

Independent

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Vol. XIV No. 134 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Saturday June 08, 2024, Zil Hajj 01, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

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

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

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping Friday held a productive meeting, reaffirming the consensus to high-quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and timely completion of major ongoing projects.

The two leaders also affirmed consensus on up-gradation of the CPEC and advancing the development of the mega project in the second phase.

The prime minister briefed President Xi on Pakistan's policies for economic reforms and sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernization and regional connect-

ivity, and the critical role played by the CPEC in the country's development. He asserted Pakistan's commitment to high-quality development of the CPEC and to foster synergy between the development strategies of the two countries through close coordination.

The meeting between the two leaders was held at the historic Great Hall of the People. The two leaders were accompanied by the federal ministers and senior officials. This was the first meeting of PM Shehbaz with the President of China since assuming office in 2024. The meeting was marked by traditional warmth and reflection of the ironclad

friendship and close strategic ties between the two countries.

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

He recalled the historic visit of the President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015 when the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was formally operationalized marking a new chapter in the bilateral relationship.

The two leaders reaffirmed the time-honoured 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' and expressed the resolve to further deepen cooperation across diverse do-

main ranges from political and security to economic, trade, and people-to-people exchanges.

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

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

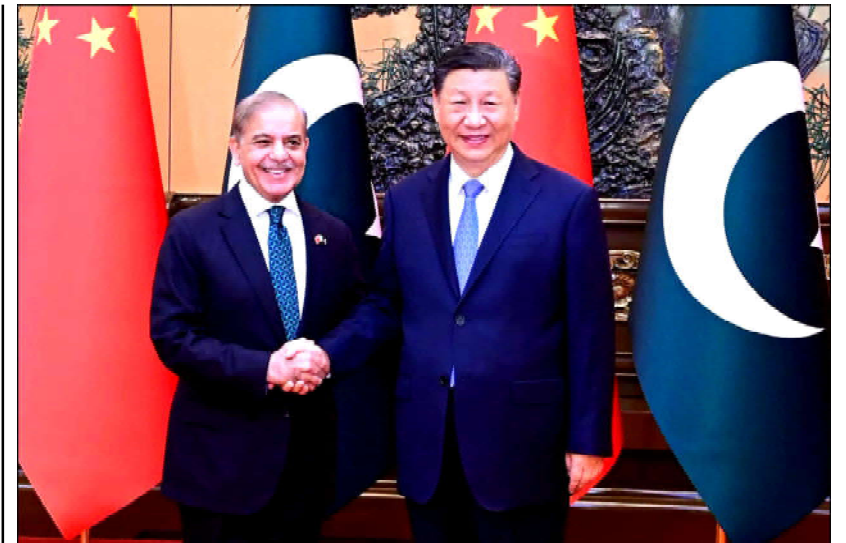
Commending President Xi's visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Global Development Initiative (GDI), the prime minister underscored that as the flagship project of BRI, the

China Pakistan Economic Corridor had significantly contributed to Pakistan's socio-economic development.

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

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

President Xi Jinping also hosted a banquet in honour of the prime minister, where another round of discussion on different matters of mutual interests was held.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) while wrapping up the petition regarding recovery of poet Ahmad Farhad has remarked "give respect to law and no one including judges is above law. He remarked "if you feel necessity then you can resort to court again. I know how to get implement my orders.

He further observed "I am writing a letter to Chief Justice (CJ) for constitution of larger bench in connection with cases of all missing persons. DG ISI and others should appear in Criminal Administration Committee. How the writ of law has to be enforced in Islamabad. I am sending the matter to committee for this decision. Give respect to law. No one including judges is above law. Institutions should work within

their limits. He observed one man went into two cases due to ego issue. His family is becoming affected. This is a serial of tyranny and is daily routine thing. The courts will see Islamabad jurisdiction. The court will impose ban on in-camera proceedings and its reporting in respect of the matters of national security. I am sending the matter to larger bench only for this reason the others judges should too see it if stance of one judge is different. May be the other judges don't agree to it that the heads of intelligence agencies have to be summoned.

He gave these remarks during the hearing of petition filed by Urooj Zainab wife of poet Ahmad Farhad Friday. Imaan Mazari advocate appeared on behalf of the petitioner while se-

nior journalist Hamid Mir appeared as amicus curiae. Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar iqbal Dogal and Assistant Attorney General Barrister Usman Ghumman too are in the court. Counsel Imaan Mazari argued that Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has rejected bail plea. We are challenging bail plea at higher forum too. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked is there any other case against him. Counsel Imaan Mazari told the court first we were told about one case and later we were told about registration of another case. The judge remarked it seems to me that his difficulties are increasing. Now we are sure that he is in judicial custody. If police arrest someone one in trial and it does not present within two days then trial is ended.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday conferred the Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Prince Rahim Aga Khan, in recognition of his meritorious services for the development, prosperity, and betterment of Pakistan and its people.

