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Pakistan, China celebrate 10th anniversary of CPEC PM hopes CPEC 2nd phase to spur further development & prosperity, foster friendship

Says Pakistan ready to contribute to China's shared destiny of progress, prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that China and Pakistan were entering the second phase of flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which would help promote investment, progress and prosperity not only for Pakistan but also for the entire region.

Addressing a ceremony held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of CPEC, the prime minister said the second phase would focus on high quality development envisaging a growth corridor, with completion of special economic zones, industrial and green corri-



dors, and openness and connectivity.

He hoped that the corridor of North and South would expand to include the entire region and different parts of the world.

The prime minister said today Gwadar had been turned into a busy a-

city with huge potential in the time to come. CPEC would ensure it as the busiest trade hub in the region, he said, adding that his government was placing due focus and attention to the development of the port with full speed and commitment.

He said the government had allocated resources, and made the supply of power and drinking water available while further development initiatives were in the pipeline.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said CPEC was going to turn around Pakistan's economy through the multiple programmes and initiatives.

He also expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership for supporting Pakistan at the critical juncture with financial support and thanked the Export-Import Bank of China and commercial banks for their loans' roll over in the last few months.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Vice-Premier of State Council of China He Lifeng witnessing the signing ceremony of agreements/MoUs regarding cooperation between the two countries in various fields.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring the award of Hilal-e-Pakistan upon the Special Representative of the Chinese President Xi Jinping and the vice-Premier of the State Council of China, Mr. He Lifeng, at a special investiture Ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President confers Hilal-i-Pakistan award on Chinese vice-premier

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday conferred the Hilal-i-Pakistan award on Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, in recognition of his contribution to the Pakistan-China friendship and promotion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, services chiefs, National Assembly speaker, Senate chairman, federal ministers and parliamentarians.

Conferred on both Pakistanis and foreign nationals, the Hilal-i-Pakistan award is meant to recognize those people who have made a meritorious contribution to the national interests of Pakistan.

At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping, the Vice Premier of China and Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party, is visiting Pakistan to attend the 10th-anniversary celebrations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Shehbaz has not chosen, ruled out any candidate for interim PM: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said that contrary to reports and speculation by certain sections of the media, and as reported in Dawn newspaper today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has not chosen or ruled out any candidate for interim prime minister as yet. In a tweet, she said that

the appointment of the interim PM will be carried out according to the procedure laid down in the Constitution, both in letter and spirit.

She said that the PM would consult with all allied parties in the government and would obtain guidance from PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to identify the most suitable candidate.

NA likely to be dissolved on August 11

ISLAMABAD (Online): The National Assembly (NA) is likely to be dissolved on August 11 with the consensus of government and allied parties.

According to media report government tenure is near at hand and due to it the meeting of allied parties of government will be convened after some days.

Advice will be communicated to the president on August 11 after consultation. If president does not sign it then the assembly will stand dissolved automatically within 48 hours.

NA tenure will expire at 2400 hrs night on August 13. On receipt of advice, the president will write letter to opposition and the government that name of caretaker Prime Minister (PM) be given.

In the event of consensus and after three days consultations, the president will get a few hours for notification.

It is binding on government and opposition to complete consultation process in regard to caretaker PM within three days and send the name. In the event of non consensus, the election commission will announce the name of caretaker PM within three days out of proposed names.

COAS, Chinese Vice Premier reiterate desire for increasing bilateral ties in all fields

RAWALPINDI (APP): The visiting Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here on Monday and discussed matters of mutual interest and defence cooperation.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, during the meeting, both dignitaries reiterated the desire to further enhance and strengthen bilateral relations in all fields.

Pakistan, China signs 6 MoUs to boost further economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (Online): Under the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Pakistan and China on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoUs) to enhance further bilateral cooperation and to promote strong economic ties between the two brotherly countries.

The MoUs were signed during a ceremony held at the Prime Minister Office after a meeting between Sharif and Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, who is on a three-day visit to Pakistan to mark 10 years of the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the high-level Chinese delegation led by the Chinese Vice Premier, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, members of the federal cabinet and senior officials of the various ministries.

It is noted that since the government came into power in April 2022, the CPEC projects have been revived which remained neglected in the past.

During the signing ceremony the minutes of the 11th Meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee

Improving standard of education in Balochistan really challenge, states Governor Balochistan

Can be done with joint efforts and consultation:

Malik Abdul Malik Kakar maintains unfortunately performance of students graduated from public sector universities of province not been satisfactory in CSS exams for several years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that it is a really a challenge to improve the standard of education in the province, however, it can be done with consultation and joint efforts. He underlined the need to learn the modern skills and expertise and acquaintance of the ever-new technology in view of the increasing importance of artificial intelligence and robotic technology in the province.

The Governor was speaking to the Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Dr. Khalid Hafeez who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday. Also present in the meeting was the Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai.

During the course of meeting, the matters were discussed pertaining to improve the standard of higher education, ensuring the healthy academic environment and enlightening the students from the modern scientific knowledge in light of the research-based education.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that we should differentiate in the methodology of the teaching in the classes of natural sciences and social sciences.

He stressed that the understanding of the equipment of laboratory and their use is very important in the laboratory research.

In addition to this, we would also have to focus on the high character building of the students of universities besides providing them the necessary facilities and healthy environment.

This is also high time for the teachers and parents to pay proper attention on the character building and morality of their children.

PM meets Fazal, condoles over death of party workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday visited the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and condoled with him over the loss of lives of his party workers in an explosion in the JUI-F convention in Khar, Bajaur, on Sunday.

The prime minister said the whole nation was in grief due to the tragic incident as the attack on the JUI-F was an aggression against democracy.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude. He said he had ordered the provision of the best medical treatment to the injured, and assured that those involved in the incident would be identified and given exemplary punishment.

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NA passes Army Act amendment bill

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Monday passed seven government bills including the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which aims to amend the Pakistan Army Act 1952.

Three bills were approved after the passage of a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of these legislative proposals.

