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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; Pakistan, China agree on CPEC's centrality for socioeconomic uplift; resolve to realise shared objectives; Two sides agreed to promote the strategic ML-1 project; Phase 2 of CPEC starts, focus on agriculture, information technology; ML-1, Karachi circular railway projects are of immense importance.

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

The prime minister said today Gwadar had been turned into a busy city with huge potential in the time to come. CPEC would ensure it as the busiest trade hub in the region, he said, adding that his government was placing due focus and attention to the development of the port with full speed and commitment.

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

Prime Minister



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting a memento of Rs. 100 coin to Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng at a ceremony to commemorate the 10th anniversary of CPEC.

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

and thanked the Export-Import Bank of China and commercial banks for their loans' roll over in the last few months.

"But we have to move away from these borrowed loans and aids, and have to stand on our feet to show to the world that our people are great, energetic and capable of facing the difficult challenges," he stressed.

The ceremony was attended by Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping, Vice Premier of China and Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, He Lifeng, the ministers, members of the Chinese delegation, parliamentarians, chief ministers, senior officials and relevant authorities.



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.

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.

Sindh govt launches new route of electric bus in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has announced a new electric bus route from Malir Cantt gate number 5 to Numaish Chowrangi which will provide travel facilities to the general public.

Provincial Minister of Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon, in a statement, said that the new electric bus route will cover 18 km via Gulistan Johar, Millennium Mall.

The new electric bus route has been launched from Monday which will provide travel facilities to the public, Sharjeel Memon said.

He said that the PPP's provincial government was fully aware of the travel issues faced by the people. Providing affordable and comfortable travel facility to the public is the top priority of the government, Memon said.

Killing of brother, nephew of MPA outcome of personal enmity

KARACHI (APP): Killing of brother and nephew of Member Sindh Aslam Abro found to be outcome of personal enmity.

According to SSP South Asad Raza, accused Zubair Shahwani and his accomplices were involved in murder of Akram Abro and his son Shahyab.

He said that the key accused Zubair Shahwani took the revenge of his nephew Asif Shahwani and his companions killed in 2019 near Northern Bypass.

SSP Asad said that spokesman of Zubair Shahwani has also claimed the responsibility of murder Akram Abro on social media after which he escaped from the city.

The police official said that search for the culprits was underway and they would be brought to book.

It should be mentioned here that Akram Abro and his son Shehryar were killed in Defence on July 26, 2023.

Pakistan, China signs 6 MoUs to boost further economic cooperation

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

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

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the high-level Chinese delegation led by the Chinese Vice Premier, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, members of the federal cabinet and senior officials of the various ministries. It is noted that since the government came into power in April 2022, the CPEC projects have been revived which remained neglected in the past.

During the signing ceremony the minutes of the 11th Meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC were also signed.

Bilawal thanks UAE for unshakeable Pakistan's support

ABU DHABI (INP): Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is presently on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), met with his counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



Speaking on the occasion, Bilawal said he was pleased to meet with Abdullah.

The foreign minister also offered his condolences over the death of Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed.

Both dignitaries exchanged views over relations between the two countries, regional and global situation.

Federal IT Minister inaugurates Digital IT Laboratory

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Syed Aminul Haq formally inaugurated the modern Digital IT Laboratory in the Rashid Minhas Government Boys & Girls School Nazimabad, here Monday.

Member of Sindh Assembly Abbas Jaffery, Convener Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan and former federal IT Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqi, and other notables as well as school teachers and students in large numbers were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the IT Minister said, "Training in 15 different modern IT fields will be imparted to the students in the facility."

Referring to his discussion with the Principal of Rashid Minhas Government Boys & Girls School Nazimabad, the minister said, "He is briefed regarding the provision of three months IT training to a batch of 300 students in the first instance that would be followed by another batch of 300 students after three months." "The successful students will also be issued certificates of IT training," he noted.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Syed Amin-ul-Haq and Former Minister and Convener MQM Pakistan Khalid Maqbool Siddiqi along with others inaugurating Free Digital IT Lab at Rashid Minhas Govt. Boys & Girls School Nazimabad at Rizvia Chowrangi.



