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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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

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

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

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

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

The CJ IHC remarked there is no bar on court's reporting. Media can report court's proceedings. Bar is not on reporting but bar is on irresponsible reporting. Problem is created when a sensational ticker is run.

PEMRA filed its reply in the court.

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

Pakistan, Italy to undertake joint efforts against drug trafficking

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

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

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



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

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

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

Pakistan to request UAE for \$1bn loan rollover

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan to 'request' United Arab Emirates (UAE) for rollover of \$1 billion loan, before maturity period, sources said on Wednesday.

As per details, the finance ministry has completed the working on the matter and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to pen down a letter to the UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, for the rollover of the loan.

Sources said, overall UAE kept \$3 billion as a safe deposit in the State Bank of Pakistan out of which \$2bn loan has already been rollover by the UAE at Pakistan's request, while a rollover for the remaining \$1 bln will be sought.

They said Pakistan is currently paying 3 to 6.5 per cent interest rate on the overall \$3 billion safe deposit of the United Arab Emirates.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will write a letter to the UAE president, in which he will thank the Emirates for its support to Pakistan and will seek rollover of \$1 billion on the current terms and conditions, the sources said.



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

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

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

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

No policy change in net metering policy

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

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

Termining a news item appeared in a section of local press about the change in net metering policy, the minister said that the government was committed to promote solar energy projects in the country, adding that not any proposal to taxing on solar system was under consideration.

Police officer martyred in Bajaur

BAJAUR (APP): A police officer was shot and martyred by unknown assailants in Bajaur district on Wednesday.

According to police, the incident occurred in the Shah Wali market of Inayat Kali Bazaar in Khark Tehsil.

The police officer, Wali Khan was shopping when unknown individuals opened fire on him, resulting in his death on the spot.

Local shopkeepers told that the attackers fled the scene after the incident.

Police have launched an investigation into the matter.

PM Shahbaz guarantees facilitation, security to Chinese investment

Repeatedly lauded the Chinese model of development and economic transformation and vowed to replicate the same in Pakistan

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

The prime minister, addressing the Pakistan-China Business Forum during his five-day China visit, highlighted bilateral trade and investment potential, especially in key sectors including transfer of Chinese technology, industry and partnership in IT, agriculture, mining, steel, textiles and renewable energy.

The prime minister repeatedly lauded the Chinese model of development and economic transformation and vowed to replicate the same in Pakistan.

"I will go back to Pakistan with this resolve, come what may, we will follow this model of great economic transformation in Pakistan. This model is enough to copy and simulate if we are sincere to our purpose and people. By God, I can tell you this is difficult but not impossible," he told the gathering of hundreds of business leaders from Pakistan and China.

As the Business Forum also marked the B2B matchmaking, he urged the Pakistani businessmen to sit with their Chinese counterparts and find out ways to move Chinese textile industries to Pakistan and make joint collaborations in steel and other industries.

"Today is the opportunity, time and moment to

capture. Sit down with Chinese friends to have serious discussions. I want to ensure you not as prime minister but as Chief Executive of Pakistan that I will give you the fullest support so that businessmen of Pakistan and China get benefits jointly," he remarked.

He informed the Forum that Pakistan had mineral deposits of around \$10 trillion while the country's exports stood at \$30 billion. The minerals deposits offer huge potential to dig out and convert them into finished and semi-finished goods for exports, he added.

He assured the Chinese side that his government had already initiated structural changes in Pakistan to control corruption.

Prime Minister Shehbaz drew a comparison

between the \$500 billion GDP of the 13-million city of Shenzhen and the \$380 billion GDP of Pakistan with 250 million population and called it "the Chinese city's swift transformation a 'miracle of this century' and the 'eighth wonder of the world'", necessitating for others to learn the lesson from.

He appreciated Chinese President Xi Jinping's dynamic and visionary leadership which elevated his country to become the second-largest economy and military power within a short span of time and steered 700 million people out of poverty, despite pressures and challenges.

He also recalled that during the decades of 50s or 60s, Pakistan's economic indicators were better than those of China and

called for a collective resolve to regain its stature.

The prime minister also lauded President Xi's vision of peace and development including the Belt and Road Initiative under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that had benefited Pakistan immensely through huge investment. Referring to a terror attack on Chinese workers in Besham in the recent past, the prime minister conveyed his condolence for the "dastardly and heart-wrenching" incident and called it "one of the saddest" days of his life when the whole nation felt saddened.

