

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ابن عباس رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ اللہ تعالیٰ کے نزدیک لوگوں (مسلمانوں) میں سب سے زیادہ محبوب ترین طرح کے لوگ ہیں۔ حرم میں زیادتی کرنے والے، دوسرا جو اسلام میں جاہلیت کی رسموں پر چلنے کا خواہشمند ہو، تیسرے وہ شخص جو کسی آدمی کا ہاتھ خون کرنے کے لیے اس کے پیچھے لگے۔ (کنز الدقائق، حدیث نمبر 6882)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI



Zilhaj moon sighted in Saudi Arabia

Eidul Azha to be celebrated on June 16, June 7 marks start of Hajj pilgrimage. The Saudi Arabian Supreme Court announced on Thursday that the first day of Zilhaj will be marked on June 7 as the new moon was sighted in the Kingdom, the Gulf News reported.



Israel's strike on UN school that left dozens dead used US munitions: reports

Dozens of Palestinians were killed by an overnight Israeli airstrike on a United Nations-run school in central Gaza, authorities said, in an attack that CNN, an American television network, said was conducted with a US-made weapon. The school, run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), was housing displaced people. (Report on Page 8)

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Called on

ISLAMABAD: Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Investment in Gilgit-Baltistan to bring economic prosperity: President

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the need for focusing on the socio-economic uplift of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), adding that investment in GB would bring economic prosperity to the region.

The President expressed these views while talking to members of the GB Council, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and GB, Engineer Amir Muqam, Chief Minister GB, Mr Gulbar Khan, members of the GB Council, and senior government officials attended the meeting.

The delegation apprised the President about the developmental and financial needs of GB.

The President assured the

delegation that steps would be taken to develop health, education and road infrastructure to provide basic facilities to the people of GB at their doorsteps. He highlighted the need to expand the airport in Gilgit, besides finding new ways and means for the development of GB. He said that GB was the gateway to China, having immense vast economic potential that needed to be fully capitalized upon for the people's benefit.

The President informed the delegation that the issue of compensation to the affectees of the Diamer-Bhasha dam would be taken up at the appropriate forum.

The delegation told the President that the discontinuation of the Sehat Sahulat Programme was causing problems as the people of GB were unable to avail health insurance services.

Pakistan wins non-permanent seat on UN Security Council with big majority in UNGA vote

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: After months of hectic campaigning, Pakistan Thursday was elected, with a massive majority, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, the world body's power centre, pledging to make its contribution in meeting the grave challenges facing the world. Pakistan, which was unopposed, garnered 182 votes in the 193-member General Assembly — far more than the required 124 votes representing two-third majority.

Loud applause rang out in the iconic hall of the General Assembly when its president, Dennis Francis, announced the winners of the five non-permanent seats — Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama and Somalia — to replace Japan, Ecuador, Malta,



Mozambique and Switzerland whose terms end on December 31. He congratulated them on their victory. Pakistan will replace Japan, which currently occupies the Asian seat, on January 1, 2025, to begin a two-year term, its eighth. As an elated Munir Akram, Pakistan's

permanent representative to the UN, emerged from the hall, APP correspondent asked him about Pakistan's priorities and goals as a member of the 15-member Council's. He said Pakistan's election "represents the confidence of the international community in Pakistan's ability to promote the

purposes and principles of the UN Charter." Pakistan, Ambassador Akram, said would actively work with other member countries of the Council to advance the shared objectives. In this regard, he especially highlighted Pakistan's ambition to contribute meaningfully to the prevention of conflicts and their peaceful settlement in line with the UN Charter. Pakistan's earlier terms on the Council were in 2012-13, 2003-04, 1993-94, 1983-84, 1976-77, 1968-69 and 1952-53. Pakistan is joining the Security Council at a time of great international upheaval and challenges and plans to pay special attention to:

- Promotion of peace and security in South Asia;
- Upholding the principle of self-determination for the people of Palestine and Kashmir;
- Promotion of normalization in Afghanistan;
- Promotion of equitable solu-

tions to the security challenges in Africa, and,

• Enhance the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council in the past, Pakistan had made significant contribution to its work aimed at strengthening international peace and security. Over the last 50 years, Pakistan has been a leading contributor to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. Currently, it has over 4,000 troops and other personnel deployed in UN Peacekeeping Missions around the world.

The new members will join the five veto-wielding permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France — and the five countries elected as non-permanent members last year — Algeria, Guyana, South Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia.

Wrote a new chapter of Pak-China cooperation in Shenzhen; will reciprocate model in Pakistan: Dar

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday said that by holding the Pakistan-China Business Forum in Shenzhen, the government had written a new chapter of bilateral cooperation and in the coming months, the model would be reciprocated by inviting Chinese companies to Pakistan. The deputy prime minister, in his address at the 4th Pakistan-China Friendship and Business event here, said that the hugely attended Business Forum aimed at tangible, targeted, substantive and result-oriented economic cooperation with a focus on attracting and facilitating Chinese investments in 13 export-oriented sectors inside Pakistan.

He told the gathering that Pakistan's Ambassador in China Ambassador



Khalil Hashmi and his team successfully mobilized over 400 Chinese businesspersons and entrepreneurs who came together to network with around 120 Pakistani counterparts on a scale that was unprecedented. "I am confident they have started a new journey of win-win partnership and joint cooperation. In the months ahead, we will reciprocate this model further and invite Chinese companies to Pakistan," the deputy prime minister remarked. Calling the Friendship and Business event a "cherished tradition" and the "essence of friendship and mutual respect", Dar said that over the years, the

Continued on Page 8

PakSat MMI reaches its earth orbit on June 05: SUPARCO

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's second communication satellite, PakSat MMI, launched on May 30 by Pakistan's National Space Agency SUPARCO, has reached its earth orbit on June 05. According to the Spokesperson of Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Commission (SUPARCO), PakSat MMI is located at an altitude of 38,786 km above the earth.

The satellite is in earth orbit at 38.2 East. The five-tonne PakSat MMI is equipped with the latest communication equipment which would help provide the fastest internet facility in the country. After reaching the orbit, the solar panels of the satellite have started functioning. Various tests will be performed on the satellite to check the condition of the satellite in orbit, the spokesperson said.

PM, CIDCA chairman discuss promotion of Pak-China pragmatic cooperation

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met the Chairman of China International Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) Ambassador Luo Zhaohui wherein they exchanged views on the unique and enduring China-Pakistan friendship and the promotion of pragmatic cooperation driven by common development, strategic trust and mutual benefit. The prime minister, who arrived here Wednesday on the second leg of his five-day China visit, appreciated the robust support of CIDCA for CPEC projects and for Pakistan's socioeconomic development, particularly the establishment of Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital, the Desalination Plant in Gwadar, and the New Gwadar International Airport.

Terming the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the hallmark of ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China,



they noted that the Joint Working Group on Socioeconomic Development under the CPEC had yielded positive results. They also expressed confidence that the momentum would continue in the CPEC phase II to improve the lives and livelihoods of the people. Prime Minister Shehbaz underlined that the governments and the peoples of both countries had always stood in solidarity with each other during times of natural disasters and calamities. He commended CIDCA's pivotal role in supporting developing coun-

tries particularly Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic, the post-2022 flood reconstruction, and the grant of polio vaccines. The CIDCA chairman expressed commitment to further deepening China-Pakistan cooperation across diverse fields. He also underlined the need to expand the bilateral partnership in infrastructure development, climate change response, and human resource development, including under the ambit of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI).

Pakistan to present annual budget on June 12

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government would present the annual budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 in the National Assembly on June 12 (Wednesday).

A meeting of the chief whips of all political parties in Parliament discussed the schedule for the upcoming budget session. The session is expected to take a break from June 13 to 19, said a press release.

It will resume on June 20, with dates from June 20 to 24 allocated for the general discussion on the budget. The debate on cut motions is scheduled for June 26 and 27, while June 28 is designated for the discussion and approval of the Finance Bill.

The current session of the National Assembly is expected to continue until June 29.

Continued on Page 8

SC reserves verdict in NAB amendments case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Thursday reserved its verdict on the federal government's plea requesting it to review the decision against amendments to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws.

A five-member SC larger bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah, and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi reserved the verdict after hearing arguments from all sides.

During the hearing on Thursday, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, who challenged the amendments, attended the hearing via video link from the Adial jail in Rawalpindi and completed his arguments.

The SC heard the final arguments from all sides and reserved the verdict to a date to be later pronounced by the

court's office. It is pertinent to mention here that the apex court struck down amendments made to NAB laws on the PTI founder's plea.

In a majority 2-1 verdict, the top court had approved Imran Khan's petition challenging amendments made to the country's accountability laws during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government.

The top court also restored graft cases against public office holders that were closed down following the amendments to NAB laws.

Subsequently, the federal government filed the review plea in the case under the SC Practice and Procedure Law and made the Federation of Pakistan, National Accountability Bureau, and PTI founder respondents.

Citing no violation of basic rights with the NAB amendments, the federal government pleaded with the SC to review its decision. "Legislation is the right of the Parliament," the plea said.

PM AJK announces new policies to address the plight of common people



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the government was taking decisions after due consultations with all allied partners. The AJK premier made these remarks while speaking on the adjournment motion

introduced in the legislative assembly by former Prime Minister Raja Mohammad Farooq Haider Khan here today. The premier said that besides expansion of state infrastructure, achieving quality improvement in all sectors including health, education and tourism was the incumbent government's top priority. The people's tax

money, he said, would be spent on the welfare of common masses. About the allocation of development funds, the PM said, "Development funds will now be given on the basis of requirements of a particular constituency". Stressing the need for practicing politics free from bigotry, regionalism and tribalism, the PM said, "It is high time that

we all inculcate democratic attitudes within ourselves and promote politics of tolerance and pluralism in society". It is our collective shared responsibility to strengthen this system", he added. The prime minister stated that it was the government's responsibility to eliminate the sense of deprivations amongst the people of the state.

Protest

KARACHI: Member of Civil Society stage a protest demonstration against the killing of Nasrullah Gaddani.



Photo: Online

Speaker AJK warns India over its approach to Kashmir: 'Don't repeat past mistakes'

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif Akbar has said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election as Prime Minister for the third time is likely to increase the fears of not only strengthening the planning of aggression against Pakistan and Kashmir. Rather, the collapse of world peace and the flames of conflict between civilizations can flare up, so the United Nations, European Union, OIC and influential countries should take serious and neutral decisions for a dignified and long-lasting solution to the Kashmir



issue with the peace of Pakistan and India. The responsibilities of the two elected governments include removing obstacles to the right of self-determination to the one and a half million Kashmiris in accordance with the UN Charter and the Security Council reso-

lutions and preparing India for meaningful negotiations because seventy five thousand coins in Nanakshahi. Chaudhry Latif Akbar suggested that for the sake of the dignity of the Kashmir issue, the intra-Kashmir conference should be held to reduce the tension between the two countries and make the composite dialogue fruitful. The holding has become inevitable, so countries whose reputation in terms of human rights is not tarnished and whose economic, economic and political interests are not associated with Pakistan and India should go ahead and perform the duties of hosting before creating an environment for mediation. The Legislative Assembly

termed the defeat of two former Chief Ministers of Occupied Kashmir, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, as the revenge of history and said that the representatives of the pro-Indian political families who consider themselves invincible have been left behind for five years. Resident Engineer Abdul Rasheed Sheikh has reached a logical end with public power, which is equivalent to ringing alarm bells for India. Lockdown, house-to-house searches, infamous black laws, atrocities of 800,000 occupation forces are in front of the world. The Indian political and military leadership could not get out of the stubbornness of Hindu India.