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

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

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

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

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

Delegation comprising members of 33rd Management Course in NIM calls on Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday called on a delegation comprising members of the 33rd senior Management course in the National Institute of Management (NIM) at Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) office here on Monday.

Talking to the members of the delegation, he said that Karachi is the aorta and commercial capital hub of the country and the development of the country depends on the development of Karachi.

He said that we have to do positive marketing of our cities and the people of



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

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

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.

Sindh govt decides to deploy FC for security of Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge project

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government due to law and order situation in Katcha areas has decided to deploy FC for security of the under construction Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge project.

During a meeting held here on Monday with Secretary Sindh Home Department in chair, it was informed that the Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge has been 12 kilometers in length and eight kilometers of which yet to be constructed with estimated cost of 14 billion rupees. The meeting was informed that deployment of FC along with police and Rangers is necessary as the bandits have recently kidnapped three workers of the bridge project and project director had refused to work on the under-construction bridge without proper security. Sindh Cabinet had approved the project in October 2021 with the promise to complete it by July 2023.

Sherry Rehman condolences demise of PML-N leader Tariq Fazil's son

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday extended her heartfelt condolences to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Dr Tariq Fazil Chaudhry on the demise of his young son in a tragic road accident.

The minister arrived at the Central Secretariat of PML-N flanked by Pakistan People's Party Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi here, a news release said.

He also expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership for supporting Pakistan at the critical juncture with financial support

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" with dedication and passion.

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.

IGP chairs meeting to discuss steps for strengthening investigation department

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Monday presided over a meeting to discuss the necessary steps regarding strengthening the Investigation Department of police and its coordination with the Crime Scene Unit.

The IGP Sindh instructed that taking care of the financial and administrative matters of the Crime Scene Unit would be the responsibility of the concerned SSP Investigation.

He said it will be the responsibility of the Station House Officer to immediately inform the station Investigation Officer (IO) about the call received regarding any incident.

After confirming the authentication of call, the SIO or IO along with the Crime Scene Unit will ensure immediate access to the crime scene with the objective of securing and collecting the available evidence related to the incident and making their forensic investigation process successful and effective.

Ghulam Nabi Memon said for the successful investigation of the cases or the successful completion of the cases, it was necessary to use the professional capacity, experience and expertise in the best way.

The Additional IGP Investigation gave a detailed briefing during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Additional IGPs of Training, Crime/Investigation, Headquarters, DIGPs and AIGPs of IT, Legal, Logistics, Admin, Finance, Operations and DSP Crime Scene Unit.

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 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 aged 15 came to the river for bathing when one of the girls went into deep waters and starts drowning.

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

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

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

The eldest child of his parents, Ejaz Ahmad was running a furniture shop at Khar bazaar and came to JUIF convention where he was immortalized forever.

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



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

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

LAHORE (Online): 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, KIU, UOB, and University of Mallaan EvK2CNR successfully installed the Automate Weather Station in Askoli, Urdas and Candodia.

Provincial Minister visits Metro Bus Service to review facility services

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

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.

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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.



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.

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 zero — by 2050. The UAE, an OPEC member that produces over 3 million barrels of crude oil a day, will host the global climate talks known as COP28 from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 in Dubai.

EU ready to strengthen cooperation with Philippines on maritime security

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

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

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China imposed restrictions Monday on exports of long-range civilian drones, citing Russia's war in Ukraine and concern that drones might be converted to military use.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government is friendly with Moscow but says it is neutral in the 18-month-old war. It has been stung by reports that both sides might be using Chinese-made drones for reconnaissance and possibly attacks.

Export controls will

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

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



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

President calls for enhanced Chinese investment in SEZs

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

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

The President made these remarks while talking to the Special Representative of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, and the Vice-Premier of the State

Council of China, Mr He Lifeng, who along with members of his delegation called on him, at 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.



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



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

City police chief addresses IOs, CSU staff

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

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.

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.