The top civilian award was conferred on Prince Rahim Aga Khan at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, federal ministers, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, parliamentarians, diplomats, and senior government officers.

According to the citation read out on the occasion, Prince Rahim Aga Khan, through his many leadership roles for more than a quarter century

within the Aga Khan Development Network, dedicated his untiring efforts to improve the living standard of the people in resource-constrained regions of Asia and Africa.

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

It was told that under his leadership, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development has advanced path-breaking initiatives in Pakistan in commercial banking, microfinance, insurance, sustainable tourism and renewable energy sectors.

The Fund has enabled access to financial services for nearly 50 million people in Pakistan.

Saudi envoy calls on Governor KP, discusses promotion of bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawab bin Saeed Al Maliki here on Friday called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and discussed issues of mutual interest and promotion of



bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting, Pakistan-Saudi relations, available investment opportunities in the province and investment promotion were also discussed. Director of King Salman Humanitarian Relief and Aid Center Pakistan Wing Abdullah Al Barak was also present on the occasion, said a press release. The Governor appreciated the relief services of King Salman Relief Center across the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He further said that the relief services of King Salman Relief Center were highly valued aims of suffering humanity and poverty alleviation in the backward districts of KP. He said that in the recent flood, the King Salman Relief Center had provided full assistance to the flood victims in Dera Ismail Khan, Dir, Swat, Chitral, Charsadda with a spirit of love. He said that the Saudi government had always supported the people of Pakistan in all kinds of situations and this was the reason why the hearts of the entire Pakistani nation were with the Saudi government and its people.

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

KARACHI (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Abdul Khair Azad on Friday announced that the crescent of Dhul Hijjah 1445 AH has been sighted.

Addressing a press conference, he stated that the first day of Dhul Hijjah will be on Saturday, June 8, 2024. Consequently, Eid-ul-Adha will be celebrated on Monday, June 17, 2024, with religious and traditional fervor across the nation.

Premier Li hosts luncheon in honour of PM Shehbaz

BEIJING (APP): Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang on Friday hosted a luncheon reception in honour of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Premier Li warmly received PM Shehbaz on his arrival at the venue.

The prime minister, in his remarks on the occasion, said China was a big brother and trusted friend of Pakistan, and every Pakistani citizen felt proud on its remarkable progress and development. He said he was impressed by the Chinese Premier's enthusiasm, speed of work and commitment. The reception hall was echoed by Pakistan's national songs played by a Chinese military band.

SC orders issuance of ad to summon Qasim Suri

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday issued directives for publication of an advertisement to summon former deputy speaker national assembly Qasim Suri.

The court also ordered to paste the summon notice outside the house of PTI's leader.

Despite repeated court notices PTI's leader Mr. Suri didn't appear before the SC in his appeal against his de-seating from the NA membership on charge of rigging in elections.

The court noted that as per the record Qasim Suri's brother Bilal refused to receive the summon notice. It said that the former MNA was not appearing before court deliberately, denying notice by him was unfortunate.

Addressing Suri's lawyer Naeem Bokhari Advocate, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa remarked that the ex-deputy speaker was very active on media and social media. At this, Advocate Naeem Bokhari expressed ignorance and said that he was not in contact with his client.

Shehbaz, Chinese premier resolve to protect CPEC

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Friday expressed their firm commitment to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from its detractors and adversaries, ensure the timely completion of all ongoing projects, and support the high-quality CPEC development.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed in the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the Great Hall of the People, here. The prime minister was accompanied by key members of his cabinet.

A welcome ceremony was arranged in honour of the prime minister on his arrival at the Great Hall of the People.

During the talks, the two leaders discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, regional and global developments of mutual interest.

They noted that the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership was characterized by mutual trust, shared principles and strategic convergence.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson BISP, Mrs. Rubina Khalid discusses ongoing initiatives of Benazir Income Support Programme with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq during a meeting.

PakSat MM1 reaches its earth orbit: SUPARCO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's second communication satellite, PakSat MM1, launched recently by Pakistan's National Space Agency SUPARCO, has reached its earth orbit on June 05 successfully.

According to the Spokesperson of Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Commission (SUPARCO), PakSat MM1 is located at an altitude of 38,786 km above the earth. The satellite is in earth orbit at 38.2 East.

The five-tonne PakSat MM1 is equipped with the latest communication equipment which would help provide the fastest internet facility in the country.

After reaching the orbit, the solar panels of the satellite have started functioning.

Various tests will be performed on the satellite to check the condition of the satellite in orbit, the spokesperson said. Pakistan Multi-Mis-

sion Communication Satellite PakSat MM1 was launched from XiChang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC), China on May 30.

The satellite PakSat MM1 was jointly designed and developed by SUPARCO and China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC).

