

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXV No 288, Zil Hajj 01, 1445 AH Saturday June 08, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

## 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 upgradation 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

Continued on page 2



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.

## 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, including "Dil Dil Pakistan", "Dil Se Maine Dekha Pakistan", "Main Bhi Pakistan Hoon", and "Jeeve Jeeve Pakistan" played by a Chinese military band.



QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Development Mahaz led by former Chief Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Peace talks flourish: Balochistan's path to prosperity strengthened

QUETTA (INP): A grand jirga was convened between FC Balochistan and local tribal elders in the Sibi district of Balochistan.

The gathering saw the presence of Corps Commander Balochistan Corps, Lieutenant General Rabat Naseem Ahmad Khan, and IG FC Balochistan, Major General

Chaudhry Ameer Ajmal, alongside civil administration, police officers, and community representatives from Sibi Kot Mandai.

During the jirga, there was a heartfelt acknowledgment from tribal elders and farmers towards the Pakistan Army and FC for their

key role in upholding peace in the region. Farmers from Kot Mandai expressed gratitude, highlighting how the support from the armed forces enabled the cultivation of thousands of acres of land, providing valuable employment opportunities.

Emphasizing the collaborative efforts, Corps Commander Balochistan commended the contributions of tribal elders and local populace towards peacekeeping endeavors.

Furthermore, the Pakistan Army's security assistance for the Kachhi Canal project was underscored as crucial for its successful implementation.

## Train service suspended after dozens hurt in new Chaman clashes

CHAMAN (INP): Residents' sit-in has continued in Chaman for the last nine months and now in new clashes as dozens of citizens and law personnel were injured while the train service was also suspended on Friday.

According to media reports, locals under the banner of All-Parties Tajar Laghri Ittehad are protesting against the Passport Trolling Policy of the government in Chaman.

There was a complete shutdown in the city on the third day and all markets and shops were closed.



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

## Assault on security forces and properties unacceptable: CM Bugti urges political parties and stakeholders to convince local people for establishing peace in Chaman

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has urged all the political parties and stakeholders to convince the local people for establishing peace in Chaman.

However, the Chief Minister asserted that the assault on the security forces and properties is unacceptable. He said that peaceful protest is constitutional right, but no one can be allowed to resort to violence and take law into one's hands.

He urged the people to refrain from taking law into hands as the writ of state would be established at every cost.

The Chief Minister was chairing high level meeting on the situation of Pak-Afghan border

Chaman, here at the CM's secretariat on Friday.

The meeting was briefed about the overall situation of Chaman by the Provincial Home Department.

The meeting was also attended by the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, member of provincial assembly, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai, JUI-F's provincial Ameer and Senator, Maulana Abdul Wasey, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, spokesman of Provincial government, Shahid Rind, besides others.

The Provincial Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove and Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan

participated in the meeting through video link.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that we are desirous of resolving the issues and hardships being faced by the local traders through dialogue.

He also said that we are aware of the issues of local people of the border town, Chaman.

He said that although the protest is constitutional right of the people, but no one can be allowed to resort to violence under the garb of protest.

He said that the government is demonstrating restraint and patience despite provocation by the protestors in Chaman.

He said that we know very well that majority people of Chaman are peace loving, therefore, it is necessary that local people discourage those disrupting



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review overall situation of law and order in Chaman

## Governor calls for finding sustainable solution to situation of Chaman

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized upon finding sustainable solution to the issues of Chaman keeping the source of income of local people and security concerns in the view.

The Governor said that Chaman protest is an issue that needs attention and added that the secret of coming out from every kind of complex situation lies in the result oriented negotiations.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of different political parties who called on him under leadership of central President of National Party, Dr Abdul Malik Baloch here

at the Governor's House on Friday.

The delegation comprised the Chairman, Quetta Development Mahaz, Abdul Mateen Akhunzada, president Markazi Anjuman Tajran, Abdul Rahim Kakar, provincial naib Ameer, Maulana Abdul Kabir Shakir, leader of Awami National Party, Wali Dad besides others.

The Governor said that Pakistan shares long border with its two brotherly countries for instance, 900 kilometers with Iran and 2670 kilometers with Afghanistan.

He said that the local people living near Pak-Afghan and Pak-Iran borders earn livelihood only from the border trade.

## Sanjdi coalmine mishap Inquiry committee formed to probe

Independent Report

QUETTA: The four-member Inquiry committee has been formed to probe into the tragic incident of coalmine occurred in Sandi coalmine field located in the outskirts of Quetta.

The sources of Mines and Mineral Development department told that Mumtaz Ahmed has been designated as Chairman of the Inquiry Committee for inquiry into the Sanjdi coalmine mishap earlier this week. The sources said that the Inquiry committee would submit its report to the provincial government within 10 days for further necessary action.

The committee would also fix the responsibility of the coalmine mishap that had claimed lives of 11 coalmine workers including Manager and contractor of the mine.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) while wrapping up the petition regarding recovery of poet Ahmad Farhad has remarked "give respect to law and no one including judges is above law."

He remarked "if you feel necessity then you can resort to court again. I know how to get implement my 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 Zaimab wife of poet Ahmad Farhad Friday. Imaan Mazari advocate appeared on behalf of the petitioner while senior journalist Hamid Mir appeared as amicus curiae.

## 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 mutual interest.

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

Premier Li congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Continued on page 2



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.

