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DAILY AUSAF KARACHI

کراچی

چیف ایڈیٹر مہتاب خان | ایڈیٹر محسن خان

بدھ، 10 شعبان المعظم 1445ھ، 21 فروری 2024ء

شہر کی جان

جی ڈی اے جے یو آئی دھرنے احتجاجی مظاہرے ناکامی چھپانے فیس سیونگ کی کوشش نثار کھوڑو

مولانا فضل الرحمان طوفان عکسی کی کانفرس تو کر رہے تھے مگر انتخابی جلسوں سے غائب رہے، پیر پگاڑہ نے انتخابات میں امیدواروں کو بے یارو مددگار چھوڑ دیا تھا، اب دھرنے کس لئے دیئے جا رہے ہیں

جے یو آئی سندھ سے پہلے کبھی اور نہ اب جیتی ہے، راشد سومرو اپنی ناکامی کو صرف جلسے کر کے دکھانا چاہتے ہیں تو کرتے رہیں، جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی عوام کی توہین بند کرے

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان ہیلپرز پارٹی سندھ کے صدر ڈاکٹر کھوڑو نے کہا ہے کہ جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی دھرنے دے کر اپنی ناکامی پر پردہ ڈالنے کے لئے فیس سیونگ کر رہی ہیں۔ جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی کے سندھ میں انتخابی جلسوں سے مولانا فضل الرحمان اور پیر پگاڑہ غائب رہے، مولانا فضل الرحمان طوفان عکسی کا نعرہ لگا کر گئے تھے مگر سندھ میں انتخابی جلسوں سے غائب رہے۔ پیر پگاڑہ نے تو انتخابات کے دوران اپنے امیدواروں کو بے یار و مددگار چھوڑ دیا تھا تو اب دھرنے کس لئے دے رہے ہیں، اپنے ایک بیان میں نثار کھوڑو نے کہا کہ جے یو آئی سندھ سے پہلے کبھی جیتی تھی نہ اب جیتی ہے تو پیر و حمادی جے یو آئی کے سندھ میں انتخابی جلسوں سے مولانا فضل الرحمان اور پیر پگاڑہ غائب رہے، مولانا فضل الرحمان سے سستی شہرت حاصل کرنے والے فضل کے خلاف سکھر کی مختلف سماجی تنظیموں کا مشترکہ اجلاس زیر صدارت مجاہد اللہ خٹک، سید یو پی رہنما مشرف کھوڑو قادری کے منعقدہ ہوا، اجلاس میں بندرعدنانی فنانی تنظیم کے تحفظ بندرعدنانی، آل پاکستان سومرو اتحاد یونین کے صدر اکبر سومرو، عوامی تحاری

GOODMAN WIRE

ضرورت سٹاف آئل پاور کمپنی

ہیرا نیجر کیلئے ریٹائرڈ آرمی سرکاری وغیرہ آئل اینڈ گیس سٹاف درکار ہے گھانا، ہائل سروسز فری ٹکٹ ون 40+40 کا 80 ہزار ریگولر تنخواہ جاری ایمل 0341-0629020

R.A .....

اطلاع عام

ہذریعہ اشتہار عوام الناس کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ پراپرٹی نمبر SLVIII-2-S-39/RH واقع سیکٹر نیو سٹی فیز VIII ہاؤسنگ سکیم جو کہ بحق محمد بلال ہیرو ولد نام نہاد الٰہی بخش کے مختص تھا، جو کہ مذکورہ بالا پلاٹ کے ایک عدد پلاٹ کی ایلاٹمنٹ کے حوالہ سے ہیرا پیلس کوآپریٹو ہاؤسنگ سوسائٹی لمیٹڈ کے ریکارڈ میں بوجہ ہذا کینسل کیا جاتا ہے اور اس پلاٹ کی فائل نمبر AT/18, 1554, 10508900 کو بھی منسوخ کیا جاتا ہے۔ اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو 7 دن کے اندر اندر ہمارے دفتر میں تحریری طور پر جمع کروا دیں بصورت دیگر کوئی اعتراض نہ ہونے کی صورت میں ہم اس پلاٹ کو ETO تاریخ 7+20+19 کو پبلک بولی جوئن ایسٹیٹس اینڈ ہاؤسنگ میں فروخت کر دیں گے۔

RKH.....

