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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 corridors, and openness and connectivity.

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.



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.

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



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf offering foteha for the martyrs of Bajur blast with President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman.

Court again summons PTI chief for recording statement in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A lower court on Monday rejected a request to postpone recording of the statement of PTI chairman under Section-342 in the Toshakhana criminal case and summoned him again on Tuesday.

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 care taker 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 care taker PM within three days out of proposed names.

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.

The defence lawyer's stance that the court was running the trial in a fast way, was also not fair, he added.

Khawaja Haris argued that it was an impression that the sessions court wanted to conclude the trial early so that their appeals in high court would become ineffective. The court itself had appointed him as a representative of PTI chief and testified the witnesses, while the accused should have right to appoint his representative himself, he added.

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, 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



RAWALPINDI: Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met General Syed Asim Munir, COAS. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and defence cooperation were discussed. Both reiterated the desire to further enhance and strengthen bilateral relations in all fields.

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 along with amendments proposed by him.

Chinese Vice Premier says: Pakistan-China friendship higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan and China on Monday expressed their determination to reach new heights through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Addressing an event planned to mark the 10 years of the CPEC, PM Shehbaz Sharif said: "Today is an important day for both countries".

He thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying, "When Xi Jinping came to Pakistan, he gifted the CPEC to the

country". He appreciated the efforts of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in promoting friendly relations with China.

PM Shehbaz said that many of the CPEC projects had been completed ahead of schedule. "A few CPEC projects are still in progress and are nearing completion," he added.

He praised China for embarking on the "journey of development



ABU DHABI: Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed his heartfelt condolence with Foreign Minister of UAE Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on demise of Sheikh Saeed Bin Zayed, discussed bilateral relations & regional & global issues of mutual interest.

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.

Bilawal thanks UAE for unshakeable Pakistan's support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari paid an official visit to the UAE Sunday to condole over the death of Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the brother of President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

In Abu Dhabi, the foreign minister met his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and offered heartfelt condolences on the death of Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who passed away on July 27, 2023, according to a Foreign Office press release.

The two Foreign Ministers discussed bilateral relations between Pakistan and the UAE and exchanged views on regional and global developments in the region.

They expressed satisfaction over bilateral multi-dimensional cooperation including in trade, investment, energy, information technology and infrastructure. They reaffirmed their joint resolve to strengthen mutually rewarding economic ties.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari thanked the leadership of the UAE for its consistent and unwavering support to Pakistan in difficult times.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan appreciated the valuable contributions made by the Pakistani community in the development of the UAE.



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 in inaugurating the ground breaking ceremony of the Permanent Headquarter of International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) at Diplomatic Enclave.

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 JUI-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 JUI-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.



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.

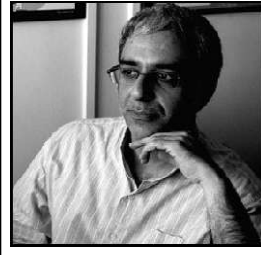
According to the World Bank, Sri Lanka issued an all-time high of 900,000 passports in 2022. At least 300,000 Sri Lankans left the country last year and 73,000 left in the first three months of this year, reported the Economist, saying there was evidence that "middle class professionals have joined the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

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 fem 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 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-scribbled 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 our 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 Rs2,800 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 Ateeel, Vice Chancellor MNS Agriculture University Professor Dr. Asif Ali, Additional Secretaries Task Force Shabir Ahmed Khan and Intiaz 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.

The chief minister was accompanied by provincial caretaker cabinet members Matullah Khan Marwat, Hamid Shah and Dr. Riaz Anwar, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur.

The chief minister 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.

Moreover, Muhammad Azam Khan said that the provincial government stood by the bereaved families adding that he was deeply saddened to learn about the loss of precious human lives due to the heartbreaking blast the other day. "Targeting peaceful citizens was a highly inhumane and

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.

Meanwhile, the chief minister also met the elders of district Bajaur and heirs of the martyrs and expressed his heartfelt sympathies over the irreparable loss of human lives. He prayed for the higher ranks of martyrs and early recovery of the injured ones.



