

# Independent

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Gwadar

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PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Premier of the State Council of China, Li Qiang meet on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

## PM Shehbaz, Chinese Premier vow to set CPEC projects at centrality in bilateral cooperation

Agree to celebrate Decade of CPEC this year to showcase success; Pakistan to expand strategic ties with China, says PM Shehbaz

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese Premier Li Qiang here wherein the two sides agreed to celebrate the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) this year to showcase its success. The meeting was held here on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

It was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since Premier Li assumed office in March this year. Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on CPEC's centrality for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives for the two countries.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China

All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. During the meeting, the two leaders held an in-depth discussion on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, including CPEC as well as economic cooperation.

Reiterating support to China on its core issues, the prime minister appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic development.

He noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir was a vivid reflection of China's principled stance for upholding international law and the United Nations resolutions.

In his remarks, Premier Li said the Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of the two nations.

## Bilawal for collective efforts by world powers to root out terrorism effectively



ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday stressed that collective efforts were needed by the world powers to root out the menace of terrorism, which had affected Pakistan the most.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said being a global issue, terrorism should not be seen through the prism of geopolitics.

The foreign minister regretted that after the fall

of Kabul, the world powers had shifted their focus to the Ukraine conflict and the menace of terrorism remained unaddressed. Pakistan, he added, suffered the most from terrorism as it had lost more people than the rest of the world in the fight against terrorism. Exterminating terrorism and extremism was in the interest of Pakistan itself as it was the key to peace, stability and prosperity, he added.

He said time and again the PTI chief was asked from the parliamentary forums to announce his disassociation from the May 9 incidents but he paid no heed and consequently his party was today in trouble. Those involved in attacking the military installations and the memorials of martyrs did not deserve any leniency, he added.

## Ready to sign charter of economy, says Zardari

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has said that he is ready to discuss and sign the charter of economy.

While addressing a session of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), Asif Ali Zardari urged the industrialists to sign an agreement - charter of economy - with all political parties.

"I am ready to sign the charter of economy. I will give you a level playing field. We are rich not poor and those who think Pakistan is a poor state are

fools." Asif Ali Zardari said that he had also invited Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman to sign the charter of economy.

He asked the manufacturers to increase exports. "The increased price of dollar makes everything expensive. I am fully aware of issues being faced by traders and industrialists. We can stabilize the economy by enhancing exports." The PPP co-chairman claimed that they would increase exports to \$100 billion. "We have to promote trade for the betterment of the economy.



LAHORE: Spokesman of Chief Minister Balochistan, Babar Yousafzai and Coordinators talking with media men during their visit to Jinnah House

## Call to take steps to reduce MMR: SOGP National Scientific Conference held with focus on women health issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan (SOGP) National Scientific Conference was held with the focus on taking effective measures for prevention of the women health issues particularly reducing the maternal mortality ration in the country, here on Friday evening. While the chief guest of the conference was the Provincial Minister for Health, Syed Ehsan Shah, the Secretary Information, Hamza Shafiq participated as the guest of honour.

Prominent among those participated in the conference were the former Speaker Balochistan As-

sembly, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani and other dignitaries.

The President SOGP, Professor Azizun Nisa Abbasi, the members of cabinet of the SOGP and senior doctors and gynecologists from all over the country also participated in the scientific conference.

The senior gynecologist, Head of the gynecology department of Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital and Director College of Physician and Surgeons Balochistan, Professor Dr. Ayesha Siddiqi and other senior gynecologists from Balochistan were also among the participants of the conference.

## Trial of civilians in military courts: 102 people in army's custody, AGP tells SC

No journalist, minor, woman and lawyer under custody of Army in connection with the incidents of May 9 and 10; Hearing adjourns till June 26

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned the hearing of the petitions pertaining to trial of May 9 riots accused in military courts till June 26 (Monday).

A seven-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhter, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik heard the petitions.