This is a Geostationary Satellite based on advanced communication technologies that will greatly enhance the satellite-based communication services of the country and will fulfill the needs of commercial as well as government users.

High Throughput System (HTS) technology on board PakSat-MM1 will substantially boost connectivity to the last mile and will reshape the future of satellite communication in Pakistan. This will be the key to connect the unconnected with the rest of the country. PakSat MM1 will ensure affordable bandwidth with higher reach within the country.

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their limits. He observed one man went into two cases due to ego issue. His family is becoming affected. This is a serial of tyranny and is daily routine thing. The courts will see Islamabad jurisdiction. The court will impose ban on in-camera proceedings and its reporting in respect of the matters of national security. I am sending the matter to larger bench only for this reason the others judges should too see it if stance of one judge is different. May be the other judges don't agree to it that the heads of intelligence agencies have to be summoned.

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nior journalist Hamid Mir appeared as amicus curiae. Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar iqbal Dogal and Assistant Attorney General Barrister Usman Ghumman too are in the court. Counsel Imaan Mazari argued that Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has rejected bail plea. We are challenging bail plea at higher forum too. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked is there any other case against him. Counsel Imaan Mazari told the court first we were told about one case and later we were told about registration of another case. The judge remarked it seems to me that his difficulties are increasing. Now we are sure that he is in judicial custody. If police arrest someone one in trial and it does not present within two days then trial is ended.



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

CTD kills most wanted TTP terrorist in Bannu

PESHAWAR (APP): A "most wanted" terrorist of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was killed in an overnight operation in Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) informed on Friday that the intelligence based anti-terror operation was carried out by the CTD in Talgai area of Wazir Tehsil of Bannu district.

During the operation, a TTP terrorist identified as Umar alias Mustafa was killed. The CTD recovered arms and hand grenades from the possession of the dead terrorist.

The slain terrorist was wanted in cases including carrying out blasts, target killing and attacks on forces.

The CTD official said the terrorist belonged to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Hafiz Gul Bahadur group.

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

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

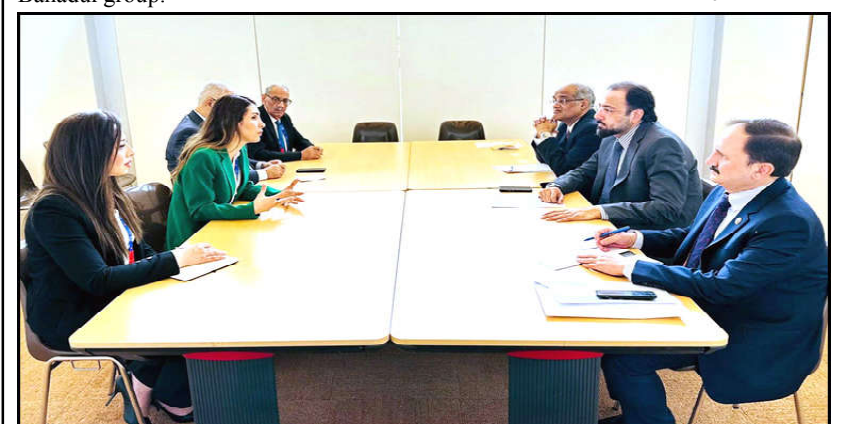
The minister made these remarks during the 112th International Labour Conference being held on 3rd June to 14th June 2024 featured significant engagement from Pakistan. Chaudhry Salik Hussain led the Pakistani delegation, which also included Zulfikar Ahmad, Secretary, Workers Welfare Fund. The conference served as a vital platform for global labor discussions, covering topics such as labor standards,

employment strategies for fostering decent work, and inclusive economic growth, a news release said.

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

This involvement highlights Pakistan's dedication to improving labor conditions and aligning with international labor standards.

While addressing the conference, Chaudhry Salik Hussain delivered a statement on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He acknowledged the collective failure to uphold the ideals of the Declaration of Philadelphia on its 80th anniversary despite the commitment to social justice.



GENEVA: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain in a meeting with Dr. Enas Attari, Palestine Labour Minister.

Kundi for upholding academic reputation of Edwards College

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

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

A briefing was also given regarding the structure of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and Finance Committee of the college. Later, the governor planted a sapling on the lawn of Edwards College.



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

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

LAHORE (APP): Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat Friday said that the department exposed fake enrollment numbers of the previous government and ensured National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) verification for all future admissions. While reviewing 100-day performance of the Education Department, he said for the first time in history, 1.2 million students were enrolled after NADRA verification within a short period and highlighted that within the first 100 days of the government, a new transfer policy for teachers was introduced in consultation with them, ensuring transparency and benefits for teachers.

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

LHC extends market hours for Eidul Azha

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday extended market operating hours for the occasion of Eidul Azha. The court allowed markets to stay open until 12am [midnight] up to Eidul Azha and until 1am on weekends. Justice Shahid Karim issued the orders while hearing petitions, filed by Haroon Farooq and others regarding ineffective measures to control smog. During the proceedings, the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) submitted a report about dead chickens, stating that 46,670-kg dead chickens were discarded from Tollinton Market.

