

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 Pakhtunkhwa belt, particularly the tribal belts of KP and Balochistan. These groups, in the past, targeted and decimated the ANP and Qaumi 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 reassess 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 tragedy is needed for new tragedies.

According to the World Bank, Sri Lanka is still at 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

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. 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

have 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 International 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 International 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.

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 in December and much better in January 2024.

SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 22%

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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 Ghulam Syed,



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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 addressed 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 Atteel, 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.

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

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture Punjab, Ifikhar 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

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 Matiullah 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.

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 Ihsan 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.

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.

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

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.



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.

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, 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 (BHU) and assured the residents.

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.

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.

Mirza Adeeb remembered

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

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

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

The petitioner has taken the plea in the

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

BAJAU (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 Ahmed was running a furniture shop at Khar bazaar and came to



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.

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 Zelenskyy's hometown in central Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian ballistic missiles slammed into an apartment complex and a university building in President Volodymyr Zelenskyy'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 Rih destroyed part of an apartment building between the fourth and ninth floors.

The strike on Zelenskyy'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,"

Zelenskyy said Sunday in his latest 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.

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.



Nigerian 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.

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.

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.



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 Mahmud 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.

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.

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 Shehzad 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.

City police chief addresses IOs, CSU staff

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alain Odho on Monday addressed the investigation officers and staff of Crime Scene Unit (CSU) regarding the crime scene report writing procedure at Sindh Boys Scouts Auditorium.

Karachi Police Chief issued orders to the officers of CSU to reach the crime scene in time and cordon off the crime scene to secure the evidence to help the investigating officers so that the conviction of the accused in the court could be ensured based on solid

evidence.

He urged the investigation officers to adopt modern methods in the investigation process and issued instructions to maintain continuity of communication with the crime scene unit so that the evidence could be collected and secured without delay.

Javed Alain Odho directed officers concerned to issue weekly reports. He announced that officers with good performance would be rewarded while departmental action would be taken against poor performers.

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.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Hamayun Dilawar, hearing the case, observed that the PTI chief and his lawyer had disappointed the court as the purpose of such applications was to delay the trial. It was the third consecutive date fixed by the court to record the statement of the accused, who,

however, requested to postpone it.

The former prime minister, who appeared before the court along with his lawyer Khawaja Haris, prayed for more time for recording his statement.

The judge remarked that as per the defence lawyer the statement could not be prepared due to the Ashura holidays. The PTI chairman had already been given sufficient time in that regard.

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

Construction project of 157 houses to be completed soon

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

KARACHI: The construction project of 157 houses started by the resident manager of Faaji Fertilizer Company, Brigadier (retd) Muhammad Saleem Cheema for the rehabilitation of rain victims, is nearing completion, two dozen more. After the completion of the construction of nearby houses, hand over the keys to the house owners, according to the details, Resident Manager of FFC, District Ghotki, Brigadier (Retd.) Mohammad Saleem Cheema, Colonel Shafeel Chattha, PRO FFC Amanullah Shar, and Ahmed Ali Soomro started the construction phase of one hun-

dred and fifty seven houses for the restoration of the houses of the victims after the recent rains. After the completion of the construction of about two dozen houses in different areas of Mirpur Mathelo, Mathelo Momal man, Berri, Qazi Wah, Ghokhi Mathelo Road, and other areas, the keys were given to house owners Haq Nawaz Soomro, Sachal Lohar, Hakeem Shahid Bhatti, Nadeem. In this regard, the victims said that we are very grateful to the resident manager of FFC administration, Brigadier Muhammad Salim Cheema and his team, who have helped the poor and helped the poor to fulfill their dreams.

District administration enforces official price of milk

HYDERABAD (APP): The district administration of Hyderabad geared into action here on Monday against the retailers charging higher than the government-fixed price of milk.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Fauad Ghaffar Soomro, Assistant Commissioner Fahad Ajaz Butt visited 12 milk shops and imposed fines on the retailers charging between Rs200 to Rs220 per liter from the

public. The AC asked the shops' owners to display the government fixed rate of Rs190 per liter at a prominent place in their shops.

He warned them that more heavier fines would be imposed if they continued their violations.

Meanwhile, the AC Latifabad taluka Faraz Ahmed Siddiqui also warned the owners of the dairy shops to sell milk at Rs190 per liter, warning of action for non-compliance.

Funeral prayer of martyred policeman offered

KARACHI (APP): The funeral prayer of a martyred cop Adnan, who was killed by the firing of unidentified robbers late Sunday night, were offered at Police Headquarters Garden South on Monday.

