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Business friendly policies infuse foreign investors' confidence: PM Shahbaz

Underlines need to enhance trade, investment between Pakistan, Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the business friendly policies of the incumbent government had stabilized the country's economy and restored confidence of the foreign investors. He said that Pakistan was moving on the right path towards economic stability, while steps were taken to provide relief to the public in the current fiscal budget. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of leading businessmen that called on him, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The delegation included Shahzad Saleem, Zaid Bashir, Mussadiq Zulqarnain and Sheharyar Chishti. The members of the delegation praised the prime minister for the economic turnaround and provision of a conducive environment for the businesses and investment activities. Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday while noting the positive trajectory of bilateral ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan emphasized the need to enhance trade and investment, besides focusing on regional connectivity and security. The prime minister received the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yezhan Kistafin for a courtesy call at the Prime Minister House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister conveyed his greetings to the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and expressed his desire to strengthen the excellent bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. He said he was looking forward to his meeting with President Tokayev during his upcoming visit to Astana for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting on July 3-4.



Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Yezhan Kistafin calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad

CPEC emerges as catalyst for investment, technology transfer: Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a catalyst for not only investment but technological transfer, skill development, and knowledge sharing between the two friendly nations. He was addressing the launch ceremony of the "China Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Development Report 2023" of CCCPK (formerly "All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises" Association APCEA), co-organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Hall.

The report was unveiled by Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Chinese Minister Counselor, Yang Guangyuan, Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, and Chairman CCCPK, Wang Huihua. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said Pakistan has faced a lot of testing times whereas the perseverance and patience of its masses created narratives of resilience emanating from the stories of resilient and successful men and women bracing all the challenges. He said that the CPEC is a nonpartisan agenda in Pakistan as all of its opposition parties support the government on it. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was the first under the leadership of then President Asif Ali Zardari who paved way for initiation of the CPEC. Moreover, the successive governments of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), and the current government rendered extreme commitment for CPEC, he added. He said the government of Pakistan was mindful of the challenges faced by the Chinese companies, and people working on various projects under CPEC and was ensuring fool proof security for the Chinese citizens. Gillani informed that the bureaucratic processes were being streamlined and Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) like institutions were developed to expedite different projects under the second phase of CPEC or CPEC2.0. "CPEC has created 155,000 skilled and unskilled jobs for local masses in Pakistan. However, the signing of MoU for CPEC's second phase underscores continued collaboration in industrial development, green energy initiatives, low carbon development, and other areas," the Chairman Senate said.

Sindh govt demands Governor Tessori to step down immediately

KARACHI (INP): Led by Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Sindh government has demanded of the Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori to step down immediately. While addressing a press conference in Karachi on Monday, Sindh Minister for Excise and Transport Sharjeel Memon rebuked the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) for allegedly promoting "hatred and violence" in the province. MQM-P has become irrelevant at the local level, he claimed and said that the party's politics of hatred and accusations were outdated. "They are no longer visible at the Union Council level," he added. Criticizing MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui for his remarks against the former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto regarding quota system, the PPP leader said that Bhutto was the one who made Pakistan a "nuclear power". He noted that the MQM-P was indulged in hiring its workers in local government institutions, adding: "The party's demands to end the quota system are inappropriate." Sharjeel Memon said that the MQM-P even today was responsible for a number of Sindh issues, adding that the party had new vacancies banned through stay order. "They have always tried to stop employment of people", he alleged. The provincial minister further criticised the MQM-P leadership, saying that they left the party founder Altaf Hussain during 'bad times'. "Khalid Maqbool and the rest of the leadership are not ready to accept their leader", he added. Recalling the past incidents, he claimed that the MQM had been involved in various nefarious activities, including the killing of innocent people during their strikes. The PPP leader also accused the MQM of being a puppet of foreign powers, saying that they might take orders from their "masters in London".



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Charles Delogne called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani attending launch ceremony of the "China Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Development Report 2023" of CCCPK (formerly "All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises" Association APCEA), co-organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Hall.

Bilawal expresses concern over press freedom in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has voiced his grave concern over the diminishing space for independent journalism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). In a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he highlighted the alarming rise in violent incidents targeting journalists in the province, deeming it intolerable. He emphasized that many affected journalists are holding the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister and the ruling provincial party accountable for these brutalities. He condemned the suppression of journalism through violence, attributing these acts to fascist elements. "The PTI is evidently fearful of independent journalism and has lost the trust of the people," he said. "Their consistent reliance on undemocratic tactics and conspiracies to cling to power is disgraceful." Reaffirming PPP's unwavering support for the journalist community, he declared, "We believe in press freedom and will not allow anyone to stifle the press." He called upon relevant institutions and parliament to take decisive action to safeguard journalists and uphold press freedom in KP.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addressing a press conference.

Outgoing ambassador calls for persevering efforts to fortify Pakistan-US relations

NEW YORK (INP): Outgoing Pakistani ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan called for persevering efforts to strengthen Pakistan-US relations, despite periodic ups and downs. Pakistan on Friday decided to replace Khan and appoint Additional Foreign Secretary (Middle East and SIFC) Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh as envoy to the United States. At a farewell dinner organised in honour of the outgoing Pakistani envoy, United States Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst Friday praised Khan, for his services towards building "bridges between Islamabad and Washington." "On behalf of the State Department, I just want to

Aurangzeb promises relief for salaried class, says rupee to remain stable

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Monday that the government will provide relief for the salaried class at the first opportunity it gets. "I understand their (the salary class) pain and I empathise," Aurangzeb made the remarks on a private TV program. The minister added that the government was working hard to bring retailers into the tax net. He added that the new punitive actions will lead non-filers to think three, four or five times about why they are not part of the net. Aurangzeb also said that the government hopes to achieve a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund in the ongoing month. The minister admitted that Pakistan only has enough dollars to last a few months leading to the country running back to the IMF again and again. He said that an extended program with the IMF would be a stamp of approval for the economy's stability. While claiming that the currency would remain stable, Aurangzeb said that IMF or no IMF, Agriculture and IT are two sectors with potential of immense growth for the Pakistani economy.

Jl announces sit-in against inflated electricity bills, increase in taxes

LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced a sit-in against inflated electricity bills and increase in taxes in Islamabad on July 12. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, JI Emir, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman Butt criticised the incumbent government for increasing taxes and electricity tariff in the budget 2024-25. Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said youth of Pakistan are dejected with the current situation and leaving the country for a better future. The JI emir alleged current rulers are looting the resources of the country by 'occupying' the power.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar addressing a press conference.

