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

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, finalised 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.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed the need of making efforts to facilitate the overseas Pakistanis with the introduction of different information technology related initiatives.

Addressing an inauguration ceremony of the launch of 'Online Temporary Mobile Registration System for the Overseas Pakistanis and Foreign Nationals', the prime minister termed the initiative a good step to facilitate millions of overseas Pakistanis, by enabling them to get registration of their mobile phones during their visit to Pakistan and without paying any taxes.

He maintained that the facility would now enable the overseas Pakistanis to use their mobile phones for a period of four months after registration on their visit to Pakistan.

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.

Subsequently, the CJ had constituted a six-member bench - excluding the two senior judges who had expressed their serious reservations about the proceedings - to continue hearing the matter.

In a note that was part of the court's June 23 order, Justice Yahya Afridi - who is part of a six-member apex court bench hearing petitions challenging court martial of May 9 rioters - had requested CJ Bandial to constitute a full court to hear the petitions.



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



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

Alvi administers oath of Banking Ombudsman to Sirajuddin Aziz

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday administered the oath of office of Banking Ombudsman to Sirajuddin Aziz.

The swearing-in ceremony was held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The president administered the oath in line with clause (2) of the Article 203C of the Constitution.

Rana reiterates to eliminate terrorism

ISLAMABAD (Online): A meeting to review National Counter Violent Extremism Policy, 2022 was held in Islamabad Tuesday, with Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan in the chair.

The meeting was given detailed briefing by Director General National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) about the aims and objectives of the Policy.

The DG NACTA said the policy has been devised based on the opinions of over 280 experts to identify and respond effectively to trends in violent extremism.

Under the policy, the values of peace, tolerance and diversity will be promoted in the society and social, electronic and print media will be used proactively to counter violent extremism.

The policy also aims at protecting the downtrodden segments of the society.

The meeting decided to involve all stakeholder in the consultative process and introduced some amendments in the policy after which it will be forwarded to the cabinet for approval.

Speaking on the occasion, the Interior Minister reiterated the national resolve to eliminate terrorism and extremism as it has caused irreparable damage to the country.

He said we need to create awareness among the people about the extremist elements. He said the National Counter Violent Extremism Policy cannot be implemented as long as all stakeholders do not agree on it.

JUI-F calls for polls on time

PESHAWAR (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) on Tuesday emphasised the significance of holding the general elections on time.

Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had presided over the meeting of the JUI-F's core committee. The party had assessed the issues in line with the general elections. During the meeting, the country's political situation was thoroughly discussed. The party constitutional amendments were also finalised in the meeting. The nominees for the federal and provincial caretaker setups were also discussed at the huddle.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Hussain Sabzwari, and Minister of Digital Development and Transport, H. E. Rashad Nabiye, of the Republic of Azerbaijan, held a meeting at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs today to discuss mutual cooperation and explore potential collaborations.

Asif Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto meet PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here at the PM House.

The prime minister received both the leaders on their arrival, a PM Office statement said.

Tragic road accident claims life of Dr. Tariq Fazal'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.

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

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 Railway.

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, Dekhkanov.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said that it was a historical day as the project would help to connect three countries business-to-business and people-to-people.

He said that UAP would churn out great economic benefits for the region.

CPPA seeks Rs 1.88 per unit increase in power tariff for June

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has sought Rs 1.88 per unit increase in power tariff for June under monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism.

In a petition submitted to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on behalf of XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs), the CPPA-G maintained the actual cost of electricity remained Rs 9.3930 per unit against reference fuel

charges of Rs 7.5084 per unit for the month of June. A total of 13,715 GWh electricity worth Rs 132,080 million was generated during the said period while net 13,327 GWh worth Rs 125,185 million was delivered to DISCOs.

The share of hydel generation stood at 30.14 per cent, coal 17.75 per cent, Diesel 0.07 per cent, furnace oil 5.43 per cent, gas 8.54 per cent, RLNG 18.55 per cent, nuclear 13.54 per cent, wind 4.36 per cent and solar 0.77 per cent.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad 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.

Pak envoy to deliver 'clear message' to Kabul on TTP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has decided to send its point man on Afghanistan to Kabul this week to deliver a clear message on the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), said officials in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Special Representative on Afghanistan Ambassador Asif Durrani is slated to leave for the Afghan capital tomorrow (Wednesday). He will arrive in Kabul against the backdrop of simmering tensions between the two countries on 'safe havens for terrorists.'

Indian troops martyr four more youth in Poonch

SRINAGAR (Online): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred four more youth in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, today, raising the toll to six during the past 24 hours.

The youth were martyred by the troops during a violent cordon and search operation in Surankote area of the district.

The operation was launched by the Indian army on Monday and was in progress till last reports came in.

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 pesh 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, Shafiullah, Hadayat 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.

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 about the moon sighting 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.

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.

