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Balochistan govt achieves significant success in a short period of time: Farah

QUETTA (APP): The Spokesperson of Balochistan Government Farah Azeem Shah on Tuesday said under the leadership of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, the provincial government has achieved significant success in a short period of time.

She said, in a statement, according to the wishes and aspirations of the people, historic decisions were made to protect the rights and interests of Balochistan, will be remembered for a long time.

During the tenure of Quddus Bizenjo, the historical agreement of Reko Diq has been inked, providing employment opportunities to the youth of the province, she added.

The spokesperson said the CM has also ordered the elimination of unnecessary check posts to restore people's confidence and self-respect.

Farah said the government had conducted a fair and transparent local body elections and census.

The manner in which the chief minister kept the opposition and political leadership on board in the implementation of important provincial affairs and policy-making decisions is unprecedented, she said.

Farah said Chief Minister Bizenjo used his political insight and leadership skills to promote an atmosphere of political understanding. He always welcomed quality and constructive criticism and improved the service delivery of the government and carried out government affairs according to the facts on the ground, she added.

She said Quddus Bizenjo emphasized on the solution of real problems instead of giving preference to appearances and artificial things and added that the CM has announced the development project will be inaugurated by someone from the masses, the spokesperson added.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Sirajuddin Aziz as the Banking Mohtasib Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM expresses gratitude to UAE President for his firm support to economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday conveyed his profound gratitude to United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed for his firm support to the economic and financial stability of Pakistan, which certainly manifested his deep affection and care for the welfare of the people of Pakistan.

During a telephonic call with the UAE president, the prime minister also conveyed gratitude for the deposits of USD 1 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Recalling his successful visit to the UAE in January, the prime minister reiterated the common resolve of leadership in both countries to translate the fraternal bonds into mutually rewarding economic ties. Prime Minister Shehbaz also conveyed gratitude to the UAE president for kind invitation for COP28 and appreciated the UAE's role in combating climate change.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Durrani and MPAs meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki

Despite lapse of one year Flood affectees of Hanna & Urak still awaiting financial compensation

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has regretfully pointed out that the flood affected people and farmers have been awaiting financial assistance and compensation of their losses despite lapse of one year.

He asserted that if the government didn't help the affected people out then their survival would be at stake.

He was speaking to the delegation who called on him under leadership of Tahir Khan Kakar here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The Governor noted with concern that dwellers of Hanna and Urak have been forced to migrate their areas just because of the devastating floods and rains last year.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif pushing a button to inaugurate temporary Mobile Registration System for overseas Pakistanis & Foreign Nationals.

CJP expresses reservations over military trial of civilians

SC rejects govt request for full court on pleas against military trials of civilians

ISLAMABAD (Online): As the Supreme Court (SC) resumed hearing petitions against trial of civilians in military courts on Tuesday, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial made it clear that civilian citizens should not be subject to trials which are not in accordance with the Constitution.

Emphasising on civilians having constitutional protection, the CJP went on to say that the military courts conduct summary trials, do not issue reasons in their judgments, and don't record evidences either; the courts are not open for the public.

Justice Bandial added that civilians should not be subject to undue harshness as he noted that military laws were very tough, and different from ordinary provisions. Nonetheless, he conceded that May 9 incidents were of a serious nature.

During the last hearing, the SC had summoned the record of all the alleged May 9 rioters - including women and journalists - in custody of civil or military authorities as it took up petitions filed against court martial of the people who vandalized army assets after the arrest of former premier Imran Khan.

The court also issued notices to all the people and institutions named as respondents in the petitions filed against trial of civilians in military courts under the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 and the Official Secrets Act, 1923. However, it rejected the petitioners' request to stay the trial of the accused in military courts.

The proceedings had however been marred by controversy as at the outset of the proceedings a nine-member bench led by CJP Bandial started hearing petitions filed by former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja, Imran Khan, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Aitzaz Ahsan and civil society, one of the bench members Justice Qazi Faez Isa raised a number of issues.

Justice Isa, who has already been notified as the next CJP three months in advance, took exception to the bench. He said parliament had passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 which outlines a procedure for formation of benches in cases related to Article 184(3).

Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, the third senior most judge in the bench, had agreed with Justice Isa. He had asked how many judges will hear an appeal if the SC declares the Act valid.

Joint Protocol signed to connect Pak, Uzbek via Afghan-trans railway

ISLAMABAD (APP): The dream of connecting Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan through the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) intra-train project has come to a reality as the officials from the three countries on Tuesday signed a joint protocol at the Ministry of Railways.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Federal Minister of Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Federal Minister of Finance, Senator Ishaq Dar, the ambassadors of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan and other high-level officials.

The Joint Protocol was signed by the Secretary of Pakistan Railways, Syed Mazhar Ali Shah, Director General and CEO of Afghanistan Railway Authority, Alhaj Bakhtur Rehman Sharaf and Head of Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade and Department of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Dekkhanov.



ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan signed a Joint Protocol on (UAP) Railway project at Ministry of Railways.

No decision taken on NA dissolution date: Marriyum Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (INP): Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday asserted that no decision had been taken yet by the incumbent government and its allies regarding the dissolution date of the National Assembly.

Reacting to media reports about the NA's early dissolution on August 8, days before its term completes on August 12, the information minister told a private TV news channel: "A decision has not been taken yet on the NA's dissolution date."

She said the date would be decided in consultation between the government and its allies.

"There will be an official announcement about the date of the NA's dissolution," Aurangzeb said.

Mainstream media has also been reporting contradictory statements from various leaders of the coalition parties regarding the timing of the general elections.

7 FC personnel among 10 injured as convoy attacked in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): At least 10 persons including seven security personnel sustained injuries when a suicide car bomber targeted the vehicle of Frontier Corps at Posh Hayatabad township here on Tuesday.

SP Cantt, Waqas Rafiq told the media that seven security personnel including Havaldar Hussain, Lance Naik Wahab, FC constables Ishaq, Shafiqullah, Hidayat and Lazam sustained injuries. He said three civilians were also injured in the attack.

He said that FC vehicle was the target of a suicide car bomber that exposed his vehicle at Hayatabad Phase-II where civilians were also passing.

The injured were rushed to Combined Military Hospital and Mardan Medical Complex Peshawar.

KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali strongly condemned the suicide blast.

PM reiterates call for Charter of Economy to ensure consistent economic policies

Stresses upon efforts to facilitate overseas Pakistanis with IT-related initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated his call for the nation to unite on Charter of Economy to ensure the consistency of economic policies and put country on the course towards progress and prosperity.