Credit goes to PM for low taxes with exemptions to multiple sectors: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaulah Tarar on Monday said that credit for minimum taxes and tax exemptions to multiple sectors in the budget went to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who ached tough negotiations with the IMF. "The prime minister played a proactive role in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund to ensure minimum duties and tax exemption for different sectors," he said while addressing a press conference. "Let me be very clear that there is no tax on solar panels, text books, pensioners' income, fertilizers, charitable hospitals and health equipment, and it is all due to the prime minister who wants the nation to be prosper and self-empowered," he said. The minister said there were multiple sectors on which the tax rates were reduced to 35% from 45%. PM Shehbaz also ensured that the petroleum development levy to be maintained at Rs 60 in the current fiscal year. However, only Rs 10 margin had to be given as a contingency measure, he noted.

PM to undertake a two-day official visit to Tajikistan from today

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to undertake a two-day official visit to Dushanbe, Tajikistan from July 2-3, on the invitation of President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon. During his visit, the prime minister will meet President Emomali Rahmon, Chairman of Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli Mahmadoir Zoir Zokirzoda and Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda, according to a Foreign Office press release. The visit is a part of regular high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Tajikistan. The two sides will engage in wide-ranging discussions on areas of mutual interest to further deepen bilateral cooperation especially in the areas of regional connectivity, trade, people-to-people contacts and energy as well as cooperation on multilateral issues. The two sides will also sign agreements and MoUs in diverse areas of cooperation.

Maryam Nawaz says Govt committed to providing best healthcare facilities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said the government is committed to providing the best healthcare facilities for every citizen. In a meeting with Provincial Health Advisor Major General (Retd) Azhar Mehmood Kayani to discuss reforms in the health sector here on Monday, she said: "I have decided to revolutionize the health sector. The health sector is very close to my heart." The CM agreed to take all possible measures for the early completion of health projects, saying that work has started on the up-gradation of all health centers, THQ and tertiary hospitals. Medicines for heart diseases, TB, cancer and hepatitis are being delivered at patients' doorsteps, she noted. "I was very happy when a lady showed me home-delivered heart medicines of her husband," she said. CM Maryam Nawaz said field hospitals and clinics on wheels project were one of the most successful projects. In a few weeks, 1.2 million people have been treated at their doorsteps. She explained field hospitals have X-rays, free lab tests and ECG along with free medicines, highlighted that 500 more clinics on wheels would be added soon. The CM said to check shortage of doctors in remote areas, incentives were being given to doctors, adding that the provision of free medicines in the hospitals which was stopped in the past had been restarted. Maryam Nawaz said the scope of field hospitals.



Issues of federal information dept's in Quetta to be resolved on priority basis: Pullain

Independent Report
QUETTA: Chairman National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, Pullain Baloch on Monday said the issues faced by the federal information departments working in Quetta would be resolved on priority basis whereas efforts would be taken to strengthen the state-owned media organizations with modern tools to promote the pro-public narrative. The Chairman made these remarks during his visit to the offices of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Quetta Bureau, PTV Quetta Station and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) station. Pullain Baloch said that he will try to resolve the problems of the federal information institutions functioning in the provincial capital of Balochistan in order to bring innovation and improvement in the work of the institutions. He said that the purpose of his first visit to the institutions of the Ministry of Information at Quetta after being elected as the chairman was his ownership. "Balochistan is the most important unit of the country and this most important unit will not be allowed to be neglected under any circumstances," he added. The chairman of the committee said that he believed in practical work and would raise voice on the floor of the National Assembly to further improve the standard of PTV Bolan's programs.



QUETTA: Chairman NA Standing Committee for Information and Broadcasting Phullain Baloch meeting with GM Syed Faheem Shah during his visit to PTV Quetta center

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Resolution 901

On Friday, two days after a stinging endorsement from the US House of Representatives of widespread concerns regarding the legitimacy of our recent general election, the National Assembly formally dismissed 'Resolution 901' as "interference" in Pakistan's internal affairs and an "attempt to undermine the state".

The Pakistani counter-resolution against HR901 did not pass with the same overwhelming support accorded to the latter, however. Our parliament was only able to get a simple majority of lawmakers to endorse the repudiative resolution, while the US Congress had seen 85pc of its membership voting 98pc in favour of a "full and independent investigation of claims of interference or irregularities" in the Feb 8 election.

The PTI refused to vote in favour, saying it was not consulted. Instead, it seemed to be reveling in the world's self-appointed 'democracy police' rebuking the Pakistani government, which, it must be said, should drop the pretence that all is well when it clearly is not. Our lawmakers' failure to stand united in the face of foreign criticism may not have been unexpected, given the vitiated political climate, but it was still disturbing to witness. Matters are now at a point where our representatives do not care if the world perceives Pakistan as a house divided. The treasury benches' condemnation of those who refused to vote in favour would only have solidified this perception.

The nay-sayers were immediately branded 'terrorists', 'traitors', and 'enemies of the state' who had, in the words of one particularly self-righteous MNA, "no right to call themselves Pakistanis". With such a propensity to spew venom against political opponents, it is no wonder that our parliamentarians are having trouble finding common grounds, even where questions of national sovereignty are concerned.

It may be recalled that the US Congress's resolution had also condemned "attempts to suppress the people of Pakistan's participation in their democracy, including through harassment, intimidation, violence, arbitrary detention, restrictions on access to the internet and telecommunications or any violation of their human, civil, or political rights".

But while it is a fact that these are all realities for the Pakistani people, it is not up to a foreign parliament to dictate how we should be running our country. Likewise, this publication has demanded a transparent inquiry into the last general election, but it does not believe anyone except the people of this country can make that demand.

The US has its own messy legacy to consider of sabotaging democratic governments and propping up dictators around the world. Our problems are our own to resolve. The country has suffered much from foreign interference and must learn to act as a sovereign state. At the same time, it cannot expect to act poorly and not get noticed.

Policing the police

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

The establishment of dedicated Police Complaints Authorities has been a long-standing demand in the discussion on police reforms in Pakistan and India. PCAs were introduced in neighbouring India in 2006 under the Indian supreme court's orders. Although the Pakistan Police Order, 2002, envisioned police complaints authorities, they have yet to be made functional in Pakistan.

The Indian supreme court issued seven directives for structural police reforms when it issued its judgement on the matter, including establishing PCAs at state and district levels. This was an outcome of the realisation that without accountability, the police cannot win public trust. So far, 23 states in India have constituted State Police Complaints Authorities (SPCAs), while 18 have constituted District Police Complaints Authorities (DPCAs).