He said the government had taken various measures to ensure foolproof security to protect the lives of Chinese workers in Pakistan.

President Zardari stresses upon further strengthening Pak, Jordan bilateral ties

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

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

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

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

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



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

PM lands in Beijing on second leg of five-day China visit

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday landed in the Chinese capital city of Beijing, on the second leg of his five-day official visit to China.

As the prime minister arrived here from Shenzhen city at Beijing Capital International Airport, he was received by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and officials of the Pakistan's embassy.

The prime minister is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and other members of the cabinet and senior officials.

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

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

The dissenting note contains 13 pages.

Justice Athar Minallah said live streaming is must for the protection of fundamental rights. NAB amendment case has already been live-streamed.

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

It has been further said in the dissenting note all cases of 184-3 were live streamed from bench 3 after success of pilot project.

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

PM brought innovation in CPEC: Tarar

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

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

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

He opined that business-to-business meetings and conferences in Shenzhen will play a significant role in the stability and development of Pakistan's economy.

The minister said that a meeting with the owner of a mobile phone manufacturing plant was held whose factory was operational in Pakistan. He said that it will export its mobile sets from Pakistan.



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

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

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

According to sources in the FIA, Burney was arrested by a team from the FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Wing on Wednesday afternoon following a human trafficking complaint received from the US government.

It is alleged that Burney was involved in illegal adoption practices, including human trafficking, spanning across the United States, Canada and other countries.

Sources further said that Burney's activities had been under surveillance for an extended period and upon his arrival at the Karachi airport today, he was taken into custody.

A case has been officially registered against the social activist.

The FIA additional director general for Karachi South added that an investigation would be conducted, taking into account all evidence and the case would be decided on its merit.

Ayaz visits Iranian Embassy to condole President Ebrahim Raisi's demise

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday visited the Iranian Embassy here to convey his deepest condolences on the sad demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Abdollahian, and other high-ranking officials in the helicopter crash on May 19, 2024.

Speaking to Iranian Envoy Reza Amiri Moghaddam, the Speaker, on behalf of the parliament and himself, extended heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the government of Iran, the families of the President, the Foreign Minister, and all others who lost their lives in the incident, as well as to the people of the brotherly nation of Iran over the martyrdom of Iranian leadership in the incident.

He remarked that the incident was extremely shocking and heart-wrenching. Recalling his meeting with the late President Raisi during his recent visit to Pakistan, the Speaker mentioned their fruitful discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral and parliamentary cooperation.

He noted that the late President Ebrahim Raisi was a great scholar, visionary leader, and a statesman.

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

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

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

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

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

Form 47 rulers are powerless who cannot make decisions, slams former president He also said that the stakeholders should not be afraid of any kind of risks after the PTI founder's release. Alvi demanded releasing the former prime minister, the supremacy of law in the country and returning the party's mandate.

Alvi further said that his party could not hold the incumbent rulers who were as much "powerless" as they came into power via "Form 47" and didn't have "authority" to make decisions.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq inscribing his remarks in condolence book at the Iranian Embassy.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

A sobering election?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Modi's hat-trick

Mahir Ali

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Upended by climate

Abdullah Fadil

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

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

Reiterates commitment to advancing innovative, sustainable digital transformation for Pakistan

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

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

The chairman briefed the prime minister about Huawei's operations

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

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

banking, telecommunication and artificial intelligence. Prime Minister

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

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

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

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



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

AIIB, Pakistan discuss strategic partnership, future development plans

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

Ministry of Economic Affairs were also present attended the meeting.

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

Shaza discusses telecom infrastructure, innovation, ICT solutions

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

He mentioned that 500 Chinese companies and

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

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

Ministers for the

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

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

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

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

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

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

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

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

ADB approves financing to boost Public-Private Partnerships in Pak

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

"ADB's Promoting Sustainable Public-Private Partnerships Program

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

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

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

Tribal areas need better infrastructure for development: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that people of erstwhile Fata and all tribal districts including Mohmand need better infrastructure for the progress and prosperity of the region. He was talking a representative delegation of Mohmand Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House. The delegation requested the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor to play his constitutional role for establishment of special economic zone and industrial estate at Mohmand for promotion of marble industry. The delegation said it would help bring foreign investment besides generate employment opportunities for youth. The delegation also emphasized the need for construction of Yakagund Road upto Pak-Afghans border and Warsak dam royalty to Mohmand district. The delegation further apprised the governor about their concerns pertaining to electricity, enforcement of taxes and security challenges. The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi assured full support to the office bearers of Mohmand Chamber for continuity of business activities. The governor assured to play his constitutional role in resolution of their issues and bringing funds for the province.