## 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.

For this purpose, advanced aquaculture technologies, including hatchery management, farming techniques, and processing capabilities, are expected to be transferred from China based on feasibility assessments and site selection for aquaculture projects in Gwadar.

Contracting companies told CEN that investment will be made in the development of integrated aquaculture facilities and that local personnel will be trained in modern aquaculture practices.

## Mutual cooperation of Bench & Bar vital for dispensation of cheaper & prompt justice to masses: CJ BHC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar has stated that it is basic right of every citizen to get cheaper and speedy justice to the masses, for judiciary is making it's every possible effort. However, for the purpose, the mutual cooperation of Bench and Bar is very necessary, insisted the Chief Justice BHC while addressing the tribal elders, lawyers and government officers



during his visit to Loralai, here on Friday. The Chief Justice BHC visited Loralai along with the judges of High Court, Mr. Justice Abdullah Baloch and Mr. Justice Rozai Khan Baraich, Registrar of High Court, Muhammad Asif Reki, President of Balochistan Bar Association, Muhammad Afzal Advocate, President Quetta Bar Association, Qari Rehmatullah Advocate.

Continued on page 2



## Passport policy for married, divorced women amendable under IHC orders: Riaz 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.

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 state-

ment of the Director General Passport and Immigration regarding the proposed amendment to introduce an 'ex-husband category' in the passport data for 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."

"It is expected that the respondent number 2 would complete the consultative process and remain logisti-

cally ready to make requisite amends in the formatting details of the passport giving options to the women to retain their father's name or CNIC or passport within three months of the passing of this order.

"It is pertinent to observe that the government shall ensure synchronization of the record of NADRA (National Database Registration Authority), Passport and Immigration Department."

The minister said as per the court's decision the



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.

## Gilani for formation of Senate Standing Committees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf 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 Syedal Khan, Leader of the Opposition Syed Shibli Faraz, Senator Sherry Rehman.

## 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 AIU, 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.

## Maldives NU, CUI join hands to strengthen higher education sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Maldives National University and COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on Friday joined hands to strengthen cooperation in higher education sector.

This was agreed during a visit of a delegation from Maldives led by Dr. Aishath Shehenaz Adam, Vice Chancellor, Maldives National University (MNU) and Dr. Raheema Abdul Raheem, Deputy Vice Chancellor, which called on Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar.

In a presentation held

## 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, 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.

## 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 Khurram 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 re-

sponse 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 shutoffcock between DG Climate Change and CGA and no one has bothered to inquire into the matter of the loss of record."

## 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.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan called on Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engr. Amir Muqam at Minister Office.

## 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.

The Governor congratulated him on receiving Nishan-i-Pakistan award.

The Governor praised Prince Agha Khan Foundation for its welfare services

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



ISLAMABAD: Visitors keenly observes the on displayed artworks during an Art exhibition at Gallery 6.

## Nikah during iddat case: Court issues notice again on petitions seeking fixation of appeal pleas for early hearing

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has issued notices again on the petitions seeking fixation of appeal pleas of Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi for early hearing against conviction in Nikah during iddat case and suspension of their conviction besides adjourning the hearing till June 11.

Additional District and Session Judge Afzal Majoka remarked "we had issued notice to the complainant. If he does not want to come then he should not come. The court will hear the case. We cannot fix appeal to the extent of Bushra Bibi. This way shows the mind of the court."

He gave these remarks during the hearing of the case Friday.

The counsels for PTI Usman Riaz Gul and Khalid

## 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 summer vacation will commence from June 10 and end on July 31, the ministry notification said.

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

Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) has also announced summer vacations in all the private institutions from June 10.

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 discharging 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.



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.

## 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

along with SSP Traffic Sarfraz Virk.

On this occasion, he announced that a 24/7 'Police Centre of Services' will be established at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry from where the traders' will be able to obtain Character Certificates, verifications and other required documents under one roof.

He added that as per the demand of the ICCI President a 'Police Reconciliation Centre' will also be established in the ICCI premises for the quick and amicable resolution of traders' disputes by their own representatives.

He added that ICC has to constitute a Police-Corporate Liaison Committee for the purpose and assured that there will be no police intervention in the matter as long as the disputes will be settled on merit.



RAWALPINDI: A man on his way in front of PAKINDIA 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.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Saturday June 08, 2024

**Addressing contempt**

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

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

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

Faisal Bari

A student is expelled for bringing a rubab to the university hostel and playing it. A university in Lahore expels two students when they embrace each other after one of them proposed to the other publicly. Baloch students get harassed and picked up every so often from various universities across the country.

Policing what students wear, especially females, is common on many campuses. Women are told they cannot wear jeans or tights, etc. Some universities even have rules on how close men and women can come when they are talking to each other. Student unions continue to be illegal.

What are young people supposed to do? How are they supposed to get ready for life after university if we are not going to allow them to talk to each other, interact with each other, be responsible for what they wear (they are over 18 and

adults by all definitions), and have confidence in themselves and their choices?

It is okay for these young people to get married and have children and to vote once they turn 18, but it is not okay for them to talk to the other gender or decide how much distance to keep from others or what to wear!

As soon as it comes to women's dress, people ask: are you saying we should allow people to wear whatever they want? What if someone comes to university scantily clad or in very revealing clothes? But have we seen a lot of women walking around on Pakistani campuses dressed like this? Pakistan already has decency laws. They should apply to campuses as well. Why should there be separate laws for university campuses?

