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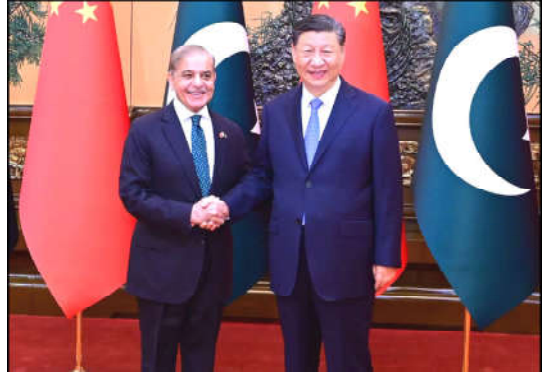
Pakistan, China reaffirm unwavering support to each other on core issues

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 Pakistan.



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 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.

PPP Sindh announces party candidates for LG bye elections

KARACHI (APP): President Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Friday, announced party candidates for bye elections on vacant seats of various local body institutions in different districts of province scheduled to be held on June 12, 2024.

PPP Sindh president, in a statement issued here, informed that nominations of the PPP candidates for vacant seats of local bodies were finalized after approval of the party leadership. He informed that Syed Riaz Ali Shah will be the candidate of PPP for the vacant seat of chairman District Council Sanghar while Kamran Khan Mahar is nominated as party candidate for the

slot of vice chairman District Council Shikarpur. Ali Raza Lashari will be the candidate for vice chairman Municipal Committee Jacobabad, Syed Noor Muhammad Shah for chairman Town Committee Bhira City and Ali Alamani Baloch for chairman Town Committee Tharoo Shah.

He informed that Abdul Haq Khaskheli was nominated as party candidate for the vacant position of vice chairman Town Committee Darya Khan Marri, Ghulam Hussain Langah for vice chairman Town Committee Doulatpur, Rizwan Malik for vice chairman Town Committee Saeedabad.



KARACHI: Inspector General of Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon presiding over a meeting regarding start of online driving licenses.



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

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 connectivity, 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 reflective 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.

Sindh Assembly session held

KARACHI (APP): A session of the Sindh Assembly was held here under the speakership of Awais Qadir Shah on Friday.

During the provincial assembly session, the Sindh Home Minister replied to the questions raised by the members of the provincial assembly (MPAs).

The session witnessed uproar during the question and answer session.

Earlier, the session started with recitation of the Holy Quran.

There is no problem whenever Nawaz wants to meet: Fazl

ISLAMABAD (Online): JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said there is no problem whenever Nawaz Sharif wants to meet him.

"Talks are going on with PTI. It cannot be denied. Had there been any decision, it would have reached you. When decisions are taken to go along with PTI then world will come to know it," he said this while talking to media men here Friday.

To a question about joining Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Ayeen Pakistan (TTAP) he said I have not heard this question for the first time.

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.

Incumbent govt committed to working with UNFPA on health challenges: Governor

KARACHI (APP): A three-member delegation of UNFPA called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Friday. The delegation was led by UNFPA Country Representative Dr. Luay Shabaneh.

They discussed the ongoing steps for the betterment of facilities for the mother and child in the Sindh province. The governor

said that the measures to reduce the mortality rate of mother and child during the pregnancy were inevitable. He said that the co-operation of UNFPA was commendable in that regard.

The governor said that it was important to encourage women at every level. He said that the present government was committed to working with UNFPA on the health challenges.



KARACHI: Representative of UNFPA in Pakistan Dr. Luay Shabaneh meeting with Governor Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori.

PPP castigates MQM-P for 'politicising' law and order situation

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister for Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon criticised the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) for "politicising" law and order in the province particularly Karachi.

Speaking to media outside the Sindh Assembly, the minister said that the MQM-P tried to politicise the Hyderabad cylinder blast. "Gone are the days when the city used to be shut down on a call from London," Sharjeel Inam Memon added.

He said that everyone is aware of who was involved in target killing, extortion, and sack-packed bodies. "MQM-P members make fiery speeches and then apologize and then apologize," Sharjeel Inam Memon said. The minister said that after the Hyderabad cylinder blast, the MQM-P politicised the matter. He added that Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho themselves visited the hospital to inquire about the health of the injured people.

