stressed the need to strengthen bilateral relations and find new ways of cooperation.

Pakistan Navy, PMSA seize large consignment of drugs at sea

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency have seized a large consignment 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 anti-narcotics operation is a result of effective surveillance at sea by Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency.



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

Daily Voice of Masses 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 known.

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 sentence.

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 ponder.

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 responsible citizens. The social studies school curriculum claims a paradigm shift to an inquiry-based 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' socio-cultural 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 level. A chapter on general knowledge uses six 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 responsibilities.

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

tion, and healthcare. Furthermore, the textbooks want children to 'define' a government and its roles and responsibilities.

The chapter on the role of the government and citizens for Grade 3 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.

At the end of the lesson, 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 idea.

Students are required to memorise the definitions of an 'ordinary', 'digital' and 'global' citizen. They have to endlessly repeat and 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 changes in rights and responsibilities over time. In addition, 26 bullet points present an array of rights and duties for the three categories of citizens.

There is an absence

of sensitivity in the textbooks pertaining to children's lived experiences, the extent of their exposure, location, access to technology, etc. The textbooks also appear to overlook teachers' ability to deal with such 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 democratic values and convictions, and lacking 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 classroom 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.

-- Courtesy Dawn

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 provinces and excessive temperatures in Pakistan's snow-capped mountainous belt. This suggests looming flood 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 flows.

(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 Manchar 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-

ties remain in a state of slumber until disaster knocks. Precautions are delayed. They should realise that urgent actions can mitigate the repercussions.

A monsoon monitoring and coordination cell should be established at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority and equipped with technical, financial, logistical and human resources to enable swift action in case of an adverse situation. In 2022, a major disaster was unleashed due to record-breaking rains in eastern Balochistan in July and August. An enormous quantum of water entered Sindh along the foothills of the Kirthar range. The FP Bund couldn't withstand the water sheet and was breached at five locations. The banks of the RBOD and Suprio bund also collapsed, inundating vast areas in Kambar Shahdardkot and Dadu 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 rainfall and the consequent flows likely to veer towards Sindh. The FP Bund and the banks of the RBOD need critical surveillance to avert breaching.

After entering Sindh, the floodwaters travel the length of the 277-kilometre-long FP Bund before reaching Manchar. The irrigation department has to ensure the timely emptying of the lake to absorb these 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 Mehrar just about managed to avert a disaster, thanks to the concerted efforts of the local community and authorities.

Clogged natural waterways are a chronic cause of flooding. In a bid to appease a few political favourites, the government exposes millions of poor people to flooding risks. A study commissioned by the Sindh 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 High Court ordered the removal of encroachments from irrigation department lands by June 30.

More recently, the court's Sukkur bench issued a verdict in February 2023, asking the government to improve the drainage of storm water from both sides of the Indus by reviving the natural waterways via the construction of new surface/storm drains in the remaining area. The verdict identified 11 obstructions in waterways from Balochistan to Manchar on the right bank side, and advised the authorities to rectify matters. These efforts 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 and regulatory infrastructure at zero point need to be completed before the monsoons. Similarly, the Aral Wah canal, which has been adequately remodelled, was meant to drain the surplus flows of Manchar 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

SUJAWAL (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday inaugurated the commercial production of Kia Shehroze at the Dewan Industrial City near Sujawal.

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

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".

Turning over a new page of automotive excellence, hard work and innovation, the launch of Kia Shehroze truck was a testament to Pakistan's growing industrial progress, he added.

The Senate chairman said that the automobile sector served as a cornerstone of progress, driving innovation, 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,"

he added.

Gilani said that the industry, through such remarkable initiatives, was manifesting "our shared commitment to fostering a robust and self-sufficient automotive sector".

He further said that Pakistan was committed to pursuing a robust geo-economic 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.



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

Services exports increase by 1.18 pc in 10 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of services 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 bearish trend, losses 908.60 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 908.60 points, a negative change of 1.20 per cent, closing at 74,666.66 points against 75,575.26 points the previous day.

A total of 414,479,234 shares valuing Rs 18.311 billion were traded during the day as compared to 441,261,756 shares valuing Rs 18.364 billion the previous day.

