

# Independent

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## 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

Continued on page 2



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 Qudus Bizenjo

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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Markazi Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Molana Abdul Khair 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 Khair 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.

## 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 Faithmah 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 Bakhtnana, a patient of Congo virus, has been discharged from the hospital today after she recovered," the hospital management said.

Two died, 19 injured as vehicle overturns in Mastung

QUETTA (APP): At least two people died and 19 others including women and children received injuries in road mishap near Dasht Link Road area of Mastung district on Tuesday.

According to Levies sources, a pick-up vehicle carrying people including women and children to attend a wedding party was on its way from Mastung when the vehicle overturned on the road near Khand Masori area due to speeding. As a result, two people died on the spot while 19 people including women and children suffered wounds.



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 inci-

denents 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.



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

## No decision taken on NA dissolution date: Mariyum Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (INP): Information Minister Mariyum 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 Havaladar Hussain, Lance Naik Wahab, FC constables Ishaq, Shahiullah, 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.

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

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.

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.

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## 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.'

## 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 Qudus 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 Qudus 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 Qudus 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 Durrar 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

Independent Report

their survival would be at stake.

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

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 have been forced to migrate their areas just because of the devastating floods and rains last year.



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

## Saud Shakeel's double ton puts Pakistan on top in Sri Lanka Test

GALLE, Sri Lanka (AFP/APP): Saud Shakeel hit his maiden double century in Tests as Pakistan stretched their lead to a dominant 149 against Sri Lanka on day three of the rain-hit opening match on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka bowled out the tourists for 461 in the final session after a frustrating ninth-wicket stand of 94 between Shakeel, who remained unbeaten on 208, and Naseem Shah, who made six off 78 balls.

The 27-year-old Shakeel, who is playing his sixth Test, ruled as he cut Dhananjaya de Silva for a boundary to bring up his double century to a stand-

ing ovation.

"When Naseem Shah joined me, he said that there's a chance for me to go for the double hundred," Shakeel told reporters after the marathon knock.



Saud Shakeel celebrating his double century in a cricket match.

"A lot of credit to him for backing me and not letting me panic." The hosts ended the still trail Pakistan by 135 runs in their second innings.

Nishan Madushka, on eight, and skipper Dimuth Karunaratne, on six, were batting at close of play.

The Sri Lankan bowlers led by off-spinner Ramesh Mendis, who ended with a five-wicket haul, hit back in the second session but Shakeel combined with the lower-order including a 52-run seventh-wicket stand with Noman Ali, who made 25.

But it was his 177-run partnership with Agha Salman, who hit 83, that drove Pakistan's bounce back from 101-5 in their reply to Sri Lanka's 312.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjarani meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Advisor to the Prime Minister Ahmad Cheema are also present.

## PTA between Pak-Azerbaijan to be finalized in August

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is expected to be finalized in the first week of the coming month of August 2023, for evolving the trade liberalization and enhancing the bilateral trade between both countries.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan also agreed to initiate direct flight operations in major cities of both countries including Islamabad and Baku.

Azerbaijan Minister of Digital Development and Transport, Rashid Nabiye, visited Pakistan on Tuesday to meet with Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar, to discuss the finalization of the Pref-

erential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Transit Trade Agreement (TTA) between the two sides, said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, Minister Nabiye informed Minister Qamar that the PTA is expected to be finalized in the first week of August, while the TTA is planned to be signed by the end of August or in September. He mentioned that discussions regarding the TTA are currently underway in Azerbaijan's relevant ministries. In addition, Minister Nabiye revealed that Azerbaijan to initiate flights of Azerbaijan Airlines between Islamabad and Baku soon.

Syed Naveed said direct

flights would further strengthen the bilateral trade and connectivity between the two nations.

To ensure the timely finalization of the Transit Trade Agreement, Federal Minister Syed Naveed Qamar proposed the establishment of a High-Level Joint Working Group, which would actively work towards achieving the desired goals. Both countries are presently engaged in negotiations for the Preferential Trade Agreement.

Pakistan has completed consultations to finalize its list of requested items, sharing a request list of 103 items with Azerbaijan on June 14, 2023, seeking market access.



QUETTA: Former MPA Yasmeen Lehri meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Russian crude oil to cost Rs10 per liter cheaper than international market

ISLAMABAD (INP): The oil bought from Russia will cost Pakistan Rs10 per liter cheaper than the international market, according to a preliminary report of the Ministry of Petroleum on the Russian crude oil.

According to the ministry officials, 100,000 metric tons of crude oil has been ordered from Russia.

The volume of crude oil is 715,000 barrels. Both the cargoes of Russian oil have cost about \$502.9 million.

If the same amount of oil was procured from the international market, it would have cost \$507.2 million.

Both cargoes of Russian crude oil were cheaper by over \$4.29 million than the international market.