The PCAs are mandated to check police excesses, recommend punishments, and suggest policy improvements to change police behaviour. The DPCAs are empowered to inquire into complaints against officers up to the rank of the DSP. At the same time, SPCAs deal with complaints against officers above the rank of the DSP and investigate cases of serious misconduct. Under court directives, the SPCAs are to be headed by retired superior court judges, while DPCAs are to be headed by retired district judges. Other members should include retired civil or government servants, police officers, and members of civil society. However, the judgement is silent on eligible members' required qualifications or skills. Ensuring diversity

is another challenge. In some instances, PCAs are dominated by serving and retired officers, but the presence of serving officers impacts credibility negatively and defeats the fundamental principle of natural justice: that no one can be a judge in their own case. If serving officers are part of the oversight, it loses credibility.

The credibility of PCAs is also dependent on the selection process of their chairpersons and members. The chair of the SPCA is selected from a panel of retired high court judges proposed by a senior judge. Members are chosen from a panel prepared by the State Human Rights Commission or Public Service Commission.

To ensure fairness in the selection of independent members, the Sikkim Police Act has adopted an independent selection panel, but in other states, members of PCAs are appointed at the sole discretion of the governments. The idea of having an independent selection committee is to ensure safeguards against political appointments. This is not possible without political neutrality and autonomy. Best practices dictate that such positions be advertised so selections can be carried out transparently, and citizens should be given opportunities to submit objections about the members to be considered.

In the absence of independent investigators, PCAs would remain dependent on the police. The Kerala, Assam, and Haryana Police Acts make a provision for hiring retired and independent investigators. However, no police law in India gives a time limit for inquiries, which results in an increase in pendency and erosion of public faith in PCAs to deliver justice. Therefore, setting a time limit

for such inquiries is also necessary.

Since PCAs are public institutions, they are expected to be accountable. The submission of annual reports is one of the measures to ensure accountability. This report should be laid before the legislature and accessible to the public. The Tripura and Uttarakhand Police Acts specifically mention the provision of separate budgets, but in India, the budgets of most PCAs are administered through the home department, with PCAs having no role in budget-making, which limits their independence. Without adequate financial independence, the oversight bodies cannot function independently. Lastly, PCAs in developing societies often limit their outreach efforts, so public outreach, including the introduction of websites, should consciously be made part of police laws.

In Pakistan, the Police Act of 1861 did not envision any complaint management apparatus. The Police Order of 2002 did, however, envision the establishment of public complaint authorities, using the term 'complaint' 71 times in its text. Chapter X of the Police Order deals with the composition and functions of federal and provincial PCAs. However, since all provinces have opted for different police laws, PCAs are yet to become functional in Pakistan.

Policing the police is not possible without functional PCAs, public safety commissions as envisioned in the Police Order, and regional police complaint authorities as mentioned in the KP Police Act of 2017. Public safety will remain elusive till these checks are introduced. -- Courtesy Dawn

Economic fallout

Ajaz Ahmed

What happens to an economy when it is hot outside? Globally, record-breaking temperatures have been witnessed in the past few years. There is evidence that heatwaves dampen economic output, causing GDP losses and exacerbating global inequality. For instance, projections for the US economy show that rising temperatures could reduce economic growth by up to one-third over the next century.

Moreover, the assumption that economic damage from global warming is confined to the agriculture sector is no longer true, as climate change and environmental degradation pose significant risks to the macro economy and financial systems. For example, climate change will affect individual and household income, sectors of the economy, energy markets, inflation variability, financial markets, innovation, and rising public debt, among other things.

While rising global temperatures have a profound impact on economies all over the world, the phenomenon is still poorly understood due to the complexity of climate-related risks and their interactions with the real economy. Scientific studies are being conducted to estimate the impact of global warming on different sectors of the economy. However, there is consensus that macro-prudential measures are critical to mitigating climate-related risks, as without mitigation measures, physical risks from climate change-driven natural hazards — heatwaves, windstorms, floods, and droughts — are likely to increase significantly.

While the marginal effects of temperature rise are different in dif-

ferent regions, persistent increases in global temperature have serious implications for economic growth, productivity, and efficiency. However, the sensitivity of different economies to the impact of global warming depends on their reliance on different sectors of the economy, which can be susceptible to changing temperatures. Thus, climate change will be a critical factor in shaping responses to macroeconomic conditions in the near future.

Decarbonisation is no longer a matter of choice, as reducing carbon intensity in production processes and energy use is unavoidable to lower carbon emissions per unit of output produced and make production cleaner. Yet, the decarbonisation of economies for net-zero targets will affect both output and inflation, exerting changes in monetary policy and macroeconomic conditions in most countries. So, the key question for economy pundits, especially those from the developing world, is how to reduce carbon-intensive economic activity, without it having consequences for productivity, efficiency, and economic growth.

Climate change can potentially increase inflation and the debt-to-GDP ratio, resulting in economic uncertainty and tighter fiscal and monetary policies, which may lead to lower demand via lower spending and reduced economic activity. The transition to net zero would require the deployment of tools such as tax, subsidy, and regulation, resulting in increasing abatement costs. This can potentially generate relative price shocks, pushing up aggregate inflation, which is likely to necessitate changes in monetary policy, not to men-

tion net-zero transition having an effect on inflation. Furthermore, the structural transformations required for the transition to net zero are expected to alter monetary policy channels.

Since climate change increases the frequency and severity of shocks, it may become very difficult for central banks to regularly read such shocks. In other words, identifying regular shocks — of an unknown nature — to the economy, will complicate the assessment of the monetary policy stance, which will often find itself confronting a trade-off between output and inflation stabilisation. Therefore, macroeconomic policy responses must take into account the impact of extreme weather events, the decarbonisation of economies, and net-zero transition.

As the impact of climate change is regional and global, it may invoke structural adjustment processes that transcend national borders, thus necessitating assessment of macroeconomic implications and formulation of models that provide insight with regional and sectoral differentiation.

Existing analytical frameworks and macroeconomic modelling tools are inadequate and unsuitable for grappling with the dynamic nature of climate uncertainty and design-informed policy responses. Therefore, policymakers need to review and, where required, improve and align their toolkit to adapt to the new challenges. Nevertheless, reducing uncertainty and creating an enabling environment to pacify reactions will be highly critical in the future as climate change will remain a major global risk for some time. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

CPI inflation recorded at 12.3% in June

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 12.6 percent on year-on-year basis during June 2024 as compared to the corresponding month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at 29.4%.

On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.5% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 3.2% in the previous month and decrease of 0.3% in June 2023. According to data, CPI inflation Urban, increased to 14.9% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.3% in the previous month and 27.3% in June 2023. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it increased to 0.6% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 2.8% in the previous month and an increase of 0.1% in

June 2023. CPI inflation Rural, increased to 9.3% on year-on-year basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 8.2% in the previous month and 32.4% in June 2023. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.3% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 3.9% in the previous month and decrease of 0.8% in June 2023.