At the outset of hearing, the chief justice remarked that it was a wrong perception that a civilian could never be tried in army court. A civilian

could be tried in army courts if he was accused of instigating army personnel against institution for sedition.

He, however, said the procedure adopted to bring the accused of May 9 incidents in the jurisdiction of army courts would have to be viewed. It would also be viewed that on which grounds the anti-terrorism courts allowed to shift the trials, he added.

The chief justice observed that it was understood that the institution would identify the crimes under the Official Secret Act and it could file the request to the ATCs for the custody of civilian accused.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Abdul Khaliq Hazara and MPAs Mir Arif Jan Muhammadhassani and Molvi Noorullah talking during Assembly session

## GoB notifies public holidays on eve of Eid in Balochistan

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has notified public holidays on occasion of Eidul Azha in the province.

According to an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department, there would be three public holidays i.e., on June 28, 29 and 30, 2023 (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) in the offices observing five days working in a week and there would be four days public holidays i.e., on June 28 to July 1, 2023 (Wednesday to Saturday) for the offices observing six days working in a week.

## Asif hits back at joint US-India statement

ISLAMABAD (Online): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday rebuked the United States and India for issuing a joint statement calling on Pakistan to ensure that its territory is not used to launch extremist attacks.

Asif took strong exception to the statement as he pointed out "the irony of this statement coming during the visit of someone who was banned entry to the US for overseeing a pogrom of Muslims when he was CM Gujarat".

Lamenting the actions of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet, the minister said that "he leads yet another campaign

of state-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir, which includes routinely maiming and blinding the local population".

"Across the rest of the country, Modi's acolytes lynch Muslims, Christians, and other minorities, with impunity," he added. The defence minister also stressed that "Pakistan has lost countless lives, and has been continuously at war with terrorism for decades now, owing to failed American interventions in the region".

"Perhaps President Biden should consider these facts the next time he fetes the Butcher of Gujarat," Asif said.

## Expatriates are 'pride of Pakistan': Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said being a precious asset, the overseas Pakistanis were 'pride of Pakistan' as they were playing a major role in its economic development.

"It is the foremost priority of the government to resolve the issues of expatriates," the minister said in a meeting with members of Pakistani diaspora in France.

She extended gratitude to the Pakistani community for according a warm welcome to the Pakistani delegation on their arrival in Paris for a summit on New Global Financing Pact.

Marriyum said the journey of progress and development would continue in Pakistan under the visionary leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Syed Ehsan Shah and others addressing SOGP Conference



LAHORE: Chief Organizer of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz in a group photo with a delegation of National Party led by Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch

## BA crucial budget session adjourned owing to issue of quorum

QUETTA: The crucial budget session of Balochistan Assembly was adjourned due to lack of quorum here on Friday.

The session was called at 11:00 AM on Friday, but it couldn't be started till 12:00 Noon. However, it was started after some time with Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail, but was to postpone due to the quorum issue soon after it resumed.

The JUI's MPA, Maulvi Noorullah pointed out towards the quorum. While the bells were rung for quite some time to call the members in the House, but to no avail.

And thus, the session was adjourned to meet at 02:00 PM on Saturday (today) again. As per the agenda, debate was scheduled on the budget in the Friday's session.

## Govt. earmarked Rs 2 bn for out of school children

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has earmarked Rs 2 billion for out-of-school children to devise a social security programme to provide financial assistance to the poor so that they send their children to schools.

The government has allocated the budget in the financial year 2023-24 to bring massive reforms in the education sector to educate maximum numbers of out-of-school children, an official of the Balochistan government told APP on Friday.

The government would also launch a school enrollment programme to get their children enrolled in schools for reducing the huge number of out-of-school children in the province, he added.

He said the provincial government had already been launched multiple enrollment campaigns across the province to create awareness among the parents try to get them enrolled in educational institutions instead of letting them do laborious jobs.