According to officials, the Russian crude oil is being refined at the PRL refinery. During the refining process, 50% of furnace oil and 50% of petrol and diesel have been yielded.

The low yield of petrol and diesel will also affect their price.



QUETTA: Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Syed Abdul Khabeer Azad meeting with Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shehak Baloch in his office

## PM grieved over sudden death of Tariq Fazal's son

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed deep sorrow over sudden death of PML-N leader Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry's son who died in a road accident here on Monday night.

The prime minister, in a statement issued by the PM office, offered his heartfelt condolence and sympathies to the bereaved family of late Anza Tariq.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

He also prayed for grant of eternal peace to the departed soul.

Meanwhile, in his tweet, the prime minister said that for parents, nothing was more heart shattering than losing a child.

"My heart goes out to Tariq and his bereaved family in this hour of indescribable grief. The whole PML-N family shares his sorrow. May Allah rest the departed soul in peace! My heartfelt condolences," he added.

## 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 Sanaulah 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.

## PM reiterates call for Charter...

Continued from page 1

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, in his address, said after 2020, the establishment of nine industrial zones was agreed under CPEC but the previous government put all the projects to the backburner. The officers were implicated in false cases which begot a crisis of decision making, he added.

He said the incumbent government took up the SEZs on priority basis and started reviving the stalled projects like the Rashakai SEZ which was about to be inaugurated.

Emphasising the execution of 5E framework, the minister said the country had no other option but to take its exports to \$100 billion and the SEZ would act as a powerhouse for the purpose.

He suggested that land should be provided on easy terms to the investors for the SEZs.

Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza said with the establishment of Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone, a longstanding demand of the Federal Capital's industrial community would be addressed.

Highlighting his ministry's performance, he said they addressed the anomalies in the processes like the import of solar panels and that the petrochemical and coal gas policies would be finalised by July 30.

He called for taking advantage of Pakistan's cheap labour and an ease of doing business environment in the country.

Secretary Board of Investment Asad Rehman Gillani said that the PM's vision of "investors are our masters" gave the government machinery a strength to execute the projects.

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

He expressed these views while talking to the outgoing High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan, Ms. Farzana Zahir who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Talking to the outgoing High Commissioner, the president highlighted that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Maldives in bilateral context and within the framework of the South 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 and global issues,



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan, Ms. Farzana Zahir called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

particularly the threat posed by global warming. He underlined the need for closer cooperation among countries of the world to counter the sever-

to take notice of the brutalities being committed by the Indian security forces against the Muslims, particularly in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

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.

ity 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



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Ministers visit former MNA Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry to offer him condolences for the unfortunate accidental death of his son.

## Collective efforts needed to

Continued from back page

is affected which not only needs to be understood but also need to adopt strategy for behavior changes in the society. A plan of action must be set to bring about changes.

Additional Inspector General of Police Admin Jawad Ahmed Dogar was the chief guest of the opening session. Jawad Ahmed Dogar thanked all the participants of the session. He said that we all have to play a role individually and collectively to spread the awareness. There are some diseases that we feel reluctant to talk about. Today, the topic is also one of those diseases, but the happy thing is that thanks

to UNDP and UNAIDS, not only there was an opportunity to talk about this topic, it is not considered a stigma but a disease throughout the country. Through an awareness campaign we have an opportunity to differentiate between HIV stigma and discrimination. Through this session we have to motivate ourselves to understand this disease and take concrete steps to prevent and for safety.

Additional Inspector General of Police CTC, Kashif Alam said that UNDP has provided useful information about HIV. He appreciated the efforts to prevent its spread and create awareness among

the law enforcement agencies.

Dr. K. D. Usmani presented a comprehensive presentation regarding HIV. He explored the contours of the issue and highlighted the significant progress made in combating the spread of HIV. He further highlighted preventive measures.

On behalf of UNDP Balochistan, Ms. Batul informed about the efforts being made regarding HIV. He said that in Balochistan Medical College, Quetta, not only the facility of free HIV test has been provided, but also the services of experts for counselling are being taken free of charge.

## GoB called for Pkr.7.7b for implementation ...

Continued from back page

sentatives and also concluded that the European Union will support the Local Government & Rural Development of Balochistan and the CLLG Policy for further consolidating their efforts.

Addressing the development Partners' forum, The Representative of EUD, Mr. Stephen Langreal reflected on Role of European Union Delegation in the Policy Reforms in Balochistan through BRACE Programme and the Technical Assistance. He expressed his pleasure on behalf of the EU in working with the Government of Balochistan. He affirmed that the EU recognizes Balochistan as a priority area and will continue to support the development initiatives. He highly appreciated the CLLG Policy reforms being achieved by the Government of Balochistan assisted by the EU funded technical assistance implemented by DAI Global. He iterated the importance of accountability, transparency, and sustainability as policy

principles for the European Union to be put in place by the GoB to ensure the funneling of resources to the grassroots level through implementation of CLLG Policy Programme. He urged other development partners to join hands and support the Government of Balochistan in implementation of CLLG Policy reforms for sustainable development in the province.