The bills include the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill, 2023; the National Commission for Human Development (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology, Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar introduced the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill, 2023 in the National Assembly which was passed by the House.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar moved the Defence Housing Authority Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Balochistan govt inked agreement with SZABIST-ZABTech to train 2700 youth in 18 trades

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan government has inked an agreement with SZABIST-ZABTech (ITVE) (Institute of Technical and Vocational Education) to initiate a vocational training programme to impart technical skills to 2700 youth in more than 18 trades in a period of three years in order to produce the quality technical human resource. The Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili has witnessed the agreement with SZABIST-ZABTech (ITVE) to initiate the program on a public-private partnership mode to impart technical skills among youth to get good employment opportunities under CPEC projects and also tap jobs in global labor markets.

Training Institute Hub to train the youth in different fields of technology which helps them to get better job opportunities, said a news release. The government is also working to strengthen the technical and vocational education system in the province to fulfill the current day's requirements.

Under the programme, youths across the province would be selected under the district quota to impart technical education, it added. "It

is time to promote technical education and encourage youth to acquire technical skills."

Chief Secretary has termed the agreement as an important step towards improving the skills and employment opportunities of youth in Balochistan.

He emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships for economic development and improving the living standards of people in the province.



Over 2.5 mln kids to be vaccinated against polio virus in campaign starting in Balochistan today

QUETTA: Over 2.5 million children would be vaccinated against polio virus in the immunization campaign due to be kicked off from today (Tuesday) in all 36 districts of Balochistan.

According to the sources of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication, all the necessary arrangements have been finalized for the immunization campaign.

The sources informed that over 2.5 million children below five years of age would be administered anti-polio campaign during the seven-day campaign.

It was also informed that 11,539 teams would be deployed for vaccination of the children all over province.

eight high risk districts including Jaffarabad, Duki, Khuzdar, Loralai, Killa Saifullah, Zhob, Naseerabad and Shirani.

Earlier, while chairing a meeting about the arrangements of polio immunization campaign in the province last week, the Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Uqaili had directed all district administrations and concerned departments to play their effective role for elimination of the polio virus from the province so as to achieve the target of polio-free province this year.

He mentioned that on this regard, the provincial government is mobilizing all available resources and the day is not far away when we would succeed in complete eradication of the virus with other stake holder organizations.

He particularly mentioned that the presence of polio virus in Afghanistan

SC disposes of case against Justice Isa

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Monday disposed of a contempt of court case against Justice Qazi Faez Isa after the petition was withdrawn.

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial conducted in chamber hearing in the case, filed by Riaz Hanif Rahi Advocate. Earlier, the Registrar Office had raised various objections against the petition and the petitioner had filed an in chamber appeal against it. The petitioner had filed the case seeking contempt of court proceeding against SC's judge for running proceeding on audio tapes inquiry commission. However, the petitioner prayed the court to grant permission to withdraw his case which was accepted by the chief justice. The court subsequently disposed of the case.

Heavy machineries and laborers busy in construction work of Causeway crossing road that was completely destroyed after flood flowing in Hub River during recent heavy downpour of monsoon, under the supervision NHA, located on Hub River road in Hub.

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Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Bajaur bombing

Once again, dozens of innocents have paid in blood for their state's failure to apprehend an attack on the country and its people. At the time these lines were being written, at least 35 civilian lives had been lost to the cowardly bombing of a Sunday political convention in KP's Bajaur district, while 85 individuals were battling with injuries of varying degrees, a number of them struggling between life and death.

The grief and anger came in familiar waves — it had been a while since so many civilian lives were lost to a single act of senseless violence, but we are certainly no strangers to the trauma.

We now process it as if by ritual. The standard condemnations have been shared and registered, and the mourners will now commit the deceased to their earthly abodes. Very soon, a senior official will, on record, express their institution's 'unshakeable resolve' with regard to 'eliminating terrorism' from Pakistan. And that will be that.

It is important to consider why the workers of a religiously inclined political party could have been subjected to such bestial violence. However ultraconservative the JUL-F's worldview, the party has chosen to contest power and operate within the parameters set by the Constitution of Pakistan.

This does not sit well with a host of militant organisations like the TTP, the IS-K and Al Qaeda, which have competed with democratic parties for control of the Pakhtun belt, particularly the tribal belts of KP and Balochistan. These groups, in the past, targeted and decimated the ANP and Quami Watan Party for the same reason. The JUL-F, however, is an even bigger problem for them as it seeks a path to Islamic rule through the ballot box, while the militants seek the same through 'jihad' and to rule by the sword.

In the past, attacking political gatherings has had a chilling effect on the political activities of targeted parties and eventually pushed some of them out of the picture. With the country gearing up for elections, such terrorist outfits may seek to reassert their presence with fear tactics. A UNSC report has only recently warned of the possibility of the TTP and Al Qaeda joining forces to expand their influence in South Asia. The occurrence of such incidents makes the Pakistani security apparatus look weak; the National Action Plan seems to have been ineffective in putting a stop to violent incidents. The Taliban regime next door is also proving to be a problem. With the challenges growing, the national security apparatus cannot afford to take its eyes off the ball. However, of late, it seems to be taking too much on its plate. The fact is, criticism is sure to follow if its core responsibilities remain unfulfilled.

On two athletes



Muna Khan

Last month, I had the good fortune of travelling to Mexico City to visit my family but I also went with the intent of seeing whether I could relocate there. (Short answer: I can't due to the language barrier.) My survival mode for Pakistan is to take a break from it. I am an anomaly, a nomad and Karachi is home. I am aware my privileged position and father's support allows me to leave, find employment and return. I do not share anything in common with the innumerable people desperate to leave Pakistan except perhaps, the dread that comes with the uncertainty that plagues this country.

That uncertainty is felt in Mexico too.

Border police last year detained at least 744,000 Mexicans trying to enter the US, the highest number since 2008. They are leaving due to rising inflation and violence.

Migrants are a cornerstone of the Mexican economy, and, according to the Economist in April, Mexico receives more remittances than China; India is the largest beneficiary. But like so many migrants' stories, Mexicans risk death in their attempt to leave. Incidentally, many migrants come to Mexico, some with the hope of crossing the border into the US. Afghans were the seventh highest nationality to make Mexico's top 10 list of migrants, according to the country's refugee agency COMAR.