World Environmental Day Celebrated in Hazara University in Mansehra

Nasir Ali Tanoli

MANSEHRA: A one-day seminar was held in Hazara University Mansehra on the occasion of the World Environment Day. The aim of the seminar is to raise public awareness for the protection of the environment. Sohail and Sabra Atif also participated in the seminar.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mohsin Nawaz while addressing the participants said that Pakistan is facing serious threats to the environment for which measures should be taken nationwide and in this regard the University The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences is in a position to play a key role. The Vice-Chancellor said that the university students should trust other members of the society by providing



information to solve this serious problem to ensure the protection of the environment. Vice-Chancellor He further said that along with the government's efforts, we have to play a role for the protection of the environment by showing responsibility as individuals

so that the efforts made to give green and healthy Pakistan to the future generations will be effective. The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the efforts of Dr. Asif Javed, Head of Earth and Environmental Sciences and his team and welcomed the organiza-

tion of the seminar on the occasion of World Environment Day. Warming and climate change has become a threat to Pakistan as well as other regions of the world. He said that due to the increase in the earth's temperature, the glaciers are melting rapidly, due to which artificial lakes are coming into existence.

The experts further said that to avoid the effects of climate change, it is necessary to spread awareness among the public to strengthen the efforts to protect the environment. On this occasion, students participating in the seminar through posters. At the end of the seminar, the participants also took a walk to highlight the importance of the World Environment Day. Students, faculty members and administrative officers of the university participated in the seminar.

People's Party will present a public-friendly budget: Makhdoom Ahmed

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Former Governor Punjab President Pakistan People's Party South Punjab Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood Senior Vice President Pakistan People's Party South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam. Syed Usman Mahmood



MPA Inam Bari District President Pakistan People's Party Layah Malik Riaz Samtia General Secretary Pakistan People's Party District Multan Rao Sajid Ali and Munir Ahmed Kakar Advocate. Candidate President Supreme Court Agha Amir Korai Advocate Divisional Information Secretary People's Lawyer Forum Bhawalpur Division Leader Chaudhry Mohammad Tayyab Iftikhar. Shahid Rehman Shahid meeting Chief Coordinator People's Party South Punjab Abdul Qadir Shaheen also present on this occasion.

In the meeting, party organizational issues were discussed including the current country's political, economic and economic situation

Speaking on this occasion, Provincial President South Punjab Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood said that Pakistan's only political genius scientist Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto realized about fifty years ago that in the current political system of Pakistan, the rich and the poor The problems of Pakistan cannot be solved by bringing the classes together, it is necessary for the people to establish public supremacy over Pakistan through class struggle. There are fringes who can never be one and I tried to run both classes together but this experiment failed miserably. Pakistan People's Party is a party of poor laborers and farmers, which the Chairman of Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, is constantly struggling to implement. It is a party that believes in practical actions and not in words. The poor are getting relief from the unprecedented income support program.

Jahangir Khan Tareen laid the foundation stone of Amna Girls College building in Lodhran

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former federal minister politician and Social Leader Jahangir Khan Tareen laid the foundation stone of Amna Girls College building. The girls' college will cost Rs 65 crore for construction. Jahangir Khan Tareen also reviewed the



construction work of Tareen Institute of Computer Education and Resources (TICR) under construction near Super Chowk Kahrupka Road. The construction project of Tareen will cost one billion and twenty five crore rupees. Jahangir Khan Tareen expressed his satisfaction with the construction work of Tareen and said that God willing, the project will be completed within the stipulated period. Jahangir Khan Tareen said in his address to the students on the occasion of the foundation stone of Amna Girls College that it is my mission to provide high quality education to the doctors and students of Lodhran. I visited Amna Girls Higher Secondary School and the students studying there asked me that where should we go for higher education? On the demand of these girls, I am building Amna Girls College so that they don't have to go to other cities for higher education.

Customs authorities foiled an attempt to smuggle of foreign currency in Peshawari shoes and arrested 5 passengers

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Additional Collector Customs, Multan Region, Shah Faisal Sahu, while talking to the media in Multan, said that the customs authorities seized UAE currency worth 20 lakhs from passenger while conducting operations at the Multan International Airport. in accordance



The accused had hidden the foreign currency in Peshawari shoes, which is a unique case of its kind

Four passengers were also arrested for smuggling non-duty paid items

Non-duty paid items include chargers, garments, mobile phones and laptops. Additional Collector Customs Multan Region Shah Faisal Sahu said that

250 foreign SIMs issued by a British company have also been recovered from the suspects coming from abroad.

Additional Collector Customs Shah Faisal Sahu further said that in the month of May, 10 vehicles of smuggled Iranian diesel have also been taken into custody and five FIRs have also been registered. And more than three lakh liters of diesel was confiscated. Shah Faisal Sahu further informed that Multan International Airport to prevent smuggling. Apart from the railway station. Highways Various teams of customs officials are working 24 hours a day and night on the routes coming from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh Bordering Areas in South Punjab, due to which non-duty paid customs goods from foreign countries are exported and gangs involved in smuggling and their Actions and cases are filed against the members and they are severely punished by the court. Additional Collector Customs Shah Faisal Sahu said that billions of rupees are deposited in the national treasury of Pakistan every year by minimizing non-payment and smuggling.

Former Azad Kashmir PM Farooq Haider Khan says march of giant awami needs urgent attention

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan has said that the events that took place during the long march of the Giant Awami Action Committee on May 8 to 13 require consideration, the effects of what happened will be revealed after two or three years. The writ of the government is no longer there, let's sit together and think about how to restore it. At present, there are no political parties in Azad Kashmir, all the members of the assembly are independent, the statements of the Prime Minister create bitterness in the atmosphere. The system has to be run by these people, angels will not descend from the sky. In the local elections of 1987, there was a curfew, but at that time political parties were active and active, remember that the existence of political parties is indispensable for running the system. Azad Kashmir has a middle class society where women really rule, we also pay taxes and government employees also pay taxes. I surrender my privileges. During the debate on his adjournment motion presented in the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider Khan said that during the long march of the Giant Awami Action Committee, there was a prob-

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:15 am
Zohr	12:07 pm
Asr	5:06 pm
Maghrib	7:16 pm
Isha	8:59 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

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CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHO	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Message from Group Chairman of S. M. Food and Volka Food International

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, on World Food Safety Day. World Food Safety Day is observed every year on June 7th, with the aim of raising awareness about spoiled and contaminated food. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, the adulteration of food items with harmful substances has become a profitable business. There is no shame or hesitation in making money at the cost of human lives in this heinous trade. However, those engaging in this business of death do not realize that by selling substandard and unhealthy food items, they are destroying their future generations with their own hands, as they and their families are also affected by this deadly trade in one way or another. The theme for 2024 is "Prepared for food safety incidents, no matter how mild or severe they can be." On this day, let us pledge that we will ensure food safety at every level for ourselves and others.

Economic cooperation between Pakistan and Ghana discussed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Umar Shahid Butt, the Vice Consul General of Ghana, met with Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, the Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce. During the meeting in the Punjab Investment Board committee room, they discussed ways and means to increase bilateral trade cooperation between the two countries. Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said we should promote mutual relations and exchange frequent trade delegations, as there is a vast scope for foreign direct investment in Punjab. He added that Ghanaian investors can invest in Punjab's industrial hubs, which have the best incentives. He also informed that Punjab is also developing a garment city on an area of 2,000 acres. He emphasized the need for practical steps to strengthen ties between the Chambers of

Commerce and other trade bodies on both sides. There are vast opportunities for Pakistani textile exports in Ghana. At the same time, Ghana can cooperate in the mining and farming sectors, the Honorary Vice Consul General of Ghana, Umar Shahid Butt, said during the meeting. He informed that imports form a significant proportion of Ghana's trade activities. Specifically, commodities derived from the manufacturing, agricultural, and mining industries have contributed to the import trade. Ghana's total goods imports amounted to almost 15 billion dollars, and vehicles and machinery represented the main import category compared to other goods. Umar Shahid Butt said that gold, crude petroleum oils, cocoa beans, coconuts, cashews, and cocoa paste are the key products exported from Ghana. The nation continues to expand its capacity in gold, oil, and cocoa bean production. Mr Butt said that over the last two decades, Ghana has enjoyed

increasingly stable and deepening democratic governance. Seven successful elections have strengthened the effectiveness of key national institutions, enhanced investor confidence and anchored the economy in an environment for positive growth. He said that to accelerate economic growth and ensure that its benefits reach all classes of society, we have formulated a coherent strategy that underpins all public sector investments and provides an enabling environment for the private sector. He added that the Punjab government has prepared a strategy for accelerating economic growth and improving service delivery. The plan provides a broad framework for implementing specific policies, programs, and projects. He added that the government's agenda will put Punjab on a solid path to economic prosperity and growth. Jalal Hassan, the CEO of the Punjab Investment Board, was also present at the meeting.



Condolence

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of IR Iran and others seating on stage on condolence meeting in memory of the President of Islamic Republic of Iran Shaheed Syed Ibrahim Raisi and his colleague organized Majlis Wahdat Muslimeen Pakistan, Islamabad.



Photo: Ramzan Mughal

112th International Labour Conference being held on 3rd June to 14th June

City Desk

Chaudhary Salik Hussain Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OPHRD), delivered a statement on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He acknowledged the collective failure to uphold the ideals of the Declaration of Philadelphia on its 80th anniversary despite the commitment to social justice. The Minister emphasized the dire situation in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in Palestine, and stressed the failure of the multilateral system. He further elaborated



ated that the initial task was to improve working conditions in occupied Palestine, but the current focus has shifted to saving lives, especially those of women and children, due to the worsening situation. The Minister highlighted the recent attack on Rafah mentioned in the Director-General's report, where more than 35,000 Pales-

tinians have been killed and 77,000 injured, including 14,000 children. He noted the severe impact on employment, with the unemployment rate reaching 45% and a significant plunge in GDP. The OIC stressed the need for an immediate ceasefire and the unobstructed delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Chaudhary Salik Hussain Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OPHRD), appreciated the efforts and important initiatives taken by the ILO to support workers and mitigate the adverse effects of the crises being faced by Gaza and the West Bank.

