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Pakistan, China reaffirm support to each other on core issues

Islamabad, Beijing express satisfaction over Pak-China strategic partnership; Ink 13 accords to strengthen bilateral cooperation in different areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China on Monday reiterated their support to each other on all core issues and pledged to develop China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) phase-II at the highest standards.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang led the delegation-level talks at the Prime Minister's House.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed all aspects of bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction that the Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership which was based on mutual trust and shared principles was being further strengthened with the passage of time.

The two sides also stressed the need for timely completion of all the ongoing projects including industry, modernization of agriculture, information technology, science and technology for the mutual benefits and for the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

The two leaders also expressed satisfaction that

cooperation under CPEC had entered into a new phase.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan.

The two sides agreed to continue the high-level contacts, including strengthening of all areas of bilateral cooperation.

In the meeting, discussions were held regarding the relocation of Chinese industry to Pakistan and strategies to increase Chinese investment in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier, Li Qiang in delegation level talks.

Pakistan, Chinese PMs virtually inaugurate New Gwadar International Airport

PM terms Gwadar Int'l airport a gift from China; to serve as catalyst for economic prosperity, regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the completion of Gwadar International Airport showed Chinese leadership's commitment and dedication to support Pakistan's economic agenda and develop its backward areas.

Addressing a ceremony of virtual inauguration of the newly completed Gwadar International Airport here, the prime minister said that the landmark achievement was all about time-tested friendship between the two countries.

He expressed the hope that the completion of this international airport would transform Gwadar's

economy in particular and the economy of Pakistan in general.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang were at hands to unveil the plaque of Gwadar International Airport. The ceremony was attended by members of the both delegations, ministers, military leadership and senior officials.

The prime minister said that today, both sides had witnessed the signing and exchange of MoUs between the two countries in various fields of industry, commerce and agriculture.

"No doubt these MoUs will shape into agreements very soon through joint efforts of both countries."

Bilawal inaugurates Benazir Hari Card for farmers No compromise on judicial reforms, says Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has asserted that judicial reforms will be implemented without any compromise.

Speaking at the launch of the Hari Card in Karachi on Monday, he emphasised the party's commitment to the promises made in the Charter of Democracy.

He stated that the launch of the Hari Card follows the Benazir Income Support Programme and the Mazdoor Card, highlighting the PPP's focus on small farmers and the working class.

Bilawal referred to the agricultural losses suffered during President Asif Ali Zardari's first term, noting that the gov-

ernment was forced to import food. He underscored the need to support farmers by buying their produce.

Addressing the need for agricultural deregulation, he urged that the sector should be regulated instead.

He called for transitioning farmers to solar power for irrigation and ensuring they receive quality seeds.

"We face the dual challenge of combating climate change while supporting farmers," he added.

In his political remarks, the PPP chairman recalled that the late Benazir Bhutto had promised to implement the Charter of Democracy.

He expressed determination to fulfil those commitments and asked the public if they were satisfied with the current judi-

cial system.

He insisted that if the public is not content, the solutions provided by Benazir should be pursued, including equal representation for all provinces in the judiciary.

Bilawal rejected calls for him to back down, asserting that he remains committed to Benazir's vision.

He highlighted past injustices by the judiciary and military, recalling the challenges faced by his party in the 1990s.

He reiterated that the PPP's approach is based on reconciliation but underscored the need for accountability. He announced a public gathering in Hyderabad on October 18, inviting citizens to join the demand for judicial reforms.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Qiang holding a significant meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Service Chiefs.

Red Line BRT project is a game changer for Karachi: Sharjeel

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has once again directed that the Red Line BRT project be completed ahead of schedule. He stated that the project is a game changer for Karachi, and its timely completion must be ensured under all circumstances.

The Red Line BRT is a top priority for the Sindh Government, with work continuing around the clock. The minister emphasized that efforts should be accelerated to finish the public project before the deadline. The Red Line BRT is aimed at reducing traffic congestion and providing a sustainable, reliable transport solution for millions of Karachiites. A high-level meeting of the Transport

Department and relevant stakeholders on the Red Line BRT project was held in Karachi, chaired by Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, CEO of Trans Karachi Shumaila Mohsin, international consultants, contractors, and other officials.

During the meeting, representatives from Trans Karachi, along with contractors and consultants, provided a briefing on the ongoing work. The progress of the development work on Lot 1 and Lot 2 of the Red Line BRT project was also reviewed.

Dar once again urges PTI to postpone protest in national interest

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has said that holding protests during a nationally important event does not send a positive message, urging those wishing to protest to wait until after the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

Talking to media in Islamabad, Dar highlighted Pakistan was fully prepared to welcome participants of the SCO summit, including leaders and delegates form member and observe states.

He emphasised this event marked a significant diplomatic opportunity for Pakistan, occurring after 27 years, with around 1,000 foreign delegates expected.

Two-day SCO CHG summit kicks off Tuesday as delegates start arriving

ISLAMABAD (APP): The twenty-third meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is set to begin on Tuesday, bringing together regional leaders to discuss enhancing collaboration with a focus on trade, economy, and cultural linkages.

The delegates from the countries participating in the annual gathering of SCO leaders have already started landing in the federal capital which has got a facelift with colorful lights, floral decorations, SCO countries' flags and banners to welcome the dignitaries.

The LED display screens have been installed on the main intersections - also beautifully painted with lights and murals. The landmarks across the city have been adorned with colorful lights and Pakistani flags, also creating a rare photo-op for the citizens and fodder for social media timelines.

Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang, along with a high-level delegation, has already landed in the federal capital to attend the moot and hold meetings with Pakistan's civil and military leadership.

The two-day meeting of SCO CHG, the second highest forum within the SCO, will be chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as the current chair of the Council.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari distributing Benazir Hari Cards to the farmers in a ceremony at the Chief Minister House. PPP Women's Central President Faryal Talpur, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Sindh Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Baksh Khan Meher is also present.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon presides over the high level meeting, held at his office in Karachi.

Sindh home minister orders probe committee for KPC incident

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar on Monday directed IGP Ghulam Nabhi Memon to form a committee to probe police torture over protesting near Karachi Press Club on Sunday. Lanjar gave these directions to IGP Memon after summoning him over police's action on the women and journalists who gathered to protest against the killing of Dr Shahnawaz.

The Sindh minister directed Ghulam Nabhi Memon to ensure an impartial probe of the police action and submit the report within three days.

Lanjar also sought details of the policemen sus-

pected after the incident.

Earlier, DIG South, Asad Raza, confirmed that departmental action is underway against the police officials responsible for the violent behavior with journalists, which has sparked outrage within the media community. DIG South condemned the ill-treatment, stating that such actions against journalists, especially after they are showing their identities, are unacceptable. "Strict action will be taken against the police officials involved in the ill-treatment," Raza said, stressing that the South Zone Police stands firmly against any form of violence against journalists.