Talking during the panel discussion at the development partners' forum, Member Balochistan Assembly and Chairman Standing Committee Local Government Qadir Ali Nayel said that the local government system in Balochistan has been in existence for many decades and it has undergone various changes over the years. There are many issues and challenges that need to be addressed to improve the functioning of the local government system. The Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 was an important step towards improving local governance in the province. However, with the passage of time, further reforms were

needed to improve the functioning of the system.

Ms. Mahjabeen Sheran, Parliamentary Secretary Women Development also spoke during the panel discussion and appreciated the CLLG policy reforms which provides equal opportunities to women to participate in the development process from planning, designing, implementing and evaluating from their own perspective supported by the Government and development partners under the CLLG Policy implementation.

Mr. Zahid Saleem, Secretary Finance, Government of Balochistan also participated in the development partners forum and during the panel discussion reflected back on the Government of Balochistan's commitment towards the community driven reforms. He underscored that the GoB has not only developed the policy but also have passed its PC-1 and allocated outlay of PKR 9 billion for the CLLG Policy implementation Programme and 1.5 billion are approved under the PSDP 2023-24 for the

implementation of CLLG policy and requested development partners commitment and resource allocation to fill the gap of 7.7 billion for CLLG reforms implementation. The World Bank representative appreciated the CLLG Policy and referred it to the Bank's approach which has been adopted by the government of Balochistan and insisted on policy's implementation to achieve the ultimate goal of development in the Balochistan Province.

Mr. Gul Muhammad Mengal, Director LG and Focal Person BRACE Programme insisted on continued technical assistance to the government in CLLG Policy implementation referring to the policy development process where EU funded Technical assistance to the Government of Balochistan has played the pivotal role to support the Government of Balochistan in realizing the development of CLLG policy and now its empirically evident support is required to ensure that the policy is implemented in its real sense to achieve the desired goals.

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PRQ No.143/ 18-07-2023

نمبر	مہاسامی	گروپ	تفصیلات	نوعیت	طریقہ
1	ایئر بی	14	(1) کسی بھی منظور شدہ یونیورسٹی سے بیچھڑ کر ڈگری سیکرٹریٹ (2) کسی بھی تنظیم شدہ یونیورسٹی سے ایئر بی کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک سالہ (3) کسی بھی منظور شدہ ادارے سے 6 ماہ کی بیچھڑ پلیمت	2	5
2	ایئر بی	14	(1) کسی بھی منظور شدہ یونیورسٹی سے بیچھڑ کر ڈگری سیکرٹریٹ (2) بیچھڑ کر ڈگری سیکرٹریٹ (3) بیچھڑ کر ڈگری سیکرٹریٹ (4) کسی بھی منظور شدہ ادارے سے 6 ماہ کی بیچھڑ پلیمت	2	5
3	ایئر بی	12	(1) کسی بھی منظور شدہ ادارے سے 1 سالہ پلیمت (2) کسی بھی منظور شدہ ادارے سے 6 ماہ کی بیچھڑ پلیمت	2	5
4	ایئر بی	11	(1) کسی بھی منظور شدہ ادارے سے 1 سالہ پلیمت (2) کسی بھی منظور شدہ ادارے سے 6 ماہ کی بیچھڑ پلیمت	2	5

### Webinar 'Shocks, Stresses & Resilience of Food System in Arab Region' on July 26

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSTECH-the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation will arrange a webinar titled "Shocks, Stresses and Resilience of Food System in the Arab Region" on July 26.

According to an official of COMSTECH, Secretary General, The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan, Prof. Dr. Abdullah Al Musa will be the convener/speaker of the webinar. Prof. Dr. Abdullah Al Musa is the member of Technical Experts Group in the domain of climate change, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

Dr. Abdullah M. Al-Musa is an academician with more than 20 years of experience in higher institution management at different levels starting from department head to president of the largest two universities in Jordan; namely the University of Jordan for three years and Yarmouk University for four years.

Prior to involvement in management and at intermittent periods when released from management assignments, he got in-

involved in teaching and research. He is well-published (h-index 17, i10-index 23) in the field of plant virology (etiology and epidemiology).

Early stage researchers, students, and relevant personnel from the research laboratories and industries will attend the webinar.

According to the abstract of the webinar, the framework of the food system interlinked three components namely the food supply chain, the food environment and the consumer behavior. The latter could be filtered at the individual level.