Shaheed Ibrahim Raisi was given the title of Shaheed Khidmat due to his service to the people

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Ibrahim Raisi was a role model for the leaders of the world, he was a very ascetic, simple and hardworking person, came forward with hard work despite orphanhood, poverty and the most difficult life. This was said by Chairman MWM Pakistan Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari while addressing a condolence reference held in memory of the prominent leader of the world of Islam, the powerful voice of the oppressors of Gaza, the leader of the United Muslim League and the president of the neighboring brother country Iran, Syed Ibrahim Raisi and his friends. He was the beloved leader of the Iranian people, for whom millions of people were sad, he was an educated and wise person who sympathized with the workers and the poor. Majlis Wahdat Muslim Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Reza Amiri Moghadam, Chairman of Pashtun Khwaja Milli Awami Party Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Chairman of Sunni Unity Council Sahibzada Hamid Raza, Member of National Assembly Sardar Latif Khosa, Central Leader Tehreek-e-Insaf Amir Dogar, Khawaja Mudassar Mehmood, Awami National Party leader Sajid Tareen, Javed Hanif Khan, PTI leader Shaista Khosa, President National Press Club Azhar Khan Jatoti, Asif Mehsud MPA South Waziristan, renowned journalist and anchor person Mazhar Barlas. And Sardar Harmeet, Member National Assembly from Chakwal Javed Iqbal, Civil Society Representative Zamrad Khan, Member National Assembly MWM Engineer Hameed Hussain, Syed Nasir Abbas Shirazi, Syed Asad Abbas Naqvi, Malik Iqar Alvi including various political and religious, lawyers, media and Social personalities attended and addressed the condolence reference. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, said that what was special about Shaheed Raisi and his comrades for which everyone is paying tribute to them is their training and thinking, which was completed by the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Sahibzada Hamid Raza, head of Sunni Unity Council of Pakistan, said that he was a shining star in the entire Islamic world. Member of National Assembly, Sardar Latif Khosa, while paying tribute to the martyrs, said that Syed Ibrahim Raisi was a leader with a broad vision and a wise mind.

Citizen's case for North Karachi park not yet resolved-Sindh ombudsman

City Desk

KARACHI: The first complaint and presentation of a citizen, which took place 18 months ago in December 2022, could not be resolved by the provincial Ombudsman District Central Sindh to North Karachi Town and District Central Administration. The claimant stated that a case was filed with the provincial ombudsman Sindh for the construction of a park, the first hearing of which was held on the morning of December 19, 2022, at 11 AM., where both parties were summoned together. The tender for the park was awarded in March 2023, along with tenders for four more parks with it. The tender for Sector 5E North Karachi was awarded to the Sehgal enterprises Group, with the cost of the park tender being 57 lakh 46 thousand 5 hundred 89 rupees. The citizen stated that neither Baldiyati elections nor provincial and federal elections had taken place at that time, to which former Director Park Central Nadeem Hanif had verbally stated in a telephone conversation that the construction of the park would commence immediately after the Baldiyati elections. The claimant stated that the construction of the park was being supervised by the Regional Director of the provincial ombudsman district Central, Nazir Qidwai, and the location of the park is in Sector 5E North Karachi, near the Momin Masjid and APWA School, which was destroyed due to the negligence and carelessness of the park administration (Mali, Head Mali and Chokidar) in 1997, and the reconstruction of this park was carried out in the 1980s by the famous Naat Khawan Aijaz Rahmani as a councillor of Sector 5E.

Certificate distribution ceremony of 'Research Awards 2024' held at AIOU

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A "Research Awards 2024" distribution ceremony was organized by the Office of Research and Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) in Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday. The event aimed to distribute certificates for the Research Publication Grants 2023. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presided over the ceremony. A total of 242 applications were received, 233 were shortlisted, and 317 research papers were considered for the award. The awards were received by 49 faculty members from the Faculty of Social Sciences, 48 from the



Faculty of Sciences, 32 from the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, 25 from the Faculty of Education, and 13 from the Services Department. In addition, 66 students received research grants. Moreover, 300 applicants took part in the "Innovative Ideas Competition 2024", and 10 of them were chosen as finalists. The top five finalists were awarded prize money. Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the Vice-Chancellor of AIOU, appreciated ORIC's efforts in promoting research and handed out certificates to the winners. He added that he will also give "Best Teacher Award" from next year for the best performance in the field of education. Deans, faculty members, and principal officers were also in attendance at the event. Moreover, an MoU signing ceremony was held between AIOU and Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi. Registrar, AIOU, Raja Umer Younis and Deputy Director, PHA Rawalpindi, Waqas Ahmed Abbasi signed the MoU. Dean, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Sahir presided over the ceremony. Dr. Sahir expressed his happiness that PHA had joined hands with AIOU to enhance the beautification of the university. He also mentioned that Ahmed Hasan Ranjha, the DG of PHA Rawalpindi, acknowledged and appreciated the educational services of Allama Iqbal Open University and facilitated this collaboration.

Grenlit Studios Unveils 'Shark Tank Pakistan' Logo, Launches the Social Media channels

City Desk

KARACHI:--Did you hear about Shark Tank Pakistan revealing their logo? Not only that, they're also launching their social media accounts. They've finally stepped into the playing field and are all set to play the game. For the first time ever Pakistan is going to experience a revolution unlike no other in the business and startup landscape. As we know, New businesses and startups are bubbling up with awesome ideas that can change the game! They'll be pitching these ideas to the Sharks, who are like super investors with mountains of cash to give away. But not everyone can impress the Sharks - that's where they get REALLY interesting! We know Shark Tank Pakistan is coming soon, but who the mystery Sharks will be is still under wraps! Everyone's buzzing with guesses - who do YOU think will be swimming in the tank this time?



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Pak Army's Explicit Position on National Matters - II

Through disinformation campaigns, subversive messaging, or calls to violence, anti-state propaganda seeks to undermine public confidence, sow discord, and disrupt governance structures. It erodes the credibility and effectiveness of governmental institutions such as executive bodies, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary, thereby weakening the foundations of governance and impairing state functionality.

By exploiting grievances, exacerbating divisions, and inciting dissent, anti-state propaganda fuels social turmoil. It thrives on socioeconomic disparities, ethnic tensions, and ideological differences to foment discord and polarization within societies. Furthermore, it poses a threat to national security by disseminating false narratives, recruiting supporters, and instigating aggression. Hostile foreign actors, extremist groups, or domestic agitators may employ it to undermine the state and its security apparatus. By promoting narratives that undermine national identity, heritage, and unity, anti-state propaganda undermines the social fabric of the nation. It seeks to fragment communities along ethnic, religious, or ideological lines, fostering feelings of alienation and disunity among citizens. Moreover, it can strain diplomatic relations between nations by spreading misinformation, fostering distrust, and escalating tensions, thereby impeding inter-

national cooperation and diplomacy and hindering progress toward peaceful conflict resolution and addressing global challenges.

Pakistan's Army Chief has adopted a resolute stance against the proliferation of negative propaganda. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has emphasized that negative propaganda and social media trolling will not deter the nation from its path toward the advancement and prosperity of Pakistan and its people. Speaking at a Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) conference few weeks ago, General Asim asserted that the unwavering support of the armed forces, combined with the collective determination of the nation, will thwart all adversarial forces seeking to obstruct Pakistan's progress. He called upon the populace to unite in rejecting the influence of these harmful elements, emphasizing the significance of resilience and solidarity in confronting such challenges. General Asim reiterated that negative propaganda and social media trolling would not deter the nation from its pursuit of growth and prosperity, cautioning against any efforts to sow instability.

"In today's era, achieving complete independence without economic stability is not feasible, and Pakistan will not tolerate any instability on its journey

towards prosperity and development. Let us all unite in repelling negative forces and focusing on Pakistan's trajectory of progress and stability," he affirmed.

The military's media division underscored the diverse initiatives of the GPI aimed at ensuring food security and enhancing agricultural productivity in Pakistan. Gen Asim stressed the importance of Pakistan's hardworking and resilient populace uniting for national progress. He pledged full support from the Pakistan Army for the country's economic advancement, highlighting how the Army's efforts would bolster overall national security and well-being.

At another event, addressing the passing out parade of the Pakistan Air Force, Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir emphasized the imperative of respecting constitutional boundaries. He underscored that while the armed forces understand their constitutional limitations, they also expect others to uphold the parameters of freedom of speech and expression. He reiterated the importance of adhering to these constitutional constraints and refraining from baseless accusations against others.

In Pakistan, a minority engages in anti-state activities, not only under-

mining the nation but also attempting to tarnish the reputation of its armed forces. In countries where the military plays a crucial role in ensuring security and sovereignty, targeting the armed forces with propaganda can have far-reaching consequences. As a symbol of national defense and cohesion, the Army often becomes a primary target for malicious narratives aimed at undermining its credibility, eroding public trust, and destabilizing the nation.

In many countries, Pakistan included, the Army serves not just as a military entity but also as a fundamental pillar of national identity, unity, and stability. Besides its core defense responsibilities, the Army frequently engages in disaster relief, infrastructure development, and upholding law and order. Its reputation and efficacy are intricately tied to the nation's sense of security and prosperity.

Propaganda directed against the Army takes various forms, such as disinformation campaigns, smear tactics, and subversive messaging. Both domestic and international actors may exploit grievances, manipulate public opinion, and sow discord to diminish the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Army. Whether through distorted portrayals of military operations, accusations of corruption or human rights violations, or efforts to incite dissent within the ranks, propaganda poses a significant threat to the Army's reputation and its mission.

To be continued

Milestone in development of Pak-China relations

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that the ongoing visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would prove to be a milestone in the development of Pakistan-China relations. "This is the first official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China after the establishment of new government in Pakistan early this year and the visit will prove to be a milestone in the development of Pakistan-China relations," he told APP.

He said that Pakistan and China had laid the foundation of historic project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013 and this pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has resulted in significant social and economic development in Pakistan during the last 10 years. The minister pointed out that a large number of achievements have been made particularly in the energy sector, adding, more than 8000 MW power projects were constructed while motorway and highways were also built. Similarly, he laid foundation of information highway through fiber optic cable and upgraded Gwadar seaport as well as work was initiated on construction of special economic zones.

But unfortunately, that momentum could not be maintained between the years 2018 and 2022 due to some political changes, Covid-19 pandemic and climate disaster in the country in the year 2022 which caused a colossal loss to the economy, he added. Prof Ahsan Iqbal remarked that the present government has resumed work on the CPEC projects with new vigor and commitment adding, "Now we are entering in the phase-2 of the CPEC under which five new corridors have been identified as per consensus reached between the leadership of both the countries". These new corridors include growth corridor, livelihood corridor, innovation corridor, green energy corridor and open and inclusive regional development corridor, he added.

He said in the second phase, the government is focusing to promote industrial cooperation with China through business-to-business linkages. In this regard, the Pakistan-China Business Conference was organized in coastal city of Shenzhen during first leg of the prime minister's visit to China which was attended by more than 350 entrepreneurs from both Pakistan and China. The federal minister said that agreement would be signed with China to upgrade agriculture sector as the present leadership intends to benefit from China's experience in modern agriculture and also use of science and technology in this sector. "We will send our agriculture scientists to China for training and borrow modern techniques so that Pakistan could enhance agricultural productivity," he added.