During the meeting, Premier Li Qiang met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the service chiefs.

The discussions reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen and expand the long-standing relations between Pakistan and China.

Key topics included defense cooperation and issues related to terrorism between the two countries.

China praises counter-terrorism efforts of Pakistan Army

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chinese Premier Li Qiang, who is in Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, held a significant meeting with Pakistani military officials.

During the meeting, Premier Li Qiang met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the service chiefs.

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Key topics included defense cooperation and issues related to terrorism between the two countries.

Chairperson BISP discusses promotion of technical, vocational education in Sindh with Education Minister

Independent Report KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, held an important meeting today with the Sindh Education and Literacy Minister, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, at his office.

The discussion focused on the skill development of BISP beneficiaries, the allocation of campsites in schools during BISP's quarterly payment disbursements, and the promotion of technical and vocational education in the province. Also present were the Secretary of School Education, Zahid Ali Abbasi, BISP Sindh Director General Zulfiqar Ali Shaikh, and other senior officials. During the meeting, Chairperson BISP emphasized that the program is working on various initiatives related to skill development and technical education to enable beneficiary families to become self-sufficient through technical training.

She added that BISP and the Government of Sindh can collaborate on providing technical training under this flagship initiative. Chairperson Rubina Khalid highlighted that beyond financial assistance, BISP is making significant efforts to help families achieve self-reliance.



KARACHI: Ms. Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) meeting with Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Minister Education & Literacy Government of Sindh.

Candidates' lists for Sindh local government by-elections released

ISLAMABAD (APP): The candidates' lists for the November 14 by-elections for 77 vacant local government seats in Sindh province have been released.

According to the Election Commission, 428 candidates have submitted their nomination papers to contest various positions, including the seats of four chairman, two vice chairman, and four ward councillor in Karachi.

Ninety-six nomination papers have been submitted for ten seats across various categories in six districts of Karachi.

This includes 14 nomination papers for the seat of chairman in District South, UC 13; 10 for the vice chairman in District Centra.

Nasir presides meeting on CSR initiatives for welfare of local people by renewable energy companies

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that all the companies working in Thatta district regarding renewable energy have to improve their CSR initiatives for the welfare of the local people, a foundation will be established comprising of Sindh government, elected representatives, energy department and rep-



representatives of companies to jointly ensure more effective initiatives. He addressed high-level meeting in the Sindh Energy Department's office to review the CSR initiatives of companies working in the field of renewable energy. Minister prison & Works and Services Ali Hasan Zardar, Minister Awaqf Religious Affairs & Zakat and Usher Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, MNA Sadiq Ali Memon, MPA Dr. Sikandar Shoro, Secretary Energy Mossadegh Ahmed Khan, Project Director.

Alternative Energy Mahfouz Ahmad Qazi and representatives of companies working in Thatta district regarding renewable energy also participated. Ministers and elected representatives informed about their suggestions and concerns regarding CSR. He said that we do not know the steps taken by the companies regarding CSR, so there is a need to take all the steps under one plate containing all the stakeholders so that more steps are taken for the local people. Improvements can be made. Ministers Ali Hasan Zardar, Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, elected representatives of Thatta Sadiq Ali Memon, Dr. Sikandar Shoro said that the representatives of the companies should stay in touch with their respective elected representatives and in case of any difficulty, all possible help will be provided.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

SCO summit

It is a matter of prestige that Pakistan is hosting the SCO Heads of Government summit from tomorrow. The multilateral event in the capital is all the more important as Pakistan tries to chart an economic recovery; besides, by hosting the summit, the country appears to have thwarted attempts by certain quarters to isolate it internationally. However, the state bears great responsibility to ensure that the event passes off smoothly, especially as Pakistan confronts a wave of terrorism, and malevolent actors trying to exploit security loopholes.

Clearly, this is why the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been placed under virtual lockdown until the summit concludes. Ten thousand police and paramilitary personnel will protect the diplomatic mega event, while the military will also offer assistance. True, the security protocols appear excessively stringent, but the administration knows that it can take no chances as foreign dignitaries gather in the capital. In this regard, all quarters, including political parties, must ensure that no hurdles are placed in the way of the SCO summit.

Beyond the security lens, the summit offers Pakistan an opportunity to engage with other states in the neighbourhood. The SCO, a Beijing-led initiative, brings together China, Russia, the Central Asian states, Iran and others, to foster a Eurasian community that focuses on socioeconomic cooperation, harmonising counterterrorism and law-enforcement policies, and reinforcing cultural bonds. Regional integration — within South Asia, with Central Asia and the Middle East — is imperative if Pakistan is to embark on a successful path towards economic prosperity. While some may see the SCO as an 'anti-West' collective — along with the Moscow-led BRICS — this is a limited view. Partnerships between regional states and the larger neighbourhood create constituencies of peace and common efforts to encourage commerce and economic activity. No one, therefore, should feel threatened by the fact that Eurasian states are coming together to pursue shared goals. Forums like the SCO also offer states such as Pakistan and India, which do not have cordial relations, platforms to improve ties under a multilateral umbrella. In this regard, the arrival of the Indian external affairs minister in Islamabad for the summit will be watched closely, though a bilateral breakthrough is not expected. Together with the SCO, Pakistan should also endeavour for full BRICS membership — for which it has applied — and engage other regional blocs to expand its trade horizons and improve foreign relations. At one time, Pakistan was a major voice in the comity of developing nations and the Muslim world. Due to our own internal weaknesses, specifically economic meltdowns, our international stature has been severely reduced. A successful holding of the SCO summit would signal that Pakistan is very much back on the world stage.

Back in the news

Huma Yusuf

"You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave." Those famous lyrics are going to haunt American officials after next month's US presidential elections as Washington again considers its Afghanistan problem. How it will broach this problem is unsurprisingly of interest to Pakistan's establishment. But rather than endure a case of déjà vu, could our leaders pitch a new approach?

Just under 24 million Afghans require humanitarian assistance, 48 per cent of them live below the poverty line, and Afghan women's rights are so decimated that women are now prohibited from even speaking in public. Over the past three years, these factors have not been sufficient to draw global attention to Afghanistan. The world remains focused on the conflict in the Middle East, Russia's posturing, and US-China rivalry.

And yet, Afghanistan is creeping back into America's line of sight, and the recent arrest of an Afghan national in Oklahoma for allegedly planning Election Day attacks in the name of ISIS will put the issue into centre focus. The man was apprehended while trying to stockpile weapons after trawling through online IS propaganda. His detention is a reminder that the US is not secure against terrorism while militant safe havens persist.

Even earlier, Afghanistan was back in US headlines, because it has become a useful punching bag in the context of domestic politics. America's chaotic departure from Afghanistan — based on a deal with the Afghan Taliban brokered by the Trump administration, followed by an exit plan executed by the Biden administration — has featured repeatedly

on the campaign trail, with Republicans and Democrats blaming each other for all that went wrong.