It is not about clothes, poetry or music. It is about policing. It is about the fact that we do not trust young people and we are afraid of

young people. And by we, I mean we as a collective — especially the elites and people who have power and privilege. Of all constituencies, it is the young who have the potential to shake existing power structures. But that can only happen if the youth are organised, if they have spaces to reflect on what they stand for, what they want and how they wish to go about achieving it. The power holders are afraid of exactly this.

Pakistan is a young country. The 2017 population census showed that 40.31 per cent of our population was under 15 years of age, and another 19.19pc between 15 and 24 years. Almost 60pc of the population, therefore, was under 24 years of age. This country should be for young people; it should work to ensure that the youth, the future of this country, get every opportunity to develop. But our fear of young people and their potential makes us want to control them.

Dr Adil Najam and I

**No country for the young****Can courts fix the climate crisis?**

Zofeen T. Ebrahim

The realities of climate change that seven-year-old Rabia Ali had warned us of eight years ago have hit home. Take, for example, the latest heatwave which thousands are experiencing across Pakistan. "It's like sitting in a tandoor," says Niaz Junejo, a resident of Jacobabad, Sindh, where temperatures have reached up to 51 degrees Celsius.

Back in 2016, Ali had taken the government of Pakistan to court for violating her fundamental "right to life" by mining coal in Tharparkar and polluting the air and the water she breathed and consumed. She reminded the state of its legal obligation towards its citizens, warning that its apathy towards climate change could become an existential threat in times to come.

A year before, Asghar Leghari, a lawyer, had also charged the state with violating his fundamental right to life due to its inaction in meeting its climate change adaptation targets which, he warned, impacted the country's water, food and energy

security. It was the year when Pakistan, along with almost every nation in the world, signed the Paris Agreement, promising to limit any rise in global average temperatures to well below 2°C — in fact, a maximum of 1.5°C — above pre-industrial levels. Leghari recalled the court's historic ruling to be "affirmative" and thus quite significant, after it set up a climate commission to oversee the working of the state departments.

The right to a clean environment may not expressly be mentioned in Pakistan's Constitution, but the courts have interpreted the Constitution to include it as a fundamental right. In the 'Shehla Zia vs Wapda' case in 1994, Justice Saleem Akhtar explained that the right to "live" does not only mean "the vegetative or animal life or mere existence from conception to death". Life, as he saw it, should "include all such amenities and facilities which a person born in a free country is entitled to enjoy with dignity, legally and constitutionally".

Although there is much awareness as well as

acceptance about climate change since 2015, bringing about a systemic change has yet to happen. Perhaps we need to change the way we are looking at the phenomenon; perhaps it should be given a human face. That is what the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan is calling for — bringing climate change out of the folds of science and environment and examining it through the lens of climate justice.

The year 2024 started with a skewed and alarming weather phenomenon for Pakistan. Close on the heels of a snowless December in 2023, the new year began with some snow, but it was too little, too late. In the plains, the winter season began with a fall of dense smog. Then April received above average rainfall, making it the wettest month since 1961, resulting in over 140 fatalities in KP and Balochistan, not to mention damage to homes and schools.

And now the country is reeling from extreme heat. That is not all. Climatologists say soaring temperatures may lead to glacial melt with the danger of glacial lake outburst

floods and flash floods. So far, these climate disasters have failed to move the government to pore over the plethora of climate policy documents it has crafted over the years and find solutions from it. Imran Khalid, a climate expert, calls for a "people first" approach when policymaking happens. "Without involving and engaging with the communities for whom the policies are made, these strategies will remain nice-looking glossy documents with little impact on the welfare of folks who truly need it," he points out.

Reporting on loss of life, property and infrastructure during the several climate crises — floods, landslides, torrential rainfall, smog, melting glaciers, wildfires and deforestation — the country grappled with, the annual State of the Human Rights report for 2023, put the government in the dock and brought attention to the inadequate assistance, delayed reconstruction and lack of preparedness for climate-induced disasters on the part of the state.

One way of holding

the government accountable is to take it to court, like Ali and Leghari did. Both brought human rights into the climate change equation. To be fair, Pakistan is not alone. The story is the same across the globe. Ecological lawyer David Boyd, the outgoing UN special rapporteur on human rights and the environment, believes this game-changing strategy of slapping the state with a slew of court cases will make the state legally obligated to regulate businesses to respect climate, environment and human rights.

But Leghari warns that taking the state to court is no substitute for the "robust policymaking" that climate expert Khalid referred to earlier. "Courts can be a good tool," he says, but only if litigating is done strategically for it to have an impact. Due to lack of subject matter expertise in the judiciary, in Pakistan at least, courts may come up with a "whimsical, and not very thought-through prescription", which, although given in good faith, may end up having

try. This is the crux of the problem. We cannot have the spirit of risk-taking and inquiry in entrepreneurship and/or business and not in other areas. If the youth are going to be empowered to be the vanguard of business, entrepreneurship and the computer sciences, they have to have the same opportunities in other areas as well. They will have to have a say in the political, social and economic developments in the country. They will need to be in political parties, they will need to be in assemblies, they will need to be members of all sorts of governance fora.

To do all of the above, they will need to develop their confidence in their own abilities and thinking. We will need to create the space for young people to do that. If we are not willing to give them space, it is hard to expect that we will have a leadership in the future — in all walks of life — that is different to the disastrous one we have today. -- Courtesy Dawn

**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 vainglorious (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-r-se. In a particular verse, talking about 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 intersecular 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.