At least 50,000 migrants "are known to have died" worldwide since 2014, according to the

Missing Migrants Project by the International Organisation of Migration in 2022. It said "the nationality for over 30,000 people is unknown ... which means that more than 60 per cent of those who die on migratory routes remain unidentified".

Imagine how devastating it is for the families left behind. To say goodbye to someone in the hope that they'll make it safe, never having to return to a country that just doesn't have anything promising to offer. Unless you're wealthy and male.

Earlier in March, Pakistani hockey and football player Shahida Raza — only 27 — died in a shipwreck off the coast of Italy.

She made the dangerous journey because she wanted to get treatment for her three-year-old son, who is partially paralysed and cannot be adequately treated in Pakistan, according to an interview her family gave to the BBC after her death.

I was reminded of Raza while reading about Sachini Perera, the 24-year-old Sri Lankan athlete known as the "[pole] vaulting queen" who has been working as a maid in Dubai since July last year.

She put her "athletic dreams on hold", she told The National recently, so she could earn and care for her mother who is partially paralysed. She sends most of her salary back home to pay for her mother's treatment but has not given up on her dream. "I want to be the one girl from Sri Lanka who wins an international medal for the pole vault," she said. Sri Lankans were upset to hear of her situation and blamed the authorities for not retaining sporting talent. Sri Lanka's consul general told The National they were making efforts to find her a sports-related job in the emirate.

I was struck by how

both women athletes were forced to leave their countries to care for their families and how uncanny it was that both their son and mother, respectively, are partially paralysed. Perera's mother can now walk a few steps with help, according to The National. I could not find any news about Raza's son. Such is the nature of the news cycle or social media hashtag campaign — tragedies are quickly forgotten because new space is needed for new tragedies.

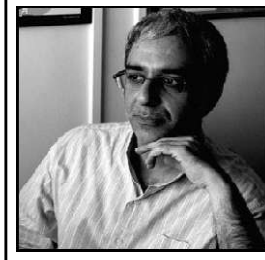
According to the World Bank, Sri Lanka issued an all-time high of 900,000 passports in 2022. At least 300,000 Sri Lankans left the country last year and 73,000 left in the first three months of this year, reported the Economist, saying there was evidence that "middle class professionals have joined the exodus".

I'm sure you're also hearing about Pakistanis leaving the country — studying abroad, migrating to Canada or wherever will take our fourth worst passport, getting jobs in the GCC, buying properties to get citizenship in Portugal. Or taking the illegal route.

I wonder if we'll get the figure for the exodus from Pakistan, though we'll never know about the undocumented who hand their lives over to agents promising them safe passage. Journalist Waqas Ahmed reported last year that 765,000 people left Pakistan in 2022, triple the number from the year before.

I do not blame them. Everyone knows what can be done to arrest the exodus and everyone knows nothing will be done. Maybe the prime minister will order an inquiry into it. Politicians and their patrons are too busy keeping one man out of the election. And by the time they succeed, I wonder if anyone will be left to cast their vote. — Courtesy Dawn

Plastic pollution



Zarrar Khuhro

Where would we be without the Outrage Machine and its conjoined twin, the Hype Engine? How would we know what to praise and what to condemn if not for the countless articles and social media posts, full of hysteria and hyperbole, telling us what to think? What would we do with our barely suppressed rage and fear if we didn't have blockbuster films to direct them at? The latest targets are Barbie and Oppenheimer, two films as different as pink and black that released simultaneously a few weeks back and, like the shockwave from the detonation of an atomic bomb, we could see the outrage coming long before it hit us. "Barbie bombs innocent families with feminist propaganda," screams one YouTuber. Ben Shapiro, a poster boy for incels, labels it "one of the most woke movies" he's ever seen and began his 43-minute rant/ review/ mental breakdown on the movie by burning about \$70 worth of Barbie dolls on camera.

US congressman Matt Gaetz, despite attending the premiere decked out in pink along with his wife, also decided to capitalise on this latest blow to American manhood and civilisation, by calling for a boycott of the film. His wife complained that the film did not address the notions of faith and family which, as we know, every film about an iconic plastic girl's toy must naturally do. Apropos of nothing, Gaetz himself was recently under investigation for alleged sex trafficking.

Interestingly, while the Barbie doll itself has been the subject of much feminist ire over the decades for allegedly creating unrealistic expectations and possibly body dysmorphia, the only real opposition to the movie from those circles came from the radical feminist group Femen, which is mostly known for stripping down at protests. Here, a few femer activists in various stages of undress, nailed a Barbie doll to a cross and set it on fire while shouting "life in plastic is not fantastic", in an allusion to the catchy 1997 Barbie Girl song by Aqua. But, by and large, the feminist movement seems to have moved on from hating Barbies, and thankfully so, because as lead actress Margot Robbie said in response to all the hysteria: "She's a doll. She's a plastic doll." Essentially, the film provided yet another battleground for the interminable culture wars of America, the talking points and tropes of which too many of us in Pakistan have wittingly or unwittingly adopted without any care for context. You see people sharing Shapiro videos without realising that the man is in it to cash in on the huge, and hugely gullible, right-wing American market and sharing Andrew Tate quotes without realising or caring that he too is a grifter par excellence, who profits from exploiting, if not manufacturing, Western cultural divides.

Outrage on a trending topic translates into views and clicks (and possibly votes) which in turn translate into hard, cold cash. The bigger the topic, the greater the cash flow and given that Barbie has grossed more than \$400 million worldwide, there's a lot of residual outrage to cash in on. On the flip side, our more 'progressive' elements also seem to copy-paste America's unique cultural issues onto our

own, and so ancient ethnic divides are explained on the basis of American critical race theory, and our own long and varied history of women's movements, or indeed transgenderism, is largely ignored or else suborned to Western views on the issue, down to copying the very language of those debates. The irony here is that both 'sides' will simultaneously (rightly) crib and complain about America's cultural dominance, but at the same time import some very specifically American cultural debates, down to aping their very language.