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 unchanged.

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 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): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (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 incorporating these suggestions in the budget

to flourish local trade and business.

He said that the 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 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 and promotion of exports to initiate journey towards the economic stability.

SCCI asks govt to conduct forensic audit of IPPs

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber 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 chief guest at the concluding ceremony of two-day International Solar Energy Expo - ISE 2024 organised by GreenWend Energy/SunSaviour here, said a press release here.

The SCCI chief said hydel and solar energy was the best solution to the rising electricity cost and crisis.

He called upon the government to pay serious attention to the uplift of the solar energy sector. Fuad Ishaq 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 IDBP.

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 Beijing Exhibition Center. 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 a significant crowd around the booths of exhibitors from Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"The quality of colored gemstones from Pakistan and Sri Lanka caught my eye, so I stopped to ask about the prices. I might find 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 percent year-on-year. Chinese consumers show a strong interest in gold and silver jewelry products for both their aesthetic and investment value. Additionally, Pakistan's exports of gems and precious stones to

China saw a 47 percent increase in 2023, indicating growing recognition of the 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 since.

The reason for choosing to do business in China is simple: the good relationship between the two countries and the strong purchasing power of Chinese consumers.

Gold up by Rs 700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 700 and was sold at Rs 241,000 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs 240,300 on the last trading day.

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 Rs 188,850, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs 2,820 and to Rs 2,417.70.

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

LAHORE (APP): All Pakistan Textile Mills 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 employment.

He was addressing a press conference here at APTMA office on

Tuesday. APTMA Chairman (North) Kamran Arshad, Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, and Secretary General (North) Mohammad Raza Baqir were also present.

Inam said the 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 additional grid demand and Rs 500 billion in revenue.

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

Independent Report
LAHORE: The 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.

Punjab Governor said that the Pakistani workforce is 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 Pakistan wants to benefit from Qatar's expertise in the Oil and Gas sectors. He appreciated Qatar for 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 country and its people are loving and hospitable.

Governor Punjab said that the world needs to be shown the real face of Pakistan. Ambassador of Qatar Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar said that the Ameer of Qatar will visit Pakistan soon. He said that delegations of experts from Qatar will visit Pakistan and take matters forward in terms of increasing cooperation in various fields.



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 College University of the provincial capital.

Performance of food dept remained exemplary in 100 days: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab 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 exemplary.

He said this while addressing a seminar organized by the Pakistan Dairy Association in a local hotel on Tuesday. He said that that it was the most valuable relief for 130 million people in the first 100 days of the government and under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Punjab has taken a lead in significantly reducing the prices of food items.

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 Aftab on Tuesday said efforts were underway to control the spread of dengue larvae and no negligence would be tolerated.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

PTI's election symbol plea referred to larger bench

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday referred a petition, filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenging the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) authority 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 further hearing.

The court held that identical petitions were already pending before the larger bench, therefore, it would be appropriate that the present petition should also be heard by the bench.

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

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 closing the funds of the universities, it should be enhanced. Despite this, as

per vision of party leader Imran 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 expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of AQ Khan.

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 117.60-kilogram hashish and 36-kilogram 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.

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

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 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 are making full use of every forum to achieve our rights and also recorded its protest to the Federation," he added.

Religious scholars' conference reaffirms to promote harmony in society

MUZAFFARABAD (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 vitality 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 was attended by Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Daood Muhammad Breach, Secretary 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 Intiaz 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

Monitoring Desk
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 independence.

"This is a pre-condition for lasting peace in Palestine and the entire Middle East beginning with the immediate declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza and no further military incursions into Rafah," they said. "A two-state solution remains the only internationally agreed path to peace and security for both Palestine and Israel and a 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.



Sebastien Delogu, deputy for La France Insoumise (LFI) party attends a pro-Palestinian protest in central Paris, France.

Kremlin welcomes Turkey's reported desire to join BRICS

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia welcomes Turkey's reported desire to become part of the BRICS group of nations, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday, saying the subject would be on the agenda of the organisation's next summit.