The prime minister, addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone, said with the signing of IMF agreement, the risks for default had ebbed away and the country would have to focus on boosting exports to compete with the neighboring states, particularly the eastern neighbor.

He said the Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone was launched with a delay of five years as nine SEZs were planned to be built under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said despite the land and designs, finalized for the SEZs in Punjab, the previous government not only impeded the projects but also made conscious efforts to undermine the Pak-China ties.

The prime minister, who earlier broke ground for the project and penned a testimonial, said that during Nawaz Sharif's tenure, \$30 billion Chinese investment came to the country in the form of CPEC, featuring power and road projects.

He told the gathering that after the Chinese industry gone hitech, Pakistan had the golden opportunity to learn from the Chinese textile expertise, go for joint ventures and bring Chinese second-hand machinery to Pakistan to boost its exports. He said during the last 14 months, the incumbent government remained in 'fire-fighting' mode as it had to cope with the unprecedented floods and record inflation, begotten by the Ukraine war.

The prime minister said after the IMF agreement, the government would mainly focus on boosting industrial and agriculture sectors.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali, Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail, Provincial Ministers and MPAs from opposition parties attending a dinner hosted by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo

On the rise: Congo virus claims another life in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Congo virus has claimed another life in Balochistan, raising the death toll to eight in the current year, hospital sources confirmed.

Shair Ahmed, 65, a resident of Pishin, was under treatment at a Faimah Jinnah Chest Hospital, Quetta where he succumbed to the disease on Tuesday.

The death toll of the virus has risen to eight in the province during the current year, while as many as 23 patients have tested positive for Congo virus.

The hospital sources while confirming the death toll said that Shair Ahmed was brought to the hospital a few days back. He died while under treatment.

"14 years old Bakhtnama, a patient of Congo virus, has been discharged from the hospital today after she recovered," the hospital management said.

Chairman Markazi Ruet-e-Hilal Committee: Muharram moon not sighted, Ashura to be observed on July 29

QUETTA: The Chairman Markazi Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Molana Abdul Khabir Azad has announced that the moon of Muharram has not been sighted anywhere in the country, therefore, the first of Muharram would be on 20th July and Ashura Muharram would be observed on 29th July.

This was announced by Molana Azad while addressing the press conference at Deputy Commissioner complex on Tuesday.

Also present on the occasion were the members of Markazi Ruet-e-Hilal committee besides the senior high ups of the Met office.

Molana Abdul Khabir Azad announced that no evidence of moon sighting has been received from any part of the country including Balochistan. Thus, the first of Muharram would fall on 20th July.

FM Bilawal for unlocking true potential of Pakistan's relations with countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that during the last 15 months of the incumbent government, Pakistan's engagement with the countries had improved, though the true potential of relations could not be unlocked.

The foreign minister, addressing the dinner reception hosted by him for the diplomatic corps in the Federal Capital, said that during his tenure, he tried to restore the engagement with the countries.

He said that he was shocked to see the immense potential for Pakistan in the countries he had been visiting during the last 15 months.

Calling it an honour to serve as the foreign minister, he spoke high for Pakistan's diplomats and officers for their efforts to contribute to the working of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

He told the diplomats that he tried to run the ministry purely on professional terms isolating it from the domestic politics.

Coming to the international scenario, the foreign minister said the modern world challenges were not restrained by the borders and exemplified climate change-induced catastrophic floods in Pakistan.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili presiding over a meeting of Provincial Anti-Smuggling Task force in connection with prevention of smuggling of flour and sugar in the province through video link

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Rains again

Since the first monsoon spell began less than a month ago, weather-related incidents have already claimed around 90 lives across the country and caused significant damage to property, crops and livestock. Punjab is the worst-hit region where more than 50 people died in rain-related events, followed by at least 20 deaths in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to flash floods and landslides. National disaster agencies have warned of more rains, thunderstorms, landslides and high-level flooding in the rivers including the Sutlej, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum in the coming weeks.

The rains are aggravating the already tough conditions faced by communities affected by the 2022 floods, at a time when the government is scrambling for funds for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Last summer's floods killed over 1,700 people and washed away homes, crops, livestock, roads and bridges worth more than \$30bn. The world promised to provide Pakistan \$10bn, mostly in the shape of loans, at a conference in Geneva back in January to help the government's efforts, but only a fraction of these pledges has been disbursed since 'assistance' for the flood-affected people was tied to the approval of the IMF bailout.

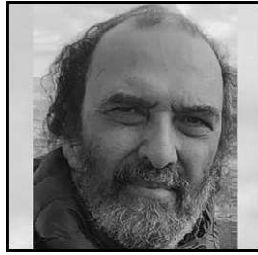
It still remains unclear if and when the pledged amount will materialise even after the IMF agreed to provide the \$3bn funding facility. The heavy rains expected could slow down recovery in the areas where a large number of people displaced by last year's deluge still live — without shelter, food, healthcare and jobs.

The International Rescue Committee has warned that the floods could affect 9.1m people this year, spreading disease and triggering more food shortages in a country where food insecurity is becoming an overriding concern.

Ranked among the top 10 most vulnerable countries on the Global Climate Risk Index even though it is responsible for less than 1pc of global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan has suffered economic losses of \$29bn in the last three decades due to climate-related disasters (excluding last year's floods) that have affected 75m people. These estimates by the World Bank do not include the damages caused to biodiversity, ecosystems and coastlines.

Each new disaster forces thousands of children out of school, causes epidemics, and leads to severe food shortages. With the impact of climate change increasing in intensity, as evident from last year's deluge, policymakers need to invest heavily in dealing with the scale of these disasters, with or without international help. That said, the richer nations must realise that what is happening in Pakistan — or other countries on the front line of climate change — will not be limited to vulnerable states. They must not only pay for their contribution to global warming but also radically cut GHG emissions as agreed to at various international forums.

Nothing coded in Modi's agenda



Jawed Naqvi

The Uber ride was smooth despite the rain-clogged roads, and I was thanking the driver with a heartfelt smile when the frail and vulnerable-looking fellow burst into tears, crying unconsolably. A recent migrant to Delhi, he had travelled some distance from the tribal state of Jharkhand to find work in the big city. Between the sobs, he asked if I knew any pandit in the area who could read his horoscope. I told him I knew no such person and wouldn't have directed him to one anyway, adding gratuitously that horoscope readers were merely spreading ignorance and blind faith among gullible Indians, including the educated and illiterate kind.