Barbie also caused a minor diplomatic incident by displaying a map depicting China's nine-dash line (its claims in the South China Sea) which caused Vietnam to ban the film, which makes it the only place, other than our own Punjab province to have banned Barbie. Though in Vietnam's case we at least know why. The addition of the line, which is on-screen for a split second, also led Republican Mike Gallagher to declare that "the fact that a cartoonish, crayon-scrambled map seems to go out of its way to depict the PRC's unlawful territorial claims illustrates the pressure that Hollywood is under to please CCP censors".

He may have a point, as China is now nearly a \$5 billion market for films, and Hollywood does indeed try to cater to that market, knowing that it is critical when it comes to ensuring a film's international box office success. Note also that when Walt Disney pictures released Zootopia in China, they added a Panda character to cater to that market. Many other similar examples can be found.

Finally, while the movie is a fun watch, the real plastic pollution is the discourse surrounding it. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

We are grateful to China for extending assistance in hard time: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar has said hard time is over and the journey of economic development and prosperity has started again.

"We are thankful to Chinese government and Bank of China which supported Pakistan in difficult time", he said this while addressing opening ceremony of Bank of China branch here Monday.

He went on to say China has played vital role in the development of

infrastructure under CPEC besides reining in energy crisis.

Trade and investment will gain further momentum in collaboration with Bank of China and other financial institutions.

It is historical moment, he said adding I had given first license of Bank of China to the president of Bank in Beijing six years back.

I am happy, I congratulate on opening second branch of Bank of China, he remarked.

Meanwhile, Duarte

Pacheco, President Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), along with a delegation of representatives of International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC), called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, today.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar warmly welcomed the H.E. Duarte Pacheco, President Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on his visit to Pakistan and shared that Pakistan values

its partnership with the IPU and provides regular support through its candidacy at International Organization in pursuit of global peace, prosperity, and economic stability. The Finance Minister also informed about the recent economic and financial measures taken by the government which have put the financial position of the country on an upward trajectory. The Finance Minister also mentioned that keeping in view its Strategic position in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar inaugurated the Branch opening of Bank of China (BOC) at a ceremony.



FAISALABAD: State Minister for Industries & Production Mr. Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi is addressing the business community at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Pakistan must exploit its own resources to get rid of IMF: State Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): State Minister for Industries and Production Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Monday that Pakistan must exploit its own natural resources to get rid of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and to provide maximum relief to its masses.

Addressing the business community at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that ill-conceived policies of the previous government had fomented problems not only for the country but also for the people belonging to every segment

of society. He said that political uncertainty remained rife as the previous government could not steer the country out of crises during its three and a half years tenure. He said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was fully cognizant of providing relief to the people as well as industrialists and exporters. He said that their ultimate objective was to facilitate the people to earn money and then to tax them to generate revenue, whereas, the other governments prefer to tax the people without facilitating them to earn. He said that increase

in electricity tariff had badly hit the masses especially the white-collar class. He said that North Waziristan was rich in uranium and other precious metals, and "we must explore it to meet our financial needs and make Pakistan self-reliant instead of depending on the IMF".

"We must depend upon our own resources instead of begging for foreign loans", he added. He cited the example of Thar Coal mine and said that similarly we must exploit other mineral resources to generate funds for the national development.

SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 22%

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad while announcing the monetary policy, said that SBP has decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 22 percent.

Addressing a press briefing about the Monetary Policy here on Monday, along with SBP Deputy Governors Dr. Inayat Hussain and Sima Kamil, and Director Policy Rate Fida Hussain, the SBP Governor said that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of SBP had decided to keep the policy rate unchanged.

He said that the Committee also reviewed the economic development. He said that the country would witness economic stability.

The SBP Governor said that the growth rate would be 2 to 3 percent next year.

Jameel Ahmad said that the inflation would remain between 20 to 22 percent in the 2024. He said that inflation would come down in the months to come. He also predicted that the reserves would be in a better position in December and much better in January 2024.

ADB, AIIB delegation stress for timely completion of WASH projects

PESHAWAR (APP): A joint delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) emphasized the importance of maintaining quality and ensuring early completion of projects under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project (KPCIP).

The delegation, led by Senior Project Officer Umar Ali Shah and representative from AIIB Ghufan Syed,

held a progress review meeting here on Monday. Project Director KPCIP Syed Zafar Ali, Director Compliance Amir Alam Khan, Director Technical Mian Shakeel Ahmad, and Director Finance Qazi Raees besides chief executive officers of water and sanitation companies from Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Swat and Abbottabad and construction supervision consultants attended the meeting.

Musadik says 'Dust to Development' conference to boost Pakistan's mining sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Petroleum, Musadik Malik, on Monday, termed the forthcoming mineral conference titled "Dust to Development" as a journey of prosperity that eventually extricate Pakistan from the quagmire of economic challenges.

The financial value of Pakistan's minerals amounted to 6.1 trillion dollars, surpassing the total net worth of corporate giants such as

Apple, Amazon and Google, the minister said while addressing a press conference here.

He said that 'Dust to Development' was the commencement of a new era of mining in Pakistan as its scope was not limited to mining, but smelting and export as well. "We will extract minerals like copper, lithium and iron and export the by-products of these minerals from its raw soil," the minister added.

Unveiling the mining

vision of the government, he said that smart industrial clusters would be built in Baluchistan where the raw minerals from the soil would be extracted and converted into export items.

The minister emphasized that the export items generated through the utilization of these mineral resources would bring significant benefits to the country, multiplying the advantages manifold.

Gold rates decrease by Rs 2,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 2,500 and was sold at Rs.222,200 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 224,700 on the previous trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.2,143 to Rs.190,501 from Rs.192,644 whereas 10 gram 22 karat gold was sold at Rs.174,626, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs.2,800 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.86 to 2,400.54.

Iftikhar Sahu says: Next 30 days vital for better cotton management

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture Punjab, Iftikhar Ali Sahu, said on Monday that the province has been transformed into cotton valley after many years.

