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President, PM express grief over loss of lives Over 30 killed, scores injured as 10 bogies of Hazara Express derail near Nawabshah

Railways minister hints at possible sabotage, says accident could be result of a mechanical fault or the fault may have been 'created'

NAWABSHAH (INP): Over 30 people were killed and dozens others injured when ten bogies of Havelian bound Hazara Express derailed near the Sarhari Railway Station close to Nawabshah on Sunday.

Local people, rescue personnel, railway officials, Pakistan Army, FC and officials of district management reached the scene and joined the rescue operation. Talking to media at People's Medical College Hospital in Benazirabad, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah confirmed the death toll. He said that the injured could be shifted to Karachi if needed and directed the local administration and health officials to expedite relief and rescue efforts.

According to Railways and Aviation Minis-

ter Khawaja Saad Rafique, the accident occurred at 1:18pm and around 1,000 passengers were travelling in the Hazara Express.

During rescue operation, dozens of cars, tractors, rickshaws and motor-cycles were seen parked on a road that runs alongside the track at the site of accident.

Volunteers were witnessed through a canal that separates the road from the railway line to help, and lifting the injured to get them assistance.

Some passenger compartments were upright but off the tracks, while others lay on their side, mangled steel from the undercarriage twisted and buckled.

There were chaotic scenes at the Nawabshah Trauma Centre as ambulances and private cars ferried the injured for treatment.

Talking to media in Lahore, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said that initial investigation showed that the train was travelling at a "reasonable" speed, adding that officials had reached the scene and an emergency was imposed in hospitals in Sukkur and Nawabshah.

Bilawal takes notice of train accident

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday took notice of the Hazara Express train accident that occurred near Nawabshah on Sunday and directed the relevant authorities to investigate it.

According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the passengers who died in the unfortunate accident near Sirhari railway station and prayed for eternal peace for departed souls.

He issued instructions that his party workers should also participate in rescue activities with the rescue teams of the Sindh government. He also urged the Sindh government to ensure better treatment for the passengers injured in the accident.



NAWABSHAH: A large numbers of people gathered at the accident site following the derailment of a passenger train in Nawabshah.

CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah visits train accident site in Sarhari

NAWABSHAH (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah arrived at Nawabshah on a short visit Soon after his arrival, the Chief Minister visited the emergency ward of Peoples Medical University Hospital and checked bed to bed of the victims of Hazara Express tragedy.

The Divisional Commissioner Nawabshah Muhammad Abbas Baloch briefed the Chief Minister over the tragic train incident. Later talking to the media, the Chief Minister said that as per information

gathered 30 casualties out of three are women and one is admitted at Sakrand while 29 dead bodies were brought to PMC. He said that total injured passengers were 110, which might increase as passengers were still stranded in bogies.

CM said the ill-fated Hazara Express met with an accident near Sarhari which is a very tragic incident. He said that the cause of the accident could be ascertained after complete investigation of the mishap.

He directed hospital administration to provide

better treatment facilities to injured people and also, appealed to people of Nawabshah, particularly media persons to vacate the hospital and give time to doctors for treatment of victims. He said that doctors have also advised him to avoid visiting the ICU however he has appealed to the media to vacate the hospital and also tell people to give space to doctors and medical staff.

CM urged rushing people to give space to relatives of injured and dead passengers to visit them.

Nawaz Sharif to be next PM if voted to power: PM

KASUR (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said Nawaz Sharif would change destiny of the country by initiating projects in the sectors of agriculture, industry and infrastructure.

He was speaking at a public meeting here after laying foundation stone for Taray Garh interchange on the Lahore-Bahawalnagar motorway and Rai Mansab Ali Khan interchange on Abdul Hakim motorway on the Bucheki-Nankana road. "Nawaz Sharif will serve the people of Pakistan as prime minister for another term if voted to power. He considers the whole of Pakistan as his family and in the past selflessly served the people," he remarked.

He said Rs 263 billion would be spent on the construction of motorway from Lahore to

Bahawalnagar and on other projects.

He recalled that in the past, Pakistan suffered from load-shedding of 20 hours every day and then Nawaz Sharif came in 2013 and he removed the darkness caused by power shortages by setting up power projects, revived industry and agriculture and brought the CPEC project of \$ 30 billion with the collaboration of China.

He said their government provided laptops worth billions of rupees to millions of students, adding he was unfairly criticised for delivering laptops to youth who were now using modern tools of communication and earning livelihoods. He noted that Nawaz Sharif initiated the project of Diaper Bhasha and Dasu Dams and made Pakistan a nuclear state by conducting six nuclear explosions in response to five explosions by India.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a public gathering in Kasur.

Sindh Governor, Ethiopian Ambassador discuss bilateral ties

KARACHI (INP): Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Beker Abdula called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori in Karachi on Sunday and discussed bilateral relations and promotion of trade and investment between two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Governor said Pak-Ethiopian relations

span over decades which have further increased with launch of Ethiopian Airlines.

He stressed need for exchange of delegations between two countries in different sectors. The visiting ambassador expressed that his country wants increase in bilateral trade between two countries.

No one is above the law, says Sharjeel

Leadership of the People's Party has consistently prioritized the supremacy of law and has consistently appeared before the courts

Independent Report KARACHI: Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit of Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon em-

appeared before the courts. While addressing a press conference at the Archives Complex in Clifton, Karachi, he stated



phasized that in the eyes of the law, no one is above the law, and no one can be allowed to violate it. The leadership of the People's Party has consistently prioritized the supremacy of law and has consistently

that every Pakistani citizen is subject to the law; no one is exempt from its provisions. While the arrest of anyone is regrettable, equality before the law remains a fundamental principle.

Sacrifices of Sindh Police cannot be forgotten: DIG Police Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Mirpurkhas Range Zulfikar Ali Mehr met the heirs and families of police martyrs on the occasion of "Police Martyrs' Day" and paid tributes to the unparalleled sacrifices of hundreds of martyrs of Sindh Police here on Sunday.

On this occasion, DIG Mirpurkhas Range said, those who sacrifice their lives to maintain peace and protect the lives and property of the citizens are the

heroes of the nation and the heroes of the Sindh Police.

He also expressed that every year, the Sindh Police celebrates 4th August as Police Martyrs' Day. "I salute the mothers of these martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for the dear country; I salute the families, parents and children of these martyrs, whose loved ones achieved the great position of martyrdom. As Head of Mirpurkhas Range, the best welfare of the families of police martyrs is my top priority" he added.

Sindh CM directs to complete N-5 road project by October

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed authorities to complete the N-5 road project by October this year. This he said while chairing the 11th meeting of the Provincial Coordination and Implementation Committee in Karachi on Sunday. The meeting reviewed the progress made so far on Malir Expressway.

Earlier, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah directed the provincial local government department to speed up the work at Malir Expressway so that one portion of the project from Korangi or Quaidabad could be opened by December this year.