"Everything I touch turns into mud," the man sobbed. I offered him a tidy tip, which, to my surprise, he declined. I decided not to probe into his personal life. He seemed to be in considerable distress. It could be money, or it could be a greater loss. A frightening thought would occur a bit later. The emotional wreck was a great candidate to be led astray. I thought. The story of Ashok Parmar came to mind. Also called Mochi, the saffron bandana-wearing cobbler became the poster boy of Hindu fanaticism during the Gujarat violence in 2002. Recent reports said he was unhappy with the unending rule of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

At his tiny shop on a footpath in Old Ahmedabad, Parmar, now 48, was disillusioned with the politics of violence. "That photo went viral and brought a lot of problems in my life. I even could not

get married because of the situation created by the photograph," he was quoted as saying during the recent Gujarat elections that the BJP won.

Suppose the tired and harassed cabby finds himself in a communal maelstrom while looking for the end to his misfortunes. Suppose he meets the BJP's chief minister for Assam. He was blaming the skyrocketing price of tomatoes last week on Muslims in his state. Reports say Himanta Biswa Sarma told his followers to clean Guwahati of 'miyas', a derisive name for Bengali Muslims, and take their jobs. The prejudice is decades old, but the context to express it has transformed into a vote-rich electoral strategy. It was a black-and-white TV in Delhi on which I remember I saw a patently communal 1950s movie, cleared by L.K. Advani when he strategically became the information and broadcast minister in the Janata Party's short-lived government. The RSS had penetrated the JP movement against Indira Gandhi, and Advani grabbed the key job when the time came in 1977. The movie was about a village woman in distress, much like the cabby one met the other day. Her husband had become suddenly very ill, and the village doctor gave him only a few days to live. The desperate woman found advice from a Brahmin priest. The village had many Christian missionaries polluting the culture, and their presence caused the husband's illness. Armed with the insight, the woman mobilises a mob to evict the missionaries. The village was cleansed of the evil spirit, and the husband began life anew, completely healed. Sarma's hateful conclusions go back to at least 100 years of manufactured bile. The target of the contrived bias has moved from Christians here to Muslims there, to Sikhs, Dalits and the tribespeople,

depending on the political need. With little to show for a successful tenure, Hindutva chiefs in different states are busy kindling the time-tested malignity to herald the general elections, barely nine months away. An 800-year-old mosque was last week shut for Muslim worshippers in this endeavour in BJP-ruled Maharashtra. The courts may perhaps review the decision, but a discussion has been set into motion, and that's what counts in Hindutva's rumour mill.

A trial balloon has been floated by Prime Minister Modi himself to see if a potentially polarising discussion can be triggered on the effete idea of a 'Uniform Civil Code'. His law commission had itself recently disagreed with the need for a UCC in multicultural India. But something has flipped. The problem here is that the Muslim clergy is constantly on the hunt for issues to keep its flock together. Hindutva shares its anti-women DNA with the clergy of most religious groups in India, not least with the Muslim variety. But Hindutva-sponsored UCC can't be about solving the problems of polygamy or Indian women's rights. The effort is to whip the Muslim community for political advantage. Neither Muslim leaders nor Hindutva advocates will solve the pervasive problem of child marriage, bride-burning, and abandoned wives. It was the clergy in the form of the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board that had refused a host of compromise solutions on the Babri Masjid that would have spared untold bloodshed. The least the conservative leaders can do is to first reflect on the UCC, and be the last to speak when, or if the first draft of the proposal sees the light of day. Sikhs, tribal groups and Christians have worries about the UCC. Let them take the lead. — Courtesy Dawn

After the floods



Tooba Niazi

Pakistan faced its worst floods in 2022. More than 33 million people were affected. According to a World Bank report, cities in lower-income countries contribute around 14 per cent to global carbon emissions yet they are more vulnerable to climate-induced disasters.

Irrespective of infrastructural changes carried out to upscale the discourse on climate change in Pakistan, we remain at the edge when it comes to rehabilitation after any crisis. The 2022 floods and the recent expected horror of Cyclone Biparjoi made us proactive in planning but sustaining rehabilitation efforts remains a challenge.

The government initiated multiple relief programmes for the flood-affected, including multi-purpose cash assistance, relief items for dignity, and makeshift shelters. The onset of any emergency requires an immediate response including the provision of basic items which supports the affected population.

Recovery and rehabilitation of people struck by disaster is a crucial component of disaster management ideology. However, the rehabilitation process is and has always been an afterthought, leaving many facing long-term social and economic instability. Disaster management requires financial and social integration, the absence of which can lead to bigger trials for public officeholders who work for the people.

The Pakistan Disaster Management Authority can only implement its

ideas given the requisite resources. Expanding the latter requires both intention and liaising with partners at all levels. The 2022 floods (and those in 2010) witnessed many CSOs stepping up to voluntarily rebuild damaged infrastructure, but a year later there are questions to ponder. The preplanning for Biparjoi was immaculate; however, had the cyclone hit Pakistan with the expected intensity, the situation would have been different.

The sustainability of our response after a disaster needs a complete study of resources and action, without which disaster management is incomplete. Disaster management includes both an immediate response and long-term recovery — from infrastructural rehabilitation to emotional well-being — of the community. In order to reap long-term results, we require more actors (beyond those with political mandates) to implement the plans.

The public-private partnership model may sound clichéd, but in the absence of one, it would be challenging to expedite rehabilitation after a calamity. Public-private partnership in times of crises can open new pathways for collaboration and learning. While this kind of partnership has existed since the earliest of times, we may like to reconsider building sustainable solutions, instead of focusing solely on immediate response-based service deliveries.

NGOs provide huge funding opportunities, however, public officeholders need to tap into these opportunities to create something beyond a public dialogue. These funds need to be redirected towards the development of early warning facilities for the larger good. The response mechanism needs the inclusion of a gendered approach to address the disproportionality with which these climate disasters affect women and girls. Constructing public latrines in villages has helped, but are these accessible to pregnant women and people with disabilities?

Across Sindh and Balochistan these remain widely inaccessible to them. The inclusion of PWDs, women and children in response and rehabilitation strategies will improve their quality of life. Disaster preparedness in communities remains a challenge. Irrespective of radio and media campaigns, most of our population remains unaware of immediate responses to a disaster. Per-haps the inclusion of disaster preparedness in the curriculum at an early level may impact the knowledge base of many, but we need to have a plan for that part of the population that does not have access to schools.

