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GGGI offers support for climate financing, green growth strategy

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM for boosting gemstones exports using local resources

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Monday, said that Pakistan had been blessed with abundant natural resources, including precious stones, and stressed that the sector offered strong potential to increase exports using local resources.

The prime minister chaired a high-level review meeting focused on aligning Pakistan's gemstone mining and processing sector with international standards and enhancing exports, including the establishment of three Centers of Excellence across the country.

The prime minister stressed that transparency must remain a key element in the establishment of the centers of excellence.

The prime minister assigned the Ministry of Planning the task of formulating a comprehensive strategy to boost exports of processed gemstones. The ministry was expected to present the plan soon, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He also appreciated the efforts of his Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar and his team for promoting the development of the sector, terming their initiatives commendable.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Dr. Musadik Malik, Jam Kamal Khan, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar, Governor State Bank Jameel Ahmad, chief secretaries of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding promotion of Industrial sector.

Parachinar Airport becomes operational after long hiatus

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Parachinar Airport in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram District has been reactivated and made operational through the efforts of the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) and the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA), after remaining inactive for an extended period.

The renovation and repair of the airport mark a significant step toward restoring air transport in the region. On April 26, Pakistan Army Aviation conducted trials at Parachinar Airport to assess the quality of construction and upgradation work, as well as runway functionality and overall operational readiness. Pakistan Army Aviation completed six successful landing and takeoff trials, after which the airport runways were declared compliant with professional standards and safety protocols. During the trials, the performance of the airport and runways was evaluated under various operational scenarios.

Following the success of these trials, Parachinar Airport's operational capacity is expected to be further strengthened, significantly enhancing regional connectivity, emergency response.



Iran FM Araghchi says he discussed conditions for continuing US talks with 'friends in Pakistan'

PEAK POINT

IRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Monday said he discussed with "friends in Pakistan" the "path and conditions" under which Tehran could continue its dialogue with Washington during his recent visit to Islamabad.

After visiting Pakistan twice in two days and making a trip to Oman in between, Araghchi arrived in Russia on Monday as part of his regional tour.

In a statement issued on his Telegram account, the Iranian FM provided an overview of his diplomatic engagements over the past few days.

Terming his trips to Islamabad and Muscat as "bilateral", Araghchi said: "As for Pakistan, this country has recently played an important role in mediating the negotiations between Iran and the United States, and it was necessary for us to discuss the latest developments."

"However, there have been developments in the negotiations, and the wrong approaches and excessive demands of the United States have prevented the previous round of negotiations from achieving their goals despite the progress. Therefore, it was necessary to consult and review the current situation with our friends in Pakistan," he added. The minister recalled that the Iranian side had "good consultations with our friends in Pakistan, which, thank God, was a very successful trip." "We reviewed what has happened and talked about the path."



Infiltration attempt of Fitna-al-Khwarij foiled, several Afghan Taliban posts destroyed

PEAK POINT

WANA: Pak armed forces foiled an infiltration attempt by Fitna al-Khwarij and destroyed several posts in response to unprovoked firing by the Afghan Taliban in Angoor Adda along the Pak-Afghan border.

Owing to the timely and vigilant action of the Pakistan Army, the infiltration attempt was thwarted. Following their failure, the Afghan Taliban targeted the civilian population. As a result of the firing, three civilians, including two women, were injured and rushed to Wana Hospital.

In the South Waziristan area of Zalol Khel, Angoor Adda, unprovoked firing by the Afghan Taliban was met with a strong retaliatory response from the Pakistan Army, resulting in the destruction of several Afghan posts. Following the effective operations of Ghazab-Lil-Haq, the Afghan Taliban, frustrated by their setbacks, have begun targeting civilians.

Local residents strongly condemned the firing incident by the Afghan Taliban and called for a firm response from the Pakistan Army.