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

public hospitals and decided to hand over the parking of Lahore's all government-run hospitals to the Lahore Parking Company (LPC). The chief secretary said that providing the best health and education facilities to people was a priority of the government. He said that under the health insurance programme, the best healthcare should be provided to eligible patients, adding that quality of facilities should inspire patients to opt for medical treatment in the public health facilities.

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 Sudder Police Station on Monday, police and rescue sources said.

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 age 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.



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

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 Tahsin 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.

Murtaza Javed Abbasi inaugurates development projects in Lower Tanawal

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Monday inaugurated various development projects, including the Sui gas provision and Nadra office in Tehsil Lower Tanawal Sherwan.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Murtaza Javed Abbasi highlighted the achievements of the coalition government and said that under their one-year tenure, the country was successfully brought out of default. He also accused Israel and India of conspiring against the government,

although their efforts were reportedly unsuccessful. The minister mentioned the revival of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, indicating China's continued interest in investing in Pakistan's development. He expressed his unwavering loyalty to Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N).

Talking about the devastating earthquake of October 2005 in the district Abbottabad, Murtaza Abbasi acknowledged the failure to construct 29 schools and Basic Health Units (BHUs) and assured the residents.

Mirza Adeb remembered

LAHORE (APP): The 23rd death anniversary of renowned dramatist, short-story writer and playwright Mirza Adeb was observed here on Monday.

His birth name was Dilawer Hussain Ali but he came to be known in the literary world as Mirza Adeb.

Today, various literary circles and forums paid tribute to Mirza Adeb by organising sittings at Pak Tea House, Lahore Press Club and other places.

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.

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.



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.

One of its demands is the immediate release and reinstatement of Nigerian President Mohamed Bazoum, who remains under house arrest and has yet to resign.

Niger, a former French colony, had been regarded by the West as one of the last democratic partners in the Sahel region in its battle against Islamic extremists. The European Union and the United States have poured millions of dollars in military aid and assistance into the country.

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.

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 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.

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



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

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 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."

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 Aiwan-e-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.

The President expressed gratitude for China's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute, apart from thanking the Chinese Government for providing financial support to Pakistan in difficult times. He congratulated the Vice-Premier on the conferment of the award of Hilal-e-Pakistan on him and appreciated his contributions towards promoting Pak-China friendship and successfully overseeing the implementation of CPEC projects.

Conveying his gratitude to the President, the Chinese Vice-Premier recalled President Dr Arif Alvi's solidarity visit to China in March 2020, saying that the visit would be remembered by the people of China as he undertook it during a difficult time despite the risks of COVID-19 pandemic.



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.

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 Ulama-i-Islam Fazl

(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.

Rana Tanveer Hussain, a senior leader of PML-N and federal minister, expressed sympathies for the tragic incident and the bereaved families.

He reminded the House of the sacrifices made during the war against terrorism, which had cost the lives of over 80,000 individuals, including law enforcement personnel. He mentioned attempts to sabotage Pakistan's development during the Chinese President's visit in 2014 and was of the view that the recent terrorist incidents were aimed at hindering the country's progress, particularly during the visit of the Chinese Deputy Premier.

Rana Tanveer Hussain stressed the necessity of unity and the formulation of a concrete strategy to tackle such situations effectively.

Efforts afoot to utilize Pakistan's mineral resources for people's welfare: Atta

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Law Affairs Attaullah Tarar on Monday said that all out efforts were being ensured to utilize Pakistan's mineral resources for people's welfare.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has resolved the issue of the Reko-Dik project after establishing the coalition government, he said while talking to a private television channel.

The last regime of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), had created many hurdles in different public welfare projects, he said adding that we are trying to bring improvement in every sector.

In reply to a question about weak health infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said the PTI leaders had been running the affairs of the government in KPK for the last ten years but they could not build an international standard hospital in 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 Rs2,373.64 after an increase of Rs281.51.