Measles outbreak worsens in Punjab, 3 more children die

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



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari Friday while appreciating exemplary 43-initiatives of Chief Minister Punjab government during her 100 days' performance assured that all public welfare projects will soon practically and equally be implemented across Punjab without in discrimination. Talking to a private news channel, she said that one of the commendable achievements under the leadership of Maryam Nawaz Sharif has been a dramatic reduction in inflation, adding, the introduction of air ambulance, field hospitals and clinic on wheels has revolutionary medical services for people of Punjab. These remarkable measures underscore her commitment to ensuring that healthcare is not a privileged but a fundamental right of every citizen, she added. Under the leadership of Maryam Nawaz Punjab is also witnessing a transport revolution, adding, eco-friendly buses in various cities is a significant step towards sustainable transportation, she added.

PPP asks KP CM to tender apology for derogatory remarks

PESHAWAR (APP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Peshawar city chapter has asked KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur to tender apology for his derogatory remarks against PPP leadership and Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi. Addressing a press conference at press club here Friday, President PPP Peshawar City, Zulfiqar Afghani warned the chief minister of derogatory language against their Party leadership. Otherwise, he said that they take streets against them including holding a demo in front of the Chief Minister's House. Other PPP leaders present on the occasion were included Khawaja Yawar Naseer, Mohammad Adnan Jalil, Abidullah Khan Yousafzai, Malik Zulfiqar Awan, Tahir Abbas, Munir Camrade.

Old enmity claimed 3 lives in Esa Khail

SARGODHA (APP): As many as three persons were killed, while six sustained bullet injuries in the firing incident here at Kalu Shareef area. Police said that two Pathan groups of Esa Khail had an old enmity over some domestic issues. On the day of incident, some unidentified armed outlaws opened fire at passenger van and killed Faraz (22), Asmatullah (40) and Saeed Ahmed (46), all residents of Munda Khail on the spot, while passengers including Muhammad Wasif, Shakeel Khan, Muzaffer, Kaneez Fatima, Naaz bibi and others sustained injuries.

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

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has extended bail of PTI leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema and others in May 9 cases. The hearing of bail pleas of Dr Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema, Ijaz Chaudhry and Mian Mahmood ur Rashid in four cases related to May 9 incident was held in ATC Lahore. No headway could be made in the case being Judge Arshid Javed of ATC on leave. The court while granting extension in bail of the accused adjourned the hearing of the case till June 12.

'NourishMaa' campaign launched in KP to highlight maternal malnutrition

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Nutrition International, in collaboration with the Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), has launched the 'NourishMaa' campaign in the province. The initiative aims at enhancing maternal nutrition by improving the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers (HCPs) and frontline health workers (FHWs). A press release issued here Friday said that already operational in six districts across Punjab and Sindh, the campaign has now extended to KP, specifically targeting Mardan and Battagram, districts with particularly high rates of maternal malnutrition. Speaking on the occasion Minister for Health KP, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, said the health and nutrition of mothers and children are foundational pillars for the overall development of our society, emphasising the critical role of maternal nutrition in ensuring the well-being of both mothers and children. The minister highlighted the urgency of addressing maternal malnutrition and the essential role of healthcare providers in fostering a healthier future.



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

Ramesh Arora orders better arrangements for Sikh pilgrims

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minorities and Head of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) Ramesh Singh Arora has ordered for making better arrangements for Sikh yatrees' accommodation, travel, and security while relevant departments have to provide services round-the-clock. He expressed these views while charging consultative meeting in Dera Sahib after his visit on Friday. He told the members of PSGPC that in a significant gesture of religious harmony, the High Commission in New Delhi has issued visas to Indian Sikh pilgrims in anticipation of the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth guru of Sikhs. The minister was briefed that pilgrims are scheduled to cross into Pakistan via Wagah border crossing on June 8, marking a poignant moment of cross-border cultural and religious exchange. The primary commemorative ceremony is set to take place on June 16 at Gurdwara Dera Sahib in Lahore, a site of deep historical and spiritual significance, where Guru Arjan Dev Ji was martyred in 1606.