CM Shah visited the under-construction Malir Expressway a day earlier along with Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Karachi mayor-elect Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Special Assistant to the CM Syed Qasim Naveed and deputy mayor-elect Salman Abdullah Murad. They inspected the 39.4 kilometres under construction Malir Expressway from Korangi to Kathore, Karachi Commissioner Muhammad Iqbal Memon, LG Secretary Najam Shah, Project Director Niaz Soomro and Special Secretary Finance Asad Zamin were present on the project site.



KARACHI: President Karachi Press Club Saeed Sarbazi and Secretary Sohaib Ahmed present traditional Ajrak to Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb during her visit to Karachi Press Club.

Khursheed Shah hopes elections to be held on time, PPP to stand if it delays

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party leader Syed Khurshid Shah Sunday expressed hope that Pakistan Muslim League-N will take the country in the right direction and elections would take place on time in accordance with the constitution as PPP will stand if polls will be delayed.

"Election should be held under the code of conduct as economic stability hinges on political stability", he said while talking to a private news channel. "PPP truly believes in timely and transparent elections which would be better for the country and its stability," he added. Replying to a question about the progress in the

appointment of the caretaker setup, he explained that it was important to follow the Constitution, adding, almost all parties are included in the committee.

They have finalized five names at a committee level, not the leadership level," he added. He said that the PM candidate should be Independent, adding, a candidate should not be an active member of any party nor be a major leader of any party. He also appreciated PM Shehbaz Sharif and the way he took all his allied parties along, adding, he also hoped that now it's all responsibility of PML-N to take wise decisions for the caretaker of set up and timely elections.

PTI threw "petrol bomb of inflation" on people: Marriyum

KARACHI (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) four-year rule which triggered extreme inflation in the country due to wrong economic policies and massive corruption of its leadership.

"The people fully knows the difference between development, destruction and conspiracies," she said while drawing a comparison between the destructive policies of the PTI government, and development-oriented and public-friendly initiatives of the coalition government in the last 15 months.

Marri grieved over loss of precious lives in train accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri has expressed her heartfelt sorrow over the loss of human lives in the Hazara Express accident.

In a message issued here, the federal minister prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the train accident.

Cases against Imran is Pakistan's internal matter: US

WASHINGTON (Online): American state departments spokesperson termed arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan's arrest an internal matter of Pakistan. On Sunday United States reaction came out on Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan's arrest and he declared it Pakistan's internal matter. He said cases against Imran Khan and other politician's is Pakistan's internal matter. Further he said we ask Pakistan and the whole world to respect democratic norms and rule of law.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meeting Ambassador of Ethiopia Jamal Beker Abdullah at Governor House.

PPP vision is a clean Karachi Government starting projects worth billions of rupees in Karachi: Nasir

Independent Report KARACHI: Minister Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that the Sindh government is starting projects worth billions of rupees in Karachi and PPP vision is a clean Karachi.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the PPP wants no more divisive politics in the city. I invite Jamaat-e-Islami to together that there should be politics of service. It is the month of freedom, through this month decide that we will not divide into factions and all will work together for the development of the city.

Abbasi Shaheed Hospital's OPD and Emergency are being restored on an emergency basis. We want the people of central district to get convenience. Minister LG Nasir Hussain Shah and Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab while addressing the opening ceremony of Pri-

mary and Secondary Solid Waste Collection System organized by Sindh Solid Waste Management Board in New Karachi Zone District Central Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Additional Chief Secretary LG Syed Najam Shah, MD Solid Waste Management Board Intiaz Shah, President of Arts Council of Pakistan Muhammad Ahmad Shah, Central District PPP President Masroor Ahsan, General Secretary Dil Muhammad, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs and Chief WHEP Karanullah Waqas Chairman of New Karachi Town Muhammad Yusuf and other leaders and officers were also present on this occasion. Minister LG said that there is a change in cleanliness in the city. Now Karachi will be clean, the sector of New Karachi was left, now from today the cleaning work has been started here as well.



SANGHAR: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety & Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri distributing ownership (Sanad) of houses built by Sindh Government to the deserving people during the ceremony Distribution of Land Title to Flood Affectees.

Names emerge for slot of caretaker Sindh CM

KARACHI (INP): As the planned dissolution of the assembly is just around the corner, the Sindh government has finalized names for caretaker chief minister and forwarded it to PPP leadership. According to media reports, government is considering the names of Justice @ Maqbool Baqir and Mumtaz Ali Shah for caretaker CM Sindh slot.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leadership has asked present government to suggest one more name for the slot, say sources, adding that final decision on the name would be taken by PPP high-ups. Meanwhile, Sindh opposition leader Rana Ansar will also forward three names for the slot to Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. It is mandatory under the constitution to decide about Sindh caretaker chief minister and the cabinet with consultations between the government and the opposition.

Sherry Rehman express condolences on Hazara Express accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday expressed her heartfelt condolences over the Hazara Express accident.

In a statement issued here, the federal minister said she was deeply saddened to hear about the accident of the Hazara Express from Karachi to Rawalpindi.

She also expressed her condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for the recovery of the injured.

"May Allah grant patience and grace to the bereaved, Amen," Sherry Rehman prayed. The minister demanded that an inquiry should be made to find out the causes of the accident.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

No surprises

Pakistan's twisted political saga continues without the slightest deviation from a tired and predictable script. PTI chairman Imran Khan has been found guilty of "corrupt practices", disqualified from representing the people of Pakistan, fined Rs100,000, and sentenced to three years in jail for good measure.

If Mr Khan's actual 'crime' seems irrelevant and of little moral significance, it is because former prime ministers Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy faced similar treatment at the hands of the state; none of the charges levelled against them withstood the test of time.

Indeed, considering the frivolity of the charge and severity of Mr Khan's punishment, one need not reach too far back in history to find a parallel. Where Mr Sharif's political dreams were cut short over an unrecieved salary, Mr Khan's political career has been rudely interrupted over failing to properly declare certain gifts he received as prime minister. In neither case, can the severity of the punishment be said to have fitted the 'crime'.

There is no denying that Mr Khan blundered by not complying with the ECP's asset declaration rules as strictly as he should have. However, months of reporting on Tashakhana records have since established that very few of those who received gifts in an official capacity may be able to pass similar scrutiny if their records were to be examined with the same vigour.

Given that context, for the court to hand Mr Khan the maximum possible sentence for the offence he was charged with seems excessive. The punishment is all the more problematic after the concerns raised by several observers over the manner in which the trial was conducted and the seeming haste with which the judgement was issued. Of course, Mr Khan is entitled to appeal the sentence, and he may earn a reprieve, but the intended damage may have been done by then.

It must be asked why our state periodically subjects popular leaders to such humiliation when it routinely ignores far more serious crimes. This is, after all, the same country where a clear constitutional edict to hold elections within a specified time frame was wilfully cast aside earlier this year, and there still haven't been any consequences for the actors involved in the farce.