The system is driven by exogenous determinants including demographic, economic, socio-cultural, political and institutional, technological and infrastructure, biophysical and environmental elements. This conceptual framework analyzes the complexity of interaction among the system components and its drivers and further illustrates the impact of different shocks and stresses the system is exposed to.

The Arab food system is subjected to shocks char-

acterized by short duration, abrupt and rapid onset events such as those caused by climate change, the sudden eruption of pandemic (i.e. COVID-19), macro-economic shocks and violence and conflicts.

These shocks exacerbate the impact of persistent pressures exerted by already intrinsic local drivers of the system.

A major shock to the Arab Region's food system comes about by flaring violence and conflicts that engulfed one-third of the countries in the region.

These conflicts have resulted in extensive population displacement exacerbating food insecurity in the conflict and host countries as indicated in prevalence of undernourishment and food insecurity experience scale indicators.

The advent of COVID-19 further strained the economies of the countries in the Region resulting in a 5.35-19.6% decline in GDP in 2020.

Shocks emanated from climate change aggravated already scarce water and arable land resources in the Region.



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

### 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.

### 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.



ISLAMABAD: A view of rain water accumulated on the roads after rainfall causing difficulties for the commuters.

### Govt urged to rectify irregularities in upcoming NCH's elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former President of the National Council for Homeopathy (NCH) and Chairperson of the Pakistan Homeopathic Doctors Association, Dr Nasir Ahmed Chaudhry has called on the government to address the irregularities in the NCH election process, which is scheduled for September this year.

Talking to APP here on Tuesday, Dr Nasir stated that according to the rules, NCH was supposed to display the voters' list in its fourth year which had not been presented yet.

He emphasized that one constituency encompasses the entire province which makes it challenging for candidates to cover all districts of the province

during their election campaigns.

Dr Nasir highlighted that in 2017 the Senate Standing Committee on Health directed the administration to issue verified voting lists from the District Health Officers and recommended that the members of the previous NCH body be asked to register.

He added that if the sitting council members become contestants in the election, then the electoral process would not be fair.

Expressing his belief in democracy, Dr Nasir emphasized that no tactics would be employed to delay the election. However, he said rectifying the existing anomalies is essential to ensure a trustworthy process.

### Toshakhana case: Court reserves judgment on Imran exemption from attendance

ISLAMABAD (Online): Judge Humayun Dilwar while confirming the face book account said face book account is his account but post is not his post.

The court reserved judgment on PTI Chairman pleas for exemption from attendance for today and mistrust on judge.

Toshakhana criminal case came up for hearing before district and sessions court Islamabad Tuesday.

Petitions were filed by Imran Khan with regard to exemption from attendance for today and mistrust on judge Humayun Dilwar.

Judge Humayun Dilwar remarked was not it better to attach the petition filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Gohar Ali counsel for PTI chairman while giving arguments on the petition of mistrust on the judge presented face book posts.

Barrister Gohar while addressing the judge said face book account is there in your name where posts are placed. When I saw these post I was too much grieved.

### 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 Kafalat initiative.

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

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



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

### 19 July, the day when Kashmiris decided to link their fate with Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jammu and Kashmir National Front on Tuesday, while terming 19th July as a defining moment in Kashmir's history, has said that it was on this historic date when the Kashmiri leadership unanimously decided to link their future with the yet-to-born state of Pakistan. According to a report, in his message from India's Infamous Tihar jail, the incarcerated JKNF Chairman Nayeem Ahmed Khan said that the resolu-

tion adopted a month before the creation of Pakistan demonstrated Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan. Referring to the partition plan of the sub-continent, the J & K National Front leader said that the state of Jammu and Kashmir was geographically, historically and culturally, and ethnically part of Pakistan but India's policy of deceit and deception, expansionism and perpetual denial to implement the UN resolutions on Kashmir has pushed.

### Ahsan saddens over demise of Dr Tariq's son in road accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of the son of PML-N Islamabad-chapter President Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry in a road accident.

In a condolence message on his Twitter handle, the minister said he felt extreme shock to hear about the death of Dr Tariq's son.

"Inna Lillah e Wa Inna Elah-e-Rajaioon," he said while sympathizing with Dr Tariq Fazal.



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

### Trail-3 rape was false, capital police exposes drama

ISLAMABAD (Online): Trail-3 rape case got drop scene, rape story was a false, according to Islamabad police story of rape was fake and actual issue was of fight of accused with his friend.

According to police, nominated accused Noman had fight with his friend. His friend hired a group to take revenge. Group comprised of Siam, two fake journalists naming Sidra and Shakeel and a fake police officer Manzoor.

Anwar contacted a girl

naming Siam, resident of Rawalpindi to pose rape allegation on Noman. Saima contacted Sidra, resident of Shekhu pora to plan 'Rape drama'. According to drama plan Sidra was supposed to take accused Noman to trail-3. Sidra have to make noise of to create rape drama. Amid all this situation, group was supposed to reach on the spot and record video. This recorded video was supposed to use to take ransom from accused and his family and make the blackmail.