The CS while chairing an important meeting held at the Sindh Secretariat to review preparations for managing the potential devastation predicted owing to heavy rains and floods in July to September.

The meeting was attended by Sindh Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani, Sindh Minister for Revenue and Rehabilitation Makhdoom Mehboobuz Zaman, Senior Member of

the Board of Revenue Baqaulah Unar, Secretary Local Government Syed Khalid Hyder Shah, Information Nadeemur Rehman Memon, Secretary Rehabilitation Waseem Shamsad, DG Rescue 1122 Dr. Abid Shaikh and representatives from the Army, Police, HESCO and SEPCO. Additionally, all Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and Assistant Commissioners participated via video link. Sindh Minister for Revenue and Rehabilitation, Makhdoom Mehboobuz Zaman, briefed the participants of the meeting on the measures, highlighting that above-average rainfall expectation during this period.

Pakistan, China signs MOU for aquaculture development in Gwadar

BEIJING (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed for the development of sustainable and commercially viable aquaculture projects in Gwadar.

The MoU was signed between China Overseas Ports Holding Company, Guangdong HaiWei Aquaculture Group, Gwadar Seafood Company, and HKH-CAS Pvt. Ltd. at a B2B matchmaking session of the Pakistan China Business Conference inaugurated by PM Shehbaz Sharif in Shenzhen, China. It aims to leverage the technological expertise, resources, and industry experience of the Chinese companies and the local knowledge and community connections of their Pakistani counterparts to support the growth of the aquaculture sector in Gwadar.

Karachiites to suffer as electricity tariff hiked by massive Rs10 per unit

KARACHI (INP): Electricity for Karachiites has been increased by 10 rupees and one paise per unit. According to the report, electricity increased from July 2023 to March 2024 due to the monthly fuel adjustment.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has issued a notification to increase the price of electricity for K-Electric consumers.

Per the notification, additional collections from Karachi residents will be made from June to September 2024.

In June, Rs2.68 per unit will be charged extra from the customers of K-Electric while Rs3.11 per unit will be charged extra in July.

Man dies, 20 injured as minibus over turns in Badin

BADIN (INP): A man died while 20 others including women and children were injured when a minibus turned turtle here due to over speeding, police said on Friday.

According to details, the accident took place on Hyderabad Highway in Badin when a speedy minibus got out of control of driver and overturned. As a result of accident, one person died on the spot while 20 others including five women and three children sustained injuries.

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. As the Founding Chairman of Aga Khan Development Network's Climate and Environment Committee, Prince Rahim Aga Khan has spearheaded the establishment of environmental stewardship policies and best practices to address climate change issues.



ISLAMABAD: Prince Rahim Aga Khan called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Commissioner for ensuring 100 percent target of anti-polio drive

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi has directed all Deputy Commissioners to pay special attention to ensure 100 percent coverage of left over children during anti-polio drive and special focus should be given on the refusal cases.

The concerned officers were asked to work with a comprehensive plan to administer polio drops to children up to five years of age specially in high-risk areas.

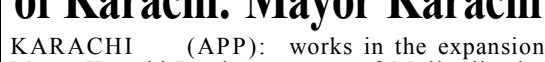
He issued these directives while chairing a meeting to review the anti-polio campaign in the high-risk areas of district of East and district Central here on Friday at his office.

The Commissioner said Karachi is currently in a high-risk zone, and strenuous efforts were needed to eradicate polio virus from

the city. He directed the deputy commissioners to include revenue staff in the anti-polio efforts to increase the number of staff and ensure proper monitoring. He also instructed them to consult with local representatives, religious leaders and senior citizens of different communities to make the efforts more effective.

The Commissioner also visited the Union Council Al-Noor Society and reviewed the situation causing due to uncleanness and bad drainage system. He said that improving the drainage and sanitation system in the area was essential for polio eradication.

The Deputy Commissioner Central, Fuad Ghaffar Soomro, briefed the Commissioner on the anti-polio efforts.



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

Special attention being paid to cleanliness in suburbs of Karachi: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Friday said that special attention is being paid to cleanliness in the suburbs of Karachi and in accordance with our promise significant milestone have been achieved.

The sanitation system is being run in a better way in the seven districts and all twenty-five towns of Karachi, the cleaning of drains will be started immediately after Eid-ul-Azha, all the arrangements have been completed to lift the offfalls during the days of Eid.