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 16.6% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 15.3% a month earlier and 34.9% in June 2023. On MoM basis, it increased by 1.33% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 4.0% a month earlier and an increase of 0.2% in June 2023.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis increased to 10.6% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 9.9% a month earlier and an increase of 22.4% in June 2023. On MoM basis, it increased by 0.4% in June 2024 as compare to a

decrease of 2.5% in the previous month and decrease of 0.3% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Urban increased to 12.2% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 12.3% in the previous month and 18.5% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.6% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.4% in previous month and an increase of 0.7% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Rural increased to 17.0% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 25.2% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.9% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in previous month and an increase of 0.9% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

Pakistani exhibitors tap opportunities at China-Eurasia Expo

BEIJING (APP): Pakistani exhibitors showcased copper, jewelry, jade, handmade carpets and other products at the 8th China-Eurasia Expo held in Xinjiang, China.

Abbas Muhammad, a Pakistani jeweler who has lived in Xinjiang for 20 years, told the local media that his participation in the China-Eurasia Expo would bring benefits to his business.

Abbas has two companies, one in Pakistan and the other in China, primarily dealing in jewelry, jade, and other items. Among these, emeralds and other gems from Pakistan are highly sought after by Chinese consumers.

At the expo, he was

busy attending to the customers and sold over RMB 100,000 worth of products in the past few days.

There were some new faces at the expo. Faisal Rasheed, a Pakistani handmade carpet merchant, came to live in Xinjiang from Beijing to participate in the expo.

He said that he believed the Pakistani goods would be successful in China, which was a huge market.

Pakistani merchants have been participating in the China-Eurasia Expo for several consecutive years. The diverse range of exhibits from around the world has embarked on a journey along the Silk Road to converge at the expo.

China completes its largest LNG storage base

NANJING (Xinhua/APP): A subsidiary of China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) has completed the construction of China's largest LNG storage base, a move that aims to ensure energy security and support green growth in the Yangtze River economic belt.

The base in the city of Yancheng, east China's Jiangsu Province, has a group of gas tanks with a combined LNG storage capacity of 2.5 million cubic meters, the company said.

It has four tanks each with a storage capacity of 220,000 cubic meters and six larger tanks each with a storage capacity of 270,000 cubic meters.



ISLAMABAD: Businessman and member of Economic Advisory Council Jahangir Khan Tareen along with MNA Aoun Chaudhary called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Finance Minister hails FBR exceptional performance in surpassing revenue target

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday commended the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for its outstanding performance in surpassing revenue collection target for financial year 2023-24, with a total collection of Rs 9,311 billion.

The minister visited FBR headquarters and held a meeting with Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana and Members of the Board, said a news release.

SMEDA launches 10-year cluster-based development plan

LAHORE (APP): Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) Monday evoked a 10-year Cluster-Based Development Plan for growth of the SMEs sector.

Federal Secretary Industries and Production Dr. Fakhar e Alam Irfan unveiled the plan here at a ceremony arranged by SMEDA to reveal international Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day. SMEDA

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervez Malik also joined the meeting through video link.

The minister expressed confidence in FBR's capabilities and hoped that the Board would continue to play a pivotal role in achieving the Government's fiscal objectives.

The Minister of State also appreciated FBR team for exceeding the annual revenue target despite multiple odds and issues.

M u h a m m a d

Aurangzeb along with Chairman FBR and Members of the Board also cut a cake to celebrate the FBR's performance for not only achieving the revenue collection target for the financial year 2023-2024 but also surpassing it.

The meeting underscored the government's commitment to strengthening the FBR and supporting its initiatives aimed at enhancing revenue collection, digitisation and economic documentation.

Bilal urges businessmen to cooperate with govt

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen has said that business segments should cooperate with the government for providing relief to people.

According to official sources here on Monday, he said that facilitators of profiteers and hoarders deserved no leniency.

He said that during the last 24 hours, 629 flour mills, flour dealers and retail shops had been checked. Bilal Yaseen said that 128 places had been checked in Lahore division, 64 in Faisalabad,

30 in Sahiwal, 80 in Rawalpindi division, 74 in Sargodha, 40 in Multan division, 38 in Bahawalpur,

88 in DG Khan, 42 in Gujrat and 45 in

Gujranwala.

He said that supply of flour was strictly monitored during Sunday holiday. A sufficient stock was available at retail shops and in wholesale markets in Lahore and other big cities of Punjab, he added.

He said that due to increase of transportation of wheat in markets it helped to reduce prices.

People should lodge their complaint on toll free number 080002345 against those who were illegally selling flour and 'Roti' at higher rates. The Punjab food department had imposed a fine

of Rs 470,000 besides issuing warning notices to profiteers and law violators, he said.



BEIJING: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja arrives in China to participate in Global Digital Economy Conference 2024 being held from July 2-5 in Beijing.

100 environment-friendly buses to run in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): The government is contemplating to run 100 environment-friendly buses in Faisalabad while in later phase this facility would be extended at tehsil level also.

This was stated by MNA Chaudhry Shehbaz Babar while addressing the meeting of District Coordination Committee (DCC) Faisalabad. Being convener of the committee, he also presided over the meeting and said that the Punjab government under dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was spending huge funds to

improve life stranded of the masses by providing them basic amenities at their door steps. He took briefing about Inter-City Bus Service and said that in first phase 100 environment-friendly buses would start providing service in Faisalabad within the limits of Ring Road, however, in later phase, this facility would be enhanced at tehsil level so that the students and industrial workers could avail from this service at maximum extent. He also stressed the need of tight security arrangements for Muharramul-Harama and said that DCC meeting.

Punjab Governor says Legislative assemblies of Punjab, NY can benefit each other's experiences

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation led by the Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Mr. Phil Ramos, called on Acting Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan at Governor's House, Lahore. During the meeting, discussion was held on promoting Pakistan-US relations, parliamentary affairs, education, health and other sectors. In the meeting, Acting Governor, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan also endorsed the resolution regarding making New York and Punjab a

sister state. Speaking on the occasion, Acting Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said that the resolution regarding making New York and Punjab a sister state will enhance cooperation between the province of Punjab in the fields of trade, health and education. He further stated that the legislative assemblies of Punjab and New York can benefit from each other's experiences. He said that the government was focusing on boosting the economy and uplifting the education

sector. The Acting Governor said that the Punjab Assembly is playing its role in the establishment of a strong democratic system. The Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Mr. Phil Ramos, said that he will play active role to increase the cordial relations between the United States and Pakistan. He said that the United States values its relations with Pakistan. Mr. Phil Ramos said that US Government was keen to make an agreement with the Punjab government in the field of nursing.