Peskov said there was heightened interest in BRICS - a group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates - from various states, but said it was unlikely the grouping could completely satisfy all interested nations.

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.



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 Gaza Strip.

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 our negotiations... and they have never stopped." Washington and Tehran have not had diplomatic relations since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Houthi Red Sea attacks decline in last week as navies act

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Closer international cooperation between naval missions in the Red Sea has reduced the number of attacks by Yemen's Houthis over the past week, Greek Shipping Minister Christos 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 Iranian-aligned 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.

US urges UN Security Council to support cease-fire plan in Gaza announced by President Biden

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United States urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to support the three-phase plan announced by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the nearly eight-month war in Gaza, freeing all hostages and sending massive aid into the devastated territory.

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 and governments, including in the region, have endorsed this plan and we call on the Security Council to join them in calling for implementation of this deal without delay and without further conditions," she said in a statement.

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

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff said on Tuesday that using Western weapons to strike inside Russia was a vital decision that would impact Moscow's tactical aviation and its capability to operate in border areas.

The brief draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, would welcome 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 deal. When Biden made the announcement he called it an Israeli offer that includes an "enduring cease-fire" and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza if Hamas releases all hostages it is holding.

The decision would also help to better fend off Russian aerial attacks, Yermak said. Ukraine has frequently targeted occupied Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, with Western-made weapons. But outgunned and outmaneuvered 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 Kharkiv region. "Permission to use Western weapons on the territory of the Russian Federation is a vi-

Naval Chief for addressing grave threats to marine ecosystems due to anthropogenic activities

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 serious risk to marine life and ecology.



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 surroundings.

The day, celebrated under the ambit of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) marks an occasion to raise awareness 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 turtles to colourful coral reefs."

However, the coastal areas and marine ecosystem were facing grave threats from human activities that include marine pollution, such as oil spills and industrial effluents endangering marine life and contaminating the food chain, he added.

The Naval Chief added that overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices are depleting fish populations, damaging the delicate balance of our marine ecosystem. "Rising sea levels are causing coastal erosion which is accentuated by deforestation and construction activities that threaten the very existence of our coastal communities," he said.

Pakistan Navy, he said celebrates WED to highlight the significance of environment in Pakistan to promote awareness amongst personnel and encourage them to adopt practices conducive to the marine environment.



ISLAMABAD: National Monsoon Coordination Conference-2024 is underway, at National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Headquarters.

NDMA's monsoon coordination conference 2024 held

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Tuesday convened the National Monsoon Coordination Conference 2024 to take necessary measures by relevant stakeholders for tackling heavy rainfall in the monsoon season.

The two-day National Monsoon Coordination Conference 2024 and Simulation Exercise commenced here at its Headquarters' National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) with all provincial and federal authorities, line departments and stakeholders on board to share prevailing situation.

IGP Islamabad chairs meetings with police officers at CPO

ISLAMABAD: According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir

providing national and regional capability to provide long-term weather forecast for taking preemptive measures before any major disaster. He added that the NEOC could generate in advance projections for ten months that could help provide guidelines for better responses to disasters.

The Chairman NDMA mentioned that the Authority had held numerous simulation exercises to enhance capability of provincial disaster management authorities (PDMA), whereas there was room for scaling up of capabilities at provincial level.

IGP Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, asked about the pending cases from investigation officers. He directed all officers to review the "Pucar-15" calls and register the cases. Additionally, he instructed the police officers to contact the applicants and gather feedback on the progress made on their applications. He emphasized the need for police officers to improve the quality of their investigations and to ensure that the challans of all cases are submitted to the relevant courts timely.



Rizvi, chaired important meetings at the Central Police Office (CPO) Islamabad, a police public relations officer said.

The IGP Islamabad reviewed the performance of the Investigation Wing, conducted an audit of anti-riot equipment in the Law and Order Division, and assessed the ongoing work regarding the revamping of Safe City Islamabad.

Tarar grieved over demise of senior journalist Amir's mother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaulah 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.

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 well.

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.