International News

Over 100 killed as rebels attack village in Sudan

Monitoring Desk PORT SUDAN: A Sudanese pro-democracy activists' committee on Thursday reported "more than 104" dead in a single day when paramilitary forces attacked a village, as the UN warned of mass displacement and starvation. The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which have been at war with the regular army since April 2023, on Wednesday attacked the central village of Wad al-Noura in al-Jazira state "in two waves" with heavy artillery, the Madani Resistance Committee said. It reported on Wednesday that the feared paramilitaries had "invaded the village", causing dozens of casualties and wide-spread displacement. The attack "claimed the lives of more than 104 martyrs" and "injured hundreds" said the committee, one of hundreds of similar grassroots groups across Sudan, adding that it reached the toll via "initial communication with village residents". The UN resident coordinator for Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, said she was "shocked by reports of violent attacks and a high number of casualties" in the village. She called for an investigation and for "those responsible to be held accountable". "Human tragedy has become a hallmark of life in Sudan. We cannot allow impunity to become another one," she added. On social media, the committee shared footage of what it said was a "mass grave" in the public square, showing rows of white shrouds laid out in a courtyard. In a little over a year, the war has killed tens of thousands of people, including up to 15,000 in a single West Darfur town. However, the war's overall death toll remains unclear, with some estimates of up to 150,000, according to US special envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello. The RSF has repeatedly besieged and attacked entire villages across the country, and has been notorious for widespread looting as well as sexual and ethnic violence.

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: European Union finance ministers will consider a G7 plan for leveraging windfall profits generated by Russian assets, immobilised in the West after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, after a G7 summit later in June, the ministers' chairman said. Paschal Donohoe, who chairs meetings of euro zone finance ministers, said after a video teleconference of EU ministers on Wednesday that there was unwavering support to help Ukraine meet its financing needs. "The discussion among ministers showed appreciation for the constructive engagement with G7 partners in this regard and full support for it to continue," Donohoe said in the statement after the teleconference. "Finance ministers will consider at their June meeting the need for further discussions following the G7 Summit in Apulia," he added.



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

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

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US and British airstrikes hit Yemen

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: US and British forces carried out six airstrikes on targets in Yemen on Friday, a Houthi-run television station said. Four attacks were made on the airport of Hodeidah - a main port city on the Red Sea - and the seaport of Salif to the north, Al-Masirah TV said. Two strikes also hit the Al-Thawra region north of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, it said. The Houthis, who control Sanaa and most populous areas, have attacked international shipping in the Red Sea since November in solidarity with the Palestinians.

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk ST PETERSBURG: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday there was no need to use nuclear weapons to deliver victory for Moscow in Ukraine, the strongest signal yet from the Kremlin chief that there will not be a nuclear strike. Putin, whose forces have been making advances in eastern Ukraine in recent months, said he did not see the conditions for the use of such weapons and requested that people stop discussing the nuclear topic. However Putin, who leads the world's biggest nuclear power, said he did not rule out changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine, which sets out the conditions under which such weapons could be used. He also said that if necessary Russia could test a nuclear weapon, though he saw no need to do so at the present time. Putin's response came to a question from Sergei Karaganov, an influential Russian analyst, who asked if Putin should hold a "nuclear pistol to the temple" of the West over Ukraine. "The use is possible in an exceptional case - in the event of a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. I don't think that such a case has come. There is no such need," Putin said at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum. "But this doctrine is a living tool and we are carefully watching what is happening in the world around us and do not exclude making some changes to this doctrine."

Rights body urges Biden to halt arms supply to Israel

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A civil rights organisation urged President Joe Biden on Thursday to "indefinitely" halt all weapons deliveries to Israel and pressure the US ally to end its bombardment of the Gaza Strip, sending a reminder that his support for Israel could hurt him among Black voters in November's election. The call by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) was a rare instance of an influential body taking a position on US foreign policy towards a country without a significant black population. It appeared likely to deepen the Democrat president's election-year challenges as he tries to back a key ally abroad and temper unrest among his supporters at home. The NAACP urged Hamas to return the Israeli prisoners and called upon Israel to "commit to an offensive strategy that is aligned with international and humanitarian laws". The NAACP, which has advocated for racial justice and rights for Black Americans, said the US must use its influence with Israel to bring a permanent ceasefire to Gaza. "The NAACP calls on President Biden to draw the red line and indefinitely end the shipment of all weapons and artillery to the state of Israel and other states that supply weapons to Hamas and other terrorist organisations. "It is imperative that the violence that has claimed so many civilian lives, immediately stop," the organisation said in a statement.