Pakistani 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 con-

stitute 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

## Maryam unveils historic package for development of farmers

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, under a historic package for farmers, announced the Punjab Kissan Bank, Green Tractor Scheme, manufacturing of harvesters and agricultural tools at a local level along with Oil Seed Promotion Program.

The chief minister, along with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, presided over a meeting in which a comprehensive briefing on the 'Kissan Package' was given. It was principally decided to establish a Punjab Kissan Bank for granting loans to farmers on soft terms. Approval was also granted for "CM Punjab Green Tractor Scheme" for farmers. The CM turned down the proposal with

regard to disbursement of mere Rs. 6 lakh subsidy on a tractor. The chief minister ordered to give 70 per cent subsidy on a small tractor and 50 per cent subsidy on a big tractor. On the proposal of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the number of tractors under Punjab Green Tractor Scheme was enhanced by 10,000. CM Maryam Nawaz ordered to complete the first phase of Punjab Green Tractor Scheme within one year. It was principally decided to increase the number of tractors under the Punjab Green Tractor Scheme every year. The meeting was apprised that farmers possessing land from six acres to 50 acres would be eligible to apply for the Punjab Green Tractor Scheme. The CM also approved a high-tech

mechanisation programme being prepared at a local level. International companies, in collaboration with the local companies, will manufacture harvesters and other tools in Punjab. The proposal to grant incentives to the international companies for manufacturing the latest agricultural tools was reviewed in the meeting. Approval to launch oilseed promotion programme in Punjab was granted under which farmers will be persuaded to produce oily edibles in various parts of the province.

The CM said, "For the first time in the history of Punjab, Rs. 400 billion Kissan Package is being granted. The farmers, besides being granted agricultural revenue, will also be given other privileges and facilities through the Kissan Card.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi inspecting the exam during his visit to Edwards College Peshawar.

## 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.

Furthermore, significant savings of billions of rupees were made in publication of textbooks by breaking the monopoly of certain paper mills. For the first time in history, a tradition of policy-making in consultation with all stakeholders had been established, with every step taken after gaining their confidence, the minister added.



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

## CS for contingency plan to deal with heavy rains, floods

KARACHI (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Sindh Syed Asif Hyder Shah has sought a detailed contingency plan to cope with expected heavy rains and normal, moderate and high floods during July to September, here on Friday.

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 Mehboob Zaman, Senior Member of the Board of Revenue Baquallah Unar, Secretary Local Government Syed Khalid Hyder Shah,

Information Nadeemur Rehman Memon, Secretary Rehabilitation Waseem Shamshad, 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 Mehboob Zaman, briefed the participants of the meeting on the measures, highlighting that above-average rainfall expectation during this period, which, combined with glacial melt, could bring 500,000 to 900,000 cusecs of water into the Indus River.

He noted that in 2022, Padidan experienced 1026 percent.

## 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. The report further mentioned that daily raids were being conducted to check meat quality, resulting in 94 cases registered for selling unhealthy meat.

The court subsequently adjourned the hearing until next Friday.

## 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.

Yesterday alone, health authorities identified 321 suspected cases of measles across Punjab. Breakdown of the new cases includes 47 from Lahore, 6 from Gujranwala, 4 from Vehari, 26 from Jhang.



LAHORE: Residents of LDA scheme old Kahna hold placards during protest in favor of their demands outside press club in the Provincial Capital.



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

## 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.

## 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 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.

## 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.

On getting information, Police and Rescue-1122 teams reached the spot.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Food Bilal Yaseen talking during a ceremony on the eve of World Food Day.

## 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 Pakistani 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. The minister directed that a warm reception should be planned at the Wagah border, underscoring the importance of this event in fostering goodwill.

## 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 Mehmood ur Rashid in four cases related to May 9 incident was held in ATC Lahore.

No headway could be made in the case being Judge Arshid Javed of ATC on leave.

The court while granting extension in bail of the accused adjourned the hearing of the case till June 12. It is pertinent to mention here that the cases against the accused are registered in police stations Gulberg, Model Town and Naseer Abad.

## PU to provide scholarships to deserving students

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University has started interviews of deserving students to provide them with HEC need-based scholarships for their financial assistance.

In this regard, a meeting was presided over by PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood in which Director Planning and Development Prof Dr Hafiz Anwaar, eminent social activist Raja Munawar and Treasurer's staff participated.

## 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 cooperation 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: UNFPA representative in Pakistan Luay Shabaneh meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

## '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 in fostering a healthier future. He called for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to implement effective interventions and ensure sustained improvements in maternal nutrition throughout the province.

Referencing the National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 2018, the minister noted that women of reproductive age face a triple burden of 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. He called for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to implement effective interventions and ensure sustained improvements in maternal nutrition throughout the province.

Referencing the National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 2018, the minister noted that women of reproductive age face a triple burden of malnutrition.

## 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, Zulfikar 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 Zulfikar Awan, Tahir Abbas, Munir Camrade, Riaz Khan and Junaid Khan.

The PPP stalwart criticized the PTI led provincial government for its poor governance for last 12 years, which has pushed the province to backwardness and lawlessness.



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

## Commissioner for ensuring 100% 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.

## 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 TIKA. "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).

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

KARACHI (APP): President Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Iftikhar 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 in the form of reduced electricity and gas tariffs will also be announced which would definitely promote industrialization, bring down inflation and boost the exports.