About cooperation in science and technology, he said that both countries would further enhance cooperation in this sector. About upgradation of railways, he said, the present government is trying to modernize the 150 years old railways system which was damaged during floods in the country and initiate the ML-1 project. Prof Ahsan Iqbal said that work will start on green energy projects such as hydel power projects in Kohala, Azad Pattan having 2000 MW capacity, this year.

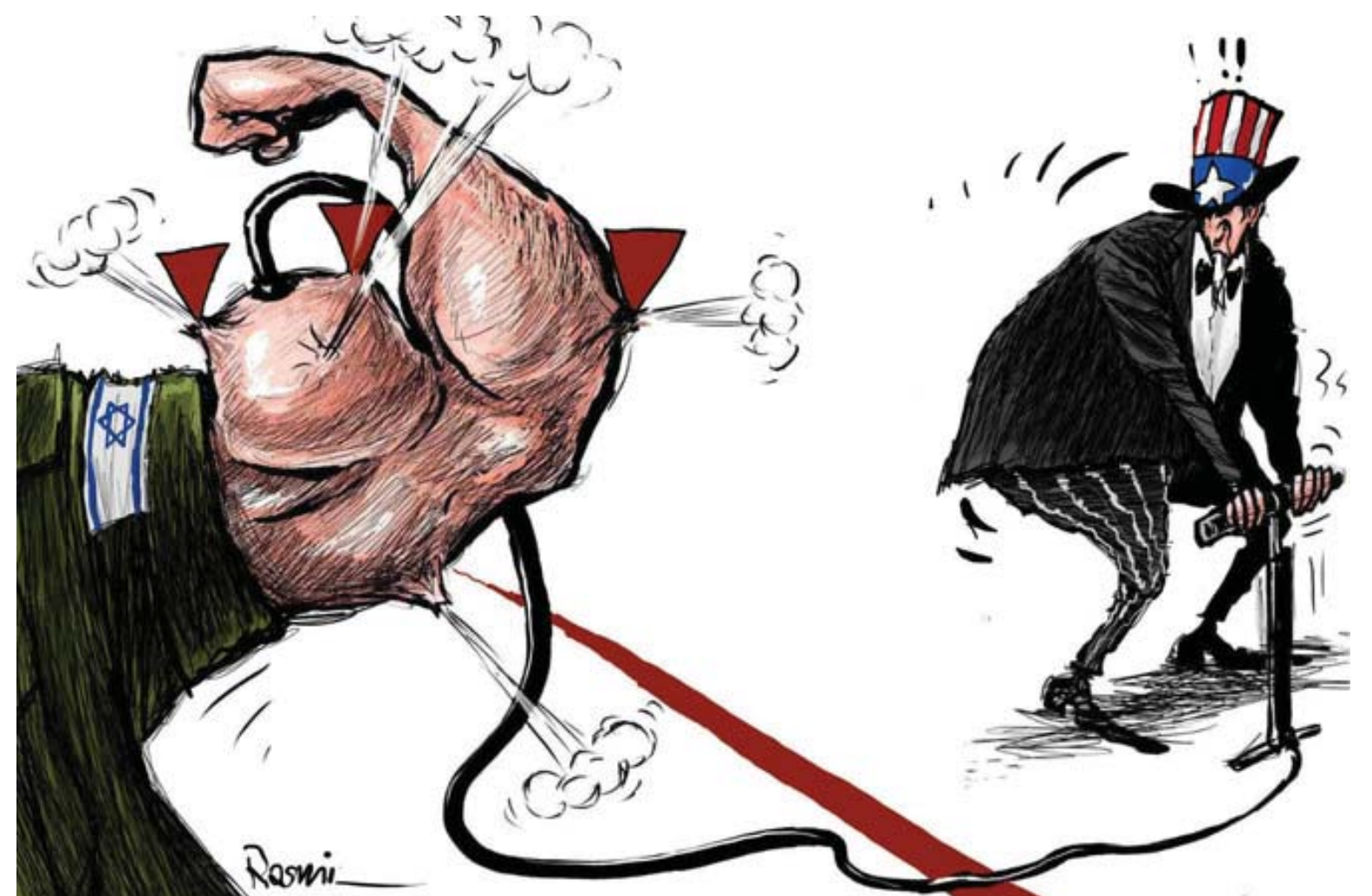
He said that Huawei, China's leading high-tech company has made a strategic partnership with Pakistan and it will help us to implement digitalization process in the country.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal is accompanying the prime minister during his five-day visit of China.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Crucial Role of Pakistan-China Relations in Economic Growth and Regional Stability

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif recently embarked on a five-day visit to China. The visit came at a critical stage for both countries, as they sought to strengthen their economic and strategic ties amidst a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. One of the key priorities of PM Sharif's visit was to seek China's support in addressing Pakistan's economic challenges. Pakistan has been facing with a severe economic crisis, marked by high inflation, a flaring fiscal deficit, and a denigrating currency.

Pakistan and China have shared a strong and enduring friendship that has stood the test of time. Dating back to the early 1950s, the bonds of friendship between the two countries have only strengthened over the years. The friendship between Pakistan and China is refer to as an "all-weather friendship" due to its unwavering support and solidarity in times of need. One of the key factors that have contributed to the strong bond between Pakistan and China is their shared history of struggle and resilience. Both countries have faced similar challenges and have overcome them together. This shared sense of struggle has created a deep sense of trust and understanding between the two nations. Another important aspect of the Pakistan-China friendship is the mutual respect and support that the two countries have for each other. China has always stood by Pakistan's side in times of crisis, offering economic assistance, military support, and diplomatic backing. In return, Pakistan has also been a committed supporter of China on the international stage, particularly on issues related to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Pakistan and China have also collaborated on security and defense issues. The two countries have conducted joint military exercises and have cooperated on counter-terrorism efforts. China has supported Pakistan in its efforts to combat extremism and terrorism, which has helped to improve security in the region. Moreover, the strong partnership between Pakistan and China has also had a positive impact on the global stage. Both countries have worked together to promote multilateralism, uphold international law, and defend the interests of developing countries. Pakistan and China have been able to assert themselves as key players in the international arena, contributing to global peace and stability.

The relationship between Pakistan and China plays a crucial role in strengthening peace, promoting and economic growth. The strategic partnership between Islamabad and Beijing has served as a key pillar for peace, economic development, and stability in South Asia and beyond. China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, has brought significant investments in infrastructure development, energy projects, and special economic zones in Pakistan. This has not only helped Pakistan address its infrastructure bottlenecks and energy shortages but has also created job opportunities and boosted economic growth in the country. China, on the other hand, has benefited from increased access to the Pakistani market and strategic location for its exports. Moreover, the Pakistan-China alliance has also contributed to regional stability by providing a counterbalance to India's growing influence in the region. Pak-China shared concerns about India's aggressive behavior and its attempts to undermine their strategic interests.

Both countries have relied on each other for economic, military, and diplomatic support to maintain a balance of power in South Asia. Pakistan and China's relationship dates back to the 1950s, when the two countries signed their

first bilateral agreement. The partnership has only strengthened over the decades, with China becoming Pakistan's largest trading partner and investor. Pakistan and China have also worked together diplomatically to counter India's influence in the region. Pakistan and China has support each other's positions on various international issues, such as the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan. China has consistently backed Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, while Pakistan has supported China's territorial claims in the South China Sea. Furthermore, Pakistan and China have cooperated on regional security issues, such as countering terrorism and promoting stability in Afghanistan. Both countries have a shared interest in preventing the spread of extremism and maintaining peace and security in the region. This collaboration has not only strengthened their partnership but also allowed them to counterbalance India's influence in the region. Pakistan and China's strong strategic partnership has enabled them to effectively counterbalance India's growing influence in South Asia and assert their own security interests. By leveraging their economic, military, and diplomatic ties, both countries have been able to maintain a balance of power in the region and protect their national interests. Overall, PM Sharif's visit to China underscored the importance of the partnership between the two countries in shaping the regional and global order. By deepening their economic and strategic cooperation, Pakistan and China are not only able to address their respective challenges more effectively but also contribute to the stability and prosperity of the broader region. Pakistan and China continue to navigate the complexities of the evolving geopolitical landscape; their partnership will remain a critical factor in shaping the future of Asia.

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Harnessing Soft Power for Human Security in Central Asia - I

Aiman Abbasi

Central Asia, a region rich in history and diverse cultures, has the potential to enhance human security through the strategic use of soft power. Soft power involves influencing others through attraction and persuasion rather than coercion. This approach leverages cultural appeal, diplomacy, and economic cooperation to achieve positive outcomes. Here's how Central Asia can utilize soft power to create a safer and more prosperous region.

Education and Cultural Exchange: Building Bridges

One of the most effective ways to use soft power is through education and cultural exchange. Imagine a young student from Kyrgyzstan studying renewable energy in Germany. Upon returning home, they bring new skills and ideas that can address local energy issues with innovative solutions. Expanding such exchange programs can create a more knowledgeable workforce and foster international friendships.

Establishing cultural and language centers is another excellent strategy. These centers can help locals learn new languages and understand different cultures, promoting mutual respect and cooperation. For instance, a language center in Kazakhstan offering Chinese and English classes can build stronger ties with neighboring countries and global partners.

Positive Media and Communication: Changing Perceptions

Central Asia's breathtaking landscapes and diverse cultures are often underrepresented in global media. By promoting the region's unique stories and achievements through international media, perceptions can change, attracting tourism and investment. Showcasing the beautiful mountains of Kyrgyzstan or the historic Silk Road cities of Uzbekistan can draw attention to the region's potential.

Moreover, providing access to accurate and unbiased information empowers people to make informed decisions about their health, rights, and livelihoods. Independent media outlets can play a crucial role in this regard. When people are well-informed, they can advocate for their rights and contribute to a more transparent and accountable society.

Diplomatic Engagement: Peaceful Cooperation

Diplomacy can solve many of the region's challenges more effectively than military force. For instance, countries in Central Asia can collaborate to address issues like climate change, which impacts everyone. Diplomatic efforts can help resolve conflicts and build long-lasting peace.

Water-sharing agreements are a prime example. The Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers are vital for the region, but disputes over water use have been a source of tension. Diplomatic negotiations can lead to fair sharing agreements that ensure everyone has access to this crucial resource. Such cooperation not only prevents conflict but also promotes regional stability and security.

Economic Aid and Development: Building Foundations

Soft power can attract foreign aid that directly improves people's lives. Imagine international funding building new schools and hospitals in rural areas of Tajikistan. Such development projects improve education and healthcare, create jobs, and stimulate local economies.