These views were expressed by Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab while addressing the ceremony after inaugurating the sanitation

works in the expansion areas of Malir district here.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Managing Director Sindh Solid Waste Management Board Syed Intiaz Ali Shah, Hangzhou (Hangzhou Company) CEO Peng, Local leaders of PPP and officers were also present on this occasion.

Earlier, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad inaugurated the cleaning works by cutting the ribbon.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the dust bin that is needed to pick up the garbage will now be made by themselves, garbage will also be cleaned from the suburbs.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Addressing contempt

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Humility vs conceit

Jan-e-Alam Khaki

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

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

In life, we face many kinds of people, some who are very humble, ever seeking the truth. They find themselves in the first group mentioned above. Their quest or search makes them humbler and receptive to learning. They, in simple terms, have a more open mind. This connects them with many others who might be seeking similar answers to their questions, thus becoming co-travellers with other seekers.

On the other hand, there are those who claim to know too much, too early; they feel 'full' of knowledge and wisdom. Such people claim to have more answers than questions. Their knowledge (or ignorance?) makes them arrogant, assuming that they have found the final answers to all the perennial questions of life and death. Their attitude, then, makes them contemptuous towards others, and least willing to listen to alternative perspectives.

These people, then, tend to create a 'ghetto' around themselves in which they live and function. They tend to forget that when we open our mouth to describe others, we only describe ourselves, showing the limits of our own knowledge and understanding.

Let us find some more relevant verses from the Quran that portray or personify humble versus arrogant people.

There are many verses that portray the behaviour of humble people, how their hearts are soft and softened when they look at the miracles of God in the form of verses (ayaat in Quranic language). There is also admiration in the Quran for those whose hearts are soft, and when verses are recited to them, their hearts 'melt', leading to prostration with humility: "Only those believe in Our Signs, 'who, when verses are recited to them fall down in prostration, and celebrate the praises of their Lord, nor are they (ever) puffed up with pride'" (32:15).

Still another verse exclaims, "And to Allah prostrate all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth, of the live moving creatures and the angels, and they are not proud" (16:49).

Talking about their humility, the Quran

says, "... When the verses of the Most Beneficent (Allah) were [or are] recited unto them, they fell [or fall] down prostrating and weeping" (19:58). Their hearts are so softened that they come to tears when the beautiful verses of the majestic Quran are recited to them. They are led to this state because their hearts are wide open to the glory and majesty of God's miracles in the world in the form of miraculous creation.

On the other hand, various verses of the Quran portray arrogant people's hearts as stones, or even wo-er-se. In a particular-er verse, talking ab-oo-ut hardened hearts, it describes them as "... like a rock and even worse in hardness."

For among rocks there are some from which rivers gush forth. ... (2:74). Their hearts are hardened so much that they are unable to yield anything good. Thus, if one wants to check if we are humble or arrogant, we must check ourselves against the descriptions of these verses.

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

It is only through dialogue, discussion and bringing new angles to old truths that we tend to learn new ways of interpreting the old truths. These interpretations depend on how many branches of science we know. The more we know, the better informed we are. — Courtesy Dawn

Budgeting chaos

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

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

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

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

None of these basic facts about Pakistan's political economy will be acknowledged during the upcoming budget announcement, scheduled for June 12. The largely meaningless exercise is being preceded by chaos as ministers engage in an intersec conflict and bureaucrats do their own bidding. They'll get their act together in time for the budget performance and bandy about some numbers. But it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that nothing is about to change.

Blue-collar working and white-collar salaried classes will be burdened with even more regressive taxes, while public spending on anything other than yet more big infrastructure will decrease again. There will be no honest figures circulated about matters that actually affect the mass of the working people — (un)employment, the

huge shortage of affordable housing in metropolitan Pakistan, and the multipronged deprivation of the almost 40 million landless people in the rural areas.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said recently that fixing Pakistan's economy does not require too many policy prescriptions, that established strategic objectives simply need to be executed. Among other things, the honourable minister has been very gung-ho about privatising all public assets, and inviting investors to develop (read: pillage) unexplored mineral and other resources. He need not mention real estate, because that is a sector in which investors and developers already enjoy windfall profits.