## PML-N, NP express resolve to extend political cooperation

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief organiser Maryam Nawaz and the National Party (NP) on Friday declared their intention to extend their political collaboration.

A NP delegation led by former Balochistan chief minister Abdul Malik Baloch called on Maryam, during which the matters in line with the country's political situation were highlighted.

On this occasion, Maryam believed that her party placed a great value on Balochistan and its people. She lavished praise on PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying, "Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz has always worked in line with the progress of Balochistan. The Balochistan's progress is vital for the sake of the overall country's development."

## Gwadar's over 15 mega projects under CPEC completed in one year

GWADAR (APP): The Gwadar's over 15 mega projects under the game changer China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been completed during the financial year of 2022-23 which would benefit the local masses of the port city.

The mega projects completed included a 300 MW coal power plant, 2000 boat engines, Khuzdar to Panjgur transmission line, Gwadar International Airport, Pak-China Technology Institute, Gwadar

Hospital, Smart Port and certain other projects in the socio-economic domain have been completed in the outgoing fiscal year. The construction of a modern hospital in Gwadar would ensure the best healthcare facilities for the local people, said an official source on Friday.

Under the CPEC, multiple projects for the provision of clean water and its fair distribution in the coastal town of Gwadar have been also completed during the said period.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Social Welfare Officers Association Javed Baloch meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki

## Govt on toes to manage power supply during peak summer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Despite the economic recession and pressure by International Monetary Fund to do away with subsidies, the government is pursuing a focused agenda of overcoming power shortage during the peak summer season through a multi-pronged strategy.

Since the uninterrupted power supply is considered crucial for the development of industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors, its smooth supply to domestic consumers is equally important.

when one's hands are tied to certain international monetary compulsions and there is a shortfall in indigenous supply and demand.

Therefore, the present government is vigorously pursuing arrangements to provide respite to industry and common consumers during the ongoing hot spell.

Rising fuel prices and new energy situation after Ukraine war also necessitated Pakistan to utilize its indigenous resources like hydro, solar, wind and Thar coal as it has already announced not to build any new power projects.

But it becomes difficult

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Hearings begin**

Amidst a prolonged lull after months of political storms, a blockbuster Supreme Court case promises respite to those weary of the daily drudgery. Hearings commenced yesterday on a set of four petitions challenging the trial of ordinary civilians in military courts.

As has become custom, however, the court found it difficult to even begin without running into controversy. Shortly after the nine SC justices originally nominated by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial to hear the petitions convened on Thursday afternoon, senior puisne judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa excused himself, saying he could not consider the bench to have been 'legally' formed due to the pendency of a petition concerning the Supreme Court (Practices and Procedures) Act, which limits the chief justice's powers to constitute benches.

The bench was quickly reconstituted after excluding Justices Isa and Tariq Masood, the latter of whom had concurred with the former on the 'legality' of the bench. Fortunately, no other judge, petitioner or defendant objected to the new bench despite being offered a chance to do so, and one may now expect the hearings to proceed unhindered.

The matter before the court is undoubtedly of grave national import. It concerns the fate of dozens, if not hundreds, of citizens who face court martial over their alleged involvement in the vandalism of several military properties during riots that broke out following PTI chairman Imran Khan's arrest last month. The petitioners include notable lawyers like Aitzaz Ahsan and Latif Khosa, as well as former chief justice Jawwad S. Khawaja, whose involvement is a first by any retired chief justice in Pakistan's judicial history. They have presented more or less similar arguments: that the trial of civilians by military courts violates the constitutional rights guaranteed to the citizens of Pakistan and that, in any case, civilians should not be tried under the Army Act when ordinary courts are open and functioning.