He said that the mission of cotton recovery under Punjab Agriculture department was in progress successfully.

Field formations have to work hard to ensure increase in per acre cotton yield as next 30 days were very important for better cotton management.

Secretary Agriculture expressed these views while

addressing technical session organized at MNS Agricultural university to review the current situation of cotton, the attack of pests and diseases on the crop. Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Atee, Vice Chancellor MNS Agriculture University Professor Dr. Asif Ali, Additional Secretaries Task Force Shabir Ahmed Khan and Imtiaz Ahmed Waraich, Director General Agriculture Extension Punjab Dr. Muhammad Anjum Ali, Director General Pest Warning Rana Faqir Ahmed and others participated.

KP Caretaker CM visits DHQ Khar, inquires after health of injured

PESHAWAR (APP): The caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Monday paid a visit to the District Headquarters Hospital Khar in tribal district Bajaur where he inquired after the health of injured persons of Bajaur bomb blast that had claimed dozens of human lives and left many other injured.

met the injured persons one by one and inquired about their health and treatment facilities being provided to them in the hospital. He on the occasion directed the authorities concerned to leave no stone unturned in the treatment and said that he and his team are personally monitoring the whole treatment process.

heinous act that can't be justified at all" he remarked. While paying tribute to the martyrs, the chief minister said that citizens of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially tribal people and our security forces have rendered matchless sacrifices for reinstating and establishing peace in the region; we will not let those sacrifices go in vain, he said.



GILGIT: In the collaboration of EPI Gilgit-Baltistan, KIU, UOB, and University of Malilaan EvK2CNR successfully installed the Automate Weather Station in Askoli, Urdas and Candodia.

Provincial Minister visits Metro Bus Service to review facility services

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Livestock, Transport, Mines and Minerals Punjab, Ibrahim Murad here on Monday visited Metro Bus Service to review services and facilities being offered to the people. The Minister inspected Metro Command and Control Rawalpindi and reviewed different matters in detail.

Ibrahim Murad directed the authorities concerned to immediately make the escalators of the metro bus, fully functional. The tenders for the surveillance cameras and e-ticketing, which could not be done during last 2 years, should be issued immediately, he said adding, the Metro bus service is a valuable national asset.

Minister visits PIC, reviews medical facilities

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr Javed Akram paid a surprise visit to Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) and reviewed medical facilities, being provided to patients.

Chairman Board of Management Dr Farqad Alamgir also accompanied him. He asked patients about the medical facilities being provided to them. Executive Director PIC Prof. Dr. Ahmed Nauman and Medical Superintendent Dr Muhammad Tahir briefed the caretaker minister about the specialised health facility. The minister said that medical facilities were being reviewed by visiting various government hospitals. Measures were being taken for providing better facilities to the patients at the PIC Lahore. Primary angioplasty was being carried out successfully in all cardiology hospitals of Punjab.



RAWALPINDI: Commuters pass near fallen tree due to heavy downpour of monsoon season while rescue operation underway, in Rawalpindi.

Rs 15bln to be spent on 28 major hospitals

LAHORE (APP): The Health Department has prepared a plan for improvement of public health facilities, proposing to spend Rs 15 billion on infrastructure and provision of medical equipment in 28 major hospitals across the province. During a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat on Monday, officials of the Health Department briefed Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman regarding implementation of the plan. The meeting reviewed measures to improve healthcare in

Four of a family drowned in Indus River

ATTOCK (APP): Four siblings of a family including three teenage sisters and one brother drowned in River Indus near the Khora Khel area in the limits of Attock Saddar Police Station on Monday, police and rescue sources said.

Four of a family drowned in Indus River

Rescue 1122 officials while quoting eyewitnesses and family members of the victims have said that Shahzada Khan- an Afghan national and native of Haji Shah village, three daughters aged 18, 20, and 22 and a son aged 15 came to the river for bathing when one of the girls went into deep waters and starts drowning.

Bajaur bombing leaves many painful stories as death toll mounts to 54: Police

BAJAUR (APP): The horrific suicide explosion at JUIF convention at Khar that killed about 54 people and wounded around 150 others has left many painful stories of the victims in Bajaur tribal district, police said.

The 20-year-old bridegroom, Ejaz Ahmad who tied the knot 11 days ago, was also martyred in the deadly suicide explosion and was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard amid touching scenes.

The eldest child of his parents, Ejaz Ahmad was running a furniture shop at Khar bazaar and came to

JUIF convention where he was immortalized forever. "My loving nephew was apolitical. He was busy in routine furniture work at his shop on Sunday working against the time to fulfill the placed orders. Upon request of his co-fellows, he visited JUIF convention at Dubai Mor at 4pm where he left for eternal abode," said Irfanullah, uncle of Ejaz Ahmad while talking to APP. "Ejaz was an obedient son and loving husband who tied the knot 11-days ago with great pomp and show at his native town Khar," he said.



ABBOTTABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi addressing a public gathering after inaugurating the Nadra office, Sui Gas projects in Sherwan.

LHC moved for constitution of JC to probe into IUB videos, drugs scandal

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has been moved for constitution of Judicial Commission (JC) to hold inquiry into videos and drugs scandal in Islamic University Bahawalpur (IUB). The petition has been filed by one Mashkoor Hussain through Nadim Sarwar advocate making FIA, IG Police, care taker Chief Minister Punjab and others respondents.

The petitioner has taken the plea in the petition Islamic University Bahawalpur is an educational institution wherein the scandal of obscene videos has surfaced. Chief security officer of the university was arrested in obscene videos scandal. It has been prayed in the petition that the matter is very sensitive, therefore, the court should order to constitute JC or tribunal to inquire into the matter. The court itself should monitor the inquiry of this scandal.

International News

Russian ballistic missile strikes kill at least 6 people in Zelensky's hometown in central Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian ballistic missiles slammed into an apartment complex and a university building in President Volodymyr Zelensky's hometown Monday, killing six people and wounding 75 others as the blasts trapped residents beneath rubble, Ukrainian officials said. One of the two missiles that hit the central city of Kryvyi Rihon destroyed part of an apartment building between the fourth and ninth floors, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said. Video showed black smoke billowing from corner units and burned out or damaged cars on a tree-lined street.