Pakistan's officialdom and donors are on the same page about these strategic objectives. In fact, they've been saying more or less the same thing for decades in the name of 'stabilisation'. What's remarkable is that there is so little critique of these now banal, straitjacket policies. I think it is a damning indictment of many purportedly independent voices that they continue to accede to such tired refrains.

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

It is no wonder that real estate moguls like Malik Riaz become powerful behemoths who cannot be tamed. Such figures are, as recent events show, deeply embroiled in the palace intrigues that constitute

our establishment-centric political order. Which brings me to the role of the establishment in our crisis-ridden economy: will any of our 'experts' summon the courage to talk about the defence budget or hidden subsidies over the next few days?

We do require new policy proposals, Minister Sahib. Most of all, we need to talk about the redistribution of wealth. Our is a country where a small ruling class — including a khaki bourgeoisie — owns the vast majority of land, industrial and financial capital. This class is content to continue enriching itself, while the IMF and other donors are happy to allow such continuity so long as they get their interest payments back in the name of 'stabilisation'. The ruling class and its foreign patrons are also intent on pillaging nature and destroying local ecologies in the name of 'development', which equates to future generations of working people being left with an even bigger debt burden and more frequent climate breakdown events to contend with.

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

Commerce News

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

FAISALABAD (APP): Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmed Pacaci said that though Pakistan and Turkiye are enjoying brotherly relations yet these relations should be further cemented in the field of agriculture and education.

Addressing a meeting at University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), he appreciated the teaching and research services of UAF and hoped that the university would continue its active role in agriculture field in the years to come.

He also agreed to further strengthen linkages between the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and the institutions of Turkiye for cooperation in the field of seeds and agricultural

machinery. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that the UAF had inked 20 memoranda of understanding with Turkish institutions.

He said that the university had run a project under the Turkey program called TKA. "Turkey has a unique position in seed and agricultural machinery, for which Turkish companies should visit Pakistan to promote mutual relations," he added. He said that agricultural and educational relations of the two countries were providing support in dealing with common challenges.

Pro-Vice Chancellor/Dean of Agriculture Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan.



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

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

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

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

compliance. He urged all LCCI members to ensure that their PRA Sales Tax Returns and any due taxes are submitted promptly. "Timely submission of these returns not only facilitates smooth business operations but also upholds our collective commitment to regulatory compliance," Kashif Anwar stated. In addition to stressing the importance of meeting tax deadlines, he advocated for a more supportive approach towards taxpayers.



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee led by Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani and Abdul Rehman meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Ministers Nawabzada Tariq Magsi, Mir Shoiab Noshawani, Haji Ali Madad Jattak and Mir Asghar Rind are also present.

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

BEIJING (APP): The State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, held a meeting with the Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology, Jin Zhuanglong, here in Beijing.

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

While welcoming Shaza Fatima, the Chinese minister said, "China and Pakistan are strategic

cooperative partners and trusted friends, and the cooperation in various sectors between the two countries is deepening."

Acknowledging growing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the IT sector, he said, "The two sides have cooperation in IT at the Joint Coordination Committee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)."

The two sides shared implementation reports of the six working groups under the JWG on

Industry and Information Technology under CPEC during the 2nd meeting of the Joint Working Group JWG on IT held on May 14 this year.

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

He said, "China has promoted the development

of the digital economy and improved the governance of the digital economy by building digital infrastructure, promoting rapid growth of the electronic and information industries, driving the digital transformation of industries, accelerating the development of industrial internet, and advancing universal telecommunications services." He stated, "In China, the new generation of information technologies represented by 5G, AI, cloud computing,

Rupee gains 19 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Friday gained 19 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.20 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.39.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.75 and Rs 280.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 23 paise to close at Rs 302.95 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.72, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

KCCI appreciates Govt for giving 'industry status' to warehouses, logistics

KARACHI (APP): President Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ifthikhar Ahmed Sheikh, Friday, appreciated the government for announcing the status of Industry to warehouses and logistics which was widely being demanded by the business and industrial community. President KCCI, in a statement issued, highly appreciated resolve of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif towards creating an enabling business environment and

said that efforts being made by PM Shehbaz Sharif have put the country on a path to economic progress and prosperity which was needed in the present era of inflation and high cost of doing business.