It is noteworthy that the petitioners are not seeking any legal relief for the suspects: simply that they be tried in ordinary courts instead of military ones. It will be interesting to hear the counter-arguments from the attorney general of Pakistan, who will be defending the armed forces' demand, endorsed by the government, that all suspects be court-martialled. The SC has said it intends to keep its hearings short and wrap up the case as soon as possible. The matter may well prove a watershed for Pakistan's judicial history. At hand is the question of what jurisdiction military laws and courts have within the Pakistani legal and judicial system. For years, the lines have been blurred, leading to some grave miscarriages of justice. With the country going through a transformative period, now may be a good time to set fixed boundaries. May the law prevail.



**Rashad Bukhari**

The world is divided into two spheres, ie the 'House of Peace', which includes countries running their governance systems according to Islamic principles, and the 'House of War', where Muslims do not enjoy peace and security or are not free to practise their religion. This argument commonly used by extremists does not justify terrorism on any grounds. Those who back this opinion as a cover to commit acts of terror today are neither aware of its history nor the geopolitical context in which it emerged.

The two terms were first used by the eighteenth-century imam and jurist, Abu Hanifa. He had defined the House of Peace and House of War in the context of the political divisions of that time. These concepts had not been drawn from the Quran or hadith. For example, in response to the Mongol invasions of Muslim lands, 14th-century Islamic scholar Ibn Taymiyyah also used these terms to justify the use of force against the unjust and authoritarian rule of leaders if their aim was to re-establish a system of law based on Islamic principles. Against this backdrop, linking Islam with the informal decrees of that time does not qualify these concepts being used in today's circumstances.

Interestingly, the people claiming to perform acts of terrorism today in the name of Islam don't even consider Muslim-majority countries as being in the

**War or peace**

House of Peace. According to them, since such countries do not fully implement Islamic laws, they do not fall in the category of the House of Peace. For them, the whole world is a House of War, thus they justify the killing of individuals in blatant disregard of Islamic principles. On the contrary, Islam clearly rejects the unlawful killing of civilians. The Quran says: "... If anyone kills a person — unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land — it is as if he kills all mankind" (5:32).

Muslim combatants cannot target or harm non-combatants. Caliph Abu Bakr Siddique is reported to have ordered his army in very clear terms: "Do not practise treachery or mutilation. Do not kill a young child, an old man, or a woman. Do not uproot or burn palms or cut down fruitful trees. Do not slaughter a sheep or a cow or a camel, except for food."

The Islamic view of international law, as defined by many Islamic jurists, puts nations into five categories, and governs behaviour towards each. In the first category fall Muslim-majority countries with Muslim rulers, considered part of the House of Peace, whether or not Islamic laws are implemented domestically. Nations with which these Muslim-majority countries engage in a temporary peace treaty fall into the second category, the 'House of Truce'. Their status is equal to those in the House of Peace, as long as a treaty is intact.

The third category, the 'House of Promise', includes countries with which there is a permanent peace treaty. The fourth category includes countries that are neither allies nor enemies. They are also subject to the treatment of nations in

the House of Peace — including the rights to life, property, honour, and freedom for all, regardless of religion, language, or race.

The fifth and last category is the 'House of War'. It applies to states with which there is no peace treaty, which is currently at war with Muslim-majority states, and/or in which Muslims are unsafe. Some argue that this permits individual Muslims to use violence against these states or their inhabitants. Yet when it comes to nations in the House of War, there are rules of conduct.

In the Islamic view, no individual or group can declare war under any pretext. It is solely the prerogative of the state authority and only a last resort when all other options to restore peace fail. Islamic scholars need to take the responsibility to explain religious teachings and narratives contextualising modern thinking patterns and the challenges to states and societies in the form of extremism, violent terrorism, and terrorism.