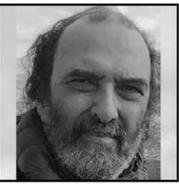
It still remains unclear if and when the pledged amount will materialise even after the IMF agreed to provide the \$3bn funding facility. The heavy rains expected could slow down recovery in the areas where a large number of people displaced by last year's deluge still live — without shelter, food, healthcare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



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 Biparjoo 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

After the floods

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 Biparjoo 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 ap-

proach 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. Perhaps 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.

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.

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)

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

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 Rs 5,316 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: 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.

The Finance Minister also apprised of the economic policies and programmes taken by the government in order to set the economy from stability to growth.

He further updated the US delegation on the talks held with the IMF and informed them of the GoP's firm commitment to complete the SBA.

Mr Brent Neiman appreciated the steps taken by the government in implementing timely reforms in the fiscal as well as monetary policy.

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 unserved areas across the country.

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

businesses and communities.

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.

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



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

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.

For over a decade and a half, Zong 4G has been at

the forefront of technological advancement, pioneering the introduction of 3G and 4G networks and successfully testing 5G. The company's commitment to technological progress has transformed the way Pakistan connects and communicates, propelling the nation's digital revolution said a news release.

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

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): The delegation led by 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.



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 Ulema had always rendered great sacrifices and services for maintaining peace and their cooperation was needed to maintain law and order during the holy

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 Mehboob Elahi Khar, Chief Officer District Council Nasrullah Malik and officers of other concerned departments were present.

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



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 officebearers including GS Shahid Khan, SVP Allauddin and VP Atif Khan said if ANP leadership wanted to save the party



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

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 Jattial 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.



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.

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 cooperation.

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-



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.

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 Caribbean 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".

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

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".

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.

New federal charges, 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.

President for boosting trade, economic cooperation with Maldives

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday underlined the need for increasing trade and economic cooperation with Maldives for the mutual benefits of two countries. He said that there was a great potential to expand bilateral trade and export Pakistani products to

Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. Talking to the outgoing High Commissioner, the president highlighted the importance to its relations with Maldives in bilateral context and within the framework of the South

and global issues, its of natural disasters as well as climate change that had endangered both developed and developing countries alike.

President Alvi further said that both countries needed to enhance cooperation in the area of tourism and learn from each other's experience.

He also highlighted that the isolation and persecution of the Muslims by India was a matter of grave concern and the international community needed to work together to counter the Islamophobia.

Referring to the rising wave of Islamophobia, the president emphasized that the Islamic countries should work together to counter the Islamophobia. The president also congratulated the outgoing high commissioner on the successful completion of her tenure and appreciated her efforts for improving Pakistan-Maldives ties.

He said that both countries had commonality of views on important regional



Maldives, particularly textiles, fabrics, rice, cement and pharmaceutical.

He expressed these views while talking to the outgoing High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan Farzana Zahir who called on him, at Aitwan-e-

Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the United Nations and Commonwealth.

He said that both countries had commonality of views on important regional



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

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.

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.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Maulana Asad Mahmood hosted a meeting with Azerbaijan's Minister for Transport, Mr. Rashad Nabiyev 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 Nabiyev 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 various ministries and officials to strengthen bilateral ties.

Rashad Nabiyev 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 regarding 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 Khuram 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.

He also told the delegation that the Government of Pakistan is expanding its land routes to nearby countries by laying a vast network of important national highways in Balochistan. Azerbaijan Minister of Digital Development and Transport Rashad Nabiyev emphasized that coordination between the two countries in terms of roads and transport was a guarantee of economic development throughout the region.

Federal Govt ready to help GB to meet power demand: Azam Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on Tuesday said that under the prime minister's directions, the Federal Government was ready to help in every possible way to meet the power demands of the Gilgit-Baltistan region.

The people of GB should not suffer because of the demand and supply gap on that count, he said while chairing a meeting regarding the formulation of Power Generation Policy for Gilgit Baltistan.

The meeting was at-

tended by Federal Minister for Power Khuram Dastagir Khan, Advisor to the PM on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, Secretary Water And Power Gilgit Baltistan, Secretary Kashmir Affairs, and Secretary Law And Justice Division, and other stakeholders.

The participants held an in-depth discussion regarding the GB's power generation policy for GB. They gave their valuable suggestions to overcome the demand and supply gap, being faced by the GB, and agreed on the fact that

a clear policy was needed in that regard.

The option of use of alternate energy resources was also deliberated upon. Initiation of small projects and internal connectivity through transmission lines by GB Government was emphasized.

The Law Minister assured of full support and cooperation of the Federal Government where needed. The Centre would facilitate the GB Government to devise a way forward in order to meet the power deficiency in every possible way.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar chaired a meeting of the committee regarding the formulation of Power Generation policy for Gilgit Baltistan

CDWP okays 10 projects worth Rs1,073.41bn

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, Senior 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.

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.

ANF recovers 828.581kg drugs in 36 operations; arrests 38

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 828.581 kg drugs worth US\$ 14.687 million internationally and arrested 38 persons including two women, a foreigner besides impounding 14 vehicles while conducting 36 counter narcotics operations throughout the country. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 255.600 kg Opium, 14.505 kg Heroin, 546.142 kg Hashish, 5.334 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 6.700 kg Clonazepam tablets (47900 tabs) and 300 grams weed.