Similarly, the price of LPG now stands at Rs201.15 per kg. In July, the 11.8kg domestic cylinder of LPG was available at Rs2,092.13.

Departments asked to hold flood damage assessment, gather accurate data

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Monday instructed relevant departments to carryout flood damage assessment and gather accurate data.

The Chairman NDMA presided Special National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC) session with key stakeholders on the current monsoon situation. The session was attended by representatives of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Federal Flood

Commission (FFC), Provincial, State and Gilgit Baltistan disaster management authorities (PDMAs, SDMA, GBDMA respectively), Federal Flood Division (FFD), Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARO), Tarbela and Mangla Dam Management, a news release said.

The Chairman NDMA reviewed the situation of damages caused by the recent spell, the situation of major Dams and the regulation of river flows during the ongoing monsoon spell.

The PMD briefed about the rainfall observed in the areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtoonkwa, Balochistan and Kashmir. They also informed about the expected rainfall in the Northern parts of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtoonkwa (Malakand Division) and in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) from July 31 to August 6.

The PDMAs briefed about the current situation in the respective provinces and highlighted the rescue and relief work carried out during the recent spell.



ISLAMABAD: President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mr. Duarte Pacheco along with delegation visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

Mustafa Hyder says: Pak-China friendship deeper than ocean

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute Sayed Mustafa Hyder Monday

said that relations between Pakistan and China had remained deeper than the ocean over the years and the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would prove to be a milestone in promoting regional economic integration.

"The present government is committed to the timely completion of CPEC projects to bolster the national economy as well as reduce poverty", he said while talking to the PTV

news channel.

"Pakistan is a very important country for China and that is why Beijing is investing huge amounts into the country for its development," he added.

"The second phase now attention is being paid to agriculture, culture and people-to-people exchanges," he said.

"The incumbent government is committed to completing all projects of CPEC on time," he added.

"Chinese Vice Premier is especially visiting Islamabad to celebrate a decade of CPEC," he said.

Hassan reviews Lahore's development projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator Khawaja Ahmed Hassan, during a meeting held at Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex on Monday, reviewed the pace of work on the ongoing development projects, being carried out in the provincial capital.

He was briefed on the current and next financial year's development projects of Lahore by the officials of Lahore Development Authority (LDA), Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL), Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) and Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA).

Khawaja Hassan stressed the need for early completion of all development projects, as people of Lahore were still waiting for

relief from relevant departments, saying that the government wanted to bring comfort and facilitation in the lives of people through their public friendly projects.

The coordinator said that despite difficult circumstances, the government was providing resources worth billions of rupees to improve the quality of life to people whereas comprehensive reforms were being introduced for rapid development of the province.

Directing the MCL officials, he said that streetlights on the main roads of the city should be kept on continuously at night and maintenance work should be done simultaneously.

5063MWs of electricity added to national grid over last 15 months by government: Dastgir

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir says five thousand and sixty-three megawatts of electricity has been added to the national grid over the last fifteen months by the coalition government.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Monday, he said this included 1980 megawatts from Thar Coal, 720 megawatts from Karot Hydro-power project, 1100 megawatts from K-3 nuclear power plant and 1263 megawatts from Haveli Bahadar Shah RLNG plant. He said criminal negligence

in power supply situation during this summer season remained better when compared with the past year. He said we have also inaugurated a project for import of one hundred megawatts of electricity from Iran for Gwadar.

Khurram Dastgir said that we have also operationalized Thar-Matari transmission line for supply of electricity from Thar coal projects. He said work on three more transmission lines is in progress to improve the transmission system. The Minister for

Power said that the circular debt which was standing at record level of 2467 billion rupees in March last year, has been brought down by 157 billion rupees to 2310 billion rupees.

The Minister for Power said that it was because of enhancement in electricity generation ca-

capacity that the power supply situation during this summer season remained better when compared with the past year. He said we have also inaugurated a project for import of one hundred megawatts of electricity from Iran for Gwadar.