Indonesian president in damage control over new capital

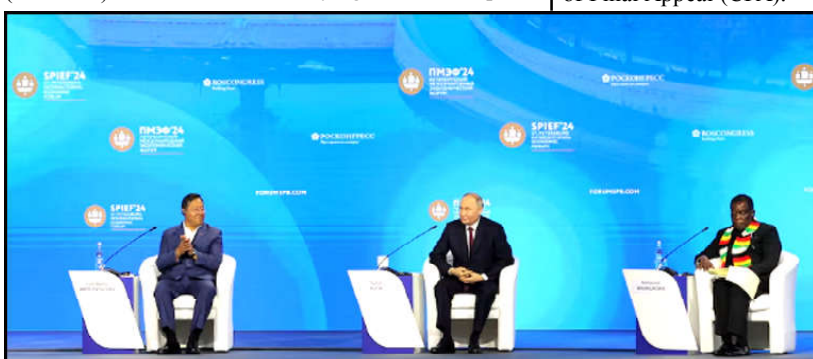
Monitoring Desk JAKARTA: Indonesia's president is rushing to reassure investors and bureaucrats about his \$32 billion new capital city in a malaria-prone pocket of Borneo, after the resignations of two officials overseeing the plan raised fresh doubts about its future. President Joko Widodo's announcement that he will start working next month from an office in Nusantara, a giant construction site over 1,200km (750 miles) from the current capital Jakarta, is unlikely to allay fears about his legacy project, analysts say. "Investor confidence has dropped, I think. They were already in doubt and in 'wait-and-see' mode, partly because of the unclear land status, partly because of a lack of transparency in governance of the new capital," said Yanuar Nugroho, the president's former deputy chief of staff. "The resignations worsen this... instead of explaining what really happened, the government is trying to cover it up."

Two British judges quit Hong Kong's top court

Monitoring Desk HONG KONG: Two British judges have resigned from Hong Kong's top court, about a week after a landmark verdict that convicted 14 prominent democratic activists of subversion, amid a national security crackdown on dissent in the financial hub. In a statement, the Hong Kong judiciary said two prominent British judges, Lawrence Collins and Jonathan Sumption, had tendered their resignations from the city's Court of Final Appeal (CFA).

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

Monitoring Desk MEXICO CITY: Mexico's President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum said late on Thursday no decision had been made on a package of constitutional reforms put forward by outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, local media reported. The specter that Sheinbaum's leftist Morena party and its allies were within earshot of securing the two-thirds, super-majority needed in both chambers of Congress to pass the controversial measures unopposed roiled Mexican markets this week. When asked about the reforms, Sheinbaum said "there has been no decision. My position is that dialogue needs to happen, the proposal has to be evaluated." Critics have warned that some of the reforms would eliminate crucial oversight bodies, erode judicial independence and concentrate more power in the executive branch. Morena and its junior partners, the Green Party and Labor Party, will likely have 83 seats in the Senate.



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

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

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

The MoUs were signed after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang held delegation-level talks wherein they reaffirmed

that the Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership was characterized by mutual trust, shared principles, and strategic governance. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch told the media at her weekly press briefing.

Both sides also expressed unwavering support for each other's core issues and reiterated their commitment to the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the

timely completion of ongoing projects.

Both sides also resolved to protect the CPEC from detractors and adversaries with Prime Minister Shehbaz PM reaffirming commitment to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan. The two countries agreed to maintain high-level exchanges, including strengthening of institutional linkages in all tiers and spheres, besides continuing to holding consultations on matters of bilateral and glo-

bal significance, particularly during Pakistan's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026. The spokesperson said, "Since his arrival in China, the prime minister has met with Chinese investors and businesspersons to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan."

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



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani presiding over a Senate House Business Advisory Committee Meeting at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam chairs first meeting of task force on global warming & heat wave.

BISP plays crucial role in women empowerment: Rubina Khalid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid Friday said that BISP was playing crucial role in the economic empowerment of women.

Speaking during a meeting with the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the chairperson reiterated her commitment to serve the marginalized segments of society through the programme.

Ayaz Sadiq extended his heartfelt congratulations to Rubina Khalid on assuming her new role as Chairperson of BISP.

"BISP is dedicated to provide essential support to the most vulnerable com-

munities, particularly focusing on the economic empowerment of women", she said.

She said that steps were being taken to enhance the programme's outreach and impact to ensure that no one was left behind.

Rubina Khalid briefed the speaker about the ongoing and recently launched initiatives of BISP.

The speaker expressed his support for the programme and wished Rubina Khalid success in her endeavors.

"The BISP is vital for the socio-economic uplift of marginalized communities and I wish for its continued success under the leadership of Rubina Khalid" he stated.

Engr Ashfaq Shah says: Students should be equipped with higher engineering edu, according to modern need

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Constructors Association of Pakistan (CAP) and Candidate for Chairman PEC Engr Syed Ashfaq Hussain Shah met with a delegation of academia and Engineers from AIOU, the delegation was headed by Dr. AK Tipu and included Prof Dr Abid, Prof Dr Nadeem, Prof Dr Syed Athar, Prof Dr Adnan and others. Chairman Ashfaq Shah while meeting said that students should be equipped with higher engineering education according to modern requirements. Young engineers are graduating from universities every year. The government should make such policies that these young people can play

their pivotal role in the development and construction of the country.

He said that work should be done keeping in mind the current condition and modern trends of the country and society. Designs should be made to reduce energy consumption in buildings and use of natural resources including geothermal, solar energy sources. Ashfaq Shah said that developed countries have achieved sustainable economic growth by strengthening academia-industry linkages and emphasized that we should also adopt the same approach to revive the economy. It will help in preparing the students as per the requirement of the industry.