The Republican Party timed its publication last month of a report that sharply criticises the Biden administration for failing to plan for the return to power of the Taliban, and taking steps to safely evacuate Americans and their Afghan allies beforehand. It aims to defend the Republicans' record following last year's After Action Review, an internal US government probe into both sides' failings during the withdrawal, particularly the failure to anticipate and plan for worst-case scenarios. Having stirred the Afghan pot to win domestic political points, the next US government will have to contend with what it has brewed.

Reprioritisation of Afghanistan will also be driven by the fact that Russia is seeking to emerge as a regional leader on the topic. The Moscow Format meeting involving regional governments earlier this month focused on Afghanistan, and stressed how regional security hinges on the Taliban's ability to clamp down on militant groups operating from its soil. This is not a conversation Washington can easily ignore.

In this context, Pakistan is preparing for a throwback to the days when Washington worried about global terrorism threats emanating from Afghanistan, and sought to tackle them by scattering counterterrorism funding in Islamabad's direction. Increased CT cooperation was the focus of bilateral meetings between the US and Pakistan in May, and the government's decision to 'reinvigorate' its national CT strategy in June appeared strategically timed.

No doubt, Pakistan

faces a grave and material security threat from groups such as the TTP that carry out cross-border attacks from Afghanistan. The rapid rise in militant attacks is alarming: August's death toll of 254 people killed in militant attacks — the highest over the past six years — was an unambiguous warning sign. Pakistan should absolutely do whatever it takes to eliminate this security threat, including cooperating with regional governments similarly affected, as well as global players with their own vested interests such as the US.

But what the state should not do is cynically use CT considerations as a blunt instrument against public dissent. Nor should it assume that rekindled US interest in regional security offers it carte blanche to clamp down in the name of national security. The PTM ban on tenuous security grounds, the conflation of Pakhtun identity with terrorism and anti-state positioning, the focus on Afghan flags at the PTM jirga — these are missteps that distract from the real threat and damage state credibility.

Perhaps this time around the government can take advantage of the presence of a large, local constituency that is opposed to extremist violence, and instead, privileges peaceful protest, rule of law and democratic rights. Throughout our erstwhile 'war on terror' we sought effective CT narratives.

These now exist in the form of grassroots movements across the country.

A changing geopolitical context should not embolden their suppression — it should empower them as strong alternatives to future cycles of violence. -- Courtesy Dawn

Educational divide

Arshad Saeed Khan

While basic education is a constitutional right of every child in Pakistan, millions of children and youth remain deprived of this fundamental means of living a quality life. The recently launched District Education Performance Index (DEPI) by the Ministry of Planning and Development represents a significant step towards comparing the state of education across 134 districts in Pakistan.

The findings of the report reveal severe disparities in both access to and quality of education, with a staggering 77 districts categorised as 'low' performers. Most of these districts are concentrated in Balochistan and Sindh, revealing deep-rooted interprovincial inequities. Despite its pioneering effort, the DEPI report raises important questions about the robustness of its design, methodology, and title.

A stark contrast emerges when comparing Islamabad and Rajanpur, two districts with nearly identical populations of 2.3 million. According to the DEPI, Islamabad ranks at the top of the 134 districts, while Rajanpur languishes far behind in 80th place. Despite both districts being part of the same country, their educational realities could not be more different. In Islamabad, 84 per cent of individuals (aged 10-plus) are literate, reflecting its privileged educational infrastructure. Meanwhile, in Rajanpur, the literacy rate is a mere 37pc, underscoring the region's severe educational deprivation.

The disparities become even more striking when examining school attendance. In Islamabad, only 40,477 residents — roughly 2pc of the population —

have 'never' attended school. In Rajanpur, however, a shocking 1.2m people (52pc) have been denied even this basic right. In Islamabad, fewer than 90,000 children (15pc) are out of school, whereas in Rajanpur, a staggering 442,819 children (56pc) remain outside the education system. Who bears responsibility for Rajanpur's dismal educational performance? It is unfair to hold Rajanpur accountable for the neglect and deprivation faced by its children.

The real difference lies in the systemic advantages Islamabad enjoys. As the seat of power, home to decision-makers, parliamentarians, custodians of state funds, and a myriad of educated employees, Islamabad benefits from a concentration of resources and attention that is unavailable to districts like Rajanpur. Meanwhile, Rajanpur's underperformance is symptomatic of a broader structural discrimination. Its remoteness from the corridors of power, especially from the provincial capital of Lahore (often referred to as Takht-i-Lahore), leaves it marginalised and underserved.

Of the 34 indicators used by the DEPI to assess district performance in education, 18 — over 53pc — are beyond the authority of the districts and fall under the jurisdiction of provincial governments. Districts depend entirely on the discretion of officials and political leaders in provincial capitals for development budgets, teacher appointments, new school construction, and essential facilities such as computer labs. How can a district's performance be accurately judged in areas

outside its control? The disconnect between certain DEPI indicators and ground realities is clear in one notable example: the average tenure of a provincial secretary of education is used as an indicator of district performance under the domain of 'governance and management'. How can districts influence the tenure of a provincial secretary when decisions, including premature transfers, are made by the chief minister or chief secretary?

This flaw in the DEPI framework highlights the need for significant revisions. True performance can only be gauged when districts have the power and the means to meet their goals, which they clearly do not. Districts remain mere spectators, wholly dependent on provincial decisions. So, what the DEPI really shows is not 'performance' but the current state of educational deprivation and neglect. The right to free and compulsory education (Article 25-A) is a constitutional duty shared by federal, provincial, and local governments, and none can shirk this responsibility. Shockingly, over 25m children aged five to 16 are currently out of school in Pakistan, while the illiterate population has swelled from 50m in 1998 to 60m in 2017 and 67m in the 2023 census. We must move beyond superficial rankings and enact meaningful reforms that empower districts and ensure equitable resource distribution. Only then can we build a society where every child has the chance to access quality education and thrive. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

New ADB country director for Pakistan assumes office

ISLAMABAD (APP): Asian Development Bank's (ADB) newly appointed Country Director for Pakistan, Xiaojin (Emma) Fan joined the Pakistan Resident Mission here Monday to officially commence her role.

As Country Director, Ms. Fan will oversee ADB's operations in Pakistan, including the implementation of the country partnership strategy (CPS) that prioritizes lifting growth, increasing resilience, and boosting competitiveness, said ADB press release issued here. She will also lead the consultation for the new CPS covering the period from 2026 to 2030, it added. "I am delighted to be back in Pakistan to lead the country office. I look

forward to promoting ADB's longstanding partnership with the government and people of Pakistan," said Ms. Fan. "ADB will continue to work closely with Pakistan's federal and provincial governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to speed-up economic recovery, implement reforms, and champion policies and development processes to create jobs. We'll scale up our support for climate resilience, private sector development, and institutional development; and we will continue to foster livable cities, rural development, digital ecosystems, growth centers, and regional cooperation and

integration," she added. A national of New Zealand, Ms. Fan holds a Doctorate in Economics from the Australian National University, and Master's and bachelor's degrees from Lanzhou University in the People's Republic of China (PRC). She has more than 30 years of professional experience, including 22 years in ADB. Ms. Fan joined ADB in June 2002 as an Economist, and since then has held positions of increasing responsibility in various departments across the bank.