SHENZHEN: Federal Secretary for Maritime Affairs Syed Zafar Ali Shah briefing the Investors/business community about Gwadar Free Zone in Pak China Business Conference.

## NBP President interested to open first branch in mainland China

BEIJING (APP): In a strategic move to expand global footprint and enhance digital banking capabilities, President of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), Rehmat Ali Hasnie showed interest in opening the bank's first branch in mainland China.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, this initiative is part of a broader effort to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aiming to strengthen cross-border financial collaboration and advance digital connectivity between the two nations, he told China Economic Net (CEN).

The NBP president, who attended Pakistan-China Business Forum in Shenzhen said the new branch is expected to facilitate increased trade and investment flows while leveraging cutting-edge digital banking technologies to provide seamless financial services.

After the visit of the Prime Minister to China, Hasnie hopes trade volume between China and Pakistan will increase and banks will need to innovate and provide robust trade.

## Petroleum Dealers Association announces support to SBA

PESHAWAR (APP): Patron-in-chief of Sarhad Business Alliance (SBA) and former Governor KP, Haji Ghulam Ali has said that the Alliance was formed with sole objective of naming Sarhad Chamber as real representative of business community and to open way for economic development through promotion of trade and commerce in the province.

"The intention is clear, Allah will make the goal easy, I see a clear success of SBA in the upcoming Chamber's elections," he remarked.

He expressed these views at a dinner hosted by Shahrukh Khan Duranpur and Sartaj Khan, office bearers of Petroleum Association, in honour of SBA members here Friday.

In the event, Petroleum Association along with all its Chamber members announced their support to the SBA.

Group Chairman Syed Zahir Ali Shah, Mohammad Ishaq, Sharaf Ali Mubarak, Malik Mehr Elahi, Adnan Jalil, Abdullah Ghulam Javed Bilal Mamor Khan Haji Abdul Hameed Gowwara and other officials including the corporate.



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 Noshervani, 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.



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi met His Excellency Abdulla Mohamed Al Mazrui, Chairman of the UAE Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI).

## K-Electric achieves zero load shedding on 1,500 feeders in Karachi: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Division Ali Pervaiz Malik informed the National Assembly that K-Electric had achieved zero load shedding on 1,500 out of 2,109 feeders in Karachi.

Replying to a Calling Attention Notice in the House, the minister said, "The load shedding of 6-10 hours is being conducted on the feeders with higher losses."

Ali Pervaiz said, "The losses of ten feeders have exceeded 25 percent and the efforts are being made to reduce these losses with the help of local administration and public representatives."

The minister clarified, "There is no load shedding of 16 hours; rather, it is between 6-10 hours."

He said, "Electricity tariff is regulated by NEPRA following a prescribed procedure, adding that the electricity prices have not changed; increases are due to fuel price adjustments."

Ali Pervaiz said, "Electricity might be cut off for more than 10 hours on technical grounds and assured the House that all concerns of the National Assembly members will be addressed."

The minister assured that he would visit Karachi to resolve the issue and the agreements already made regarding net metering would not be compromised.

He said, "The government aims to promote renewable energy and consumers on feeders with high losses also face difficulties, which is a valid concern, and transformer losses will be assessed to address this issue."

## 2-day mango, handicrafts expo to begin today

HYDERABAD (APP): The first mango and handicrafts expo will commence on Saturday, June 8 at Bhihi Shah.

The two-day event will be inaugurated by Member National Assembly (MNA) Makhdoom Jameel Zaman and provincial Minister for Rehabilitation, Makhdoom Mehboob uz Zaman at HT Sorley hall. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Matiari Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh along with other officials visited Bhihi Shah to assess the final arrangements for the event.

The DC said that the event will feature 34 stalls showcasing various mango varieties, handicrafts, a flower show.



QUETTA: Advisor to CM for Environment and MPA Zarak Mandokhail taking oath from newly elected cabinet members of Jewelers Association Balochistan.

## Pakistan's exports to UK increase by 2.31%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United Kingdom (UK) witnessed an increase of 2.31 percent during the first ten months 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 percent 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 percent in the first ten months, from US \$23.199 billion to US \$25.669 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from the UK into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$695.909 million against US \$512.171 million last year, showing an increase of 35.87 percent in July-April (2023-24).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports for the UK also increased to US \$43,003 million in April 2024, against the export of US \$31.875 million in April 2023.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from the UK into the country witnessed a nominal decrease of 2.21 percent during April 2024, as compared to the imports of US \$43,976 million during March 2024, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 5.27 per cent, from \$45.766 billion to US \$43.353 billion, according to the data.



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 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on June 06, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the 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 percent, 0.56 percent, 0.51 and 0.33 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 19 (37.26%) items increased, 14 (27.45%) items decreased and 18 (35.29%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included bread (3.02%), garlic (2.00%), petrol (1.74%), pulse masoor (1.43%), diesel (1.42%), rice basmati broken (1.32%), chilies powder (1.31%), eggs (0.94%), wheat flour (0.77%) and mustard oil (0.46%). The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on week-on-week basis included onions (33.21%).

## Section 7E of Income Tax Ordinance should be abolished: Atif Ikram

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has echoed the collective demand of the business, industry and trade community that the section 7E of the income tax ordinance (ITO) 2001 should be abolished for being unproductive and consultation with the sector's stakeholders.