Construction project of 157 houses to be completed soon

KARACHI: The construction project of 157 houses started by the resident manager of Fauji Fertilizer Company, Brigadier (ret'd) 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 (Ret'd.) Mohammad Saleem Cheema, Colonel Shakeel Chatha, PRO FFC Amanullah Shar, and Ahmed Ali Soomro started the construction phase of one hundred and fifty seven houses for the restoration of the houses of the victims after the recent rains.

After the completion of about two dozen houses in different areas of Mirpur Mathelo, Mathelo Momal mari, Berni, Qazi Wah, Ghotki 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.

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 Anadan, who was killed by the firing of unidentified robbers late Sunday night, were offered at Police Headquarters Garden South on Monday.

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 has been an important milestone in strengthening our bilateral relations," the minister said while sharing her heartfelt welcome note on her official Twitter handle account for the visiting dignitary.

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

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the services of Salman Abdullah Murad's family for this city cannot be forgotten and his father Shaheed 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

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.



BAJAUR: People attend the funeral of the victims of a bomb explosion in Bajaur, Pakistan, 31 July 2023. At least 44 people were killed and dozens were injured in a suicide bomb attack that targeted a workers' convention of the Islamic political party Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) in Khar.

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

Commissioner visits Benazir Institute of Urology & Transplantation

NAWABSHAH (APP): The Commissioner 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.

Cop martyred, another injured in encounter with street criminals

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 Anadan was martyred while Constable Ashar was critically injured, said police officials on Monday.

Three accused including 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.

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.



KARACHI: Inspector General Police Sindh Inspector General Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon attend the funeral prayer of Martyr Soldier of Shaheed Force, at Police Head Quarter, in Provincial Capital.

SC disposes of case against Justice Isa

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

Parliamentarians call for uncovering elements behind terrorist attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): The members of the National Assembly on Monday strongly denounced the attack on the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl

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

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 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.

The petitioner had filed the case seeking contempt of court proceeding against SC's judge for running proceeding on audio tapes inquiry commission.

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



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.

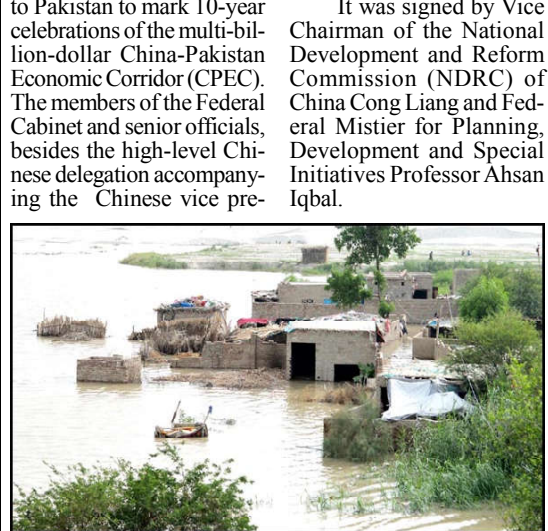
Planning Ministry highlights salient features of six Pak-China MoUs

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

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

mier, were also present in the ceremony, a Planning Ministry news release said. It is noted that since the incumbent government came into power in April 2022, the CPEC projects had been revived which remained neglected in the past. During the signing ceremony, the minutes of the 11th Meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC were also signed. "This document comprised the decisions and outcomes of the 11th meeting of the JCC on CPEC held on October 27, 2022."

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



HYDERABAD: Houses built in the bed of river Indus came under water near the safety band of Sehrrish Nagar, when water level rose downstream Kotri.

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 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 meeting was held here with Senator Naseebullah Bazi in the chair. The bill was introduced by Senator Sania Nishtar in the Senate sitting held on October 10, 2022 and referred

Two involved in street crimes arrested

KARACHI (APP): The district Central Police on Monday claimed to have arrested two alleged street criminals involved in looting citizens from under the bridges and underpasses.

According to police, the arrested were identified as Muhibullah and Fareed and two pistols, two mobile phones, and a motorcycle were recovered from their possession. The accused confessed to commit numerous street crimes at Liaquatabad Bridge, Nazimabad Underpass and Gharibabad Underpass.