LAHORE: Acting Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan in a group photo with a delegation led by the Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Mr. Phil Ramos, at Governor's House.

Minister appreciates Punjab CM's initiatives for minorities

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora on Monday urged the representatives of various religious minorities to encourage their children towards education, especially focusing on filling job vacancies, as there are still approximately 32,000 vacant posts in Punjab.

During a meeting with representatives of various religious minorities at his camp office, he said Chief

Minister Maryam Nawaz had outlined a five-year roadmap on her first day in the Punjab Assembly, addressing all segments of society with special attention to weaker sections.

The minister said that CM Maryam Nawaz distributed grants on Easter and personally visited Maryam Abad to share celebrations of the Christian community. She also initiated the wheat harvest at Kartarpur on the festival of Baisakhi.

Two die, three injured in Upper Kohistan accident

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people were killed and three others injured when a vehicle fell into a deep gorge in Upper Kohistan area, police informed on Monday.

According to police, five people were onboard the vehicle when it plunged into a deep gorge after its driver lost control over the vehicle in Lotar area of Upper Kohistan.

The rescue teams shifted the victims to District Headquarters Hospital Dasu, where doctors pronounced two as dead.

Minister orders making Kisan card awareness campaign more effective

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ahsiq Hussain Kirmani said that the Kisan card awareness campaign aimed at providing guidance to farmers should be made more effective.

He said this while presiding over a meeting at Agriculture House on Monday. He said that the timelines of projects related to 'Transforming Punjab Agriculture Plan' should be implemented in letter and spirit.

He said that the Kisan package launched by the government was inevitable for the prosperity of farmers. The minister was

informed that till now more than 220,000 applications had been received for the Kisan card and after scrutiny 105,000 of them had been approved.

The minister said that green tractors would be provided to farmers on a 70 percent subsidy. "It is mandatory for farmers to have a Kisan card to get a green tractor," he said and directed relevant authorities to form a dashboard for the monitoring of the Transforming Punjab Agriculture Plan and present a plan for boosting production of canola, soybean etc.



MANSEHRA: TIKA Vice President Umit Naci Yorulmaz inaugurating lab at department of architecture in Hazara University.

NCSU, join hands with FJWU to tackle Climate Change

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a groundbreaking effort to combat the escalating climate crisis, a team of scientists from North Carolina State University (NCSU), USA, joined hands with Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), to conduct a joint research project on "Climate Change Impacts on Glaciers, Rivers, and Oceans." This initiative is a part of the project "Developing the Next Generation of Female Environmentalists; Pakistani Women University Climate Change Consortium".

The project is aimed to empower female students in Pakistan by equipping them with advanced climate science

knowledge and skills. A distinguished team of seven scientists from NCSU, including Prof. Dr. Lewis Owen, Prof. Dr. Jingpu Paul Li, Prof. Dr. Walter Robinson, Dr. Carrie Thomas, Dr. Roberto Mera Velazquez, Dr. Jamila Simpson, and Ms. Lucia

Manastchal-Riedener, led the two-day project briefing event, funded by the US State Department. Dr. Lewis Owen, Dean of the College of Sciences at NCSU, brought his extensive expertise on the glacial history of the Himalayan mountains, providing invaluable insights into the region's geomorphological changes due to climate change.



LAHORE: Citizens busy in their routine works and heading towards their destinations in the first rain of monsoon since morning in the provincial capital.

Punjab keeping religious scholars on board for Muharram peace

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab government is keeping religious scholars from all schools of thought on board for Muharram peace and Multan divisional administration and police have chalked out an elaborate security plan to deploy 10,000 personnel across Multan division.

Presiding over a divisional peace committee meeting, commissioner Maryam Khan, said that administrations of all districts have been given

full authority by Punjab government to ensure peace during upcoming sacred month of Muharram al-Haram. She said that tenders for repairing the procession routes have already been issued to ensure quality work and asked municipal corporation to ensure route are ready before time.

She said that C&W department has also been brought on board adding that the Punjab highway department will handle all the patchwork.

Anti-power theft drive intensified in Mardan circle

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) Mardan circle has intensified drive against kunda mafia and defaulters in Shergarh and surrounding areas. During this operation, over 100 electricity thieves and defaulters were arrested on the spot and transferred to local police stations. Assistant Commissioners and Takhte Bhai Junaid Khalid led the operation and was accompanied by SE PESCO Mardan Circle Ikramullah Khan.

APPAC delegation meets Minister Sikandar Hayat

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), led by New York State Deputy Speaker Phil Ramos on Monday met with Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat to discuss joint educational initiatives.

Peace Committee stresses unity to maintain peace

MULTAN (APP): Punjab government is committed to collaborating with religious scholars from all sects to maintain and promote peace, said Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan.

In this connection, she stated, full authority has been granted to the district administration to maintain security.

Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan said this while presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Peace Committee. Commissioner Khan

observed that the Municipal Corporation was tasked to repair and maintenance of the routes for Muharram processions. Tenders for high-quality work have been issued, and the C&W department has been brought on board.

The Punjab Highway Department will conduct all patchwork. MEPCO officials have been instructed to fix sagging electrical wires along the routes and to prevent load shedding and voltage issues in the affected areas.

ANF recovers 833 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven raids across the country managed to recover 833 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 748 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Bacha Khan International Airport. 400 grams ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Australia from a cargo office in Rawalpindi. 460 kg opium was recovered from Mashakhi and 319 kg opium was recovered from an area near Pishin Road Quetta.

International News

Fighting rages in Gaza City's Shujaiya for fourth day

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Heavy battles and bombardment hit Gaza City's Shujaiya district for a fourth day on Sunday, months after Israel declared Hamas's command structure dismantled in the northern area.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have fled the devastated neighbourhood, where the army said it has fought Palestinian fighters both "above and below ground" in tunnels.

Months of on-and-off talks towards a Gaza truce and hostage release deal have meanwhile made little progress, with Hamas saying there was "nothing new" in a revised plan presented by US mediators.

The Israeli military said ground and air forces had carried out raids on compounds used by fighters and "eliminated several

terrorists" over the past 24 hours. It also reported clashes in central Gaza and the southern Rafah area, a week after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that the "intense phase" of the offensive that started on October 7 was nearing an end. The United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA estimated that "60,000 to 80,000 people were displaced" from Shujaiya since new fighting broke out there on Thursday and the army issued evacuation orders.