Radio alone is not enough to prepare communities. In the remote peripheries, where people are already living at the edge, disaster preparedness is a challenge that public officeholders must be aware of. These challenges can only be eased with structural changes to the system. The events of the 2022 floods will likely become a document that no one will care to read till another climate-induced disaster hits Pakistan. Disaster management is not a political mandate; it's a universal need which requires unity of officeholders who must not politicise it for personal benefit. Merely adding to hefty reports, which are unlikely to be read and acted upon, will not serve the purpose. However, an enabling approach that can serve communities in the long term and make them better prepared and more resilient when disaster revisits is the only workable solution. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan to utilize Chinese expertise to boost exports, operate SEZs: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said China would provide Pakistan with technical 'know-how' and expertise to increase exports and help successful execution of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the CPEC project.

"We have requested China not to give us fish, [but] teach us how to catch the fish. Pakistan wants Chinese assistance to increase its exports and in

successful execution of the SEZs. So China has promised to attach its experts [with quarters concerned in Pakistan]," he said while addressing an international seminar here.

The seminar titled "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor at Ten: A Gateway to Regional Connectivity," was organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). IPRI President Ambassador Dr Raza Muhammad, Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS) Sargodha

University Fazul ur Rehman, former SAPM on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor, Director China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) Dr Hu ShiSheng and Sohail Malik of Team Lead Climate Resourcing Coordination Center (CRC) among the leading speakers who spoke at a panel discussion of the seminar and highlighted significance of China-Pakistan relations besides various aspects of the game-changer CPEC project.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling a plaque to mark the groundbreaking of Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone.

Dar urges to further deepen US-Pakistan economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Finance and Revenue Minister Senator, Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday appreciated the support and cooperation of the US and reiterated the desire of the government to further deepen bilateral economic and trade ties with the US.

Mr Brent Neiman, Deputy Under Secretary of the US Department of Treasury along with Mr. Donald Blome Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, said a press release issued by Ministry of Finance here.

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar warmly greeted Mr Brent Neiman and highlighted the deep-rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts. The Finance Minister thanked the US administration and the US Department of Treasury for their role in the conclusion of an agreement with the IMF.

Zong 4G celebrates 15 years of pioneering excellence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom giant, marks a momentous milestone as it celebrates 15 years of unwavering excellence in the country's digital landscape.

Guided by the motto "Let's Get Digital," Zong 4G has revolutionized the nation's connectivity through its widest 4G network and cutting-edge technology, leaving an indelible mark on Pakistan's technological future.

Investing significantly in expanding its network infrastructure, Zong 4G has erected over 14,000 towers nationwide, extending its services to

Aminul Haque says: Rs 77.8 bln projects for remote areas connectivity to be completed by year end

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque on Tuesday said that 83 projects worth Rs 77.8 billion would be completed by December 2023 under the Universal Service Fund (USF) to provide connectivity to remote and unreserved areas across the country.

Under the Next Generation Optic Fiber (NG-OF) Network and Services programme, he said, the USF had made significant strides, contracting over 16,000 km of Optic Fiber Cable (OFC), which was expected to benefit approximately 31.5 million people nationwide.

Addressing a press conference, he said the primary objective of the USF was to connect all citizens of the country, as digitalization had become a crucial priority for both

To achieve the milestone, the USF had diligently laid fiber optic cables and installed 4G and 3G towers in remote and previously unreserved areas, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Brent Neiman, Deputy Under Secretary of the US Department of Treasury called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division.

Business community briefed on NADRA's innovative services

LAHORE (INP): Tuesday. The DG said that NADRA is commonly known for issuing ID cards but it offers a wide range of services, citing that NADRA Technologies Limited, a subsidiary of the Authority, handles services like e-Sahulat and branchless banking, overseeing all related deposits and systems.

The agency has successfully processed an impressive sum of around Rs 66.87 billion cash till date.

WAPDA generates highest 7286 MW hydel electricity of season

ISLAMABAD (Online): Electricity generation run by WAPDA hydel power stations surpasses 7000 MW mark as these contributes 7286 MW to the National Grid during peak hours last night.

are the contributing factors behind the surge in hydel power generation, said a press release.

Effective operation and maintenance of WAPDA hydel power stations, improved inflows in the rivers, increased level of water reservoirs and indent by the Indus River System Authority (IRSA)

According to the statistics, Tarbela Hydel Power Station generation 3446 MW, Tarbela 4th Extension 1410 MW, Ghazi Barotha 1450 MW, Mangla 275 MW, Warsak 172 MW, and Chashma 147 MW. While the other hydel power stations contributed 386 MW cumulatively.

Gold rates increase Rs 6,200

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 6,200 and was sold at Rs 221,000 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs 214,800 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs5,316 to Rs 189,472 from Rs 184,156 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 173,683 from Rs 168,810, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque chair a meeting along with Azerbaijan Minister for Digital Development & Transport Mr. Rashad Nabiyeu at IT Ministry.

Commerce minister, MNAs call on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and members of the National Assembly, on Tuesday, separately called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. During the meeting, they discussed the current political situation in the country in detail, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The commerce minister also briefed the prime minister about the matters related to his ministry. Separately, MNAs Nadeem Abbas Rabaira, Hamid Hameed and Abid Raza Kotla also called on the prime minister and briefed him.

Govt committed to make KP polio free province: Azam

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has said that the provincial government is committed to make Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a polio free province of the country adding that concrete measures are being taken under a well-planned strategy to this end.

He said that a special anti-polio drive has been launched to administer anti-polio drops to those children who are still out of coverage in the southern districts of the province.

He said this while talking to a delegation of Polio Oversight Board (POB) which called on him here at Chief Minister's House Peshawar on Tuesday.

The delegation led by Chairman POB Dr. Christopher Elias consisted of Regional Director WHO Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Acting Regional Director UNICEF Ms. Noala Skinner, Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Ms. Leslie Scanlon, Deputy Director Polio Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Michael Galway, WHO Pakistan Representative Dr. Palitha Mahipala and others.

Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, secretary Health Mehmood Aslam and Director General Health Services Dr. Shaikat were also present on the occasion.

The participants

made a threadbare discussion on various matters related to anti-polio campaigns with special focus on the strategy to eradicate polio virus from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially southern districts of the province.

The stakeholders on this occasion reiterated their commitment to continue the joint struggle till eradication of polio virus from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They also agreed that specific measures should be taken in specific spots of the southern districts to get rid of this menace.

The Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan while appreciating the role of partner organizations in mitigating polio virus in the province said that eradication of polio is indispensable to give a healthy and safe future to the upcoming generations. Stressing the need for awareness with regard to polio virus.



HYDERABAD: Shopkeepers of Anaj Market are burn tires and blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration against non-installation of electricity transformer, in Hyderabad.

PTI MPs to release list of party members in next meeting: Ishaq

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian (PTIP) on Tuesday rejected the list of its members that went viral on social media the other day and said that party chairman Pervez Khattak would formally release the names of party members in the next consultative meeting.