DIG Islamabad visited PIMS Hospital, inquired about injured Cop

ISLAMABAD: According to details, the DIG Islamabad, Syed Ali Raza, visited PIMS Hospital to see Constable Amir Dad Kakar, who was undergoing treatment, as per a public relations officer.

He said that Constable Ammer Dad Kakar was injured in a traffic accident. During the visit, DIG Islamabad inquired about his health and treatment progress.

The DIG Islamabad stated that officers are valuable assets of the police department, highlighting a sense of camaraderie and unity within the department.

Chairman CDA ensures quick solutions to public grievances

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, attentively listened to the complaints of the individuals on Tuesday and promptly directed the resolution of their issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized the fundamental duty of public servants was to address the issues faced by the

people they serve. He stressed the importance of prioritizing and swiftly resolving the problems brought forward by citizens. To instill confidence and trust in the institution, Randhawa committed to personally engaging with individuals to listen to their concerns and ensure their prompt resolution.

He directed the implementation of safety protocols for the construction of Park Road.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Former Prime Minister Shahid Khqan Abbasi, and Guest of honour Ambassador of Belgium Charles Delogne awarding a shield to participant of Pakistan Environmental Award held at PNCA in the Federal Capital.

Chairman PRCS meets Swiss Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (INP): Swiss Ambassador to Pakistan, George Steiner on Tuesday commended the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) for its outstanding service during natural disasters and crises.

The ambassador expressed these views during a meeting with PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari who visited the Swiss Embassy, said in a Press Release issued here.

He emphasized that all countries had been affected by climate change but Pakistan had suffered particularly severe impacts.

By aiding flood-affected families, Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) fulfilled its duty to humanity in that regard.

The meeting addressed various subjects such as Pak-Swiss relations,

mutual cooperation, and the urgent humanitarian challenges brought about by climate change.

The ambassador Steiner noted that Pakistan ranked seventh on the climate risk index, which was extremely concerning, and emphasized the need for active participation and stringent measures to combat global warming.

He commended Chairman Laghari for his efforts to modernize the PRCS and enhance diplomatic relations. Additionally, he acknowledged the significant actions taken by PRCS under Laghari's leadership, highlighting the ongoing and future initiatives dedicated to serving humanity. Furthermore, the ambassador assured new avenues of support for PRCS.

KP Governor meets with federal minister, discuss IT promotion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday met with Federal Minister for Science, Khalid Maqbool Siddique in Islamabad and discussed avenues of promoting information technology in the province.

They discussed promotion of information technology in the country, and especially in KP province, said a press release issued here.

KP Governor and federal minister also discussed matters to establish campus

over the subject matter.

Faisal Karim Kundi also suggested to allocate admission quota for students of southern districts in Comsats University and added that he desired to create opportunities for KP youth to venture into field of information technology.

He also highlighted significance of modern technology to compete in the contemporary world and to take country towards progress and development.

Khalid Maqbool Siddique appreciated interest of KP Governor to empower youth and assured



of Comsats University in D I Khan and concerned authorities were directed to prepare a feasibility report

him cooperation to provide KP students with chances of exploring new fields of information technology.

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 Mohsin 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 non holding local bodies election in federal capital came for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani Tuesday.

Barrister Umar Ijaz Gillani and other lawyers appeared on behalf of the petitioners.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked the petitioners will have to deposit property tax at old rates. They will be able to levy tax following the approval by the local government.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani inquired from Election Commission

(EC) authorities why the local bodies election are not being held.

EC authorities told schedule has been given with reference to delimitation of constituencies.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked delimitation has been done to the extent of 125 union 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 Islamabad.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani directed counsel for EC not to mix union councils with National Assembly (NA) constituencies. Will delimitation of constituencies be done after every two or three months. Come here after asking from federal government. Tell us the date for local government election in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Swiss Ambassador to Pakistan, George Steiner meet on Tuesday with Chairman Red Crescent Pakistan Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari.

Rominan says: Govt committed to ecosystem restoration, environ. conservation for future generation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday emphasised that the government was committed to ecosystem restoration and protect the environment for future generations.

