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Saudi Arabia is our closest ally Venom against Saudi Arabia unforgivable crime; nation to break such hand: PM

Premier warns propaganda against Saudi Arabia harms national interest, urging strong opposition to such actions; Says personal and political agendas behind PTI's statements; Kachhi Canal to open doors of prosperity to Balochistan people

TAUNSA (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, recounting Saudi Arabia's unconditional financial and diplomatic support to Pakistan, warned that any venom-spitting against such a brotherly country was an unforgivable crime and called for the national unity to counter such anti-state elements.

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration of the Restoration of Kachhi Canal damaged by

2022 floods, said whether it was the Kashmir issue, the United Nations or the UN Security Council, Saudi Arabia always acted as Pakistan's advocate and benefactor, as the Kingdom also bailed out Pakistan recently to seek IMF program.

"Despite this, such venom-spitting is an unforgivable crime.

I as the prime minister of Pakistan want to announce that the nation will

break any hand trying to undermine the Pakistan-Saudi friendship. This is not a joke.

The allegation is beyond understanding. The largest national interest is being "slaughtered" to serve the short-term political interest," he remarked after inaugurating the project that will irrigate over 715,000 acres of land in Balochistan and revive life in the area turned barren after the floods.



TAUNSA BARRAGE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presses the button to open gates for flow of water from Indus River into Kacchi Canal.

CM Murad intensifies efforts to address polio virus resurgence

KARACHI (APP): The Polio Oversight Board (POB), the highest decision-making body of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the Chief Minister's House to review and discuss the province's progress in eradicating polio.

Led by Chair Dr Chris Elias, the POB commended the Sindh government's unwavering commitment to combating polio despite significant challenges.

The meeting included high-profile representatives from international and provincial organisations, such as Dr Hanan Balkhy (WHO Regional Director), Mr Sanjay Wijesekera (UNICEF Regional Director), Mr Aziz Memon (Trustee of the Rotary Foundation), and officials

from the US CDC and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief). (From Sindh govt): Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab, provincial secretaries and Coordinator EOC Irshad Sodhar and other senior officials attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister highlighted Sindh's intensified efforts to address the resurgence of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), with 13 cases reported this year following 34 months without any cases. "We have mobilised 4,500 additional staff, engaged parliamentarians in areas with high refusal rates, and achieved a 50pc reduction in persistent refusals," he stated. He also noted that frontline workers, supported by 20,000

police personnel, successfully vaccinated over 10.6 million children in recent campaigns.

The Sindh government's recent immunisation drives reported Local Quality Assessment Survey (LQAS) pass rates of 89 per cent in September and 84 per cent in October. The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of combating vaccine hesitancy through targeted communication strategies and expressed gratitude to global partners, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary International, for their ongoing support. POB Chair Dr Chris Elias praised Sindh's efforts, saying, "Sindh has made substantial progress, and we are confident that the teams will successfully clear the environment of the virus."



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting with delegation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Polio Oversight Board regarding polio eradication at CM House.

Sindh government to tackle encroachments on transport lands, plans bus service growth: Sharjeel

Independent Report
KARACHI: The Sindh government has begun preparations to reclaim the lands belonging to the Transport Department. It has been decided to seek the assistance of the Chief Secretary Sindh, IG Sindh, and the Anti-Encroachment authorities to carry out the process. The 13th meeting of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Board was held in Karachi, chaired by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. The meeting was attended by Mayor Sukkur, Arsalan Islam Shaikh, Secretary of Transport Asad Zamin, Managing Director of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Dayo, DIG Traffic Ahmed Nawaz Cheema, and other board members.

Speaking at the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that in the 12th meeting of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Board, it was decided to reclaim the lands of the Transport Department. He emphasized that the removal of illegal occupations on these lands should be ensured as soon as possible, with the support of the Chief Secretary Sindh, IG Sindh, and Anti-Encroachment authorities sought for this purpose. He stated that notices have been issued for the lands on which the offices of government institutions have been constructed. Negotiations should be

conducted with the relevant institutions to ensure compliance with these notices.

In the minutes of the 12th meeting of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Board, the appointment of the Secretary of the Board for the Sindh Mass Transit Authority was approved.

The board meeting also approved the extension of contracts for two Project Management Unit contract employees of the Abdul Sattar Edhi Orange Line BRT. However, the representative from Planning and Development recommended the permanent appointment of Pervaiz Jamali, the Deputy Director of the Project Management Unit.

The meeting also ap-

Ombudsman officers should modernize investigations to address public complaints, says Sohail

Independent Report
KARACHI: Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Mohammad Sohail Rajput has said that Provincial Ombudsman officers should develop their investigations on modern lines to redress public complaints against government departments. Every sector of the world is adopting innovation, so we also have to make our investigation method more active and faster to redress public complaints against



government departments. He expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of a three-day training workshop organized by Sindh Judicial Academy for the officers of the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh.

Director General Sindh Judicial Academy and Justice of Sindh High Court Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhor, Registrar Provincial Ombudsman Masood Ishaq, all Regional Directors, Assistant Registrars, Deputy Registrars and other officers were also present on the occasion. The Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Mohammad Sohail Rajput urged the officers to adopt the modern methods taught in the training workshop organized under the Sindh Judicial Academy and speed up their investigation process to resolve public complaints against government departments registered in the office of the Ombudsman Sindh.