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

Six killed, 1301 injured in 1196 accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least six people were killed and 1301 injured in 1196 accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the Rescue-1122, 729 drivers, 44 underage drivers, 175 pedestrians, and 403 passengers were among the victims of traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 231 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 271 persons placing the provincial capital top of the list followed by Multan 80 in with 82 victims and at third Faisalabad with 78 accidents and 86 victims. According to data, 1,058 motorcycles, 57 rickshaws, 117 cars, 23 vans, 11 buses, 26 truck and 88 other vehicles besides slow-moving carts were involved in the accidents.



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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur inaugurated the new feeder route DR-14 of the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit System at the Central Park Regi Model Town on Wednesday. This new route will connect Board Bazaar to DHA via Regi Model Town, on Nasirbagh Road. This much awaited addition to the Zu Peshawar network brings the total number of routes to 16, further enhancing the city's public transportation infrastructure. The

inauguration event was attended by Secretary Transport, CEO TransPeshawar and other officials. The route consists of a total of 16 stops namely Islamia College, Board Bazaar, Canal Bank Colony, Naseer Teaching Hospital, PSO Stop, Police Colony, Askari 6 Phase 2, Askari 6 Phase 1, Mian Khan Garhi, Badezai, Regi Model Town, Zone 3 Ground, Government Girls Primary School, Masjid-e-Hamza, Ladies Park and DHA. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the

chief minister emphasized the importance of efficient and accessible public transit in promoting sustainable urban development and improving the lives of the residents of Peshawar. He said, "Zu Peshawar caters to approximately 350,000 passengers daily, making it a lifeline for the city's residents and commuters. The new route is expected to further enhance the accessibility and convenience of public transportation, contributing to the city's sustainable growth."

He said that the Zu Peshawar network was testament to the commitment of the government and stakeholders to meet the growing transportation needs of Peshawar's residents. This development reflects the government's forward-looking approach to urban planning and sustainability, he added. The residents of Peshawar had been eagerly awaiting this route, and its opening represents a significant step forward in TransPeshawar's efforts to enhance its service.

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

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi has said that steps were being taken by the government to solve financial problems of universities. During his visit to historic Islamia College here Wednesday, he said that the process to finalize rules and regulation was underway, adding that it would resolve all the issues including financial problems of Islamia College. He said that the government was also making incessant efforts to

resolve the issues being faced by higher education institutions. He also appreciated the education standard of the College and efforts of the faculty members to strengthen financial position of the institution. The minister also planted a sapling in the College and assured cooperation to the College administration in resolution of their problems. He was also briefed by the faculty about various properties of the College in Khyber Bazar, Charsadda and Harichand.



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

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

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Police is taking historic steps for welfare of families of martyrs, veterans, and employees. This was stated by Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana in a press release, issued here on Wednesday. He underlined that over Rs 35 million financial assistance has been disbursed from the District Welfare Fund to 1,494 police employees during the year 2023-24. Cheques amounting to over Rs 91 million have been distributed as educational scholarships to the children of police

employees. Additionally, Rs 18.7 million have been provided as subsistence allowance to 549 deserving families. More than 400 police employees have been honored with the title of Ghazi. In terms of medical financial aid, Rs 2.7 million have been distributed among 365 police employees. The families of 15 martyrs have been provided with homes, purchased by Lahore Police. Furthermore, wedding gifts worth over Rs 3.7 million have been given to the daughters of martyrs on their weddings.

ANF recovers over 64 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover over 64 kg drugs and arrested two accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He said, 918 grams heroin was recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah at Faisalabad Airport. 44 grams of weed was recovered from a parcel sent from the UK at a courier office in Rawalpindi. In the third operation, 60 kg hashish was recovered from Pasi Gwadar.

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

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government Arshad Ayub Khan on Wednesday presided over a meeting of Cabinet Committee for Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency and directed to take strict legal action against the persons found guilty in the leakage of various tests of ETEA. He said that merit and transparency are the first priority of the present government and no there would be no compromise

in this regard. He also directed to take steps to issue separate merit lists for minority and special persons so that their recruitment process is not delayed. Earlier, the committee member Sajjad Barkwal told the forum that along with the recommendations to increase the manpower of ETEA, the agency was taking steps to make it compatible with the modern requirements of using digitalized technology and prevent duplication etc.