In a statement Ishaq Khattak the son of PTIP chairman said that the party leadership held a consultative meeting here

the other day and did not release any list of its members, adding that the viral list was completely fake. He said that party chairman Pervez Khattak would release the list of all party members in the next meeting to be held soon.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Khan the brother of former Chief Minister KP Mehmood Khan decided not to join PTIP and contest general elections against his brother Mehmood Khan.

Tragic drowning incident claims three lives in Attock

ATTOCK (APP): A tragic incident happened in Attock as three members of a family drowned near the Kurd bridge on Tuesday.

The victims, identified as 38-year-old Yasir Nawaz, his 10-year-old son Saim Nawaz, and his 9-year-old niece Eshal Fatima, all belonging to Jatial village Hazro, met their untimely demise in the waters of the river Indus.

According to the police and Rescue 1122 sources, the family had gone to the river Indus for a pleasant outing when tragedy struck. Eshal Fatima accidentally fell into the river and began to drown. In a brave attempt to rescue her, Yasir Nawaz jumped into the deep waters but tragically lost control and also drowned.



PESHAWAR: Senator Noman Wazir meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali

No one to be allowed to spread sectarianism during Muharram: Dr Jamal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir on Tuesday said that no one would be allowed to spread religious hatred and sectarianism in the country.

Addressing a 'Peace Conference' organized by the Pasban Watan Welfare Foundation at Rawalpindi Arts Council, he said that Ulama had always rendered great sacrifices and services for maintaining peace and their cooperation was needed to maintain law and order during the holy

month of Muharram. He said Islam is a religion of love, tolerance and brotherhood and no one will be allowed to fan religious hatred and sectarianism.

Speaking on the occasion, the custodian of Eidgah Sharif Pir Naqibur Rahman said the scholars had sacrificed their lives for the establishment of Pakistan and will not hesitate to make more sacrifices to maintain law and order in the country.

He said Masajid, Imambargahs and Dargahs were spreading the message of harmony which was the soul.



HYDERABAD: Relatives and others busy shifting the bodies of the 4 tourists to their home, who died in Gilgit due to a coach fall into a ditch.

Meeting reviews Muharram arrangements

BAHAWALPUR (APP): A meeting of the District Core Management Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa in the committee room of his office to review the arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram. Additional Deputy Commissioner Sumera Rabbani, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur City Fazlur Rehman, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur Sadar Mujahid Abbas, Deputy Director Development Malik Mehbub Elahi Khar, Chief Officer District Council Nasrullah Malik and officers of other concerned departments were present.

KP police held 434 terrorists, kill 158 in six months

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police in its six months' performance report on Tuesday claimed to have arrested as many as 434 terrorists from across the province and killed 158 including absconders and terrorists with bounties in police encounters.

Punjab govt to crack down on wheat, sugar hoarders

Independent Report
LAHORE: On the directions of Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the Punjab government has decided to crack down on the hoarders of wheat and sugar in the province, and assigned the responsibilities of monitoring to the Special Branch in this regard.

Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman chaired an important meeting to review the strategy for controlling the prices of flour and sugar, at the Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday. The administrative secretaries of relevant departments including industries, food and finance, the director

food Punjab, officers concerned attended the meeting. The Chief Secretary Punjab said that sale of flour and sugar at higher than the fixed rates is not acceptable, adding that those fleecing the consumers by creating artificial shortage of eatables will be dealt with strictly. He directed the officers to ensure stability in prices of flour and sugar through effective administrative measures.

The Chief Secretary said that along with the prices of commodities, their supply and demand should also be closely monitored. He said that the special branch would provide support to the administration for taking action against hoarders.



KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan organized "Free Medical Camp" at Haseena Moin Hall.

ANP leadership asked to avoid giving preference to 'parachuters' over workers

PESHAWAR (APP): President Awami National Party (ANP) Bhana Mari Ward, Sohail Khan has stressed upon the party leadership to maintain its decades-old legacy of rewarding diehard workers on different posts instead of facilitating those who come through the use of parachutes.

In a joint press statement issued here on Tuesday, Sohail Khan and other office bearers including GS Shahid Khan, SVP Alauddin and VP Atif Khan said if ANP leadership wanted to save the party

from fragmentation, it has to maintain its policy of according preference to stalwarts and old associates who spent their whole lives for the cause of the party and its leadership. They said the step-motherly treatment of ANP leadership with its old and diehard worker Adnan Jalil is a test case and is not acceptable to party workers.

They also mentioned the example of Haji Sher Rehman who after being ignored by the party leadership in elections for Mayor of Peshawar, parted ways silently and joined PML(N).

International News

China to deepen security, defence cooperation with Algeria

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Longtime trading partners China and Algeria agreed on Tuesday to strengthen cooperation in other areas including security and national defence, boosting Beijing's already robust ties with a major nation on the African side of the Mediterranean.

Following Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune's meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing, the two countries also agreed to support each other's core interests and safeguard each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, according to a joint statement released by China's foreign ministry.

The North African nation has strategic importance to China given its location on the Mediterranean Sea. Relations between Beijing and the governing National Liberation Front go back to the late 1950s, when Algeria sought independence from France.

In 2014, the two upgraded their ties to a so-called comprehensive strategic partnership, with gas-rich Algeria the first Arab nation to form such a partnership with China.

In their statement on Tuesday, both sides agreed to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership, stressing the need for close political and security coop-

eration. China's security pacts with other nations have drawn suspicion and concern. Earlier this month, the United States, Australia and New Zealand called on the Solomon Islands prime minister to disclose details of the Pacific nation's policing deal signed with Beijing.

China and Algeria agreed to work together to fight extremist terrorist organisations within their borders, and support other countries including Somalia and Sudan in their security efforts, according to the joint statement.

Algeria, which has successfully battled domestic terrorism, has long expressed its interest in sup-

porting its neighbours in fighting terrorism, as France, a former colonial power in the region, retreated from regional counter-terrorism efforts. Tebboune, on his first visit to China since becoming president in 2019, said Algeria is also willing to deepen its partnership with China to assist his country's economic development.

Tebboune visited Beijing after a state visit to Russia last month, during which he appealed to Russian President Vladimir Putin to support Algeria becoming a member of BRICS, a group of emerging markets comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.



Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Chile's President Gabriel Boric sit during their bilateral meeting during the third EU-CELAC summit that brings together leaders of the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, in Brussels, Belgium.



US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua before a meeting in Beijing, China.