The dead included a 10-year-old girl and her mother, according to Zelensky. More than 350 people were involved in the rescue operation, he said in a Telegram post. The morning attack also destroyed part of a four-story university building. The strike on Zelensky's hometown, which has been hit in the past, happened a day after the Ukrainian president warned that the fighting was drawing closer to Russian land. "Gradually, the war is returning to the territory of Russia — to its symbolic centers and military bases, and this is an inevitable, natural and absolutely fair process,"

Zelensky said Sunday in his nightly video address. It was not clear whether the missile strikes were in retaliation for his comments. Meanwhile, a Ukrainian artillery strike on the partially occupied Donetsk province killed two people and wounded six others in the regional capital, according to Denis Pushilin, the Moscow-installed leader of the illegally annexed province. A bus was also hit as Ukrainian forces shelled the city of Donetsk multiple times Monday, Pushilin said. Neither side's claims could be independently verified.



Nigeria President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, second from left, poses, for a group photograph with other West Africa leaders after a meeting in Abuja Nigeria.

Niger will face sanctions as democracy falls apart, adding to woes for its 27 million people

Monitoring Desk
NIAMEY: West African nations have announced travel and economic sanctions against Niger and have threatened to use force if the leaders of a coup don't reinstate the democratically elected president within one week.

The sanctions announced after the regional bloc known as ECOWAS convened to respond to last week's military takeover add to a growing list of penalties against the country, one of the least developed

in the world, according to the latest U.N. Human Development Index. Niger relies heavily on foreign aid; analysts fear sanctions could further impoverish its 25 million people. "In the event the authority's demands are not met within one week, (the bloc will) take all measures necessary to restore constitutional order in the Republic of Niger. Such measures may include the use of force," the ECOWAS bloc said in a statement after its meeting on Sunday.

Turkey urges Sweden to take steps to stop Quran burnings: source

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Sunday urged Sweden to take concrete steps to prevent burnings of the Quran, a Turkish foreign ministry source said. Sweden and Denmark have seen several protests in recent weeks where copies of the Quran have been damaged or burned, causing outrage among Muslims. Sweden's embassy in Baghdad was stormed and set ablaze by angry protesters. In a phone call, Fidan told his Swedish counterpart Tobias Billstrom that continuation of such "vile actions" under the guise of freedom of expression was unacceptable, the source said. Fidan and Billstrom also discussed Sweden's NATO military alliance membership application, the source added. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said on Sunday that he had held talks with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and that they agreed the situation was dangerous. "We need to take measures to strengthen our resilience," he said in a post on Instagram. The Swedish government said this month that it would examine whether it could change Sweden's Public Order Act to give police the possibility to stop demonstrations that threatened Sweden's security.

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Emergency services work at a scene after a missile hit an apartment building in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

Clashes continue between factions in Palestinian camp in Lebanon as death toll climbs to 9

Monitoring Desk
SIDON: The death toll rose to nine Monday in three days of clashes between Palestinian factions at a refugee camp in Lebanon that have pitted members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party against Islamist groups.

The violence began Saturday when an unknown gunman tried to kill Palestinian militant Mahmoud Khalil but instead fatally shot his companion. Full-blown clashes erupted Sunday when Islamic militants shot and killed a Palestinian military general from the Fatah group, Abu Ashraf al-Armoushi, and three escorts as they were walking through a parking lot, according to a Palestinian official.

A Lebanese lawmaker announced a cease-fire agreement late Monday but some gunfire continued afterward, and earlier efforts to broker a cease-fire had failed to stop the shooting and shelling through the narrow streets of the Ein el-Hilweh camp in southern Lebanon.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to the media.

UAE state oil firm moves up net zero climate target to 2045

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: A state-run oil giant in the United Arab Emirates said Monday it has moved up its target for achieving net zero emissions in its operations to 2045, as the country prepares to host U.N. climate talks later this year. The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, known as ADNOC, said it is also committed to achieving zero methane emissions by 2030. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. Earlier this year,

ADNOC earmarked \$15 billion for an array of green initiatives, including the development of hydrogen power, carbon capture facilities and the planting of mangroves. The company had previously committed to net zero — the balancing of greenhouse gas emissions to the point that the amount removed from the atmosphere is equal to the amount emitted — by 2050. The UAE, an OPEC member that produces over 3 million barrels of crude oil a day, will host the global climate talks known as COP28 from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 in Dubai.

EU ready to strengthen cooperation with Philippines on maritime security

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Monday the European Union was ready to strengthen cooperation with the Philippines on maritime security. She was speaking after a meeting with Philippines' President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in Manila. "We are ready to strengthen the cooperation with the Philippines on maritime security in the region by sharing information, conducting threat assessment and building the capacity of your coast guard."

China imposes curbs on drone exports, citing Ukraine and concern about military use

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China imposed restrictions Monday on exports of long-range civilian drones, citing Russia's war in Ukraine and concern that drones might be converted to military use. Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government is friendly with Moscow but says it is neutral in the 18-month-old war. It has been stung by reports that both sides might be using Chinese-made drones for reconnaissance and possibly attacks. Export controls will

take effect Tuesday to prevent use of drones for "non-peaceful purposes," the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement. It said exports still will be allowed but didn't say what restrictions would apply. China is a leading developer and exporter of drones. DJI Technology Co., one of the global industry's top competitors, announced in April 2022 it was pulling out of Russia and Ukraine to prevent its drones from being used in combat.

Denmark seeks to legally prevent burnings of Quran or other religious scriptures

Monitoring Desk
HELSINKI: Denmark's foreign ministers said Sunday the government will seek to make it illegal to desecrate the Quran or other religious holy books in front of foreign embassies in the Nordic country. Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said in an interview with the Danish public broadcaster DR that the burning of holy scriptures "only serves the purpose of creating division in a world that actually needs unity."



Nigerien security forces launch tear gas to disperse pro-junta demonstrators gathered outside the French embassy, in Niamey, the capital city of Niger.