In December 2013, she was appointed as Advisor for ADB's Strategic Planning Department (SPD) and the Head of its Results Management Unit.



DUBAI: Pakistan's Ambassador to UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at GITEX GLOBAL at Dubai World Trade Centre.

Huawei showcases innovative AI-Ready Cloud at GITEX 2024 in Dubai

ISLAMABAD (APP): Huawei Cloud is set to demonstrate its commitment to intelligent upgrades at GITEX 2024 in Dubai through its innovative AI-ready cloud to meet the industry-specific requirements, including carrier, government, finance, media and entertainment, Web3, and e-commerce and retail.

According to a news release received here on Monday Alan Qi, President of Huawei Cloud Middle East and Central

Asia, said, "Huawei Cloud brings global digital transformation best practices to the region with AI-native cloud services like databases, big data, data governance, software development, and AI. We partner with industry leaders to create solutions for government, electricity, finance, media, e-commerce, and retail, promoting digital and intelligent transformation. Additionally, we connect local industries with global

enterprises to foster innovation through peer exchanges and successful practices." Under its "Everything-as-a-Service" strategy, Huawei Cloud offers all-digital, all-cloud, and AI-driven services, including Infrastructure, Technology, and Expertise as a Service. Shahzad Rasheed — CEO of Huawei Cloud Pakistan, said, "At Gitex, we're witnessing the future of cloud innovation unfold before our eyes.

Chinese premier's visit to strengthen Pakistan-China economic ties: Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Ifikhar Ali Malik said on Monday that Chinese Premier Li Qiang's four-day visit to Pakistan marks another significant milestone in further deepening bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries besides fortifying the invincible bonds of brotherhood and steadfastness of friendship. In his statement issued here, he said the visit underscores the unwavering friendship and brotherhood that has characterized China-Pakistan ties for decades. Both countries share a deep-rooted bond that has

been described as "higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea," and Premier Li's visit is set to solidify these ties even further. He said the visit will help expanding cooperation in various sectors, particularly in trade, infrastructure development, and energy projects. China is already Pakistan's largest trading partner and a key player in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has brought billions of dollars in investments to Pakistan. This visit will further enhance these economic initiatives, fostering mutual growth and development, he added.



LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) Muntaha Ashraf in a group photo with Chinese delegation during a meeting.

Minister Kirmani says: Institutional reforms to improve service delivery

MULTAN (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Monday said that service delivery would be enhanced through institutional reforms in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister.

In a statement issued here, he announced that special powers were being granted to the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture to resolve institutional challenges through better policy-

making and provide improved services to farmers. Chairing a meeting at the Agriculture House, the minister highlighted that Punjab focused on promoting innovation and value addition in the agriculture sector. Generous funding was being provided to ensure that production targets were met strengthening the national economy, he added. The transformation of agriculture would lead to economic stability, he noted.

Rupee sheds 03 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 03 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.66 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.63. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278 and Rs279.50 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 48 paise to close at Rs303.46 against the last day's closing of Rs303.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where five ships, Apollon-D, Maersk Saratoga, Karpathos Dawn, Solar Cate and Isabella Kosan scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Palm oil and Chemicals berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Sunday.

'CM livestock card will be launched soon'

SARGODHA (APP): Director General of Livestock and Dairy Development Punjab Dr. Muhammad Ashraf on Monday visited the Livestock Complex Sargodha. During his visit, he inspected various facilities including the Director Livestock Office, Diagnostic Laboratory, Vaccine Cold Chain, and the Chief Minister Punjab Livestock Facilitation Desk. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf also planted a sapling in the office lawn

and expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness of the premises. Director Livestock Dr. Arif Sultan provided a briefing and presented a performance report. Additional Directors of Livestock from all four districts were also present during the briefing. In his address, Director General of Livestock and Dairy Development Punjab Dr. Muhammad Ashraf said that the Chief Minister Punjab Livestock Card will be launched soon.

SIFC playing pivotal role in country's economic development

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Investment Facilitation Council is playing a pivotal role in taking the country's economy on the path of development and restoring the confidence of the world. As a result of these efforts, China, Russia and Brazil have recently expressed their desire to invest in various sectors of Pakistan. China desires to shift its various industries to Pakistan while Russia and Brazil are involved in trade agreements with Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A shopkeeper arranging and displaying perfumes to attract the customers in the city.

Political activity in capital must be under the law: MCCI president

MULTAN (APP): Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh said on Monday that any political activity in the federal capital must be under the law, especially during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Talking to APP here Monday, he asked the government to take appropriate measures for maintaining peace and order in the capital after understanding the gravity

of the situation. He said there should be no unlawful gatherings in Islamabad, especially during the SCO summit. The government's role is to ensure equal rights for all citizens to balance the situation while maintaining peace, he added. He said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was a business conference and a key event for fostering economic collaboration among SCO member states.

242 decisions of KP Cabinet implemented

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet has held a total of 15 meetings so far, in which 319 important decisions were made, out of total 242 decisions have been implemented completely, and whereas remaining 77 decisions are in the process of implementation. The decisions made during cabinet meetings include 76 important decisions related to the Finance Department, 51 related to the Law Department, and 26 related to the Local Government Department, 19 decisions related to the Planning

Department, 34 to the Home Department, 27 to the Education Department, and 28 to the Health Department. Some of the key decisions of the provincial cabinet include; the approval of important legal drafts, funds for development projects, and other public welfare initiatives, in addition to approval of Memorandums of Understanding, agreements and important policies of the government. A review meeting held here on Monday with the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin

Khan Gandapur in the chair, took stock of the progress made on the decisions of the cabinet meetings. The participants were informed that a total of 2564 new vacancies have been approved in the cabinet meetings. Moreover, Rs 8.5 billion has been released for the deserving households under the Ramadan package. Additionally, 1356 new vacancies have been approved to strengthen police in the province, and Rs. 600 Million have been released for the purchase of armored vehicles for the police.