Several G20 members condemn Russia quitting Black Sea grain deal

Monitoring Desk
GANDHINAGAR: Several G20 members condemned Russia's move to quit an agreement that allowed safe export of grain from Ukraine, India's finance minister said on Tuesday, as concerns rise in poorer countries over a rise in food prices following Moscow's decision.

Russia halted participation in the United Nations-brokered Black Sea grain deal on Monday over what it called a failure to meet its demands to implement a parallel agreement

easing rules for its own food and fertiliser exports.

Members of the Group of 20 major economies condemned Russia's move during a two-day meeting of the bloc's economic and financial policymakers in the western Indian city of Gandhinagar, according to India's finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. "Several members condemned it saying that shouldn't have happened... passing through the Black Sea shouldn't have been stopped or suspended," she told reporters at the end of the meeting on Tuesday.

Kerry seeks 'urgent action' as China, US revive climate talks

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: US climate envoy John Kerry held four hours of talks with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing on Monday, calling for "urgent action" as the two countries revived stalled diplomacy on reducing planet-warming emissions.

Climate talks between the two biggest greenhouse gas emitters came to a halt last year after Nancy Pelosi, then-speaker of the US House of Representatives, enraged Beijing by visiting self-ruled Taiwan, which China considers to be

part of its territory.

Kerry, a former secretary of state, has enjoyed comparatively cordial and consistent relations with China despite Washington and Beijing locking horns over Taiwan and other issues. Kerry met his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua in Beijing, with the two men speaking for around four hours, state broadcaster CCTV said. Both countries "must take urgent action on a number of fronts, especially the challenges of coal and methane pollution," Kerry wrote in

a tweet after the talks.

"The climate crisis demands that the world's two largest economies work together to limit the Earth's warming," Kerry tweeted. Beijing said after the talks that "climate change is a common challenge faced by all mankind".

China would "exchange views with the United States on issues related to climate change, and work together to meet challenges and improve the wellbeing of current and future generations".

Divisions over the Ukraine war cause a rift at EU-LatAm summit that was supposed to be a love-in

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: European Union and Latin American leaders concluded a summit that was supposed to be a love-in after eight years of separation with a second full day of aggravation over a bland statement on Russia's invasion of Ukraine that could not even gather unanimous support.

Europe's fervent support of Ukraine clashed with the more distant approach pervasive in the 33-nation Community of Latin American and Carib-

bean States, and what should have been a detail of a landmark summit became its encompassing theme.

In the end, the shadow of Russian President Vladimir Putin hovered over the two-day meeting because Nicaragua refused to join 59 other nations, including Cuba and Venezuela, in a common criticism of the war.

"All the select members are aligned except Nicaragua," French President Emmanuel Macron said.

USAID chief visits Odesa, unveils \$250m for Ukrainian farmers

Monitoring Desk
ODESA: U.S. aid chief Samantha Power on Tuesday pledged \$250 million in new funding to help Ukrainian farmers reeling from blocked Black Sea grain shipments since Russia's invasion last year. Moscow on Monday pulled out of a U.N.-brokered deal allowing the safe passage of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea in a move U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called "a blow to people in need everywhere".

Trump says he has been notified he's a target of the US probe into efforts to overturn 2020 election

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Former President Donald Trump said Tuesday he has received a letter informing him that he is a target of the Justice Department's investigation into efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, an indication he could soon be charged by U.S. prosecutors.

on top of existing state and federal counts in New York and Florida and a separate election-interference investigation nearing conclusion in Georgia, would add to the list of legal problems for Trump as he pursues the 2024 Republican presidential nomination. Trump disclosed the existence of a target letter in a post on his Truth Social platform.

US to announce \$1.3 bln in military aid for Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States will announce a new pledge to buy \$1.3 billion worth of military aid for Kyiv in its conflict with Russia in the coming days, two U.S. officials said.

The previously unreported weapons package includes air defenses, counter-drone systems, exploding drones and ammunition, one of the U.S. officials said.

South Korea flood deaths cast doubt on readiness for extreme weather

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday blamed authorities' failure to follow disaster response rules as the death toll from days of torrential rain rose to 40, including a dozen people found dead in a submerged underpass. Deluges have pummeled central and southern regions since Thursday as the rainy sea-

son that started in late June reaches its peak. The interior ministry has also reported nine people missing and 34 injured across the nation. Twelve deaths, including three bodies found overnight, occurred in a tunnel in Cheongju, 110km south of Seoul, where 16 vehicles, including a bus, were swamped by a flash flood on Saturday after a river levee collapsed.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Maulana Asad Mahmood hosted a meeting with Azerbaijan's Minister for Transport, Mr. Rashad Nabiyeov to discuss Road Trade Agreement.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan can boost business, cultural ties through road linkages

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood on Tuesday said that Pak-Azerbaijan could further enhance bilateral relations in terms of trade and commerce and strengthen public, cultural ties through land links and highways.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a seven-member Azerbaijan delegation led by Minister for Digital Development and Transport Rashad Nabiyeov to discuss road trade agreement and move towards a legal framework for trade.

The minister praised the delegation of Azerbaijan for coming to Pakistan and holding meetings with vari-

ous ministries and officials to strengthen bilateral ties.

Rashad Nabiyeov apprised the Minister for Communications that Azerbaijan has paved new roads for the promotion of trade and public transportation by laying its network of highways connecting up to Bandar Abbas, Iran.

In response, Asad Mahmood expressed Pakistan's desire to expand land connection to Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia and Eastern Europe to boost the economy of regional countries and raise the living standards of the people. He said the Government of Pakistan stands ready for all kinds of assistance re-

garding road transport and trade.

During the meeting, a task force was formed to develop a legal framework for road trade agreements, and the Federal Secretary Communications & Chairman NHA Captain (Rtd.) Muhammad Khurram Agha will be the focal person on behalf of Pakistan.

The Minister of Communications appreciated the fact that Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's position regarding Kashmir. Similarly, he added, Pakistan's position in some other matters was a mirror of mutual harmony. A road trade agreement will help in furthering bilateral ties to new heights, he added.

PM launches multiple initiatives for sports promotion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday launched multiple initiatives here for promoting sports culture and welfare of the sports persons including the Rs 5 billion Pakistan Sports Endowment Fund.

In a ceremony held here, he launched Pakistan Sports Endowment Fund with initial seed money of Rs 5 billion to provide financial assistance and other facilities to the emerging players and retired sportspersons of the country.

The prime minister also performed soft launch of the first dedicated Sports University in the country

to produce critical pool required for sports events such as planners, managers, technical staff, nutritionists, physiotherapists and others. Similarly, PM Shehbaz launched the Prime Minister Youth Sports Initiative to develop sports across the country and to provide world class sports facilities to the youth. He also launched the Elite Sportspersons Development Programme and E-Sports development programme. Addressing on the occasion, Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan's highly talented sportspersons deserved appreciation from the nation as despite limited resources.