FPCCI Chief also highlighted that the Sindh government collects infrastructure cess on import stage at 1.25 percent; which translates into PKR. 225 billion per year. Logically, the better part of that cess should be



MULTAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) continued checking domestic as well as commercial consumers and disconnected five more meters over violation.

Two consumers were found using domestic meters for commercial purposes on which their metres were removed. One consumer found drawing gas through the compressor on which his metre was removed.

Metre of a consumer's counter was found to be broken and meter was disconnected. Likewise, one consumer shifted his service from one place to another, so his meter was disconnected.

unfair for levying deemed or imaginary income on immovable properties. 7E has produced no significant increase in the tax collection; instead, it has created chaos and discontentment in the otherwise very vibrant real estate sector, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh stressed that a real estate regulatory authority (RERA) should be established in Pakistan like other regional countries as no sector can perform at its optimum and contribute to the national economy in absence of a regulatory authority.

However, he added, that this should be done in spent on the infrastructural development and maintenance of Karachi; and, if that happens, the real estate of Karachi will be in a much better shape and its market will also pick up, he added.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magooni, SVP FPCCI, 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).

## 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, whereas the share price of 61 companies remained unchanged.

The top three trading companies were Pervez Ahmed Co with 78,926,466 shares at Rs 1.50 per share, Fauji Cement with 34,397,313 shares at Rs 22.79 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 28,267,820 shares at Rs 1.32 per share.

## 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).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.78, whereas an increase of 18 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 356.04 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 355.86.

## SNGPL disconnects five more metres over violation

MULTAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) continued checking domestic as well as commercial consumers and disconnected five more meters over violation.

Two consumers were found using domestic meters for commercial purposes on which their metres were removed. One consumer found drawing gas through the compressor on which his metre was removed.

Metre of a consumer's counter was found to be broken and meter was disconnected. Likewise, one consumer shifted his service from one place to another, so his meter was disconnected.

## 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 widespread 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.

In a statement, the RSF said it had attacked

three army camps in the Wad al-Noura area, and clashed with its enemy "outside the city". The resistance committee called the RSF's statement an "expected" attempt to "criminalise the people of Wad al-Noura and label them a legitimate target".

It also said the villagers had "called for help from the armed forces, which did not respond". The military has not issued an official comment, but Sudan's ruling sovereignty council, under army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, called Wednesday's attack a "heinous massacre of defenceless civilians".

The army has come under repeated criticism from Sudanese civilians for "abandoning" them and retreating in the face of RSF offensives, particularly in al-Jazira and the western Darfur region.

Both the army and the RSF — commanded by Burhan's former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo — have been accused of war crimes, including targeting civilians, indiscriminately shelling residential areas and looting or obstructing humanitarian aid.



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.

Pascal 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.

## 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.

## 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' on 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.

## Germany needs 75,000 extra troops as NATO braces for Russia threat, reports Spiegel

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: Germany will need at least 75,000 additional troops to fulfil its NATO commitments as the alliance adapts its defence planning to face what it sees as an increasingly hostile Russia, Spiegel magazine reported on Friday.

At their Vilnius summit last year, NATO leaders signed off on the first major defence plans since the end of the Cold War, detailing how the alliance would respond to a Russian attack.

The move signified a fundamental shift - NATO had seen no need to draw up such plans for decades, as it fought smaller wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and felt certain post-Soviet Russia no longer posed an existential threat.

NATO and national military planners have been busy translating

the plans into concrete requirements, identifying shortages of troops, weapons and other equipment needed to defend against a Russian attack that could, according to the German military's top brass, come as early as 2029.

The new NATO requirements mean that the Bundeswehr will need an extra 75,000 troops to fill additional allied corps, divisions and brigades needed to implement the defence plans, Spiegel said, citing confidential documents without giving further details.

The German defence ministry was not immediately available for comment.

At the moment, the Bundeswehr has some 180,000 soldiers, falling short of the target of around 200,000 troops, and 80,000 civilian employees.

## Papua New Guinea ends landslide rescue efforts amid fears of another

**Monitoring Desk**  
WELLINGTON: Further landslides will likely plague the area where part of a mountain collapsed onto a remote village in Papua New Guinea two weeks ago, New Zealand geological experts warned on Friday, as authorities ended search and rescue efforts.

It remains unclear how many people died in the massive landslide in PNG's Enga region on May 24, with the national government reporting more than 2,000 people have been buried alive and a UN estimate putting the death toll at around 670.

New Zealand geotechnical engineers sent to Papua New Guinea released a report on Thursday raising concerns about the stability of the ground not just in the landslide but also to either side of it.

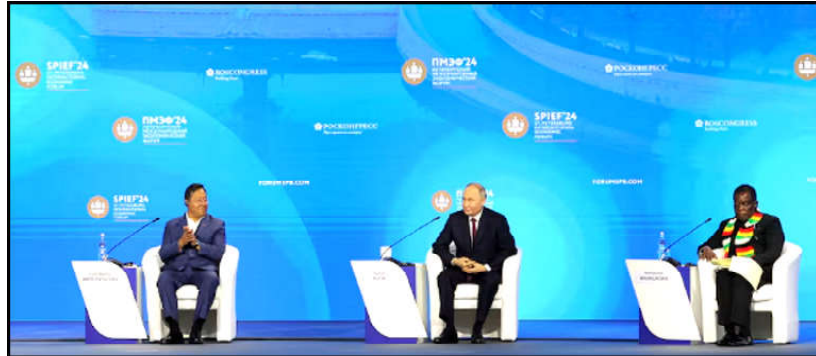
"We believe that there is real potential for further landslides to occur in the near or medium term," Aaron Waterreus, the leader of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) team which include the

geotechnical engineers, said in a press conference on Friday.