There is still light at the end of the tunnel that the tide of extremism can be controlled. The vulnerable youth, who are more prone to extremist rhetoric, have the religious justification to stand up to those falsely claiming to speak on behalf of Islam and restore its image as a peaceful religion. In this regard, the role of our policymakers is also more important since it is time to make legislation in the new context and implement the National Action Plan in letter and spirit. In fact, a fresh wake-up call to the nation to deal with this newly emerged wave of extremism, ie hidden in the garb of political activism, is the need of the hour. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Promoting Inter-Provincial Harmony between Balochistan and Other Provinces**

**By Mehmood Ali**

Inter-provincial harmony is a crucial aspect of fostering a united and progressive nation. In the context of Pakistan, Balochistan stands as a province rich in cultural diversity and untapped potential. However, it is imperative to acknowledge that true progress lies not in isolation but in the interconnectivity and collaboration among all the provinces. Promoting inter-provincial harmony, particularly between Balochistan and other regions is vital for fostering national unity, achieving sustainable development, and unleashing the full potential of this remarkable province.

Throughout history, divisions among provinces have hindered the realization of a united and harmonious Pakistan. Balochistan, with its unique geography and the distinct culture, has often faced challenges in bridging gaps with other provinces. It is time to break free from these historical constraints and recognize the immense value that Balochistan brings to the national fabric.

Cultural exchange and understanding are fundamental pillars in promoting inter-provincial harmony. Balochistan boasts a rich heritage, encompassing vibrant traditions, languages, and art forms. By actively engaging in cultural exchanges and promoting the diverse cultural expressions of

Balochistan, we can bridge the gap of misunderstanding and get a sense of unity among all provinces.

Meanwhile, Balochistan is blessed with abundant natural resources, including minerals, gas and oil. However, the potential for economic development and prosperity can only be fully realized through collaborative efforts with other provinces. By encouraging investments and advancing partnerships between Balochistan and other provinces, we can leverage the collective strengths and resources, leading to sustainable economic growth and improved living standards for all citizens.

Moreover, connectivity plays a pivotal role in promoting inter-provincial harmony. Balochistan's strategic location makes it a gateway for regional connectivity and trade. Investments in transportation infrastructure, such as highways, railways and ports can enhance connectivity between Balochistan and other provinces, it will help in facilitating the movement of goods, services and public transport sector. These infrastructure developments will not only boost economic activities but also create opportunities for cultural exchange and social interaction, advancing a sense of togetherness.

Furthermore, education acts as a powerful tool for building bridges and breaking down barriers. Balochistan has made significant strides in improving access to education but more can be done. By prioritizing quality education and knowledge sharing programs, we can empower the youth of Balochistan to compete on national and international level. Exchange programs, scholarships, and collaborations between educational institutions across provinces can cultivate a spirit of unity and create a platform for shared learning and growth.

Promoting inter-provincial harmony and building bridges between Balochistan and other provinces is an essential step towards a more united and prosperous Pakistan. It requires collective efforts from both the government and the citizens to enhance cultural understanding, encourage economic collaboration, develop vital infrastructure and invest in education and knowledge sharing. Only through such initiatives can we unlock the immense potential of Balochistan and ensure that its unique contributions are fully integrated into the fabric of our nation.

By embracing diversity and strengthening the bonds of inter-provincial harmony, we pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for Pakistan.

**Commerce News**

**Pakistan, Germany agree to enhance cooperation in trade, investment**

*Pakistan also keen to benefit from Brazilian experience in agriculture sector*

PARIS (APP): Pakistan and Germany on Friday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in multiple fields including trade, investment and energy.

The bilateral ties were discussed in the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, on the sidelines of New Global Financing Pact Summit held here.

The prime minister thanked Germany for its support to the flood-hit people of Pakistan, besides providing an economic support of 163 million euros to the country.

The prime minister said the additional 27 million euros for Benazir Income Support Program were spent for the assistance to the flood victims and provision of food to them. Lauding the development model of Germany, the prime minister said the progress achieved by the country was an inspiration for the developing countries. I am personally impressed by the development of Germany as a country and the hard work and resilience of the German nation, he added.

Prime Minister

Shehbaz expressed the hope that Germany would raise the voice of developing world on the issues like climate change and financial stress.

He said that releasing the economic burden from the developing states would help uplifting their people.