CDWP okays 10 projects worth Rs1,073.41bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that approved 10 development projects worth Rs1,073.41 billion.

Out of these, three projects worth Rs9.41 billion have been approved by the CDWP, while the forum also recommended seven projects worth Rs 1,064 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for its consideration, a news release said.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary of the Planning Ministry Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Additional Secretary, Joint Economist, Members of the Planning

Commission and representatives from various Ministries and Divisions.

The projects discussed in the meeting covered sectors such as Agriculture & Food, Education, Transport & Communications, and Water Resources.

One of the projects, namely "Prime Minister's National Programme for Socialization of Agriculture Tube Wells," with a cost of Rs. 377,236.275 million, has been recommended to ECNEC for its consideration. The Ministry of Education presented a project titled "Establishment of Federal Government College of Home Economics Management Sciences and Specialized Discipline, F-11/1 Islamabad," worth Rs2,637.769 million, which was approved by the CDWP.

UK allocates £41.5 mn in development assistance to Pakistan for FY24

ISLAMABAD (Online): The United Kingdom will provide £41.5 million in bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Pakistan for the year 2023-24, with a focus on accelerated family planning, girls' education, and revenue mobilisation, investment and trade, a statement from the British High Commission in Islamabad said.

According to the statement issued on Tuesday, the new Pakistan Country Development Partnership Summary (CDPS), published by UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, set out a refreshed approach to the UK-Pakistan development partnership.

The new CDPS shows an indicative ODA

budget of £133 million pounds for the financial year 2024-25. "The strategy underlines UK's transition from a traditional aid relationship to a UK-Pakistan partnership for mutual benefit. It aims to unlock progress against Pakistan's constraints to growth including population dynamics, climate vulnerability, gender equality and the structure of the economy," it added. The annual report also indicates likely significant growth in UK-Pakistan ODA in fiscal year 2024-25, based on an expected increase in FCDO's overall ODA budget next year.

The UK has provisionally allocated a greater share of next year's ODA to Pakistan, reflecting the aim of boosting efforts to strengthen climate resilience

and reduce humanitarian risks following last year's devastating floods.

According to the statement, 56 per cent of the programmes under the CDPS are primarily or significantly geared towards promoting gender equality, and 26pc of the programs are primarily or significantly focused on disability inclusion.

It added that the CDPS was aligned with Pakistan's long-term development strategies and sustainable development goals.

"The strategy's objectives are to deliver a step change in human capital; support Pakistan to adopt a more resilient and cleaner growth path; support Pakistan to become a more open society; and promote macroeconomic stability.



QUETTA: A delegation of Hanna Urak Sahibzada Tahir Khan Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

HIV is a disease, not a stigma: Collective efforts needed to create awareness about HIV stigma, discrimination: Speakers

Independent Report QUETTA: Five awareness sessions were organized across the country with the support of UNDP and UNAIDS.

The fifth and last consultative session in this regard was held in Quetta Balochistan.

The main objective of the ongoing nationwide consultative session is to finalize a strategy for law enforcement agencies to effectively respond to the

growing challenge of discrimination. Balochistan Police, Quetta Traffic Police, CTD, ANF, National Highways and Motorway Police, FIA and other civil societies and NGOs participated in the ongoing consultative session in Quetta.

Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam hosted the session with his professional expertise and gave a thorough overview of the current situation in Pakistan. He

said that individual and collective efforts are needed to end the increasing trend of HIV in the society. He said that we should not be afraid of HIV but we have to take such steps to remedy it so that no one gets hurt. AIDS is spread not only by one reason but by several reasons in which HIV positive people have no fault, but by neglecting their duties in the society, such a person is affected which not only needs to be understood.

NAB Balochistan seminar empowers police to tackle corruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (Balochistan) organised a seminar at the Police Training College aiming to promote anti-corruption awareness and encourage a shared commitment towards building a corruption-free and prosperous nation.

The seminar titled "Eradication of Corruption for a Prosperous Pakistan" was held at the Police Training College on Sariab Road, Quetta.

The event focused on highlighting the harmful ef-

fects of corruption on society and showcased practical measures being taken to combat it. Prominent speakers emphasized the vital role of the police in promoting transparency and accountability.

As part of the seminar, a symbolic walk involving trainees from the Police Training College was conducted. Deputy Commandant Aurangzeb represented the college, while Director Dr. Muhammad Rashad and Deputy Director Mr. Khurram Shahzad represented NAB Balochistan.

Sana, Italian envoy pledge to strengthen bilateral ties, security coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan and Italian Ambassador in Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese have agreed to strengthen cooperation between their countries' interior ministries, implementing better strategies and measures to prevent cross-border crimes.

In a meeting, they both expressed a shared commitment to enhancing bilateral relations and fostering stronger ties.

Italian Ambassador expresses sorrow and regret over the tragic Greek ship incident during the meeting. The Interior Minister describes the loss of valuable lives of Pakistanis as an extremely mournful event. The Interior Minister emphasized that there will be no tolerance for the perpetrators involved and strict actions are being taken against them. He urged European countries not to provide any shelter to those who have illegally entered.



PESHAWAR: View of the site after bomb attack that targeted Frontier Corps (FC) convoy, at Hayatabad area in Peshawar.

ADC directs to take action against those involved steal water from Pat-Feeder Canal

NASEERABAD (APP): On special directive of Commissioner Naseerabad Division Engineer Abdul Hameed Mengal Xen Pat-Feeder Canal Ghulam Muhammad Badeni and others concerned officials.

Briefing the meeting, Xen Irrigation Abdul Hameed Mengal said that currently six thousand cusecs of water was being supplied in Pat-Feeder Canal. The Pat-feeder canal was badly damaged by the flood.

Balochistan Irrigation Department has taken steps for its repair and maintenance on an emergency basis, he said. He said that the process of fair distribution of water was going on under the supervision of the engineers of the department.

Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad Muhammad Ejaz Sarwar, Superintendent Engineer Irrigation Engineer Abdul Hameed Mengal Xen Pat-Feeder Canal Ghulam Muhammad Badeni and others concerned officials.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with veteran sportspersons performing the soft launch of Pak first Sports University.

President approves Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday gave assent to the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023. The Bill is aimed at amending the Anti-Electronic Crimes Act 2016, Pakistan Penal Code 1860, and Qanun-e-Shahadat 1984. The president approved the Bill on the prime minister's advice under Article-75 of the Constitution.