For those who remain, "our lives have become hell", said 50-year-old Shujaiya resident Siham al-Shawa. She said people were trapped as strikes could happen "anywhere" and "it is difficult to get out of the neighbourhood under fire". "We do not know where to go to protect our-

selves," Netanyahu said Israeli "forces are operating in Rafah, Shujaiya, everywhere in the Gaza Strip".

According to a statement from Netanyahu's office, he told his cabinet that "dozens of terrorists are being eliminated every day."

Six people were killed in an air strike at dawn targeting a house in Rafah, said medics at Nasser Hospital where the bodies were taken. Artillery shelling also rocked parts of the city, witnesses said.

The Israeli military launched a ground operation in Rafah in early May, leading to the closure of a key aid crossing.

The United Nations and other relief agencies have voiced alarm over the dire humanitarian crisis and the threat of starvation in the Israeli siege has brought for Gaza's 2.4 million people.



A Palestinian woman bakes unleavened bread in a makeshift oven while sitting on the rubble of buildings destroyed in the Israeli bombardment, as some residents return to the city of Khan Yunis.

Israel FM says 'Iran deserves to be destroyed'

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on Saturday that Iran's message of an "obliterating war" made it worthy of destruction. "A regime that threatens destruction deserves to be destroyed," Katz said in a post on X. He also said Israel will act with full force against Iran-backed Hezbollah if it does not stop firing at Israel from Lebanon and move away from the border.

Iran's UN mission said on Friday that if Israel embarks on a "full-scale military aggression" in Lebanon, "an obliterating war will ensue." The Iranian mission also said in the post on X,

formerly known as Twitter, that in such an event "all options, incl. the full involvement of all resistance forces, are on the table."

Hezbollah has been exchanging fire with Israel since October, in parallel with the Gaza war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said this week they prefer a diplomatic path to resolving the situation. Though Katz is a member of Israel's security cabinet, war policy has largely been led by Netanyahu and a small circle of ministers that includes Gallant, who visited Washington this week for talks on Gaza and Lebanon.

North Korean officials sport Kim Jong Un pins for first time

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean officials wore pins with a portrait of Kim Jong Un in public for the first time in pictures released by state media on Sunday, the latest step in the development of a cult of personality about the leader.

The officials, speaking at a key meeting chaired by Kim of the exclusive state's ruling

party, wore the typical party logo pin on the right lapel and, on the left chest, the pin with Kim's face against a flag-shaped red background.

The 10th Plenary Meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, which reviews the party's performance for the first half of the year, began on Friday, state news agency KCNA said.

Japan successfully launches an advanced Earth observation satellite on its new flagship H3 rocket

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan successfully deployed an upgraded Earth observation satellite for disaster response and security after it was launched on a new flagship H3 rocket Monday. The H3 No. 3 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center on a southwestern Japanese island and released its payload about 16 minutes later, putting it into a targeted orbit as planned, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA.

Kenyan activists call for more protests as govt pledges austerity

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Kenyan activists called for protesters to take to the streets again on Tuesday, with many rejecting appeals from President William Ruto for dialogue following his decision to withdraw proposed tax hikes.

At least 24 people were killed in clashes between protesters and police last week, when parliament was briefly stormed and set ablaze.

UN chief lauds move to limit proliferation of small arms

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has praised the adoption of a strong outcome document at the end of a conference dedicated to combating illicit small arms and light weapons worldwide, saying it is an important sign of progress.

The proliferation, diversion and misuse of small arms and light weapons continue to undermine peace, security and sustainable development around the world fuelling conflict and

devastating human costs, the UN chief said in a statement. He congratulated member states on successfully concluding the Fourth Review Conference, welcoming the setting up of an open-ended technical expert group to

address developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

Mr Guterres also recognised the commitments the states have made to strengthen international cooperation and assistance and to implement gender-responsive policies.

He expressed hope that the progress will help strengthen our collective and national efforts to combat illicit small arms and light weapons until the next review conference in 2030.

The UN chief added that he hoped the commitments regarding small arms would inform discussions at the 'Summit of the Future' in September to find forward-looking and action-oriented solutions for a more peaceful future.

Iran election shows declining voter support amid calls for change

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: The first round of Iran's presidential election revealed shrinking support for both reformists and conservatives even though some voters are pushing for change by backing the sole reformist candidate, analysts say.

Masoud Pezeshkian, the reformist contender, and ultra-conservative Saeed Jalili led the polls held on Friday to replace the late ultraconservative president Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash last month.

Friday's vote, marked by a historically low turnout, "clearly shows that both reformists' and conservatives' bases have considerably shrunk," said Ali Vaez of the International Crisis Group think tank.

In the lead-up to the election, Iran's

main reformist coalition supported Pezeshkian, with endorsements by former presidents Mohammad Khatami and Hassan Rouhani, a moderate.

"The reformists brought out the big guns and tried their best to mobilise their base," Vaez said on social media platform X, but "it was simply insufficient." Likewise, the conservatives failed to garner sufficient votes "despite the tremendous resources they deployed," he added.

Vaez pointed out that the combined votes of Jalili and conservative parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who came in third, totalled 12.8 million.

That figure was well below Raisi's nearly 18 million votes in the 2021 election.

Uruguay holds primary elections as opposition left gains ground

Monitoring Desk
MONTEVIDEO: Uruguayans take to the polls on Sunday in primary elections ahead of October's presidential race, in which the left-wing opposition is seen edging ahead according to opinion polls with voters concerned about rising inequality and public safety. Polls show voters cooling on the center-right coalition of President Luis Lacalle Pou, despite its successful steering of the farming economy of 3.4 million people through the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic setbacks following the war in Ukraine. Lacalle Pou, 50, has struggled to back up a pledge to tackle drug crime which is hurting Uruguay's reputation as a beacon of stability in turbulent South America. A perceived weakness of the welfare state and rising corruption has also hurt his party.

That has seen the center-left Broad Front coalition, which ruled from 2004 to 2015, edge ahead of the main center-right parties, latest opinion polls showed. Uruguayan pollster Cifra predicts the Broad Front getting 47% support in May, some 15 points ahead of Lacalle Pou's National Party, the main force within the ruling coalition. The wider conservative bloc combined, though, would get around 43%.

Around 10% remain undecided suggesting that October's presidential election will be tight. Whoever wins in general elections scheduled for Oct 27, or more likely in a November runoff, will need to bring down high homicide rates, improve the social safety net, balance trade with major partner China and keep on track an economy that is expected to grow nearly 4% this year.

Arab League shifts position on Hezbollah

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: The Arab League says it has decided to remove Hezbollah from its blacklist, as conditions for establishing relations with the Lebanese resistance movement have been met, Anadolu Agency reported.