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CM Punjab lauded for uniform sanitation system for urban, rural areas

SIALKOT (APP): Punjab Land Record Authority (PLRA) Chairman Chaudhry Tariq Subhani has said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has made a uniform sanitation system a reality in rural and urban areas of the province and the entire system has been outsourced. He was talking to people after inspecting the bulk waste lifting and dumping process and the cleaning of the drains and streets under Suthra Punjab Program at Bhal of Uion Council (UC) Syedan-Wali, here today. Now door-to-door

garbage collection from villages will be started in the next two weeks and in addition to cleaning and sanitation services, garbage will be lifted and dumped in accordance with hygienic principles, he added. Deputy Director Local Government (DDLG) Department Umer Amjad Baig, Chief Officer (CO) District Council Fida Mir, ADLG Muhammad Jameel Gul besides UC Secretary, members of UC Committees and local dignitaries were also present in a large number.

PPP leader for immediate convening of CCI meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman inter-provincial coordination committee (ICC) and parliamentary leader of PPP Ahmed Kundi in Monday called for immediate convening of a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI). Chairing over an introductory meeting of the ICC here he said that the CCI meeting should be held within 90 days as a constitutional requirement and deplored that it could not be held for the last eight months.

He said that the KP government should write a letter to fulfill this constitutional obligation as soon as possible. He said that the CCI meeting should be held within 90 days as a constitutional requirement and deplored that it could not be held for the last eight months.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi inaugurates NADRA registration Center at Provincial Assembly.

Governor Punjab says: SCO summit's testament of world's faith in Pakistan

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that the holding of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Pakistan is a testament of world's faith in Pakistan as an important partner. "Presence of twenty heads of countries is a matter of pride for the country. The SCO summit is a positive development that augurs well for the economic development of Pakistan," Governor Punjab said while talking to the office-bearers, ticket holders and workers belonging to District

Sheikhupura at the Governor's House, here on Monday. He said the SCO summit will open new horizons for development, adding that the economy has started to improve in Pakistan and foreign investment is also increasing. He said that the arrival of twenty leaders in Pakistan is proof that Pakistan's image has improved at the global level. He said that the federal government and all institutions deserve kudos for hosting the SCO summit in Pakistan.

The Governor Punjab said that the SCO conference is the key to the economic development of Pakistan, after which new avenues of development will open in the country. He said that PTI's protest on the occasion of SCO meeting is against the country's interest. He added that PTI's call for protest on this occasion is like stopping the country's development. He said the masses have rejected PTI's call for protest. The Governor further said that everyone including the opposition has to play a positive role for the betterment of the nation.

Police confronting anti-state elements in Bannu: Paktoon

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Paktoon Yar Khan has said that an attack occurred at Bannu Police Lines shortly after the funeral of a martyred officer. Giving details of the incident, he said that Bannu Police are actively confronting anti-state elements. He said that five terrorists have infiltrated the police

lines, and an exchange of fire is ongoing, involving both small and large weapons. Authorities have sealed off the surrounding areas, with concerns about potential casualties and financial losses. Emergency protocols have been implemented in hospitals across Bannu. The minister said that terrorism in any form is unacceptable.

Man released from jail after 18 years killed

PESHAWAR (APP): A man released after spending 18 years in jail was shot dead by his rivals in the vicinity of Mattani police station, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred in Shaheedan Azakhel area of Mattani where 45-year-old, Akhtar Ali who was released from jail after 18 years, was killed by his rivals. Kifayat Ullah, a relative of the deceased, told police that Akhtar Ali and his brother were bringing firewood when Akhtar was allegedly killed by his rivals, Hukam Sher and his son Momin.

Governor inaugurates passport, Nadra offices in KP Assembly

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday inaugurated passport and Nadra offices in the provincial assembly. The event was attended by Speaker Babar Salim Swati, Deputy Speaker Suraya Bibi, Opposition Leader Dr. Ibadullah, PPP parliamentary leader PPP Ahmad Karim Kundi, Director General of Passport Mustafa Kamal Qazi, and Nadra Director Khalid Inayatullah, along with other assembly members and secretariat staff. The Governor's visit aimed to provide assembly members, secretariat staff, and press gallery

representatives with the convenience of computerized identification cards and passports right at their doorstep. This marked Kundi's first visit to the provincial assembly as Governor, during which he also reviewed the assembly hall and the jirga hall. Talking to media, Kundi expressed gratitude to the Federal Interior Minister for their significant support for the project. He acknowledged the critical role played by Speaker Babar Salim Swati in establishing the parliamentary jirga and emphasized the need to set aside political differences to focus on restoring peace.



LAHORE: Angry students protest by burning tyres and furniture at a local college, after the alleged rape of a female student by security card at Gulberg in the Provincial Capital.

WCLA launches guided tour of Lahore Fort hidden places

LAHORE (APP): For the first time the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) has launched a guided tour of the Lahore Fort in which the hidden spaces of the fort have been opened and the tourists can see them with a trained guide of WCLA. According to WCLA sources here on Monday, this is a monthly guided tour launched by the WCLA in 2024. Places inside Lahore Fort like Arzghah, Kala Burj, Akbari

Gate, Akbari Hammam, Kharak Singh Haveli with rooftop views, Akbari Mahal, Sheesh Mahal Attic Rooms, Ranjeet Singh's Last Living Room, British Barracks or Jails, Mughal era Water Channels, The Mysterious grave in the basement, Torture cells near the Royal Kitchens, Zanana Masjidi, Naag Temple, Summer Palace and Daulat Khana Khas o Aam have been opened to the public for the first time in this tour.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan expressing his views while meeting the office bearers, ticket holders and workers belonging to District Sheikhupura here at Governor House Lahore.

International News

Israel says 4 soldiers killed by Hezbollah drone attack while Israeli strike in Gaza leaves 20 dead

Monitoring Desk
DEIR AL-BALAH: A Hezbollah drone attack on an army base in central Israel killed four soldiers and severely wounded seven others Sunday, the military said, in the deadliest strike by the militant group since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon nearly two weeks ago. The Lebanon-based Hezbollah called the attack near Binyamina city retaliation for Israeli strikes on Beirut on Thursday that killed 22 people. It later said it targeted Israel's elite Golan brigade, launching dozens of missiles to occupy Israeli air defense systems during the assault by "squadrons" of drones. Israel's national rescue service said the attack wounded 61. With Israel's advanced air-defense systems, it's rare for so many people to be injured by drones or missiles. Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire almost daily in the year since the war in Gaza began, and fighting has escalated. Israel launched its

ground operation in Lebanon earlier this month with the goal of weakening Hezbollah and pushing the militant group away from the border to allow thousands of displaced Israelis to return to their homes. Inside Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed at least 20 people including children at a school Sunday night, according to two local hospitals. The school in Nuseirat was sheltering some of the many Palestinians displaced by the war. Meanwhile, explosions hit early Monday outside Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, killing three people and injuring about 50 others, the hospital said. Tents caught fire, and residents of the Central Gaza community carried the injured into the hospital. Hezbollah's deadly strike in Israel came the same day that the United States announced it would send a new air-defense system to Israel to help bolster protection against missiles, along with troops needed to

operate it. An Israeli army spokesperson declined to provide a timeline. Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — both Iran-backed militant groups — and is expected to strike Iran in retaliation for a missile attack earlier this month. Iran has said it will respond to any Israeli attack. The U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon known as UNIFIL said Israeli tanks forcibly entered the gates of one position early Sunday and destroyed the main gate. They later fired smoke rounds near peacekeepers, causing skin irritation. UNIFIL called the incident a "further flagrant violation of international law." International criticism is growing after Israeli forces have repeatedly fired on U.N. peacekeepers since the start of the ground operation in Lebanon. Five peacekeepers have been wounded in attacks that struck their positions, with most blamed on Israeli forces.