The fact is that Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto were not, and Imran Khan will not be rendered irrelevant to Pakistanis over some technical knockout. The fate of a politician rests in the hands of their constituency, and no amount of external interference can change this simple relationship. The experiment was tried in the earlier two cases and failed, and the state seems to be repeating the same mistake, only to weaken a fraying social contract further.

Energy Projects Energising CPEC

By Kamran Raja

Energy has remained the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and helped to reduce power shortage in Pakistan. CPEC is expected to have a significant impact on the energy sector in Pakistan. The corridor includes a number of energy projects, including hydropower plants, coal-fired power plants, and wind farms.

These energy projects have a number of benefits for local people. First, they are helping to reduce Pakistan's reliance on imported energy. Currently, Pakistan imports a significant amount of its energy, which is a drain on the country's economy. The energy projects under CPEC will help to reduce this reliance, which will save the country money.

Second, the energy projects under CPEC are creating jobs. The construction and operation of these projects require a large number of workers, which will provide employment opportunities for local people.

Third, the energy projects under CPEC are helping to improve the lives of people in rural areas. Many people in rural areas do not have access to electricity. The energy projects under CPEC have helped to bring electricity to these areas, which will improve the quality of life for many people.

In addition to these benefits, the energy projects under

CPEC are also expected to have a number of positive social changes. For example, they are expected to help to reduce poverty and improve education and healthcare.

Overall, the energy projects under CPEC are expected to have a significant positive impact on the lives of local people in Pakistan. They will help to reduce reliance on imported energy, create jobs, improve access to electricity, industrial growth and bring about positive social changes.

CPEC is making ways for Pakistan to achieve its sustainable energy needs, especially to build its renewable energy power generation capacity from the current 4 percent to 30 percent in 2030. The energy cooperation under CPEC is ongoing between China and Pakistan. Overall, there are 21 energy projects under this fate-changing project initiative between both countries. Among these, around a dozen have been completed, and the rest are in the process of completion and are at different stages of development progress.

In fact, Pakistan was a country that experienced an acute energy crisis previously. Electricity shortages exceeded 7,000MW in the year of 2011. The energy shortage emerged because Pakistan had lacked the power generation capacity. The energy shortfall emerged largely due to the failure of attracting the investment at a level

required for expansion and maintenance of power generation on pace with the growing demand.

However, after the launch of CPEC, Pakistan has constructed new power generating plants which has drastically enhanced the country's energy generation capacity. At present, Pakistan has acquired the capacity to produce more electricity than its requirement. According to the statistics of Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-2020, Pakistan acquired the installed capacity of 35,972MW in 2020. In the same year, Pakistan's consumption capacity stood around 25,000MW. Previously, the primary structural problem of power sector was expansion of power generating units which has already been addressed under the CPEC energy framework and installation of power plants outside of CPEC cooperation.

In total, around 12,000 megawatts of energy would be generated through 21 energy projects envisioned under the ambit of CPEC energy projects. The 21 energy projects will cost around USD \$ 25 billion. At the moment, over a dozen energy projects have been completed and operationalised at full capacity.

Energy projects completed under CPEC featuring advanced technologies and lower cost not only provided a solution to Pakistan's electricity shortage,

which was a historic achievement for the country but also helped Pakistan improve its energy structure and reduce the cost of power generation.

According to official sources, the total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydropower, stands at 6,570 MW. They generated 28,549.94 Gwh and 25,772.48 Gwh power respectively in FY 2020-21 and FY2021-22, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total generation in Pakistan.

As the CPEC energy projects replaced the costlier energy production from furnace oil and diesel to coal and renewable energy resources in the last five years, the energy needs of Pakistan have been fulfilled at lower prices, driving growth in the export-oriented industries.

The Karot Hydropower Plant, the first hydropower investment project under CPEC, and the second phase of the Thar Block II power station project both went into commercial operations in succession in year 2022. The hydropower plant provides Pakistan with clean yet low-priced electricity while the coal-power project taps into Pakistan's coal resources for power generation, economizing local precious foreign exchange resource.

Additionally, there are many other hydro-power projects which

are under construction. Suki Kinari Hydropower project with an installed capacity of 870MW is almost complete and will be operational at the end of this year.

Other CPEC-related hydropower projects include Kohala Hydropower Project and Azad Pattan Hydropower Project. Furthermore, Diamer Bhasha, Neelum Jehlum, Mohmand, and Dasu Dams are also contributing towards Chinese commitment to provide clean and affordable energy in Pakistan.

When renewable energy is talk of the town across the world, Belt & Road Initiative of China is not behind in contributing towards green revolution. On similar lines, CPEC energy investments from China are now focusing on green energy. It won't be an exaggeration if we say that 2023 brought a new era in Sino-Pak cooperation in renewable energy, as we have witnessed extremely encouraging signs in green energy sector between the two friendly nations.

Until now, renewable energy sources make up a very minor fraction of Pakistan's overall power generation mix. According to a recent report of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, the installed capacity for wind and solar accounts for roughly 4.2% (1,831 MW) and 1.4% (630 MW) of a total of 43,775 MW, respectively.

China is already

the biggest investor in green energy in Pakistan. Currently, out of the \$144 million in foreign investment in solar PV plants in Pakistan, \$125 million is from China, accounting for nearly 87% of the total.

Thanks to Chinese investments, a few weeks ago Federal Power Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan inaugurated two new wind energy projects in Jhimpir, Thatta District, Sindh, with an aim to produce cheaper and clean electricity through indigenous energy sources. Wind projects in this region have been one of several renewable energy projects to have received Chinese investment in recent years. Around 90 kilometers from Karachi, Jhimpir is the heartland of the country's largest 'Wind corridor', which has the potential to produce 11,000 megawatts (MW) of energy from green resources.

Another major development took place in Wind Energy promotion when Beijing-based multinational wind turbine manufacturer, Goldwind Corporation launched the first-of-its-kind solution factory in Pakistan. The Solution Factory aims to develop localized solutions for Pakistani wind power plants.

In conclusion, CPEC energy projects have improved the power industry in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency at lower cost.

Commerce News

State Minister says: Agricultural development vital for economic revolution

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Industries and Production Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Sunday agricultural development was vital for bringing about an economic revolution in Pakistan.

Talking to APP here, he said the agriculture sector was facing various challenges including limited access to modern farming techniques, inadequate irrigation facilities, fragmented land holdings, and insufficient post-harvest storage and processing infrastructure.

He said these factors were affecting productivity and contributing to food insecurity. He said that food insecurity continued

to be a significant issue in many parts of South Asia as well. On the other hand, the region had made progress in recent years in reducing poverty and improving overall food security he added.

He urged that efforts must be made at the national and international levels to address food insecurity issue in South Asia, adding that the initiatives should include promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving irrigation and water management, enhancing infrastructure for storage and transportation, investing in rural development, strengthening social safety

nets, and supporting nutrition programmes to address malnutrition.