FENZ geotechnical engineer Jan Kupec added the landslide, which covers roughly 14 hectares (35 acres), is of such a scale it is impossible to stop it from moving and it could continue to move for months or even years.

He said the rock avalanche was likely part of an old landslide that has been reactivated and there were now concerns the start of monsoon rains will liquefy the material that had fallen off the hill and again reactive the landslide.

Enga Provincial Government on Thursday announced mass evacuations of further areas around the landslide due to concerns around further earth movement.



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.

## Modi's alliance unanimously elects him to lead as PM for 3rd term

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India's Narendra Modi was formally elected on Friday by lawmakers of his National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to be prime minister for a historic third consecutive term, as the world's most populous nation returns to government by coalition.

"It is with utmost humility that I accept the responsibility of leading the NDA to yet another term of development-oriented governance," the premier said in a statement on social media platform X, formally Twitter. "I am grateful to our fellow NDA allies and MPs for their trust in me." Modi will next meet President Droupadi Murmu later in the day and present his claim to form a new government, with a spokesperson for one of his allies saying his swearing-in was set for

Sunday evening. It is the first time in a decade that Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has needed the support of regional parties to form the government.

The party, which had a handsome majority in the previous two terms, secured only 240 seats in the lower house of parliament, far short of the 272 needed to govern on its own.

The NDA won 293 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, and the INDIA alliance, led by Rahul Gandhi's centrist Congress party won more than 230 to exceed forecasts. Lawmakers from the BJP and its allies, including the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), and the Janata Dal (United) voted unanimously for Modi to become the leader at the alliance's first meeting after the June 4 vote count and declaration of results.

## 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), where they served as non-permanent judges.

"I have resigned from the Court of Final Appeal because of the political situation in Hong Kong, but I continue to have the fullest confidence in the court and the total independence of its members," Collins was quoted as telling the Financial Times.

## Trump campaign claims raising \$53m after conviction

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's campaign said on Friday it had raised nearly \$53 million in online small-dollar donations after he was convicted in his New York hush money trial, boasting that the verdict had galvanised his support "like never before." The record haul was equivalent to more than \$2 million raised per hour, it said.

Senior campaign aides Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles said in statements that more than a third of the total came from new donors to the campaign and hailed an "outpouring of support from patriots across our country." Calling the Thursday court decision a "sham trial verdict" the advisers reported that the "digital fundraising system was overwhelmed with support".

## 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," he said, describing the president as in damage control mode.

Travelling to Nusantara just a day after the two respected technocrats in charge resigned without explanation, the president broke ground on schools.

## US election officials split on AI disclosure rules for political ads

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The two top officials of the Federal Election Commission are split over whether broadcast radio and television political advertisements should be required to disclose whether content is generated by artificial intelligence (AI).

FEC vice chair Ellen Weintraub on Thursday supported the May proposal by U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairwoman Jessica

## China's probe moves moon samples to spacecraft

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's Chang'e-6 probe transferred samples it collected from the moon's far side to a spacecraft in lunar orbit on Thursday, state news agency Xinhua reported.

After receiving the samples, the uncrewed spacecraft will fly back to Earth, with an expected landing in China's Inner Mongolia region on June 25.

If successful, China will be the first country to ever return lunar matter from the side of the moon that permanently faces away from Earth.

## Boeing's Starliner safely docks with space station

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Boeing's new Starliner capsule and an inaugural two-member Nasa crew safely docked with the International Space Station on Thursday, meeting a key test in proving the vessel's flight-worthiness and sharpening Boeing's competition with Elon Musk's SpaceX.

The rendezvous was achieved despite an earlier loss of several guidance-control jet thrusters, some of them due to a helium propulsion leak, which Nasa and Boeing said should not compromise the mission.



Children look on near Awlala Camp, Amhara region, Ethiopia.

## 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 hold 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.

He said that he would have the financial cooperation of federal government for solarization of the agricultural tube wells, however, its reservations have to be removed on the solarization.

He insisted that the electricity could not be acquired from the regular power system after regularization.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the delegation of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing "Safar-e-Mualim" ceremony organized by Voice of Balochistan

## Zamindars have to detach them from regular power supply system after solarization of agricultural tube wells: CM Bugti

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

"This attack is another crime in a series of attacks against civilians including an IDP Camp last week that resulted in the deaths of 45 Palestinians. The deliberate targeting of civilian population and facilities is a grave violation of international law and constitutes war crimes," she added.

Condemning the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound by hundreds of Israeli extremists, she said it was the responsibility of the occupation authorities to respect religious sites.

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

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

"This attack is another crime in a series of attacks against civilians including an IDP Camp last week that resulted in the deaths of 45 Palestinians. The deliberate targeting of civilian population and facilities is a grave violation of international law and constitutes war crimes," she added.

Condemning the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound by hundreds of Israeli extremists, she said it was the responsibility of the occupation authorities to respect religious sites.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary for Maritime Affairs, Zafar Ali Shah on Friday said the Gwadar free economic zone has immense investment potential and offering unique opportunities for Chinese investors.

In a statement, he highlighted Gwadar's potential as a leading transshipment hub, enhanced maritime infrastructure, and incentives for businesses.