Collaborating with international partners can help Central Asian countries build the infrastructure needed for a better future. For example, China's Belt and Road Initiative has invested in transportation and energy infrastructure in the region, creating opportunities for economic growth and development. By engaging in such partnerships, Central Asia can benefit from technological advancements and financial resources.

To be continued

Uzbekistan: Ensuring interfaith harmony as a key element in maintaining peace and stability

By Bekzod Ochilov,

In the modern world, geopolitical tensions and bloc confrontation are increasing and often escalate into value and ideological conflicts. Inter-confessional harmony is being undermined and social polarization is increasing. As a result of political and economic instability and distorted perceptions of other cultures and faiths, religious violence is escalating in some parts of the world.

At the same time, analysts argue that the main reason for the problem of growing religiously motivated violence in the world is lack of understanding and respect between people of different faiths, as well as lack of knowledge about beliefs, stereotyping and biased thinking, about beliefs, stereotyping and biased thinking. In an era of misinformation, when inaccurate information is spread at an incredible speed, this only exacerbates the situation, creating favorable conditions for increasing interfaith mistrust and deepening social and political divisions.

Another reason for the increase in religious violence may be ineffective religious freedom policies. According to the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, N. Ganca, "in many states, people and communities are deprived of fundamental rights to their identity in the field of religion or belief from the moment of birth".

In the context of such instability, maintaining an open and constructive dialogue between different religious and cultural groups becomes a vital resource for maintaining peace and stability. Open and free discussion of interfaith and interethnic disagreements, the search for common paths to cooperation, minimizes the likelihood of confrontation. Only the joint work of representatives of different religions and cultures is the key towards peaceful coexistence in a multicultural world.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations in 2019 decided to designate 22 August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief which raises global awareness of religious intolerance, violence and belief-based

discrimination.

Experts believe that to ensure interfaith harmony and eradicate religious intolerance, it is necessary to establish dialogue between different faiths, as well as encourage mutual understanding and respect. At the same time, sharing knowledge about each other's beliefs and launching common programs aimed at solving public problems can be important factors in strengthening interfaith harmony.

In this context, it is important to note the experience of Uzbekistan, which is home to representatives of more than 130 nations and 16 confessions, in ensuring inter-confessional harmony in society is considered to be one of the most recognized in the world. It should be emphasized that numerous peoples of different religions have peacefully coexisted in our country for centuries. Our ancestors have always respected representatives of other faiths and worked side by side with them for the good of the country. It is noteworthy that in the history of our state there are no cases describing confrontations and conflicts on religious grounds.

Maintaining the tradition of friendliness and tolerance, Uzbekistan has implemented a number of reforms in this direction in recent years.

Firstly, it is notable that from the first years of independence, it was the state that assumed responsibility for ensuring inter-confessional harmony and maintaining a balance of interests in society. At the same time, today in the country the issues of ensuring effective religious policy have been brought to a new level.

In particular, since 2016, thanks to the political will of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, there has been a fundamental shift in the very essence of the policy in the field of religion and critically analyzed the experience of past years. In the course of the transformation, special emphasis has been placed on education, ensuring religious freedoms, expanding the rights of believers and a new approach to combating extremism.

As a result, the emphasis is currently placed not on forceful methods of solving problems, but on eliminating the causes



that determine the spread of extremism and terrorism, as well as on preventive measures.

An important step was the significant strengthening of the legislative basis of state policy in the religious sphere and ensuring freedom of religion. In 2021, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" was adopted in a new edition, during the preparation of which international norms and requirements in this area were carefully studied and taken into account. The law clearly regulates the rights and obligations of citizens, and it also strengthens legal guarantees for ensuring freedom of conscience and religion.

In particular, the registration procedure has been simplified and termination of the activities of religious organizations, and the ban on appearing in public places in religious attire was lifted and etc.

At the same time, the updated version of the Constitution, adopted in 2023, enshrined the principles of secularism and the prohibition of the imposition of any religion. At the same time, the Basic Law laid the foundations of a secular state as the

most optimal model for maintaining harmony in society.

Secondly, although more than 95% of the population in Uzbekistan is Muslim, special attention is paid to religious minorities and their integration into society. Equal conditions have been created to satisfy the spiritual needs of representatives of all faiths. Thus, over the past 5 years, more than 100 religious organizations have been registered in the country, of which 20 are non-Islamic. Representatives of various faiths are given ample opportunities to make pilgrimages to holy places: Christians to Russia, Greece and Israel, Jews to Israel. They are provided with comprehensive assistance, medical services, fast and unhindered processing of visa documents, etc.

Thirdly, a feedback mechanism has been established in order to maintain interfaith dialogue in society. The state actively coordinates the establishment of mutual respect between citizens professing different religions and between religious organizations. For these purposes, there is a special state body—the Committee for Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Under

the Committee, a Council for Religious Affairs was created, which is a public advisory body, the composition of which in 2018 was expanded from 9 to 17, which included representatives of all religious denominations operating in Uzbekistan. The main tasks of the Council are to ensure tolerant interaction between religious organizations, assist them in carrying out their activities, and jointly develop proposals and measures to ensure interreligious cooperation.

Fourthly, special attention is paid to Islamic education and science, as well as the study and dissemination of humanistic and peace-loving principles, ideas of tolerance of the religion of Islam. In recent years, the centers of Imam Bukhari, Imam Termizi, Imam Matrudi, as well as the Center for Islamic Civilization have been created in the country. The main task of these scientific institutions is an in-depth study of the rich and multifaceted heritage of the great ancestors of the Uzbek people, who made a tremendous contribution to the development of Islamic culture and human civilization.

Fifthly, Uzbekistan has significantly intensified international

cooperation in the field of ensuring interreligious harmony and religious tolerance. Thus, the special resolution "Enlightenment and religious tolerance" proposed by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly was unanimously approved by all UN member countries.

The document emphasizes the importance of establishing tolerance and mutual respect, ensuring freedom of religion, protecting the rights of believers and preventing discrimination against them.

Experts and religious figures visits are organized on a regular basis in Uzbekistan, within the framework of which international conferences and round tables are held to strengthen interfaith dialogue. In particular, in May 2022, the international forum "Dialogue of Declarations" was held in Bukhara, where about 40 prominent theologians, religious scholars, jurists and government officials from 10 countries, including the USA, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Austria, Pakistan, Ghana, Nigeria and others took part.

The "Bukhara Declaration", adopted at the end of the forum,

was recognized as an official document of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. This declaration, promoting the idea of the peace-loving essence of religions, became a logical continuation and addition to the declarations previously adopted in Marrakech (2016), Jakarta (2017), Potomac (2018), Puntodel Este (2018), Mecca (2019), as well as the important contribution of Uzbekistan to the establishment of the ideas of religious tolerance and interethnic harmony on a global scale.

This document confirms the importance of the religious factor in the life of modern society and calls on representatives of all religions to promote the development of a culture of tolerance and respect for human dignity.

At the same time, work in this direction continues actively. Thus, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, speaking at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in 2023, emphasized that: "Instances of religious intolerance and Islamophobia, which have recently been observed in some countries, cannot be allowed" and in order to promote ideas in the world interreligious tolerance and harmony proposed to create an International Center for Interreligious Dialogue and Tolerance in Uzbekistan under the auspices of UNESCO, as well as to hold an international conference in 2024 on the topic "Islam—a religion of peace and goodness".

The implementation of these initiatives will create a platform for disseminating the unique experience and established traditions of religious tolerance of our country at the regional and international level, strengthen expert dialogue and exchange of views on ensuring interfaith harmony between countries.

In general, the experience of Uzbekistan in the field of ensuring interfaith harmony and religious tolerance can, without exaggeration, be studied as an effective example. The way of life of the Uzbek people, which has been formed over the centuries, continues to serve as a solid basis for establishing dialogue between peoples and interfaith tolerance in ensuring the stability of society and the development of the state.

Strategic partnership signed to advance food security and agriculture narratives

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Organic Pakistan and SZABIST – Media Sciences, Islamabad have signed a groundbreaking collaboration to enhance understanding and communication on food security and agriculture in Pakistan. This strategic partnership engages youth, students, industry leaders, and public policy professionals in addressing critical food security challenges.

The collaboration between Organic Pakistan and SZABIST – Media Sciences, Islamabad will encompass a range of initiatives designed to enhance understanding and communication on food security and agriculture. First, the partnership will encourage students to write their theses on food security challenges in Pakistan, emphasizing effective communication for public awareness and policy influence.

This initiative aims to foster critical thinking and research among students on important topics such as food security, climate change, and smart agriculture practices.

In addition to academic research, the collaboration will organize specialized workshops for industry leaders and public policy professionals. These workshops will train participants on how to effectively communicate Pakistan's agriculture profile, challenges, and opportunities through public seminars, media platforms, and international forums. This effort is intended to equip thought leaders and policymakers with the necessary skills to advocate for and address agricultural issues.

To further engage the youth, students will be motivated to produce Vlogs on food and nutrition. These Vlogs will focus on promoting healthy lifestyle choices and improving productivity among young people. The initiative will



provide students with the opportunity to use multimedia tools to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and food security.

Moreover, the collaboration will involve the design and dissemination of food security thematic greeting cards with plant seeds. These cards, which will be provided by SZABIST – Media Sciences, Islamabad and funded by Organic Pakistan, will be used to raise public awareness about food security issues.

The partnership will host multiple seminars and conferences to address and discuss the communication of food security challenges in Pakistan. These events will bring together experts, stakeholders, and the general public to explore solutions and strategies for improving food security communication in the country.

The partnership will be effective for three years and aims to improve the state of agriculture awareness and will address several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Primarily, it contributes to SDG 2: Zero Hunger by focusing on food security challenges, smart agriculture practices, and improving nutrition, aiming to end hunger and promote sustain-

able agriculture.

The initiative also supports SDG 4: Quality Education by encouraging students to write theses on food security and organizing workshops for industry leaders and policy professionals, thus fostering quality education, research, and lifelong learning opportunities. Additionally, the collaboration aligns with SDG 13: Climate Action by addressing climate change through smart agriculture practices and educating stakeholders about its impacts.

Moreover, it promotes SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production by encouraging healthy lifestyle choices and sustainable agricultural practices. Lastly, the partnership exemplifies SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by strengthening collaborations between organizations to achieve sustainable development objectives.

The Media Sciences program at the SZABIST, Media Sciences, Islamabad Campus is a unique academic institution offering cutting-edge media research and study. Known for its comprehensive and dynamic approach to education, SZABIST, Media Sciences at the Islamabad Campus

has grown into a major department with state of the art media lab. The Media Sciences program at the Islamabad Campus stands out for its innovative curriculum, state-of-the-art facilities, and a strong emphasis on practical experience and research.

Organic Pakistan is a leading agriculture and food security organization dedicated to promoting smart agricultural practices and food security in Pakistan. Committed to the principles of sustainable farming, Organic Pakistan works to enhance the productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability of agriculture in the country. The organization collaborates with farmers, industry leaders, policymakers, and educational institutions to drive innovation and best practices in the agricultural sector.