میں محمد ارشد ولد نور احمد شناختی کارڈ نمبر 35501-3803124-9 کنال نمبر 10 کا باشی موضع ڈیرہ والی تحصیل و ضلع بھکر کا مالک ہوں میرا شناختی کارڈ گم ہو گیا ہے جس کی نمبر 35501-3803124-9 ہے جو کہ قابل استعمال نہیں ہے اس لئے میں نیا شناختی کارڈ حاصل کرنے کے لئے درخواست دائر کی ہے اس لئے ہذا کو اخبار میں شائع کروایا ہے تاکہ اگر کسی کو اعتراض ہو تو 7 دن کے اندر اندر اعتراض دائر کر سکتا ہے۔

RKH.....

بعدالت جناب محمد عنایت گوندل صاحب

سینئر سول جج کمال آباد، میانوالی

درخواست جانشینی سرٹیفکیٹ عنوان محمد نواز بذا برخلاف ذات پٹھان سکنہ دلڈا حال خانداں بیٹا خانوادہ میانی ٹیل ضلع میانوالی بنام عوام الناس۔ سرٹیفکیٹ کے حصول کے لیے درخواست دائر کی ہے اسلئے بذریعہ ہذا عوام الناس کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ اگر کسی کو عوام الناس سے کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہو تو آج بتاریخ 22.02.2024 پیش ہوں ورنہ سب ضابطہ کاروائی بعد میں فائل کی جائے گی۔

عبدالستار اعوان ایڈووکیٹ

عدالت ہذا

آج مورخہ 20-02-2024 کو جزوہ دستخط حاکم ہجاز

بعدالت جناب محمد ظہیر عباس خان صاحب

سول جج/ جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ، کمال آباد

عنوان مقدمہ: 42، بابت 2024، عنوان مقدمہ: محمد شہباز بذا برخلاف ذات چوہدری محمد اسلم وغیرہ بنام محمد حسین وغیرہ، مسلم محمدی ایڈیشنل سیشن جج گوجرانوالہ

درخواست گذرانی عنوان مقدمہ رسول بی بی وغیرہ بنام محمد حسین وغیرہ بنام محمد حسین وغیرہ، اسلم محمدی گجر بھٹہ والا وغیرہ جملہ جدی حقوق سکنان گوجرانوالہ پیران صحت بھٹہ والا وغیرہ جملہ جدی حقوق سکنان رند وھوڑ تحصیل وضلع گوجرانوالہ درکان حق گوجرانوالہ برگواہ عنوان بالا میں مدعا علیہ کی تعمیل عام طریقہ سے ہو چکنے پر لہذا آج 22-02-2024 کو پیش ہوا۔ مدعا علیہ حاضر عدالت ہذا ہوا مطلع ہو کر آج بتاریخ 22-02-2024 کو پیش ہونے کا وعدہ کی

اعلیٰ معیاری اور انصاف کا علمبردار

روزنامہ اوصاف کراچی

DAILY AUSAF KARACHI

بدھ 10 شعبان المعظم 1445ھ 21 فروری 2024ء

شہر کی جان

جی ڈی اے جے یو آئی دھرنے احتجاجی مظاہرے ناکامی چھپانے فیس سیونگ کی کوشش نثار کھوڑو

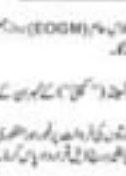
مولانا فضل الرحمان طوفان عکسی کانفرنس تو کررہے تھے مگر انتخابی جلسوں سے غائب رہے، پیر پگاڑہ نے انتخابات میں امیدواروں کو بے یارومددگار چھوڑ دیا تھا، اب دھرنے کس لئے دیے جارہے ہیں

جے یو آئی سندھ سے پہلے کبھی اور نہ اب جیتی ہے، راشد سومرو اپنی ناکامی پر مولانا کو صرف جلسے کرکے دکھانا چاہتے ہیں تو کرتے رہیں، جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی عوام کی توہین بند کرے

روہڑی: درگاہ حضرت غازی وڈن شاہ بخاری کی عرس تقریبات، مقامی پریس کلب کے صدر مجاہد پوزو اور دیگر عہدیداران مزار پر پھولوں کی چادر چڑھا رہے ہیں