ISLAMABAD: Amid scorching heat, youth dive and splash into Rawal Dam, seeking relief from the heat in federal capital.

Randhawa inspects electric buses, charging points in Convention Centre

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Friday visited the Convention Centre to inspect electric buses and charging points and personally test drive the bus.

Speaking on the occasion, the chairman announced, "Around 60 buses out of the total 160 designated for the Islamabad Bus Service project have now reached the federal capital. These buses are intended to offer modern transportation amenities to the residents of Islamabad."

The updated routes aim to offer convenient and eco-friendly transportation options for residents. The initial route will link NUST,

Orange Line Depot, G-11, and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital, encompassing 13 stops.

The second route will commence at PIMS and conclude at Bari Imam. Service hours will run from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The chairman also paid a visit to the H-9 bus depot and issued instructions to ensure the completion of its construction before June 30.

The depot, along with its charging points, must be finished before the arrival of the next phase, comprising 70 buses.

Plans will be formulated to provide subsidies to deserving segments of society, including individuals with special needs, students, and others.

Gilani for formation of Senate Standing Committees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Friday directed that the issue regarding the formation of Senate Standing Committees would be resolved immediately to ensure the committees can play their roles effectively.

He was chairing the House Business Advisory Committee (HBAC) which discussed in detail the legislative business to be transacted during the 339th Session of the Senate. Moreover, the session will address other important issues. The HBAC decided that the current session would continue until June 21, 2024. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman Senate Senator Syed Ali Khan, Leader of the Opposition Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Senator Sherry Rehman.

Mr Qureshi was transferred from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) to the AGP on April 17th, 2021, said a press release. The AGP, in its response to the PIC, stated that the hiring file was not received in their office. The AGP claimed the file was forwarded by the Director General (Audit), Climate Change to the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on July 4th, 2022, but the CGA denied receiving it on August 3, 2024.

Expressing concern about the lack of investigation into the missing file, the Commission stated, "The matter of loss of record has become a shuttlecock between DG Climate Change and CGA and no one has bothered to inquire into the matter of the loss of record."

ECP reserves verdict on Islamabad MNAs' tribunal transfer petition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday reserved its verdict on the tribunal transfer case filed by three Islamabad MNAs of ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

A four-member commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, held a hearing on the request to change the Islamabad Election Tribunal.

PTI's losing candidate advocate Shoaib Shaheen argued that the Election Commission's June 4 decision had been challenged in the Islamabad High Court, where the hearing was ongoing and a decision had not yet been reached.

Shoaib Shaheen mentioned that his lawyers were presenting arguments in the Islamabad High Court and that he would cite decisions related to the change of the election tribunal.

ICT admin to set up 24/7 control room for cleanliness during Eid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Friday chaired a meeting to streamline the operation of cattle markets and maintain cleanliness across the city.

According to the details issued by the spokesman of the Chief Commissioner Office, Nouman Nazim the meeting reviewed preparation for Eid ul Azha in the Federal Capital and it was attended by representatives from various sectors, focused on managing the expected influx of livestock and ensuring that hygiene standards remain high during the festive period. A 24/7 Control Room will be set up to handle any complaints and issues that arise. This service aims to provide immediate assistance and solutions to residents during the busy days of Eid. Additionally, biodegradable bags will be distributed to help manage waste more effectively.

Passport policy for married, divorced women amendable under IHC orders: Pirzada

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Housing and Works Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Friday informed the Senate that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in its ruling had directed the respondents to ensure consultative process for amending the passport policy for married and divorced women.

The minister read out the court's decision, which stated that there was no reason "for adjudication of the question involved in the matter can conveniently be disposed of in the following term."

He was responding to the calling attention notice of Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) drawing the attention of the Interior Minister towards a statement of the Director General Passport and Immigration regarding the proposed amendment to introduce an 'ex-husband category' in the passport data for divorced women.

Info Commission directs inquiry into record missing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has directed the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) to conduct an inquiry into the apparent loss of a file related to the house requisition of an official.

The case stems from an appellant seeking information regarding the lease agreement and other documents submitted by Khuram Raza Qureshi to claim house requisition.

Mr Qureshi was transferred from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) to the AGP on April 17th, 2021, said a press release. The AGP, in its response to the PIC, stated that the hiring file was not received in their office. The AGP claimed the file was forwarded by the Director General (Audit), Climate Change to the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on July 4th, 2022, but the CGA denied receiving it on August 3, 2024.

College, school students to enjoy summer vacation from June 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has announced schedule of summer vacation for all educational institutions functioning under the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) from June 10.

The school and colleges working under the FDE will reopen on August 01, the ministry added.

ICCI to have 'Police Centre of Services' to facilitate business community: DIG

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police Islamabad Syed Ali Raza Naqvi on Friday applauded the hard work of the traders' community for the development of the country by saying that all out efforts will be made to provide them a peaceful environment for the growth of businesses.