Through a combination of research, advocacy, and on-the-ground projects, Organic Pakistan aims to address the challenges of food security, climate change, and nutrition. By empowering communities and fostering partnerships, Organic Pakistan strives to create a resilient and sustainable agricultural landscape that benefits both people and the planet

AKU, WHO, and UNICEF stress the need to save youth from non-communicable diseases

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) has kicked off a three-day conference to discuss and resolve adolescent health issues, with participation from the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The conference, titled "Healthy Futures: Preventing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Young Hearts and Minds," sheds light on critical and under-discussed topics such as screen time, obesity, substance use and abuse, mental health problems, sedentary lifestyles, educational curricula, and lifestyle innovations that must be implemented on a large scale to counter these problematic trends.

Chief Guest Dr Fouzia Khan, Chief Executive Advisor, School Education Department, Government of Sindh said, "Encouraging young people to live a healthy and active lifestyle requires massive efforts on behalf of their parents, teachers, and other social institutions. Acknowledging the current state of our youth is the first step towards lifestyle modifications towards a better future."

The three-day conference includes research presentations, panel discussions, plenary talks, and a variety of other activities designed to encourage dialogue among academic experts, healthcare professionals, and teachers alike.

Dr Lamia Mehmud, Regional Adviser Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention at the World Health Organisation (WHO) said, "A coalition of pioneering health faculties with local governments and grassroots mentors is what we need to get to our young people. It's vital for our young ones to enjoy their lives, but we need to teach them how to avoid risking their wellbeing for the sake of fun or comfort."

Adolescents comprise one-fifth of the Eastern Mediterranean Region's population, representing a critical developmental stage. WHO emphasizes prioritizing adolescent health to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs), responsible for over half of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) and 20% of deaths among those aged 10-19. The Youth Health Council engages youths in NCD prevention strategies.

Aside from research and dialogue discus-



sions, the conference also provides an opportunity for young people to explore and engage in informative activities and exhibits about non-communicable diseases, their consequences, and how these adolescents and young adults can significantly improve the quality of their health by making small lifestyle changes.

Abdullah A. Fadil, UNICEF's representative in Pakistan, stated that it's critical to connect and relate to our pre-teens and teens rather than leaving them in silos. "Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are among the top three causes of death for children aged 10-14 in Pakistan and are the leading cause of death for girls between the ages of 15 and 19. There is an urgent need for parents, caregivers, teachers, mentors, and young people themselves to prioritize physical and mental health of adolescents.

To safeguard young hearts and minds from NCDs, several actions can be taken immediately by individuals and educational institutions. These include: increasing physical activity and decreasing screen time; choosing more nutritious foods and limiting substance use; allocating more resources to mental health services; reducing air pollution; and incorporating age-appropriate climate change, mental health and physical education in the national curriculum."

The conference also emphasizes the importance of tackling NCDs in teens, which requires attention from governing bodies and the scientific community, as well as pressing concerns such as climate emergencies and the availability of public spaces.

Dr Romaina Iqbal, Section Head NCD and Mental Health, Department of CHS, said "Evidence suggests that 70% of the poor habits that lead to NCDs later in life are developed during adolescence.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
73,862.93	74,219.43
Day's High	Day's Low
74,593.32	73,768.39
Index Value	Change
6,448,328,723	-356.50
Percentage	Time
-0.48%	6 Jun, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,285.34	+38.39
Percentage	Time
+0.47%	6 Jun, 4:50 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,828.63	+21.30
Percentage	Time
+0.055%	6 Jun, 1:19 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,703.51	+213.34
Percentage	Time
+0.55%	6 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.2	184
Bahrain Dinar	740.72	748.72
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.47	38.87
Danish Krone	40.62	41.02
Euro	300	303
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	909.17	918.17
Malaysian Ringgit	59.2	59.8
New Zealand \$	171.92	173.92
Norwegians Krone	26.3	26.6
Omani Riyal	723.44	731.44
Qatari Riyal	76.51	77.21
Saudi Riyal	73.5	74.1
Singapore Dollar	203	205
Swedish Korona	26.63	26.93
Swiss Franc	312.79	315.29
Thai Bhat	7.61	7.76
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	76
UK Pound Sterling	353	356
US Dollar	277.5	280

Investment Process Easier In Pakistan: Abdul Aleem Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan and Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan have expressed their determination in a meeting with Chairman Chinese Group of Companies Li Qiwing in Beijing that the investment process in Pakistan for domestic and foreign investors is being made easier.

They added that special incentives and facilities for investment from China in Pakistan will also be given, including special economic zones, maximum facilities at ports and special banking packages for import and export.

Federal Minister Board of Investments, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, while discussing the joint venture with China Service Group, said that his Ministry is introducing unique features such as Ease of Doing Business and "One-Stop Shop" in the Ministry of Board of Investment. Abdul



Aleem Khan told that for the encouragement of investors Pakistan Business Portal is also being established rapidly. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further said that unnece-

sary obstacles in the way of investment in Pakistan are being removed and Online facilities are being ensured, which will reduce the difficulties of the investors and enable them to get maximum work done in the shortest possible time and they will be having an opportunity to complete more work for the accomplishment of their business activities.

Federal Ministers Abdul Aleem Khan and Jam Kamal Khan also spent a busy day in Beijing on Thursday and held meetings with Chinese Business Groups regarding the promotion of trade activities in Pakistan. Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan said that Pakistan intends to promote bilateral trade with China.

He termed the successful visit of Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif to China which will leave positive effects on our economy. Secretary Board of Investment and senior officers of related departments also participated in the briefing.

MOU

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Saeed Ashraf Siddiqi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Naoaki Miyata, Chief Representative of JICA Pakistan, signs the Grant Agreement to bolster the Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS) 2024 on Thursday.



Photo: PID

CCP Invites UK-Alumni for a Sharing Session

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) held an exclusive session on Competition Law for UK Alumni. The session provided an opportunity to engage directly with the Commission and gain insights into core components of Competition Law.

The participants included seasoned professionals from different sectors who graduated from UK based various universities. Officials from academia, legal fraternity, banking, and public & private sector entities attended the session.

Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu (Chairman, CCP) while addressing the alumni emphasized on policing the cartel to enhance competition in various sectors of economy. Dr. Sidhu further said that the CCP strives to ensure free and fair competition with the aim to open up sectors, leading to better services and products for the consumers.

Mr. Salman Amin (Member, CCP), Mr. Louie

Dane (Senior Economic Advisor) from British High Commission also attended the session.

The event discussed the relevant provisions of the Competition Law pertaining to prohibited agreements, abuse of dominance, deceptive marketing practices, and mergers & acquisitions. Presentations were given by Mr. Ahmed Qadir (DG, Competition Policy) and Ms. Maryam Zafar (Senior Joint Director, CCP).

Mr. Salman Amin (Member, CCP) thanked the participants for raising important questions on Pakistan's regulatory environment. Mr. Louie Dane (Senior Economic Advisor, British High Commission) in his closing remarks highlighted the shared linkages of around 1.6 million UK based Pakistani population. He further underscored the importance of healthy competition regime in Pakistan's overall economic trajectory yielding to enhanced productivity with lower prices but improved technology.

ICCI marks 'World Environment Day'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has said that climate change is a global phenomenon and Pakistan is also one of the victims of it, therefore, we have to deal with it effectively by learning from good practices and examples from around the world, as well as by planting more trees and improving green character of our cities.

He said this while addressing a ceremony organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in connection with the World Environment Day, under the theme, 'Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience' under the slogan 'Our land. Our future, with large scale attendance by academia, students of different Universities of Islamabad as well as the business leaders.

He said that we have to take practical steps by formulating environment friendly policies and action plans to maximally mitigate its negative impacts and that government-private sector collaboration can play a vital role in creating awareness among the masses over the issue.

Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry always remains in forefront in taking initiatives on such important issues and that very soon, he himself will arrange a ceremony on the subject in collaboration with the Climate Change Ministry in which all the stakeholders will be invited including the



business community leaders to chalk out a worthwhile road map to tackle the issue.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that we all are well aware of the fact that global warming, greenhouse gases and carbon footprint are posing serious challenges to the ecosystem and Pakistan despite its less than 1pc share in Green House Gases. It is facing its disastrous impact in form of heat waves, forest fires, floods and smog, etc.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is our pride and we have to join hands for making it a developed and prosperous country and that ICCI will give an action plan for the green revolution and for this purpose will organize an historic ceremony for the clean and green

Islamabad.

President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch said that instead of looking towards the government for each and every matter, we as responsible citizens have to perform if we really want to live as a respectable state in the comity of nations.

Professor Dr. Romana Bangash of NUST Business School, Dr. Humera Furruk, Ms. Aneela Khan from Bahria University, Dr. Ayesha Altaf of Shifa Tameer-e-Millat, Professor Waris Ali from NUML, Commodore * Mohammad Tahir, Convener HEC Adnan Mukhtar and Babar Chaudhry also enlightened the participants about the damaging effects of the climate change by giving possible way forwards to address the issue.

Mehran Commercial Enterprises signs MOU with Chinese firms for developing car antennas in Pakistan



Mehran Commercial Enterprises is proud to announce that it is the first auto parts company to sign an MOU with Chinese firms for developing car antennas in Pakistan. This significant milestone was achieved at the Pakistan Business Investment conference organized by the Government of Paki-

stan in Shenzhen, which aimed to facilitate the relocation of Chinese firms to Pakistan.

We are honored to be part of this prestigious conference and extend our heartfelt gratitude to the government and the entire team who worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visit to FPCCI Capital House

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visited Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). While talking to the President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh and other people from the business community, he said that Charter of democracy has been done, now there should be Charter of Prosperity. We have to pay a lot of attention to agriculture and industry. We are doing bad for agriculture. Then we say that societies are being constructed. Now Fata Pata is over. They are part of KPK. I will resolve the electricity related problems of Hattar Industrial

Estate on priority basis. To overcome the current economic crisis, industry and agriculture will have to be facilitated by providing cheap electricity.

Faisal Karim Kundi said that KPK is the most beautiful province of Pakistan, from KPK and Gilgit-Baltistan tourism we can earn foreign exchange. The doors of the Governor House are open for the business community. The business community should jointly develop an action plan to attract foreign tourists by developing the province's tourism destinations.

Federation President Atif Ikram Sheikh said on this occasion that the government should take measures on emergency basis for the restoration of



businesses and industries. The business community is paying taxes but now steps should be taken to increase the tax base and avoid imposing more taxes on the taxpayers. The highest cost of production in the region is in Pakistan, we cannot compete with anyone, we have to take measures to reduce the cost of production and

ease of doing business to increase exports.

President FPCCI Atif Ikram said that there is a lot of natural beauty in KPK, there is a dire need for road infrastructure to promote tourism. The business community will play its full role for this purpose. In Islamabad Industrial Estate, Hattar Indus-

trial Estate, there are other problems including roads, electricity, which demand the government's attention. Businessmen are the backbone of the country's economy and major stakeholders. Instead of doing double taxation in the budget, if the stakeholders are consulted, the revenue can increase significantly.