She was addressing the seminar as chief guest by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Bahria University (BU), to commemorate World Environment Day, a news release said. Romina Khurshid Alam insisted on the significance of environment day and steps taken by government of Pakistan for ecosystem restoration.

The event brought together eminent government officials, environmental ex-

perts, activists, and students to address pressing environmental issues facing Pakistan's coastal communities. The guests included Norwegian Ambassador Per Albert Ilsaas, Sri Lankan Minister A.Christy Ruban, Farzana Altaf Shah, DG Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, Amb. Nafees Zakarya, Executive Director COMSATS, Gauhar Zahid Malik, President & Executive Editor at Pakistan Observer and Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, WWF-Pakistan's representative. The theme of the seminar was "Coastal Erosion Management, Mangroves Preservation & Ecosystem Rehabilitation" under the overall United Nation's theme of "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience".

CPWB stresses collective commitment to support, protect children affected by aggression

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Child Protection and Welfare Bureau Punjab Sara Ahmed emphasized the collective responsibility of society on the occasion of International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression to be aware of the effects of all forms of abuse against children. Talking to a private news channel, she said that the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is celebrated every year on June 4 to provide an opportunity to recognize and honor these innumerable children around the world including Pakistan.

creates awareness about serious violations of children's rights and calls for action to protect their welfare.

Expressing deep concern over the increasing number of violence against children in the country, she said that children are the most vulnerable members of our society and the impact of violence on their lives is devastating.

She calls on governments, citizens, policymakers, communities, and individuals to prioritize the well-being and rights of children and take concrete steps to prevent and combat aggression against them.

She said that the day



ISLAMABAD: Former Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani shaking hand with the member of Pakistan Football League (PFL) UK in the reception of foreign delegation at local hotel.

DC leads operation against Margalla fires with local support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon Tuesday highlighted the ongoing efforts to tackle the fire incidents, with 500 people hired by the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) environment wing this season to act as watchdogs and manual fire control operatives. In recent days, fire incidents have been reported across the Margalla Hills, prompting swift action from the district administration, said the ICT's Administration spokesman.

The DC confirmed the arrest of three suspects believed to have started some of the fires.

Meanwhile, a main accused also arrested by the district administration and environment wing CDA.

Nawaz also engaged with residents of villages near the hills, holding meetings and making announcements in mosques to seek their cooperation. "We have reminded them that these forests belong to all of us, and we must protect them together," he said. The community has been urged to report any suspicious activities to the authorities concerned. The DC emphasized the difficulty of extinguishing fires on pine leaves, underscoring the efforts of rescuers and firefighters.

"Our goal is to keep a vigilant eye on potential fire outbreaks," the DC said, adding the individuals were crucial in manually extinguishing fires, as it was challenging to bring firefighting vehicles or water pipes to



ISLAMABAD: People are enjoying food at a local restaurant on Margalla Hills at Pir Sohawa in the Federal Capital.

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 Sanjaji 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.

Zero load management in IESCO being observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Load management in all over Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) six circles including Azad Jammu and Kashmir is lifted owing to availability of sufficient electricity against demand.

According to the data, the IESCO total demand stood at 2,159 megawatt (MW) against allocation of 2,350 MW with a zero shortfall at 14:00 hours with. The company is withdrawing some 2,092 MW from the national grid system against its total allocation of 2,350 MW.

Zero load management is being observed in company circles including Islamabad, Rawalpindi Cantonment, Rawalpindi City, Jhelum, Attock, Chakwal and AJK.

Dengue cases surge in country with 2,795 new cases reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): There has been a significant increase in dengue cases, with 2,795 fresh cases reported in the past week across the country.

According to National Institute of Health (NIH) the surge in cases is attributed to the rising temperatures in the country, a private news channel on Tuesday said.

Balochistan has been the most affected province, with 1,728 dengue cases reported in the past week.

Punjab follows closely with 916 cases, while Sindh reported 116 cases. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa logged 34 cases, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir reported a single case. No cases were reported in Gilgit Baltistan and Islamabad. Dengue virus, a mosquito-borne viral disease, has been spreading rapidly around the world in recent years.