### 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.

### Rank Pinning ceremony of newly promoted SI held at Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a distinguished ceremony was held at Safe City Islamabad to honor the promotion of six officers from Assistant

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

Under the special di-



rectives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the process of departmental promotions is currently underway within the Islamabad Capital Police.

### HEC sends off 156 PhD Scholars for fellowships in top 200 int'l varsities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), has awarded six-month Research Fellowships to 156 PhD scholars from the top 200 universities of the world during the 53rd award ceremony under the International Research Support Initiative Programme (IRSIP). Under IRSIP, HEC has so far distributed a total of 6,545 awards, representing 79 Pakistani universities. Among the current awardees, six scholars are going to the top 10 universities, 44 to the top 50 universities, and 71 to the top 100 universities of the world. Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed was the chief guest of the ceremony held Tuesday, also attended by Director General (Human Research Development Division) HEC Ms

Aayesha Ikram, Vice Chancellors, faculty members, IRSIP experts and reviewers, supervisors, alumni and awardees, and parents. The event started with a pre-departure orientation by Project Director (HRD) Jehanzeb Khan.

In his remarks, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed highlighted the importance of research and training opportunities for doctoral students at advanced research laboratories of reputed universities abroad. He said, "The programme helps enhance the quality of doctoral research being conducted in Pakistan."

Appreciating the Government for prioritising higher education despite financial constraints, the Chairman advised the scholars to exploit the opportunity, enhance their skill set, learn work ethics.

### 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 Harram, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police have finalized a comprehen-

sive security plan for Muharram ul Harram.

The formal approval of this plan was given by Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) 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 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.

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ISLAMABAD: Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

### 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 (4790 tabs) and 300 grams weed.

ANF Balochistan re-

covered 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 (4790 tabs).

ANF Punjab recovered 304.66 kg drugs in 12 operations and arrested 14 accused besides impounding nine vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 75.600 kg Opium, 6.830 kg Heroin, 219.300 kg Hashish and 2.930 kg Methamphetamine (Ice).

ANF KPK recovered 402.236 kg drugs in seven operations and arrested six persons involved in drugs smuggling besides impounding three vehicles.



## 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 he said that it is instrumental to create awareness among the people about damages caused by polio.

Azam Khan stated that parents need to be convinced to administer anti-polio drops to their children as lack of seriousness of parents in this matter can cause irreparable damage to children.



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

## Punjab Governor says: Women empowerment must to development

LAHORE: Country Head Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Birgit Lamm called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed measures for women empowerment and matters of mutual interest during a meeting at the Governor's House, here on Tuesday.

Head of Programs and Administration Muhammad Anwar was also present during the meeting.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said it is impossible to achieve the development goals of any country without empowering women, adding that the government is providing equal

opportunities to women.

He said Pakistani women are talented and their significant representation in various fields is a practical proof of this.

The Governor Punjab said a special quota has been fixed for women in the Prime Minister's Youth Loan Program, adding that the program will help empowering women in the country, including the backward areas of Sindh and Punjab. He said Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has also a separate section for empowering women by helping them to start different businesses. The Governor Punjab also appreciated the training program for the Pakistani parliamentarians by the



LAHORE: Country Head of Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Birgit Lamm, along with Muhammad Anwar, Head of Programs and Administration meeting with Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

## Work on BRT progressing day and night with the support of WB: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the work on the Red Line BRT was progressing continuously day and night and the Asian Development Bank was extending financial support for this project.

The BRT Red Line will pass through this underpass, connecting to the Green Line, this project aims to provide transportation facilities for the next 60 to 70 years, taking into account Karachi's population, it is the best project for the city, Memon said this during his conversation with media representatives at the under construction 'Underpass' for the BRT Red Line project near Mazar-e-Quaid.

In response to a question, he acknowledged that certain delays in the projects were attributed to

the rise in inflation, which subsequently increased project costs, the relocation of utilities required both time and capital, leading to additional delays. He mentioned the necessity of granting a write-off to the consultant before commencing the work.

The minister stated that the People's Party is dedicated to the city's development and working tirelessly day and night, the diligent efforts of the entire Trans Karachi team in achieving that goal.

He mentioned that the BRT Red Line project spans a distance of 22 km, stretching from Model Colony Tank Chowk to Numaish Chowranghi.

In response to another question, he expressed that the tender process for the Yellow Line will be expedited with the support and involvement of the World Bank.

## 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 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 sou.



MOHENJO DARO: Culture and Political Head of Consulate General of Japan in Karachi, Saito Machi along with her delegation of Japanese tourists are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

## 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.

## 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 Khair, Chief Officer District Council Nasrullah Malik and officers of other concerned departments were present.