Constable martyred in terrorist attack on police checkpoint in Balochistan's Pishin

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: A police head constable was martyred in a terrorist attack on a checkpoint in the Huramazai area of Balochistan's Pishin district on Monday. According to police, armed militants on a motorcycle opened fire on a police checkpoint using automatic weapons, following which police personnel retaliated. "The exchange of fire, which continued for some time, resulted in the martyrdom of a head constable," a police official who wished to remain anonymous told Dawn, adding that the assailants then fled from the scene.

King Charles jets to US for four-day trip amid Iran conflict, media gala shooting

PEAK POINT

LONDON: Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla will arrive in the United States later on Monday for a four-day trip, a tour which has taken on even greater prominence after the White House Correspondents' dinner shooting and amid acrimony between the close allies.

The state visit, by far the most high-profile and consequential of Charles's reign, marks the 250th anniversary of the US declaration of independence from British rule, and is the first visit to the country by a British monarch for two decades. It begins with a private meeting with self-proclaimed royal fan US President Donald Trump, and includes an address to Congress and a lavish dinner at the White House. But the long-planned trip has become enmeshed in the political spat between the cast a further pall over the visit. Buckingham Palace Washington, the king and queen have a private tea with the president, an unabashed lover of the British royal family who regularly describes Charles as a "great man", and his wife, First Lady Melania Trump.

The 77-year-old king, who is still undergoing treatment for cancer, will address Congress the next day — just the second time a British monarch has done so.

The royals will then head on to New York, where they will commemorate those killed in the Sept 11, 2001 attacks ahead of the 25th anniversary, while the queen will also mark the centenary of children's stories featuring Winnie the Pooh.

The US trip concludes in Virginia with the king meeting those involved in conservation work.

said the trip would still go ahead as planned following discussions between British and US authorities to determine if the incident would impact on the royals' plans. "The king and queen are most grateful to all those who have worked at pace to ensure this remains the case and are looking forward to the visit getting underway tomorrow," a palace spokesperson said on Sunday. On arriving in



Islamabad court grants journalist Fakharur Rehman post-arrest bail in Peca case

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A judicial magistrate on Monday granted post-arrest bail to senior journalist Fakharur Rehman, who was arrested over the weekend by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) in a case registered under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca). According to an NCCIA first information report (FIR) dated April 20, the journalist was one of nine accused of spreading "false and misleading information against state institutions" through the social media platform X.

The NCCIA had registered the FIR under Section 20 (offences against the dignity of a natural person) and Section 26-A (dissemination of false and fake information) of Peca.

During the hearing on Monday, Barrister Ahad Khokhar appeared on behalf of the journalist and argued that, according to the NCCIA report, his client's mobile phone had already been recovered.





SPORTS



PM Shehbaz signs off on letting fans attend PSL playoffs



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi announced on Monday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had signed off on letting fans attend all three Pakistan Super League (PSL) playoff matches.

In a social media post on X, Naqvi said, "Just had a meeting with PM Shehbaz, and I am pleased to share that we have secured his approval for public attendance in all three PSL playoff matches as well."

an important condition from his side that fans are strongly encouraged to use public transport or minimise fuel consumption while attending the matches, in line with the ongoing national austerity efforts," Naqvi added.

He said that PM Shehbaz had also conveyed his best wishes to all four teams competing in the playoffs.

"Looking forward to some exciting and entertaining cricket ahead," Naqvi said.

Three playoff matches are scheduled to be held this week, before the final on Sunday. On

Tuesday, Islamabad United will face Peshawar Zalmi in Karachi, while Hyderabad Kingsmen and Multan Sultans will meet in Lahore on Wednesday.

The loser of the first match will then face off against the winner of the second in Lahore on Friday.

The decision comes two days after Naqvi announced that PM Shehbaz had allowed spectators in the stadiums during the PSL final following his request.

The final match is scheduled for May 3 at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

Matches for this year's tournament were initially scheduled to be held across six venues — Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Multan, Peshawar, and Faisalabad.