Pakistani doctor gets first position in MRCP exam in Qatar

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

International News

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

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli shelling and airstrikes killed at least 19 people in central and south Gaza on Tuesday including two policemen who were helping protect humanitarian aid deliveries in the southern city of Rafah, Palestinian medics said. Seventeen of the deaths, they said, occurred in separate Israeli airstrikes on the al-Bureij and al-Maghazi refugee camps and the city of Deir-al-Balah in central Gaza, and by late Tuesday tanks were shelling an area just east of the al-Nusseirat camp, residents said. Some told Reuters via chat app that the renewed Israeli military push was sowing panic, with some families living in al-Maghazi starting to flee under tank fire, with four shells crashing near a clinic in the camp. In a brief statement issued earlier in the day, the

Israeli military said jets were hitting Hamas targets in central Gaza while ground forces were operating "in a focused manner with guidance from intelligence" in the al-Bureij area. It gave no update on activity in Rafah, into which Israeli forces swept last month in what the military calls a limited operation to root out Hamas' last intact combat units after almost eight months of devastating war in the Gaza Strip. The small city fringing Gaza's southern border with Egypt had been sheltering about one million Palestinians who fled Israeli assaults in other parts of the enclave, but most have fled again in the face of Israel's tank-led advance. Israel launched an air and ground offensive in Gaza last October vowing to destroy Hamas after fighters stormed across the border into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing around

1,200 people and taking more than 250 people hostage, according to Israeli tallies. About 120 hostages remain in Gaza. The Israeli military campaign has killed more than 36,000 people in densely populated Gaza, according to its health authorities, who say thousands more bodies are buried under rubble. Qatar said on Tuesday it had delivered an Israeli ceasefire proposal to Hamas that reflected a three-phase proposal presented on Friday by US President Joe Biden, and that the paper was now much closer to the positions of both sides. Qatar, which has been mediating on Gaza between Israel and Hamas, also stressed that there should be a clear position from both parties to clinch a deal, its foreign ministry spokesperson said in a press briefing.



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

US says response from Hamas on ceasefire proposal still awaited

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A response from Palestinian Islamist group Hamas on Israel's ceasefire proposal that US President Joe Biden revealed on Friday is still being awaited, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Tuesday. "We are waiting for a response from Hamas" through the Qatari mediators, Sullivan said. CIA Director Bill Burns will be in Doha to consult with Qatari mediators on the Gaza ceasefire proposal, Sullivan added. Qatar has been mediating on Gaza between Israel and Hamas. Qatar said on Tuesday it had delivered the Israeli ceasefire proposal to Hamas that reflected a three-phase proposal presented by Biden, and that the paper was now much closer to the positions of both sides.

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

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia's President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said on Wednesday he plans to start working from the new capital city next month amid concerns over the future of the project following the resignations of senior executives overseeing the development. Jokowi said the progress of several infrastructure developments under the first phase of the \$32 billion capital city, called Nusantara, on Borneo island.

Syrian man arrested near US embassy in Beirut: army

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

Russia to provide more military aid, instructors to Burkina Faso

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia will send additional military supplies and instructors to Burkina Faso to help the West African country boost its defence capabilities and fight terrorism, Russian state media quoted Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying on Wednesday. Burkina Faso, under military leadership since a 2022 coup, has played host to contingents of the Wagner mercenary force, whose founder Yevgeny Prigozhin was killed in a plane crash last August. "From the very first contacts between our countries after President (Ibrahim) Traore came to power, we have been very closely engaged in all areas of cooperation, in-

cluding the development of military and military-technical ties", TASS news agency cited Lavrov as saying during a visit to Burkina Faso. "I have no doubt that thanks to this cooperation, the remaining pockets of terrorism on the territory of Burkina Faso will be destroyed," he told a press conference in the capital Ouagadougou. Lavrov has made a series of visits to Africa since the start of the war in Ukraine as Russia, hit by Western sanctions, seeks new trade partners and tries to rally developing countries behind its vision of a "multipolar world" no longer dominated by the United States and former European colonial powers.