کراچی (اوصاف رپورٹ) پاکستان ڈیفنس پارٹی سندھ کے صدر نثار کھوڑو نے کہا ہے کہ جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی دھرنے دے کر اپنی ناکامی پر پردہ ڈالنے کے لئے ڈرامے کررہی ہیں۔ جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی کے سندھ میں انتخابی جلسوں سے مولانا فضل الرحمان اور پیر پگاڑہ غائب رہے۔ مولانا فضل الرحمان طوفان عکسی کانفرنس تو کررہے تھے مگر سندھ میں انتخابی جلسوں سے غائب رہے۔ پیر پگاڑہ نے تو انتخابات کے دوران اپنے امیدواروں کو بے یارومددگار چھوڑ دیا تھا تو اب دھرنے کس لئے دیے جارہے ہیں۔ اپنے ایک بیان میں نثار کھوڑو نے کہا کہ جے یو آئی سندھ سے نہ پہلے کبھی جیتی تھی نہ اب جیتی ہے تو پیر وحاجی سومرو اپنی ناکامی کے الزام لگا کر دھرنے کیوں دیے جارہے ہیں۔ راشد محمود سومرو اپنی ناکامی پر مولانا فضل الرحمان کو صرف جلسے کرکے دکھانا چاہتے ہیں تو جلسے کرتے رہیں۔ جی ڈی اے کے دھرنے عوام کے خلاف ہیں۔ نثار کھوڑو نے مزید کہا کہ جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی عوام کی توہین بند کرے۔ جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی کو وفاق میں حکومت ملی تو انتظامیہ کو ہٹا کر اپنے لوگ لگا دیے، عوام نے ووٹ دیئے تو دھرنے دے کر عوام کے ووٹ چوری کرنے کی کوشش کی، عوام کے خلاف اس سازش کو کامیاب نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ عوام جے یو آئی اور جی ڈی اے کے دھرنوں کو مسترد کرچکے ہیں۔ جے یو آئی اور جی ڈی اے کے دھرنے عوام کے خلاف سازش ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ عوام کے خلاف احتجاج سندھ کی عوام کو کسی صورت قبول نہیں ہے۔ سندھ کی عوام نے جی ڈی اے اور جے یو آئی کو مسترد کردیا ہے تو دھرنے دے کر عوام سے ووٹ چوری کا بدلہ لیا جائے۔ عوام کے خلاف ہر سازش ناکام بنادیں گے۔

انسانیت سب سے مقدم.....!



دل کی بات

سردار شاہد احمد غفاری

chairman@pra.org.pk

انسانیت کی خدمت اور آگہی کے پرچارکا کا خاتمہ بالخیر ہو پاکستان کسی تصادم کا متحمل نہیں، اس علاقہ کی پاک فوج سمیت دیگر اداروں کی انتظامیہ کی ذمہ داری ہے کہ اس علاقہ کے مکینوں کی جان و مال کا تحفظ یقینی بنائیں، ہر شہری کا فرض ہے کہ امن و امان کی صورتحال کو خراب کرنے والے عناصر کی نشاندہی کرے، ہم سب کی ذمہ داری ہے کہ ہم اپنے علاقہ میں امن و امان کی صورتحال کو خراب کرنے والے عناصر کی نشاندہی کرکے ان کو قانون کے حوالے کریں

CHINA SLASHES MORTGAGE REFERENCE RATES TO REVIVE PROPERTY MARKET

PROFIT
REUTERS

CHINA announced its biggest ever reduction in the benchmark mortgage rate on Tuesday, as authorities sought to prop up the struggling property market and broader economy.

The 25-basis point cut to the five-year loan prime rate (LPR) was the largest since the reference rate was introduced in 2019 and far more than analysts had expected.

"This is the biggest signal. In other words, the largest interest rate cut cycle in history has begun," said Yan Yuejin, analyst at E-House China Research and Development Institution. The cut will directly impact the real estate sector by lowering mortgage costs, he said.

The five-year loan prime rate (LPR) was lowered by 25 basis points to 3.95% from 4.20% previously, while the one-year LPR was left unchanged at 3.45%.

Most new and outstanding loans in China are based on the one-year LPR, while the five-year rate influences the pricing of mortgages.