He said that Pakistan had a rapidly growing population, which placed significant pressure on food production and availability. "As the population increases, the demand for food increases, and meeting the nutritional needs of all individuals becomes more challenging," he added. Tasneem Qureshi said high poverty rate was a major contributor to food insecurity, not only in Pakistan but in South Asia as well, as many people in the region lacked financial resources to access an adequate and nutritious diet consistently.

Global rice price index reaches record high in 12 years

LAHORE (APP): The world rice price index of the United Nations Food Agency (UNFA) experienced a notable 2.8 percent rise in July, as compared to June, reaching the highest level recorded in almost 12 years.

The overall world food price index also notably rebounded in July after experiencing two-year lows, said a UNFA report issued here.

This hike in prices was mainly driven by excessive demand in key exporting countries and India's decision to restrict its rice exports, it said. The Food and Agriculture Organisation's All Rice Price Index (ARPI), that tracks rice prices among major exporting nations, estimated an average of 129.7 points last month, a notable rise from June's 126.2 points.

Likewise, the score from July was much higher.



LAHORE: Railway Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique Inaugurate Steel Shop at Mughalpur Railway workshop.

Delegation of Realtors calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the direction of Minister for Finance and Revenue, a delegation of Realtors on Sunday called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, in order to address and resolve taxation issues concerning real-estate transactions.

The direction was issued by Finance Minister during the 90th meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, said a news release issued here.

The meeting was presided by the Chairman

FBR and attended by the delegation of Realtors led by Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President Federation of Realtors Pakistan, and the team of FBR officers. Chairman FBR assured the participants that their concerns will be addressed and best possible facilitation will be ensured for removing difficulties arising on account of implementation of tax laws.

He directed his team to ensure proper coordination and consultations with the Realtors in this regard.



Leaders of Pakistan Business Forum along with Advisor to Investment Board Feroze Shah presenting souvenir to President Dr. Arif Alvi during a meeting.

Pakistan to achieve just, clean energy transition for future generations: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): "Pakistan will not just talk green but will achieve a just and clean energy transition; with or without rest of world for our future generations", said Dr Musadik Malik, Minister of State for Petroleum Division here on Sunday.

He was speaking at parliamentary consultation titled "Towards a Sustainable Future: Inclusion of Just Energy Transition and Election Climate Action in Election

Manifestos 2023", jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, a news release said. The State Minister said that Russia-Ukraine crisis caused unproportional energy inflation for the developing countries, thwarting the clean energy transition and access. Therefore, it is imperative that just and clean energy transition be supported with finance mobilization for developing countries to enable technology transfer and indigenous development, he said and stressed that accountability for clean energy transition should be extended equally across the table and not just on developing countries. Dr. Musadik emphasized that Petroleum companies in Pakistan including Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO),

down fuel import costs as even in India coal-fired power plants produce more than two third of total electricity," Amir Iqbal informed. He said India import 200 million tons of coal annually besides utilizing 500-600 million tons of domestic coal while Pakistan's coal production stood at merely 14 to 15 million tons per annum.

"SECMC is extracting 7.6 million tons coal per annum from Block-II and its capacity is being expanded to 11.2 million tons," Amir said and informed that Thar coal has total of 13 blocks but only two blocks were being mined presently."

"We need to shift to local coal resources to scale

Need stressed for increasing UK-Pakistan bilateral trade to £ 10 billion

ISLAMABAD (APP): London-based prominent Pakistan businessman Raja Muhammad Adil on Sunday said that there are great opportunities to develop business relations between the UK and Pakistan which need to be exploited. The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) hosted a reception in the honor of Raja Muhammad Adil in which he shared his life long struggle in the UK and achievements in the field of business.

He said that he went to London in 1963 and started his professional life there as a bus driver. However, later he started business life from a small shop and achieved remarkable success in the field of business.

He said that all these achievements were the result of continuous hard work and struggle. In London, he has always helped Pakistanis and some of them have made a mark in politics and business. In his message to the youth, Raja Muhammad Adil said that today's youth is looking for shortcuts for success, but success in any field requires constant hard work and struggle with integrity.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawani, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid tribute to Raja Muhammad Adil for achieving numerous achievements in the field of business.



Federal Minister for interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, inauguration various projects of Electricity supply to sadhar, Faisalabad.

Thar coal - a panacea to Pakistan's energy deficiency

ISLAMABAD (APP): Being 28th largest reserve, the Tharparkar coal can prove to be a panacea to Pakistan's energy deficiency by producing billions of tone oil and cheaper electricity for domestic, commercial and industrial consumers.

Blessed with 175 billion tons of coal, the reserve is equivalent to 50 billion tons of oil which is more than Saudi Arabian and Iranian oil reserves. These reserves are equal to 2,000 trillion cubic feet of gas which is 68 times higher than Pakistan's total gas reserves.

Since the outgoing coalition government had specifically focused on the

development of this project, experts pin hopes that its culmination would help overcome energy deficiency and save hefty and precious foreign exchange spent every year on the import of fossil fuels like coal, oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG). In many countries, coal is used as a cheaper source for generating electricity as global coal reserves are estimated to be around one trillion tons, while coal-fired based power plants contribute nearly 37 per cent of global electricity generation.

According to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sindh Engro Coal Mining

Company (SECMC) Amir Iqbal, unlocking indigenous Thar coal reserves can generate approximately 100,000 megawatts (MW) electricity for the next 250 years. "This project alone can ensure energy security of Pakistan besides reducing power tariff significantly."

He said coal is considered a cheap energy resource in Pakistan to catch up with future energy requirements of domestic and commercial consumers as during the last five years coal-based power production had also witnessed a significant increase.

"We need to shift to local coal resources to scale

down fuel import costs as even in India coal-fired power plants produce more than two third of total electricity," Amir Iqbal informed.

He said India import 200 million tons of coal annually besides utilizing 500-600 million tons of domestic coal while Pakistan's coal production stood at merely 14 to 15 million tons per annum.

"SECMC is extracting 7.6 million tons coal per annum from Block-II and its capacity is being expanded to 11.2 million tons," Amir said and informed that Thar coal has total of 13 blocks but only two blocks were being mined presently."

Terming coal reserves the future of Pakistan, Amir Iqbal said Thar coal could not only be used for power generation but also ferried to different parts of the country for use in cement and steel industries. "Once, Thar coal is connected with railway network, it would be open all across the country and pave the way for its economic prosperity."

Statistics show that the average coal consumption in power plants is approximately 0.62kg/kWh. However, the new efficient power plants utilize 10% less coal as compared to ordinary plants.

Kundi inaugurates BISP Tehsil office in Paniala

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday inaugurated Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Tehsil office in Paniala.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the special assistant said the establishment of the BISP office in Paniala was the beginning of the first government office in this Tehsil.