ANF Balochistan recovered 11.700 kg drugs in two operations and arrested two accused involved in drugs smuggling. The seized drugs comprised five kg hashish and 6.700 kg Clonazepam Tablets (47900 tabs). ANF Punjab recovered 304.66 kg drugs in 12 operations and arrested 14 accused besides impounding nine vehicles.

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.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain is pressing the key of computer to confirm during the Result Declaration ceremony SSC Part I & II 1st Annual Exam 2023 at FBISE.

Federal Board announces matric annual results 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad on Tuesday announced the annual results of the 9th and 10th examinations for the year 2023.

The results were announced by the Federal Education Board by pressing the keyboard button. According to the result details, the passing percentage of students of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Part-II remained at 89.61 per cent while the passing percentage of SSC-I was 65.28.

According to the position holders of SSC-II, Rida Fatima, a student of Global College of Science, Range Road, stood first with 1089 marks in Matric Science Group, while Maryam Ghafar of Islamabad Model College

for Girls G-10/2 and Warda Farooq of APS Lahore secured second position with 1088 marks.

Amina Amir of APS Lahore and Fatima Ansari of APS Gujranwala got the third position by getting 1087 marks.

Similarly, Malaika Aamir of DHA Senior School Lahore stood first with 1037 marks in Arts Group, while Rida Fatima of Dr AQ Khan School Bahria Town and Zainab Khalid of APS Lahore Cantt got second position with 1032 marks.

However, Tahseen Iman secured the first position with 1031 marks.

Meanwhile, speaking at the results announcement ceremony, Federal Minister of Education Rana Tanveer Hussain lauded his education team for fulfilling the assigned duties.

ICP directed for enhanced public services and convenience to citizens

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer on Monday conducted inspection of various departments

of the Traffic Police to serve road users with professional competence. In line with the special instructions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr.



at the traffic headquarters in Faizabad and directed for enhanced public services and convenience to citizens. During this inspection at the traffic headquarters in Faizabad, various citizen-oriented initiatives were evaluated across different departments. The performance of the traffic staff was commended, and measures to further improve their efficiency were directed.

CTO Islamabad emphasized the commitment

Akbar Nasir Khan, a particular focus was placed on digital driving licenses, the one-window hall, driving tests, and other relevant branches during a special checking at Traffic Headquarters, Faizabad.

He stressed the importance of courteous and polite interactions between officers and personnel of Islamabad Capital Police and citizens during duty, as the force is regarded as a model force across the country.

Over Rs. 70b disbursed among 7.8m beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed more than Rs. 70 billion among over 7.8 million beneficiary women under the Benazir Kafaalat initiative.

The process of disbursement of the 4th quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 is underway successfully across the country.

Under Benazir Kafaalat, 90 lakh registered beneficiary families are entitled to a quarterly installment of Rs 9,000 per family.



ISLAMABAD: PML-N senior leadership and other offering funnel prayer of PML-N leader Dr Tariq Fazal Choudhry Son.

Over 14,000 security personnel to guard Muharram gatherings in Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have finalized comprehensive security arrangements for the processions, religious gatherings during Muharram ul Haram, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police have finalized a comprehensive security plan for Muharram ul Haram.

The formal approval of this plan was given by Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, after its thorough review all wings of Islamabad police have also been given directions to ensure complete coordination for success of this plan. CPO/ DIG Operations directed all concerned officials to maintain close liaison with

peace committees and organizers of Majalis and processions. He said that cooperation of organizers should be ensured with the police and law enforcing officials. A total of 181 religious gatherings (Majalis) and 965 processions will be held in the federal capital. The CPO/ DIG (Operations) Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari directed for strict security arrangements on these occasions and special checking of participants. He said that special arrangements should be made for checking of participants in a professional way and to install walk-through gates at the entrance points of Majalis. He said that it should be ensured to make arrangements for checking of participants of Majalis and processions thoroughly using metal detectors. Strict vigilance should be maintained to ensure that security measures are in place by the police as well as peace committees.

IIUI President calls on education minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, Tuesday, called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain. During the meeting, issues of mutual interests including initiatives for the promotion of quality education and the role of universities in society building were discussed.

The minister desired that the university having two internationally reputed faculties of Shariah and Law and Arabic can help Pakistani job seekers in the Arab world.

3-day training of ECP's master trainers begins

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 3-day Training of Lead Trainers (ToLT) for the training of polling personnel has commenced at Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research, and Management (PADRM) in Islamabad to strengthen the ECP's capacity nationwide.



Sub-Inspector (ASI) to Sub-Inspector. The event was organized by the CPO Safe City/Traffic in recognition of their exemplary dedication and commitment to their duties.

The newly promoted officers were acknowledged and congratulated by CPO Safe City/Traffic and SSP Operations Safe City.

Under the special di-