President calls for enhanced Chinese investment in SEZs

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has called for enhanced Chinese investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, particularly in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.

He said that Pakistan was desirous of Chinese cooperation and support to strengthen its agriculture, Information Technology (IT), Transport, and Textile sectors.

The President made these remarks while talking to the Special Representative of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, and the Vice-Premier of the State Council of China, Mr He Lifeng, who along with members of his delegation called on him, at Aiwane-Sadr, today.

Welcoming the delegation, the President highlighted that Pakistan and China enjoyed an All-

Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and always stood by each other in difficult times. He added that Pakistan and China had a unique relationship and the world must learn from the time-tested friendship between the two brotherly countries. He appreciated that bilateral relations between the two countries had continued to expand to new areas of cooperation.

Talking about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the President said that CPEC would transform the economic landscape of Pakistan, besides bringing prosperity to the region. He added that CPEC had considerably helped in overcoming the shortage of electricity in Pakistan. He maintained that Pakistan would continue to extend firm support to China on all its core issues.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Vice-Premier of State Council of China, He Lifeng in delegation level talks at Prime Minister's Office.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Duarte Pacheco and Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar inaugurating the ground breaking ceremony of the Permanent Headquarter of International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) at Diplomatic Enclave.

PDMA gets Rs 100mln for rehabilitation works of rain affected areas

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Finance Department, Government of Balochistan has released Rs. 100 million to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for compensation of the losses caused due to the recent Monsoon rains as well as for the relief and rehabilitation works in the affected areas.

Needless to mention here is that the funds have been released under the Relief and Rehabilitation Fund on emergent basis on special directives of the Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, the food and non-food items would be provided to the people affected due to the recent Monsoon rains.

The grant in aid had been allocated for the Relief and Rehabilitation purposes in the province.

It may also be mentioned here that the provincial Finance Department had released emergency funds of Rs. 150 million for the immediate relief of rain and flood affected people

in all the districts.

The funds would help the district administration in effectively tackling the emergent situation emerged following the ongoing heavy rains in the province besides providing prompt relief to the affected ones.

The funds have been released to the Deputy Commissioners and District Disaster Management Authority of 36 districts of the province, on directives of the Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

As per the official notification, the funds would be utilized by the deputy commissioners only for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood and rain affected people in their respective districts.

A control room has been set up at the Chief Minister's Secretariat here on Friday.

The control room has been set up to monitor the situation created due to the unexpected rains in the province besides effectively monitoring the relief and rehabilitation activities in the rain and flood hit areas of the province.

ANP leader Aimal Wali calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan on Monday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here.

In the meeting, they discussed the overall political situation in the country, a PM Office statement said.

LPG price goes up by Rs23 per kg

ISLAMABAD (Online): Another bomb of inflation has been dropped on the poor people. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) on Monday increased the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by Rs23 per kilogram for the month of August 2023.

LPG users will have to bear tremendous pressure after the increase in the price. The rate of 11.8kg of LPG cylinder now stands at Rs201.15 per kg. In July, the 11.8kg domestic cylinder of LPG was available at Rs209.13.

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ADC kicks off anti polio drive in Nushki

QUETTA (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Nizam Rahim Baloch has inaugurated an anti-polio campaign by administering drops to a child in Nushki district on Monday.

The ADC on the occasion urged parents to administer anti-polio drops to children up to five years of age to protect them against the deadly disease. "Polio is a dangerous disease and for that sincere efforts are needed to protect future generations," he said seeking everyone's role in its elimination. He stressed scholars, civil society and others to raise awareness among the public about the crippling disease. Baloch said the district administration was extending full cooperation with the health department in that regard whereas a Polio Control Room was also set up with contact No. 0825872223, he noted. Deputy DHO Dr Mushtaq Mengal, WHO representative, Dr. Abdul Malik, MNE Officer, Agha Dawood Shah, Communication Officer, UNICEF, Mehrullah Badeni, DSV, Attaullah Mengal, AHT Officer, Zahir Mengal.

After detailed deliberation the bill was opposed by the committee with a majority vote.

Majority opposes "The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (Amendment) 2022"

ISLAMABAD (APP): Majority of the members of Senate Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, in its meeting held on Monday, opposed the private member bill titled "The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (Amendment) 2022."

The meeting was held here with Senator Naseebullah Bazai in the chair.

The bill was introduced by Senator Sania Nishtar in the Senate sitting held on October 10, 2022



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Sohailur Rehman Baloch giving away instructions to concerned officers regarding repair and renovation of Airport road

Work started on restoration of diversion of Hub river bridge as Commissioner contacted NHA

Independent Report

QUETTA: The work has been started on restoration of the diversion of the Hub river bridge thanks to the Commissioner Kalat Division, Dawood Khan Kijiji who contacted the high ups of National Highway Authority (NHA) West Zone.

The Commissioner Kalat had contacted the Member NHA West Zone Balochistan, Shahid Ehsan on directives of the Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Uqaili.

The Deputy Director NHA, Samiullah visited the Hub river bridge along with the administrative officers of Hub and reviewed the situation of the diversion built last year.

The Deputy Commissioner Hub Zahid Khan on the occasion said that the necessary machinery has been made available at the site after receding of the flood water.

He said that the work is continued on restoration of the Hub river for resto-

ration of the diversion. Primarily, the work has been started on the diversion from south, which was actually affected due to the recent rains.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that the wholehearted steps are being taken for resolving the public issues so the people of district should remain satisfied. He also told that the action would be taken against encroachments on the RCD highway in light of the orders of High Court.

Planning Ministry highlights salient features of six Pak-China MoUs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives on Monday highlighted salient features of six Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed by Pakistan and China to enhance bilateral cooperation and promote strong economic ties.

The MoUs were signed during a ceremony held here at the Prime Minister Office, which was witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, who is on a three-day visit to Pakistan to mark 10-year celebrations of the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The members of the Federal Cabinet and senior officials, besides the high-level Chinese delegation accompanying the Chinese vice premier, were also present in the ceremony, a Planning Ministry news release said.