Paniala was given the status of Tehsil several years ago, but till date no Tehsil level office of any provincial department has been established here, he astonished.

He said today a

promise made with the people of Paniala has been fulfilled as a fully equipped office has been inaugurated here.

He said that 28,000 deserving people were benefiting in Paharpur Tehsil which include women from Paniala. Now, the women of this area would have the facility at their door step, he said and vowed that a nutrition office would also be established here.

Faisal Kundi said that he had written a letter for establishment of NADRA and Passport offices in Paniala, adding, he himself would meet with Interior Minister soon for the purpose.

He said “we always

prioritized serving the people and make efforts for the development of the area and its people.”

He regretted that the people of Paniala were deprived of CPEC interchange, adding, he would write a letter to National Highways and Motorway Chairman to build an interchange here on CPEC route.

Faisal Kundi said he would request to the prime minister to release funds for the mega projects which the premier had inaugurated in Dera Ismail Khan recently.

He said that he was always ready to join hands with his political opponents for the sake of regional development and prosperity.



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan is cutting ribbon to inaugurate Nadra Registration Centre at Union Council 117 Dhanola.

Justice Raza Ali takes oath as acting CJ of AJK

MIRPUR AJK (APP): Justice Raza Ali Khan on Sunday takes oath as Acting Chief Justice (CJ) of the Supreme Court (SC) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry administered the oath of office to Justice Raza Ali Khan as Acting CJ of the apex Court of the AJK State at a ceremony held at the President's House in the State metropolis.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended among others by Chief Justice High Court, Justice

Sadaqat Hussain Raja, Justice Sardar Liaquat Shaheen, Justice Mian Arif Hussain, Justice Syed Shahid Bahar, Justice Sardar Muhammad Ejaz, Justice Ghulam Mustafa Mughal, Chief Election Commissioner Abdul Rashid Salharia, Raja Tariq Javed Chairman Service Tribunal, Mushtaq Ahmed Tahir, Member Service Tribunal, Chaudhry Muhammad Munir Judge Election Tribunal, Raja Rashid Naseem Chairman Environmental Tribunal, Farooq Muhammad District and Sessions Judge Muzaffarabad and others.

Kundi grieved over Nawabshah Train accident

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Special Assistant to the prime minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the tragic accident of Hazara Express in Nawabshah district of Sindh. In a statement, the special assistant said the Hazara Express train accident has made whole the nation sad. He said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was in constant contact with the Sindh administration and monitoring the relief activities.

Durrani inaugurates 'Kalam Bibi Intl Women Institute' at Bannu University

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): National Assembly Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani has inaugurated the 'Kalam Bibi International Women Institute' here at the University of Bannu in Bannu.

In this regard a ceremony was held wherein Zahid Akram Durrani was chief guest. On this occasion, the deputy speaker was accompanied by former MPs Fakhr-e-Azam and Qari Gul Azeem. Bannu University Vice Chancellor Dr Khair uz Zaman gave a briefing to the deputy speaker.

Addressing the ceremony, Durrani said it was a long standing demand of the people to have a university for women in the area and this institute would help to ensure provision of quality education to the female students of the area.

He acknowledged the role of Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in establishment of this institute. He said the institute established at a cost of Rs 25.4 million would be totally solarized. He said the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Bannu remained neglected during the last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as no funds were released for development of these areas.



KARACHI: Passengers sit worried at platform as trains are late from their original schedules after a Hazara Express accident near Nawabshah, at Cantt Station in Karachi.

SAPM says: PML-N believes in serving masses only

SARGODHA (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Gas and Energy Chaudhry Hamid Hameed has said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) believed in serving masses by launching public welfare and national development programmes.

While talking to APP here at Sargodha on Sunday, he said the PML-N initiated a number of development projects across the country including Sargodha to materialise the dream of

national progress and prosperity, adding that Pakistan was making progress speedily in 2018 when the PML-N government was toppled under a deep-rooted conspiracy. The minister said that petrol was available at Rs 65 per litre, sugar at Rs 52 per kg and US dollar rate was Rs 110 in 2018 when an incompetent person like Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was imposed on the nation.

Three killed in separate incidents

ATTOCK (APP): Three persons including an employee of Punjab health department were killed in three separate incidents in various parts of Attock on Sunday, police and rescue sources said.

In the first incident, 38 years old Muhammad Saqib—an employee of the Punjab health department presently posted at district headquarters hospital was stabbed to death in the limits of Attock city Police station. The assailants managed to escape after restoring aerial firing. In the second, 50 years old, Afghan national was axed to death in Jallo area near Burhan motorway interchange in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station.

Police sources said that the deceased identified as Imrat Khan, who runs a small shop on GT road. On Sunday, when he was going to open his shop, unknown masked men intercepted him and attacked him with axes and killed him.

Later, the attackers throw his body at a vacant plot and fled away from the scene successfully.

Flood in river Sutlej Local communities, PDMA helping affectees to mitigate effects

MULTAN (APP): Feeling pain of those displaced, whose belongings are taken away by flood and who felt dejected to witness so much water after almost 36 years, the local communities and relatives came forward to lend helping hands by providing them shelters and food despite arrangements made by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for flood affected people around river Sutlej.

A ferocious flood is witnessed this year in river Sutlej submerging hundreds of acres of land leaving thousands of people

homeless, but the generous assistance of local community remained exemplary.

Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has also established relief camps, equipped with different sorts of facilities including availability of food, healthcare, fodder for animals and camps but most of the affectees sought shelter at their relatives' or friends' homes instead of camps so far.

During last three decades, the flow of water in river Sutlej was on decrease and the river had

almost dried up near Bahawalpur. Noticing this trend, people had constructed structures in low-lying areas of the river, which are now under water.

The flood water also entered into scores of adjacent "Mauzajat" and damaged hundreds of homes and crops on thousands of acres. Although, the majority of the farmers have picked crops, especially maize which is a popular crop of the region.

A citizen namely Sajjad Saldaira, a resident of Sahuka (Burewala)

talking to APP informed that a good number of flood-affected people left the river bed and sought shelter in relatives and friends' homes.

He informed that he himself managed accommodation for 15 families. Relatives, friends and other people were exhibiting kind gestures in this crucial time for flood-hit people, he said, adding the majority of displaced people were farmers and cattle holders whose animals had also been adjusted.

Another citizen, Qasim also spoke and

informed that he also provided residence facility to two families, while a good number of flood-hit families were living in their village.

Responding to problems in the areas, he stated that the government should increase number of medical professionals as some people were facing health complications. Similarly, the availability of fodder for cattle should be managed properly and the administration should provide "Wanda" to feed animals as due to flood, there was a shortage of fodder for cattle.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Peoples Party Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB) are holding protest demonstration against the auction and excavation of Karoonjhar, at Hyderabad press club.