However, prior to the commencement of the tournament, it was announced that it would go ahead sans spectators while matches would be held only in Karachi and Lahore in line with the government's austerity drive, which was launched in the wake of the global fuel crisis triggered by the US-Israel's war on Iran.

Zalmi lead PSL 11 playoff line-up as Final four confirmed



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The playoff picture for the Pakistan Super League Season 11 is now officially set after the completion of league-stage fixtures. Peshawar Zalmi emerged as table-toppers with an impressive 17 points, while Islamabad United secured second place with 13 points. Multan Sultans finished third after collecting 12 points, and Hyderabad Kingsmen grabbed the final playoff berth with 10 points, edging out Lahore Qalandars and Karachi Kings on net run rate. The playoff stage begins

PCB shares ticket pricing details for PSL 11 Qualifier in Karachi

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has unveiled ticketing information for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 11 Qualifier between Peshawar Zalmi and Islamabad United, set to take place at Karachi's National Bank Stadium on Tuesday. According to the cricket board, E-Tickets for the high-stakes fixture can be purchased from tonight, with prices for all enclosures of the aforementioned venue set at Rs500.

Fatima Sana to captain Pakistan in Zimbabwe ODI series



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Pakistan have announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe, with Fatima Sana set to continue as captain for the home assignment in Karachi next month. The series, part of the ICC Women's Championship 2025-29, will be played at the National Bank Stadium from May 4 to 9. The matches are scheduled on May 4, 6 and 9, with all games beginning at 3:30pm PST. The women's national selection committee has retained faith in Fatima Sana's leadership as Pakistan aim to strengthen their position in the championship standings. The team currently sits on the table with two points, having earlier toured South Africa this year. A notable inclusion in the squad is uncapped May 12, 14 and 15, batter Momina Riasat, who has earned her maiden call-up. Her ODI leg presents an important opportunity for Pakistan to gain fresh talent into the national setup ahead of a crucial Championship and phase in the international calendar. With Zimbabwe's women a balanced squad team will mark a significant milestone as they embark on their first-ever tour of the hosts will be keen Pakistan. The visitors are scheduled to arrive in Karachi on April 29, with both sides set to undergo training on their historic tour.

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Pakistani runners deliver depth, discipline, tactical brilliance at London Marathon 2026



ITF Men's Futures M-15 continues at PTF Tennis Complex

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Flair Travel ITF Men's Futures M-15 (Leg-1) tournament continued here at the PTF Tennis Complex on Monday.

This tournament is being organised in memory of Khawaja Iftikhar Ahmad, a former tennis player of the subcontinent, in recognition of his valuable contributions to the sport and his lasting legacy in regional tennis history. A total of 70 men's players from 23 countries are participating in this prestigious international event. The participating nations include Pakistan, Kuwait, Russia, Uzbekistan, Sweden, Austria, Malaysia, Great Britain, Italy, Lithuania, China, Turkey, Algeria, Canada, USA, Ireland, Poland, Hong Kong, Nepal, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Japan. Top seed of the tournament is Leo Borg of Sweden, currently ranked ATP 483,

while the second seed is Samir Hamza Reguig of Algeria, holding an ATP ranking of 844. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), stated that hosting back-to-back



ITF Pro Tour tournaments in Islamabad is a remarkable achievement for Pakistan and reflects the Federation's strong commitment to promoting international tennis. He warmly welcomed all visiting players, officials, and support staff, assuring them of world-class facilities and outstanding hospitality

AI Ahli beat Machida Zelvia to retain Asian Champions League title



added that the tournament is being organised in memory of his grandfather, Khawaja Iftikhar Ahmad, a legendary figure in subcontinental tennis. He described the event as a meaningful tribute to his grandfather's legacy, noting that it holds special emotional significance for him and his family.



NHMP DIG holds online Khuli Kachehri to address public complaints



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) regularly organizes monthly online Khuli Kachehri sessions to ensure the timely resolution of issues faced by the public and employees, as well as to promote direct communication.