In a Reuters poll of 27 market watchers conducted this week, 25 expected a reduction to the five-year LPR. They projected a cut of five to 15 basis points.

The deeper-than-expected cut also suggests Beijing is no longer as concerned about the negative effects of lower lending rates on the currency or banks as they were last year.

A central bank-backed newspaper said on Tuesday that the benchmark mortgage rate cut would not create a negative impact on banks' net interest margins.

At the same time, diminished spillover effects from other major economies, particularly the United States where the Federal Reserve is now expected to cut rates, allowed Beijing to provide more monetary policy support. Still, authorities are likely to remain wary of pressure on the yuan from lower domestic rates.

The Chinese currency fell to its lowest since Nov. 20 after the LPR announcement but has since trimmed losses.

Sources told Reuters that China's major state-owned banks stepped in to the market selling dollars for yuan, in an attempt to arrest weakness.

In stock markets, while the property and banking sectors made gains, the rates decision failed to shore up broader investor confidence.

China last trimmed the five-year LPR in June 2023 by 10 basis points.

Beijing has stepped up efforts to rescue the ailing property sector, but the measures have come in fits and starts, weighing heavily on a sector that drives a quarter of the economy and on the stock market. New home prices saw their worst declines in nine years in 2023, while the stock market (.SSEC) is languishing after hitting five-year lows.

Government-backed media last week reported that state banks have boosted lending to residential projects under the "white list" mechanism aimed at injecting liquidity into the crisis-hit sector.

Most analysts and investors are waiting for more measures to boost consumption and put a floor under property prices, their hopes higher after authorities replaced the chairman of the market regulator just before the Lunar New Year break.

"I think this move is more signal than substance," said Ben Bennett, Asia-Pacific investment strategist at Legal and General Investment Management in Hong Kong. "Most people aren't buying houses because mortgage costs are too high, they're worried about developers going bankrupt and house prices falling."

"But it does signal a determination to support the housing market. We need to see if this is followed up with more cash injections into lenders, housing projects and developers."

More easing could be coming. Recent deposit rate cuts and the reduction to bank reserves are giving commercial banks space to reduce borrowing costs to support the economy.

While the new mortgage reference rate comes into effect immediately, existing mortgage holders will not benefit from any reduction in loan repayments until next year, as mortgage rate repricing is on a yearly basis. The LPR, which banks normally charge their best clients, is set by 20 designated commercial banks who submit proposed rates to the central bank every month.

Pakistan seeks partnership with Sinopec in Aramco's $10b refinery project

PROFIT
MONITORING DESK

- PSO CEO highlights project as a golden opportunity

Pakistan State Oil (PSO) has initiated discussions with Chinese energy conglomerate Sinopec to explore a partnership with Saudi Arabia's energy giant Aramco for the development of a cutting-edge refinery and petrochemical complex in Pakistan.

Pakistan is also considering incorporating the $10 billion Saudi Aramco refinery project into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

Aramco has expressed interest in establishing a crude-to-chemical/plastic complex. This initiative was discussed in a recent meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, led by caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Business Recorder reported that during his recent communication with Sinopec Corp's President Yu Baocai, PSO's Managing Director and CEO, Syed Muhammad Taha, expressed PSO's interest in having Sinopec join the ambitious greenfield refinery and petrochemical initiative in Pakistan.

Taha highlighted the project as a golden opportunity for Sinopec to apply its vast expertise and resources in a market poised for substantial growth and potential. The proposed collaboration between PSO and Saudi Aramco aims to establish a modern refinery and petrochemical complex capable of processing over 300,000 barrels per day.

This venture is expected to produce a variety of premium petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel, along with petrochemicals.

PSO CEO outlined the incentives provided by the government to enhance the project's financial viability, including a 20-year tax holiday, a 7.5% deemed duty concession for gasoline and diesel production for 25 years, and tax exemptions on the import of equipment and materials for the project.

He underscored Pakistan's attractive investment landscape, noting the country's burgeoning population of over 220 million and its rapidly growing economy. With energy demand projected to double by 2035, Taha presented a compelling case for Sinopec's investment and participation in this strategic market.

He praised Sinopec's proven expertise in refinery and petrochemical projects, its operational excellence, and its strong financial standing as critical to the project's success. He invited Sinopec to consider becoming an equity and technical partner in the project, open to discussing various partnership arrangements.