## PPP fulfilled promise of providing services for minorities: Minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister of Minority Affairs Gian Chand Esrani on Tuesday said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had fulfilled the promise of the service and development of the minority community.

According to the manifesto of PPP and under the direction of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the journey of development and prosperity will continue, he said this while talking to people during the inauguration of different development projects in Thatta district.

The provincial

minister said the Minority Affairs Department was working on record development projects of minority places of worship across Sindh.

Esrani said that the Minority Department was providing financial support for marriages and educational scholarships to poor people of the community without any discrimination.

Gian Chand said PPP was at the forefront in providing public service to the common men that's why people will once again repose confidence in the party in the next general elections.



SWAT: Members of Qaumi Islahi Tehreek Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Qaumi Jirga) meeting with Regional Police Officer Malakand Nasir Mehmood Satti.

## GIZ, KPK minister discuss German cooperation in technical education

PESHAWAR (APP): Program Component Manager of GIZ Tahir Khan on Tuesday called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Muhammad Adnan Jail and discussed matters related to German cooperation extended in the Technical Education sector under the TEVT Support program.

The German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ) has provided their full support in the preparation of an advanced curriculum for technical and

vocational training in the province and has established a centre of excellence in Advance Technical Training College Hayatabad Peshawar, for the teachers' training and capacity building.

The German organization representative assured the provision of the same technical support in the Industries sector in terms of the establishment of an Apprenticeship Implementation Centre, which would provide services to the public through one window operation and hoped that by their organization technical support.

## NI conducts training on food fortification

PESHAWAR (APP): Nutrition International (NI) on Tuesday conducted a training session for officials of the food department, stakeholders and surrounding districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa about fortification processes and quality control to scale up wheat flour fortification in the province.

The main objective of the activity is to facilitate the initiation of food fortification in the

## 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.

The Secretary Food gave a detailed briefing to the meeting. He said that there are ample stocks of wheat and sugar in the province.

## Shehla inaugurates Safe House in Nawabshah

NAWABSHAH (APP): Sindh Minister for Women Development Syeda Shehla Raza on Tuesday performed the opening of Safe House at Nawabshah.

Talking to the media, the minister said 27 Safe Houses are set up in all the districts of the province in order to provide shelter and protection to women.

She said the Sindh government apart from promulgating laws for the welfare of women is preparing projects with the objection to make women self-sufficient.

The minister said that Darul Aman being run under the department is also extending legal support, food and residence to victim women. She said that despite the shortage of staff, complaint cells are set up for the help of women.

On the occasion, Deputy Director Women Development Naseem Hassan Mastoi briefed the minister about steps taken for the women's welfare in District

Shahdadpur. PPP leader and member District Council Qamarunnissa Dhamrah, Principal Govt Girls Degree College Lala Rukh Baloch, In-charge Women Complain Center Zaibunnisa and other women were present on the occasion.

## 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. During the period 144 police personnel embraced martyrdom while 224 official were injured in various crackdowns and operations, it said adding that Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) recovered 68 kg of explosives, 312 hand grenades, 12 suicide jackets, three RPGs, 68 RPG shells and 78 SMGs during the operations.

## 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 Allaiddin 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).

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentary (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.



LAHORE: Participants are holding protest demonstration against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden organized by Darul-Uloom Jamia Naemiya held in Lahore.

## Woman dies, husband hurt in road mishap

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A woman was killed while her husband sustained serious injuries as a speeding passenger van crushed them near Pir Jehania chowk Alipur road on Tuesday.

According to rescue officials, a 50 years old citizen named Ghulam Muhammad along with his wife Sughra Bibi was going somewhere riding on a motorcycle when a van hit them near Pir Jehania chowk. Meanwhile, a speeding passenger van ran over them.

## Section 144 imposed in Tank for Muharram

TANK (APP): The district administration Tuesday decided to impose Section 144 in the district during first 10 days of holy month of Muharram to ensure protection of life and property of the people and to prevent any untoward incident.

According to a notification issued by the district administration, there will be a ban on pillow riding, display of arms and sale of petroleum products in open bottles.

The district administration also decided

to ban use of sound systems, loudspeakers and wall chalking in streets and public places besides playing audio-video cassettes containing hatred sectarianism and printing of such material in the said period.

Besides, providing shelter to strangers in hotels or houses on the Muharram processions' routes would also be banned. Moreover, there will also be a ban on staying on the roofs, attics and doors of the houses at the time of processions.



## 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 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-

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.

## 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, saying he received it Sunday night and that he anticipates being indicted. Such a letter often precedes an indictment and is used to advise individuals under investigation.