It is noted that since the incumbent government came into power in April 2022, the CPEC projects had been revived which remained neglected in the past.

During the signing ceremony, the minutes of the 11th Meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC were also signed. "This document comprised the decisions

and outcomes of the 11th meeting of the JCC on CPEC held on October 27, 2022."

It was signed by Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China Cong Liang and Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal.

The other MoU pertained to establishing an Expert Exchange Mechanism within the Framework of the CPEC. It aimed to setting up an expert exchange mechanism between the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and NDRC of China, to facilitate knowledge sharing between them.

The objective of the MoU, also signed by NDRC Vice Chairman Cong Liang and Planning Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal, was to obtain intellectual support and consultation for China-Pakistan capacity-building cooperation and conduct in-depth exchanges of Chinese experts with the Pakistani Government and enterprises by sharing China's experience, contributing Chinese solutions and helping Pakistan meet international standards more timely and efficiently.

Parliamentarians call for uncovering elements behind terrorist attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): The members of the National Assembly on Monday strongly denounced the attack on the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Fazi (JUI-F) gathering in Bajaur and emphasized the urgent need to identify and expose the elements responsible for terrorist incidents across the country.

During a point of order, Sheikh Rohsail Asghar, a member of Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), condemned the attack

and requested the suspension of the question hour to discuss this grave and tragic incident. He highlighted that a similar incident occurred on May 9, intended to weaken the institutions responsible for protecting the country.

Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali, while addressing the House, regarded the attack as an assault on Pakistan, all political parties, the Constitution, and democracy itself.

He pointed out that such incidents of terrorism had already resulted in the martyrdom of numerous law enforcement personnel, police officers, and civilians. He emphasized the urgency of revealing the hidden hands behind these brutal acts.

Minister for Communication, Maulana Asad Mehmood, expressed his condolences for the loss of JUI-F workers and stood in solidarity with the bereaved families. He stressed that the attack wasn't merely targeting a

specific party but was an attack on the entire nation, its economy, democracy, and innocent citizens. He lamented that political workers

who stood firmly for the constitution and democracy were continuously becoming targets of violence.

Maulana Asad highlighted the alarming number of JUI-F leaders who had lost their lives in the past two years due to similar incidents in various regions, including Khyber Agency, Tarah Valley, Tribal areas, and Balochistan. He strongly stated that they would not compromise on Pakistan, Islam, and democracy, striving to make the country economically and politically robust.



QUETTA: A delegation of doctors led by Dr. Abid Amin meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Anti-polio drive in Jhal Magsi from Aug 1

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jhal Magsi Muhammad Ramzan Palal on Monday vowed to achieve targets of anti-polio drive starting from August 1 (tomorrow).

The DC was chairing a meeting to review arrangements of anti-polio drive. The concerned officials, premedical staff and other attended the meeting.

The DC said teams of the health department and the district administration has been formed to administer vaccine to children in door-to-door to campaign.

DC Ramzan Palal urged people of the entire district to ensure their full cooperation in the anti-polio campaign by vaccinating their children below age five.

He said parents, scholars should play their role in protecting children against long disability.

BAP Quetta leader joins National Party: Free, fair elections solution to country's issues, says Dr. Malik

QUETTA: The President National Party and former Chief Minister, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch has categorically stated that the solution of the issues being confronted by the country lies in conducting free and fair elections. However, the masses would not be accepting the general elections like of 2018.

This was asserted by the NP chief while addressing a news conference at the Quetta press club on Monday.

On the occasion, a Quetta district leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Naseebullah Bangulzai announced to join the NP along with his companions.

Welcoming Bangulzai and his companions in the party's fold, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch said that NP is the bouquet of all nationalities. Referring to the country's situation, the President of NP said that the country is facing socio-economic challenges. The state's institutions are in confrontation against each other, adding he charged. Under the given circumstances, the free and fair elections are the only solution to the country's problems, he insisted.

He also said that the people got nothing in the name of development for last five years.

He alleged that the distribution of land is continuing in Gwadar while the jobs are being sold in the province.



QUETTA: Central President National Party (NP) Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Wanted terrorist killed in Kulachi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Dera police killed a wanted terrorist during a search and strike operation in tehsil Kulachi near a police check-post Yadgar within the vicinity of Kulachi police station, a police official said here on Monday.

On a tip off, the presence of armed suspects, the forest near police check-post Yadgar, a heavy contingent of police supervised by DSP Kulachi Circle Sagheer Abbas Gilani along with SHO Kulachi Faheem Mumtaz Khan reached the spot and surrounded the area. The police launched a search and strike operation in the area where armed terrorists opened fire on the police. The police responded promptly and after the exchange of fire for a long time the terrorists escaped by taking advantage of the forest. The police during chase in the forest, found a dead body of one of those terrorists killed in early firing.

Bajaur tragedy outcome of escalating wave of terrorism in KP: Siraj

KHAR (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq strongly condemning the Bajaur explosion has declared the tragic incident as a result of the escalating wave of lawlessness and terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Talking to media after inquiring about the health of those who injured in Sunday's attack at Khar hospital on Monday, he said the question arose who was responsible for the protection of citizens?

Sirajul Haq said that on one side preparations were being made to connect Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan through a railway track, while on the other hand, there was tension prevailing along the entire Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

"Progress could not be achieved without peace. Solving this issue requires

collective effort," he said, demanding the government initiate a national consultation for establishing peace. Earlier, the JI chief also visited the Haji Lawang to offer fete for the deceased and condole with the families of the victims.

Haq said the federal government was preoccupied with its own affairs in its final days and the KP caretaker government was limited to its secretariat, with its sole function being transfer postings. The presence of the rule of law in the region, he said, was hardly visible. The incidents of target killings, bombings, abductions for ransom, and extortion were common in KP, he said, regretting the public has been left at the mercy of the situation. The KP Assembly was not functioning, the issue of lawlessness has not been seriously addressed.



QUETTA: Regional Head Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sarwar Barohi and Senior Investigation Officer Amir Muhammad Rind listening problems of people at open kutchery in Sorab