CRESCENT COTTON MILLS LIMITED
NOTICE OF EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM) of the shareholders of Crescent Cotton Mills Limited will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 09:30 a.m at the Registered Office of the Company situated at Nishatabad, Faisalabad, to transact the following business:

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

1. The Ordinary Resolution as set out in this notice is proposed for consideration by the members of Crescent Cotton Mills Limited ("Company") to transact the following special business:

To consider and approve the sale of Land and Buildings called "Properties" of the Company located at Nishatabad, Faisalabad and pass the following Resolution(s), with or without modifications, additions or deletions, as terms of Section 183(3)(a) of the Companies Act, 2017:

"RESOLVED THAT the consent of shareholders be and is hereby accorded to the disposal and sale of Company's Land and Buildings called "Properties" located at Nishatabad, Faisalabad.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors be and are hereby authorized and empowered to delegate its powers to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with or without any Director of the Company or any other person on such terms and conditions they deem fit, to act on behalf of the Company in doing and performing all acts, matters, things and deeds to implement and / or give effect to the "Properties" and the transaction contemplated by (i), which shall include, but not be limited to:

a) conducting negotiations, obtaining quotations etc., with interested parties in such manner and on such terms and conditions as are in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders and which secure the best available market price for the "Properties";

selling the "Properties" to any individual, firm(s) / partnership, bank(s) or private / public limited companies, modaraba or organization(s) or to any other person and, for that purpose, negotiating with financial institution(s) for executing lien/charges against assets if any, entering into an agreement to sell, sale deed or any other agreement with the buyer(s) or any other person, receiving the sale consideration, executing, processing and signing any sale deed, conveyance deed and/or transfer documents in favor of the buyer(s) or another person to effect the "Properties" in favor of the buyer(s) or any other person by representing the same before all parties & authorities concerned and admitting execution thereof;

b) representing before the Sub-Registrar or any other competent authority and getting any sale deed or other document(s) registered and collecting consideration amount in respect of the "Properties"; and

c) generally performing and executing in respect of the "Properties" all lawful deeds, agreements, acts and things as they may think fit and proper in order to implement and complete the "Properties" transaction(s).

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Chief Executive Officer and/or any Director or each other person(s) as may be authorized by any of them (the "Authorized Persons"), be and are hereby, jointly or severally, authorized and empowered to take all necessary steps, make the requisite decisions from time to time, do all such acts, deeds and things, obtain necessary approvals, and to execute and deliver all such deeds, agreements, declarations, undertakings and guarantees, including any ancillary document thereto or provide any such documentation for and on behalf and in the name of the Company as may be necessary or required or as they or any of them may deem fit to be or in connection with or incidental for the purposes of carrying out the proposed Resolutions.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Company be and is hereby authorized to take all actions incidental or ancillary thereto with regard to "Properties".

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board be and is hereby empowered to agree upon modifications in these resolutions that may be directed / required by the SECP/PSX or any other competent authority / regulator without the need for any other further approval of the shareholders.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all actions have to have taken by the Chief Executive Officer and/or any Director or Authorized Person(s) on behalf of the Company in respect of the above matters are hereby confirmed, ratified, and adopted by the Company in full.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Chief Executive Officer and/or Company Secretary be and are hereby severally authorized to comply with the statutory requirements with the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan Stock Exchange and or any other relevant regulatory body and do all such acts, deeds and things as may be necessary under the laws in this regard.

ALSO RESOLVED THAT certified copies of resolutions as at present from or modified by communication to this concerned authorities and shall remain in force until notice in writing to the contrary be given."

On Behalf Of The Board
Company Secretary

POSTAL BALLOT PAPER

Name of Shareholder/Joint Shareholders	
Registered Address	
No. of Ordinary Shares held	
CNIC No./Passport No. (if applicable)	
Additional Information and Enclosures (Copy of Shareholder's Register Folio/CDC Participant ID and Sub-Account No., CNIC/Passport No. and Proof of Signature)	
Postal Ballot No.	

S. No.	Nature and Description of Resolution	No. of ordinary shares to which votes cast	I/We hereby exercise my/our vote in favour of the Resolution (FOR)	I/We hereby exercise my/our vote against the Resolution (AGAINST)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Shareholder Signature Date

5th Engineering Capstone Expo 2024 (Punjab Region) held at Pakistan Engineering Council, Regional Office Lahore.