In this regard, Deputy Inspector

General (DIG Operations), Motorway Police, Asghar Ali, participated in a live online Khuli Kachehri broadcast through FM 95 Radio Station and the official NHMP Facebook page, said a press release.

During the session, the DIG listened to complaints, issues, and suggestions from citizens

and employees through live calls and issued immediate instructions to the concerned officers for prompt resolution. Appreciating the constructive feedback from the public, he stated that public opinion plays a vital role in institutional improvement.

DIG Asghar Ali highlighted that the Motorway Police is actively working to ensure safe and comfortable travel on national highways and motorways through effective strategies, professional expertise, and modern technology. He added that

Huawei Pakistan Digital Week concludes with powerful showcase of innovation



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Pakistan Monday concluded its weeklong Digital Week Pakistan 2026, an initiative launched last week to highlight the company's digital transformation.

Huawei Pakistan Digital Week concludes with powerful showcase of innovation, collaboration,

Digital transformation. The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including senior government officials, ICT experts, representatives from leading telecom companies, industry specialists, members of the media, and students from various universities. Over the course of the week, attendees engaged in workshops, exhibi-

tions, panel discussions, and hands-on demonstrations focused on cloud technologies, digital skills, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and next generation ICT solutions.

Ethan Sun CEO Huawei Pakistan highlighted the central role of cloud technologies in enabling modern digital infrastructure.

He said that cloud platforms are essential for improving efficiency, enhancing security, and supporting the rapid adoption of emerging technologies across industries.

Ahmed Bilal Masud CEO AI and Cloud Business Pakistan.

Fake National Assembly Internship Ads Flood Social Media, Students warned against data theft

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: A wave of fraudulent internship advertisements claiming affiliation with the National Assembly of Pakistan has triggered alarm, with authorities warning students to avoid sharing personal information on fake portals circulating across social media and job websites. In

an official clarification, the National Assembly Secretariat stated that it has not authorized any online applications or third-party platforms for its 2026 internship programme. The statement comes after multiple unauthorized links and advertisements began soliciting applications under the Assembly's name, raising serious concerns about

potential data harvesting and online scams targeting students. Officials emphasized that the Summer 2026 internship process is being conducted strictly through an internal, institutional mechanism. Under this framework, selected universities are contacted directly, and student nominations are obtained through approved academic channels—con-

tradicting the open online application claims being widely shared. The emergence of these fake listings has sparked concerns over cybersecurity and misuse of official branding, with authorities indicating that legal action may be initiated against those responsible for spreading misleading information. The Secretariat warned that such platforms

could be designed to extract sensitive personal data under the guise of government opportunities. Students and the general public have been strongly advised to avoid clicking suspicious links or submitting applications through unofficial sources, as no public call for applications has been issued. The incident highlights a growing pattern of

digital fraud exploiting government institutions' credibility, particularly to target young applicants seeking career opportunities. Officials reiterated that all authentic information regarding National Assembly internships will only be released through official and verified channels.

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Quest for an off-ramp

Malecha Lodhi
HOPES that the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to Pakistan would lead to the resumption of direct talks between the US and Iran did not materialise. The White House had announced it was sending US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner for peace talks to Islamabad, but Iranian officials said no meeting with American negotiators was planned. This led President Donald Trump to cancel their trip but without shutting the door on the diplomatic process. "If they want to talk," he said in a social media post, "all they have to do is call."

Pakistani leaders worked hard to break the impasse between Washington and Tehran, which had taken hold over the past fortnight amid tough posturing by them. That a second round of talks did not take place was a disappointment but that doesn't mean the diplomatic window has closed. Both sides seem to want an off-ramp from the conflict. But they are locked in a classic who-blinks-first situation, with neither side showing flexibility lest the other constrains that as a "win" that strengthens its negotiating hand.

The first round of face-to-face talks between the US and Iran in Islamabad on April 11 reflected their mutual interest in pursuing the diplomatic option. The talks were inconclusive but they began a potentially promising process. Negotiations, however,

stalled with the second round put on hold. Several factors were responsible for this. The most proximate cause was the US blockade of the Strait of Hormuz amid a massive American military build-up in the region.