In a statement aired on Egyptian Al-Qahera News, Arab League assistant secretary-general Hossam Zaki said that the member states "agreed that the label of Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation should no longer be employed."

"In previous Arab League decisions, Hezbollah was designated as a terrorist organisation, and this designation was reflected in the resolutions, leading to the severing of communication based on these decisions." In March 2016, the Arab League accused Hezbollah of "promoting extremism and sectarianism", and "meddling in the internal affairs of countries".

Pakistan making efforts to benefit from UN's carbon trading system: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday said Pakistan is making efforts to benefit from the UN's carbon trading system.

She made these remarks during the meeting with a 3-member delegation of the United Nations Environment Programme's Denmark Mission, led by Senior Economist, which called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam here at the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.

During the meeting Advisor Carbon Credit Markets, Urwah Khan at the United Nations Environment Programme briefed the PM's climate advisor Romina Khurshid Alam about carbon market-related initiatives for their potential benefits Pakistan can gain by selling its carbon credits from different sectors including cement, oil & gas, textile and other industrial industries, a news release said.

He also assured the PM's climate aide of his organisation's fullest technical and non-technical support to build up policy infrastructure and its implementation for creating enabling environment for various potential sectors including cement, waste, textile, oil & gas, telecom and information technology sectors to generate and sell their carbon credits in the international carbon credit markets.

Both sides agreed to work together to enable Pakistan's various industrial sectors to sell their carbon credits in the international carbon trading markets and earn financial benefits.

"We are very much aware of the huge untapped economic potential of the carbon markets for Pakistan to generate carbon credits in the international carbon market and earn economic gains by selling the carbon credits," said the PM's climate aide during the meeting.

Carbon markets are international trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China Mr. Khalil Hashmi met with Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Beijing, China.

Ombudsman playing leading role in safeguarding women's right: Fauzia Viqar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Fauzia Viqar, Monday said that her department was playing pivotal role for providing free of cost excess to speedy justice for women at workplace and spreading awareness for people living in remote areas. Talking to PTV news channel, she stressed that media should create more awareness about gender harassment through talk shows and implementing laws against harassment of women at workplaces.

Federal Ombudsman for Protection of Women Against Harassment (FOSP) at Workplace is an autonomous body dedicated to safeguarding the rights and dignity of women, she explained its department working.

She said it was necessary to provide a proper work environment to women with zero tolerance for discrimination, fear and harassment.

She said that society needed to bring changes in its attitudes towards gender issues to empower women, adding, government is committed to ensure equal access to justice and providing safe environment for women in society.

Ayesha Raza urges parents to cooperate with Polio teams

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime minister's focal person on polio, Ayesha Raza Farooq on Monday urged every segment of society to play a role in eradicating poliovirus from the country.

Talking to a PTV news channel, she said that the anti-polio campaign began in forty-nine selected districts of the country today where more than 9.5 million children under five years of age will be administered polio vaccine drops. She also urged parents to cooperate with polio teams visiting their doorsteps.

She said sixteen districts in Balochistan, eleven in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sixteen in Sindh and six in Punjab are part of the campaign, adding that, door-to-door polio campaign will be conducted in specific Union Councils of Islamabad as well.

"Government is sending polio vaccination teams to citizens' doorsteps, especially in areas where the virus is present, adding, guardians and parents of children should open their doors for these health workers who are hardworking in severe heatwave condition".

Replying to a question, she said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was working on this matter where he has conducted high-level meetings with all four provinces' chief ministers, and within the next two months, we will also launch another high-quality level drive nationwide.

She said that the government was extending every possible assistance and security measure to protect polio workers.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressing a press conference in the Federal Capital.

Naqvi lauds FC and Police Personnel foiling terrorists' attack on Takhta Baig

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday paid tribute to the bravery of FC and police personnel who foiled the terrorists' attack on Takhta Baig police checkpoint in District Khyber.

The Interior Minister said that the sacrifices of Shaheed FC official Shaheed and Shaheed Police official Ejaz, who fearlessly thwarted the terrorists' attack. He said that the nation salutes the sacrifices of the two martyrs who laid down their lives fighting against terrorism.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi further said that the sacrifices of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and FC will never be forgotten.

Int'l workshop on 'Making STEAM Education Fun with Traditional Toys' on July 11

ISLAMABAD (APP): Recognizing the importance of Traditional Toys, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) will hold an International Online Workshop "Making Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Education Fun with Traditional Toys" on July 11.

According to the ECOSF, the workshop is being organized jointly by ECOSF in collaboration with the National Science Museum of Thailand (NSM).

The teachers and students can participate in the workshop to learn the STEAM through an innovative concept of Traditional Toys.

The last date to register for the workshop is July 10 while the details of the workshop can be accessed through web link: <https://www.ecosf.org/STEAM-Education-Fun>.

The evolution of toys always mirrors the changes in society and technology. Traditional toys have communicated with humans and dealt with the problem of identity.

They have also conveyed messages, old patterns, beliefs and some rites that are being forgotten.



ISLAMABAD: Citizens of the Federal Capital enjoying a moment of leisure on the swings at a public park.

Monsoon rains to enter Islamabad, other cities this week: DG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General of the Department of Meteorology Mehr Sahibzada Khan Monday said that officially monsoon rains are about to enter Islamabad and other cities of the country on Monday (today), where above to normal rainfall will bring the mercury considerably down.

Talking to PTV news channel, he said that the meteorological department has predicted rain at a few places in the upper parts of the country during the next 24 hours, adding, there is a possibility of rain at a few places in North East Punjab and Upper KP and weather in Islamabad and surrounding areas.

He said Meteorological department had already issued the weather advisory and urging all relevant institutions to make emergency arrangements in anticipation of potential flooding and storm damage.

He said the advisory warns of possible flooding in rivers located in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot, and Kashmir, due to the expected heavy rains.

Met Department has directed all concerned institutions to take emergency measures to address any adverse effects caused by the predicted weather conditions, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A 3-member delegation of the United Nations Environment Programme's Denmark Mission led by Senior Economist Xianli Zhu called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam in the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.

NDMA activates NEOC in anticipation of rain-related emergencies in Punjab, Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Based on predictive modelling, the NDMA's National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) has been reported a significant activity from the eastern Indian side, indicating intense cloud bursts that may hit Pakistani areas.

"Repeated early warnings have been shared with all provinces, and moderate to heavy rainfall is likely to start over the upper catchments of all major rivers particularly Sutlej, Ravi & Chenab from July 2, 2024," the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in its news release said.