He said that security will be beefed in all the shopping centers by ensuring the functioning of the safe city cameras and those issues like beggary, snatching, drug trafficking etc. will also be curbed with the cooperation of the business community, said a press release issued here.

He said this during his interaction with traders' leaders of different markets of the capital city at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry



RAWALPINDI: A man on his way in front of Pakistan T-20 world cup match billboard outside of Pindi Cricket Stadium in the city. The International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20 World Cup 2024 match between Pakistan and India, scheduled for June 9, will be live-streamed at Rawalpindi Stadium for Pakistani fans as part of ICC's fan parks.

Strong coordination, collective approach emphasised to counter global warming, heat wave: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam emphasized on strong coordination and collective approach among the federal government and all the provinces to deal with global warming and heat wave effects in the country.

She was chairing the first meeting of the task force constituted by the prime minister to propose measures to address the effects of global warming and heat wave and stressed upon the sensitivity of the issue adding that actions need to be initiated on war footing, a news release said.

High-level Inter-departmental Working Group on forest fires apprised the meeting that from May 17 to June 5 2024, total 13 fires erupted in Margalla Hills National Park and adjoining areas which affected 77.58 Hectare area. The vegetation affected in that area include small trees, scrubs, shrubs and chir pine. It was apprised to the forum that well-coordinated response was launched to control these fires by the Ministry of Climate Change, NDMA, Pakistan Army, PAF and CDA. However, the Chairperson raised concerns on the lack of fire beaters availability to firefighters. The Member Operations NDMA presented their strategy to combat heat wave effects adding that they have com-

pleted simulation exercise to combat upcoming moon soon spell.

While highlighting the unprecedentedly longer duration heat wave in country, Pakistan Meteorological Department apprised the meeting that except GB all provinces would receive above normal rainfall in upcoming moon soon.

Probability of urban flooding can't be ruled out, he said in response of a question. It was also apprised that besides above normal rainfall, temperatures this year would also be higher which would cause more snow melting that on one hand fulfill the water shortage need and on the other hand rise the threats of lake outbursts in northern areas.

PIA flights to Europe to be restored soon: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik informed the National Assembly (NA) on Friday that Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights to Europe were expected to be restored soon.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding the ban on PIA flights by the UK and the European Union, he said, "A detailed action plan from Pakistan has been dispatched.

Governor says: Collective efforts with Agha Khan Foundation to promote welfare projects in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday reaffirmed his commitment for making joint efforts with Agha Khan Foundation for promotion of education and better healthcare services imperative for human resource development and helping poor people.

He was talking to Prince Rahim Agha Khan who called on him in Islamabad, said a statement.

firmed during the meeting that the jurisdiction of Agha Khan Foundation's welfare projects and assistance of the underprivileged segment would be extended to other areas of the province.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi commended the services of the Agha Khan Foundation for eradication of poverty and providing assistance to the poor segment of KP especially in Chitral district. He underscored the need for collective efforts for looking after the needs of poor families and taking them out of poverty in future. He said that Agha Khan Trust was busy in great work of improving standard of life of the underprivileged and enhanced welfare activities in the world.

Pre-Hajj flight operation: Over 98,500 Pakistani pilgrims arrive in Saudi Arabia

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH (APP): The Pakistan Hajj Mission (PHM) has welcomed 98,500 pilgrims in Madinah and Makkah under both government and private schemes since the start of the month-long pre-Hajj flight operation on May 9.

"So far, 62,500 pilgrims have arrived via 236 flights under the government scheme, while more than 36,000 have arrived under the private scheme," the spokesman said.

The private schools will observe summer vacations from June 10 to August 12.

CC visits ICT admin offices

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Chief Commissioner, Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Friday conducted surprise inspections across various offices under his jurisdiction and issued directives to the officials to observe punctuality in dispensing their duties.

During his visit, the chief commissioner reviewed the attendance of officers and staff, and strictly warned them to ensure punctual conduct otherwise stern action would be taken against them, said a press release.

The Pakistan Hajj Mission (PHMM), under the supervision of the Director General (Hajj) and six directors heading different departments, is overseeing the overall Hajj operation

in Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the spokesman said two central hospitals and a dozen dispensaries in the Haram are providing medical facilities to pilgrims, with 375 doctors and medical staff on duty. The PHM's main hospitals are equipped with modern facilities, including ambulances, laboratories, X-ray machines, ultrasound machines, ECG machines, minor operating theaters, and separate wards for men and women.

A total of 511 Hajj Moaveeneen, including Pakistani civilians and uniformed personnel, are working to provide pilgrims with travel, accommodation, and food facilities.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has 166 officers and supporting staff working in various departments, including the main control room, Madinah and Jeddah airports, the lost and found department, the Madinah departure cell, the monitoring cell and the accounts and administration departments.