Senator Mian Atiq, Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Zahid Latif, Shahbaz Ahmed, Coordinator Diplomatic Committee Ahmed Waheed, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail Hussain, Muzamil Saleem, Coordinator Administration and Police Committee Yahya Sheikh, Dr. Afshan Malik and others were present in the ceremony.

Pakistan, France seal semifinal spots in Men's Nations Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and France joined New Zealand in the semifinals of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup in Poland after playing out an 11-goal thriller.

Pool B saw France finish first, followed by Pakistan. Malaysia finished third after defeating Canada in the first game of the day. France topped Pool B with a third straight win, beating Pakistan 5-6 in a nail-biter. The Olympic hosts turned on the heat from the word go and came prepared to exploit the weaknesses in Pakistan's backline. It was Victor Charlet who broke the deadlock in the seventh minute. With a minute to go for the first quarter, Eliot Curty found Blaise Rogeau, who sent a rocket that bounced off the bar for their second.

There was no coordination at the back as Gaspard Baumgarten made it 0-3 with seven minutes to go in the first half. Two minutes later, Charlet got his second through another penalty corner. For all their defensive frailties, Pakistan has been one of the most exciting



teams to watch while attacking. One such attempt in the 26th minute led to a penalty stroke that was converted with ease by Abu Mahmood. Suddenly, the French were not as organized as they were before, allowing Pakistan to get

under their skin. A penalty corner in the 29th minute saw Sufyan Khan's initial shot saved only for Murtaza Yaqoob to score the rebound.

The third quarter was all France again as Charlet delivered from the

penalty corner yet again with an emphatic finish for his hat-trick in the 39th minute. Pakistan responded in the first minute of the final quarter thanks to Ashraf Rana Waheed who finished a superb ball from Amad Butt, who found him from a long way out. Pakistan continued to threaten Les Bleus and Butt was sensational in the build-up for the fourth, as Rehman Abdul made it 4-5 in the 52nd minute.

Pakistan were all over France and a penalty corner in the 56th minute made it 5-5 as Hannan Shahid reacted quickly after Mahmood's initial shot was saved. Everyone believed the comeback was complete, but Pakistan switched off and Charlet, who started the scoring, finished it with another penalty corner.

Victor Charlet of France was full of praise for Pakistan after winning the match and said, "It's hard to describe this game - lots of goals. Against a huge hockey nation like Pakistan, you have to be good as they have many great players. You have to be focused and defend well as they are skillful. It's not our best game but we are happy with the win."

Spirited USA upset Pakistan to claim historic victory in Super Over

A Sports

DALLAS: The United States of America (USA) edged past Pakistan in the Super Over to claim a historic upset victory in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 at Grand Prairie Stadium here on Thursday.

The Green Shirts were invited to bat first and were reduced to 26-3 in 4.4 overs, courtesy of USA's brilliant bowling and fielding efforts.

Shadab Khan joined a struggling Babar Azam, who was playing at 2 from 10 balls and launched a counter-attack after settling down.

Khan switched gears and hit Jasdeep Singh for two consecutive sixes in the tenth over, while Azam ended the over with his first boundary.

However, the USA made a comeback with two consecutive wickets to reduce Pakistan to 98-5 in 12.5 overs.

Shadab Khan scored 40 runs from 25 balls with the help of three sixes and one



boundary.

Babar Azam added 27 runs for the sixth wicket with Iftikhar Ahmed before falling to Jasdeep Singh after scoring a gutsy 44 off 43.

Iftikhar Ahmed scored 18 off 14, while Shaheen Afridi played an unbeaten cameo of 23 runs from 16 balls to push Pakistan's total to 159-7

in their allocated 20 overs.

For the USA, Nosthush Kenjige claimed three wickets, while Saurabh Netravalkar bagged two.

PLAYING XI'S
Pakistan: Babar Azam (capt), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Usman Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Azam Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab

Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Amir, Haris Rauf

USA: Steven Taylor, Monank Patel (capt, wk), Andries Gous, Aaron Jones, Nitish Kumar, Corey Anderson, Harmeet Singh, Jasdeep Singh, Nosthush Kenjige, Saurabh Netravalkar, Ali Khan

Rising Star CC 2nd Consecutive Victory in the PCB Zone-IV Inter Club Cricket Tourney

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Due to Dashing Cantury by Afnan Khan 116 with the help of 9 fours and 10 Sixes in 92 balls and deadly bowling by Medium Pacer Asadullah Hamza 4 wickets for only 5 runs Rising Star Cricket club easily defeated Al-Mumtaz Cricket Club by 226 runs in their 2nd match of the PCB Zone-IV Inter club Cricket Tournament at RLCA Gulberg Ground.



Scores in Brief:

Rising Star Cricket Club 303 all-out in 36.3 overs. Afnan Khan 116 9x4 10x6 (in 92 balls), Asad Iqbal 48 7x4 2x6, Abdullah Fazal 43 4x4 3x6, Asadullah Hamza 37 4x4 1x6, Farman Ali 3/43, Zainul Abadeen 2/48, M. Ishaq 2/57, M. Usama 2/79.

Al-Mumtaz Cricket Club 77 all out in 25.3 overs. M. Usama 22, Asadullah Hamza (mf) 4/5, M. Usama (rls) 3/13, Afnan Khan (ls) 2/19.

Summer Sports Camps' online registration date has been extended till June 15: DG Sports Punjab

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal presided over an important meeting regarding SBP Summer Sports Camps at National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

Director Admin M Kaleem, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, and Sports Board Punjab's all coaches participated in the meeting. Director Admin M Kaleem threw light on multiple key features of upcoming Summer Sports Camps during his detailed briefing.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal informed that the date of online registration of Summer Sports Camps has



been extended from June 10 to June 15. "Summer Sports Camps are being organized in all divisions of the Punjab province".

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that all Summer Camps of the province will be monitored through

Mobile App. "All citizens of the province should register their children online for their participation in Summer Sports Camps," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal further said that the upcoming Summer Sports Camps will play a key

role in the promotion of sports culture especially in the far flung and remote areas of the province. "All divisional, district and tehsil sports officers should make best arrangements in their respective areas for smooth holding of Summer Sports Camps".

Mohammad Amir eyes to lead Pakistan's pace attack in T20 World Cup

Sports Desk

DALLAS: Left-arm experienced pacer Mohammad Amir on Thursday, revealed his goals to lead Pakistan's star-studded pace attack at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Amir, who reversed his retirement earlier this year, lauded Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah for carrying the national team's pace attack in his absence while stating that he always strives to lead from the front being the senior of them all.

"I am looking forward to playing here and perform well as a cricketer, whether it's league cricket or international cricket, at the end of the day you have to perform. As a senior bowler, I will always try to lead from the front," stated Amir.

"But if you look at Naseem, Haris, or Shaheen, they are performing well for the last four years. So, I have an extra responsibility to perform well for them



and for the team."

Pakistan are placed in Group A alongside arch-rivals India, Ireland, Canada and the co-host United States of America (USA).

The Green Shirts will kick start their

T20 World Cup 2024 campaign against the USA here on Thursday before taking on arch-rivals India at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on June 9.

However, Mohammad Amir insisted

that the team is unfazed by their opponents and is eyeing a perfect run in the group stage.

"You know what, for us it's about ourselves," Amir said. "We are here to win and we want to win every single game."

"This is World Cup cricket and there is no margin for error, we have to perform every single game."

"When you come to ICC Events, it's a big challenge. But we are ready to accept that challenge and to perform well here."

He further backed struggling all-rounder Shadab Khan and young wicketkeeper batter Azam Khan, asserting that the two have the ability to win the match single-handedly.

"I always say that the player who has performed and proved himself, never doubts his ability. Yes, there is a bad patch in cricket. And this happens with every cricketer. All the legends also if you see in the past, sometimes even they can't perform well," Amir said.

Faisalabad outplays Sahiwal by 4-0 to win Summer Games hockey title

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Faisalabad division hockey team outplayed Sahiwal team by a big margin of 4-0 to win Summer Games 2024 hockey title at National Hockey Stadium here on Thursday evening.

Faisalabad Division hockey team dominated the match proceedings right from the beginning. They did not give any room to Sahiwal boys to settle down and won the title encounter convincingly by 4-0. M Hussain struck two goals while Rana Danish and M Shakeel scored one each for victorious Faisalabad Division.

Punjab Minister for Sports Faisal Ayub Khokhar was the chief guest. He also distributed cash prizes, medals and trophies among the players and officials of both the teams. The Faisalabad division team was awarded the winners' trophy and a cheque of Rs 6 lakh while the Sahiwal team was given runners-up trophy and a cheque of Rs 3 lakh.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal, Director Admin M Kaleem, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony, Punjab Minister for Sports Faisal Ayub Khokhar announced that a hockey astroturf will be laid in Sahiwal in near future. "Sahiwal hockey team has played the final despite having fewer number of facilities and resources".

Khokhar said that Punjab Sports Department will organize Punjab Games in the next few months in which 16 games will be contested. "The prizes of worth Rs 10 crore will be distributed among participating players of the Punjab Games".

Sidra to attend Young Olympic Ambassadors

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: International Taekwondo Athlete Syed Zadi Sidra Batool, has been selected to attend the 64th International Session for Young Olympic Ambassadors.

The prestigious event would be organized by the International Olympic Academy (IOA) which was taking place in Athens, Greece from June 8 to 23, said a press release.

The said athlete has been selected on merit and duly approved by POA.

This seminar would be highly beneficial not only for the athlete but also for our National Sports which surely have great impact on other female athletes.

Pakistan Taekwondo Federation was thankful to Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and Pakistan Sports Board for timely issuance of NOC for her to participate in the seminar.



PBBF forms committee to oversee KBBA affairs

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has announced a three-member committee to oversee the affairs of the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA).

This step follows the decision taken during the recent General Council meeting held here, where the long overdue elections of KBBA were discussed at length, said a press release.

The newly formed committee includes former basketball players Mahfooz Ul Haq, Ashfaq Ahmed, and Waseem ur Rehman. These well-regarded individuals have been recognized for their significant contributions to basketball and are expected to bring their wealth of experience to the administration of the KBBA.

The committee's mandate includes conducting a thorough scrutiny of the clubs associated with the KBBA and organizing elections within the next 90 to 100 days. This move aims to ensure a transparent and fair electoral process, fostering a more organized and efficient basketball framework in Karachi.

The PBBF's decision to form this committee underscores its commitment to revitalizing basketball at the grassroots level and promoting fair governance within the sport. The basketball community in Karachi and beyond eagerly anticipates the positive changes this committee is expected to bring.

The PBBF urges all stakeholders to cooperate with the committee to facilitate a smooth and effective transition leading up to the KBBA elections.

T20 World Cup 2024: Namibia win toss, elect to bat first against Scotland



A Sports

BRIDGETOWN: Namibia have won the toss and chose to bat first against Scotland in the 12th match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 here at Kensington Oval on Thursday.