International News

Russia launches burst of missile and drone attacks, Ukraine says

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine said Russia bombed a blood transfusion centre near the front line in a wave of air strikes overnight while Moscow reported that it had shot down a drone heading to the capital on Sunday in the third such attack in a week.

Both countries have stepped up attacks on each other's troops, weaponry and infrastructure supporting the war as Ukraine seeks to dislodge Russian forces who have dug in across southern and eastern Ukraine since their invasion last year.

The Moscow-appointed head of Crimea said the Chonhar bridge to the peninsula, which was annexed from Ukraine by Moscow in 2014, had been damaged by a missile strike. Another of the three road links between Crimea and Russian-occupied

parts of mainland Ukraine, near the town of Henichesk, was shelled and a civilian driver wounded, a Moscow-appointed official said.

Ukraine calls Jeddah talks productive, Russia calls them doomed

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: A senior Ukrainian official said on Sunday that talks in Saudi Arabia to make headway towards a peaceful settlement of the war with Russia had been productive, but Moscow called the meeting a doomed attempt to swing the Global South behind Kyiv.

More than 40 countries, including China, India, the United States, and European countries, but not Russia, are taking part in the Jeddah talks that are expected to end on Sunday without any written concluding statement. Ukraine and its allies have said the talks are an attempt to secure broad international support for principles that Kyiv wants to be the basis for peace, including the withdrawal of all Russian troops and the return of all Ukrainian territory to its control. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said he wants a global summit to take place based on those principles later this year. Eighteen months after Russia invaded Ukraine, any prospect of direct peace talks between Kyiv and Moscow appears remote.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance at a major weapon factory in this image released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency.

Philippines says China blocked, water-cannoned boat in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines on Sunday accused China's coast guard of blocking and water-cannoning a Philippine military supply boat in the South China Sea, condemning the "excessive and offensive actions" against its vessels.

China's coast guard countered that it had implemented necessary controls under the law to deter Philippine ships, which it accused of trespassing and carrying illegal building materials. China claims sovereignty

over almost the entire South China Sea, an assertion rejected internationally, while Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Taiwan and the Philippines have various claims to certain areas.

Beijing often irks its neighbours with maritime actions they call aggressive and with longer-term activities like building islands on reefs and equipping them with missiles and runways.

A Chinese coast guard vessel on Saturday blocked and water-cannoned the chartered Philippine boat

on a routine troop rotation and resupply mission, "in wanton disregard of the safety of the people on board and in violation of international law", the Armed Forces of the Philippines said.

It said in a statement the incident occurred near the Second Thomas Shoal, which Manila calls Ayungin Shoal, a submerged reef where a handful of its troops live on a rusty World War Two-era U.S. ship that was intentionally grounded in 1999.

N. Korean leader Kim tours weapons factories and vows to boost war readiness in face of tensions

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un toured the country's key weapons factories, including those producing artillery systems and launch vehicles for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and pledged to speed up efforts to advance his military's arms and war readiness, state media said Sunday.

Kim's three-day inspections through Saturday came as the United States and South Korea prepared for their next round of combined military exercises planned for later this month to cope with the growing North

Korean threat. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as the pace of North Korea's missile tests and the joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, which Kim portrays as invasion rehearsals, have both intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

Some experts say Kim's tour of the weapons factories could also be related to possible military cooperation with Moscow that may involve North Korean supplies of artillery and other ammunition as Russian President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries for support in the war in Ukraine.



Belarus' exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya gives an opening speech during the New Belarus conference in Warsaw, Poland.

2 dead, 57 rescued from migrant shipwrecks off Italy's Lampedusa

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italy's coastguard said on Sunday it had recovered two bodies and rescued 57 people off the southern island of Lampedusa, amid reports that more than 30 people were missing following two shipwrecks.

The Ansa news agency, citing survivors' accounts, reported that two migrant boats had set off from the port of Sfax, a hotspot for Tunisia's migration crisis, had sunk on Saturday on their way to Europe. One was carrying 48 people; the second 42, Ansa said, adding

that the coastguard found the survivors about 23 nautical miles (46 km) south-west of Lampedusa, as well as the two victims—a woman from Ivory Coast and her one-year-old child. A coastguard spokesperson said he could only confirm the number of survivors and the recovery of two bodies.

More than 2,000 people have arrived in Lampedusa in the last few days after being rescued at sea by Italian patrol boats and NGO groups, as strong winds further complicate the situation around the island.



Mourners carry the body of Palestinian who was killed during clashes with Israeli settlers, in a hospital in Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Closing youth festival in Portugal, pope shares 'old man's' dream of peace

Monitoring Desk
LISBON: Pope Francis closed an international festival of Catholic Youth on Sunday with a huge outdoor Mass and his own "I have a dream" speech, saying it was for world peace, especially for Ukraine.

About 1.5 million people attended his closing Mass at a riverside park in the Portuguese

capital, the Vatican said, quoting local authorities. Many of the faithful slept outdoors, having attending a vigil there on Saturday night, and they gathered in sweltering heat.

Speaking after the Mass, the 86-year-old Francis urged the young people to take the fraternal experiences of the six-day jamboree back home.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain urge citizens to leave Lebanon after Palestinian refugee camp clashes

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Bahrain called on its citizens Saturday to leave Lebanon "for their own safety" hours after Saudi Arabia did the same without giving a reason.

The decision by the two Gulf nations came after days of fighting in the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon between members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah group and militants of Islamic groups.

The four days of fighting in Ein el-Hilweh camp near the southern port city of Sidon has left 13 people dead and dozens wounded. Bahrain's Foreign Ministry said Bahrainis should abide by the government's previous decisions to avoid travel to Lebanon. The Saudi embassy in Beirut posted a statement late Friday night on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Iran boosts navy with missiles, drones as US offers guards for Gulf ships

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran has equipped its Revolutionary Guards' navy with drones and 1,000-km (600-mile) range missiles, Iranian news agencies reported on Saturday, as the U.S. offers to put guards on commercial ships going through the Gulf's Strait of Hormuz.

Referring to the possible presence of U.S. guards, Iranian armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said the region's countries were "capable of ensuring Persian Gulf security" themselves.

"What do the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean have to do with America? What is your business being here?" Shekarchi was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

State news agency IRNA said the Revolutionary Guards' weapons include "various types of drones ... and several hundred cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 300.

Ukraine strikes Chonhar bridge to Crimea

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The Chonhar road bridge linking mainland Ukraine to Crimea was damaged by a Ukrainian missile strike on Sunday, Russia's RIA news agency cited the Moscow-appointed head of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, as saying.

RIA cited acting Kherson regional governor Vladimir Saldo—another Moscow appointee—as saying the strike on the bridge, one of three road links between Crimea and mainland Ukraine, involved an Anglo-French Storm Shadow missile.