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Domestic worker violence case: Federal police include attempted murder provision in case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad police have added important provisions including attempted murder in the case of alleged torture of Rizwana, domestic servant of civil judge's wife.

Dr Jodati Saleem said that it will take 10 days to get report of poison diagnosis test.

It is to remember that Civil Judge wife has also obtained interim bail from Lahore High Court till 1st August.

According to details, an important progress has come out in the case of domestic worker violence by wife of Civil Judge.

Islamabad police have added more provisions in the case after receiving medical report.

The provisions of attempted murder and breaking bones of most of the body parts have also been included in the case registered in Islamabad Hamak Police station.

On the other hand, head of medical board said

that after Bronchoscopy of Rizwana who is being treated in General Hospital Lahore her breathing has improved.

Dr Jodati Saleem said that physiotherapy of Rizwana has started.

While taking notice of the incident, Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has also issued orders to provide justice to victim girl.

It should be noted that victim girl is undergoing treatment at Lahore General Hospital.

Principal of Hospital Professor Farid Zafar said yesterday that it has also been revealed that Rizwana was poisoned.

It is pertinent to say that Rizwana belongs to Sargodha.

She used to work in house of Civil Judge in Islamabad.

Mother of girl has alleged that she was tortured by wife of Civil Judge.

The girl was badly injured by violence.

Rs7,674m allocated for Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the budget of attached departments 1500 Million rupees allocated for National Poverty Graduation Programme, 419 Million Rupees for Sehat Tahafuz Programme, 80.870 Million Rupees for Social Protection Delivery Unit, 471.683 Million Rupees for Benazir Income Support Program and around 7,674.620 Million Rupees has been allocated for Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, officials of Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety apprised to Senate body on Monday.

Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety was held at Parliament House on Monday.

The committee considered the private member bill titled "The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (Amendment) 2022 introduced by Senator Sania Nishtar in the Senate sitting held on 10th October, 2022 and referred by the House to the Standing Committee for Consideration and report.

The committee considered the Bill clause by clause where majority of the members voted against the proposed amendments.

However, clauses 15 and 16 of the proposed bill were supported both by Ministry and the Committee.

SC disposes of case against Justice Isa

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Monday disposed of a contempt of court case against Justice Qazi Faiz 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.



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

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 and referred by the House to the Standing Committee for consideration and report. The committee considered the Bill clause by clause where the majority of the members voted against the proposed amendments.

However, clauses 15 and 16 of the proposed bill

were supported both by the ministry and the committee.

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

The committee was briefed on the budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and its attached departments for financial year 2023-24.

The officials apprised that the total budget of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety is approximately 252.22 million rupees.

However, as far as the budget of attached departments is concerned, 1500 Million rupees is allocated for National Poverty Graduation Programme, Rs. 419 million for Sehat Tahafuz Programme, Rs. 80.870 million for Social

HEC announces Phase-10 of Peridot Research Program

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has invited applications from August 16th, 2023 to October 6th, 2023 for the 10th Phase of Peridot Mobility grant program.

According to official sources from HEC, the desired candidates can submit application through online portal research.hec.gov.pk.

PERIDOT is the Franco-Pakistani Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Program providing opportunities to Pakistani and French researchers to interact for joint research activities. The program is implemented in Pakistan by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and in France, jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International De-

velopment (MAEDI) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESRI).

The objective of this program is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between French and Pakistani higher education institutions/research laboratories by supporting the mobility of researchers from both sides. The Program, launched in 2014, proceeded its 9 phases till 2022.

In last 9th phase Three partnerships have been approved.

PERIDOT awardees will be selected competitively using a merit-based, independent, transparent evaluation and selection process based upon international standards. The process is described in the Sections below:



ISLAMABAD: Major General Farrukh Shahzad Rao, Director General National Logistics Cell (NLC), along with a team of NLC, called on Finance Minister at Finance Division.



ISLAMABAD: Briefing on the development projects of the current and next financial year under the chairmanship of Coordinator Prime Minister of Pakistan Khawaja Ahmed Hassan at Aiwan Iqbal Complex.