Keeping in view the government seriousness towards resolving the issues being faced by the business community, the KCCI president hoped that other issues particularly energy tariffs will also be given special attention and relief.

PSX stays bearish, losses 108 points

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

Pakistan's exports to UK increase by 2.31%

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

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

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to the UK also surged to \$154.613 million in April 2024 against the export of \$151.111 million in April

2023. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to the UK decreased by 13.39 per cent during April 2024 as compared to the exports of \$178.517 million in March 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 10.64 per cent in the first ten months, from US \$23.199 billion to US \$25.669 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from the UK into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$695.909 million against US \$512.171 million last year, showing an increase of 35.87 per cent in July-April (2023-24).



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

Weekly inflation up by 0.45 percent

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

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

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the

combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 21.69 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.81 per cent and went up to 301.25 points from the last week's 298.82 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.70 per cent.

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

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.

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).



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.

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.

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 global 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.

Several MoUs have also been signed with Chinese companies in economy, green energy, textiles, and manufacturing.

Before he departed for a five-day visit to China, the prime minister had told the Chinese media in an interview that he would engage with Chinese business leaders to secure investments and yield dividends mutually beneficial for companies on both sides.

"We are coming with serious plans. We will engage with you and return to Pakistan with great dividends that will benefit Chinese and Pakistani companies and the two countries will have their relations strengthened and become much higher than the Himalayas or any other highest peaks and deeper than the deepest oceans," he remarked.



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

Pakistan, China agree to promote cooperation between NPC, Parliament

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chairman of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee Zhao Leji wherein they agreed to promote engagement and cooperation between the NPC and the Parliament of Pakistan.

The prime minister, who is on a five-day official visit to China, proposed several initiatives to strengthen parliamentary exchanges, including enhancing interactions between the China-Pakistan Friendship Groups and exchanging delegations of young parliamentarians.

PM Shehbaz paid tribute to Chairman Zhao for his contributions to the Chinese politics and society, and congratulated him on successfully convening the NPC's annual session.

He noted Zhao Leji's important position in the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the NPC which underlined the trust placed in him by the Chinese leadership and people.

He stated that the relations with China were the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. The prime minister noted that the unique and special relationship between the two countries was based on strategic trust, commonality of views, and practical cooperation.

Chairman Zhao Leji echoed the prime minister's warm sentiments and noted that under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping, China was also committed to further solidifying the 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' with Pakistan.

Pakistan calls for India's accountability over 7,000 custodial deaths in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday reiterated its accountability for its unabated human rights abuses in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) where over 7,000 Kashmiris had so far died in the custody of Indian forces during the last three decades.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, highlighted the reported death of a Kashmiri civilian at a police station in IIOJK's Pulwama district.

"This is not the first incident of its kind as over the last three decades the number of custodial deaths in IIOJK has exceeded 7,000. The perpetrators of these crimes should be held accountable," she said reaffirming Pakistan's continuous political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiri people for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Highlighting Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026 with the overwhelming support of 182 members of the UN General Assembly, she thanked the members, particularly Asia Pacific Group for their confidence.

She told the media that at the Council, Pakistan would play its role in the peaceful resolution of disputes, opposing the resort to unilateral force, combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations, supporting UN peacekeeping efforts, resolution for regional and international crises, and promoting democracy, transparency, and accountability. Spokesperson Baloch strongly condemned the horrific bombing of Israeli forces on the UN-run school sheltering Palestinian refugees that led to multiple deaths of mostly women and children.

PNS Aslat conducts drills with Japanese, Spanish naval ships in Indian Ocean

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Aslat on Friday conducted exercises with ships from Japan and Spain in the Indian Ocean during the regional maritime security patrol.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the PNS Aslat conducted naval exercise with Japan Maritime Defense Force Naval Ship, Onami during the regional maritime security patrol.

PNS Aslat also held naval exercise with Spanish ship SPS, Canarias. The purpose of these exercises was to strengthen mutual relations and enhance mutual cooperation between navies in the region.



KARACHI: Principal Andrew Williams presenting bouquet to Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori upon arrival at British Overseas School Defence.

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.

Chitra Pritam's painting exhibition inaugurated

KARACHI (APP): The Art Citi is currently hosting an exhibition of artist Chitra Pritam's paintings titled "Magical Lines of Endless Mosaic."