The prime minister appreciated the services of German firms and NGOs operating in Pakistan.

Expressing his pleasure to meet the prime minister, the German chancellor conveyed good wishes for the government and people of Pakistan.

**Edible oil, ghee output grew 4.97pc & 16.72pc**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of edible oil and vegetable in the country during 10 months of the current financial year grew by 4.97 percent and 16.72 percent respectively as compared to the production of the same period last year.

During the period from July 2022 to April 2023, about 458,231 metric tons of cooking oil were

manufactured as compared to the manufacturing of 411,710 metric tons in the same period last year, said the data of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics released on Friday.

Over 1.268 million metric tons of vegetable ghee was also produced in order to tackle with local requirements in the last 10 months of the current financial year.

**Gold prices decline by Rs 1,500**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,500 and was sold at Rs 217,500 on Friday against its sale at Rs 218,500 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,285 to Rs 186,043 from Rs 187,328 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 170,539 from Rs 171,718. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet in Islamabad.



PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif meets the President of Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

**Symposium on corporate supervision, regulatory actions begins**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is hosting the Symposium on Corporate Supervision and Regulatory Actions on June 23-24.

The first day of the symposium saw notable members of the judiciary take the stage and address key challenges and opportunities pertaining to the corporate sector of Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

SECP Chairman Akif

Saeed, in his welcome address, said, "We aim to build a strong and growing corporate sector that is attractive to both domestic and foreign investors, ensuring economic stability and prosperity for our nation." He added, "In this crucial mission, we are fortunate to be assisted by our esteemed partners at the World Bank, and we express our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable support in creating a conducive corporate environment in Pakistan."

**CDNS set target of Rs 70b in Islamic FY 2023-24**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 70 billion rupees in Islamic finance year 2023-24.

The aim was to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday.

The senior official said, "Work on Islamic finance is still

**WAPDA, UAE firm sign two MoU**

ISLAMABAD (Online): WAPDA signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Private Office of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoos Al Maktoum of United Arab Emirates today.

The MoU were signed by Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) and His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoos Al Maktoum on behalf of their organizations.

The first MoU is aimed at establishing a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the Private Office of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoos Al Maktoum and WAPDA to explore investment opportunities for WAPDA's small hydel power stations including 1 MW-Renala, 22 MW-Rasul, 13.2 MW-Chichokimalian and 13.8 MW-Nandipur.

The second MoU is related to exploring investment opportunities in energy sector of Pakistan, specifically for development of floating solar power project on water reservoirs and water bodies of the existing hydel power stations.

**PM Sharif approves establishment of HAZECO: Murtaza**

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Friday said that the approval of the establishment of Hazara Electric Supply Company (HAZECO) by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is a great decision to facilitate the masses of the region.

He expressed these views in a press statement after the approval of HAZECO.

The minister further said that the approval of the HAZECO also fulfills the longstanding demand of millions of consumers in the Hazara Division, which we have successfully materialized and fulfilled

our promise. Murtaza Abbasi said that the approval of the Board of Directors of Hazara Electric Supply Company will be circulated through a summary from the federal cabinet. He said that the establishment of HAZECO was approved during the tenure of the previous PML-N government, however, it was unnecessarily frozen during the PTI government.

Now the establishment of Hazara Electric Supply Company has been implemented to improve PESCO's performance, enhance consumer convenience and minimize load shedding, adding the minister said.



ATLANTA: Ambassador Masood Khan speaking at an event, titled "Pakistan Ambassador Briefing: Growing Trade and Investment with Georgia" jointly organized Global Atlanta, World Affairs Council Atlanta and Miller and Martin PLLC.

**Weekly inflation increases by 0.33pc**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.33 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on June 22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 256.00 points as compared to 255.17 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 34.05 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs17,732, increased by 0.52 per cent and went up to 263.03 points from last week's 261.66 points whereas it also increased by 0.53 per cent for the consumption group from Rs 17,732-22,888.