Bajwa denies Saudi role in Imran's ouster Monitoring Desk

LAHORE: Refuting Bushra Bibi's statement about Saudi government's role in the ouster of former premier Imran Khan, ex-army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia held friendly ties during the PTI regime.

Talking to a private tv channel, the former army chief termed Bushra Bibi's statement a pack of lies. He asked how a friendly country could interfere in Pakistan's internal affairs.

He pointed out that the OIC summit was held in Islamabad on March 21, 2022, questioning whether there had been any tension in the ties between both countries, would Saudi Arabia have allowed the summit to take place in Pakistan. Detailing Imran's visit to KSA, Bajwa said Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman himself came to receive the former in Jeddah. "Shah Mehmood Qureshi and I were present at the dinner during the visit," said Bajwa. The ex-army chief said he had no inkling as to what is wrong with Bushra Bibi. He expressed concern over her statement, saying Imran can endorse it to make it a narrative.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chairing a review meeting to assess the progress of Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects for 2024-25.

Commodore Ateeq ur Rehman promoted to rank of Rear Admiral



KARACHI (APP): Commodore Ateeq ur Rehman Abid has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect.

Rear Admiral Ateeq ur Rehman Abid got commission in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1995.

The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi, Naval

War College, USA, and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK, said a press release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pakistan Navy).

The Flag Officer has completed various professional courses from national and international institutes. He has done International Security and Strategic Leadership Studies Course from UK, Naval Staff Course from USA, Pakistan Navy Staff

Course from PN War College Lahore and National Security and War Course from National Defence University, Islamabad.

The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments.



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

GB CM demands constitutional reforms and provincial autonomy

Independent Report
KARACHI: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan has urged for constitutional reforms and provincial autonomy for Gilgit-Baltistan, stressing that the region's people should not be overlooked in the National Financial Commission.

During a joint press conference with Senior MQM leader Dr. Farooq Sattar, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to MQM Pakistan for advocating for the rights of the Gilgit-Baltistan people.

Dr. Farooq Sattar emphasized the need for a draft to amend the Gilgit-Baltistan Constitution and grant the region autonomous province status, similar to Azad Kashmir's representation in the National Financial Commission.

The Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister's delegation, including provincial ministers Hussain Shah and Rahmat Khaliq, met with MQM Chairman Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and other leaders at the party's Bahadurabad office.

Visits Peshawar: COAS resolves to hunt down enemies of peace to ensure lasting stability and security

Briefed on prevailing security situation, ongoing counter terrorism operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Friday visited Peshawar, as a follow up of the National Apex Committee meeting held on November 19 and prelude to Provincial Apex Committee meeting to be held soon.

The COAS provided a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation and the progress of ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the region, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news. Chief Minister KPK and field commanders were also

present at the occasion.

Paying profound tribute to the Shuhada and Ghazis, the COAS emphasized the unparalleled sacrifices being rendered for the defense of the motherland.

He remarked that these sacrifices served as a cornerstone of national resilience, inspiring and unwavering dedication of the armed forces and of law enforcement agencies.

The COAS commended the high morale, operational readiness, and unwavering commitment of the troops in effectively countering all forms of threats.

UAE CG calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori met with the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bakheet Ateeq Al-Rumaithi on Friday.

Sindh to attend a ceremony commemorating the UAE's 53rd National Day.

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori acknowledged the UAE's unwavering support to Pakistan during chal-



During the meeting at Governor House, the Consul General extended an invitation to the Governor

lenging times and emphasized the opportunities available for UAE investors in Sindh's promising sectors.

Malaysian Air Force Chief calls on CAS Zaheer Ahmed

ISLAMABAD (APP): During his first-ever visit to Pakistan, General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force on Friday at Air Headquarters.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, military cooperation, joint training and collaboration in the industrial domain, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the robust bilateral defence ties that exist between Pakistan and Malaysia.

He conveyed his warm wishes to Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force on his maiden visit to Pakistan and highlighted the importance of collaboration in training, joint exercises and technology sharing.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu exchanging views with General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan Bin Goriman Khan, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force during meeting held at Air Headquarters in Islamabad.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza KMC to fully cooperate with PCB to host Champions Trophy matches in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday said that once the International Cricket Council (ICC) finalized the schedule for the Champions Trophy, the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will fully cooperate with the PCB to host the tournament's matches in Karachi.

He said this while speaking to media representatives at the KMC head office, alongside Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, upon the Champions Trophy's arrival.

The Mayor Karachi thanked the PCB for select-

ing Karachi to host the Champions Trophy matches and it will be an honor for the city.

He expressed confidence that cricket fans will witness top-quality cricket during the Champions Trophy. After the 2017 Champions Trophy, the next one is scheduled for 2025, and cricket fans are eagerly awaiting the second-largest global tournament of 50-over cricket after the World Cup, he added.

He said that the teams coming from other countries to participate in the Champions Trophy will be warmly welcomed in Karachi.