The NDMA has also issued an alert regarding lightning, according to which lightning was expected to strike in various cities of South and Central Punjab and Islamabad during July 5-7.

"This may lead to rapid rises in water levels, flash flooding events, and urban flooding in metropolitan areas. NDMA warns that the anticipated rainfall poses a significant risk of low to medium level flooding in River Sutlej, with water levels expected to reach low flood levels (approximately 50,000 cusecs) by July 5 and high flood levels (approximately 120,000 cusecs) by July 10, 2024," the NDMA said.

The NDMA is working closely with federal and provincial departments to ensure preparedness and response to this potential emergency.

The public was advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local authorities.

The NDMA advised public to stay informed and download 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely alerts and closely monitor weather reports and updates on the flood situation, follow instructions, evacuate immediately if orders are issued by local authorities, protect yourself from floodwater, avoid contact with floodwater, which may be contaminated or contain debris or electrical wires.

Develop an evacuation plans with your family, identify a safe location, and create an emergency kit with essential supplies. Travelers are advised to avoid unnecessary travel in case of heavy rainfalls and likely flooding situations.

Secretary KA&GB chairs high level meeting regarding Aug 5 events

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Secretary Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss and review the overall plan being devised to organize events on August 5, 2024, the 5th anniversary of Indian Illegal act of abolishing of special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The meeting was attended by officials and focal

persons of various ministries and departments including Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Islamabad Police, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Ministry of Education, National Heritage and Culture Division, Cantonment Board, District Managements representatives of Islamabad & Rawalpindi and others, said a press release.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Naseema Ehsan, presiding over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on delegated legislation after being elected as Chairperson of the Committee at Parliament House.

British Council recognizes Outstanding Headteachers with Leadership Excellence Awards

ISLAMABAD (APP): The British Council hosted the School Leadership Excellence Awards in Multan, Islamabad and Peshawar to recognize the achievement of 423 outstanding Headteachers in Federal, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa towards enhancing leadership empowerment, promoting good governance, inclusive leadership and driving instructional excellence in their schools.

Mahesh Ahuja along with the British Council team, James Hampson, Country Director of the British Council in Pakistan said: "Our Schools Connect Leadership programme for headteachers is specially designed to improve school governance and enhance quality, access, engagement, and learning. Our focus is on building capacity of headteachers so that they can play an efficient and effective role in creating a more inclusive and enabling environment for quality education in Pakistan. Congratulations to all the headteachers who participated in the training and earned the School Leadership Excellence Award."

Faisal Khan Tarakai, Minister Elementary and Secondary Education Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said: "Our collaboration with the British Council has empowered some of our school heads with the skills needed to lead their schools towards excellence. This partnership underscores the importance of international connections in enriching our educational landscape, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

Completing their professional development journeys around the national school head teacher Standard, leading and managing teaching and learning (instructional leadership), school leaders have shown real results in their schools and the communities they serve. Some have gone on to create school based projects on sensitive topics like mainstreaming transgender students which has sparked interest and conversations not only during panel.

Third Doha Talks: Pakistan and US hold consultations on Afghanistan

DOHA (INP): In Doha, Qatar, Pakistan and the United States held consultations on Afghanistan during the third 2-day Doha talks, reported on Monday.

The consultations were between Pakistan and the US took place in Doha, where US Special Representative for Afghanistan, Thomas West, and his delegation met with the Pakistani delegation.

The Pakistani delegation included Special Representative Asif Durrani, Pakistan's Ambassador to Qatar Dr Muhammad Ijaz, and Head of Mission in Kabul Obaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani.

According to the report, before the United Nations-sponsored conference in the capital city of Qatar, the Pakistani delegation had significant meetings Sunday.

Diplomatic sources said that the parties discussed the matters related to the situation in Afghanistan, the third Doha conference, and options.

The Pakistani delegation also had meetings with delegations from other countries, including a meeting with Russian Special Representative Zamir Kabulov.

Additionally, the Pakistani delegation met with the European Union delegation, led by Special Representative Tomas Niklasson.

The Afghan Interim Government is also participating talks and conference this year. The Afghan Taliban interim government had boycotted the participation of Afghan women and civil society representatives in the last second Doha talks.

For the first time, special representatives on Afghanistan from around the world is sit in front of the Afghan Taliban in the Doha talks.

Yesterday, representatives of Afghanistan's Taliban government began meetings with UN officials as they attended talks in Doha with special envoys to the Central Asian country for the first time. The two-day, UN-hosted meeting in Qatar is the third of its kind in the gas-rich emirate in just over a year but the first to include Taliban authorities who seized power in Afghanistan in 2021.

National Engineering Robotics Contest to be held from July 9-13

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Department of Mechatronics Engineering at College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME), NUST will arrange the annual National Engineering Robotics Contest (NERC) 2024 from July 9-13.

According to the NUST, the participants, during the event, will showcase their innovation and technical prowess in various categories including Indigenous, Modular, RoboWars, and Aero. Over the years, NERC has become a prestigious platform, fostering the growth of robotics and engineering skills among students.

The contest not only highlights cutting-edge robotic technology but also encourages collaboration and creativity among the nation's budding engineers.

The National Engineering Robotics Contest (NERC) is collaboration between the NUST and the STEM Careers Program HEC to promote robotics research in Pakistan.

The 20th NERC 2024 will be hosted by the Department of Mechatronics Engineering and the Society of Mechatronics Engineers, Pakistan. It provides a platform for evaluating and comparing various robotic designs, control algorithms, and architectures.

NERC 2024 is the 20th edition of this prestigious event where participants from school, colleges and universities from all over Pakistan compete in the five-day period. NERC offers students from these institutions across the country an opportunity to learn and exhibit their ideas in the field of automation and robotics. The focus of NERC 2024 theme is to create an autonomous robot that can automate tree plantation drive. In this theme, the robot's task is to prepare the soil for plantation by removing any rocks, garbage etc present in the soil and then planting a tree at defined locations in the field.

OEC starts Japanese language course for skilled workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) has launched a short Japanese language course for skilled workers to get jobs in Japan as basic knowledge is must for job seekers who were interested to work in Japan.

An official source told APP, he said that OEC as a manpower promotion public agency which was playing a vital role to provide maximum jobs to Pakistanis abroad to generate the huge remittances.

In this regard, OEC seeking application from eligible candidate to apply for the Japanese language course, should have minimum education middle, 18-39 age limits and one year experience must for relevant field.

Course fee was Rs 10000 non-refundable and course duration around three months and two session one in morning and other in an evening.



ISLAMABAD: An artisan displaying model and sculptures of different things at Rawal Chowk in the Federal Capital.