He said due to Gwadar's strategic location, modern port facilities, and supportive regulatory environment make it an ideal investment destination.

Zafar Ali further discussed the incentives for investors including streamlined customs procedures, and robust legal protections.

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

It is welcoming that great interest was showed by the Chinese companies in Gwadar and investment in Pakistan, he concluded.

## NA informed Pak Airlines flights to EU will be resumed soon

ISLAMABAD (INP): Newly elected members of the House Ali Qasim Gilani and Zainab Mahmood Baloch took oath as members of the National Assembly today.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah administered the oath. Responding to a calling attention notice, Minister of State for Power Division Ali Perwaiz Malik said load-shedding of six to ten hours is being carried out

## 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 rich

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.



QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Development Mahaz led by former Chief Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## New Gwadar airport nears completion

GWADAR (INP): The New Gwadar International Airport, a flagship project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is now in its final stages of construction.

Set to be a modern marvel, the airport spans across 4,300 acres of land, boasting a runway capable of accommodating the Airbus A380, the world's largest aircraft.

With a sleek terminal building covering 14,000 square meters, the airport aims to elevate Gwadar's infrastructure and pave the way for future development. The project, estimated at \$246 million, is on track for completion in 2024.

Recently, a significant milestone was achieved as the Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan (CAA) successfully conducted a five-day flight test operation, supported by China, starting from Tuesday, June 4, 2024. The inaugural test flight was greeted with a traditional salute upon touchdown.

## 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.

## 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 combatting Islamophobia.

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



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

## PM given guard of honour at Great Hall of the People

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday was given a guard of honor at the Great Hall of the People where he arrived to meet the top Chinese leadership. As the prime minister arrived at the formal reception ceremony, Chinese Premier Li Qiang warmly received him which followed the introduction of their respective delegations to each other. The national anthems of Pakistan and China were played as the prime minister stood at the salute dias along with his Chinese counterpart.

## Industries Department promoting culture of Balochistan: Pirkani

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Secretary Industries Department, Noor Ahmed Pirkani has stated that the Industries department is promoting culture of the province besides imparting training to the youngsters in different sectors of life so that they may play their role in development of the province and promotion of its culture. The Secretary Industries was addressing the officers and youth completing their training during his visit to different training centers of Industries Department here on Friday.

He said that Industries sector is developing in the province, but the department has left no stone unturned in imparting training and providing livelihood to the youth of the province. He urged the youth to play their wholehearted role for development of the department. He stressed that under trainee youth should also play their role in development of the province besides getting respectable source of income.

Furthermore, it seeks to enhance and streamline international cargo transport.

The MoU was signed by Ambassador Muhammad Khalid Jamali from Pakistan side and Deputy Transport Minister D.S. Zverev from the Russian side.

## ATC extends interim bail of PTI founder in 3 cases till June 12

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in three cases related to the May 9 violence until June 12.

The court directed jail authorities to ensure the attendance of the PTI founder through a video link at the next hearing, besides seeking the record of cases.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI founder in cases of attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and the torching of Shadman Police station.



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

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

QUETTA (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operation Quetta Muhammad Baloch Friday said that all resources were being utilized to improve law and order situation in respective areas of Quetta City. He said that several criminals were arrested in conjunction operation against them with the aim to ensure protection public lives and their property by elimination of crime activities in the area.

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

SSP Operations Muhammad Baloch said that the police was taking effective measures to control the incidents of theft and robbery in Quetta city saying that several accused by police team from respective areas of the province in 2024. He said that several open courts had been held in various areas for the convenience of the public, with the aim of strengthening the relationship between the public and the police to eradicate crime while such open court would be arranged in the areas for improvement of law and order situation.

He said that a campaign would be launched to give respect public in order to enhance confidence of people on police.

He said that during the operation against illegal diesel petrol, 8,000 liters of petrol were seized, around 2,000 drug addicts were also detained by conducting an operation against illegal arms and drug dealers in the city canal.

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) acknowledges the Government of Japan's generous contributions under three projects that provided emergency assistance for the stabilization of food-insecure people in the flood-affected areas of Pakistan, implemented in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

WFP organized a Project Completion ceremony to recognize the vital contributions of USD 7.2 million (USD 3.7 million, USD 2.5 million and USD 1 million) from the Government of Japan to address the critical needs of 246,000 people affected by the unprecedented 2022 floods in Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The USD 2.5 million enabled WFP to provide emergency food assistance to flood-affected communities, ensuring their immediate food security and nutritional needs in 2022, while the USD 3.7 million and USD 1 million contributions helped WFP to deliver nutritionally balanced food every month to those actively involved in community rehabilitation, livelihood and resilience building initiatives and identified through district-level consultations in 2023.

The USD 3.7 million grants also supported conditional cash assistance during the early recovery phase.

## Pakistan, Russia signed MoU to upgrade railway sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Railway sector on Friday on the sidelines of 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

The Memorandum of Understanding aims to explore opportunities for implementing railway upgrade projects and other initiatives within this crucial sector.

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

## Pakistan, Russia signed MoU to upgrade railway sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Railway sector on Friday on the sidelines of 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

The Memorandum of Understanding aims to explore opportunities for implementing railway upgrade projects and other initiatives within this crucial sector.

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

Furthermore, it seeks to enhance and streamline international cargo transport.

The MoU was signed by Ambassador Muhammad Khalid Jamali from Pakistan side and Deputy Transport Minister D.S. Zverev from the Russian side.