Coming on the back of contradictory messages and ultimatums from Trump, this raised questions in Tehran about Washington's seriousness about negotiations. At one point, Trump said he was offering "a very fair and reasonable deal" to Iran; if it didn't accept it, the US would knock out every single power plant, and every single bridge in Iran. False claims by Trump such as Iran agreeing to hand over its highly enriched uranium to the US aggravated the situation.

The diplomatic window remains open even as both sides seem to harden their positions.

The US military's seizure of an Iranian-flagged cargo ship marked a serious escalation in an already volatile situation. Tehran denounced this as a violation of the ceasefire and act of armed piracy and pledged to retaliate. Iran's state news agency ruled out Iran's participation in the Islamabad talks because of "Washington's excessive demands, unrealistic expectations, constant shifts in stance, repeated contradictions, and the ongoing naval blockade". Tehran announced an end to the temporary opening of the strategic waterway as a reprisal. It also said it would keep the Strait closed

until the US ended the blockade. Trump refused, saying the blockade would continue until Iran agreed to a deal.

These tit-for-tat actions, with both accusing each other of violating the ceasefire, cast a shadow of uncertainty over the diplomatic process. As the expiry of the 14-day ceasefire approached, Pakistan's diplomatic efforts went into high gear. Hours before the truce was to expire Pakistani leaders succeeded in persuading Trump to announce an indefinite extension. But efforts to get him to end the blockade proved unsuccessful. It was hoped the ceasefire extension would open the window to diplomatic re-engagement and persuade Iran to participate in the talks. But Iran declined saying it would not accept negotiations under US pressure and threats. As the speaker of Iran's parliament put it, "Trump, by imposing a blockade, seeks to turn the negotiating table into a table of surrender." He dismissed the ceasefire extension as a ploy to buy time.

Pakistani officials continued their efforts to encourage the two sides to return to the negotiating table. This involved nonstop communication between Pakistani officials and their American counterparts including phone calls between Field Marshal Asim Munir and President Trump. It also entailed the army chief's three-day visit to Tehran for discussions and to communicate messages from Washington.

Courtesy Dawn

Pakistan's mediation moment

Syed Jalal Hussain

Pakistan is a country that can take generations to resolve property disputes, and it just pulled the world back from the brink of a third world war in weeks.

That contradiction deserves to sit for a moment, because it contains within it both the diagnosis of everything broken about this country's institutions and the blueprint for fixing them. When the White House press secretary publicly credited Pakistan as an extraordinary mediator in one of the most dangerous conflicts of the 21st century, the world was watching a civilisation remember what it is good at. The question is whether Pakistan will remember long enough to do something about it. The conventional instinct will be to cash this diplomatic cheque in the usual currencies: IMF leverage, a softer line from Washington, a better seat at multilateral tables. All of that will happen, and some of it deserves to. But beneath the geopolitical headlines sits a more daring and more durable opportunity. Pakistan has just demonstrated at the highest level of international affairs, the cultural temperament, the relational intelligence, and the institutional nerve to bring adversaries who deeply distrust each other back to a table. The concept of sulh—reconciliation—as a first instinct rather than a last resort runs fourteen centuries deep in the Islamic legal tradition that shaped this civilisation. The world just watched it work on a global stage. The question is whether Pakistan can turn that ancient instinct into a modern industry. The gap between Pakistan's diplomatic image and its domestic reality is precisely what makes this moment so strategically loaded, and so perishable. The national judicial backlog sits at 2.22 million cases. A commercial dispute takes fifteen years to resolve on average. The diplomat and the litigant inhabit the same country. One is celebrated on the world stage. The other is still waiting. Diplomatic credibility has a half-life, and what Pakistan does in the next eighteen months, in its legislatures, courtrooms, media centres and bar councils.