The event was inaugurated by Mohammad Ahmed Shah, President of the Arts Council of Pakistan, as the chief guest. Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz, former Provincial Health Minister Sindh, honored the occasion as the guest of honor.

The exhibition saw attendance from numerous eminent personalities and senior artists from across the city. In his address, Mohammad Ahmed Shah lauded Chitra Pritam's work, describing the paintings as masterpieces and emphasizing Pritam's legacy as a gifted student of the renowned artist Jameel Naqash.

Pak, Indonesia & Turkiye call for collective efforts to combat Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Consulate Generals of Pakistan, Turkiye, and Indonesia in New York co-hosted a significant event on combating Islamophobia.

In their opening statements, the Consul Generals emphasized their governments' collective commitment to combatting Islamophobia, while also advocating for peace, tolerance, and inter-religious dialogue.

In his remarks, Consul General of Pakistan, Aamer Ahmad emphasized Israel's genocidal actions in Gaza as a stark illustration of global Islamophobia and shed light on prevalent

Islamophobic incidents worldwide, including hate speech, targeted attacks, and discrimination against Muslims.

He further brought into focus the systematic destruction of religious sites in India and other Islamophobic actions within the country.

He also emphasized the significant military presence of Indian occupation forces in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as well as India's discriminatory policies aimed at altering the region's demographic composition from a Muslim majority to a Hindu majority through demographic engineering.

Operation against illegal cattle markets in Karachi, owner arrested

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi, has taken notice of illegal cattle markets (mandis) in the city.

In District South, Assistant Commissioner Aram Bagh has removed an illegal cattle mandi and arrested the owner.

The building has been vacated, and electricity supply has been disconnected.

Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi, has warned cattle sellers to refrain from establishing illegal markets, stating that all cattle markets operating without permission from the Karachi administration are illegal and will face strict action.

mandis in their respective districts and remove them immediately.

In District South, an illegal cattle market operating in a dilapidated building was shut down, and the owner was arrested.

The building has been vacated, and electricity supply has been disconnected.

Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi, has warned cattle sellers to refrain from establishing illegal markets, stating that all cattle markets operating without permission from the Karachi administration are illegal and will face strict action.



HYDERABAD: Youngsters cool off at Phuleli canal during a hot summer day amid heatwave in the city.

DC urges parents to administer anti-Polio vaccine to children

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khairpur, Syed Ahmed Fawad on Friday has issued instructions to prioritize administering anti-polio vaccine to children aged under five years.

The review committee meeting for the campaign, attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, Health Department officials, and other stakeholders.

The Assistant Commissioners and Health Department representatives

briefed the meeting on the performance of the last anti Polio campaign in the district.

DC Syed Ahmed Fawad emphasized that achieving the target of administering anti-polio vaccine to all children under the age of five was the top priority, and that children who were not present during the campaign should be kept in priority to ensure that they are vaccinated.

He also urged parents to give their children two doses of polio drops and make a polio-free Pakistan.



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

KPT hosts session on "Strategic Significance of Pakistan, Challenges, and the Way Forward"

KARACHI (APP): A session emphasizing the strategic significance of Pakistan among contemporary challenges and outlining the path forward was convened at the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Staff College, Lalazar here on Friday.

The session was presided over by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and attended by Chairman KPT Syedain Raza Zaidi and senior management/officials of KPT.

Senator Mushahid Hussain shed light on the global shifts and emphasized the increasing importance of China, particularly in the context of ongoing and prospective CPEC projects. Stressing the need for Pakistan to enhance its international relations with both the West and China, Mushahid Hussain highlighted the importance of maintaining balanced geopolitical relations and a robust foreign policy.

Furthermore, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed underscored that Pakistan possesses a 60% youth demographic, which has the potential to exceed progress both nationally

and internationally. He emphasized the pivotal role of KPT as the gateway to Pakistan and the Central Asian region, contributing significantly to Pakistan's economy.

The occasion also recognized the research contributions of eminent scholar Ramzan Baloch, whose work, "Aik Lapata Shehr Ka Suragh" was discussed by guest speakers Mehmood Sham and Dr Syed Jaffer Ahmed.

The book explores the evolution of Karachi, with a particular focus on the role of the Karachi Port Trust in the city's history as well as in the country's economy.