Qadir terms visit of COAS to Iran positive

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Standing Committee for Petroleum and Resources Senator Abdul Qadir on Tuesday termed the recent two-day visit of Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir to Iran was very important.

He said this when he was talking to APP that three months ago, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's official meeting with Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi at the Mandala-Pishin border was jointly inaugurated. After that, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit and now Army Chief General Asim Munir's visit to Iran are of great importance. The three personalities of Pakistan were warmly welcomed by the Iranian authorities, he mentioned. He said that Pakistan wanted to develop special trade relations with Afghanistan, Iran, China and Turkey to get out of economic pressure. Mr. Abdul Qadir said that Pakistan was taking all possible measures to establish peace and order in the country and the region in order to stabilize relations at the political, diplomatic and economic levels Pakistan, which is suffering from economic crisis and political instability, believes that satisfactory relations.

party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

They expressed these views on Tuesday while talking on the occasion of Sardar Abdul Rahim Harifal, the political and tribal leader of Shirani district for announcing to join the PPP along with his colleagues. Earlier, the political and tribal leader of Shirani district, Sardar Abdul Rahim Harifal, expressed full confidence in the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and announced his joining Pakistan Peoples Party.

Tragic road accident claims life of PML-N leader's son

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a heart-wrenching incident, Anza Fazal Chaudhry, the young son of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) leader and former federal minister Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, lost his life in a road accident on 7th Avenue, Islamabad late Monday night.

The unfortunate collision occurred while trying to avoid a motorcyclist, resulting in the vehicle colliding with a roadside pole. Despite being rushed to PIMS hospital for surgery, Anza succumbed to his injuries. His funeral prayer is scheduled to be held today.

PPP to be more active from joining of Sardar Rahim in Balochistan: Changez

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balochistan President Mir Changez Khan Jamali and Information Secretary Sardar Sarbaland Jogezezi said that their Party would form governments in all four provinces including Balochistan after winning upcoming general elections.

They said that PPP would ensure transparent distribution of tickets to candidates for general elections. The Party wanted to hold timely elections and the party was active and organized across the country under the leadership of

party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

They expressed these views on Tuesday while talking on the occasion of Sardar Abdul Rahim Harifal, the political and tribal leader of Shirani district for announcing to join the PPP along with his colleagues. Earlier, the political and tribal leader of Shirani district, Sardar Abdul Rahim Harifal, expressed full confidence in the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and announced his joining Pakistan Peoples Party.

PDM, PTI two sides of same coin: Siraj

MANANWALA (Online): JI Amir Sirajul Haq has said the both parties PDM and PTI are two sides of same coin.

"Incumbent government is imposing tyrannical decisions on people by becoming slave of IMF. People have been forced to commit suicide by inflating the tariff of electricity tremendously. It has become out of reach of poor people to pay electricity bill. Imran Khan had too deceived the nation by sitting in the lap of IMF. Both PDM and PTI are two parts of the same coin which have disappointed people.



QUETTA: Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam presenting a souvenir to Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Chairperson Women Parliamentarian Forum Balochistan.

Berlin tourists to visit Balochistan: Secretary

QUETTA (APP): Manzoor Hussain, provincial secretary of culture and tourism on Tuesday said that the Government of Balochistan is overly optimistic about the future of the province as the tourism sector in the province has been thriving.

Unveiling the details of his recent visit to Germany to attend the international expo, the secretary said, "A group of 35 to 40 Berlin tourists is anxious to visit and explore the natural beauty of Balochistan."

"They all, vloggers were enthusiastic to explore natural, historical, cultural, and religious sites of Balochistan. On their concern, I assured them that they will easily be issued a no objection certificate soon after their arrival at Balochistan, he said while

talking to APP. Assuring government's full support, the secretary asked the tourists to come and explore the hidden beauty of Balochistan, take nature photos, upload videos, and introduce our natural assets through their digital platforms to the rest of the world. Drawing the attention of foreign tourists towards the province's cultural and historical heritage, archaeological glorious sites, and heavenly natural beauty of the province has been my topmost priority," Manzoor maintained. In view of the international trend, Balochistan is all set to welcome tourists from across the world, the secretary vowed. The government has launched a total of 59 uplift schemes worth Rs 785 million to improve the tourism sector.



QUETTA: Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sardar Barohi and Provincial Ombudsman Nazar Baloch meeting with Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engr. Abdul Karim Jamali

GoB called for Pkr.7.7b for implementation of CLLG Policy in Balochistan

QUETTA (PR). The Government of Balochistan has asked donors for Rs.7.7 billion for the implementation of Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy. In the PSDP of fiscal year 2023-24, the Government of Balochistan has already allocated Rs 1.5 billion for the implementation of the CLLG Policy. In this regard, a Development Partners Forum was organized by the Government of Balochistan in the federal capital Islamabad with the support of the European Union funded BRACE Technical Assistance Project implemented by DAI.

In his opening remarks, Additional Chief Secretary apprised that

providing legal cover to community organization in Local Government Act, 2010, approval of the Government of Balochistan's Community Led Local

has allocated PKR.1.5 Billion from its own share are historical steps and demonstration of the GOB's strong commitment and belief in the community led

partners and international donors need to come forward and play their role by joining hand with Government of Balochistan.

While delivering Gov-

ernment of Balochistan's Policy Statement, Mr. Abdul Aziz Uqaili said that the CLLG policy is an important step towards the development and prosperity in Balochistan, but to make it a success, all relevant institutions and donors have to play their role. Balochistan, being the largest province, demands attention. With the support of the European Union, the CLLG Policy has been formulated and in the future, EU support will be essential for the implementation of this policy. We also expect other donors to play their role.

Secretary of Local Government & Rural Development, Balochistan Mr. Dostian Jamaldini, also addressed the event. He said that through CLLG Policy, poverty will be dented in Balochistan, while health,

education livelihoods, community infrastructure and other sectors will gradually improve. The Secretary of Local Government & Rural Development also gave a detailed briefing to the participants regarding the CLLG policy. He said that the launch of the policy is a remarkable achievement of BRACE Technical Assistance Team. Establishing and implementing this policy is very important particularly for the development of rural areas of Balochistan. He said that the House appreciated the cooperation and role of the Local Government & Rural Development of Balochistan and its representatives and also concluded that the European Union will support the Local Government.



Governance (CLLG) Policy, and then developing an outline of PKR.9.2 Billion in PSDP 2023-24 where GOB

reforms which will transform the development landscape in Balochistan. He added that the development

ment of Balochistan's Policy Statement, Mr. Abdul Aziz Uqaili said that the CLLG policy is an im-