Murad chairs PCIC meeting, decides to start KCR Project

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday presided over the 11th meeting of the Provincial Coordination & Implementation Committee (PCIC) and decided to take over the Karachi Urban Transport Company (KUTC) to start Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) Project and resolved land issues of Malir Expressway to speed up work on the project. The PCIC meeting was attended by provincial ministers Imtiaz Shaikh, Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Special Assistant to CM Qasim Naveed, Corps Commander Karachi Lt Gen Babar Iftikhar, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, PSCM Fayaz Jatoi, Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, MD SSWMB Imtiaz Shah and others.

The Chief minister was told that the Karachi Urban Transport Company (KUTC) would undertake the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project. The company was still under the control of the federal government.

The chief minister said that he would talk to the prime minister to take over the KUTC which was responsible to fulfill the documentation of the KCR project. The CM was also told that Pakistan Railways had demanded equal value of land from the Sindh government to handover the Right of Way (RoW) of KCR. At this, the chief minister said that the Sindh government had given land to the railway authorities purely for railway purposes. "The KCR is also a train and it would operate on the same track, then why the railway authorities were demanding value of the land," he questioned.

The chief minister directed the DS Railways, present in the meeting, to resolve the issue and give the go-ahead to the provincial authorities so that it could be communicated to the Chinese authorities to initiate the KCR project.

It was pointed out that the National Railways Administration (NRA), China required to conduct an updated feasibility study of the KCR Project. At this the P&D Chairman told the CM that the feasibility study has been done and sent to Chinese authorities.

The chief minister said that now the Chinese authorities have to make a Framework agreement to start the project. Malir Expressway is 3x3 lane, 38.75 KM high-speed controlled access road starting from Jam Sadiq Bridge and ends before the Kathore interchange near M-9. It has six interchanges to be constructed which shall connect major traffic arteries of the city. The project is divided into two segments, 15 and 24 km respectively with a construction time of 30 Months. The first segment from Jam Sadiq Bridge to Quaidabad is to be constructed within 1.5 Years (18 Months). The completion of the first segment (till Quaidabad) is envisaged by the end of the current year. Construction activities are in progress on Interchanges at EBM Causeway, Shah Faisal, and Bridges over Nallah and Chakora.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils a plaque to mark the ground breaking of Lahore-Sahawal-Bahawalnagar moterway in Karur.

CPEC shifts focus of geo-political cooperation to geo-economic fruition

LAHORE (APP): The dedication and untiring efforts of the incumbent government and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) diplomatic, technical staff of both countries have shifted the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics by bringing it to fruition, experts said on Sunday.

They said that CPEC was playing a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion-dollar projects. If one goes through analysis of one decade, the start of CPEC was a concerted move by the then prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 to shift the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashf Anwar told APP that today, the premiership of Shehbaz Sharif and leadership of Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal – deserve the highest praise for having brought CPEC to its fruition. As of now, more than 150 countries, with 75 per cent of the world's population and half of the world's GDP, have signed up to the BRI. CPEC, a principal component of BRI, aims to connect Pakistan's Gwadar port city to China's Xinjiang region through a network of roads, railways, and pipelines, he said.

To a query Anwar said that CPEC has the potential to significantly impact the entire region. Under CPEC, both governments have decided to overcome the then energy crisis in Pakistan, he said, adding that to guarantee energy security, multiple projects of 17,045MW, worth \$33 billion, have been envisaged.



KARACHI: Candidates stand in a queue during an interview for jobs in Provincial Sindh Assembly, in Provincial Capital.

SFA holds walk on food safety measures

Independent Report
KARACHI: Following the instructions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Sindh Food Authority organized a walk titled "Mehfooz Ghiza- Tandusrti Sada" in Boat Basin Clifton. Participants held playcards in their hands and walked from Clifton Center to Boat Basin with the slogan of "Mehfooz Ghiza-Tandusrti Sada". Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhr Hussain along with other officers of the authority, owners of famous and well-known restaurants, hotels, food centers of the city and a large number of citizens participated in the walk.

Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhr Hussain said that the purpose of the walk is to educate the citizens, especially the owners and staff of food centers, about the preparation and sale of food items according to hygiene. People have the right to be informed about all the calories contained in the food items served. We have made it mandatory for all hotels from five-star hotels to small dhabas to change their menus. Calories should also be mentioned along with the price so that people can eat a balanced diet and get rid of health issues. Agha Fakhr Hussain said that the Sindh Food Authority is trying to ensure the process of preparing and selling food items according to health principles throughout the province. The participants of the walk while appreciating the performance of Sindh Food Authority for organizing food awareness walk expressed hope that Sindh Food Authority would continue to organize this type of walk in the future.

AJK PM warns Matching response to every Indian misadventure, aggression at LOC

MIRPUR AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister (AJKM) Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that any aggression or misadventures by India on the Line of Control (LOC) shall be paid back in the same coin.

Addressing a special session of the AJK Legislative assembly held in connection with Youm e Estehsal in the State metropolis late Saturday, the PM, while referring to the highly provocative statement by an Indian minister, made it clear to India that any attempt of infringing the AJK's territorial integrity would be responded to with full force.

Two drug peddlers held, narcotics worth millions seized

KARACHI (INP): The police arrested two drug peddlers and seized narcotics worth millions of rupees during separate actions in the metropolis on Sunday.

In line with the directives of SSP Kimari Fida Hussain Janwari, strict checking on Hub River road, the entrance of Karachi from Balochistan was underway.

In first action, SHO Mochko police station arrested a drug peddler Abdul Haq alias Hero s/o Abdul Qadir along with 980 gram methamphetamine (Ice).

Another drug pusher, Siraj s/o Behram was detained after recovery of two bags carrying 600 health hazardous gutka mawa.

Jacobabad excise police recovers 10 kg chars

Independent Report
KARACHI: A team of Jacobabad Excise Police arrested an accused Ali Raza Aro. 10 kg chars was recovered from the possession of the accused. The motorcycle used by the accused was also impounded. Chars was recovered from the possession of the accused from Soomra Branch, Quetta Road, Jacobabad. The accused is said to be a resident of Jafarabad. A case was registered against the accused and the investiga-



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah unveils the plaque to inaugurate the Sindh Smart Surveillance System (S-4) at Sassui Toll Plaza. He is accompanied by Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, and IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon.

PM Shahbaz says Serving ailing humanity; a collective responsibility of all

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that all those who were tasked with the onus to serve humanity, should strive for the provision of free-of-cost health and education facilities to the poor and deprived segments of society.

The prime minister was addressing a conference arranged here to create awareness about the elimination of Hepatitis-C in the country arranged at Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI).

Addressing the participants, the prime minister said it was their collective responsibility to serve the poor and deprived masses by setting up health facilities like the PKLI in line with the vision of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of the nation, and in accordance with the concept of the welfare state.

The event was attended by Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman, ministers, experts and relevant authorities.

Senate passes amended 'Official Secrets Bill 2023' amidst controversy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Sunday successfully passed 'The Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023', marking a pivotal moment in the legislative landscape.