Israeli minister denounces UN peacekeepers as fighting rages

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli Energy Minister Eli Cohen on Monday accused the United Nations' UNIFIL peacekeepers in south Lebanon of being a "useless" force that failed to protect Israelis from Hezbollah attacks and called on it to withdraw as fighting ramps up. "The State of Israel will do everything to ensure the safety of its citizens, and if the UN cannot help, at least it should not interfere, and move its personnel from the combat zones," he said on X. Israel and the United Nations have been trading accusations over the peacekeepers in south Lebanon, as Israel pushes its forces through the area in an attempt to wipe out Iran-backed Hezbollah

and its military infrastructure. The UN said Israeli tanks had burst into its base on Sunday, the latest allegations of Israeli violations against peacekeeping forces, that have been condemned by Hezbollah and by Israel's allies. Israel disputed the UN account and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for the peacekeepers to withdraw, saying they were providing "human shields" for Hezbollah during an upsurge in hostilities. The UNIFIL peacekeeping force said two Israeli Merkava tanks destroyed the main gate of a base and forcibly entered before dawn on Sunday.

WHO approves Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine for adolescents

Monitoring Desk
MUNICH: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Monday it had approved Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine for adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, an age group considered especially vulnerable to outbreaks of the disease that has triggered global concern. The WHO said in a statement that it gave the Jynneos vaccine prequalification for adolescents on Oct 8. The WHO declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years in August after a new type of the virus spread from the Democratic Republic of Congo to its neighbours.



Lebanese army soldier inspects a site damaged by an Israeli air strike in the Christian-majority region of Aitou in north Lebanon.

Kremlin says NATO's nuclear exercises fuel tensions in light of 'hot war' in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said that NATO's annual nuclear exercise involving nuclear-capable military aircraft, which began on Monday, was fuelling tensions in light of the "hot war" unfolding in Ukraine. NATO was due to begin its annual "Steadfast Noon" nuclear exercise on Monday, the alliance's Secretary General Mark Rutte said on Thursday, something he cast as a powerful display of deterrence capabilities against a backdrop of heightened

nuclear rhetoric from Russian President Vladimir Putin. F-35A fighter jets and B-52 bombers will be among some 60 aircraft from 13 nations taking part in the exercise, hosted by Belgium and The Netherlands, NATO officials said. "In the conditions of a hot war, which is going on within the framework of the Ukrainian conflict, such exercises lead to nothing but further escalation of tension," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Russia calls on BRICS partners to create alternative to IMF

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia, which chairs the BRICS group this year, has called on its partners to create an alternative to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to counter political pressure from Western nations ahead of the BRICS summit later this month. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, and China, has expanded to include South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Top BRICS finance and central bank officials are meeting in Moscow this week.

Lessons from Iran missile attacks for defending against China's advanced arsenal

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Iran's missile barrage this month against Israel, after a similar large-scale attack in April, shows the value, as well as the shortcomings, of US and allied missile defences in a potential Indo-Pacific conflict with China, analysts say. Although differences between the two scenarios limit the lessons that can be learnt, the nearly 400 missiles of different types that Iran has fired at Israel this year offer the United States

and China some idea of what works and what does not. For Washington, the main takeaway from Iran's Oct. 1 attacks — the largest sample yet of ballistic missiles fired against modern defences — could be that Beijing's missiles would be more difficult to intercept than Iran's and that the ability to strike back would be needed to deter a mass attack, said Collin Koh of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

Philippine defence minister doubts China's intent on South China Sea code

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines doubts China's intention to negotiate a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea although Manila is looking forward to continuing discussions, Defence Minister Gilberto Teodoro said on Monday. Teodoro said that while President Ferdinand Marcos Jr had approved "good-faith discussions",

China deploys record 125 warplanes in large scale military drill in warning to Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: China employed a record 125 aircraft, as well as its Liaoning aircraft carrier and ships, in large-scale military exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands Monday, simulating the sealing off of key ports in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait, officials said. China made clear it was to punish Taiwan's president for rejecting Beijing's claim of sovereignty over the self-governed island. The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said in a

speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment." "This is a resolute punishment for Lai Ching-te's continuous fabrication of 'Taiwan independence' nonsense," China's Taiwan Affairs Office said in a statement. Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said 90 of the aircraft, including warplanes, helicopters and drones, were spotted within Taiwan's air defense identification zone. The single-day record counted aircraft from 5:02 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Shipping traffic was operating as normal, the ministry said.

North Korea set to blow up cross-border roads with South amid drone row, Seoul says

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea is getting ready to blow up roads that cross the heavily militarised border with South Korea, Seoul said on Monday, amid an escalating war of words after the North accused its rival of sending drones over its capital Pyongyang. North Korean troops were working under camouflage on the roads on its side of the border near the west and east coasts that are likely preparations to blow up the roads, possibly as early as on Monday, South Korea's military spokesman said. Last week, North Korea's Army said it would completely cut roads and railways connected to South Korea and fortify the areas on its side of the border, state media KCNA reported. Separately, North Korea on Friday accused South Korea of sending drones to scatter a "huge number" of anti-North leaflets over Pyongyang, in what it called a political and military provocation that

could lead to armed conflict. Lee Sung-jun, a spokesman for the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff, declined on Monday to answer questions over whether the South Korean military or civilians flew the drones. In further statements over the weekend, North Korea warned of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones were again found to be flying over Pyongyang. On Sunday, it said it has put eight fully armed artillery units at the border "on standby to open fire." South Korea's military has said its refusal to answer questions on the drones is because addressing what the North has alleged would be to get drawn into a tactic by Pyongyang to fabricate excuses for provocations. South Korea has sought to boost its anti-drone defences since 2022, Lee said, when five North Korean drones entered its airspace and flew over the capital Seoul for several hours.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Li Qiang visit Pakistan to expand bilateral cooperation, build high quality CPEC

BEIJING (APP): Chinese Premier Li Qiang official visit to Pakistan would enhance traditional friendship, strengthen strategic communication, expand bilateral cooperation across the board and building of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in a high quality way, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

Through this visit, China looks to working with Pakistan to enhance the traditional friendship, strengthen strategic communication, build China Pakistan Economic Corridor in a high quality way, deepen and expand cooperation across the board, and accelerate the building of a closer China Pakistan community with a

shared future in the new era and jointly work for regional peace, development and prosperity, Mao Ning said during her regular briefing held here.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif, Chinese Premier Li Qiang is visiting Pakistan from October 14 to 17.