Namibia: Michael van Lingen, Nikolaas Davin, Jan Frylinck, Gerhard Erasmus (c), JJ Smit, David Wiersed, Zane Green (wk), Malan Kruger, Ruben Trimpelmann, Bernard Scholtz, Tangeni Lungameni

Scotland: George Munsey, Michael Jones, Brandon McMullen, Richie Berrington (c), Matt Cross (wk), Michael Leask, Chris Greaves, Mark Watt, Brad Wheal, Chris Sole, Brad Currie

Calls on

BEIJING: President of China Exim Bank Dr. Wu Fulin calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Govt's reforms measures started yielding results: PM

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the reform measures taken by his government had started yielding results in form of successfully tapered food inflation,

reduced current account deficit, and public debt down to a more sustainable level.

The prime minister, talking to Chairman of China Export-Import Bank (EXIM) Dr. Wu Fulin here, highlighted his government's reform agenda focused on

governance, taxation, and ease of doing business to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

He appreciated the EXIM Bank's continued support for the modernization of industries, agriculture and IT sectors of Pakistan. He also

discussed the possible role of the China EXIM Bank in financing Pakistan-China joint venture projects and trade financing as part of efforts to boost Pakistan's exports to international markets.

The EXIM Bank chairman

underscored the critical role of economic and financial cooperation under CPEC phase II and China EXIM Bank's strategic partnership with Pakistan and support to advance sustainable development under the concept of 'shared prosperity'.

Israel's strike on UN school that left dozens dead used US munitions, media reports

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Dozens of Palestinians were killed by an overnight Israeli airstrike on a United Nations-run school in central Gaza, authorities said, in an attack that CNN, an American television network, said was conducted with a US-made weapon. The school, run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), was housing displaced people.

At least 45 people were killed in the strike, a spokesperson from Gaza's Ministry of Health said. Authorities at the nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said casualties could rise as victims were still being brought to the hospital on Thursday. CNN said its analysis of video from the scene and a review by an explosive weapons expert found that US-made munitions were used in the strike on the school. It



identified fragments of at least two US-made GBU-39 small diameter bombs (SDB) in video filmed at the scene by a journalist working for CNN. "It marks the second time in two weeks that CNN has been able to verify the use of US-manufactured munitions in deadly Israeli attacks on displaced Palestinians, the first being a deadly IDF strike on a displacement camp in Rafah on May 26," the report said. On its part, UNRWA confirmed that one of our schools in

the Nuseirat area [in central Gaza] was hit overnight/early morning by Israeli Forces.

"The school was possibly hit several times," UNRWA told UN News, a media website. "The number of those reported killed is between 35 and 45. Scores others are injured. We are not able to confirm the above figure at this stage." Local officials in Gaza reported that 37 people were killed in the school building attack in the Nuseirat refugee camp near Deir Al-Balah in central

Gaza. The toll included 14 children, it was also reported. Media cited the Israeli military that the strike's objective was to eliminate Hamas fighters and that it was only given the go-ahead after aerial surveillance. In an early response condemning the school attack, UNRWA said that 6,000 people had been sheltering on the premises. Since the war began, more than 180 buildings belonging to the UN agency have been hit, killing more than 450 displaced people in those facilities.

"The vast majority" were schools-turned-shelters, UNRWA said, as it issued a reminder "to all parties to the conflict that schools and other UN premises must never be used for military or fighting purposes...UN facilities must be protected at all times." The development came as humanitarians issued alerts about the already dire sanitary

emergency in Gaza as civilians displaced by the war "have no choice but to live amid the rubble and in destroyed UNRWA facilities". In its latest report on relief activities in May, the UN agency flagged that aid teams were allowed to pick up "just under 450 trucks in the past three weeks in support of the humanitarian operation".

"This is nothing in the face of the needs," UNRWA said, insisting that at least 600 trucks per day "of commercial, fuel and humanitarian supplies" are required to help stave off famine and death in Gaza. "Fuel is running short; our teams are standing by to pick it up when the Israeli authorities give the green light," UNRWA said, before highlighting "horrific" scenes of devastation from Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, home to thousands of displaced people.

Pak, Japan ink grant worth \$ 2.1 million for HR-development scholarships



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Governments of Pakistan and Japan have signed a landmark grant agreement worth US\$ 2.1 million to bolster the Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS) 2024.

In a ceremonial exchange of notes and signing ceremony convened at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan, signed the record of discussions and exchange of notes, said a press release issued here.

Mr. Saeed Ashraf Siddiqi, Joint Secretary representing the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Naoaki

Miyata, Chief Representative of JICA Pakistan, signed the Grant Agreement.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the ministry.

Japan, through JICA, has extended this generous grant to Pakistan, marking the 7th installment of the JDS project since its inception in 2018. This year, the grant will provide seventeen (17) scholarships for Master's programs and one (1) for a PhD/Doctorate program at prestigious universities in Japan for young Federal Civil Service and Ex-Cadre officers of Pakistan.

Since 2018, six (6) batches, each comprising around 18 participants, have benefited from the JDS scholarships.

This initiative has significantly enhanced the capacity and performance of young officers who play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of

Govt shares PTI founder's cell pictures

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has shared the picture of the cell where Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan is incarcerated.

As per details, the government submitted the pictures along with other documents to the Supreme Court and refuted the claims regarding denying counsel access to Imran Khan in the NAB amendments case.

The federal government also denied the allegations of mistreatment and solitary confinement, stating that the PTI chief is being provided with all necessary facilities, including books, air conditioner, TV, and meetings with lawyers.

Moreover, they argued that the



Supreme Court can constitute a commission to investigate the facts if it is considered necessary.

The federal government has also provided a list of people who have met with the PTI founder in jail, refuting the claims of being denied access to



legal counsel.

During the last hearing of the National Accountability (NAB) Ordinance 1999 amendment case Supreme Court allowed Khawaja Haris to meet PTI founder. "Khawaja Haris can meet PTI founder, whenever he wants".

The SC also ordered to provide all the records of the NAB amendments case to the plaintiff, Imran Khan.

It is pertinent to mention here that a five-member SC larger bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, and also comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi is hearing the case.

President stresses for strengthening food safety systems

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has stressed the need to strengthen the country's food safety systems to ensure that everyone has access to safe, clean, and nutritious food.

In his message, on the occasion of World Food Safety Day, he said "The day reminds us of the need to strengthen food safety regulations and standards that govern the production, processing, and distribution of food. We can minimize the risk of food contamination and adulteration and ensure food safety by ensuring strict compliance with these standards".

He said the Day is being observed today to catalyze momentum for the alignment of governmental policies and stakeholder actions to ensure food safety.

Pakistan, he said also needs to invest in research and innovation and utilize the latest technology to address food safety challenges.

Modern tools can enable us to identify potential hazards accurately, allowing for more targeted and effective interventions to protect public health. "We also need to create awareness among the people about food safety, and clean and hygienic food through the media."

This World Food Safety Day high-



lights the importance of realizing that food safety is a shared responsibility requiring the collective efforts of all stakeholders. We need to adhere to the highest food safety standards for the well-being of our nation.

In today's world, where food-borne diseases and global pandemics are becoming more prevalent, the urgency to take proactive measures to emphasize proper hygiene and protect our food system has never been greater.

This year's theme "Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected" serves as a reminder of the ever-present challenges and uncertainties we face in ensuring the safety of our food supply, he added.

Pakistan embassy to establish camp office in Luxembourg on June 22

News Desk

BRUSSELS: Embassy of Pakistan in Belgium will establish a camp office in Luxembourg on June 22 to provide consular services to all Pakistanis and

Foreigners.

The services to be provided in the camp office include attestation of power of attorney/affidavits, attestation of documents, and issuance of S1 forms.

Pakistan, Türkiye & Indonesia call for united action to combat rising Islamophobia

News Desk

NEW YORK: Amid a rising tide of anti-Muslim hate, senior diplomats from Pakistan, Türkiye and Indonesia Wednesday reaffirmed their governments' collective commitment to combatting Islamophobia, while also advocating peace, tolerance, and inter-religious dialogue. They were speaking at an event co-hosted by the consulates general of the three Islamic countries at the Turkish Consulate General in New York.

In his remarks, the Consul General of Pakistan, Aamer Ahmad Atozai, emphasized Islam's core principles of moderation, pluralism, compassion and tolerance. He highlighted the misrepresentation of Islam by a minority of extremists and the worrying surge of Islamophobia since 9/11, encompassing hate speech, violence, and institutional discrimination against Muslims. Atozai also underscored Pakistan's active role, alongside Türkiye and Indonesia, in the recent adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution on "Measures to combat Islamophobia," which includes a call for the appointment of a United

Nations Special Envoy on combatting Islamophobia. The Pakistani Consul General denounced Israel's genocidal actions in Gaza as a stark reflection of global Islamophobia, shedding light on prevalent Islamophobic incidents worldwide, including hate speech, targeted attacks, and discrimination against Muslims. Atozai also drew attention to the systematic destruction of religious sites in India and other Islamophobic actions within that country. He also pointed to the significant military presence of Indian occupation forces in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as well as India's discriminatory policies aimed at altering the region's demographic composition from a Muslim majority to a Hindu majority through demographic engineering. A panel discussion followed, featuring noted speakers who analyzed various aspects and dimensions of Islamophobia. Associate Prof. Dr. Enes Bayraktli from Türkiye discussed the nature and roots of Islamophobia, while Dr. Imam Shams Ali from Indonesia examined the factors contributing to Islamophobia and proposed strategies towards combating it.

Wrote a new chapter of Pak-China cooperation in Shenzhen...

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platform had played a pivotal role in bringing together leaders, policymakers, business executives, and entrepreneurs from both countries. He said the gathering was aimed at engaging to further strengthen our iron-clad and space-partners friendship. It sets the tone for our future interactions, providing a foundation for deeper economic ties and stronger cultural connections, he added.

He particularly appreciated the

Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC); China-Pakistan Friendship Association (CPFA); China International Cultural Communication Centre (CICCC); and all other supporting units - JDB group and Anhua County Yuntiange tea Co., Ltd. He also lauded Pakistan's Ambassador Khalil Hashmi and his team and particularly expressed gratitude to Ambassador Sha Zukang for his steadfast and longstanding support to Pakistan.

Pakistan to present annual...

Additionally, it was agreed to continue the debate on the President's address on June 6 and 7. The chief whips also discussed the formation of standing committees and the House Business Advisory Committee.

Pakistan's financial year runs from July to June and its budget for fiscal year 2025, the first by Sharif's new government, has to be presented before June 30.

The budget was originally due to be presented on June 7 but was delayed

because of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing from June 4-8, Reuters last week reported while quoting two sources, a top finance ministry official and an official close to the prime minister.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, who is accompanying Sharif to Beijing, will present the budget, which the finance ministry official said would be one of the "most crucial" ahead of a new loan from the IMF.