Ukrainian official in Beijing urges China to attend peace summit

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Ukraine's first deputy foreign minister visited China on Wednesday and urged it to send a delegation to a planned summit on Ukraine this month in Switzerland, in the apparent hope it was still possible to persuade China to attend. Russia has not been invited to participate in the June 15-16 meeting, Beijing has so far said it will stay away, describing the attendance of both warring sides as a prerequisite for any substantive peace conference. "The Ukrainian side expressed hope that China's participation in the event could be a good opportunity to make a practical contribution to achieving a just and lasting peace in Ukraine," the Ukrainian foreign ministry said following a

meeting in Beijing between First Deputy Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong. Kyiv says more than 100 countries have accepted its invitation to the summit to discuss provisions of a peace plan outlined by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to end the full-scale Russian invasion now in its third year. Moscow has ridiculed the idea of a summit without its participation as pointless. Ukraine has accused Moscow of trying to disrupt the conference. China proclaimed a "no limits" partnership with Russia just days before Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, but portrays itself as neutral in the conflict.

South African minister Kodwa appears in court on graft charges

Monitoring Desk
JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's outgoing minister of sports, arts and culture Zizi Kodwa appeared in court on Wednesday after being arrested on corruption charges, police said. Kodwa served in President Cyril Ramaphosa's cabinet up until last week's election, which saw the African National Congress (ANC) lose its majority for the first time in 30 years of democracy. He was appointed sports, arts and culture minister last year after being deputy minister of state security. He was ANC spokesperson from 2014 to

2017. Kodwa was granted bail during a hearing at a magistrate's court in Johannesburg, elite police unit the Hawks said in a statement. His lawyer said he would not evade trial and would disclose his defence at a later stage, footage by public broadcaster SABC showed. Local news website News24 reported that he intended to plead not guilty. The charges against Kodwa stem from a judicial inquiry into alleged corruption during former president Jacob Zuma's time in office.

Germany considers expelling Afghans after knife attack

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany said on Tuesday it was considering allowing deportations to Afghanistan, after an asylum seeker from the country injured five and killed a police officer in a knife attack. Officials had been carrying out an "intensive review for several months... to allow the deportation of serious criminals and dangerous individuals to Afghanistan", Interior Minister Nancy Faeser told journalists. "It is clear to me that people who pose a potential threat to Germany's security must be deported quickly," Faeser said. "That is why we are doing everything possible to find ways to deport criminals and dangerous people to both Syria and Afghanistan," she said. Deportations to Afghanistan from Germany have been completely stopped since the Taliban retook power in 2021.

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

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to be sworn-in for a record-equaling third term on June 8, after key allies pledged their continued support a day after a humbling election verdict that saw his party lose its majority in parliament. Modi, a populist who has dominated Indian politics since coming to power in 2014, will for the first time need the support of regional allies whose loyalties have wavered over the years, which could complicate the government's reform agenda. On Wednesday,

Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) agreed with coalition allies to form a government. "We all unanimously choose respected National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leader Narendra Modi as our leader," the BJP-issued alliance statement read. "The NDA government under the leadership of Modi is committed to serving the poor, women, youth, farmers and exploited, deprived and oppressed citizens of India." Earlier in the day, two allies in his NDA coalition, the Telugu Desam Party, a key regional player in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh,

President Zardari desires building "technology highways" in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday emphasised upon the need of building "technology highways" in the country by enhancing students' access to IT infrastructure, strengthening of educational programmes and equipping them with modern skills to help them fully benefit from the knowledge economy.

He said that providing laptops to students would increase their access to education, bridge the digital divide, and equip them with technology skills to help them compete in the national and international job markets. The president expressed these views while talking to Professor Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad, who called on

him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The vice chancellor briefed the president about the role of QAU in providing quality education, its educational programmes, and other administrative affairs. Talking to the vice chancellor, the president said that Pakistan was blessed with abundant human resources, which needed to be converted into a strength by imparting the latest education and skills to them. He highlighted that Pakistan required to train and educate its human resources that could be exported to foreign countries facing a shortage of trained professionals, so as to help Pakistan earn foreign exchange. The president said that universities were pivotal in producing skilled

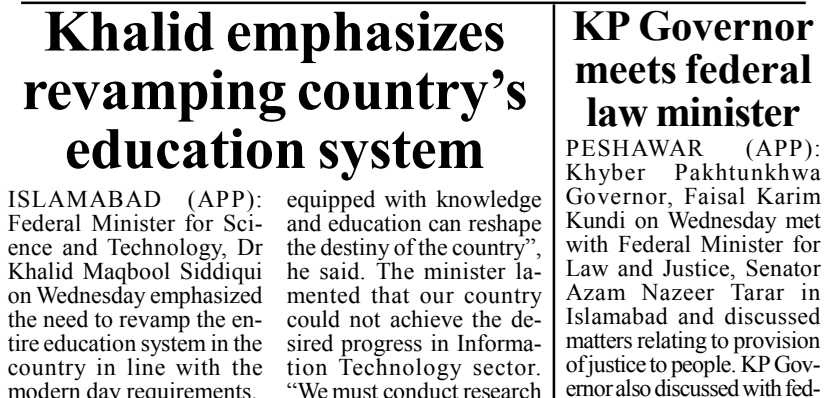
professionals, who could fulfill local and international market needs.