## USAID chief 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". Speaking in the port of Odesa, Powers said the investment, via a USAID initiative focused on Ukraine's agriculture sector, would aim to boost agricultural infrastructure and expand other export routes. She also called on other governments and the private sector to match the U.S. investment with another \$250 million to help farmers "under attack" from Russia's policies.

## 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. "I do respect the internal process not to outvote just one member. So they will have to clarify this." There also was criticism and disappointment on the Latin American side.

"We're very sorry for the situation. And really, I mean, we're very surprised that there are members of our group which oppose any resolution concerning this war."

## UK government's contested illegal immigration plan to become law

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's highly contested plan to make it easier to send asylum seekers to Rwanda is set to become law after the government defeated attempts by parliament's upper house to make changes to the legislation.

The Illegal Migration Bill had been stuck in a battle between parliament's House of Commons and the House of Lords, Britain's unelected upper chamber, which had repeatedly made changes to the legislation to water it down.

In the early hours of Tuesday, the last of those proposed changes was voted down. It can now go for Royal Assent, where it is formally approved by the King and becomes law.

The plan to deport asylum seekers has been criticised by some opposition politicians, lawyers, and civil rights groups as inhumane, cruel and ineffective. United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk said on Tuesday the bill's passage raises "very serious legal concerns" and sets "a worrying precedent for dismantling asylum-related obligations" that other countries may follow.

## 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 season 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. The incident fuelled questions over South Korea's efforts to prevent and respond to flood damage.

Some drivers who use the road regularly blamed the government for failing to ban access to the underpass even though floods were widely forecast. Yoon, just back from an overseas trip, on Monday convened a disaster response meeting and conceded the situation was made worse because of poor management of vulnerable areas.



CHEONGJU: Police examine a vehicle which had been trapped inside an underpass during heavy rains last week.

## 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.

Russia suspended the deal hours after a blast knocked out its bridge to Crimea in what Moscow called a strike by Ukrainian sea drones. The Kremlin, however, said there was no link between the attack and its decision to suspend the grain deal. G20 financial leaders have not been able to reach "a common language" on the war in Ukraine, which started on Feb. 20, 2022, Sitharaman said.

The lack of consensus resulted in India, which has held the G20 presidency since December, issuing a chair summary at the end of meeting rather than a joint statement.

The summary said most G20 members condemned the war in Ukraine, with the exception of China and Russia, who distanced themselves from the document with China stating that the forum was not the right place to discuss geopolitical issues.

## Indian opposition parties form alliance called 'INDIA' for 2024 elections

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: More than two dozen Indian opposition parties said on Tuesday that they had joined hands to form an alliance called "INDIA" to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in parliamentary elections next year.

The decision was announced at the end of a two-day meeting of 26 parties in the southern city of Bengaluru.

Mallikarjun Kharge, president of the main opposition Congress party, said INDIA stood for "Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance".

In a joint press conference held by opposition parties part of the alliance, Kharge said "together, we will solve many problems of the country," according to Indian news website The Quint.

The report further quoted him as saying that an 11-member coordination

committee of the alliance would be set up soon.

"The next meeting will be held in Mumbai where the 11 committee members will be elected," he said, adding that the panel and opposition leaders would also discuss and reach a consensus on seat-sharing in next year's elections in the Mumbai meeting.

In a video of the occasion shared on the Congress party's Twitter, he was seen hailing the alliance a "great achievement for us".

"We have gathered here to save our democracy and the constitution. This is a collective fight against unemployment, inflation and other key issues that the country is dealing with. We will succeed in this fight," he added.

Also speaking on the occasion, top Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi said, "The fight is against the BJP and its ideology. This fight is between India and Narendra Modi."

## Malaysia probes disappearance of Myanmar democracy activist and her family

**Monitoring Desk**  
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian police said on Tuesday they had opened an investigation into the disappearance this month of a Myanmar democracy activist and her family, who are U.N. refugee card holders.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) this week said Thuzar Maung, 46, her husband and three children, were feared abducted "in a planned operation" on July 4, citing witnesses and CCTV footage at the activist's home in the Malaysian state of Selangor.

"The Malaysian government should urgently act to locate the family and ensure their safety," HRW Asia director Elaine Pearson said in a statement on Monday.

Police have opened a missing persons inquiry after receiving a report on the family's disappearance, Selangor police chief Hussein Omar Khan told Reuters.

He did not elaborate further but said the investigation would "investigate any element of crime, including kidnapping."

Malaysia has been an outspoken critic of violence in Myanmar after the

military ousted a democratically elected government in February 2021. But it has also been criticised by rights groups for deporting thousands of Myanmar nationals, including military defectors.

Thuzar Maung, who fled Myanmar for Malaysia in 2015 to escape growing violence against Muslims, may have been targeted due to her support for Myanmar's pro-democracy movement, HRW said. It did not identify who might have been responsible.