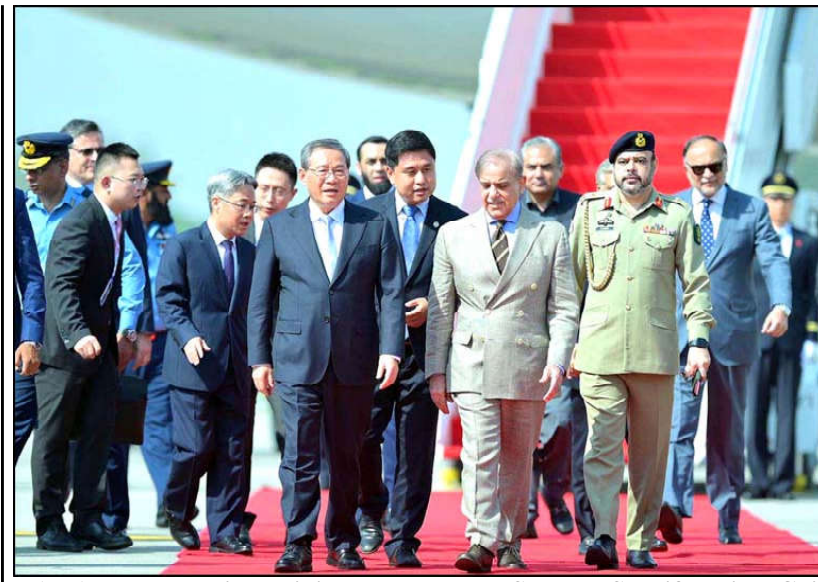
The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan are ironclad friends and all weather strategic cooperative partners and added, Our relations have stood the test of time and remained rock solid.

She pointed out that this June Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif paid an official visit to China. The two sides actively delivered on the important

common understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries and the bilateral relations have maintained sound momentum of development.

She said that this is primarily Li Qiang first visit to Pakistan after he took office and marks exchange of visits at the head of government level between the two countries within a year, which is of significance to deepening all weather strategic cooperative partnership.

During the visit, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council will attend the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to be held in Islamabad.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives Chinese Premier H.E. Li Qiang upon his arrival in Pakistan.

Commissioner directs all DCs to eliminate encroachments causing traffic congestion

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi on Monday directed all the Deputy Commissioners to effectively implement the campaign to eliminate encroachments causing traffic congestion in their respective districts.

He directed the DCs to ensure that action against encroachments yields tangible results and prevent re-encroachment at cleared locations, said a spokesperson of the Commissioner.

The Commissioner

stated that encroachments on roads are increasing traffic congestion and inconveniencing citizens.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner East, Shehzad Fazal Abbasi, has submitted a report to the Commissioner Karachi regarding action taken against encroachments.

The report states that the encroachments on Gulistan-e-Jauhar Road at MET office have been removed, facilitating smoother traffic flow on this road.

Chinese Premier Li given guard of honour at PM House

ISLAMABAD (APP): Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang on Monday was given a guard of honour at the Prime Minister's House as he arrived there to meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and hold the delegation-level talks.

As Premier Li arrived at the venue of formal welcome reception, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed him.

The national anthems of Pakistan and China were played as the dignitary stood at the salute dias.

The smartly turned-out contingents of three armed forces presented a guard of honour which Premier Li reviewed.

Later, both the prime ministers introduced their respective delegations to each other before proceeding for the bilateral meeting and delegation-level talks.

Dep Speaker Sindh Assembly highlights PPP's commitment to religious harmony

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Speaker of Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed emphasized that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) firmly believes in religious tolerance, citing his own position as a testament to this principle. "PPP has appointed a non-Muslim to a significant constitutional position, which is a prime example of religious harmony," he said.

He acknowledged the historic nature of his appointment, highlighting that after the creation of Pakistan, he became the first Christian to hold such a prominent constitutional role. He also extended his appreciation to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on behalf of the Christian community.

"Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is meeting with people from all walks of life to discuss constitutional amendments and raise awareness.

The Sindh Assembly will implement whatever decision the party chairman makes," he added.

Naveed also mentioned that the President of Pakistan would play a key role in the constitutional amendments under the policy of reconciliation.

He made these remarks during his participation at the Christian community's religious festival held at Saint Paul's Church in Sanghar. He noted that this was his first visit to Sanghar after being elected as Deputy Speaker.

Naveed expressed his gratitude to the Christian community, other minorities and PPP workers for the warm reception he received.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Leader, Mustafa Kamal along with others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Pakistan House in Karachi.

SHC seeks mechanism to determine enforced disappearances

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has sought mechanism for determination of enforced disappearances from federal and provincial governments during the hearing of the cases regarding recovery of missing persons.

Mother of missing citizens told the court Maaz and Talha are missing from area near airport since 2014.

The state counsel took the plea in the court 41 meetings of JIT and 17 meetings of PTF have been held for the recovery of citizens. Justice Salah-ud-Din Panhwar remarked JIT had said no question arises of child and human trafficking in the country. While the matter of Saram Burni came to open on information from the foreigners. The state counsel said the enforced disappearance of both the brothers has been determined.

then the case falls in the ambit of enforced disappearances. If there is no eye witness then the case comes in the category of missing persons automatically.

The court once again inquired is there any policy or mechanism regarding enforced disappearances. If there is no policy then it should be framed. How can we determine merely on the basis of allegations. In the report has it been written alleged before enforced disappearance or otherwise.

Counsel for Rangers told the court the word alleged has not been mentioned in the report.

The court remarked you have admitted. Policy should have been told to the institution which has worked out categories. If the case is of enforced disappearance then its responsibility will be fixed on whom. Federal and Sindh governments should tell policy would be framed when. If JIT is determining enforced disappearance then it means it is responsible.

Meanwhile, Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) also called a counter-protest but police stopped them for reaching the Karachi Press Club.

The protesters had organised the "Sindh Rawadari March" to condemn the extrajudicial killing of Dr Shah Nawaz Kunbhar in fake encounter on the pretext of blasphemy.

Meanwhile, Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) also called a counter-protest but police stopped them for reaching the Karachi Press Club.

Two separate rallies were held in Karachi on Sunday violating the Section 144.

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KARACHI: Pakistani fishermen released from Indian jail are hugging their relatives after reaching the Edhi Center in the Provincial Capital.

Pakistan emerges as important player in region: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Monday that Pakistan which faced isolation on foreign policy affairs in the past, had now emerged as a key player in the region.