Courtesy Tribune

Minister urges COMSTECH to promote traditional medicine for preventive healthcare



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal Monday urged COMSTECH to actively promote traditional medicine to improve public health, emphasizing a shift from treatment to prevention. He was speaking as chief guest at the Pakistan-China International Conference on Food-Medicine Homology, Nutrition, and Health held

at the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology.

The minister termed the conference a timely initiative and said Pakistan's healthcare system must focus on keeping people healthy rather than relying solely on treatment after illness. He expressed confidence that Pakistan could emerge as a leading country in promoting herbal and traditional medicine, noting that despite strong indigenous knowledge, the sector has lagged due to lack of patronage, struc-

tured support and effective marketing. Addressing the participants, Coordinator General COMSTECH, Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary said the concept of food-medicine homology highlights the role of food not only as nutrition but also as a tool for disease prevention and health promotion.

He noted that Pakistan-China cooperation in traditional medicine, natural product research and biomedical sciences reflects strong scientific diplomacy. He said China's expertise in Traditional Chinese Medicine, coupled with Pakistan's rich biodiversity and medicinal plant resources, presents vast opportunities for innovation. He reaffirmed COMSTECH's commitment to promoting evidence-based traditional medicine, joint research centres, technology transfer, and cross-border pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industries. In his remarks, Liu Xinmin, Member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Traditional Medicine and Chief Scientist at Ningbo University, described the conference as a reflection of longstanding scientific collaboration.

GGGI offers support for climate financing, green growth strategy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) has offered to support Pakistan in strengthening its climate financing mechanisms and aligning economic growth with sustainable development, during a meeting with Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik on Monday. According to an official statement, GGGI's country representative for Nepal and Pakistan, Laura Jalosjoki, briefed the minister on the organisation's global experience in helping countries develop institutional and financial frameworks to access climate-resilient growth. The meeting reviewed the Pakistan



Country Programme (2024-2028) and explored potential areas of collaboration, including boosting private sector participation in climate finance, strengthening agriculture value chains, and improving energy efficiency through AI-enabled monitoring, reporting and verification systems. Discussions also focused on promoting investment and market development in agriculture, as well as fostering innovation through startup ecosystems. The two sides also took up the proposed Global Clean Hydrogen.

Pakistan, China sign 3 MoUs to boost desalination, agri technology, tea sector cooperation

PEAK POINT

CHANGSHA (CHINA): Pakistan and China on Monday signed three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to strengthen bilateral cooperation in water desalination, agricultural technology, and the tea industry.

President Asif Ali Zardari, who is on a week-long visit to China until May 1, witnessed the signing of the MoUs between Pakistani and Chinese entities. The MoUs reflect a focused effort to advance practical collaboration in key sectors.

The first MoU was concluded between the Sindh local government and Lucion Environmental Technology Group for collaboration on a seawater desalination project in Karachi, aimed at increasing the city's water supply. The MoU was signed by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Lucion Group's Chairman Yuhui, also the secretary of the Party Branch.

Memon also signed an MoU between the Sindh local government and Long Ping Hi-

tech Information Company for cooperation in agricultural technology with the firm's chairman, Chen Zhixin.

The third MoU was signed between Meskay & Femtee Trading Company, Hunan Tea Group and Jiaolong International Technology (Hainan) to promote cooperation across all areas of the industry, with a view to supporting the development of the tea industry in both countries and strengthening economic, trade and people-to-people ties.

The MoU was signed from the Pakistani side by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla and from the Chinese side by Hunan Tea Group Chairman Zhou Chongwang and Hao Jiaolong, Chairman of Hainan Jiaolong International Trade Technology. MNA Naveed Qamar, Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah, and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi were also present on the occasion. Separately, President Zardari conferred the Sitara-i-Pakistan award on Professor Pan Xiangbin in Changsha.

Govt working to free Pakistanis held hostage by Somali pirates: Sindh governor

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Nehal Hashmi said on Monday that 11 Pakistani crew members held hostage by Somali pirates have not been abandoned, and that authorities have been directed to pursue efforts for their release.