Automobile financing plummets by 26% YoY in January

- 19th month consecutive decline in auto loans signal tough times ahead for car buyers

PROFIT
MONITORING DESK

Pakistan's automobile financing plummeted by 25.82% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs246.26 billion in January 2024, from Rs331.98 billion in January 2023, and a 1.98% month-on-month drop from December 2023. According to the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), this decline represents the 19th consecutive monthly fall in automobile financing, with a total reduction of Rs114.29 billion. The decrease is attributed to higher interest rates, increased car prices, stricter loan regulations, and elevated taxes on imported vehicles and parts. As per the SBP data, consumer financing in other sectors also experienced downturns. House building finance fell to Rs207.62 billion, a 3.44% decrease year-on-year, while financing for personal use dropped to Rs243.1 billion, declining by 4.47% year-on-year. Consequently, total consumer credit disbursed declined by 9.04% year-on-year to Rs813.96 billion. The overall outstanding credit to the private sector slightly decreased by 0.76% year-on-year to Rs8.35 trillion. However, loans to the manufacturing sector marginally increased by 0.33% year-on-year to Rs4.81 trillion. In contrast, loans to the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors rose significantly by 16.95% year-on-year to Rs397.27 billion.

Russia arrests woman with dual US-Russian citizenship for 'treason'

MOSCOW
AGENCIES

Russia's FSB security services said on Tuesday it had arrested a US-Russian woman suspected of treason for raising funds for the Ukrainian army.

The FSB in the central Urals city of Yekaterinburg said it had "suppressed the illegal activities" of a 33-year-old woman, a resident of Los Angeles with dual citizenship, and taken her into custody.

It said the unnamed woman had been "proactively collecting funds... which were subsequently used to purchase tactical medical items, equipment, means of destruction and ammunition for the Ukrainian armed forces".

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti posted a video from the FSB showing hooded officers handcuffing and escorting a woman in a white coat with a white hat pulled down over her eyes. The FSB said she had been acting "against the security of our country" and had been supporting the Ukrainian army while in the United States.

Treason is punishable by up to life in prison under legislation toughened since the start of the military offensive.

Several US nationals are currently imprisoned in Russia, including Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich. He was arrested last year on espionage charges that he, his employer and the US government have rejected. Another joint US-Russian citizen, journalist Alsu Kurmasheva, is also being held in pre-trial detention.

He faces charges of failing to register as a "foreign agent" and contravening Russia's strict military censorship laws. Former US marine Paul Whelan has been in prison in Russia since 2018, serving a 16-year sentence on espionage charges. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he wants to negotiate a prisoner exchange to swap Russians imprisoned abroad for US citizens detained in Russia.

Wang Yi meets France's Emmanuel Macron to mark 60 years of Sino-French relations

PARIS
AGENCIES

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday, in the first major visit between the two countries this year.

The meeting, which focused on Sino-French relations, was held at the Elysee Palace, the official residence of the French President.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, planned to travel to the iconic Versailles Palace before flying back to China on Tuesday night.

This is a special year for Sino-French relations as both countries mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. France was the first major Western country to recognize China at the height of the Cold War, paving the way for other European countries and the U.S. to do the same.

Wang met with his French counterpart Stephane Sejourne on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference this past weekend, where he said China and France should maintain that momentum of development, particularly around strategic, economic and financial dialogue and people-to-people exchanges. Wang said this will help promote mutual understanding and friendship between the citizens of both countries.

Wang called for more direct flights between France and China to help facilitate that exchange. As part of the official year of China-France Cultural Tourism, Beijing is offering visa free travel for up to 15 days for French citizens.

Before arriving in France, Wang spent two days in Spain where he met with Spanish King Felipe VI, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares Bueno. That visit was also meant to strengthen strategic communication, maintain closer high-level exchanges and deepen practical cooperation, with both sides targeting various fields like telecommunications, healthcare and electric vehicles.

"The two sides identified the good experience that has enabled the long-standing friendship between the two countries, which is a commitment to mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and made plans together for the growth of bilateral relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said during a news conference on Tuesday, adding that the trip highlighted the "strategic stability" in bilateral relations.