Thuzar Maung heads the Myanmar Muslim Refugee Community and has over 93,000 followers on her Facebook page, where she frequently posts criticism of alleged abuses by Myanmar's junta.

Myanmar's embassy in Kuala Lumpur did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

CCTV footage showed a car entering the gated community where her family lived on July 4, HRW said. The driver told security guards they were police, but authorities later identified the license plate of the car as fake, according to HRW.

## 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", foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told CNN on Sunday Kerry would press Beijing not to "hide behind any kind of claim that they are a developing nation" in order to slow-roll efforts to cut emissions. "Every country, including China, has a responsibility to reduce emissions," Sullivan said. "And the world, I do believe, should step up and encourage — indeed, pressure — China to take far

more dramatic action to reduce emissions." China has long used its official status as a developing nation to justify its high emissions, with Sullivan saying "there is more work for them to do on that front".

"Secretary Kerry will make that point when he's in Beijing," he said. Kerry's trip follows two other high-profile visits by US officials — Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen — that were aimed at stabilising US-China ties.

His visit to China came as the Northern Hemisphere endured record-setting summer heat waves, which scientists have said are being exacerbated by climate change.

"The Kerry visit and the resumption of climate interaction underscores the critical importance of coordinated efforts to address the climate crisis," Chunping Xie, Senior Policy Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, said in written comments.



Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu MK Stalin, Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee and senior Congress Party leader Sonia Gandhi attend opposition parties meeting in Bengaluru, India.

## 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.

The United States is using funds in its Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) program, which allows President Joe Biden's administration to buy weapons from industry rather than pull from U.S. weapons stocks. Among the systems and ammunition the U.S. plans to buy for Kyiv are counter-air defenses made by L3Harris Technologies (L3H.N) called the Vehicle-Agnostic Modular Palletized ISR Rocket Equipment.

## Russia strikes Ukraine grain port after pulling out of export deal

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia struck Ukraine's port of Odesa with missiles and drones on Tuesday, a day after pulling out of a U.N.-backed deal to let Kyiv export grain, and Ukrainian officials said Moscow was attempting to go back on the offensive in the east. Russian attacks on Ukraine's ports followed a pledge by Moscow to retaliate for blasts on Russia's road bridge to the occupied Crimean Peninsula, knocked out on Monday by

what Moscow said were strikes by Ukrainian seabornedrones.

Shortly after the bridge was hit on Monday, Moscow pulled out of the year-old U.N.-brokered grain export deal, a move the United Nations said risked creating hunger around the world. Russia's overnight attacks on Ukraine's ports were "further proof that the country-terrorist wants to endanger the lives of 400 million people in various countries that depend on Ukrainian food exports."

## Risking revival of unrest, Iran rulers tighten curbs on dissent

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's clerical rulers are clamping down on dissent ahead of the anniversary of the death of a young woman in morality police custody, fearing a revival of nationwide protests that rocked the Islamic Republic for months.

Journalists, lawyers, activists, human rights advocates and students have been arrested, summoned or faced other measures in a campaign that one activist described as "instilling fear and intimidation".

In February, Iran's judiciary announced a broad amnesty, which included releases, pardons, or reduced sentences for those arrested, charged, or detained during the previous unrest.

Iranian Judiciary officials were not immediately available to comment on the current situation.

However, senior officials have defended the new crackdown as necessary to maintain stability. But some politicians and insiders have said that mounting repression could deepen a crisis between the clerical leadership and society at large at a time of growing popular discontent over economic woes.

Police on Sunday announced that the morality police force has intensified its crackdown on women flouting the compulsory dress code. In a show of civil disobedience, unveiled women have frequently appeared in public since the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini on Sept. 16 last year.

Amini fell into a coma and died three days later following her arrest by the morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic dress code.

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## 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.



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.

## 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.

## 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 vari-

ous 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 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 (Ret.) 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.



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

## 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 Manda-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.

## 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.

## 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.

## PDM, PTI two sides of same coin: Siraj

MANANWALA (Online): JI Amir Siraj ul 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.

## 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, 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. 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.



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 Basheer Ahmad Bangulzai, Additional Commissioner (ADC) Naseerabad Division Ali Muhammad Hanbhi presided over meeting regarding Pat Feeder Canal on Tuesday.

He also directed to take action against illegal theft of water from irrigation system and Pat feeder and Kher-Thar canals through machines and water pumps.

The meeting was attended by In Deputy Commissioner Suhbatpur Fayyaz Ali, Deputy Commissioner Jafarabad Najibullah Khan Tareen, Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Muhammad Ramzan Palal, Deputy Commissioner Kachhi Muhammad Hussain,

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

Briefing the meeting, Xen Irrigation Engineer 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.



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

Continued on page 2

## 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 Jozezai 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.



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.

## 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 im-

portant 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,

Continued on page 2



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