Initial details suggest the pirates hijacked an oil tanker named 'Owner 25' in the Gulf of Aden near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait off the Somali coast on Tuesday. The vessel's crew included its captain, an Indonesian national, along with 11 Pakistanis. Speaking at a press conference at the Governor's House in Karachi, Hashmi said the affected families had visited the office seeking assistance. Regarding the hostages, Hashmi stated that "they are not abandoned; the government stands with them," assuring that the families would be supported during this time. Further, the governor said he had held discussions with the Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, as well as the foreign secretary, and that Pakistan.

Governor KP for dignified repatriation of Afghan nationals

PEAK POINT

KHYBER: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday visited the Hamza Baba camp established for Afghan refugees in Landi Kotal, district Khyber, where he reviewed arrangements and facilities being provided to those returning to Afghanistan.

During the visit, the Governor met Afghan nationals heading back to their country and listened to their concerns. He also inspected facilitation counters set up by the Afghan Commissionerate, NADRA, FIA and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society at the camp. The Governor directed the staff of the Red Crescent in merged districts to further enhance medical assistance, pro-



vision of hygiene kits and other essential services for the returning refugees. Officials, including the Deputy Commissioner Khyber, NADRA, FIA and Afghan Commissionerate authorities, briefed the Governor in detail about facilities being extended at the Hamza Baba camp. He was informed that after completion of all legal formalities, Afghan refugees were being sent to the Turkhan border via the camp and Transit Point Phase-III.

Indiscriminate Anti-Encroachment Drive Continues in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A large-scale anti-encroachment operation is ongoing in Islamabad, carried out without discrimination under the supervision of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. During the operation, an FC camp office established on a green belt near Merit and Ayub Chowk was also demolished, reflecting the government's across-the-board approach to clearing illegal structures. Speaking on the occasion, the interior minister reaffirmed that the crackdown against encroachments in Islamabad would continue without exception. He emphasized that illegal constructions and encroachments



are being removed without yielding to any pressure. Naqvi further stated that an alternative lawful site would be provided for the Frontier Corps (FC) camp office, ensuring that operational requirements are met within legal frameworks.

Reiterating the government's firm stance, he said there is a zero-tolerance policy against encroachments.



CHANGSHA, CHINA: President Asif Ali Zardari witnesses the signing of an MoU between the Local Government, Government of Sindh and Long Ping Hi-tech Information on cooperation in agricultural technology.

ECC notes emerging price stability, approves supplementary grants

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) here on Monday noted improving price stability and easing inflationary pressures on essential commodities, highlighting declining trends in key indices, better supply-side coordination, and targeted policy actions.

The committee, which met under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb also approved a

series of fiscal measures and reforms to support economic stability and governance.

The committee was informed that following a period of volatility, recent data indicates gradual stabilization in prices supported by coordinated efforts at the federal, provincial, and district levels. Institutional mechanisms, particularly through the National Price Monitoring Committee, have strengthened market oversight and enabled timely interventions.

It was informed that infla-



tionary pressures, while present, were showing signs of moderation, with emerging trends pointing toward improved price stability.

Weekly monitoring data reflects that, after a tempo-

rary uptick, the pace of increase in prices of essential items has slowed, with recent weeks showing a declining trend in the Sensitive Price Index (SPI). A number of essential commodities have

witnessed price reductions while some have shown only marginal increases, indicating a broader easing in price pressures.

The ECC was further apprised that prices of key food and household items are gradually converging toward more stable levels, with some commodities returning close to pre-volatility benchmarks.

This trend has been attributed to effective administrative measures, improved supply chain monitoring, and enhanced coordination between federal and provin-

cial authorities.

The committee noted with satisfaction that the combination of timely policy responses, strengthened monitoring mechanisms, and coordinated implementation has begun to yield positive outcomes, with clear indications of stabilization in the prices of essential items and improved market sentiment.

Later, the ECC took up regular agenda items and approved a number of proposals, including Technical Supplementary Grants (TSGs) across ministries.