Talking to the media after the inauguration of the Media Facilitation Center at Pak-China Friendship Center, he said the present government had succeeded to end diplomatic isolation of the country and now high level delegations from many countries have been visiting Pakistan in the recent past. "We are a very active player in the region, and we have to play an active role in the region," he remarked.

He said that all economic indicators of Pakistan were positive with inflation decreasing to record 6.9 as compared to 32 per cent last year.

He said that foreign exchange reserves and IT exports had witnessed a surge and remittances during the first quarter of the current fiscal year had touched \$ 8.8 billion mark.

International financial institutions like International Monetary Fund and World Bank praised Pakistan's economy and renowned financial journals like Bloomberg had termed Pakistan stock exchange as the most emerging market in the region, he remarked.

He said that the Chinese Prime Minister had come to Pakistan after 11 years which was an honour.

The minister said China had always extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan, and after the recent visit of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor was launched.

He said recently Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim concluded a highly successful visit to Pakistan and both countries signed arrangements to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

Tarar said after his visit a high-level Saudi delegation led by a Minister arrived and inked many MoUs for Saudi invest-

ment worth 2.2 billion dollars in Pakistan.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier, Li Qiang unveiling a plaque to mark the completion of New Gawadar International Airport.

Ji strongly rejects Govt's proposed constitutional amendment

KARACHI (INP): Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, has voiced strong opposition to the government's intention to amend the constitution to appoint a Chief Justice of its choosing. He made it clear that Ji strongly rejected the Government proposed constitutional amendments.

He described this move as unacceptable and a direct affront to the integrity of the judicial system. During a press conference, Rehman highlighted the deteriorating infrastructure in Karachi, particularly criticizing the city's broken roads and failing sewage system.

He noted that recent rains exacerbated these issues, underscoring the rampant corruption within Sindh's administration. "Corruption is embedded from the top down in this system," he stated, lamenting the lack of accountability for those responsible.

Rehman emphasized that resources should be allocated fairly, stating that the wealth of Karachi should benefit Sindh first. "Problems arise when rights are denied," he said, insisting that only a fair justice system can address these grievances.

He also pointed out the prevalence of white-collar crime, criticizing the "electric mafia" for evading justice with legal loopholes. "These criminals are protected, and even after their misdeeds, they manipulate the legal system to their advantage," he lamented.

Rehman further commented on the recent local elections, alleging that MQM Pakistan was awarded 17 seats despite not winning any polling stations, which he claimed was indicative of electoral manipulation. He denounced the ruling party for allegedly tampering with ballot boxes during the ongoing recounting of by-elections.

In response to ongoing protests by Tehreek-e-Insaf, Rehman urged the party to postpone their demonstrations, suggesting a meeting with former Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss the situation.

According to NIH sources, as many as 106,684 cases of malaria were reported across Sindh during the past week.

The highest 11588 malaria cases were reported in Larkana, while Khairpur remained second on the list with 10681 cases.

Qamar reported 7998 malaria cases, Mirpurkhas, 7230, Dadu 6045, Badin 5948, Sanghar 5703, Tharparkar 5126, Tando Allahyar, 4809, Sukkur 4673, Naushehro Feroze 4590, Shikarpur 3970 and Umerkot reported 3546 malaria cases.

According to NIH sources, Karachi reported 779 cases during the past week including 155 cases from District West, 135 from East, 82 from Korangi, 52 from South and six malaria cases from Kemari.

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KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Accelerate work on Karachi Safe City project, demands Altaf Shakoor

KARACHI (INP): Expressing concern over organized terrorist activities in Karachi, particularly the recent car bomb attack near the airport, Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here Monday demanded of the government to accelerate the pace of work on much delayed Karachi Safe City project.

He said this crucial project after the delay of eight long years was started previous month with the government making payment of more than Rs3 billion to the National Radio & Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) for its execution, with installation of 1,044 new surveillance cameras and upgrade of 256 old ones.

It is said that in the first phase, the Red Zone and airport corridor would be covered. Total 1,300 cameras would be installed in the first phase. Among these 1,300, 1,044 would be

new and the rest 256 are the old ones which would be upgraded. These 1,300 cameras would be installed at 300 sites in districts South, East, Malir and Korangi.

Altaf Shakoor said that it needs that this project needs to be completed as soon as possible to make the megacity safer and more secure. He said the recent terrorist act near the Karachi airport has increased the urgency to complete this project as soon as possible.

He said as per the original plan with 12 megapixel cameras in place, the safe city system would help carry out digital forensic and image enhancement of the acquired data, facial recognition, automatic number plate recognition which is called ANPR, which will be integrated with national and criminal databases.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah addressing Benazir Hari Cards distributing ceremony to the farmers at the Chief Minister House.

Italian Navy Carrier Strike Group visits Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Italian Navy Carrier Strike Group comprising Aircraft Carrier ITS CAVOUR and Frigate ITS ALPINO, arrived in Karachi on a three-day visit followed by a bilateral exercise.

Upon arrival in Karachi, the Italian Navy

Director of the Italian Defence General Staff, called on Commander Pakistan Fleet, Rear Admiral Abdul Munib.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including interoperability, avenues for future collaboration to enhance regional



KARACHI: Italian ambassador Ambassador Marilina Armellini addressing a press conference with the crew of ship at Karachi port.

ships were warmly welcomed by senior officials of Pakistan Navy and the Ambassador of Italy, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Following the arrival, an Italian delegation led by the Ambassador of Italy, Marilina ARMELLINI, along with Rear Admiral Stefano BARBIERI, Capa-

maritime security and defense cooperation were discussed.

Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi also visited ITS CAVOUR and was briefed about the Aircraft Carrier's capabilities by Commanding Officer Captain Francesco FAGNANI.



LARKANA: MNA Khurshid Ahmed Junejo distributing the Benazir Hari Card issued by the Sindh Government among Hari during a function at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Hall Jinnah Bagh.

NDF seeks setup Business centres for skilled women at District level in Sindh

NAWABSHAH (APP): National disability and development forum (NDF) has demanded establishment of Business centre for skilled women at District level. On the occasion of International Day of Rural Women, NDF Pakistan Director and Focal Person PODA Pakistan Ms Saira Abid Lashari, PPP Ladies Wing President Qamar Nisa Dhamrah and Nusrat Chandio held an important press conference at Nawabshah Press Club.

Saira Abid Lashari said that 15th October is the international Day of Rural Women, is being celebrated all over the world But rural women are still deprived of their rights. She demanded to declare this day as the national day of rural women by the Federal Government

with all territories.

Saira urged to increase women's representation in decision-making bodies at each district level, such as reconciliation and peace committees and voter training committees, to promote equality immediately.

The women should be represented by 50% in the system of local governments and by enabling this system of governments in all provinces, local elections should be held as soon as possible in Punjab, especially to prevent increasing violence against women and children. Easy loans should also be provided to skilled women and government institutions and national NGOs should pay special attention to consulting rural women in decisions.