He also underlined the need to focus on producing more professionals such as doctors, engineers, nurses, and teachers.

During the meeting, the vice chancellor informed that QAU was one of the top-ranking universities in Pakistan and was ranked at 315th position globally. He apprised that the QAU was focusing on research that could have a positive impact on society, adding that digitalization was the top priority of the university. The president urged to further improve the quality of education, besides focusing on the character-building of students, adding that top position holders of QAU should be given Presidential Awards with cash.



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui exchanging views with Uzma Yousaf, Country Director of Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) during meeting held in Islamabad.

Khalid emphasizes revamping country's education system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Wednesday emphasized the need to revamp the entire education system in the country in line with the modern day requirements.

He was addressing at the Award Distribution Ceremony of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Seed Funding Phase-1 for engineering start-ups, held at a local hotel. Speaking on the occasion, the federal minister said that the world is rapidly changing and embracing emerging and new technologies in every section of life.

"Pakistan is fortunate to have a major chunk of youth population which if

equipped with knowledge and education can reshape the destiny of the country", he said. The minister lamented that our country could not achieve the desired progress in Information Technology sector. "We must conduct research that from which level we can impart IT education to our children so that they can compete with this digital world", he observed.

He said that the present government has imposed education emergency considering the low literacy rate in the country. Khalid Maqbool said that the country is producing 20,000 IT graduates every year but only 5000 or 6000 graduates get jobs which is very unfortunate.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental coordination Romina Khurshid Alam in a group photo with Customs & Enforcement officers on Montreal Protocol & HCFC control on the eve of World environment day.

Zero tolerance policy being pursued against timely, quality meals to Hujjaj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Hajj Mission in Makkah Mukaramah Director Food Asghar Yousafzai Wednesday said that a zero-tolerance policy was being pursued regarding hygiene, cleanliness, the quantity of food, and its timely supply to pilgrims this year where teams are visiting kitchens of the companies daily.

Talking to a private news channel, he said those who came under the government scheme were being served a healthy diet, adding, the entire team of Pakistan Hajj would remain active throughout the Hajj operation without repeating mistakes of the past.

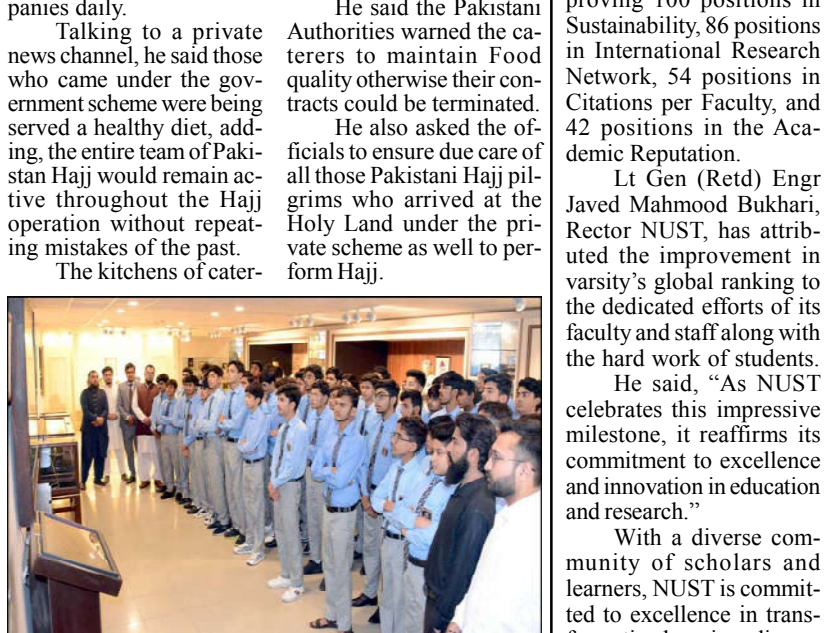
The kitchens of cater-

ing companies were being religiously checked and monitored by hajj mission teams, he added.