Among others, the funeral prayers were attended by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IGP - Karachi Javed Alain Odho, DIGP and SSP of South and senior officers of Police, family, relatives and neighbors of martyred policeman.

KARACHI: A Karachi man opened fire on his sister and brother-in-law for marrying of their own free will in the city's Pehalwan goth, police said on Monday.

According to details, a man named Saifdar was killed in a shooting in the Pehalwan Goth, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi while his wife Azra was critically wounded.

The police said Saifdar, who is a waiter at a hotel and his wife Azra, were invited by the family of Azra. Upon arrival at her house Azra and her husband were shot at by her brother, Abbas.

Two boys drown in saline drain

HYDERABAD (APP): Two boys drowned while swimming in a saline channel in the village Jan Muhammad Bhatti in Jamshoro district on Monday.

According to police, 15 years old Mansoor Khan, a student of class 9, and 17 years old Hub Ali Mallah, a college student, lost their lives while swimming in the waterway. The local divers pulled out their bodies three hours later. The bodies were handed over to the bereaved families after the medico-legal formalities.

He further said that the establishment of BIUT was not less than a blessing for the patients of Shaheed Benazirabad and Surrounding areas because earlier kidney patients were referred to Karachi and other

CPEC historic project, milestone in strengthening bilateral ties: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday warmly welcomed Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng on behalf of Pakistan People's Party to participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "This historic project (CPEC) has been an important milestone in strengthening our bilateral rela-

tions," the minister said while sharing her heartfelt welcome note on her official Twitter handle account for the visiting dignitary.

Senator Rehman said her party was proud of the lasting friendship between Pakistan and China which was founded by Shahid Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Chairman Mao Zedong.

The minister accorded the credit of the CPEC as a proud project to President Xi Jinping and former President Asif Ali Zardari.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza says: Services of Karachi's deputy mayor's family for Karachi unforgettable

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the services of Salman Abdullah Murad's family for this city cannot be forgotten and his father Shahid Abdullah Murad sacrificed his life and worked tirelessly for the stability and survival of democracy alongside Benazir Bhutto.

He said this while speaking in a condolence meeting organized by People's Officers Association and People's Labour

Bureau in KMC building for the grandfather of Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad Haji Murad Ali.

He said that Haji Murad Ali, the grandfather of Salman Abdullah Murad, played an important role in keeping the family united and upholding the ideology. We pray to Allah Almighty to forgive him and grant us the opportunity to continue his mission of public service, he said.

Karachi man opens fire on sister, brother-in-law for 'honour'

KARACHI (INP): A Karachi man opened fire on his sister and brother-in-law for marrying of their own free will in the city's Pehalwan goth, police said on Monday.

According to details, a man named Saifdar was killed in a shooting in the Pehalwan Goth, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi while his wife Azra was critically wounded.

The police said Saifdar, who is a waiter at a hotel and his wife Azra, were invited by the family of Azra. Upon arrival at her house Azra and her husband were shot at by her brother, Abbas.

Two boys drown in saline drain

HYDERABAD (APP): The Commission of Shaheed Benazirabad division Muhammad Abbas Baloch on Monday visited the Benazir Institute of Urology and Transplantation (BIUT) and reviewed arrangements. The Commissioner directed relevant officers to complete the development work of BIUT at the earliest so that the best healthcare facilities could be provided to kidney patients of Shaheed Benazirabad and other districts.

He further said that the establishment of BIUT was not less than a blessing for the patients of Shaheed Benazirabad and Surrounding areas because earlier kidney patients were referred to Karachi and other

big cities for the best treatment, but now they could be treated at their native city. Commissioner directed Superintendent Engineer HESCO to provide a separate feeder for providing power supply to BIUT to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

He directed the Municipal Commissioner to improve sanitation in BIUT besides ensuring cleaning drainage nullah.

Appraising the Com-

missioner, Coordinator SIUT Muhammad Amin Dahraaj and Dr.

Muhammad Ali Sohail said that Sindh Government has formally handed over control of BIUT to SIUT which would assume all arrangements soon.

KARACHI (APP): A cop was martyred while another sustained injuries in an encounter with alleged robbers near a shopping plaza, in the jurisdiction of the Defense police station late Sunday night. Police Constable Adnan was martyred while Constable Ashar was critically injured, said police officials on Monday.

Three accused includ-

ing one in an injured condition managed to flee from the scene. The body of the deceased cop and the injured were shifted to Jinnah Hospital.

"Police have combed the area and started the search for culprits," the officials added.

Commissioner visits Benazir Institute of Urology & Transplantation

NAWABSHA (APP): The Commissioner of Shaheed Benazirabad division Muhammad Abbas Baloch on Monday visited the Benazir Institute of

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