The bill, which had faced staunch opposition from various quarters, underwent crucial modifications before achieving passage.

Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tarar, presented the bill on behalf of Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, in the house. Notably, the revised version of the bill omitted certain provisions that had granted intelligence agencies the authority to carry out warrantless arrests or searches.

He emphasized that the revised legislation empowers the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to conduct investigations into individuals suspected of violating the Official Secrets Act.

He highlighted that the bill no longer includes the amendment labelling an individual as an 'enemy' for engaging with foreign agents, a provision that had sparked extensive debates.



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Powerful voices unite against unplanned privatization: FES

Pakistan hosts landmark public hearing on workers' rights and human welfare in collaboration with PSI and SHRC

Independent Report
KARACHI: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Pakistan (FES Pakistan), in collaboration with Public Service International (PSI) and Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), successfully organized a "Public Hearing on Privatization and Public Debt in Pakistan" today. The event aimed to address the pressing issues related to privatization policies and public debt and their impact on workers' rights and public welfare in the country.

The public hearing commenced with opening remarks from Mr. Abdullah Dayo, Programme Advisor of FES Pakistan, who warmly welcomed the distinguished panelists, PSI officials, SHRC, trade

unionists, and PSI affiliates and welcomed distinguished panelists on the stage.

Kannan Raman, Sub-regional Secretary for South Asia at Public Services International (PSI) a prominent labor advocate, passionately voiced his concerns about the adverse effects of privatization policies during the historic Public Hearing. Drawing attention to the underfunding of public services, impacts on low-income families, and marginalized groups, Brother Kannan stressed the urgent need for transparency in privatization processes and highlighted the importance of protecting workers' rights and promoting resilient trade unions for a more equitable work environment in the country.

Kumar Chawla has congratulated the team of Jacobabad Excise Police for the successful action.

Two robbers killed in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Police killed two robbers and recovered weapons after exchange of fire in the metropolis.

The encounter took place in Old Golimar area of Karachi where police exchanged fire with police.

In exchange of fire, two robbers were killed and arms recovered from their possession.

Police said that the killed robbers were wanted in dozens of cases of murder, street crimes and robberies and their bodies were shifted to mortuary.

Imran's arrest not political Cases cannot be avoided by dodging law, attacking institutions: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that cases cannot be avoided by dodging the law, evading the courts and attacking national institutions.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's arrest has nothing to do with politics, nor it was an act of political vendetta, she said during an exclusive interview with BBC World.

"Peaceful protest is a democratic right of any political party or worker, but no protesters came out on the arrest of chairman PTI as people cannot be fooled every time, courts are there".

The minister said that the legal procedures were completed in the Toshha Khana case against Chairman PTI, and on the completion of his trial, the court announced a verdict on which he was arrested.

She said that Chairman PTI failed to present evidence in his defense, he was accused of abuse of power, but he could not answer questions when asked about state gifts.

She said apart from this, four more cases of theft of 190 million British pounds, cipher, May 9 tragedy and foreign funding case are also in the trial courts against Imran.

In response to a question, the minister said that no one can be given impunity for misuse of powers.

She said that the arrest of Imran Khan has nothing to do with the elections, he was arrested on the order of the court. He said that when three-time elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was arrested, the elections of 2018 were very close, he was arrested along with his daughter and sent to jail.



LAHORE: Federal minister for planning and development and special initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal addressing at a ceremony 4th policy making competition (PMC).

Upper House clears HEC (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to strengthen higher education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate passed The HEC (Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Sunday with a majority vote, and the bill aims to strengthen and revitalize the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The Bill was moved by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar was passed by the House with 23 votes in favour and 16 in opposition. The prime minister has been given the controlling authority of the Higher Education Commission.

The primary goal of the bill was to strengthen the higher education sector in the country and guarantee access to quality education for everyone.

The term of appointment for the Chairman of HEC has been extended to four years from the previous three years. This change aims to promote stability and continuity in the commission's leadership, leading to improved long-term planning and policy implementation.

The bill's objective is to rectify discrepancies present in the existing HEC Ordinance 2002. The 18th constitutional amendment has diminished the regulatory authority of HEC, leading to inadequate legal power for enforcing standardization in the higher education sector.

Earlier, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, presented the committee's report on the bill to amend the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Irfan Siddiqui announced that the bill now includes all four amendments proposed by Senator Raza Rabbani. He emphasized that his lifelong commitment to promoting education drove him to protect the interests of the education sector. Notably, the HEC chairman's tenure has been extended from three to four years. Additionally, on the recommendation of Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, clause 10-A has been removed from the bill.

Siddiqui stated that the committee dedicated 50 minutes to hear Raza Rabbani's views. He urged Rabbani to identify any specific clause that might infringe on provincial autonomy. Siddiqui further emphasized that if the bill is not passed, the old bill will be reinstated.

Director Development Qayyum Qudrat, Deputy Director Technical Imran Khan, divisional and district officers of the departments concerned attended the meeting.

The most important project presented to the provincial government was the reconstruction of 6.5-km Old GT Road passing through Sahiwal city. The Punjab government has already given in-principle approval for this important project.

GOC Hyderabad visits train accident site in Serhari

NAWABSHAH (APP): General Officer Commanding Major General Dilawar Khan arrived at Nawabshah to visit victims of the Hazara Express tragedy that occurred near Sahrai area of Nawabshah.

Talking to the media GOC said that Pak Army was with people in every difficult time and train accident was very tragic and Pak Army engaged itself in rescue operations with all strength that was its prime duty.

GOC said that after hearing about the train accident Pak Army rushed to site and worked side by side with other institutions.

GOC said that standby helicopters are ready to carry any critical passengers while Rescue 1122 and other institutions worked hard for timely rescue while three critical operations were conducted to save the lives of injured persons.

Irrigation water shortage persists despite flood in Indus river; claims SAB

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) has complained that despite of low to medium flood in the Indus river, which undeniably showed over-abundance of water, the farmers in many parts of the province cannot cultivate their crops because of water scarcity. The meeting of the SAB which was chaired by its Vice President Mahmood Nawaz Shah here Sunday, deplored that even though flood situation persisted in the river, many areas were still dealing with 7 to 15 days water rotation which was usually carried out during periods of water shortage. The growers said besides the downstream of Kotri barrage, shortage also existed in Rohri, Nara, Dadu and other canals.

According to them, their folks in Khairpur East had informed them that they could not grow a large part of some 65,000 acres of land which was in the command area in Khairpur East. They alleged that the artificial shortage was being created in the irrigation system, adding that the move was encouraging water theft while the growers were being harassed by the irrigation officials.

The meeting demanded that the rotation system should be ended forthwith in view of the surplus water in the river.

The farmers also expressed concern over the financial strain being dealt with by the cotton growers saying that in addition to the adverse effects of the climate change, pest infestations and other issues, lower price of the agricultural produce had been adding to their injury.