He said the Pakistan Hajj Mission in Makkah Mukaramah has imposed 17 penalties amounting to 263,580 Saudi Riyals on six catering companies over Food Safety Violations.

He said the Pakistani Authorities warned the caterers to maintain Food quality otherwise their contracts could be terminated.

He also asked the officials to ensure due care of all those Pakistani Hajj pilgrims who arrived at the Holy Land under the private scheme as well to perform Hajj.



ISLAMABAD: Students and faculty members of premier public high school Pakpattan visiting senate museum at Parliament House.

NUST rises in global rankings

ISLAMABAD (APP): Demonstrating phenomenal progress in the global rankings, the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST-Pakistan) has ascended 14 places to stand at #353, as per QS World University Rankings 2025.

NUST has made significant headway in key performance metrics, improving 100 positions in Sustainability, 86 positions in International Research Network, 54 positions in Citations per Faculty, and 42 positions in the Academic Reputation.

Lt Gen (Retd) Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, has attributed the improvement in varsity's global ranking to the dedicated efforts of its faculty and staff along with the hard work of students.

He said, "As NUST celebrates this impressive milestone, it reaffirms its commitment to excellence and innovation in education and research."

With a diverse community of scholars and learners, NUST is committed to excellence in transformative learning, disruptive research and innovation, and collaborative partnerships.

professionals, who could fulfill local and international market needs.

He also underlined the need to focus on producing more professionals such as doctors, engineers, nurses, and teachers.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Wednesday said land degradation due to rising impacts of climate change was a serious risk to Pakistan's food and water security amid Indian violations of Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

Romina says: Land degradation serious risk to Pakistan's food, water security amid Indian violations of IWT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Wednesday said land degradation due to rising impacts of climate change was a serious risk to Pakistan's food and water security amid Indian violations of Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

She was addressing the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)'s High-Level Panel Discussion on UN World Environment Day under the theme Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience.

Romina said the country was facing the worst impacts of climate change

that emanated interconnected challenges of food security, water scarcity, and land degradation.

"Land degradation is damaging millions of hectares land annually and forcing millions of masses to displace around the world. Agriculture is the life one of Pakistan and land degradation would cast serious impacts coupled with forest degradation that would further aggravate the problem," she said. The PM's Coordinator mentioned that Indian construction of dams on rivers providing water to Pakistan was also a concern for the latter as a low riparian country.

She added that declining soil quantity and salinization directly caused reduced crop yields that was



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar exchanging views with a delegation of Lawyers from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Association during meeting.

Jimmy highlights positive image of Pakistan through art pieces: NA speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday said the contribution of renowned artist and social worker Jimmy Engineer in the field of art and paintings reflected his unparalleled creativity and artistic skills.

"The services of Jimmy Engineer to highlight the positive image of Pakistan through his Art pieces render his artwork valuable and praiseworthy; he expressed these views while inaugurating an Art Exhibition with the theme "A Tribute to the People of Pakistan By Artist and Social Worker Jimmy Engineer" here at the Pakistan

National Council of Arts (PNCA).

The speaker added, "The way the Jimmy Engineer highlights the common people of Pakistan pulls us back to Partition days and it is a reliving experience to observe the moments of creation of Pakistan in his Artwork."

He also reiterated that the Parliament of Pakistan would take initiatives to protect and promote artistic work.

Jimmy Engineer expressed gratitude to Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that he always prioritized highlighting the positive image of Pakistan through his artwork especially at abroad.

40th MCMC officers briefed about functions, plans of ICT admin

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Commissioner's Office Islamabad on Wednesday hosted a delegation of the 40th Mid Career Management Course (MCMC) officers from the National Institute of Management (NIM) in Peshawar, in a bid to share knowledge and best practices.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Islamabad welcomed the participants and briefed them on the functions, achievements, and future plans of the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration, said the Spokesman of Chief Commissioner Office, Nouman Nazim here.

During the visit, the officers engaged in discussions on administrative strategies and challenges faced by the ICT Administration. They also learned about recent initiatives aimed at enhancing public services. The briefing session was followed by a question-and-answer session, allowing the officers to gain a deeper understanding of the ICT Administration's operations.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mrs. Rubina Khalid, in a group photograph with a delegation from the 40th Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) of the National Institute of Management (NIM), Peshawar, at the BISP headquarters.