Chairman KPT Syedain Raza Zaidi appreciated Ramzan Baloch's research for its valuable insights into Karachi's history and urban development. The chairman KPT thanked and expressed appreciation for Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain Sayed and the guest speakers, Mehmood Sham and Dr Syed Jaffer Ahmed. He presented them with crests to mark the successful conclusion of the event.

Stage-1 of Karachi's K-IV project to be completed in 2025

KARACHI (INP): The stage-1 of Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) project will likely to be completed in 2025. According to media reports, rapid work was being carried out on this important project adding that stage-1 260 million gallon per day (MGD) would supply Karachi.

Similarly, stage-2 would supply 390 MGD water to Karachi, they said. Water and Power Development Authority was executing this important project. They said after completion of both stages a total of 650 MGD would be supplied to Karachi. The cost of the project is Rs126 billion, out of which over Rs40 billion had already spent.

It is pertinent to mention here that the K-IV water supply project was approved in 2014 by the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government at a cost of Rs25.552 billion with a 50% share of Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) government Rs849 million had been allocated for this project in the budget 2014-15.

Customs seize smuggled cloth worth millions

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Customs and the City Police during an anti-smuggling operation in Kharadar, seized smuggled cloth valued Rs 40 million.

A spokesperson for Pakistan Customs on Friday said that the Enforcement Collectorate Anti-Smuggling Organization (ASO), in collaboration with SSP City Arif Aziz, seized 10 tons (10,500 kg) of smuggled ladies' cloth in a joint operation. The confiscated goods have been moved to the Customs Enforcement warehouse.

The spokesperson added that following an examination of the seized cloth, a case will be filed under the Customs Act, and further investigation will be carried out.

Security guard shoots teen in North Karachi

KARACHI (APP): A security guard from a private company shot and injured a teenage garbage collector in North Karachi on Friday.

According to the district Central Police spokesperson, the guard, identified as Ramzan, shot 17-year-old Samad in the stomach after an argument. The injured boy was immediately taken to the hospital.

The incident occurred within the Sir Syed police station's jurisdiction. The guard fled the scene, and police have launched a search to apprehend him.

Provincial Minister calls for report on Bhatt Shah cylinder explosion, assurance of financial assistance

HYDERABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Rehabilitation Makhdoom Mehboob uz Zaman has called for a detailed report on the tragic cylinder blast incident near Bhit Shah.

In a letter to the Deputy Commissioner Matiari, the minister emphasized the need for a thorough investigation into the incident.

He urged the Deputy Commissioner to present a

complete report to ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

Makhdoom Mehboob uz Zaman also directed that the best medical facilities be provided to the injured.

He assured that financial assistance would be given to the victims, and he asked the Deputy Commissioner Matiari to present detailed information about the injured in this regard.



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

FPCCI proposes to establish real estate regulatory authority

KARACHI (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Friday, proposed to establish a real estate regulatory authority (RERA) in Pakistan like other regional countries.

President FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh, in a statement issued here, stressed that no sector could perform at its optimum and contribute to the national economy in absence of a regulatory authority, so initiatives in the regard should be taken in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Sheikh highlighted that the Sindh government collects infrastructure cess on import stage at 1.25 percent; which translates into Rs225 billion per year.

If the cess spent on the infrastructural development and maintenance the real estate of Karachi will be in a much better shape and its market will also pick up, he added.

Senior Vice President FPCCI, Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, maintained that real estate can help bring

more foreign exchange to the country in the form of remittances.

The sector should make it as their top agenda to attract investment from the overseas Pakistanis as it will also help the economy through stabilizing rupee-dollar parity and shore up the foreign exchange reserves (FER), he added.

For the sake of policy advocacy in the national interest, any sector that can contribute to inward remittances should be facilitated and encouraged, he argued adding that the government should enable and welcome overseas Pakistanis to invest back in their home country instead of investing in the real estate of other countries.

Convener of FPCCI's Central Standing Committee on Real Estate Property and Builders, Syed Saquib Shah, stressed on digitization of registration system in order to bring transparency, fairness and validity in the documentation of the properties.



KARACHI: A general view of a cattle market as vendors displayed sacrificial animals attraction for customers ahead of Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha, on the outskirts of the Provincial Capital.