IFA inspects 1460 food outlets, discards 13635kg/L unhygienic food items

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Dr. Tahira Saddique, while sharing a last month report of the authority, stated that the authority inspected 1,460 food outlets and imposed fines totaling Rs 2,706,000 on errant shopkeepers found flouting regulations.

Talking to APP, she said that with an unwavering commitment to quality assurance, the authority's latest report underscored its relentless pursuit of adherence to food safety standards across the Federal

CDA approves Eid ul Azha allowance for employees

ISLAMABAD (Online): Capital Development Authority (CDA) has approved Eid ul Azha allowance for its Muslims employees under an agreement reached with CDA labor union. Its notification has been issued. According to notification Eidul Azha allowance equal to one running basic pay will be paid to all employees including contract, muster roll and daily wages on June 10, Monday.

Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin labor leader while thanking chairman CDA Chaudhry Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Member administration, Member finance and CDA management said such step will add to the festivities of poor employees.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mrs. Rubina Khalid, in a group photograph with a delegation from the 40th Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) of the National Institute of Management (NIM), Peshawar, at the BISP headquarters.

Rubina reaffirms commitment to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's vision of women empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid Wednesday reaffirmed the organization's commitment to the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, focusing on women empowerment and financial independence.

A delegation from the National Institute of Management (NIM), Peshawar, visited the BISP headquarters today.

The delegation comprised 18 participants from the 40th Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC), who engaged with BISP leadership to gain insights into the program's operations and impact.

Earlier in the meeting, Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad, delivered an extensive overview of the programme's core initiatives, which include Kafaalat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, Undergraduate Scholarship, and the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER). He discussed the introduction of a new payment model involving six banks for cash disbursement, enhancing the efficiency and reach of the financial aid.

Ahmad also underscored the authenticity of the NSER database, which is utilized by various public and private organizations for different social safety projects.

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

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

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

He was briefed about the digital system established at the Center to register companies and carry out other processes under one roof. He lauded the modern systems developed at the Nanshan One-Stop Services for the registration of companies and businesses. The prime minister instructed Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Secretary IT and other relevant authorities to hold discussions with the Center to establish an identical modern system in Pakistan. He also directed the relevant authorities to take necessary measures to establish a similar system in the country with Chinese cooperation.

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Malik Jamil assume charge as DG Safe City

ISLAMABAD: According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, transferred and appointed Malik Jamil Zafar as Director General (DG) Safe City, Islamabad.

The newly appointed DG Safe City took charge. Upon assuming his respective position, DG Safe City Malik Jamil Zafar met with all staff members and conducted a detailed briefing about various branches. He visited all branches and



ISLAMABAD: Malik Jamil Zafar as Director General (DG) Safe City, Islamabad.

through the use of modern technology and improve surveillance and monitoring systems across the city. He emphasized the need to improve e-challan, traffic management systems, Pukar-15 helpline, and other services, and encouraged all officers and officials to work hard with dedication.

NDMA conducted national simulation exercises focusing on Monsoon Preparedness

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as part of proactive approach held two-day National Monsoon Coordination Conference and National Simulation Exercise (Sim-Ex) with key stakeholders to review Monsoon preparedness.

The NDMA conducted one-of-its-kind Multi Hazards National Level Simulation Exercises at National Emergencies Operation Center, NDMA Headquarters, a news release said.

The purpose of conducting multi-hazard mock exercises was to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of provincial disaster management agencies to deal with emergency like situation such as flooding and roadblockage in upcoming monsoon.

The Sim-Ex also emphasized the need for effective coordination and cooperation among all agencies involved in disaster management and relief activities. The participants applied the learned concepts to respond to simulated disasters at local and national levels and showcased their mock exercises results on scenario based situations.

The Participants acknowledged the role of NDMA in promoting resilience and proactive disaster readiness. Participants noted that Simulation Exercise was all-encompassing, much-needed, well-imparted and a wonderful knowledge-sharing endeavour with an aim of spreading the words to others for good of all and as a national service.

Two-day session was attended by representatives of MoCC, Defence Attaches, Diplomats, MoHSR, UN Agencies, PDMA/SDMA/GBDMA, Emergency services, PMD, SUPARCO, NHA, Armed Forces, CDA/ICT, PHF, NHN, FWO and related departments.

through the use of modern technology and improve surveillance and monitoring systems across the city. He emphasized the need to improve e-challan, traffic management systems, Pukar-15 helpline, and other services, and encouraged all officers and officials to work hard with dedication.